

The Communicator

December 2018



BRUNCH WITH SANTA

SATURDAY, December 15 at 11:30 AM

Light Lunch of Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and Chips

Pictures with Santa.

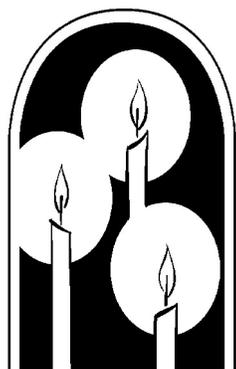
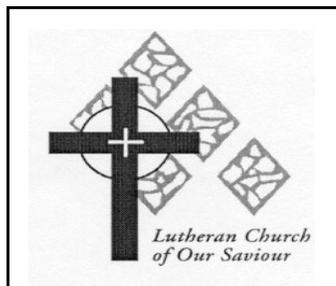
Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

*Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service –
5:00 PM*

*Festival Candlelight Service with a Carol
Setting of Holy Communion – 10:30 PM*

Sunday, December 30

One Service at 10:00 AM



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

A message from the Stewardship Committee: *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*

All that we are and have is truly a gift from our Lord and Saviour. Thank you to all that participated on Commitment Sunday and attended the Activities fair. We had a great turn out. A special thank you to Brian, Pam & Brayden Spencer for the wonderful meal. We would also like to thank Simone Harter, Ann Seppa, Mary Ellen Saur and Cindy Borzilleri for her help with clean up.

If you have not yet turned in your Commitment card or Time and Talent sheet, please do so as soon as possible. The Commitment Card box will remain in the Narthex throughout the month of December. They can both be put in there. We need everyone's support and participation to ensure we can meet all our goals and plans for the upcoming year. It is when we all work together that we can accomplish great things!

Thank you and God Bless,
The Stewardship Committee

*Newsletter of the
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2415 Chili Avenue
Rochester, NY 14624
585/247-7824
E-mail: LCOSRochester@frontiernet.net
Rev. Joachim Wilck, Pastor
Mrs. Mary Pleten, Editor
A member congregation of the
Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

The Communicator

Sunday School
Christmas Program
Sunday, December 16 at
9:00 AM Worship Service



Rehearsals

The Sunday School will start practice for the play during Sunday School on Sunday, 12/2 and 12/9. A small rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 15 before the Santa Brunch at 10:00 AM.

On Sunday, December 16 the youth of Our Saviour will present the Christmas Program during the 9:00 AM Service, followed by a "Punch and Cookie" reception for our young "stars". Please plan on coming and bring your friends and relatives to this special program:



PUNCH AND COOKIE RECEPTION
after Sunday School Christmas Program

Following the Sunday School Christmas Program, we are planning a "Punch and Cookie" reception. This is an opportunity for parents to speak with the teachers as well as fellow-members and visitors.

Donations of chips or cookies for the brunch with Santa will be much appreciated.

Thanks to all who have donated or helped with our events. Without you, these fun times would not be possible for our children and families.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

13TH ANNUAL BRUNCH WITH SANTA

Save the date!

Saturday, December 15, 11:30 AM

Forms are available on the narthex table to sign up.

Santa will be in attendance and pictures will be taken.

ANNUAL REPORTS COPY DUE, Please!

In order to have the Annual Bulletin of Reports completed in time for distribution prior to the January Congregational Meeting, all Boards and Organizations should submit summary reports for the 2018 Ministry Year by Friday, January 11. This gives the office staff the necessary time for preparation and printing.

Thank you for your cooperation.





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS . . .
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY and BEST WISHES to all these members of Our Saviour who celebrate birthdays during the month of December. We pray for your continued growth in God's grace.

- 2-Chloe Francisco
- 3-Stacey Tesch
- 3-Becky Wiesmore
- 3-Abigail Wiesmore
- 4-Helen Pleten
- 4-Richard Ransom
- 6-Lance Strasser
- 6-Gregory Lombard
- 6-Kevin Gear
- 7-Tammy Popen Cuyler
- 7-Jamie Vogel
- 7-Carmela Hepworth
- 8-Hans Strasser Jr
- 8-Gerald Miller, Jr.
- 11-Brian Forest
- 11-Drew Emerson
- 12-Paul Hamblin

- 12-Trevor Pennington
- 14-Chris Austin
- 14-Krystle Earle
- 14-Danielle Gatto
- 15-Ric Seiling
- 16-Laura Pleten Bugajski
- 16-Nancy Schwach
- 17-Dawn Wyszomirski
- 17-Joseph Greene
- 17-Diane Hair
- 17-Stephanie Dalba
- 17-Brendan Guhl
- 18-Agnes Richardson
- 19-Aidan Pennington
- 20-Scott Meli
- 21-Edith Pharmakis
- 21-Christine Kipybida
- 22-Linda Palmer
- 22-Taylor Farruggia
- 24-Lorraine VanOrden
- 24-Edward Ellis
- 25-Kyra Pellegrino
- 26-Julie Stich Lowe
- 26-James Palmer
- 26-Bradley Potter
- 28-Yvonne Dougherty
- 29-Kurt Wehrmann
- 29-Riley Martin
- 31-Alice Crawford

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES . .

. Congratulations and Best Wishes to these members of Our Saviour who celebrate Wedding anniversaries during the month of December. May God continue to bless you and increase your love for one another!

- 1—John and Debra Macksamie
- 15—John and Joyce Tesch
- 19—Brian and Katie Crnkovich
- 29—Janeen and David Oliver



Celebrate Our Heritage

75th anniversary highlights: As we prepare for the 75th anniversary next year we need your help. We want to develop a scrapbook of the history of the church. If you have news clippings, photos, letters from members and other memorabilia we ask you to share it with us. We are gathering items from December through January. Thank you in advance. In addition through the month of December we are asking for your help to come up with a theme for

the Anniversary. You will have opportunity to submit you theme on the Tan response sheets throughout the month of December and we will announce the winning theme In January.

We are also trying to get in touch with former interns, assistants Pastors who have been a part of our congregation; inviting them to come and visit and preach on various dates throughout the anniversary year.

Some of the items discussed by the committee include: interviewing older members to reminisce about the church and its ministries. Commission an anniversary hymn, Support a special project to the church, Establish a special gift, endowment or other work in support of a missionary, a ministry, or other work.

Members of the committee will be in touch with you our members as we seek to get everyone involved in our celebration.

Discussions have been lively and fun. It should be a great year and we look forward to your participation all year long.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, as baptized followers of Jesus Christ will foster a living, expressive relationship with our Lord and our neighbors.

We will do this in a way that seeks to serve all segments of our congregation and community by:

- ◆ Providing a welcoming environment for youth and young adults.
- ◆ Strengthening the family unit.
- ◆ Involving the elderly and recognizing their special needs.
- ◆ Making Christ visible through worship.

Recommended by the Long Range Planning committee on October 27, 2010

*December 2—1st Sunday in Advent
Modern Traditional 9:00 AM
Worship 11:15 AM*

*December 9—2nd Sunday in Advent
Modern Traditional Communion 9:00 AM
Holy Communion 11:15 AM*

*December 16—3rd Sunday in Advent
Sunday School Christmas Program
9:00 AM
Worship 11:15 AM*

*December 23—4th Sunday in Advent
Modern Traditional Communion 9:00 AM
Holy Communion 11:15 AM*



Some Christmas history and thoughts: The Christmas cycle, a relatively late addition to the Christian calendar, made its appearance in the fourth century. Prior to that time, the festival of Epiphany was a major festival along with Easter and Pentecost. In the early church, before the year A.D. 312, when Christianity became legalized under Constantine, few people in the church were concerned about the birth of Jesus. Therefore the Nativity was not a major festival. More importance was placed upon the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

When the dual nature of Christ—divinity and humanity—was challenged by heretics in the 4th century, the church, to support the claim of Jesus' humanity, celebrated his birth with the festival of Christmas.

Under the old calendar used prior to the present Gregorian calendar, the winter solstice fell on December 25, the shortest day of the year, after which the sun shines for longer periods each day. In pagan religions the "sun god" was reborn this day. The church Christianized this pagan festival to recognize the birth of the "Sun of Righteousness."

The critical problem with the Christmas cycle is one of tense. When the church celebrates Christ's coming, does that refer to his nativity at Bethlehem, his coming into our lives through baptismal rebirth, or his promise to "come again at the close of the age"? The answer must be all three tenses: past, present, and future.

The danger for many Christians and congregations is to lock the Christmas cycle in the past tense. Too often this is the time when we make an annual pilgrimage to Bethlehem, dressing up folks in biblical costumes to replay "Silent Night, Holy Night." The Christmas cycle is susceptible to nostalgia and romance with little contemporary meaning.

On the other end of the spectrum, when Christians and congregations focus only on Christ's second coming and avoid Bethlehem and the present, Christ becomes the divine escape who will rescue us from this "veil of tears." To focus on only one dimension of the tense sequence is to ignore the complete mystery of Jesus' coming full of grace and truth: yesterday, today and tomorrow. Put another way Christians can celebrate Christ in their lives today and depend on his promise to return, because they can rely on Scripture's accounts of Jesus' nativity.



From the Operation Christmas Child project team:
Our 91 Christmas shoeboxes were delivered to a collection center in Brockport on November 12. They were then delivered with many other boxes to Webster where they were then loaded on a van for delivery to the Baltimore Center for shipment all over the world. The Finger Lakes West Operations Center is very proud to announce that 19,661 shoeboxes were shipped. Good News and Great Joy are being released into the world through your simple gifts. God Bless you all.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of your prayers and well-wishes following both of my surgeries this fall. I am blessed to be a part of such a wonderful congregation.

God Bless You All, Pam Carmichael

Sincere thank you to my Church family, for having provided for all my needs and care during my recent surgery episode. The soups, phone calls and get well cards were so appreciated, you are truly God's angels.

"God's love and light truly lives and shines brightly in our church and families"

God Bless our Saviour Church family.

Helga Mitchell

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Women of the ELCA would like to express their thanks to all who contributed in any way to a very successful Election Day Soup and Baked Food Sale. We made in excess of \$676 from this sale and \$400 from Choice Dollars. The monies earned will allow us to carry out our mission projects within the church and community.

WATCH FOR OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2019

The office staff is preparing a set of envelopes for each household in the congregation. The sets are arranged in alphabetical order on the tables in the narthex. **Please** pick up your set in December, when you are in church. Should you not find a set with your name, please contact the office staff immediately. Thank you.

**THE CHURCH SERVICES ARE RECORDED AND ARE ON YOUTUBE
GO TO WWW.OURSAVIOURROCHESTER.ORG AND
CLICK ON [SERMONS](#)**

NEWS FROM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

The Angel Tree is set up in the Narthex.



Please take an ID tag from the tree, and return it with an appropriate Christmas gift for the needy child identified by The Rochester Family Mission or our church. The gifts for the Rochester Family Mission are requested to be put under the tree by Monday, December 10. Gifts should be about \$40. Do not wrap but supply a gift bag. For more information see the detailed instructions sheet attached to the ID tag, or Jerry Stich.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Merry December

Another great year is coming to an end, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Savior Jesus. Its such a special time of year for our youth at Our Saviour as they prepare for our annual Christmas program.

Practice and video taping for the program is well under way as directed by Mrs. Sheila Foltz. We are continuing with the recorded version during the Sunday School hour. This years pageant JJ the night before Christmas will be presented by Our Saviours youth on Sunday December 16th at the 9:00 service. The children are very excited for the pageant and look forward to sharing it with you. We ask the children to please be at church between 8:30 & 8:45 dressed in their Sunday best.

Following the pageant there will be a small cookie reception downstairs to celebrate Jesus's Birthday where we will also be showing the movie The Star. We hope to start the movie around 10:30 and finish up around 12. You are more then welcome to stay with your child or please plan on picking them up around 12.

December 15th at 9:30 for older youth(3rd grade and up) 10:00 for younger youth (PreK-3) we will have a quick run through to tie up any loose ends for our Christmas pageant and bell practice. Those who are participating in the Christmas hall will report to Mrs Janeen by 10:30. Brunch with Santa will follow at 11.

Also our 4th Annual tree decorating Christmas party will be on Friday December 7th 5:30-7 we'll have crafts, games, Christmas caroling and of course Pizza. We will be gathering in the Augsburg room and all youth are welcomed to join us.

Sunday School will be in recess December 24rd and December 30th and will resume with a Winter Rally Day on January 6th at 10:15 AM.



Maggie Harris's Thanksgiving Dinner. Our church donated goods, money (\$200.), and volunteered for the Community Lutheran Ministry (942 Joseph Ave.). Approximately 500 meals were given to needy people. 5 volunteers from our church helped to prepare the meal, and 20 volunteers from our church helped to serve it.

ALTAR GUILD WORK SESSION

Members of Our Saviour Altar Guild will meet Saturday, December 8 at 9:30 AM to prepare for the festival Christmas Eve Services.

Many hands make for quick work...so we hope that a good number of the ladies of the Guild are present to prepare bows and candles for the aisles, prepare individual candles for the candlelight services, and get other materials in order for the Festival Services.

HARVEST HOME FOOD DISTRIBUTED



Food items donated by the children of Our Saviour Sunday School, their families and other members of the congregation are distributed during the month of November. Thank you to all who donated items.

Jubilees and Adult Fellowship

Decorating our church for Christmas this year will take place on Friday, December 7th starting at 6:00 PM. We will gather after our hard work for Christmas snacks and drinks. A sign-up sheet is on the Narthex table, please indicate what snacks you will be bring. Drinks will be provided. This is always a fun event because we have joy in our hearts for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It's the reason for the season!

The Jubilees Christmas Luncheon is at beautiful Brook Lea Country Club on Thursday, December 13, 2017 at NOON.



AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

From the Financial Secretary

Rod Potter, the Assistant Financial Secretary, remind all members of the congregation that **December 31** is the closing date for posting contributions and offerings to be credited for 2018. After that date any contributions received are credited to the new year-2019. Your help and understanding in this matter is appreciated.

Candlelight Services Christmas Eve

Candlelight Carol Service **5:00 PM**

Festival Candlelight Service with

Holy Communion **10:30 PM.**

Sunday,

December 30

One service 10:00AM



*Those who are homebound or reside in nursing homes...*Audrey Citro (St. Johns Home), Hans Strasser (Jewish Home, Winton Road) Helen Pleten (Emeritus Home on Long Pond Road) Edith Pharmakis, (Seabrook Woods in Gates).



SIGN UP NOW FOR A CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

Our Saviour Altar Guild invites you to place a Poinsettia in the chancel for the festival Christmas Services. Plants are placed as an expression of joy at the celebration of the birth of our Lord and/or in loving memory of family and friends. The cost of a poinsettia this year is \$10.00 each plant is wrapped in gold foil.

Please sign up on the special Flower Sheet on the narthex table, take an envelope for the cost of the plant and place it in the offering at any of the Services between now and the sign up deadline of December 16.

Plants may be taken home or given to a sick or homebound person following the 10:30 PM Christmas Eve Service. God bless you once again for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Advent is more than waiting for Christmas. It is a season of the church year that emphasizes beginnings and new creation. It is a time of waiting and anticipation. It is a time of hope. It is a time to remember that God is faithful. God has come. God will come again. God is with us. This year the four Sundays of Advent are observed beginning December 2.

Advent is a season of preparation and expectation. Our culture seems to ignore Advent and move right to Christmas. In society today many people are not comfortable with waiting. Advent is a time of waiting. In years past God's people waited for God to act. They waited for the chosen one to come. At Christians we are called to wait. Our waiting has purpose and meaning – we wait in faith for God. Our waiting is active and mission filled.

During this season of waiting, Advent points us to the three comings of Jesus. He came among us at Bethlehem. He comes among us now in the scriptures, the sacraments and the community of faith. He will come again in glory to bring God's kingdom to fulfillment.

As we wait, come and worship during the Season of Advent. We celebrate God's ongoing love and grace in our lives and the life of our congregation.

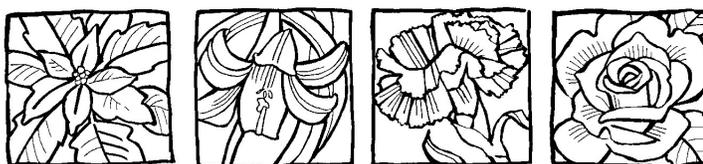


NEW FLOWER CHART POSTED

A new flower chart for 2019 is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The Altar Guild invites you to indicate the date on which you wish to place flowers on the altar as expression of devotion to the Lord, in memory of a loved one, as an expression of joy and thanksgiving on an anniversary or birthday, or other special occasions in life.

The cost for the flowers is \$30.00. We encourage and appreciate your participation.

• FLOWER CHART •

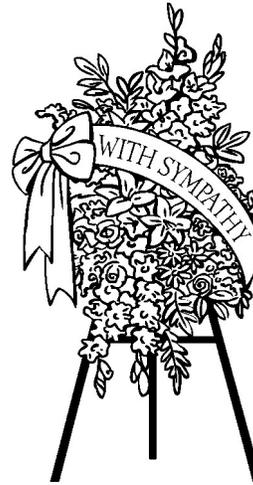


THANK YOU

❖ **Pattie Schulz, Mary Ellen Saur, Jean Lombard, Gordon and Ann Seppa, Debbie Frey and Joan Plowe** for collating, stapling and addressing the November newsletter.

- ❖ **Sharon and Richard Yackel and Mary Ellen Saur** for assembling the Sunday bulletins.
- ❖ **Ed Jarvis** for opening and closing the building for Election Day.
- ❖ **Ann Seppa Mary Ellen Saur** for the stewardship mailing
- ❖ **Linda Loughlin** for continuing to fill the oil candles every other week.; and proofing the newsletter.
- ❖ **Marielies Renke** for continuing to water the plants in the narthex area.
- ❖ **Mary Ellen Saur** for raking the leaves.
- ❖ **Ed Jarvis, Jerry Stich, Ed and Deb Housel, Diane Parke-Potter, Frank and Madison Johnson, Rod Potter and Pat Stich** for Adopt-a-highway.

The commitment and dedication of all members of Our Saviour is important to the congregation's mission and ministry. We want to recognize the tasks done by members. Committee/Board Chairs and others are asked to share these names with Office Manager, Mary Pleten for inclusion in future issues of the **Communicator**.



Leona Kelso went to be with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on October 15 at the age of 97. A graveside service was held at Garland Cemetery in Clarkson, NY on Saturday, November 10.

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

The **Evangelism Committee** would like to thank everyone for participating in the Trunk or Treat Event. Thank you to the LYO for the Halloween Hallway. It was a pleasure to see all of the cars decorated, the adults and children dressed up. I'm not sure who had more fun, the adults or the children.

December

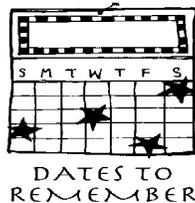
WOMEN OF THE ELCA COOKIE EXCHANGE AND TEA PARTY
SATURDAY, December 1 at 9:30 AM

EVANGELISM MEETING
2nd Sunday during the Sunday School hour

ALTAR GUILD WORK SESSION
Saturday, December 8, 9:30 AM.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
In recess

CLC MEETING
In recess



WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A.
Women of the E.L.C.A. Christmas Party,
Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 PM

JUBILEES and ADULT FELLOWSHIP DECORATES THE CHURCH
Friday, December 7, 6:00 PM.

BRUNCH WITH SANTA
Saturday, December 15, 11:30 AM

NG'sUs, / LYO CHRISTMAS CAROLING
The Youth meet Sunday, December 9, following the
11:15 AM service

November was a very busy month for the Women of the ELCA. We would like to thank everyone who donated and volunteered their time for our Annual Election Day Soup and Bake Sale. This year's sale was a huge success and we are happy to announce that we raised almost \$700. With this money, throughout the year, we are able to continue to do good deeds making donations to various organizations. This is the only fundraiser we do and we are always grateful to be able to continue our work at Our Saviour.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Third Operation Christmas Child Project a success. A special thank you to Thrivent for sponsoring this event. We were able to deliver close to 100 Christmas boxes at one of the drop off locations. The boxes will then be transported to a distribution center before they begin their long journey for delivery to some very lucky children for Christmas. Thank you to Debbie Frey and Janeen Oliver who chaired this event and did a wonderful job.

Carole Chapin, Donna Miller and Simone Harter will be providing refreshments for fellowship on Sunday, December 9th.

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held at the home of AnnMarie MacBride on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome, just bring your favorite party snack. Secret Pals will also be revealed and new ones chosen. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Narthex. Ann Marie will be conducting the devotions for this meeting.

As we take our winter break, no meeting will be held in January.

The number of women attending our meetings is increasing and we hope that this will continue as we move through the new year. We always have room!!!

The Women of the ELCA would like to wish you all a very Blessed Christmas Season and a very Happy New Year!

Ann Seppa, Secretary

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

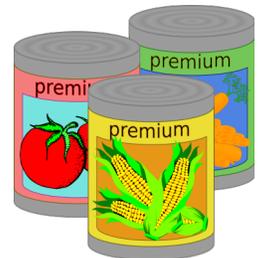
COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD COUPONS

The Community Food Cupboard in downtown Rochester serves a large senior community, as well as others in emergency situations as they arise. We (The Women of the ELCA) feel that this program is another way that Our Saviour can do God's work within the community.

I will send in coupons collected on a weekly or biweekly schedule. The Food Cupboard uses the coupons to buy the products and then distributes the products to their clients. We need to watch expiration dates carefully, thus the weekly or biweekly mailings. Coupons requested include: canned goods (especially soups, as well as vegetables and fruits); peanut butter (they stressed this product); cereal products and dairy products. A box for the coupons is located on the table in the narthex.

Thank you in advance for your support of this project.

Sharon Yackel



LYO NEWS

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

2415 Chili Avenue, Rochester, NY 14624

Phone: 585-247-7824

Fax: 585-247-7849

Email: LCOSRochester@frontiernet.net

www.OurSaviourRochester.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

8:00 AM-1:00 PM

Pastor Wilck is normally in his church study Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. He is available to meet you at church or at other mutually arranged times/places. You may also contact him or leave a message at his phone number 269-9086. On Friday, Pastor's day off, he is available for pastoral emergencies.

Please inform Pastor Wilck whenever there is an illness or hospitalization in your family. He appreciates your help. When you are admitted to a hospital, please list your religious preference as "Lutheran Church of Our Saviour" and contact Pastor or the church office.

The youth (NG'sUs, and LYO) continues to meet every Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM. We continue to be emerged in Word, fellowship and a whole lot of fun. Our first year incorporating both youth groups and confirmation continues to grow and relationships continue to strengthen.

ATTENTION LYO: Some reminders for December.

Set-up for Christmas Hall-Wednesday, December 12, Thursday, December 13 and Friday, December 14 — 6:00 to 9:00 PM

December 15: Christmas Trail and Brunch with Santa. We are asking members of the group to help with Brunch with Santa. We need help setting tables and distributing food to guests. Plan on joining us that morning at 9:30 AM for set up. Come and see our Christmas Hall.

December 19: We are gathering to go Christmas caroling to our members after the 11:15 AM Service.

December 19 and 26: NG'sUs, and LYO in recess

The NG'sUs and LYO wishes you and yours the happiest holiday season. Warm thoughts and Christmas cheer to you. Grace and Peace, Janeen Oliver



Permit No. 1559

Rochester, NY

PAID

U.S. POSTAGE

Non-Profit Org.

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF OUR SAVIOUR
2415 CHILI AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NY 14624
CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED**