

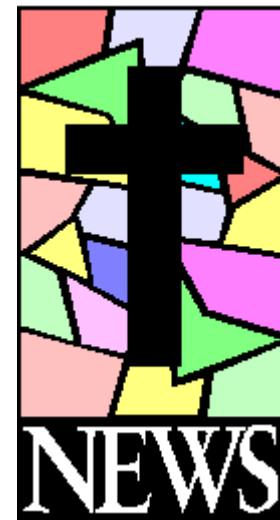
# ***SONRISE EDITION***

**RANSOMVILLE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
&  
FILLMORE CHAPEL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Your Church Newsletter*

**November/December 2007**

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## Pastor's Corner

Advent season is a powerful expression of our Christian faith. We cannot completely understand the meaning of “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” without realizing how lost we are or were without the incarnation of Jesus Christ. We cannot fully understand the birth of the Christ child without first understanding Jesus as Lord and Savior. Authentic celebration of Advent and Christmas must be experiences as part of God’s whole redemption plan. In other words, we must also take in Christ’s life, death, and resurrection in order for Advent to have fruition in our lives.

Good news is proclaimed in Advent with persons repenting and responding in joy. Advent retains its own penitential dimension just like Easter, but emphasizing the joy filled hope in the coming of the Lord. The people of God, Israel prayed continually for the deliverer, expecting God’s mercy and promise of the coming of the Christ.

In Christ Jesus’ birth the expected promise is fulfilled. God provides the way for righting the wrong humanity brought upon itself. Jesus though divine is also human and therefore able to break sin’s hold on the human race. While we aren’t without sin, those in Christ don’t fear the outcome of God’s judgment because we know we are the redeemed people.

Faith calls us to reclaim Christmas as a celebration of God’s love and mercy, not a secular holiday filled with greed. We sing the carols, we give gifts of love, and we should give ourselves to God throughout the year in various ways. Advent is reclaiming faith in God that brought to us the gift of the Christ child. A gift from God more costly than we too often acknowledge, and more valuable than we affirm in our walk.

## *December birthdays*

### Ransomville

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 – Richard Wade, Jr.   | 20 – Louis York       |
| 6 – Emma DeWinter       | 21 – Jonathan Gamble  |
| 14 – Bernice McLaughlin | 21 – William Emerson  |
| 15 – Reeve Gates, Jr.   | 21 – Suzannah Emerson |
| 18 – Evan Ellen Hauser  |                       |

### FILLMORE CHAPEL

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 – Shannon Stoelting   | 17 – Kathy Harris        |
| 2 – Laurence Lederhouse | 19 – Andrew Jesson       |
| 2 – Harry Schlyer       | 21 – Terry Skellen       |
| 8 – Jeffery Skellen     | 24 – H. Bruce Lederhouse |
| 10 – David Johannes     | 26 – Pam Tweed           |
| 12 – Edmund Wendt       | 26 – Emma Mylchreest     |
| 14 – Mitchell Sembert   | t31 – Chester Sulinski   |
| 17 – Allen M. Wills     |                          |

## *Anniversaries*

### Ransomville

- |                            |
|----------------------------|
| 13 – Emerson & Marian Frey |
| 21 – Tim & Mary Truesdell  |

Please let us know updates for the Birthday and Anniversary lists!

## ***November birthdays***

### *Ransomville*

4 – Michelle Andalora	21 – Timothy Truesdell
5 – Joanne Hopkins	23 – Norma Brosnan
8 – Grace Baker	24 – Beth Sutherland
13 – Tommie Jo Williams	30 – Jessica Spring
16 – Darwin Cramer	

### *FILLMORE CHAPEL*

2 – Russell Harris	12 – Jacob Daniel Stoelting
4 – Andrew Koroschetz	14 – Cynthia McLaughlin
6 – Jessie Michel	15 – Sherri Sulinski
8 – Charles Michel	20 – Shelly Wilkinson
12 – Chris Sembert	30 – Betty Daniels

## ***Anniversaries***

### *Ransomville*

7 – Joel & Greta Spring  
25 – Todd & Amy Hauser

### *Fillmore Chapel*

16 – Tim & Sheri Senek

Today, observing Advent helps us get back on track, to carry out a genuine Christian faith walk in our homes, workplaces, etc. as well in worship. The familiar sights and sounds of Advent I pray would stir all our hearts to a Christian readiness to receive Christ if He should appear at any moment. I pray the joy will sharpen our sense for evangelism in a world needing to come to the manger, and the Cross of Christ for redemption.

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” Jesus in stating this does not deny or ignore the evidence of this temporal world and our needs. Too often we confuse needs with desires though. We live in this world; there are certain responsibilities we all have to family and ourselves. These responsibilities help us to find genuine meaning and purpose for our existence. However, if we expect to find the true meaning of our existence, of our lives, than our souls, minds, hearts, and bodies must render themselves to God in Christ. As Leslie F. Brandt writes, “As did the coin that bore the imprint of Caesar thus belong to Caesar, so every man, woman, and child created by God, redeemed through Jesus Christ, and infilled by the Holy Spirit bears in his or her very nature and upon his or her immortal soul the stamp of God’s ownership. We owe our lives, and all that may include, first and foremost to God.” How true this is, yet so often we place God second, third, or wherever behind family, work, play.

Advent is a season of celebrating the expected first coming of the Savior. It is also a time for celebrating the expected second coming of Christ. Are you ready if Jesus would come today? We expect a lot from God, but what can God expect from you this year?

“I am blessed and grateful, my God, that above all that is earthly and temporal is the glorious truth that You are my Creator and Redeemer, my Savior and King, forever.” Amen

God Bless!  
*Pastor Les*

## Activities & Meetings

**Ransomville Administrative Council** meeting is Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend and find out what is happening at your Church.

**Fillmore Chapel administrative Council** will meet on December 16<sup>th</sup> following worship. Please attend to help make important decisions.

**Youth Group** – Meeting on Sunday from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

**Fillmore Chapel United Methodist Women** will meet on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. Hazel Lederhouse is president.

**Ransomville United Methodist Women** will not be having a regular meeting in December. They will go to ***Knead the Dough*** for lunch on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 PM. **All ladies** of the church are invited. Please let Millie know at 791-4494 by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Bible Study:** Bible Study will begin on November 28<sup>th</sup> at the Ransomville Church at 7:00 PM. The study will be on the Promised Land. Please bring your Bibles.

**Holiday Cookie Sale:** We are again having the Holiday Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Ransomville Church and we need your help by donating homemade cookies. Please sign-up with the amount of cookies you can bake with Janet Fedak, Ellen Truesdell or on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule. Also please drop your cookies off at the Church on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. If you would like to place an order there are order blanks in the vestibule and they must be received by December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Beneath a Lonely Star”**

By: John Lawton

One silent night they came to my door.  
They were guided by the light of a lonely star.

The woman was with child.

They were searching for a place to stay;  
but I had to send them away.

Then the woman began to cry.

They had traveled so far.

And I wondered as they went, who were these people from  
Galilee.

I found them later on not far away, with the child in a manger on  
a bed of hay.

On a cold and quiet night in the solemn holy light, somewhere  
beneath a lonely star.

One holy night they gathered with gifts for him of gold and  
frankincense and myrrh.

Kings and shepherds came to worship this humble child who  
they claimed was the Son of God.

Then my heart was filled with joy that God would save us  
through this little boy.

And I wondered with tears who was this child from Galilee.

Then I found that Heaven wasn't so far away when you're  
trusting that Messiah was born this day.

On a cold and quiet night in the solemn holy light, somewhere  
beneath a lonely star.

Eternal life began beneath a lonely star, where three wise men  
discovered that God's grace was not so far.

From a babe in lowliness grew a man of righteousness who  
would give His life on Calvary.

He was born so He could set us free.

On a cold and quiet night in the solemn holy light, somewhere  
beneath a lonely star.

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days  
of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to  
Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews?  
For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship  
him.” (Matthew 2: 1 – 2)

## Fillmore Chapel News

We voted to put the new carpet in down by the bathroom and our elevator project if finished (a little painting/trim left). Thank you, thank you for all who helped, donated and to one who put hours doing the finishing work.

Notice the smell of new paint, the walls were painted in the Sanctuary this past week, thank you Larry, he did the trim work while the Niagara County prisoners did the bulk of the areas. Larry was there for about a week. Thanks to Terry and Mom Skellen for feeding them, keep feeding them like that so they will want to keep coming back.

Thank you to the UMW (Ladies Aide). They announced that they were giving \$500.00 to the new carpet for the Sanctuary. It looks like that will be coming the first of the year.

Don't put away your painting clothes yet, we are going to start painting and repairing the pews.

Please plan on coming to our Administrative Council Board meeting, they are after worship once a month. We need to make some important decisions, we need your input. This is your chance to tell us what you think. Please come.

We will be decorating for Christmas this Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> after church...pizza and wings.

I heard a rumor...that we maybe remodeling the bathroom...new tile floor, new fixtures and a paint job.

Thank you again to all who have put countless hours in ...to make Fillmore a better place to worship.

What does the future hold for Fillmore Chapel? Watch for a planning meeting.

## Advent & Christmas At Fillmore Chapel and Ransomville

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> – First Sunday of Advent: Hope**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>- Second Sunday of Advent: Peace**

**December 16<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent: Joy**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Ransomville Worship – 7:00 PM**

**Fillmore Chapel Worship – 8:30 PM**

## Praying For This Month

(Please note that the names will be removed after six weeks unless renewed for another six weeks.)

### Fillmore Chapel

Rick Lederhouse(3)

Ted Grose(1)

Shirley Grose(1)

Family & Friends of Sarah Brown

### Ransomville

Rick Diez(1)

Janet Fedak(3)

Don Burmaster(2)

**Remember in prayer the men and women in our armed forces (Bruce Schultz, Timothy Truesdell, Jeff Kramer, Ian Zerby, Kurt Mieth, Chris Hamby, Benjamin Smith, Christopher Latta, Adam Zerby, Eddie Jackson, Duane Jacobs, Justin Neumann, Scot Hanna, Eric Freischlag) and the families of those who have lost loved ones in the conflict.**

## Ransomville Church News

**Food Pantry:** There is a container in the foyer to drop off non-perishable goods for the Food Pantry. The first Sunday of each month is designated as Food Collection Sunday. However, you may bring things at any time.

**Clothing Drive:** During the village's annual Lighting of the Wreaths, we will be having a used clothing drive today from 2:0 – 4:00 PM. Liz Maacks and Emma DeWinter will be serving punch. Please bring **only** clothes.

## Stamp Ministry

Please save your used holiday stamps for the Shell Point Ministry. The income from their sales goes to support the preparation and distribution of a new Spanish language curriculum for the Sunday Schools in Latin America. More than 50 lesson series have been published and are being used in churches of 40 different denominations and missions in 15 Latin American countries.

In 2006, a total of \$40,00 was realized from the sales of the stamps sent. The grand total since the inception of the ministry in 1971 amounts to over \$600,000!!

Thank you for your support of this vital ministry.

To save a stamp, the stamp should be carefully cut out from the envelope, leaving at least 1/4 –inch margin around the stamp. Do not use stamps that are torn or wrinkled. Stamps may be given to Shirley Schroeder or put in the box in the church entry.

## Youth News From Hap Skellen

The no-name youth group has a name, *The A.R.K.'s* after watching Evan Almighty last week at our movie night. The teens chose the name in the movie at the end they kept talking about changing the world; God said you start one act of random kindness at a time.

**ACT RANDOM KINDNESS.**

ARK.'s are selling candy bars at \$1.00 to help raise funds for our youth programs. See any youth or see Mom York at Ransomville and Hap at Fillmore Chapel.

This Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> will be our monthly breakfast at *Knead the Dough* at 8:00 AM.

We are going Christmas caroling at the Newfane Nursing Home, and shut-ins, if you know anyone that would like us to stop by, let Pastor Les know. We will open this to the whole church, and going on the candlelight tour of Fort Niagara.

Pastor Les is going to start a devotional time with the youth on Sunday nights.

Watch for a new fund raiser "The 52 weeks Club". This is where you pledge \$1.00 for 52 weeks. That will be used for Youth programs. Think of it if 40 people joined the "52 Week Club" that would be \$2000.00 est. for youth programs.

Mark your calendars for December 9<sup>th</sup> for the *Remember When Dinner* for people over 60. The ARK's will be hosting a light dinner of soup/salad/dessert at 5:00 PM at the Ransomville Fellowship Hall. Afterward the teens are going to ask the seniors what it was like at their age (they have some good questions). Bring some questions for them too.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of each church or e-mail/call Bev at the office. We need to know how much food we will need. As you can see we are trying to do a wide range of activities. We can always use your prayers, help at any of these events, driver or adults to help out at our meeting.

Special thank you to Jim for finding a pool for us.

As we come into Thanksgiving...Count your blessings...I have and these youth are right up there on my list.

## Community News

### **Ransomville's Lighting of the Wreaths and**

**Christmas Walk:** Register at the Fire hall from noon – 3:00 PM. There are many of the businesses that will have open house. Closing ceremonies will be at the Gazebo behind the library at 4:00 PM. See the brochure for a list of all the activities.

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**Holiday Lights of Niagara:** Hyde Park is having a drive-through Holiday Lighting Spectacular. It will be open nightly from 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM. This event is FREE family event. The Holiday Lights will run from November 21<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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**Old Fort Niagara:** On December 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Old Fort Niagara will be having the Castle by Candlelight.

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**Winter Fair:** Olcott United Methodist Church is having a 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Basket Auction, Rummage Sale, Bake Sale & Chicken & Biscuit lunch. New this year will be a Craft/Vendor show. For more information, call Linda at 434-4228. Vendor tables are \$10.00.

### **“Cabbage Festival King”**

Congratulations to Doug Diez for winning this years Cabbage Fashion show. Below is his costume from 2006 Festival.