

The Herald

Salem Lutheran Church & Preschool Springville, New York

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My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One of my passions in life is to read books of all types and I especially enjoy books about Christians. One particular person that I enjoy reading about is a pastor from the 18th century. Jonathan Edwards, the 18th-century pastor, sat down at age 17 and penned 21 resolutions by which he would live his life. Throughout his lifetime he would add to this list until, by his death, he had 70 resolutions.

He put at the top of his list: "Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these Resolutions.... Remember to read over these Resolutions once a week."

Edwards didn't casually make New Year's resolutions with an expectation of eventually breaking them. Each week he did a "self-check." He regularly summed up how he was doing and sought God's help in the process.

How about you, do you do "self-checks?" Are there things that you are doing that you should keep on doing or is there reason for change? Have you checked on your spiritual life as of late? How much time do you spend alone with God in prayer; in the reading of His Word or giving of yourself in worship?

Statistically you and I will no doubt break many of the resolutions we attempt to keep by February. When we resolve to do something it no doubt suggests that we want to change or to improve upon.

Spiritually speaking there is much we should try to do to become more committed to being a follower of Jesus Christ. On our own we will falter and fall short but thankfully we have the workings of the Holy Spirit. If you are struggling with keeping Spiritual Resolutions please know that God doesn't give up on you – He knows that you are a work in progress.

Christ calls us to commit to actively work at becoming conformed to His image. This coming year resolve to be come a person committed to a godly transformation. If you faithfully do this, you will see your life begin to focus on the spiritual rather than on the passing, material world.

I would like to extend an invitation to join us for a new Bible study dealing with the subject of Compassion Fatigue. All too often we get tired and overburdened with the idea of showing compassion to others and hopefully you will find that this study will help you in your walk. Join us Sunday morning in the Meeting House at 9am. Hope to see you there.

I pray that this new year will be filled with joy and wonderment. I also pray that you will see God at work even through the trials that you may face. Blessings to you in this new year.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Darrel



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Board of Education

Happy New Year from the Board of Education! If you are into resolutions, you should make one to spend more time with the Lord. I personally do not make New Year's resolutions. Instead, I resolve to change when the Lord directs me in times of prayer or reading the Word. We don't need a calendar change to make a decision to change, we just need to listen for God's promptings.

The Board of Education along with the Sunday School is planning another Family Fun Night, at this time schedule for Friday, January 20th at 6pm. You do not have to attend Sunday School or have children in Sunday School to attend as it is open to everyone,

member or not. We would love for you to come and enjoy some fellowship with other members of the church. Look for more information in the future. The January Board meeting is Monday, January 23rd and I strongly encourage you to attend if you have something you want to discuss, whether it is with Sunday School, VBS or something else. Your input is always valued and without it, we cannot provide you with an educational ministry that satisfies your needs.

Have a great month!

Matt Fanton

Preschool & Child Care Center

The Preschool & Child Care Center will be participating in a Niagara Chocolates Spring fundraiser now through January 30, 2012.

The funds we raise will be used for classroom equipment. If you would like to see a brochure and/or place an order you may stop into the center Monday—Friday 6:30 am—6:00pm or see Matt Fanton.

Monies need to be collected when the order is placed. Delivery will be Monday, March 26th. If you have any questions, please call Amy Tillinghast at 592-9067.



Valentine Fellowship Dinner

Saturday, February 18th

7:00pm

Music, dinner, dancing, fun & fellowship !

Come and enjoy a

Roast Chicken Dinner.

\$30 / couple presale, \$35 at door \$17.50 / single. Tickets available in the church office or see John Jurewicz, Wayne Dieter or Sue Senecal.

Church Records: Released to inactive membership—Hope, Hunter and Grayson Louth per request.

Transferred Nathan Langhans to Bethel Lutheran Church in Glenshaw, Pa.

Reinstated the membership of Dorothy Smith.

Baptism: On December 11, 2011 we welcome Charlotte Grace Fanton into our Salem Church family. She is the daughter of Matt & Melissa and sister of Hannah. Charlotte was born on June 22, 2011 and her sponsors are Forrest & Lisa Helvie.

**Salem Lutheran Church &
Preschool Springville, New York**

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