



GUILD NEWS AND HEALTH SYSTEM HAPPENINGS

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DECEMBER 2009 / JANUARY 2010



Wishing You a Most Blessed & Merry Christmas!

The Christmas Envelope



Message from Mr. Arndt

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas---oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it-overspending...the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma---the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else. Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the

(Continued on page 3)

During the year I've tried to keep you up to date with all the things that are going on in the Health System. We've talked about the bad things, like how devastating our state budget has been and the possibility of it becoming even more so. We've also celebrated some wonderful things, like GHRC and NLHRC's successful Department of Health Surveys, employee and volunteer accomplishments, several successful events and the generosity of our friends during fundraising appeals.

One of the things we've accomplished this year which I haven't spoken much about yet is, in my opinion, one of the most important. We have successfully launched a Chaplain Assistant program unique to this area. When Pastor Griep became Chaplain two years ago this was one of the things we talked about as a means to reach out to more of our residents and come closer to meeting their spiritual needs.

Under Pastor Griep's tutelage, the first class of Chaplain Assistants was installed in February of 2009. These four individuals have spent the last several months earnestly fulfilling their mission of supporting our residents spiritually, and I would like to commend them for their efforts. They have been assisting with worship services, distributing holy communion to residents unable to attend services, and simply visiting and speaking with lonely residents. Not only have

(Continued on page 2)

REMINDER:

Has your women's group or congregation sent in its donation for purchased Christmas gifts for the residents?



RSVP to Florence
at 836-6803
by Mon., DEC. 7

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Florence Doran
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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009
Zion Lutheran Church - 9535 Clarence Center Road - Clarence Ctr, NY
(East of Goodrich Road ~ 741-2656)

12:00 pm Hostesses: Ladies from Zion Lutheran, Clarence Center
Chicken ala King and beverages will be provided

1:00 pm Devotions: Nate Preisinger,
Intern at Zion & Mission Developer for Organic Faith

1:30 pm Program: "Magic of Christmas thru Music" with Joseph Mohan
WNY's own rising star musician

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010 AT NLHRC



\$3.00 suggested donation per person will be collected at the door.

PLEASE BRING COOKIES to share with each other and with residents at GHRC and NLHRC.

Thanks!

Footnotes from Florence

Dear Friends — "Count your Blessings!"

Thanksgiving is around the corner as I'm writing you, and this dear hymn came to mind. As you remember your blessings and celebrate Thanksgiving we, as a Guild, need to remember our blessings, too. At our November Guild meeting we were surrounded by many friends in spite of the dreary day outside. We enjoyed a delicious lunch provided and served by a helpful staff of familiar faces. We met the new director of dietary services, Susan Scott, who did an excellent job.

Our theme baskets were beautiful — our participants in the auction generous. The beautiful dolls that have traveled to almost all of the facilities these past few months have finally found loving homes. We thank the women who purchased them for their generosity and Margaret Summersgill for the initial gift of the dolls to the Guild that made the auction possible.

Thank you to Rev. Galen Purpura for leading us in devotions. Through prayer, song, and written and spoken words, he reminded us that greatness in the eyes of the Lord comes from responding to His call to service to others. We wish Pastor Purpura well in his ministry at St. John, Depew, and as leader of Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Buffalo. We remember the array of delicious desserts brought by the women from St. John. There were raves all around. Thank you to Marie Wienke of Abiding Savior in NT, for volunteering to play the piano during devotions. Last, but not least, our program, presented by Bea Haniford, was an absolute delight. I'm sure everyone who attended the luncheon is still chuckling over her poetic reflections on the joys and vicissitudes of aging. (I've always wanted to use that word.) At 95 years of age, she's an inspiration to us all.

And, now to our next event — the Annual Guild Christmas Celebration. This year we will be gathering at noon at Zion, Clarence Center, on Thursday, December 10. Come early to participate in our Chinese Auction and view Linda Zink's scrapbook of our 50th Anniversary events. Joseph Mohan will entertain us with his amazing musical talent. This may be our last opportunity to hear him play before he leaves for college in the fall of 2010.

Be sure to call me by Dec. 7 (836-6803). I already have four reservations! We will be serving the traditional chicken ala king on biscuits prepared by the Hager Street staff at Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center. We ask you to bring a plate of cookies to share that day. Whatever is left over is shared with the residents. May your Christmas be joyful and filled with many blessings, too.

Peace be with you ~ Florence

Count your Blessings



Count your blessings,
name them one by one,
Count your blessings,
see what God hath done!
Count your blessings,
name them one by one,
And it will surprise you
what the Lord hath done.

Would You Like to have a Say in Guild Activities?

The Guild will be electing its 2010 Executive Board members soon, and there are openings for new officers. The commitment amounts to a few hours each month. *Contact Florence Doran at 836-6803*



MESSAGE FROM MR. ARNDT (Continued from page 1)

they helped our residents, they have taken time to speak and counsel with staff members as well. They serve as an important extension of the arms of the pastoral care department and Pastor Griep.

This fall five more individuals made a commitment to help others and began Chaplain Assistants training with Pastor Griep. Their final session will be in December, and they will be installed during regular worship services after the first of the year.

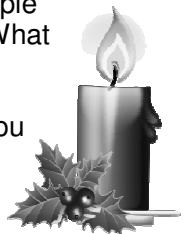
Not only are we helping our residents, but it seems that this class has been inspirational for others such as the individuals from All Saints and Holy Trinity who are auditing the class in order to be able to more ably support the elderly in their congregations.

I think this is especially important as we approach the holidays. This time of year can be a very lonely and depressing time for many of our residents and a

time when their emotional and spiritual needs are often at their highest. Thanks to our Chaplain Assistants, this year there will be more people to share their concerns with and to pray with them, but that still may not be enough. If you or a group from your church or other organization would be willing to spare a few hours to come to one of the homes to visit, carol, or help with an activity, that would be wonderful. If you can't help that way, I'd like to encourage you to pray for our residents, staff members, our Chaplain, our Chaplain Assistants and the multitude of people who are part of the pastoral care program. What a wonderful Christmas gift that would be.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful, happy New Year! Hope to see you at the Christmas Celebration on Dec 10.

~ Jurgen Arndt, President/CEO



E-mail our residents at NLHRCActivities@NiagaraLutheran.org or GHRCActivities@NiagaraLutheran.org

Visit the NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM online at www.NiagaraLutheran.org.



heart right out of them." Mike loved kids-all kids-and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church.

On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition---one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us. May we all remember Christ, who is the reason for the season, and the true Christmas spirit this year and always.

*~ Author Unknown
from Sowing Seeds Ministry*



Guild Meeting Schedule

DEC 10	CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER Zion Lutheran in Clarence
JAN	No Meeting
FEB 18	NLHRC Chapel & Aud
MAR 18	LCH Aud
APRIL 15	GHRC Chapel & Aud
MAY 20	NLHRC Chapel & Aud
JUN 17	12 pm GF Manor Chapel & Aud LUNCHEON/FUNDRAISER
JUL/AUG	No Meetings
SEP 16	LCH Aud
OCT 21	NLHRC Chapel & Aud FALL FUN FAIR
NOV 18	GF Manor Chapel & Aud
DEC 9	12 pm Location to be determined CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

Join us for laughter, lunch and a little bit of labor on Thursday, Jan. 28 from 10am. - 1p.m.
We usually meet the 4th Thursday of the month to put together the Guild newsletter and can always use help! Call Mary Ann at 639-1169
~ Members of the mailing crew



2010 Guild Memberships

Dues remain just \$5.00 as we know you give so generously in so many other ways, and dues are ALWAYS USED SOLELY FOR THE RESIDENTS.

Please give your \$5.00 and the form below to your church delegate or mail them to Gail Brown
 NLHS Guild - 64 Hager Street - Buffalo, NY 14208

NLHS Guild Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # /other contact information _____

Home Church _____ City _____

I am enclosing my Membership Donation of \$5.00. Membership Renewal New Member

I would like to further support the Guild with an additional gift of \$_____ to be used toward enhancing the lives of residents.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



2009 Schedule of Weekly Worship Services with Holy Communion

NLHRC ~ Sundays at 2:30 p.m. In the Strodel Chapel/Auditorium

- 12/6 Rev. Patrick McKenzie, *St Mark, NT*
 12/13 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 12/20 Rev. David Young,
Pastor Emeritus, First Trinity, Ton
 12/24 Christmas Eve Day: Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 12/27 Rev. Galen Purpura, *St. John, Depew*
- 1/3 Pending
 1/10 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 1/17 Pending
 1/24 Pending
 1/31 Rev. Thomas Mason, *Messiah, Lewiston*

LCH ~ Sundays at 2:30 p.m. In the Chapel

- 12/6 Rev. Galen Purpura, *St. John, Depew*
 12/13 Rev. Devie Ellis, *St Martin, NT*
 12/20 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 12/24 Christmas Eve Day: Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 12/27 Rev. David Ellis, *Amherst, Wmsvl*
- 1/3 Rev. Devie Ellis, *St. Martin, NT*
 1/10 Rev. Thomas Mason, *Messiah, Lewiston*
 1/17 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 1/24 Pending
 1/31 Rev. David Ellis, *Amherst, Wmsvl*



GF MANOR/COURT ~ Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. In the Richard Seibold Chapel/Auditorium

And

GHRC ~ Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. In the Melba Y. Seibold Chapel/Auditorium

- 12/5 Rev. Raymond Fitch, *First, Blasdell*
 12/12 Rev. Dr. John Scarafia and carolers,
St. John's, Lancaster
 12/19 Rev. John Klatt, *St. John's, W. Seneca*
 12/24 GHRC ~ Christmas Eve Day:
 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 GF MANOR ~ Christmas Eve Day:
 Rev. Merlin Knauff, *Retired*
 12/26 Rev. Galen Purpura, *St. John, Depew*
- 1/2 Rev. John Klatt, *St. John's, W. Seneca*
 1/9 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*
 1/16 Rev. Galen Purpura, *St John, Depew*
 1/23 Rev. Galen Purpura, *St John, Depew*
 1/30 Pending

Roman Catholic Masses ~ Holy Communion

- NLHRC: First Fridays at 11:00 a.m.
 Other Fridays at 11:00 a.m.
 Deacon Led Services with
 Holy Communion
- GHRC: Mondays at 2:30 p.m
 LCH: Alternate Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.
 Rosary and Holy Communion
- GCM: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.



Chaplain Services: If you see a need for emotional and/or spiritual support for a resident, family member, or yourself, please contact our Chaplain, The Rev. Allen Griep, at 886-4377 or 692-6380.



Residents' Birthdays

NLHRC	GHRC	(LCH)	GFCourt
12/1 Caroline Lang	12/5 Frances Bickford	12/24 Regina Radecki	12/8 Vera nebrich
12/18 Josephine Villa	12/6 Rhoda Henrich		12/23 Eugene Orlovski
12/20 Elizabeth Woods	12/12 Marion Duerr	1/2 Guy Peek	12/31 Carol Henke
12/30 Deake Porter	12/25 Leonore Stutzman	1/4 Vinell Williams	
	12/31 Alice Stoutamire	1/7 Viola Rogers	1/4 Ernestine Neurohr
1/12 Mary Clark		1/9 Elliott Loynes	1/8 Nora Hammann
1/15 Elizabeth Carlucci	1/2 Joan Smyntek	1/11 Gloria Bauer	1/9 Jean Cerullo
1/16 Richard Kwiatkowski	1/4 Margaret Ainsworth	1/15 Shirley Carlson	1/10 Rosena Ermer
1/17 Margaret Thomas	1/18 Irene Phillips	1/18 Bertha Mugel	1/13 James Testa
1/23 Mildred Myszkiewicz	1/21 Helen Kirchhofer	1/25 Dolores Fitzgerald	1/18 Elizabeth Pfohl
1/26 Carol White	1/27 Chester Gardner		1/24 Tessie Dzwigal
1/27 Muriel Thompson	1/27 Daniel Lack		1/28 Lillian Campbell
1/29 Mary Chute	1/30 Jane Kuntz		



Legacies for Life ~ Gifts made by bequest through a will, bequest or insurance policy, play a vital role in our mission of compassionate care. To learn more, contact the Foundation at 886-4377

VOLUNTEERS

Special Request for Volunteers:

- † **"Wrap it Up!"** will be the GHRC Resident Council's fundraiser for this holiday season. They need Christmas paper, bows, tape and accessories. Donations can be dropped off at the GHRC front desk. Be sure to mark your items for the Resident Council "Wrap it Up!" fundraiser.
- † **Escorts for LCH residents:** LCH is still accepting names for people to escort residents to medical appointments on an as-needed basis - more so now with the holidays and bad weather coming upon us soon. Contact Joan Griffin at 882-1231 for more info.
- † **Holiday Activities:** GHRC & NLHRC need help with activities more than ever with all the upcoming holiday festivities. They are also scheduling special holiday concerts, etc., so be sure to call soon if you have a group who would like to carol or assist with a special project.
- † **2010 Birthday Party Hostesses for LCH**
There are still opportunities to host birthday parties for residents at LCH. Simply bring a store-bought birthday cake and join us for lunch and fellowship. Available dates: Jan 6, Mar 3, May 5, July 7, and Nov 3. Call Joan at 882-1231.

NLHRC's Wish List

Contact: *Hellen Culverhouse at 886-4377*

- † BINGO PRIZES (toiletries, small knick knacks, etc.)
- † ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS & VASES
- † BABY DOLLS & ACCESSORIES (cribs, strollers, clothes, etc.)



GHRC's Wish List

Contact: *Jennifer Pellicane at 684-3000*

- † DECKS OF CARDS (LARGE PRINT IF POSSIBLE)
- † GENTLY USED STUFFED ANIMALS
- † BINGO PRIZES

GFCourt's Wish List

Contact: *Lisa Scaglione at 684-8400*

- † BINGO PRIZES (including jewelry and knick knacks)

LCH's Wish List

Contact: *Joan Griffin at 882-1231*

- † BINGO PRIZES
- † Help with our RSVP program on Thursdays, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.



Resident Christmas Gifts "Wrapping Day"

Monday, Dec. 14, at NLHRC
From 9:00 until 1 pm

Can you help for an hour or two?

Our Activities people have been collecting and shopping for residents and need your help to wrap their gifts. Bring scissors and tape if you have them. Donations of wrapping paper and ribbon would be greatly appreciated and can be brought to the Dec. meeting or left at the front desk.

Help Give our Residents a Merry Christmas

STOCKING STUFFERS ARE NEEDED: Donations of cologne, aftershave, jewelry, liquid soap, ~ something you would give your grand parent(s) would be greatly appreciated. *(No trial sizes, please. They are difficult for residents to handle).* These are added to the gifts the Guild supplies so that our residents can have a few surprises at Christmas.



We are richly blessed by the kindness of our members, and we thank you in advance for your generosity!



Please Join Us for

Fellowship, Theme Baskets, Door Prizes, and the Music of local rising star, **JOSEPH MOHAN, at the piano**

The NLHS Guild Christmas Celebration
Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 12:00 Noon
Zion Lutheran Church in Clarence Center

Please donate a plate or box of your favorite cookies to share at lunch and with residents at their holiday parties.

Tickets are \$3 each and can be purchased at the door. Bring Your Friends!

RSVP to Florence Doran at 836-6803

PS: We have some really great THEME BASKETS to raffle and DOOR PRIZES

Changing Your Address?

Please fill this out, clip and mail to:

NLHS GUILD NEWSLETTER

64 Hager Street — Buffalo, NY 14208

Name _____

NEW
Address _____

City/State/
Zip _____

OLD
Address _____

City/State/
Zip _____

DATES: _____

Phone # _____



DASH'S TAPES

Remember to them in!
We only need another \$5,000 in receipts to turn them in for cash!

*MISSION of the
Niagara Lutheran Health System Guild :*

The NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM GUILD serves the constituents of Niagara Lutheran Home and Rehabilitation Center, The Lutheran Church Home of Buffalo, GreenField Health and Rehabilitation Center, GreenField Manor, GreenField Court and any other social ministries related to the Niagara Lutheran Health System. Guild members promote the interests and programs of the Health System's affiliates as they are able. All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to join the NLHS Guild.

AFFILIATES OF THE NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM



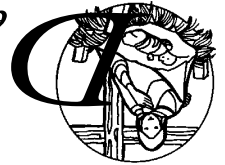
Buffalo

NIAGARA LUTHERAN HOME AND REHABILITATION CENTER
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH HOME
NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Lancaster

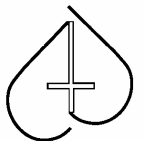
GREENFIELD HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CENTER
GREENFIELD MANOR
GREENFIELD COURT

*December/January
 Merry Christmas &
 a Blessed and Happy New Year!*



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