



THE SAXON NEWS

Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

Published by
The Alliance
of Transylvanian Saxons
Home Office: 5323 Pearl Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503
Tel: (440) 842-8442

ATS Founded in 1902

December 10, 2021

Issue 25

The ATS Youth Activities Committee would like to thank the following children for coloring and submitting the Halloween picture found in recent issues of the Volksblatt. They all did a wonderful job of coloring!



Camden Jackson
John Ameser
Julia Brennan
Laurel Emerich
Noah Murray
Christopher Kauffman
Eugene Morgan
Christian Kirr
Alexander Burick
Eva Fleischer
Alex Spack
Jillian Lewis
Kellie Webb
Zella Morgan
Michael Simon
Rosie Mc Cormick
Xander Palkovitch

Jeslyn Sollien
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Alex Cornell
Kyle Preble
Jack Collier
Raegan Lewis
Juliane Paal
Piper Simon
Alice Mc Cormick
Jenna Peters
Scarlet Palkovitch

**Give Your Children A Gift
That Will Last A Lifetime**

**Why not give a gift that will
grow in value and last a lifetime?
Consider purchasing life insurance
or an annuity from the ATS.**

**Contact your local ATS Deputy or the ATS
Home Office for detailed information on our
insurance plans and annuity plans.**

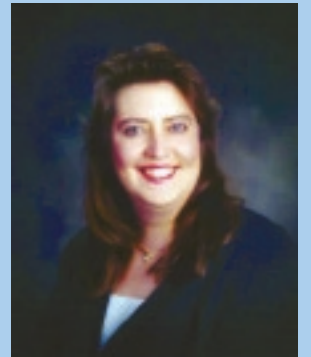
**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021**

**Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to:
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
5323 Pearl Road Cleveland, OH 44129-1503**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford
ATS Nat'l President



I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. Although, I'm still trying to figure out how it got to be December already! The Christmas Season is always a favorite of mine. It is a time for enjoying the simple things that make life beautiful. From Christmas trees shining through living room windows and outside decorations, little kids trying their hardest to be good, to Christmas songs on the radio. (Yes, I am one of those people that love Christmas songs – but not until after Thanksgiving is over.) All of these things remind us to appreciate the good things we have in our life. There is no better time for family and friends to get together than during Christmas.

On Saturday, December 11th, the ATS Board of Directors will be having its last quarterly meeting of the year. I'll report on this in the next issue.

Congratulations to all those who have been elected to positions at your Local Branch. Whether you are newly elected to an office or have been in your position for years, I Thank You! We need our Local Branches to remain healthy and strong. As with any endeavor, good leadership is essential. Please remember that the ATS Home Office is here to help you when you have questions or concerns. Feel free to contact us.

Did you know that if you added up all of the gifts mentioned in the Twelve Days of Christmas song it equals 364 gifts? There is much more to the Twelve Days of Christmas than this famous carol. The Twelve Days, also known as Christmastide and Yuletide, are a 12-day season of celebration, gift-giving and relaxing of restrictions that was once as popular as the one-day celebration of Christmas is today. The Twelve Days of Christmas come after Christmas Day, not before. The historical evidence best supports December 26 as the First Day of Christmas and January 6 (Epiphany or Three Kings' Day) as the Twelfth Day. In old days, Twelfth Night was the grand finale of the Yuletide season and filled with dances and feasts. So, why 12 days? Many social historians believe that the timing and duration of the Christmas season were inherited from pre-Christian mid-winter festivals that coincided with the Winter Solstice. Early people calculated time by the moon and, over the course of a year, there is roughly a 12-day difference between the solar and lunar calendars. This 12-day difference was set aside as a special "time out of time", filled with supernatural events and folklore. In some medieval cultures, the Twelve Nights was a time that evil spirits roamed. Burning the Yule Log throughout the Twelve Days was an ancient custom to protect the home and the family gathered there during this period. The Twelve Days of Christmas song was once a popular party game in the 1700-1800s where making a mistake in the lyrics meant you would have to give up a small token, a sweet, or perhaps, even a kiss.

Until next time....

BRANCH 26, MERRILLVILLE
By Helen Brooks

Our Saxon meeting of Branch 26 was held on Sunday, November 7, 2021. It was the most beautiful day with all of the gorgeous colors on the trees and in the sky. So many blessings.

There was a brief business meeting. It was voted to donate to the Needy Kids Christmas Fund. The nominating committee proposed to keep the same officers for the coming year and the membership agreed.

The raffle was won by Judy Andrews and the attendance prize by Pat Jarmuszka.

President Jeff Szostek conducted a very touching memorial in honor of our deceased member, Christa Guip. We all lit candles from a center candle on our tables in memory of all of our departed loved ones. Thank you, Jeff.

A delicious meal was then served by Gamba Ristorante.

Safely Home

*I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed.
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.
There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now while life remaineth,
You shall rest in God's own hand.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!
God Bless.*

Til we meet again.

Schloss Horneck needs OUR help!



Schloss Horneck located in Gundelsheim, Germany is the international location for our Siebenbürger Sachsen to house Sachsen artifacts, books and other historical documents and records. It is important to our worldwide Sachsen community to help in the maintenance expenses of this historical facility that will preserve our Sachsen culture and heritage.

The Federation of Transylvanian Saxons requests donations to help in the funding of the facility. If you are interested in giving a donation, please complete the form below and send to the ATS Home Office, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129.

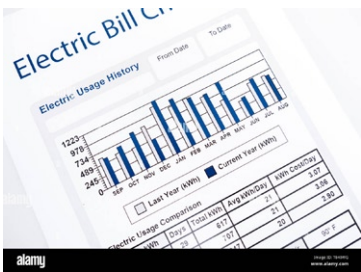
Please make your check payable to the ATS.

DONATION FOR SCHLOSS HORNECK

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zipcode _____

Amount Donated \$ _____

Please indicate if donation is in memory
or honor of someone



How you can reduce
your electricity bills
this holiday season

While the temperatures drop and the days shorten, many people are busy decorating trees and their homes with Christmas lights and elaborate decorations. Unfortunately, those bright and beautiful lights can increase your energy bills.

Want to save on your energy bill? If so, then you need to ditch traditional incandescent lights for LED lights, which consume up to 90 percent less energy.

Writing for Christmas-LightsEtc.com, Eric Allen found that for a large exterior display (featuring one 500-foot C9 string, one 200-foot C9 string, 45 light strings and one wreath), you'd shell out roughly \$115 to run the lights 5 hours a day for a month (assuming 11.3 cents per kilowatt hour). That same setup would cost about \$15 with LED lights.

And remember, the above estimates only cover running the lights for 5 hours per day. If you leave your lights on all night, say for ten hours, go ahead and double everything above (so, \$230 for incandescent bulbs, \$30 for LED). Using timers and apps to manage your lights is smart.

Keep in mind that energy prices vary, so the impact Christmas lights have on your energy bill may also differ substantially. Either way, using older, less efficient lights and keeping them on all day could leave you with sticker shock when the energy bill comes due.

Don't forget appliances either. An older 50-inch plasma TV may consume three times as much electricity as a newer 50-inch LED panel. The U.S. Energy Department also notes that newer, more efficient heating and cooling units can cut in-home energy consumption by up to 40 percent. The right holiday gifts for yourself and your family may pay for themselves in the long run.

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
Home Office: 5323 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44129
Telephone: (440) 842-8442 FAX: 440-842-5442
E-mail: office@atsaxons.com Website: www.atsaxons.com

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SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES
IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either

MAIL: 29076 Fall River Dr
Westlake OH 44145
E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

Articles e-mailed will receive an e-mailed confirmation
by Noon Thursday. If you did not receive a confirmation,
please give us a call.

DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:

DEADLINE	ISSUE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021	FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022	FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Did you miss the deadline?

Have you emailed your article past 12 Noon?
Please call Hanz Hermann at (440) 525-0020

And so we find ourselves again at the end of another year for The First Transylvanian Saxon Sick Benefit Society of Lorain Ohio; Branch #5 of The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons. As we mark the 118th anniversary of this organization, we do so with memories of the past and hope for the future that we may continue to uphold the values and traditions passed down from so long ago.

We met for our final meeting of the year after having dinner at the Blue Sky Restaurant in Amherst On November 15. The evening concluded with election of officers for 2021-2022 by a vote of present members to have those in office maintain their current positions for another year. A unanimous vote to approve donations to Mary Lee Tucker Cloth-A-Child, Saxon Relief Fund, Schloss Horneck, Saxon Orphan Fund, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Front Door Ministry of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church Lorain, Ohio was also approved.

Our next and first meeting of 2022 will again be held at the American Slovak Club 2915 Broadway Ave. Lorain, Ohio on January 17, 2022 starting at 7:00 p.m. If you are a dues paying member, please come prepared to pay your dues by either cash or check payable to: ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH. If you are not going to be attending, you can submit your dues by mailing your check to: Michael W. Johnson, 41868 Earlene Ct., Elyria, OH 44035.

Happy Birthday to those members celebrating birthdays this month of December; Sisters Arlene Jones, Nancy Kranstuber, Suzanne Koepke, brother Daniel Paggi, and junior member Kyle Smith. Hope your day will be a special one!

Until next time, have a Merry Christmas and stay warm, and stay safe.



2021 HOLIDAY
GIFT IDEAS



Looking for a unique way to pass on your Saxon heritage to someone on your Christmas list? Why not check out the exclusive items offered for sale at the ATS Home Office. Prices are very affordable and these items won't be found at your local department or book stores. Some supplies are limited. Order today!

<u>Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries</u>		CD "Glück Auf" by Eintracht Männerchor	\$ 5.00
by Rev. John Foisel	\$15.00	Saxon Apron - "I ♥ Saxon Cooking"	\$15.00
<u>Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy</u>		Desktop Flag Set (American & Saxon)	\$ 7.00
by Barbara Ohler Weber	\$14.00	Desktop Flag Set (American & Saxon Plus choice of Canadian or German)	\$ 9.00
<u>Flucht aus Siebenbürgen</u> (German Text)		ATS Navy Knit Cap with ATS Logo	\$10.00
by Monika Görig/Maria Schneider	\$20.00	Baby Knit Cap in Pink or Baby Blue	\$10.00
<u>Ant People</u> Children's book		Black T-shirt with Saxon Wappen	\$20.00
by Anne Junesch	\$10.00	Navy Sweatshirt with ATS Logo	\$25.00
<u>Saxon Cookbook</u> (third edition)	\$12.00	ATS Cloth Face Mask	\$5.00
<u>Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here?</u>	\$24.95		
by Gerhard Maroscher			

HOLIDAY ORDER FORM

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE _____

	Quantity	Price		Quantity	Price
<u>Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries</u>	_____	_____	ATS Baby Knit Cap	Pink	_____
<u>Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy</u>	_____	_____		Blue	_____
<u>Flucht aus Siebenbürgen</u>	_____	_____	Black T-shirt	Small	_____
<u>Ant People</u>	_____	_____		Med	_____
<u>Saxon Cookbook</u>	_____	_____		Large	_____
<u>Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here?</u>	_____	_____		X-Large	_____
CD "Glück Auf"	_____	_____		XX-Large	_____
Saxon Apron "I love Saxon Cooking"	_____	_____	Navy Sweatshirt	Small	_____
ATS Cloth Face Mask	_____	_____		Med	_____
Desktop Flag Set (American & Saxon)	_____	_____		Large	_____
Desktop Flag Set (3 Flags)	_____	_____		X-Large	_____
Indicate Flag choice: <input type="checkbox"/> German <input type="checkbox"/> Canadian				XX-Large	_____
ATS Navy Knit Cap	_____	_____	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED		\$ _____
			Make Check payable to: ATS		
			ATS Home Office, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129		



Credit card number _____ (\$25 minimum)
Expiration ____/____ Security Code _____ Billing Zip Code _____



10 ways to put safety at the top of your holiday list



If you consider winter heating, overloaded electrical circuits and flammable decorations, you'll understand why December is prime time for home fires. Here are some old and new suggestions for a safe holiday season.

1. Look for the fire-resistant label on artificial trees and decorations.
2. Buy a natural tree that is really fresh. It should be very green and have needles that are hard to pull off. A twig shouldn't break when it's bent.
3. For outside decorations, buy only those made specifically for outdoors. Use heavy-duty extension cords and plug them into circuits that have a ground-fault in-

- terrupter.
4. Get a remote control to easily turn off lights before you go to sleep or when it snows or rains.
5. Avoid cooking fires by staying in the kitchen when cooking on the stove top.
6. Put candles in heat re-

- sistant containers and place them where they can't burn something or get knocked down.
7. Before lighting a fireplace or wood stove, clear the area of tree boughs, paper and other combustibles. Never burn gift wrappings in a fireplace. They could cause a flash fire.
8. Protect small children by keeping decorations out of their reach. Inspect toys for small parts that could cause choking and keep scissors used for wrapping gifts away from children.
9. Be sure to lock doors and windows. Thieves think you have money and valuable gifts in your home. Put indoor and outdoor lights on a timer and leave a radio or television on when you leave the house.
10. If cold weather makes you want to use an indoor heater of any kind, be sure it is positioned well away from curtains, trees and decorations. Never stack things on top of space heaters.

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

January 16, 2022
TSBA Bowling Session Cleveland East
February 6, 2022
TSBA Bowling Session New Castle PA
March 20, 2022
TSBA Bowling Session Youngstown OH
May 21-22, 2022
ATS Convention
Host: Cleveland East Br. 33
Cleveland Marriott East Hotel, Beachwood OH
July 8 - 10, 2022
North American Saxon Heimattag
Host: Branches 18 and 19 Salem OH

LOCAL EVENTS

December 18, 2021
Salem Saxon Club Christmas Party 6 p.m.
December 19, 2021
Chicago Br. 9 Christmas Party
Donauschwaben Club, Des Plaines

Christmas activities that everyone can enjoy

Keep your holiday gathering lively and fun for all ages with these activity ideas.

- Oven mitts game: Dare everyone to open at least one present while wearing oven mitts. It's practically impossible, hilarious to watch and reminds us to slow down and enjoy the time we spend together.
- Candy cane hunt: Hide candy canes around the house (or yard, if you're brave or live somewhere warm) and challenge kids to find them all.
- Snowball fights: Take the party outside for a bracing battle in the snow. If you don't care to go outside or there isn't any of the white stuff on the ground, buy or make a bucket of cotton wool snowballs.
- Tabletop games: Board and card games are a great choice to entertain partygo-

ers and keep conversation flowing while you munch on cookies and sip your favorite festive beverage. Focus on easy games that don't require a ton of concentration -- this is a social event and nobody wants to spend hours learning the rules.

- Nerf dart battle: They don't hurt when they hit you, can't cause much damage and just about anyone can use them. Tuck tiny Nerf guns and darts into stockings and watch the mayhem unfold.
- Christmas movie marathon: When the party slows down and the kids start yawning, throw some blankets and pillows on the floor and let them unwind with some holiday movies. Odds are strong that you'll wind up with a pile of sleeping kids while the adults can relax, chat and do a little bit of cleanup.

YOU'RE INVITED
TO THE ANNUAL TRANSYLVANIAN SAXON SOCIETY
BRANCH 9

Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DONAUSCHWABEN HALL
625 SEEGER RD, DES PLAINES IL 60015

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
THERE WILL BE LOTS OF FOOD, CHRISTMAS CAROLS,
GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN...
AND, OF COURSE, A VISIT FROM GOOD OLD ST. NICK

In the spirit of the giving season,
please bring a donation of
canned goods and / or
dried food products.

Please note
our location.



BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS
By Donald Blum

MONTHLY MEETING
There will be **no Monthly meeting in December.** Instead we will conclude the year with our Christmas Party/Luncheon.

CHRISTMAS PARTY-LUNCHEON -
CORRECTION ON TIME
HICKORY HOUSE
550 Officenter Place
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
Sunday, December 12, 2021
Time: 1:00 PM

HUMOR
An 80-year-old woman was arrested for shoplifting. When she went before the judge he asked her, what did you steal?
She replied, a can of peaches.
The judge then asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches,
And she replied that she was hungry.
The judge then asked her how many peaches were in the can.
She replied, 6.
The judge said, then I will give you 6 days in jail.

Before the judge could conclude the trial, the woman's husband spoke...and asked the judge if he could say something.
The judge said, what is it?
The husband said, she also stole a can of peas....

PRAYERS
Mike Roth is still recovering from pulmonary issues. We were happy to see Mike at our meeting. We should still keep Mike in our prayers for a complete recovery.
Jill Blum is at home and rehabbing from knee replacement surgery. We wish her a successful recovery.
Please keep long time ATS member, Paul Schaible, in your prayers. Paul is facing physical challenges. We wish him the best. Paul's family was founding members of Martin Luther Church in Columbus.
Please keep long time Saxon Club member, Dorothea Hesch, in your prayers. Dorothea faces daily challenges.

MEMORIAM
It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of **Robert (Bob) K. Orkis**. Bob was the loving husband of Hannelore Orkis for 41 years, son-in-law to Susanna Mueller, brother-in-law to Marlene Mueller and Karl Heinz Mueller. Bob passed away while in the hospital. Bob passed away in Hannelore

and Bob's current town in The Villages of Florida. The Saxon Club wanted to extend our sincere condolences to the entire family. We hope as time passes their memories will provide the comfort to know that Bob is now in the Kingdom of God and will have eternal life with a body no longer in any pain or suffering. A casual celebration of life was held on Sunday, December 5th 2021 from 2-4 p.m., at Lakeside Venetian Center, Leesburg, FL. There was an informal open house immediately following at the Orkis family home in The Villages.

Another celebration is currently being planned in Ohio, details coming soon as they develop. (Mid-January). In honor of Bob's memory, donations can be made at www.AmericanWarriorInitiative.com, with the notation "Donation in honor and memory of Bob Orkis." Proceeds will go to a service dog for a Veteran in need. American Warrior Initiative 104 East Texas St Leesville, LA 71446.

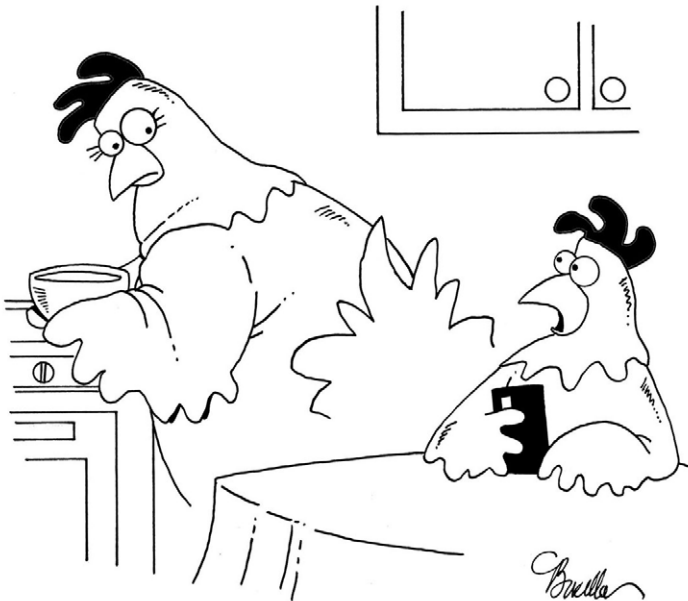
Unser aufrichtiges Beileid. Gott segne.
The complete obituary is on the following website: www.beyersfuneralhome.com
Those wishing to send a card of condolence to Hannelore can do so as follows:
Hannelore Orkis
2389 Janesy Court
The Villages, FL 32163

Nikolaustag: Christmas comes early in Germany
In Germany, like most other countries, we celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on December 24 and 25. But the festive season in Germany starts much

earlier here.
On December 6th we celebrate *Nikolaustag* (St. Nicholas Day). On this day children receive sweets and little presents from St. Nikolaus, a generous, kind and somewhat mysterious figure.

History
Well, the historical figure we associate with St. Nikolaus is the Bishop of Myra, but we don't know that much about him. What we do know is that he was a priest, and that he inherited a comfortable sum of money from his parents, which he shared and used to help poor people, particularly children. What a guy! He later became the patron saint of seafarers and children. He died on December 6th which is why we celebrate him on this day.

What we do on Nikolaustag?
First things first, you've got to be well-behaved and kind All Year, to get any gifts or sweets from St. Nikolaus. He doesn't reward bad behavior! There are two other main traditions that will get you closer to a bag of gifts and sweets:
On the eve of December 5th, children clean and polish their shoes or boots and put them outside their front door in the hope that St. Nikolaus will pass by and fill them up with sweets and goodies.
Then, on December 6th, St. Nikolaus makes an appearance in many kindergartens. He comes dressed in red, with a long white beard, his Bishop's hat, corsier and a golden book! The most important question he will ask the children is: **Seid ihr denn auch brav gewesen?** (Have you been good kids?) If the answer to this question is "yes", you will be rewarded with goodies like sweets, clementines, oranges, apples and nuts.



"Mom, what kind of soup do we eat when we're sick?"



**St. Peter's
German and Saxon
Lutheran Church**
11423 Chicago Rd.
Warren, Michigan 48093
(586) 979-3850
stpeters_church@sbcglobal.net
www.stpeterswarren.or

10:00 Bilingual Service
Nursery
Coffee following service
Senior Circle
Sunday School
Church Choir
Bell Choir

St. John's Lutheran Church
1000 Ford Road
Highland Hts., Ohio
(440) 449-1334
**Rev. Barbara Holzhauser
Pastor**
10:00 Worship Service



From the Bible: Luke 2:14

*Glory to God in the highest,
on earth, peace and goodwill*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.
And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

“Weihnachten” von Erwin Wittstock

Weihnachtsgedicht des siebenbürgisch-sächsischen Schriftstellers Erwin Wittstock (1899-1962).

*Dies ist die Nacht, in der wir Heimweh haben
nach Tagen einer längst verklungenen Zeit,
nach Menschen, die uns Schönes gaben,
nach Stätten, die unendlich weit.*

*Dies ist die Nacht, in der wir Rückschau halten,
und unsern Weg betrachten wie ein Bild,
in der wir still die Hände über Gräber falten,
von Freunden, die den Lauf erfüllt.*

*Dies ist die Nacht der großen Einsamkeiten,
wo jeder stille wird in seinem Leid
und nur die Kinder ihren Jubel breiten
und unsre Wunden, wie ein goldnes Kleid.*

*Dies ist die Nacht, in der sich Gottes Liebe
voll Gnaden über unser Leben neigt,
weil er den Heiland uns gegeben,
der uns den Weg zur Heimat zeigt.*



*Remember that not getting
what you want is sometimes
a wonderful stroke of luck.*
Dalai Lama

*Happiness never decreases
by being shared.*
Gautama Buddha

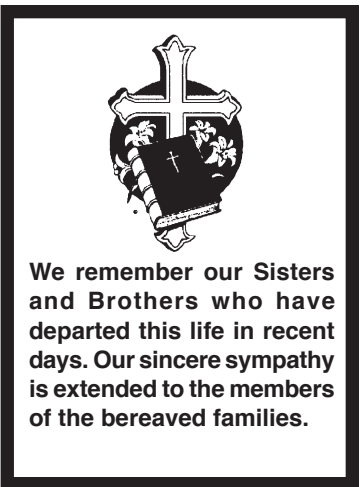
*I stopped believing in Santa
Claus when I was six. Mother
took me to see him in a
department store and he
asked for my autograph.*
Shirley Temple

*It's true, Christmas can
feel like a lot of work, particularly
for mothers. But when you look
back on all the Christmases in your
life, you'll find you've created
family traditions and lasting
memories. Those memories, good
and bad, are really what help to
keep a family together over the
long haul.*
Caroline Kennedy

*One of the most glorious
messes in the world is the mess
created in the living room on
Christmas Day. Don't clean it up
too quickly.*
Andy Rooney

*There are only two ways to live
your life. One is as though nothing
is a miracle. The other is as though
everything is a miracle.*
Albert Einstein

*The spirit of Hanukkah, the
Festival of Lights, is shared by
all people who love freedom.*
Norma Simon



Helen V. Mager
Age 87
Died: September 12, 2021
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Charles E. Dressler
Age 97
Died: November 13, 2021
Home Branch

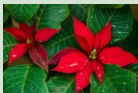
Patricia M. Gillis
Age 68
Died: November 13, 2021
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Trudy M. Barthel
Age 65
Died: November 21, 2021
Branch 37, Detroit, MI

Erna Kloos
Age 95
Died: November 22, 2021
Branch 4, Cleveland, OH

Gerald R. Menning
Age 82
Died: November 22, 2021
Branch 19, Salem, OH

John E. Ziegler
Age 66
Died: November 23, 2021
Branch 33, Cleveland, OH



**Keeping Christmas
by Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)**



It's a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when we agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, and that is keeping Christmas.

- Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people and remember what other people have done for you; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground?
- Are you willing to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to their hearts; to know that the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management

of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness?

- Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.
- Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough?
- Bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts and try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want.
- Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world, stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death, and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem is the image and brightness of Eternal Love?

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

Erinnerungen an die Stolzenburger Christnacht

*Das Bäumchen trägt zur Winterzeit,
auf seinem grünen Nadelkleid,
Viel Glitzerwerk und helle Kerzen,
erfreut damit die Kinderherzen.
Ihr kennt das Bäumchen sicherlich,
liebt es gerade so wie ich.*

Mit diesem Gedicht hatte ich meinen ersten Auftritt in der Kirche in Stolzenburg im Alter von sieben Jahren in der Christnacht 1963. So wie wir in Siebenbürgen sagten, „ich hatte dieses Gedicht aufgesagt“.

Vor der Christnacht musste allerdings sehr vieles vorbereitet werden. Das ganze Jahr über hatten die Kirchenmütter, das sind die Frauen der Kirchenväter, genannt Presbyter, nichts zu tun, weil im Presbyterium (Kirchenvorstand) keine Frauen vertreten waren, aber vor der Christnacht, da kam einiges auf sie zu. Aus dem ganzen Dorf, organisiert in Nachbarschaften, wurde von diesen Frauen in ihren schmucken Zoikern (geflochtene Handkörbe mit zwei seitlichen Deckeln) Mehl, Eier, Zucker, Fett und Geld gesammelt, zur Vorbereitung der besten Spritzkekse, die in der Backstube des Pfarrhauses von denselben Frauen gebacken wurden. Diese Kekse wurden zu einem Ring geformt und mit einem Spagat (Schnur) zusammengebunden. Das Geld wurde zum Kauf von Heften, Bleistiften und Taschentüchern ausgegeben. Beim Backen halfen auch die größeren Mädels, die ihren Groisis (Omas) zur Hand gingen. In der Christnacht strömten Jung und Alt aus allen Gassen, auf spiegelglatten Straßen und weißer Winterlandschaft, in Richtung Kirche, die kurz vor 17.00 Uhr bis auf den letzten Platz besetzt war. Die Christnacht ging nach dem Glockengeläute 17.00 Uhr pünktlich los. Beim Eintritt von Herrn Pfarrer Schneider, unter Geleite vom Presbyterium, ertönte die Orgel und die ganze Gemeinde erhob sich von ihren Plätzen. Pfarrer Schneider hielt eine kurze Andacht, danach folgte, geordnet nach Schulklassen, das Aufsagen (Vortragen) der Gedichte, beginnend mit der ersten bis zur achten Klasse. Je zwei bis drei Schüler pro Klasse konnten ihre Gedichte oder Geschichten vortragen. So kam ich auch mit meinem Gedicht zum Zuge. Die grö-

ßeren Kinder sangen Lieder wie „In dulci Jubilo“, „Heut’ kam ein Engel“. Die Siebt- und Achtklässler führten unter dem schön geschmückten Christbaum das Krippenspiel auf.

Der Christbaum war mit Äpfeln, Nüssen, Keksen, Baumzuckerln, handgemachten bunten Gliedern (Girlanden), Sternspritzern (Wunderkerzen) und Wachskerzen bekleidet. Vor Beginn des Krippenspiels sang der Kirchenchor „Jauchzet Gott“ und die Jugendlichen von den Gleitern (Emporen) zündeten mit ihren mit Kerzen präparierten Pflaumenstangen die Sternspritzer und Wachskerzen an. Jetzt erschienen die Darsteller des Krippenspiels in ihren Kostümen wie Wollpelzmänteln, siebenbürgischen Trachten, Engelskostümen mit weißen Flügeln und Sternen, mit leuchtenden Kerzen in der Hand usw. Es wurden Maria und Josef, Hirten, Engel, zudem Caspar, Melchior und Balthasar, die Gold, Myrrhe und Weihrauch schenkten, Verkündigungengel dargestellt. Sie boten ein sehr schönes Krippenspiel, das auch der Höhepunkt der Christnacht war. Die Gemeinde sang zwischendurch mit Orgelbegleitung „O du Fröhliche“ und als Schlusslied erklang noch „Stille Nacht“, vom Stolzenburger Chor gesungen.

Jetzt konnten die Kinder kaum noch erwarten, die Geschenke in Empfang zu nehmen. Sie mussten schön aufgestellt nach Klassen um den Christbaum und um den Altar herumgehen, wo die kecken Presbyterinnen vor ihren aus Weide geflochtenen Körben, die mit den Geschenken voll waren, saßen. Jetzt wurden sie ihres Amtes würdig und teilten die Geschenke an die Kinder aus. Die Mädels bekamen einen Ring mit selbstgebackenen Keksen, ein Heft und einen Bleistift, die Jungs auch Kekse und ein Taschentuch.

Kaum waren sie aus der Kirche heraus, wurde schon ein Keks geopfert. Auf dem Heimweg konnte man mit

Blick auf den Friedhof erkennen, dass natürlich auch der Toten gedacht wurde. Da brannten auch die Kerzen auf den Gräbern unserer Verstorbenen.

Zu Hause angekommen, wartete ein schön geschmückter Christbaum auf uns und unter dem Baum lagen die Geschenke vom Christkind für jedes Kind. Es waren Sachen, die man auch brauchte. Schlittschuhe, Schlitten, Anziehsachen, Spiele wie Römi, Marokko usw. Keine elektronischen Spiele, aber wir freuten uns für jedes Geschenk. Vor dem Auspacken der Geschenke mussten wir ein Gedicht aufsagen. Nachher gab es dann das Weihnachtsabendessen, bestehend aus der selbstgemachten Brat- und Kochwurst, mit frischgebackenem Brot und im Fass eingelegtes Sauerkraut. Mhhh, hat das gut geschmeckt. Die Erwachsenen haben natürlich ein Glas Wein aus selbstgekelterten Trauben getrunken.

Schön langsam machten sich die Eltern aus dem Staub und gingen



Weihnachten 1992: Auf dem Großen Ring in Hermannstadt erinnert das Denkmal an die Gefallenen während der Dezember-Revolution 1989 in Rumänien. Foto: Roland Barwinsky

mit Freunden zum Christnachtfeiern. Die Kinder blieben in Obhut bei den Groisis und spielten Römi und tranken Tee. Am ersten und zweiten Christtag ging natürlich das ganze Dorf, in unserer schönen bunten Bauerntracht, in die Kirche, wo wir unter weihnachtlichen Musikklingen und

Chorgesang einen festlichen Gottesdienst erlebten. Diese überaus schöne Tradition des Zusammenhalts in Stolzenburg, die Feiertage, Tage der Freude und Besinnlichkeit, werden mich bzw. uns ein Leben lang begleiten.

Hans Schieb

SBZ 25. Dezember 2019

ASK ...

ASK YOUR DEPUTY HOW A CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ATS CAN HELP YOU TO SAVE!

Alliance OH

Helen Aeling
330-862-2563
Denise A. Crawford
330-257-0267

Canton OH

Helen Aeling
330-862-2563

Chicago IL

Randall Floyd
219-798-6908

Cleveland OH East

Ema Litschel
440-358-1184
Margarete Ziegler
440-951-0159

Cleveland OH West

Robert Cunningham
216-398-7520
Trudy Schaeff
216-215-2269
Monica Weber
440-356-5936

Columbus OH

Michael Roth
614-216-0008

Ellwood City PA

Lori Biddle-Berendt
724-714-1217

Erie PA

Thomas Manning
814-864-6072

Lorain OH

Monica Gilles
440-309-7894

Merrillville IN

Randall Floyd
219-798-6908

Monaca PA

Terri Munroe
724-544-0457

New Castle PA

Marie Benedict
724-667-7395

Salem OH

Helen Aeling
330-862-2563
Barbara Spack
330-337-7487

Youngstown OH

Michael Teutsch, Jr.
330-509-9670



ATS BRANCH DIRECTORY

Cleveland, OH Br. 1
Mtg. 3rd Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Sachsenheim
7001 Denison Ave
Cleveland OH 44102
(216) 651-0888
PRES: Robert M. Hanek
22677Peachtree Ln
Rocky River OH 44116
(216) 385-9932 rhanek8@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Robert Cunningham III
9005 Memphis Villas
Brooklyn OH 44144
(216) 398-7520
rbcunningham@roadrunner.com
ATS SEC'Y. R.Cunningham
LOCAL DUES to R. Cunningham

Alliance, OH Br. 3
Mtg. 3rd. Wed.- 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 166
141 W Main St Alliance OH
PRESIDENT John H. Aeling
15590 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva, 44657
(330) 862-3706
JDAlI852@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Matt Aeling
909 E Broad St
Louisville OH 44641
(330) 205-2586
maeling1@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y. Denise Aeling Crawford
5934 Stumph Rd # 416
Parma OH 44130
(330) 257-0267
dcrawfordcpa@outlook.com
SICK NOTICES & LOCAL DUES to
John Aeling
Address shown as President

Cleveland, OH Br. 4
Mtg. 3rd. Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Sachsenheim 7001 Denison Ave.
(216) 651-0888
PRES. Monica M. Weber
(440) 356-5936
SEC'Y. Joan A. Miller-Malue
17105 Hilliard Rd.
Lakewood OH 44107
(216) 233-8631
miller-malue@cox.net
ATS SEC'Y Donna Jankow
7663 Ragall Pkwy
Middleburg Hts OH 44130
(440) 826-0773
SICK NOTICES to
Joan A. Miller-Malue
Address as above
LOCAL DUES to
Donna Jankow Address as above

Lorain, OH Br. 5
Mtg. 3rd Monday of month 7:00 p.m.
American Slovak Club
2915 Broadway, Lorain
PRES. Monica Gilles
3520 Beavercrest Dr. #107
Lorain OH 44053
(440) 309-7894
gillemo76@hotmail.com
SEC'Y. Brian Gilles
244 Ashwood Dr.
Avon Lake OH 44012
(440) 315-5214
bgilles74@yahoo.com
ATS SEC'Y. Ginger Romes
1507 West 39th St
Lorain OH 44053 (440) 989-8424
dgromes@roadrunner.com
SICK NOTICES to Jane Mowery
3600 Jaeger Dr Unit 3101
Lorain OH 44053 (440) 246-3004
janie.e.mowery@gmail.com
LOCAL DUES to
Michael W. Johnson
41868 Earlene Ct, Elyria OH 44035
(440) 324-2534 mikjo79@gmail.com

Farrell, PA Br. 7
Mtg. 3rd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
Farrell Lions Den
810 Lions Club Lane Farrell PA
(724) 981-7130
PRES. Karen Zaborowski
1714 Shady Dr Farrell PA 16121
(724) 346-0373
SEC'Y. Betty Holmes
409 Patt Dr. Farrell PA 16121
(724) 981-7130

Farrell, PA Br. 7 (cont'd)
ATS SEC'Y. Bonnie Gregorich
55 Oak Tree Ct
West Middlesex PA 16159
(724) 528-0309
SICK NOTICES to Karen Zaborowski
LOCAL DUES to Kathy Schuller
PO Box 834 Andover OH 44003
(440) 293-6973

Alliance, OH Br. 8
Mgt. 3rd Wed. 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 166
141 W Main St Alliance OH
PRES. Helen E. Aeling
15354 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva 44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com
SEC'Y. Lesley Reed
611 N. Market St Minerva OH 44657
(330) 868-3816
ATS SEC'Y. Denise Crawford
5934 Stumph Rd Apt 416
Parma OH 44130
(330) 257-0267 dcrawfordcpa@outlook.com
LOCAL DUES to: Lesley Reed
Same address as above

Chicago, IL Br. 9
Mtg. 1st Mon. 8:00 p.m.
DANK Haus
4740 N. Western (2nd floor) Chicago
PRES. Diethild Thut
923 E Slayton Dr
Palatine IL 60074
(847) 414-2660
dedethut11@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Elfi Sanderson
1425 London Lane
Glenview IL 60025
(847) 998-0939
elfisanderson@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y: Claudia Schmidt
8550 Niles Center Rd Skokie IL 60077
(847) 899-8663
SchmidtC274@gmail.com
LOCAL DUES AND SICK NOTICES TO:
Claudia Schmidt
Address as shown above

Columbus, OH Br. 10
Mtg. 3rd Mon. 1:00 p.m. all months
Hickory House,
550 Officecenter Place Gahanna OH
PRES. Mike Roth
8063 Ivory Gull Cir
Pickerington OH 43147
(614) 834-2277 rothpmr@aol.com
SEC'Y. Marlene Mueller
310 Jericho Rd Apt 220
Pickerington OH 43147-1459
(614) 834-1060
ATS SEC'Y. P. Michael Roth
8063 Ivory Gull Cir Pickerington OH 43147
(614) 216-0008
LOCAL DUES and Sick Notices to
Don Blum
6436 Lakeview Cir
Canal Winchester OH 43110
(614) 837-1915
donaldcblum@prodigy.net

Canton, OH Br. 14
Mtg. 2nd Sunday
Location varies
PRES. Thomas J. Rowinsky
1656 Dunkeith Dr NW, Canton, 44708
(330) 478-9333
ATS SECRETARY: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563 HH658@aol.com
SICK NOTICES to Thomas Rowinsky
Address as shown above

Canton, OH Br. 17
Mtg. 2nd Sunday Location varies
PRES. Mary Rowinsky
1656 Dunkeith Dr. NW, Canton 44708
(330) 478-9333
SEC'Y. Mary Rowinsky
Samme adress as President
ATS SECRETARY: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563 HH658@aol.com
SICK NOTICES to Mary Rowinsky
LOCAL DUES to: Rosanne Miller
5186 Everhard Rd NW Apt 7
Canton OH 44718
(330) 933-4584

USE ONLY THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CANCELLATIONS

All information in the form
to the right and below must
be correctly typed, or legibly
written.

- ☐ CHANGE
☐ CANCELLATION
☐ NEW to receive paper

☐ HOME OFFICE RECORDS & VOLKSBLATT ☐ VOLKSBLATT ONLY
Date: _____ Signature of Person Making Change _____

Mail to: Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Branch No. _____ Certificate No. _____

SS# _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____

Old Street Address was _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

THIS CHANGE IS FOR:

Salem, OH Br. 18
Mtg. 2nd Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Saxon Club 1980 St. Rt. 9 Salem,
44460 (330) 222-1770
PRES. Marilyn McNutt
1721 State Route 9 Salem 44460
(330) 337-8940
SEC'Y. / ATS SECRETARY
Barbara Spack
1389 Brookview Dr Salem, 44460
(330) 337-7487 babrayn@sbcglobal.net
SICK NOTICES to Theresa Spack
384 W Pershing
Salem OH 44460 (330) 831-4119
LOCAL DUES TO: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St. NE Minerva
44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com

Salem, OH Br. 19
Mtg. 1st Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Saxon Club 1980 Newgarden Rd
Salem OH 44460 (330) 222-1770
PRES. Glenn Spack
943 Stewart Rd Salem OH 44460
(330) 332-8174
SEC'Y. Robert P. Vogt, Sr.
973 Sunset Blvd. Salem, 44460
(330) 881-3346 mvcobra27@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y Glenn Spack
Address and phone as above
SICK NOTICES to Glenn T. Spack
address above
LOCAL DUES to Richard Vogt, Sr.
c/o Salem Saxon Club
1980 Newgarden Rd, Salem, 44460
(330) 222-1770

New Castle, PA Br. 25
Mtg. 2nd Thursday 8:00 p.m.
Eintracht Hall 108 Taylor St.,
New Castle PA 16101
(724) 652-7221
PRES. Dave Miller
118 E Hazelcroft Ave New Castle PA 16105
(724) 730-3250
Davidfmiller49@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Jacob Holzhauser
764 Rose Point Rd New Castle 16101
(724) 971-1260
newcastleeintracht@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y: John McCormick
152 Means Rd New Wilmington PA 16142
(724) 944-2657
johnmichaelmccormick@hotmail.com
Local Dues and Sick Notices to
Eintracht Hall
108 Taylor St.,
New Castle PA 16101

Merrillville, IN Br. 26
Meeting first Sunday at 2 p.m.
Slovak Club - 6920 Broadway
(219) 756-5101
PRES. Jeff Szostek
1652 West 97th Ave
Crown Point IN 46307
(219) 313-7854 219szos@gmail.com
SEC'Y. Jamie Connors
1035 Garfield St Hobart IN 46342
(312) 758-6341
Weebie052277@yahoo.com
ATS SEC'Y. Randall Floyd
1806 E 73rd Ave, Merrillville IN 46410
(219) 798-6908
LOCAL DUES to Zita Palyok
724 E. 25th Pl, Lake Station IN 46405
(219) 962-7345 randz724@comcast.net
Sick Notices to Jamie Connors
Listed above

New Castle, PA Br. 27
Mtg. 1st Thurs. 7:00 p.m.
Eintracht Hall
108 Taylor St., 16101
(724) 652-7221
PRES. Marie Benedict
PO Box 25 Edinburg, 16116
(724) 667-7395
SEC'Y. Dolores Both
3512 Hunters Woods Blvd #1
New Castle PA 16105
(724) 658-7407 doloresboth@verizon.net
ATS SEC'Y. Judy Both
1512 Drespling Ln New Castle 16101
(724) 654-0573
LOCAL DUES to
Gertrude Tizak 241 Cambridge St. #401
N.Castle, 16105 (724) 652-1867
Tizakg@yahoo.com
SICK NOTICES to Marie Benedict

Monaca, PA Br. 29
Mtg. 2nd Sunday 6 p.m.
Saxon Club 112 Simes St
PRES. Dan Nolder
470 Center Grange Rd
Monaca PA 15061
(724) 312-1854
SEC'Y Lauren Freshkorn
1298 Wagner Ave Monaca PA 15061
(724) 462-0046
ATS SEC'Y. Terri L. Munroe
1018 Wayne Ave Monaca PA 15061
(724) 544-0457
enchantra220@yahoo.com

Youngstown, OH Br. 30
Mtg. 2nd. Sun. 2:00 p.m.
Saxon Club 710 S. Meridian
Youngstown OH 44509
(330) 792-7973
PRES. Ernest Roth
6280 Morningside Dr SE
Hubbard OH 44425
(330) 534-4960
SEC'Y Dominic Lucarelli
2418 Walden Ct
Youngstown OH 44509
ATS SEC'Y Julaine Gilmartin
4173 Timberland Trail
Canfield, OH 44406
(330) 799-5171
Local Dues Val thomas
5947 Tiptecanoe Rd
Canfield OH 44406
(317) 373-0797

Ellwood City, PA Br. 32
Mtg. 2nd. Wed. 7:30 p.m.
Saxon Club 901 Millview St.
(724) 758-3268
PRES. Laura Goehring
113 Mahony Ave Ellwood City PA 16117
(724) 971-2040
SEC'Y Docia Jacobs
130 Belton Rd Ellwood City PA 16117
(724) 758-8486
ATS SEC'Y Lori Berendt
2260 Cherry Hill Rd
Ellwood City 16117
(724) 714-1217
SICK NOTICES to: Joan Evans
197 Portersville Rd Apt 3
Ellwood City PA 16117
(724) 752-1109

Cleveland, OH Br. 33
Mtg. 2nd. Weds. 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
1000 Ford Rd Highland Heights OH
PRES. Margarete Ziegler
38047 Parkway Blvd.
Willoughby OH 44094
(440) 951-0159
margarez@aol.com
SEC'Y. Arline Suts
413 Downing Dr Chardon OH 44024
(440) 279-3330
asuts@windstream.net
ATS SEC'Y. Karyn Schmidt
4979 Anderson Rd
Lyndhurst OH 44124
(216) 382-7397
SICK NOTICES to Arline Suts
Address and phone as above
LOCAL DUES to Michael Bretz
388 East 317th St.
Willowick OH 44095
(216) 392-6241 meb3172@att.net

Detroit, MI Br. 37
Mtg. 1st. Sun. 12:30 p.m.
St. Peters Lutheran Church
11423 Chicago Rd. Warren, MI
(586) 978-3850
PRES. Susanna Fleischer
11060 Furbush Rd. Holly MI 48442
(810) 694-1860
beetlebugsue7@peoplepc.com
SEC'Y. Janet Nelson
128 Ottawa Dr. Troy MI 48085
(248) 879-3213
janetreadnelson@gmail.com
ACTING ATS SEC'Y.
Susanna Fleischer
Address as above
LOCAL DUES to Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson
11711 Lancer Dr Sterling Hts MI 48313
iwferguson@aol.com

Ellwood City, PA Br. 45
Mtg. 2nd. Sun. 7:30 p.m.
Saxon Club 901 Millview Ave.
(724) 758-3268
PRES. Tim Hardy
919 Aiken Ave Ellwood City 16117
(724) 679-2122
SEC'Y. Jamie Miller
114 Rustic Park Rd
Ellwood City PA 16117
(724) 601-4181
ATS SEC'Y. Lori Biddle-Berendt
5412 Fifth Ave Koppel PA 16136
(724) 900-2616
LOCAL DUES TO:
Ellwood City Saxon Club
PO Box 161, Ellwood City PA 16117
SICK NOTICES TO:
Mike Bieselt
106 Fairview Dr
Ellwood City PA 16117
(724) 709-0595

Merry Christmas

As we go through the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, let us remember the real reason for the season.



Christmas time is a special time of the year for you and your family. This includes your ATS family. We're here for you throughout the year providing fraternal benefits. Consider gifting your friends or family members with an ATS membership if they are not already a member. Contact your local deputy or the ATS Home Office for information on our Insurance and Annuity plans as well as our various fraternal benefits and activities.

With Christmas comes love, hope, and faith.

The ATS Board of Directors and Home Office Staff wish love, hope, and faith for you and your family during this Christmas Season and throughout the year.

Denise A Crawford, ATS President