

Christmas Worship



First Baptist Church
 1842 - 2023
 Main at Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14301 • 716-282-4666

In person or streaming on Facebook
CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm – Music for Christmas Reflection
 6:00pm – Service of Lessons, Candlelight & Carols

ALL are welcome – www.Niagarafallsbaptist.org



First Presbyterian Church
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 Sunday, December 24th • 7:30pm
 505 Cayuga St., Lewiston
In the historic Old Stone Church

Lower Niagara River Catholic Community
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

St. Peter RC Church Site 620 Center St Lewiston, NY 14092	St. Bernard RC Church Site 218 Hinman St Youngstown, NY 14174	St. Raphael RC Church Site 3840 Macklem Ave Niagara Falls, NY 14305
CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24		
4:00 pm (Children's Mass)	4:30 pm	4:00 pm
6:30 pm	10:00 pm	
Midnight		
CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25		
10:00 am	11:30 am	10:00 am

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Christmas Mass Schedule
 A Family of Parishes:



Divine Mercy - 2437 Niagara St., NF
St. John de LaSalle - 8477 Buffalo Ave., NF
St. Mary of the Cataract - 237 Fourth St., NF
St. Vincent de Paul (Prince of Peace) - 1055 N. Military Rd., NF
St. Leo's - 2748 Military Rd., NF

Holy Family:
Mt. Carmel - 2499 Independence Ave., NF
St. Joseph - 1413 Pine Ave., NF

Sunday, December 24, 2023	Monday, December 25, 2023
4:00pm St. Vincent de Paul (Prince of Peace) <i>(with LFF Children's Christmas Pageant & Mass)</i>	Midnight Mass: St. Mary of the Cataract
4:00pm Holy Family (St. Joseph)	Midnight Mass: St. John de LaSalle
5:00pm St. John de LaSalle	10:00am Holy Family (Mt. Carmel)
5:30pm St. Mary of the Cataract	10:30am St. John de LaSalle
6:00pm St. Vincent de Paul (St. Leo)	10:30am Divine Mercy
10:00pm St. Vincent de Paul (Prince of Peace)	11:45am St. Vincent de Paul (Prince of Peace)
	12:00pm St. Mary of the Cataract

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church CELEBRATES 180TH ANNIVERSARY

Founders immigrated to Niagara County in 1840s

Submitted By Elaine Timm

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Bergholz, Town of Wheatfield, recently celebrated its 180th anniversary.

Founders of the church immigrated from the northeast area of present Germany in 1843. The area was part of the Kingdom of Prussia at that time. The king of Prussia had decreed that there would be one United Church whose doctrine was a combination of multiple Protestant religions at the time.

The Lutherans did not agree with this and started to meet secretly to worship their religion. As a result, they lost opportunities for jobs and for their children's education. Also, their pastors were persecuted and suffered jail time. Economic conditions in Prussia for working people were not good at the time, either.

The Lutherans had decided to move to America after the king would not change his stance and recognize their religion. A total of 1,600 people left the area in 1843, sailing for New York City. They landed, then sailed up the Hudson River and across New York state on the Erie Canal to Buffalo, arriving in late summer. About half of the immigrants moved on to Wisconsin.

The 800 here were able to purchase land to form new communities they named Neu Bergholz (Bergholz), New Wallmow (Wallmore) and Martinsville. They quickly cleared the land and built a few houses before winter, but also built a school. Education for their children was very important. Holy Ghost Lutheran School continues to this day.

While continuing to clear the land for farming, and to build



more houses, they held church services in a barn. The first church building was started in 1847. It was a half-timber style (building), the method used in Europe, and was the largest church building in the county at that time. A steeple and clapboard siding were added over the next few years.

Meanwhile, many more Prussians from the same villages continued to arrive in Wheatfield. By 1852, there were about 1,300 members of the congregation. In 1853, a small group of families formed a church in St. Johnsbury,

a few miles away, to be closer to their homes. Groups of families also moved to Wolcottsville, and some on to Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin, where more farmland was available. It is estimated that about 20 daughter congregations were formed by members of Holy Ghost.

Many descendants of the original families are still members of the church today.

The author serves as Niagara Falls historian and is a former member of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church of Bergholz.

Lauer to lead Adams Fire Co. into 100th year

Submitted

On Dec. 3, Adams Fire Co. re-elected Chief Donald A. Lauer to the position of fire chief at the annual company meeting.

Elected along with Lauer were: First Assistant Chief Kevin Hodgson, Second Assistant Chief Robert Pino and captains Travis Leadere and Stephanie Sweeney.

Those newly elected officers take over during Adams Fire Co.'s 100th year of service to the Town of Wheatfield.

The company was founded May 1, 1924, at the home of George Toellner, after discussion in the fall of 1923. The discussion was prompted by a fire that burned down Fred Zastrow Sr.'s barn.

Elected at the meeting were Herman Schoenfeldt Sr., president; George Toellner, vice president; Walter Toellner, secretary; William Adams, treasurer; and William Gombert, Albert Beutel and Benjamin Toellner, trustees.

Most members gave \$25 out of their own pockets to get the fire company started. William Adams agreed to give the fire department a 40-foot-by-60-foot lot on Niagara Falls Boulevard, where the members constructed a building.

His donation prompted the membership to name the fire company after him – the Adams Fire Department of Nashville, New York. *(Note: Nashville, New York, is a hamlet located in Niagara County within the Town of Wheatfield. Its exact location is by the Sawyer Creek Hotel, by Niagara Falls Boulevard and Nash Road.)*

Lumber was donated by local lumber dealers, which gave the department enough money to purchase a fire truck. A Ford truck was ordered – complete with two chemical tanks – and placed inside the building.

From then to now, Adams Fire Co. Inc. continues to provide protection of life and property to anyone in need!

Lauer is a 1982 graduate of Niagara Wheatfield schools who spent eight years in the Army Reserve. He went to boot camp between 11th and 12th grade in the summer of 1981 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

He then graduated from high school, and went back to truck driving school at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He continues to drive tractor-trailers, working for the past 27 years as a mem-

ber of Teamsters Local 449 for Leaseway Motor Carriers, PTS Logistics, and currently, Cassens Transportation, all of which deliver new automobiles to dealers on the East Coast.

Lauer joined the fire department as soon as he turned 18 and was sworn in on the first Wednesday of March 1982. He was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout, obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout in 1982, all of which the Adams Fire Co. sponsored, and continue to sponsor to this day.

A lot of the company's members are Eagle Scouts, and approximately eight continue to serve as active members at Adams.

"As an 18-year-old new member, I was just eager to learn and be part of a fire company I just couldn't get enough of," Lauer said. "I think most days in my 20s and 30s, if I was not at work, I was at the station or taking fire training classes."

In 1987, Lauer took his first New York state EMT class at Niagara County Community College and has kept it current ever since. Also in 1987, Lauer was elected captain and has been elected to

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