



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 23, 2022

Issue 26



## BRANCH 37, DETROIT By Susi Fleischer

Thank you to all the officers of Br. 37 for retaining their positions for one more year, 2023.

Pres. Susanna Fleischer

1<sup>st</sup> VP/Finc. Secy. Ingrid Weihs Ferguson

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Debbie Ferguson, in charge of entertainment and events

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Katie Moody in charge of providing food and refreshments for monthly meeting.

Sec. Janet Nelson

Treas. Susanna Wilburn

ATS Secy. Susanna Fleischer

Trustees: Katharina Breckner

George Breckner

Trudy Kalvin

All officers promised to fulfill the positions to their best ability with the assistance of every member of Br. 37.

2023 Officers will be installed at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Members enjoyed the annual Christmas party which was held December 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Even though our attendance was down, the celebration was enjoyed by everyone present. The food was delicious, which was prepared by Katie Moody. All the adults had fun visiting with Santa and share their wishes with him, since we had no young children attending this event.

Mike Rehner and Rob Schneider provided background music for the Christmas Carols sung by the membership, under the direction of Jean Mann.

It was a pleasure to see George Schemmel, Sr. in attendance, who was accompanied by his daughter Jean and his son-in-law Michael. Birthday wishes were extended to all the December celebrants, especially George Schemmel, Kaetchen Brackner, Debbie Ferguson and Robert Schneider.

Please keep Debbie Ferguson and Janet Nelson

son in your prayers for a speedy recovery from medical procedures they underwent. We wish them a healthier and happier year 2023.

Wishing everyone a blessed and joyous Christmas season; and, a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Hope to see all of you at the first meeting of 2023, on Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Best wishes until next time.

## Update Your Personal Records and Family Protection

### Address changes?

Have you notified the ATS Home Office of your new address? Have your adult children changed their addresses?

### Beneficiary changes?

Was there a marriage, divorce, death, etc., in your family which would require you to make a change of beneficiary on your Life Insurance or Annuity Contracts? Take care of it right away! Senior citizens tend to neglect this, so remind them!

### Did the stork visit you recently?

Did a new son or daughter arrive recently? Congratulations! Don't forget to make him/her an ATS member by purchasing a Life Insurance or Annuity plan so the he/she can benefit from our fraternal programs.

### Do you need more life insurance?

Do you have enough life insurance protection for yourself and your family? Chances are you should have better coverage! Call you Local ATS Deputy.

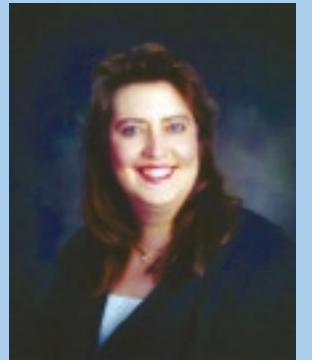
### How about an ATS Annuity or IRA Plan?

Are you saving for your retirement needs? ATS Annuity Plans offer you a safe way to increase and protect your savings while providing tax sheltered growth. Call your Local ATS Deputy and strengthen your financial future.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford

ATS Nat'l President



**Merry Christmas everyone! The ATS Home Office Staff and Board of Directors wishes every one of you a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!**

Thank you to the Ladies of Branch 27 - New Castle for the invitation to their Christmas dinner. It was a lovely affair. Three of their Branch Officers are stepping down. President Marie Benedict, Treasurer Helen Burick, and Financial Secretary Gertrude Tizak. These three Ladies have held various offices for 39 years, 39 years and 46 years. That is a total of 124 years of service to their Branch! Well done, Ladies. Enjoy your retirement – you deserve it!

Thank you also to Branch 30 - Youngstown for the invitation to their December meeting and Christmas Party. I had the privilege of installing their Branch Officers for the upcoming year. The Christmas Dinner was delicious. The young man who played Christmas songs on the piano during dinner and while singing Christmas carols, was wonderful. What a great time.

Did you know that the Santa Tracker system started as a mistake? In 1954, President Eisenhower formed the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) operations center to provide early warnings of an aerial attack from enemies such as the Soviet Union. In November of 1955, while the cold war was raging and Soviet fighter jets routinely flew dangerously close to Alaskan airspace, the red phone rang at CONAD. U.S. Air Force Colonel Harry Shoup knew that a call on the top-secret hotline was not good news. He answered the call. Unexpectedly, a child's voice asked, "Are you really Santa Claus"? Colonel Shoup, a 38 year-old father of four, assumed the part of St. Nick and listened to a Christmas wish list before asking to speak to the child's mother. The mother informed the Colonel that her child had dialed the phone number listed in a Sears & Roebuck advertisement in the local Colorado Springs newspaper. The ad featured a picture of Santa Claus and an invitation to call him on his private number any time day or night. The phone number, however, had one wrong digit printed and turned out to be the CONAD top-secret phone number. The phone started ringing off the hook.

Colonel Shoup called AT&T and said to give the Sears Toyland that phone number and get him a new one, but in the meantime, he had his service members answer the calls. Colonel Shoup later told the International News Service that there might be a guy called Santa Claus at the North Pole, but he wasn't the one he was worrying about coming from that direction. He was charged with scanning the skies for "reds" flying bomber planes, not a man in a red suit. The wrong number put the Colorado command post in the Christmas mood and sparked a festive idea to soften its hard-edged public image.

CONAD issued a press release that appeared in newspapers around the country on Christmas Eve letting "good little boys and girls" know that it was

Continued on Page 2

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY  
MAILED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022**

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



ATS SAXON RELIEF FUND



We petition our Saxon fraternal community - members, branches, affiliate organizations, and friends to continue to support our Saxon Relief Program.

The need is still great and we ask our members and friends to continue to support our Saxon Relief Fund program with generous contributions.

Please send your contributions to our ATS office, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129. Write checks payable to the "ATS SAXON RELIEF FUND". Thank you for your help!



**NOTE:** Gift packages can be ordered for delivery to a specific relative or friend in Transylvania for a minimal cost of **\$40.00**. Send your check payable to the "ATS Saxon Relief Fund" and the **exact name and address** of the recipient to our ATS Office. Please print or type for clarity. The package contents include non-perishable items such as: Coffee, Milk, Cocoa, Sugar, Rice, Flour, Margarine, Soup, Chocolate, Cheese, Sausage, Yeast, etc.

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  
\_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE  
Cont’d from Page 1

tracking a big red sleigh approaching from the North Pole. The command said that the first reports from its radar and ground observation outposts indicated that Santa Claus was traveling at 45 knots per hour at an altitude of 35,000 feet. They also indicated that the American forces would “guard Santa and his sleigh on his trip to and from the US against a possible attack”. When Shoup visited his troops on Christmas Eve, he looked up at the three-story-tall map of the North American continent that dominated the operations center to see that someone had sketched Santa’s sleigh descending into American airspace, alongside other unidentified objects.

The idea for the Santa Tracker was born as the Colonel looked at that map on December 24, 1955. In 1958, the responsibility for the Santa Tracker was transferred from CONAD to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), after the United States and Canada joined forces for the continent’s nuclear defense. Now officially known as NORAD Tracks Santa, the operation has evolved with technology and the times.

During the 1960s, NORAD mailed vinyl records to radio stations that featured pre-recorded reports on Santa’s progress. In the 1970s, they took to the airwaves with television commercials. In this digital age, Santa’s real-time progress can be monitored on social media, smartphones and tablets, and through the official app. The NORAD Tracks Santa website is available in eight languages. And, apparently, Alexa can give you Santa’s whereabouts if you ask her. Safe travels, Santa!

Until next time....

WE HAVE A RICH AND COLORFUL HISTORY AND HERITAGE!  
DO YOUR PART TO KEEP IT ALIVE!  
BECOME A PROUD AND ACTIVE MEMBER!

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons  
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SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either  
**E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com**  
**POSTAL MAIL:**  
**Saxon News Volksblatt**  
**29076 Fall River Dr**  
**Westlake OH 44145**

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 28, 2022	FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2023
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023	FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2023
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

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



**Sozialwerk der Siebenbürger Sachsen e.V.**  
 Karlstraße 100 80335 München

Helft uns helfen



November 2022

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,  
 liebe Spender,

dieses Jahr geht bald zu Ende, Weihnachten rückt näher, es ist Zeit für einen Rückblick sowie einen Ausblick auf das kommende Jahr.  
 Dank Ihrer großzügigen Spenden konnte das Sozialwerk der Siebenbürger Sachsen e.V. auch in diesem Jahr in Not geratenen siebenbürgischen Personen und Familien mit Medikamenten, medizinischen Hilfsmitteln sowie Lebensmitteln helfen. Wir unterstützten wieder unsere Altenheime in Siebenbürgen bei wichtigen und notwendigen Anschaffungen. Ebenso konnten wir Alten-, Bedürftigen- oder Behindertenhilfe leisten und junge Leute die ein freiwilliges soziales Jahr in Siebenbürgen verbringen, fördern.

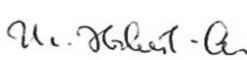

Vielen Dank für Ihr Vertrauen in die Arbeit des Sozialwerks.  
 Mit Ihren Zuwendungen ermöglichen Sie es, zu **helfen wo Hilfe gebraucht wird**.  
 Sie spenden damit auch Mut, Hoffnung und das Gefühl des Zusammenhalts in unserer großen siebenbürgischen Familie. Oder, wie es uns kürzlich zugetragen wurde, die Erkenntnis „dass unsere Landsleute uns nicht vergessen haben“.

Der große Dank unserer Landsleute aus Siebenbürgen gilt Ihnen, unseren Förderern.

Pandemiebedingt schwierige Zeiten, Flüchtlingsströme und explodierende Teuerungsraten bei zum Teil niedrigen Renten verschärfen die prekäre Situation vieler Menschen auch in Siebenbürgen. Wir beobachten, dass einige unserer Landsleute Gefahr laufen von der Politik vergessen zu werden. Zunehmende Verarmung ist die Folge. Umso mehr werden sie zukünftig auf unsere Hilfe angewiesen sein.  
 Im Namen des Sozialwerks bedanken wir uns nochmals ganz herzlich für Ihre treue und großzügige Unterstützung.

Ihnen und Ihren Familien wünschen wir ein gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest und alles Gute für das neue Jahr, bleiben Sie gesund!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Ute von Hochmeister-Lamm  
 Sozialwerk der Siebenbürger Sachsen e.V.

Dr. Johann Kremer

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**Sozialwerk der Siebenbürger Sachsen e.V.**  
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Helft uns helfen



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,  
 Dear donors,

this year will come to an end soon and Christmas is approaching. Time for us to review as well as have an outlook for the coming year.

Thank you for your generous donations, the Sozialwerk der Siebenbürger Sachsen was again able to help Transylvanian individuals and families in need with medicines, medical supplies and food. We again supported our homes for the elderly in Siebenbürgen with important and necessary purchases. We were also able to provide assistance to the elderly, the needy or people with disabilities and to support volunteer service workers.

Thank you as well for your trust in the activities of our WelfareWork. With your donations you make it possible to help where help is needed. In doing so, you also give courage, hope and a feeling of belonging together in our large Saxon family. Or, as we were recently told, the realization "that our compatriots have not forgotten us".



Our special thanks from our compatriots of Siebenbürgen go to you, our invaluable sponsors.

Difficult times due to pandemics, streams of refugees and exploding inflation rates with partly low pensions, aggravate the precarious situation of many people in Transylvania as well. We observe that some of our compatriots run the risk of being forgotten by politics. Increasing impoverishment is the consequence. All the more they will be dependent on our help in the future.

On behalf of the Sozialwerk, I would like to thank you once again for your loyal and generous support.

I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and all the best for the New Year, take care, stay healthy!

Yours sincerely,

Ute von Hochmeister-Lamm  
 Sozialwerk der Siebenbürger Sachsen e.V.

Dr. Johann Kremer

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Why cats love Christmas trees



It’s more than the usual occasion for a kitten caper.

The Christmas tree is positively catnip for felines, and no wonder. Plenty of shiny, dangling things -- a cat favorite. It’s a new thing that a cat must investigate. Possibly new smells or the smell of the outdoors, and that is cat bliss. An opportunity to climb -- sorry, Mom -- that they can’t resist.

According to PETA, you can do some things to minimize tree destruction during the season.

Try to place the tree away from end tables or other surfaces that

can be used as launching pads. You might consider anchoring the tree to a wall to prevent tipping. Put the tree up early so the cat gets bored long before Christmas.

Don’t use tinsel. It is so shiny that it will be tempting to chew. But it can get caught in the cat’s intestines.

Tie ornaments instead of hooking them onto the tree.

Avoid glass ornaments, fake snow, real candles, plants, and food items like chocolate.

Unplug the lights when you can’t supervise the cat.

Keep your fireplace welcoming, functional

Few things are nicer than a cozy fire on a cold winter night, whether you’re surrounded with loved ones or just enjoying a peaceful night on your own.

As the centerpiece of the living room, a well-maintained and thoughtfully decorated fireplace can transform the entire space into a brighter, more welcoming place to be.

Before anything else, make sure your fireplace is clean. Scrub old soot away from the bricks with baking soda paste or specialty brick cleaner, remove any cobwebs and sweep away any old ashes. Once the ashes are out, do a visual inspection for cracks, holes, and chips inside the fireplace. Call a licensed chimney sweep to perform any repairs and do an annual inspection.

If your mantle looks a little drab, consider painting or polishing it. Look for paints made specifically for bricks and fireplaces. Clean the surface with a stiff wire brush first and apply a tinted primer to the mortar before you paint. Make sure you pick a color you can live with



for a long time -- removing paint from brick is a tedious process.

After your surfaces are cleaned and ready, add your preferred ornaments. Anchor the look with a large item like a mirror, then choose smaller objects to fill the space around it. Groups of differently-sized vases or collections of candlesticks are great choices. Natural items like rocks or crystals also add interest.

You can also update your fireplace accessories and firewood storage. Look for grates, pokers, brushes, pans, lighters, and stands that work with your existing decor. Make sure they’re functional for you -- these are real tools to help you keep the fire burning.



FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

January 15, 2023  
TSBA Bowling - Host Cleveland East  
February 5, 2023  
TSBA Bowling - Host New Castle  
March 5, 2023  
TSBA Bowling - Host Youngstown  
March 25 - 26, 2023  
TSBA Tournament - Host Cleveland West  
May 20, 2023  
Branch Presidents Meeting - Host - Salem  
June 10, 2023  
66th Bowlers Convention Host Cleveland West  
June 25- 30, 2023  
Saxon Summer Camp  
Camp Frederick in Rogers, OH  
July 7-8, 2023  
North American Heimattag  
Host: New Castle Branch 25  
July 22, 2023  
ATS Family Day  
Waldameer Park, Erie PA  
October 21 - 22, 2023  
ATS Open Bowling Tournament  
Host : Merrillville, IN

LOCAL EVENTS

January 28, 2023  
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group 50th Year Reunion  
February 28, 2023  
Cleveland Br. 4 Chinese Auction/Sausage Dinner  
March 25, 2023  
Youngstown Br. 30 Goulash Dinner

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

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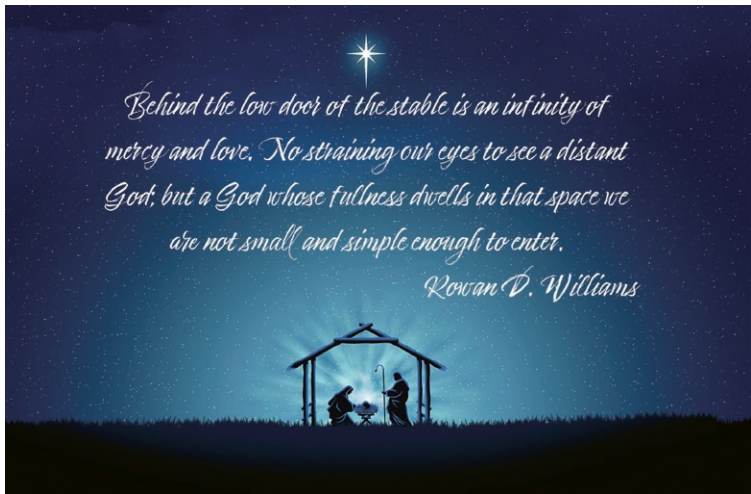
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330-337-7487

Youngstown OH  
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330-509-9670



The joy (and trials) of Christmas lights



Checking out the neighborhood is essential for home buyers at any time of year but, for some, the best time of the year to look around neighborhoods is December.

That’s when the Christmas decorations go up.

Most people love the festive lights of the season, and tons of people follow the local news stories about the 10 best neighborhood displays. When you put 20,000 lights on the property, it attracts a lot of people and a massive display next door can be problematic.

In Celebration, Florida, and El Paso, Texas, entire neighborhoods deck their homes out in displays that you can probably see from space. Of course, the neighbors love it. At least, the neighbors who participate love it.

In one New Jersey neighborhood, a homeowner puts out 47,000 lights, a display larger than Rockefeller Center, but his neighbors aren’t pleased. Their Christmas signs quietly point out that the house is in violation of zoning regulations and, they



opine, excessive.

Famously, a homeowner in Australia commented on his neighbor’s elaborate display with a lighted arrow and the word, “DITTO.”

The public adores these elaborate displays, but neighbors often complain about the traffic, trash thrown out of cars onto lawns, and the bright, often flashing, lights that force them to put up room-darkening curtains in self defense. And then there’s the music.

For homeowners, putting up Christmas lights is a tradition. Generally, most neighbors will be happy with a modest display. Just be polite:

- \* Wait until mid-November to put up decorations.
- \* Take them down after January 6 (Epiphany).
- \* Turn off the lights by 11 p.m., especially if you have a flashing display.
- \* If your display of lights heads north of 10,000 bulbs, you may be going too far.

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



“We had a fight. She’s making me sleep on the shelf tonight.”

It’s never too early to start  
saving for your retirement years



## CLEVELAND SAXON DANCE GROUP

By Christine Roppelt

Well, December is finally here and we are on the down-hill slide to Christmas. Hopefully you are all going out and making holiday memories already, taking a break from the “hustle and bustle” commitments. Our group recently enjoyed each other’s company at the Cleveland Zoo holiday lights exhibit. It was a great time with great friends and family. If you read the Volksblatt thoroughly, you may even see some pictures of our fun! We are wishing you the same holiday joys.

As the year comes to a close, the dance group is preparing for our big Anniversary/Reunion event on January 28, 2023. The group members have been working very hard to plan this special event. It should be a special night of remembering good times, special events and will hopefully rekindle some long-lost friendships. We are hoping that you all will help us pass the word to folks who may not receive a Volksblatt. Please also note that if you make your reservation by December 31, you will get a price break, so check your calendars and

reserve your seat now! Oh, and dust off your Tracht or cocktail attire!

Pre-paid reservations can be made at:

<https://50th-anniversary-celebration-reservations.cheddarup.com/>

\$40 by December 31. \$45 thereafter. Deadline for reservations is January 14, 2023

OR you can mail a check made payable to Cleveland Saxon Dance Group

Christine Roppelt  
8905 Fernhill Avenue  
Parma, Ohio 44129

Call 216-773-9375 with any questions.

Hope to see you then, and have a Blessed Holiday Season!

Chrissy Roppelt, President

Et kit mer feng,  
en Sox zā Seng.



The Group had a great time at Zoo Lights!!!

A family that plays together stays together!



## Cleveland Saxon Dance Group 50th Anniversary January 28th at 5pm

**Sachsenheim  
Hall  
7001 Denison  
Ave  
Cleveland,  
OH 44102**



**5:00 pm Wine and  
Cheese Cocktail  
Hour  
6:00 pm Dinner  
7:00pm Program  
8:30 Dancing to  
Fred Ziwich**

*The Cleveland Saxon Dance Group will be holding their 50th Anniversary Celebration! We are hoping all past dance group members, family, and friends will be able to join us in celebrating!!*  
Tickets:

<https://50th-anniversary-celebration-reservations.cheddarup.com/>

\$40 by December 31. \$45 thereafter.

Deadline for reservations is January 14, 2023

OR you can mail a check made payable to Cleveland Saxon Dance Group

Christine Roppelt 8905 Fernhill Avenue Parma, Ohio 44129

Cocktail attire or Trachts are requested







We remember our Sisters and Brothers who have departed this life in recent days. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the members of the bereaved families.

**Judith L. Sosinski-Werner**  
Age 74  
Died: July 5, 2022  
Branch 4, Cleveland, OH

**Carol J. Bernlohr**  
Age 90  
Died: November 12, 2022  
Branch 17, Canton, OH

**Donald A. Zinz**  
Age 73  
Died: November 15, 2022  
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

**BRANCH 33,  
CLEVELAND EAST**  
By Arline Krestel-Suts

And so the tradition continues! Branch 33 made our Saxon Sausage on December 3. Many members, Seniors and Juniors, helped. The work was made easy by many hands and it was great fun! Sausage sale Proceeds are donated to a local food bank and used to fund our Branch scholarships. Thank you to everyone who purchased Sausage, and we especially appreciate those who contributed money above the price of their order! We did sample our sausage for lunch and we were joined by the Pastor and several members of Messiah Lutheran Church; thanks for allowing us to use the facility. Blessings to all of you!

**Why we say  
'Pardon my French'**

If you are on a roll, talking fast, and suddenly you spit out a profane word or two, then you say it: Pardon my French. But why do you say that last bit?

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, you said that because you were pretending to be sorry for using offensive language.

That started around the 1830s, when every educated person spoke French, but the people they were talking to usually didn't. So they would beg pardon for speaking French. That was especially true after the Napoleonic Wars left England and France at odds.

But the phrase quickly evolved to its current use, which is a fake apology for anything profane, according to Grammarist.

**CLEVELAND EAST SAUSAGE MAKING**



**CHURCHES**



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

**10:00 Service**  
**Nursery**  
**Coffee following service**  
**Senior Circle**

**The next ATS  
Bowling session  
is hosted by  
CLEVELAND EAST  
on Sunday,  
January 15, 2023  
at North Woods Lanes  
10435 Valley View Rd.  
Macedonia Ohio.  
Bowling later  
start- at 11:30 AM.  
NO Meal.  
Any questions call  
Wayne Suts  
440-279-3330.**





**BRANCH 33,  
CLEVELAND EAST**  
By Arline Krestel-Suts

Branch 33 celebrated Christmas at Pine Ridge Country Club on Sunday, December 11 which was very well attended, but we did miss many long-time members- Joan Blaha Florence Davidson Eleanor Kiefer Don & Nancy Mahterjust to name a few. Fortunately Santa Claus was able to take a break from his very busy schedule and visit us and bring gifts for Branch 33 Bowling juniors!

Don Weber has been in the hospital so please keep him in your prayers.

Remember Branch 33 is hosting the next Bowling session on January 15, 2023 at North Woods Lanes in Macedonia. No meal, bowling starts at 11:30 AM.



**Do you really only use  
10 percent of your brain?**

You've heard it said that we only use a tiny percentage of our brain, the implication being that if we could just access all of those unused cells, we could maybe become superheroes

But is it true?

According to neuroscientist Ben Rein, it is not true.

Rein told Popular Mechanics that every person constantly uses 100 percent of their brains. If people only used 10 percent, they would be zombies, since that much only covers basic bodily functions like breathing.

The brain uses a lot of the body's resources, Rein says. In fact, it uses up to 20 percent of the body's oxygen and glucose.

Brain scientists have examined the brain with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and have never found any dormant parts of the brain. The brain is active most of the time.

The brain use myth probably got started around 1936 in self-help books that said that we didn't use all of our brain power. Not that portions of our brain went unused.





New Castle Branch 27 Christmas Party



Branch 27 members and guests at their Christmas party. Special “surprise” guest Denise Aeling Crawford, ATS National President.



Congratulations to Branch 27 member Catherine Spor

The Board of School Directors had the pleasure of honoring Catherine Spor with the Lancer Pride and Promise recognition at the December meeting.

Catherine is an eighth grade student and active participant in our music department. Mrs. Measel, junior high principal, and Miss Heim, music teacher and band director, spoke highly about Catherine. Not only did they share insights on her outstanding musical talents, but also her admirable work ethic and achievements in the classroom.

Catherine is a member of the marching band and concert band at Neshannock. She is also a member of the Stambaugh Concert Band and one of the youngest members of the YSU Youth Orchestra.



Marie Benedict, Helen Burick, Gertrude Tizak. Retiring officers of Branch 27 with a combined total of 126 years in elected positions. Thank you for your long and faithful service to your Branch!

God’s Christmas Gift

*Christians everywhere mark the date;  
children of all ages just can’t wait.  
Something magic fills the air,  
about each other we seem to care.  
Christmas day will soon be here  
and the world is wrapped in fear.  
Crime is rampant, inflation does soar  
and we’re threatened with nuclear war.  
Daily shootings, many lives lost  
our freedoms come at a heavy cost.  
What will it take to turn the tide?  
From our problems we cannot hide.  
The trials we face are tough indeed,  
but God our Father knows what we need.  
Christ was born to save each soul  
belief in Him should be our goal.  
So celebrate Christmas with Christ in mind,  
He was born to save mankind.*



An original poem by Judith E. Both Christmas 2022

BRANCH 26,  
MERRILLVILLE  
By Helen Brooks

SALEM  
SAXON RETIREES  
By Norma Byers

On December 4, 2022, Saxon Lodge Branch 26 held its Christmas Party at 1:30 p.m. at the Insbrook Country Club.

President Jeff Szostek welcomed all members and guests. We had a very good turnout. Vice President Dan Schuffert introduced his father, Willard Schuffert, who said grace before our delicious meal was served.

For entertainment we had magician Norman Basile perform magic tricks. He had us all puzzled. We then all had great friendship time.

Our next meeting is on January 8, 2023 at the Slovak Hall.

We wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Til we meet again.

The Salem Saxon Retirees met at the club on December 7th, 2022. A sad day in 1941 (Pearl Harbor), with 24 present. Lois, our President, hit the gavel and greeted everyone. Tony Rothbrust gave the invocation, after which we all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Our caterer, Bev presented us with a delicious meal of stuffed pork with mashed potatoes and gravy, baby limas with corn, tossed salad, rolls and choice of desserts. Thank you Bev, Cheryl and Kris. See you in March!

Our secretary, Dianne Kuttler read the minutes from November and Katie Lederle read the financial report. There were two birthdays and we sang Happy Birthday! Our vice-president, Dora Lee Sandoe held the 50-50 drawing. One of our own, Bill Martin passed, so we bowed our heads in remembrance of him. Helen Aeling stepped up and we had our usual treat of humor from her. (I don’t know what we’d do without you!!).

I hope you all remember, we have two months off now- January and February! We plan to return in March! On March 1st, Wednesday. (This happens to be the 1st day of Women’s History Month!).

No other business so we stood and said the Lord’s Prayer. Tony came in with the Bingo! (We all love that) Thanks Tony! (And I am so happy I got my second cup of that good stuff!).

As I said above, our next meeting is Wednesday, March 1st! Please stay well, enjoy your families, Christmas, New Years, Ground Hog Day (Feb 2) and I will see you then!!

TOODLE- OO

( by the way- I have a ground hog who lives under my deck, even with little ones each year!)

Early Shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, “What are you charged with?”

“Doing my Christmas shopping early,” replied the defendant.

“That’s no offense,” said the judge. “How early were you doing this shopping?”

“Before the store opened,” countered the prisoner.



**Christmas Festivities at the Salem Saxon Club**



**Raffle prizes and Salvation Army Christmas outfits**



**Eager Volunteers.**



**Cookie and Dessert Table**



**Making Coins Appear**



**Polaroid with Santa**



**One Magic Wand Just Won't Do**



**Magician and Volunteers**



**The magician entertains at the Christmas party**



**Br 18 and 19 Christmas Party**



**BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND**  
By Joan Miller-Malue

We wish to thank our members and friends who volunteered to make sausage this year. We are thankful for Branch 1 President, Rob Hanek for organizing and heading this tedious task that is a tradition at the Sachsenheim. He was so grateful for the volunteers that helped in making our Saxon delicacy. We thank all that supported the sale. It made a nice profit which is needed to help defray expenses at our clubhouse.

We had a joyful Children's Christmas on Saturday, December 10. We thank our junior members, Kira Meekins and Adrian Schaef for their duet, Jingle Bells; Annabelle Kloos for her flute solo of Jingle Bells and James Kloos for playing Jingle Bells on the piano. The children enjoyed the performance of Bill Gang Magic Show and of course, the visit of Santa Claus. Thanks go out to all who helped make this party a success. We are fortunate to have a good working team that are dedicated to planning for our children's holiday parties.

We had to quickly clean up from the party to have the hall ready for the Krampusfest that evening. They certainly had a full house that enjoyed great music, games, performance by the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group, delicious Saxon sausage sandwiches and of course, the scary Krampus! They had a very successful event.

Hope you are making plans or have already made your reservations for the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2023. They are planning a super memorable event that you do not want to miss. You can make your reservations online: [50th-anniversary-celebration-reservations.cheddarup.com/](https://50th-anniversary-celebration-reservations.cheddarup.com/).

Branch 4's annual fundraiser the Chinese Auction/Sausage Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 28, 2023. Letters will be going out in January asking for your donations and support for this event.

We send special thanks to our members and friends who have supported our fraternal benefit society. We hope that your Christmas holds one special blessing after another. We extend our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

As in the past years we did not hold a Branch meeting during December. Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



**Fun with Krampus**



**Cleveland Saxon Dance Group performing at the KrampusFest**



**Kira Meekins and Adrian Schaef**



**Bill Gang Magic Show**



**BRANCH 18, SALEM**  
By Barbara Spack

The club was decorated for Christmas on November 27 and many thanks to the volunteers who came out and helped: Tony Rothbrust, Yenere Martig and daughters Isabel and Maggie, Scott and Joy Spack, Marcia Spack, Marilyn McNutt, Sharon Walker, Mary Lou Weingart and Barbara Spack. The Christmas party was on December 10 following the joint social, and we had 57 people in attendance. The children were entertained by Mary Appleby's craft table, magician Robert Lane, and a surprise visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. The children received a stocking or gift bag full of goodies from Santa, as well as a polaroid snapshot taken by Kirsten Sunderman. There were raffles and a 50/50. Raffle prizes were poinsettia centerpieces, a straw table top deer duo, a floor stand snowman crafted and donated by Dawn Jackson, and two children's baskets of toys. It was joyful to be back in the club gathering and celebrating.

Terri Spack chaired the Salvation Army project to provide a child an outfit of clothing. Branch 18 supported 30 children and the outfits were on display for the retirees meeting, the Christmas party and the Branch 18 meeting. Terri does a fantastic job seeking out the sizes and best prices for each of the children.

A kitchen cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, January 21 at 9:00 a.m. to organize and clean the pantry, back room and kitchen, as well as take down the Christmas decorations. Please contact 1<sup>st</sup> VP Chris Phillis at 330-853-8834 to let her know you will be available to help. We need many people to help and accomplish what needs to be done.

A memorial donation for Robert Jones, husband of Jane Jones, was made to the Salem Saxon Scholarship Fund. Condolences to Jane and her family, as well as to Sheila Spack whose brother Edwin Baird passed away. A moment of silence was observed at the closing of the meeting.

The January and February meetings of Branch 18 will be cancelled. However, the trustees will meet in January to conduct the 2022 year end audit. Our next meeting will be March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

**Salem Christmas Party**  
See Page 9 for more photos



**Brother and Little Sis with Santa and Mrs. Claus**



## BRANCH 5, LORAIN By Michael Johnson



**Branch 5 members celebrating the Christmas Season**

As we have in the past, we find ourselves 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 119th anniversary of this organization, we do so with hope for the future that we may continue to uphold the values and traditions passed down from those who formed this branch over 100 years ago.

We met on November 21 for our final meeting of 2022 to wrap up business for the year so we could begin again in January with a clean slate. The evening concluded with election of officers for 2023 by a unanimous vote of present members to have those in office maintain their current positions for another year. All officers agreed to maintain their positions at the current salaries set in the constitution. The officers again are: Monica Gilles - President, Jane Mowery - Vice President, Ginger Romes - Treasurer, Brian Gilles - Recording Secretary, Michael Johnson - Financial and Dues Secretary, Sergeant at Arms - Arlene Gilles, Trustees - Barbara Gilles, Jeanne Petty, and Brian Gilles.

A unanimous vote to again give an annual donation for the holidays to The Mary Lee Tucker Cloth-A-Child, Saxon Relief Fund, the Saxon artifact museum Schloss Horneck, located in Gundelsheim, Germany, The Saxon Orphan Fund, and Second Harvest Food Bank, were approved. We wish to extend our condolences to the Paghi family at this time as we have learned of the passing of Brother Daniel Paghi's mother Wilma A. Paghi. Wilma was a past member in the years when the Lorain Saxons had both the Ladies Branch 11 and the Men's Branch 5 before merging as one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

We often hear of members who have accomplished outstanding

achievements both personally and in the community and we like to share those with our fellow members. Congratulations to Sister Dana Brown for her part as the Illustrator for a book of poetry written by Lindsay Ann Gorgotto called, *When The Ashes Bloom*, currently being sold through Amazon books.

On the evening of December 3rd members enjoyed a festive Christmas dinner at the Amber Oaks Restaurant in Sheffield Lake. As part of the evening, President Monica Gilles presented Sister Debbie Tomusko with her 50 year membership pin. On behalf of those who could attend, I would like to thank Sister Jeanne Petty for her time that went into arranging with the staff, all of the reservations for the delicious meal combinations that were served. It was a most pleasant evening which I believe left all of us with that full holiday feeling.

Our next and first meeting of 2023 will again be held at the American Slovak Club 2915 Broadway Ave. Lorain, Ohio on January 16, 2023 starting at 7:00 p.m. If you are a dues paying member, please come prepared to pay your dues (which would be the same annual amount you paid last year) 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 mail. Please make your check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH** and mail 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, Brother Daniel Paghi, and Junior member Kyle Smith. Hope your day will be a special one!

Until next time, may everyone have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



**Debbie Tomusko receiving her 50 Year membership pin from Branch President Monica Gilles**

## Saint Nick and the Christmas stockings

No traditions are as varied as those associated with St. Nicholas, although the saint has somewhat melted into the person of Santa Claus in the West.

Around the world, there are many stories about St. Nicholas, even many churches that claim his remains.

Most authorities say St. Nicholas was the 4th century bishop of Myra in Turkey. He was very generous and loved children. In 1087, Italian sailors stole his remains and took them to Italy, greatly increasing his popularity in Europe.

St. Nicholas became the patron saint of Russia. In Greece, he is the patron saint of sailors; in France he is the patron of lawyers; and in Belgium the patron of children and travelers. The Feast of St. Nicholas, December 6, has been marked by gift-giving and charity.

The tradition of Christmas stockings comes from stories about St. Nicholas. There are many variations on the story, but this is one version of how St. Nicholas accidentally invented Christmas stockings:

A nobleman had lost all his money, leaving his three daughters without



dowries, which meant they could never marry.

Nicholas, then a bishop renowned for his charity, heard the story and was moved with pity for the three girls.

He thought of a plan that would help the girls, but keep his identity secret. One night, he put gold coins into three pouches and threw them down the chimney of their home. Luckily, the coins were captured in stockings the girls had hung on the fireplace to dry. And thus began the tradition of treats and goodies in Christmas stockings.

Other stories feature Nicholas throwing the coins through the window but it is curious that Santa Claus is often said to come down a chimney.

## After all these years, Santa still reigns



Santa has been with us for hundreds of years, but has not one extra wrinkle on his face.

He loves kids and loves his reindeer, which makes him special. He's industrious. There at the North Pole, it is said that he and his elves work tirelessly to fulfill children's Christmas wishes.

Santa Claus symbolizes the holiday season like nothing else. The Christmas tree is a symbol of the season, but Santa Claus personifies the season in a way that trees cannot.

His image is not related to any church or country, so he can cross cultural and religious lines. It places him in a unique position for the entire season rather than for Christmas alone.

He's not just for kids. Adults enjoy his red-suited presence in stores, and his image on Christmas cards and in decorations. His is a sweet, loving image in a world where those qualities are sometimes hard to find.

Christmas grouches say the Santa is a lie that should not be told to children. But young ones add a few years of knowledge and intuition, they know the gifts are from Mom and Dad.

At this point, wise parents explain that Santa symbolizes the spirit of good will and giving at holiday time.

If history is a reliable predictor, Santa will be alive for centuries to come.





**BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS**  
By Donald Blum

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
HICKORY HOUSE  
550 Officenter Place  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230  
Monday, January 16, 2023  
Time 12:00 noon  
Our meetings are the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Monday of the month.

**Remember to bring a canned  
good item or other food item.  
DON'T FORGET TO START  
USING 2023 IN A WEEK!  
STORY**

Who is **Krampus?** We already  
learned about Krampus in the last  
issue so let's focus on something a  
little more happy.

We all know the next person, St.  
Nikolaus. So what is the story be-  
hind him?

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 mys-  
terious figure.

HO HO HO. Happy St. Nickolas-  
taug!!!

In Germany, like most other coun-  
tries, we celebrate Christmas Eve  
and Christmas Day on December  
24 and 25. But the festive season in  
Germany starts much earlier there.

History:

Well, the historical figure we associ-  
ate 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, particu-  
larly 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, chil-  
dren clean and polish their shoes  
or boots and put them outside their  
front door in the hope that St. Niko-  
laus will pass by and fill them up  
with sweets and goodies. Then, on  
December 6th, St. Nikolaus makes  
an appearance in many kindergar-  
tens. 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, clementine's,  
oranges, apples and nuts.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY  
BRANCH 10**

So, at Columbus Branch 10, we  
celebrated Nikolaustag a little later  
than December 6<sup>th</sup>, but earlier than  
December 25<sup>th</sup>. We had our celebra-  
tion on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY  
ALL!**

We had a visit from St. Nickolaus.  
Presents, prizes and gifts were re-  
ceived. We had music provided by  
Hanz Hermann, that we enjoyed until  
we created our own music. We had

songs complimentary of the Volks-  
blatt and Christmas Carol booklets  
furnished by Susi Mueller. George  
Lassel played his harmonica to the  
delight of everyone. We had some  
special gifts. Rob Betts provided  
beautiful ornaments to everyone that  
he made with his amazing woodwork-  
ing skills. He even made a sleigh  
for St. Nikolaus because he said  
Santa should not be without a sleigh.  
Some people found \$ 2.00 bills and  
Romanian currency hid under the  
table. Other people won original  
Transylvanian Hard Cheese (an  
Aldi's standard in the fall), and what  
would be complete for a Saxon party,  
but a grand prize of Beer stein.

We had a wonderful meal, dessert  
and libations. The libations made the  
singing sound even better.

We celebrated 2 December birth-  
days, St. Nikolaus' assistant, Noah  
Blum-my grandson (December 10<sup>th</sup>)  
and member Marlene Betts who was  
actually born on the birth of our Dear  
Lord Jesus Christ birthday, Decem-  
ber 25<sup>th</sup>. We sang to them while  
George played his harmonica.

Mike Roth collected over \$ 250.00  
donations for the food pantry.

**PRAYERS**

Please keep long time ATS mem-  
ber, 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 Karl Lassel in your  
prayers. Karl is recovering and re-  
habbing from an injury. We wish  
him the best.

Please keep John Gellner in your  
prayers. John has had some chal-  
lenges that made it so he could not  
attend our Christmas Party.

**CELEBRATIONS**

Please join me in wishing Hedy  
Fleischer (January 1), Olga Hesch  
(January 12) and John Gellner (Janu-  
ary 23) a very happy birthday. Alles  
Gute zum Geburtstag!

**CLOSING**

Usually, I end with some humor. I  
think it is more appropriate that what  
we think about is what the season  
is all about.

*For God so loved the world, that he  
gave his only begotten Son, that who-  
soever believeth in him should not  
perish, but have everlasting life.*

*John 3:16*

God gave us the greatest gift we  
could receive, Jesus Christ. Also,  
we should remember it is the sea-  
son of giving. We had a wonderful  
Christmas Party and most everyone  
will have a nice Christmas Dinner  
and presents more than we probably  
need. Remember there are people  
without food, shelter and probably  
will not have a tree or presents.  
Please support any charitable effort  
that could brighten their day and  
season. We don't have to wait until  
Christmas to be charitable; we can  
help people all year.

**GOTT segne!**



**The sneaky Christmas  
gift for WWII POWs**

Soldiers play cards. It's true  
today and it was true during  
World War II, especially for sol-  
diers held captive.

Knowing that, the U.S. and  
British intelligence agencies de-  
vised a top secret plan -- a vio-  
lation of the Geneva Convention  
-- to help POWs escape: Playing  
cards with a secret map of es-  
cape routes. The cards looked  
like ordinary blue Bicycle play-  
ing cards and were distributed  
to POWs in Christmas parcels  
from the Red Cross.

Ordinary playing cards are  
made by gluing two layers of pa-  
per together. But when these se-  
cret map cards were submerged  
in water, the layers would peel  
apart to reveal a portion of a  
map. Once all the cards were  
peeled, POWs could assemble  
them to form a functioning map  
of the region, with included es-  
cape tips. These sneaky decks  
had a cellophane seal intention-  
ally applied crookedly, accord-  
ing to Popular Mechanics.

The scheme actually did help  
some prisoners escape. About  
32 POWs -- mainly high-value  
detainees like pilots and officers  
-- successfully escaped Castle  
Colditz, the notorious prison  
camp for "incorrigible" Allied  
troops. Some speculate that be-  
fore these troops departed, they  
were given hints that something  
from home could help them es-  
cape, but they were not told the  
details. According to War His-  
tory Online, the supposedly  
escape-proof Colditz saw more  
than 300 total escape attempts.

The secret playing card oper-  
ation, carried out around 1944,  
was not widely known until the  
1970s.

In the 1990s, the United Play-  
ing Card Company created a  
commemorative Bicycle Escape  
Map playing card set, available  
today, with the map printed on  
the suit side of the card so you  
don't have to destroy the card.

You can see the original deck  
at the International Spy Muse-  
um in Washington, D.C.



**Branch 10 Columbus Christmas Party**



## Christmas in Kirchberg

The season of preparation for Christmas began with Advent. A large Advent wreath was made for the church and decorated with 4 candles. In the church, the first candle was lit on the first Advent and another followed on each subsequent Advent. A quiet, quiet time began. The long and cold winter evenings gave this even more expression.

December 6th was Saint Nicholas Day – a day the children were particularly looking forward to. The evening before they cleaned their shoes well - they usually took their big boots, so that a lot fits in them - and put them in front of the door. When they got up even earlier in the morning, they found them filled with sweets, nuts and apples. But there was no trace of Santa Claus.

On the second Sunday of Advent, four women from each neighborhood went from house to house to collect for the Christmas bakery, they received flour, sugar, eggs, money... They brought the collected gifts to the rectory, where the “Mrs. Pastor” was responsible for the organization of the Christmas cookies.

The following week the women met there to prepare the large amount of dough together. This was divided between the four different neighborhoods and the cookies and the beautifully decorated Santa Claus were then baked in the house of the neighborhood mother.

At the beginning of the Advent season, poems and songs for the service on Christmas Eve were also rehearsed in the confirmation class. During the communist 1960s, school was not allowed to prepare for Christmas. There was also an ordinance that schoolchildren should go to school on Christmas Eve. A lot was baked at home during this time. We started with the biscuits and shortly before Christmas the oven was heated in every house and Hanklich and Striezel were baked. The adjuvants got together and rehearsed the carols they blew on the church tower on Christmas Eve.

Finally it was Christmas Eve... On this day, the cattle were taken care of a little earlier than usual in order to be ready in time. When the big bell rang at 5:30 p.m., the whole family went to church. That evening the church was filled to capacity. The eye-catcher that evening was the huge, decorated Christmas tree that was set up in the middle in front of the altar. This custom originally came from paganism. The candles on the tree were lit by the two church fathers, while the worshipers were gripped by a festive mood. With long poles to which a candle was attached, they walked slowly around the tree. Under the Christmas tree were the baskets with the ready-made packages that the children were to receive as gifts.



The wonderful Christmas carols sounded: “Oh you happy, oh you blessed...” or “Your little children are coming...”. In between, the poems and songs were recited by the young confirmands. .

The highlight was the Christmas story, the was recited from memory by three older confirmands. The church choir also accompanied the service with a Christmas carol. At the end of the Christmas party, the whole congregation sang “Silent Night, Holy Night...”.

Then came the gift giving that the children had been waiting for so long. Various biscuits and a decorated Santa Claus, apples, sweets and all sorts of delicious things were packed in a bag with a handkerchief tied into it. While the children walked in a row around the Christmas tree, they were each given a package from the basket. Even the little ones went under the Christmas tree with their mothers to pick up their presents. The children beamed with their packages in their hands.

The gift-giving marked the end of the Christmas service. After that, the adjuvant climbed the church tower with lanterns or later with flashlights and blew the Christmas carols “O you happy...” and “Silent night, holy night...”. At that time, young and old were still gathered on the church square to listen to the sounds of the instruments.

After the adjuvants had also “serenaded” the “Mr. Pastor” under his window, he invited them in to celebrate together, while the congregation made their way home to light the candles on their own tree. The tree was decorated with nuts, apples... and home-made jewelry - there wasn’t as much jewelry back then as there is in shops today.

In families with smaller children, Santa Claus would come, listen to the children’s poems or a prayer, and then admonish the children to be good in the future, what the children promised. They were then given presents by Santa Claus. Christmas Eve was celebrated with the family, dance entertainment were considered inappropriate on Christmas Eve.

The first day of Christmas began in the morning with a church service visit, in the afternoon the relatives were visited. In the evenings, the youth met for dance entertainment.

On the second Christmas Day, the service was attended only by faithful churchgoers. The youth and young

## New Year’s Eve and New Year’s customs



On the morning of the last day of the year, the final preparations for New Year’s Eve were made.

The task of the young men was to take care of the wine a few days before the holidays.

Since there was no wine growing in the Kirchberg area, the following old custom had been preserved.

A few days before Christmas, a large wine barrel was placed on straw in a horse-drawn carriage or sleigh, and the team of horses was decorated (bekrient) with bells and decorative ribbons. The eldest of the boys was responsible and therefore sent some boys with the team of horses to the wine country of Nimesch or Meschen (approx. 35 km away) to buy wine there for the many dances and celebrations. So everything was taken care of.

In the late afternoon of December 31, the last service of the old year was scheduled in the church. Compared to the Christmas services, the church was often sparsely filled that evening.

New Year’s Eve was usually spent with the circle of friends (Krinzker) with whom we celebrated the new year. For the celebration, someone from the group made the large “front room” of the house available, in which benches and tables were placed all around. Everyone brought something for dinner, the girls handed out the cakes they had brought with them, and the boys were responsible for the supply of wine. If anyone in the group played an instrument, they brought it along and provided the music for the dance entertainment. If not, records and a record player were brought.

At exactly midnight the church bells rang and the attendants climbed the church tower with lanterns and

blew the song “Praise the Lords, the Mighty King of Honour”. When the first tones sounded, young and old came out of their houses and listened to the sounds in the dark night. It had also become a custom among young people to “jump into the New Year”. They climbed onto tables or chairs and as soon as the church bells announced the New Year, they jumped... into the New Year!

Then there was a hearty buffet with the prepared things like fried sausage, roast pork and sauerkraut (Kampest).

The celebrations sometimes lasted into the wee hours of the morning. The way home was usually very dark and cold. There was often a lot of snow in winter and the nights were freezing cold. Since there weren’t many streetlights, the moonlight sometimes helped a little to find one’s way on the uneven sidewalks and bumpy roads. The snow crunched underfoot and dogs barked when you passed some of the gates.

The New Year began in the morning with an old custom of giving out presents (Neugüer drüen). Each child received a small package from their godparents (Pat) and godmothers (Güd). These small plastic bags contained apples, nuts, candy, a small present and some money. It was always a great pleasure for the children to unwrap the small packages. Their own children or the children of the neighbors were sent to distribute the packages.

The gifts were presented with the saying: “I wish you a happy New Year and bring the “Neugüer” (New Year’s package) to your son/daughter. In earlier years, the following saying was used when handing over the parcel:

*“Ech wänschen Ech guren en glücklich Neu Güer,  
ihrem Huest grüe Hüer, ihrem Üssen en kramen Hüeren,  
git mer en Kretzer, ech bän ge-früeren.”*

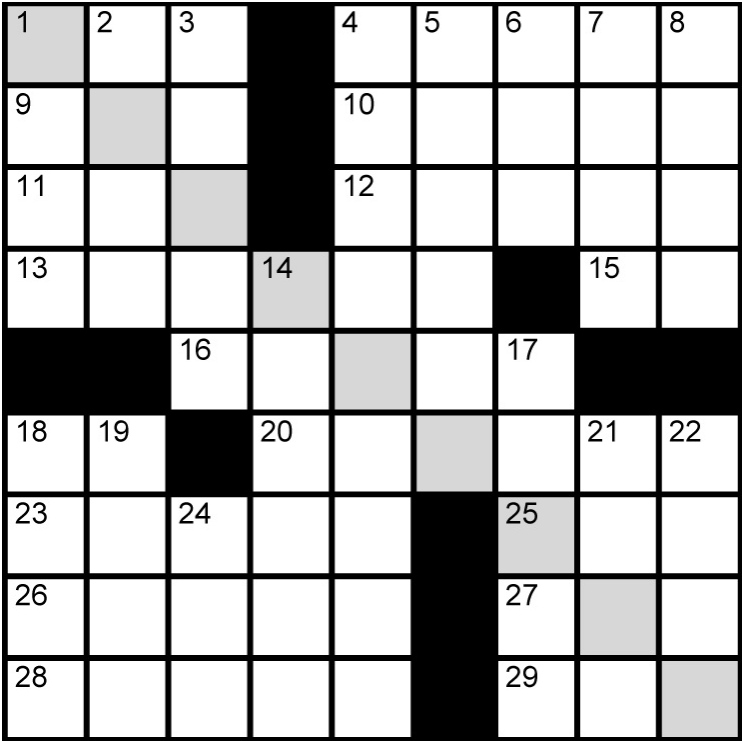
Since the delivering children received some money (e.g. 1 lei) when handing over the presents, they took on this task very willingly. In the morning you could already see many children marching through the streets. At 11 a.m. a New Year’s service began in the church. After lunch it was customary to visit relatives. There they were treated to cakes and Saxon Hanklich (“Pelsenbeltschen” – plum cake was also typical in the past). On New Year’s Eve, the “Krinzker” met again like the night before at a host’s to eat up the leftovers and so the New Year’s Day ended with dancing and entertainment.

Translation from German  
<https://kirchberg-siebenbuergen.de>



PotPourri

Christmas tree



- Across

  - 1. Break bread
  - 4. Type of asst.
  - 9. “\_\_\_\_\_ Got a Secret”
  - 10. 100 equal 1 drachma in Greece
  - 11. Shad delicacy
  - 12. Seating sections
  - 13. Hardened
  - 15. Pa’s mate
  - 16. Heathen
  - 18. Beaver St.
  - 20. Wheaties or Cheerios
  - 23. Sensational
  - 25. Country singer Joe
  - 26. Utopian
  - 27. Cozy room
  - 28. Strangely
  - 29. Craving
- Down

  - 1. Dublin’s home
  - 2. Shakespeare, the Bard of \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Get ready to drive
  - 4. Presumably
  - 5. Himalayan cedar
  - 6. Automobile sticker fig.
  - 7. Big-ticket \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8. Astronaut’s insignia
  - 14. Relating to or characteristic of a group of people
  - 17. Destitute
  - 18. Hodgepodge
  - 19. Labor PM of Australia
  - 21. Sheltered, at sea
  - 22. Boston suburb
  - 24. Sunburned

Freut euch, ihr Christen all

Satz: Erich Bergel

S. A. T. B.

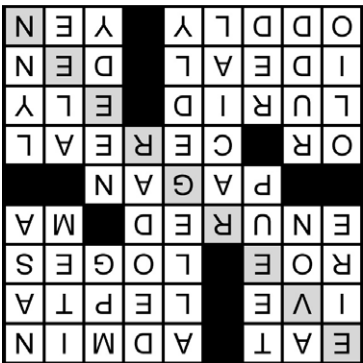
1. Freut euch, ihr Chri - - sten all und jauchzet mit gro - - ßem Schall! Uns

(1.) und jauchzet mit Schall \_\_\_\_\_  
(2.) der Herrscher der Welt \_\_\_\_\_  
(3.) in Lüf - - ten schrein \_\_\_\_\_

ist ein Kind ge - - born, hat Mensch zu sein er - - kor n.

O gro - - ße Freu - - de! O gro - - ße Freu - - de!

2. Der hohe Wunderheld,  
der Herrscher aller Welt  
will unser Bruder sein,  
will uns vom Tod befreien.  
O große Freude! O große Freude!
3. Vieltausend Englein  
hört man in Lüften schrein,  
und uns zum Trost allda  
erscholl das Gloria.  
O große Freude! O große Freude!



Startup working to make flying cars a reality



Jokes



After restoration by the Messerschmitt Foundation (1993 to 1999), the late Gothic altar from the neighboring municipality of Schaas was set up as the new main altar in the chancel of the Schäßburg mountain church. The main image was created around 1520 and represents the Holy Kinship, the relatives of Jesus on his mother’s side who surrounded him during his lifetime. The focus is on Saint Anne with her daughter Maria - the mother of Jesus - and the baby Jesus. A total of ten adults and eight children are shown, with the figure of Mary occupying a special position. Photo: Martin Eichler

- Q How is the alphabet different on Christmas.

A On Christmas there is noel.
- Q Why do couples get hitched on Christmas?

A So they can have a Married Christmas.
- Q How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas?

A He was hooked on trees his whole life!
- Q Why are Christmas trees so found of the past?

A Because the present’s beneath them.
- Q Why did the Christmas tree go to the barber?

A Because it needed a trim!
- Q What do you get if you cross a Christmas tree with an iPad?

A A pineapple!
- Q What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

A It’s Christmas, Eve!
- When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward. For there you have been, and there you will always long to return.

Leonardo Da Vinci
- Back in the 15th century, flight was a rare experience for humans and often ended with a hard landing. Today, if a Silicon Valley startup has its way, you may soon be able to park a flying car in your garage.

Alef Aeronautics is working on making flying cars a reality. Their first model, dubbed the Model A, is expected to have a driving range of 200 miles and a flying range of 110 miles. The Model A uses eight different propellers to achieve flight. On earth, wheels keep the car rolling. Alef expects the Model A to hit the skies in the coming months for test flights and hopes it will be ready for consumers by 2025.
- As is often the case with emerging technologies, those looking to spread their wings will have to pay handsomely to do so, with the Model A expected to cost \$300,000. In the long run, Alef hopes to launch a Model Z in 2030 that will cost a mere \$35,000 and require only a drone license to operate.

The biggest challenge to flying cars might not be the sky-high mechanical impediments but instead regulatory issues. Authorities are still grappling with how to manage flying personal craft and delivery drones. Car accidents claim thousands of lives each year, with human error causing or contributing to 93 percent of accidents, according to Indiana University. If folks start colliding midair, not only will flyers be endangered, but also everyone below them. Still, the day may come when you can skip rush hour traffic simply by flying over it.
- Saxon News VOLKSBLATT December 23, 2022 - 14



# 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  
JDAll852@yahoo.com  
SEC'Y. John Esterly  
2940 Cedarwood Dr  
Alliance Oh 44601  
(330) 821-8766  
ATS SEC'Y. Helen Aeling  
15354 Georgetown St. NE  
Minerva OH 44657  
(330) 862-2563  
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  
1715 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  
9415 Elsmere Dr  
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.  
Donauschwaben Club  
625 E Seegers Rd, Des Plaines IL  
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  
Schmidt274@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  
donaldblum@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. Rosanne Miller  
3624 Harris Ave NW  
Canton OH 44708  
(330) 413-1773  
SEC'Y. Mary Rowinsky  
1656 Dunkeith Dr NW  
Canton OH 44708  
(330) 478-9333  
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

## 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 Cell (216) 410-7291  
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: Doug Schafer  
113 Okinawa Dr New Castle PA 16105  
(724) 944-6199  
dougshafernc@aol.com  
Local Dues: Karl Hermann  
1650 Union Valley Rd  
Wampum PA 16157  
(724) 971- 6683  
karlhermann@comcast.net

Merrillville, IN Br. 26  
Meeting first Sunday at 2 p.m.  
Slovak Club - 6920 Broadway  
(219) 756-5101  
PRES. Jeff Szostek  
625 Lake Shore Dr  
Hobart IN 46342-5017  
(219) 313-7854 219szsos@gmail.com  
SEC'Y. Jamie Connors  
1035 Garfield St Hobart IN 46342  
(312) 758-6341  
Weebec052277@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 Ave  
Rochester, PA 15074  
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. Candace Crum  
5244 Kennedy Rd  
Lowellville OH 44436  
(330) 942-2928  
SEC'Y Fran Hinerman  
1481 Salsgiver Dr Leeper PA 16233  
(330) 507-1340  
ATS SEC'Y Julaine Gilmartin  
4173 Timberland Trail  
Canfield, OH 44406  
(330) 799-5171  
LOCAL DUES Val Thomas  
5947 Tippecanoe Rd  
Canfield OH 44406 (317) 373-0797  
SICK NOTICES to  
Rosemary Zmary  
2158 Cranbrook Dr  
Youngstown OH 44511  
(330) 509-9625

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) 488-6821  
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  
beetlebug8ue7@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. 3rd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.  
Saxon Club 901 Millview St.  
(724) 758-3268  
PRES. John Dengel  
305 Stamm Hollow Rd.  
Ellwood City, PA 16117  
(724) 622-1593  
SEC'Y Dawn Dengel  
Same as President  
(724) 622-0152  
ATS SEC'Y Cathie Bender  
801 Park Ave.  
Ellwood City, PA 16117  
(724) 544-7232  
LOCAL DUES to Kathy Carsele  
318 Golf Ave.  
Ellwood City, PA 16117  
(724) 758-3002  
Sick Notices to  
Cathie Bender  
Same as ATS Secretary

**Ich bin  
ein Sachs,  
und sagt's mit  
Stolz!**





In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-7

**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