



L'ARCHE®  
Syracuse

Creating a world where everyone belongs!

WINTER 2025  
NEWSLETTER

# RINGING IN CHRISTMAS WITH L'ARCHE SYRACUSE!



When it comes to Christmas,  
no one is as jolly as Jimmy!

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# FINDING WARMTH AMIDST THE SYRACUSE WINTER AT POTLUCK

Every L'Arche community finds itself imbued with unique forms of meeting.

Some communities style themselves by their daily gatherings, others in twice monthly meetings; we here in Syracuse pride ourselves not only on our weekly prayer meetings but our cherished monthly potluck. For over thirty years we have gathered month after month in the parish hall of the

Reformed Church to celebrate community and break bread. Every fall, winter, and spring bring chances for our community to invite Central New

York to learn about L'Arche and share in community.

Our last three potlucks of the year exceeded our attendance expectations. At our September, October, & November potlucks we consistently saw forty to fifty people join us monthly. It is a joy to have St' Anns confirmation class join us each month and to see so many friends of the community join us.



**Join us on January 6, 2026 & February 3, 2026 for our upcoming potlucks at the Reformed Church of Syracuse from 5:30p-7:00p**

## HIGHLIGHTING TED



Ted Fox is one of L'Arche Syracuse's biggest character. In all the years Ted has been a part of our community, he's always brought a unparalleled wit and kindness. When I first entered into the community, Ted was one of the first people I met. Ted appears quiet at the get-go, with his limited mobility and slow speaking pace. But if you spend more than five minutes with Ted you quickly learn that he is anything but quiet.

Ted brings true wisdom to every day life, from his guidance on the spiritual life committee to knowing exactly how coffee ought to be taken (three creams and one sugar at exactly four o'clock). In everything he does he is filled with absolute joy. On Day Hab days, Ted has always eagerly helped fix the cabin fever of my windowless office by accompanying me on a winter walks. He proves he still can drive his own wheelchair, and yes he'll occasionally run over your foot and shows how loud his laugh truly is when it happens.



Ted is a testament to the power of relationship and how love can break down walls. I will always cherish my time with him here in L'Arche.



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

## VOLUNTEERS POUR INTO THE HOMES

As every October rolls around, so does our annual fall cleanup. This year we were delighted to receive volunteers from the board, core members families, the Lambda Phi Epsilon fraternity, Syracuse University's Cru chapter, LeMoyne College's gardening club, and Hamilton College. We were blown away by the seventy plus volunteers the community was able to welcome. With all that hard work all four homes were beautified, and we look forward to doing it all again for our 2026 spring cleanup!



On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> The Brady Faith Center hosted their annual "God Love Ya" Awards at the Marriott Hotel. We were blessed to receive the reward for our commitment to excellence in the Syracuse community. We are grateful for the love Syracuse has shown L'Arche, and we are thrilled to continue serving Syracuse & Central New York.



## Break Bread With L'Arche

As we look forward to 2026 we are excited to announce that Break Bread is making a comeback! Stay tuned for more information!



# MAKING OUR HOMES PLACES OF TRUE INCLUSION

As this year comes to a close, we at L'Arche find ourselves celebrating constantly. Whether it be at meals, anniversary celebrations, or simply being together our homes provide us the perfect space to gather and champion community. As we look to 2026, our community hopes to create a more inclusive space through various capital campaigns for our four properties here in Syracuse. In our quest for more inclusive spaces in our homes the needs are wide and vary significantly in scale and cost. These upgrades are not "extras." They help our houses to continue to be true homes – places of belonging, dignity, and joy. With your support at the end of this fiscal year we can create more inclusive spaces for L'Arche to thrive for many years to come



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OUR MISSION!

## COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

As the winter weather has picked up, we've found plenty of ways to still have fun, both inside and outside. From bowling to shared cookies together to Christmas festivities it's always a blast!



# EMBRACING CHRISTMAS



*Tent City Nativity* by Kelly Latimore

The Christmas season is one of profound joy. Lighted trees adorn every town square across the nation, carolers find their ways to countless doors, and we will gather together as families. But the season leading up to Christmas, Advent, is not always as cheerful.

It is full of hope, and it is full of wonder, but it can be ultimately described as a season of waiting. Like Lent, the purple is pulled out once again by churches. It is a penitential season, of baited breath as we await for the savior to come from the most unlikely places. Kelly Latimore, a modern iconographer, gives us a striking picture of Christ in modern days. It is amidst the poor that Christ was born. It is fitting that we find Christ in the poor today, because where the poor are so is the kingdom of Heaven. Christmas brings advent to its fruition by sweeping us out a penitential season, into a season of feasting and merriment with the poor and rich alike.

Merry Christmas from L'Arche Syracuse!

## ADVENT COMES TO L'ARCHE

Advent is a special time for our community, where a season of waiting is paired with the imminent arrival of the winter tundras that accompany Central New York. As wreaths adorn each house we gather yearly to celebrate with our advent service. This year our service, followed by a cookie party, proved to be a great time for all. Erin Moore & Bob Sackel helped lead the event, along with assistance from St Ann's confirmation class. Amy, Sarah & Paola assisted with readings while Jimmy & Brad helped begin & end the service. Thank you to everyone who braved the winter weather to hear L'Arche proclaim the good news of Advent.

