

## A Message From Rev. Lex: *What Are YOU Waiting For?*

In advance of this year's Christmas pageant (December 20), several members have asked me about the retelling of Christ's birth in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, especially details that don't seem to match up.

William Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage, and all men and women merely players." Our Bible study work over the weeks before the Christmas pageant will center on this stage and these players. The story takes place long ago, in a culture most of us know very little about. What we are familiar with are the two "plays" we combine every Christmas to tell the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, son of Abraham, son of David, Messiah, and Son of God. In their first two "acts," Gospel authors Matthew and Luke address different things in each of their plays and have some different characters. The settings also have slight differences. Even so, there is much that is alike. As Christians, we have traditionally combined these two narratives into one play (or pageant), pulling all the significant players appearing on these two Christian stages onto one. This season we will explore how two distinctive themes make complete sense as one drama.

If you haven't made the effort to attend Bible study, this Advent is a good time to come and learn more about one of the central stories of our faith, the birth of the Lord. Advent is traditionally set aside as a time of waiting and preparing. Instead of just getting swept away in the buying, decorating and partying that our American culture holds up as the "reason for the season," set aside some time to remember why we come to church at all during the holidays. Whether you have a day job, a night job, are retired or are primarily at home with children, there's a Bible study time to fit your busy life.

As you mark the days and weeks before Christmas, I ask all of us, "What are YOU waiting for?" If you are waiting for the coming of Christ into your life, then join a Bible study and, like John the Baptizer, prepare the way.

Faithfully, *Rev. Lex*

Rev. Lex has a new personal phone number 300-8211. Please call him at the church first, 591-2705 and then on his personal phone if needed.

### Advent Bible Study

Mondays 7pm & Wednesdays 10am

November 30/December 2, December 7/9, December 14/16

The Christmas Pageant Explained: *The Two "stages" of Matthew and Luke*

*Get ready for the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 20 with a three week study of the two birth narratives. (Math 1:1-25, Luke :5-56)*

*What do they mean? Why do they have different settings and characters?*

*What do the two stories of the birth of Jesus mean to your life?*



Preparing for Christmas Eve

December 21/23: Luke 2:1-14



**Christian Education Committee**

**November 15, 2009**

Members present: Lynne Jacoby, Tamara Storch, Danielle Harvey, Lynda Farnsworth, Marilyn Wilson, Tammy Green, Lisa Neary and Lex Liberatore

Basket Raffle - We made \$413.

Lex spoke about the Resource Center Open House that will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5pm-8pm. Lex thought this may give us ideas and help our committee. A few of the Christian Ed members will attend to see what they offer.

Advent workshop - We discussed possible changing the date to November 29<sup>th</sup> because the Christmas tree is going up on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. We decided to stay with the date of December 6<sup>th</sup>. An announcement will be made at the November 22<sup>nd</sup> mass for anyone who would like to donate a ornament for the tree to please bring it to church on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Lynda will put an announcement in the monthly newsletter as well as the weekly church bulletin. We also will have a brunch after church during coffee hour while our children make their Christmas ornaments.

This is the ornaments we will make:

- |                   |                  |                   |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ○ Lynne - Angel   | Tammy - Star     | Lynda - Crown     |
| ○ Tamara - Flower | Marilyn - Manger | Danielle - Wreath |

Heifer International - Discussed having a fund raiser. This organization donates a animal to a family in need. We would like to maintain that thought for our future vision for Christian Education. Get the children involved for the fund raiser.

Jesus Birthday Party -This will be held on December 20<sup>th</sup> after church. Tamara will order a half of sheet cake, Lynda and Tammy will bring juice and Lynne will bring paper plates and cups.

Dunkirk Camp speaker - Tamara will have a representative come out sometime in January 2010.

New Members - Lynne and Danielle will be leaving the committee as their term is up.

- Lynne asked Tina Harding to replace her. She is going to think about it and let me know.
- Danielle not sure who will replace her.
- Sunday School Class - 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade class we discussed suggestions regarding handling this class as the children can be difficult to teach. We discussed giving the children reward stickers when they behave. Also, to try to make the teaching fun for the kids. Lynne will order reward stickers. We discussed possible having a training class for teachers.
- Next meeting will be held after church on: January 10, 2010

Tamara will call everyone as a reminder.

**2010 Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes for the year 2010 will be available the last week of November on a table in the church hallway. If there is no box with your name on it. please see Lisa Neary and I will issue you a box. Call or e-mail me if you have any questions; 585-766-5965 or lneary@rochester.rr.com

- Lisa

**SECRET PAL'S PARTY**



**Come meet your Secret Pal!**

**December 13th**

**Following Sunday service in the fellowship hall**

- **Secret Pal Adults** please pick up invitations for your secret pal on the desk in the church office.
- There will be a sign up sheet in the hall. Please contact your secret pals parents to find out if they will be attending, then sign your name to let us who will be here.
- Please sign up if you are willing to bring a dessert.
  - **Any questions, please contact Lisa Knerr @ 716-652-4662**

***Teen Cafe 12/13***

A **Safe** Place for Teens to Hang Out  
**Friends, Food, Fun, FREE**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 30 Favor St.  
**Questions? Ask Rev. Lex, 591-2705**

**Notes from Your Christian Education Committee:**

With the holiday season fast approaching we would like to make you aware of some important upcoming events at St. Paul's.

This year, we are going back to the days when the entire congregation participated in the advent seasons tree decorating ceremonies. The Advent Workshop will be held **Sunday, December 6th!** Each family or individual is asked to bring in a donated ornament that will be displayed on our Christmas tree this year. During the service, Lex will invite everyone to come up and decorate the tree with your own ornaments. Following worship will be a brunch while the children make their ornaments with the help of their families. Please don't forget to bring your favorite dish or dessert. It will be a day cherished by the entire St. Paul's family!

**Sunday, December 20th** is our Birthday Party for Jesus. Christian Ed will provide cake, coffee, and juice downstairs after service - all are welcome!

**Women's Fellowship**

Women's Fellowship met on Nov. 5, 2009  
Diane gave devotions, Encouraging Words For Women.

Minutes were read & approved.

Diane reported there was \$746.00 left in account. She deposited \$4,376 from Sauerkraut Supper. Pennysaver & Restaurant Supply bills are yet to be paid.

Agreed to send a \$5.00 Christmas gift to Gabriella.

Agreed to buy 2 new roasters.

Glenna will announce to bring kitchen items for Habitat basket by Sunday.

We will celebrate E. Bey's 103 birthday on Nov. 15 at 1:30.

We will donate \$100 to candlelight service.

Kitchen will be cleaned.

Sisters in Faith will do candlelight coffee hour.

Dec. 2 will be next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Glenna Hopfinger

*To the Congregation of St. Paul's UCC,  
On Nov. 1, 2009 I had a concern. I wish to apologize and say I'm sorry if I hurt anyone's feelings because I really love all of you! My daughter tells me I'm from the "old school" but if showing respect is "old school" then I'm guilty! We sing we are standing on "Holy Ground" and if we believe that this is so then why can't we respect the place we worship in?  
Respectfully,  
Mickey Mitzel*

**Pray for our Shut-ins**

- Evelyn Bey
- Mary Wehner
- Diane Doell
- Chet & Betty Watson
- Dorothy VanValkenburg

...and others who cannot join us for worship when weather gets too dangerous for safe travel. Why not call or visit, to let them know they are missed?



**Sisters in Faith**  
Please join SIF for some caroling fun on Sun. Dec.13th.  
We will be meeting at the church for a potluck dinner at 5:30 and plan to leave for caroling at 6pm. Please join us for all or part of the evening! We had a great group last year and had a lot of fun!





Diane Storch poses with Evelyn Bey at her 103rd birthday party. You can send Ev a card of congratulations at Village Green Nursing Home, Room 124, 10 Munson Street, Le Roy, NY, 14482

**DON'T FORGET ...**  
**December 13th**  
Come and welcome the newest members  
of St. Paul's - The Harding family  
Tina & Mike



We would like to welcome **Madelyn Perry**, the youngest member of the St. Paul's family! Madelyn was born on November 18th to Danielle Harvey & Chris Perry. Madelyn weighs 7lb 11oz and is 21" long. Congratulations to Danielle & Chris and their extended families!



### The Christmas Fund

Did you know many retired clergy do not have the benefit of a pension? These men and women worked hard to build the local church in communities all over the country and world, but they were never afforded a retirement plan. Other retired clergy, and their spouses, have inadequate health insurance and can't keep up with the high costs of their health care needs. Still others have periodic emergencies as they grow older and can't afford the costs. That's where the **Christmas Fund** comes in. This special offering provides the retirement, health and emergency support many retired UCC clergy really appreciate and need. The **Christmas Fund** is one of the five for five offerings the national UCC oversees each year. Make this one count this season. Remember the saints who are still with us. You'll find your

## Church Council November 16m 2009

Treasurer's report – new rates for pastoral health insurance. Treasurer will look into other possible companies and plans. Pastor's report – church giving still \$2000+ short of average needed to make current budget. Lex requested reimbursement approval for Office Max bill for church office supplies. Approval given. (Note: Church Office Max credit card is no longer valid. UCC has a new program with Office Max. Lex is looking into it.) Steve Ripstein made motion to accept all other reports. Floss Williman seconded.

Marie Lowe and Rev. Lex led the Council in a second discussion aimed at helping Council set a definite vision for the next year and beyond. Marie pointed out we don't have a vision for accomplishing any particular mission as a church and we are suffering for it (lower church attendance and active membership, flat giving). Marie pointed out that healthy, growing churches have a clear vision, planning informed by that vision and budgeting to support it. Marie asked some direct questions to get Council members focused. Russ offered some good points to consider in our vision for St. Paul's. Lex showed the group how to take their ideas and turn them into visioning statements. Others offered their ideas. Lex will turn them all into visioning statements and give a copy to each Council member for further reflection. In addition, each Council member was asked to speak to one other person (not family) and ask them why, what they like about St. Paul's.

Roy Ticen was invited to give a Casting Your Nets update. Roy reviewed progress to date. Roy hopes that CYN could attract more people to activities now that efforts have been made to dispel the idea this is somehow an exclusive "members only" ministry. Roy says the group has made efforts to drop the "CYN" label and just use the guidance from the program to propel more diverse ministries under the St. Paul's umbrella (like the Back To School Community Picnic – which enjoyed broad support from the church). Roy also proposed new outside signage to go along with the brochures, smaller signs and Sauerkraut Supper stickers and table signs already in use. Since 2010 will require our sign at Main and Washington to be replaced due to street construction, Roy's timing was good. Council approved Roy's designs and asked him to post them for the entire church to view and comment on.

Floss asked that shut-ins be included on the photo board. Lex will discuss with John Brandon. Floss also asked about the status of the web site. Lex is expected to be speaking with Bill Stedman in the near future. Counting schedule was passed out.

Next meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup>. Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer at 8:30pm.

Original Minutes amended by Rev Lex

### Deacon's Minutes - 11/5/09

Meeting was called to order at 7 pm, with the following present: Arlene Brandon, Verla Smith, Marie Lowe, Diane Storch, and Cheri Phillips. The following upcoming events were gone over: Community Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Laurie, Verla & Cheri will assist with greeting and represent St. Paul's. Christmas Caroling will be Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Advent Choral Service Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Christmas play Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Under old business: Laurie has ordered new candle lighters, candles have been ordered for the candlelight service, Laurie and Howard will set up the cross. It was suggested for the Christmas service there be more music from the choir. Usher/greeters will be contacted by Laurie in Nov., Cheri in Dec., Arlene in Jan., & Diane in Feb.

New Business: Communion elements were discussed again. It was decided to do a tally from the congregation to ask their opinion. It will be counted by the council and settled as to what they want. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> will be the vote.

Next meeting will be Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer @ 8:15.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Storch

### ATTICA ANGEL FOOD

Church on the Rock

14 Exchange St.

585-356-9034

[www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com)

### Thanks

Another year has come and gone. The pie callers did a super job, and thanks for that.

Bev B

### Christmas Poinsettia's

It's that time of year again!  
Dorothy & Laurie will be getting order forms ready.  
Prices haven't been set yet, but will be ready soon.

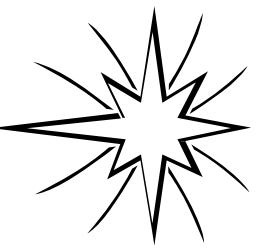
To order call Dorothy @ 591-1080  
Or Laurie @ 591-1430

Order deadline: Sat. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11am





Deadline to order  
December 13<sup>th</sup>





# December 2009



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Light up your holidays by remembering others.						
<i>Giving makes the heart glow.</i>						
6 Local mission 9:15 Worship 10a Advent Workshop Dorothy Van Valkenburg	7 Bible Study 7p	8 George Knab	9 Bible Study 10a	10	11 Justin Staer Lorraine Wolf Sandra Kurz	12
13 Worship 10a Secret Pal Party -after worship SIF potluck 5:30p & caroling 6p	14 Scouts 6p Bible Study 7p	15 Randi Prusak	16 Bible Study 10a Scouts 6p	17 Ralph & Jean Wirth	18 Sarah Smith	19 Tureen Dinner @ Prospect Diane Brown
20 Worship 10a Christmas Play & Jesus' Birthday Party Nikolas Storch	21 NO BIBLE STUDY	22 Hans Moeller	23 Bible Study 10a	24 Christmas Eve Service 11p  Nicholas Anderson	25 	26 Brandon Pope
27 Worship 10a	28 Scouts 6p NO BIBLE STUDY	29	30 NO BIBLE STUDY	31 Martha Mengs	<i>Peace starts with a smile.</i>	
Becky Hopfinger						

March 2009

# October

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget Amount</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Previous Total</u>	<u>Yr. To Date</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>
Pastor's Salary	24,100.00	1,853.84	18,438.40	20,292.24	3,807.76
Pastor's Annuity	5,222.00		3,895.50	3,895.50	1,326.50
Pastor's Health Insurance	11,800.00	80.96	8,992.64	9,073.60	2,726.40
Pastor's FICA Allowance	2,700.00	207.72	1,970.81	2,178.53	521.47
Parsonage Allowance	13,200.00	915.38	9,246.11	10,161.49	3,038.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,022.00</b>	<b>3,057.90</b>	<b>42,543.46</b>	<b>45,601.36</b>	<b>11,420.64</b>
Supply Minister	480.00	0.00	480.00	480.00	0.00
Pastor's travel reimbursement	3,200.00	221.20	2,404.10	2,625.30	574.70
Custodian	4,680.00	360.00	3,600.00	3,960.00	720.00
Organist	3,824.00	318.67	2,868.03	3,186.70	637.30
Supply Musician	400.00	50.00	350.00	400.00	0.00
Choir Director	1,071.00	89.25	803.25	892.50	178.50
Bell Choir Director	536.00	44.67	268.02	312.69	223.31
Grounds Custodian	150.00	0.00	71.15	71.15	78.85
Christian Education	750.00	0.00	679.80	679.80	70.20
Employee FICA	1,547.00	62.17	443.85	506.02	1,040.98
Youth Activity	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
Special Events	1,000.00	8.00	597.00	605.00	395.00
NYS Disability	259.00	0.00	255.46	255.46	3.54
Miscellaneous	750.00	91.23	430.85	522.08	227.92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,147.00</b>	<b>1,245.19</b>	<b>13,751.51</b>	<b>14,996.70</b>	<b>4,150.30</b>
Postage	500.00	88.00	213.62	301.62	198.38
Supplies & Materials	2,500.00	92.89	1,348.52	1,441.41	1,058.59
Music	500.00	0.00	516.90	516.90	(16.90)
Maintenance & Repairs	5,700.00	440.62	6,540.94	6,981.56	(1,281.56)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,200.00</b>	<b>621.51</b>	<b>8,619.98</b>	<b>9,241.49</b>	<b>(41.49)</b>
Church Utilities	8,500.00	658.00	7,125.78	7,783.78	716.22
Telephone/Internet	1,000.00	78.94	808.28	887.22	112.78
Insurance	6,754.00	0.00	3,900.60	3,900.60	2,853.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,254.00</b>	<b>736.94</b>	<b>11,834.66</b>	<b>12,571.60</b>	<b>3,682.40</b>
Church's Wider Mission	7,700.00	641.67	5,775.23	6,416.90	1,283.10
Local Mission	1,000.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	700.00
Western Area Covenant Share	1,842.00	153.50	1,381.50	1,535.00	307.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,542.00</b>	<b>795.17</b>	<b>7,456.73</b>	<b>8,251.90</b>	<b>2,290.10</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>112,165.00</b>	<b>6,456.71</b>	<b>84,206.34</b>	<b>90,663.05</b>	<b>21,501.95</b>

## Sunday Offering YTD 2009

Faith Offering through November 15:	\$90,556.80
Average needed to make budget:	\$92,615.55
Deficit:	\$2058.75

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
11 Washington Street  
Attica, NY 14011

**Sp** The Spirit

**December 2009**

of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Village of Attica

St. Paul's UCC, 11 Washington Street  
Just around the corner, first block down Main Street

Join us for Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

*Sunday School for children K-7th Grade - Nursery always open!*

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at St. Paul's."

Call Rev. Lex at church (585-591-2705)

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- 6th Communion Sunday  
Advent Choral Service 2 pm
- 13th Reception of New Members  
Tina & Mike Harding
- 20th Christmas Play
- 24th Christmas Eve Service 11p



**ACTIVITIES**

- 6th Advent Workshop  
(after worship)
- 13th Secret Pal Party  
SIF Christmas Caroling
- 20th Jesus' Birthday Party