

# Congregation to host St. Lucia breakfasts

Re-enactments of the Swedish Festival of Light will be staged during Faith Covenant Church's annual St. Lucia breakfasts, scheduled this year for Saturday, Dec. 4.

The breakfasts will begin at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the church on 14 Mile and Drake roads.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. Reservations at \$3 each are given by calling the church office, 661-9191.

Following breakfast, guests will be invited to browse through the Christmas Shoppe, where handcrafted items and

Swedish foods and pastries will be on sale.

This will be the third year members of the congregation have enacted the legend of St. Lucia, a symbol of light and hope that had its beginnings in Italy in 304 A.D.

The young Italian maiden Lucia was born of wealthy parents who gave freely to the needy and just before her marriage gave away her entire dowry. But because she was a Christian, and subject to persecution, she traveled at night to help others with her way lit by the candle on her head.

Lucia eventually was persecuted; her eyes were put out and she was sentenced to burn. But, according to legend, the wood would not catch fire, so she was killed by a sword on Dec. 13.

Tales of Lucia's saintliness found their way to Sweden from traveling Norsemen, and her Christian influence was woven into the old pagan festival of lights. Sometime thereafter she was reported seen in Sweden bringing food to the starving during a famine.

She was proclaimed a saint, the patroness of the blind. Her legend was woven into the early Swedish Christmas festivals because Dec. 13, the date of her death, is the first day after the longest night of the year in that country. The Swedes perpetuate her memory by having her appear as "Queen of Light" on that day.

Today in Sweden, St. Lucia Day begins with the eldest daughter in the household dressed in a white gown and wearing a halo of candles, awakening her family by serving them coffee and Lucia buns.

Through the years Lucia's one candle became a crown of candles representing a literal presentation of the words, "A candlestick giveth light to all that are in the house."

## 70 crafters join for holiday sale

Farmington Area Jaycettes will sponsor its eighth annual Arts and Crafts Sale, bringing together more than 70 artists and craftsmen Dec. 4 in Farmington High School. Show hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission charge.

"Many of the crafters are regulars who return year after year because they always enjoy the great success of the Jaycette show," said Mary Biles speaking for the sponsors.

"Gail Thomas is back with her ceramic Christmas ornaments and decorations. So is Carol Rowe to show her expertise in stained glass."

Many of the newcomers will be there this year because facilities for the show have been expanded. Some of the crafters new to the show will be showing fabric dolls, hand-painted sweatshirts, toll painting, woodwork, jewelry and holiday candles.

The Jaycettes started the show to give area handcrafters an outlet for their creations. They pay a small table rental to the Jaycettes, set their own prices and keep their own profits.

The Jaycettes handle the administrative end of the show, make money on the rentals and the accompanying snack stand.

All of the proceeds go to support the many community service projects the group funds in whole or in part.

Each year the chapter gives a \$400 "Returning Woman Student" scholarship to an area resident, delivers food baskets when called on, works with the residents in Oak Hill Nursing Home Annex, Sarah Fisher Home and Marillac Hall.

It is a regular contributor to Muscular Dystrophy Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Multiple Sclerosis Association, the Palmer Drug Abuse Program, the Oakland Humane Society and the Detroit Zoo.



Carol Rowe, who teaches the techniques of stained glass in Farmington Community Center, returns to the Farmington Area Jaycettes' annual Arts and Crafts Sale to show some of her new creations.

## Dance Collective

Barbara Solinger, a Farmington Hills resident and artistic director for Detroit Dance Collective, will perform with the company a lecture-demonstration at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 in Wayne State University's Matthaei Building. Dance Collective is known for its unusual choreography and technical artistry. Tickets for the performances are \$5 and may be reserved by calling Midwest Dance Center, 545-8055. The Matthaei Building is located on the northwest corner of the Lodge Freeway and Warren.

## 'Gesneriads' is club topic

Southeast Michigan Hobby Greenhouse Association meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile Road.

Speaker for the evening is Richard Holtzman, and his topic will be "Gesneriads."

All meetings sponsored by the association are open to the public.

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