

# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

# 2024



## Tim's Time - Lay Leader Thoughts

As we enter a new year with our world in the midst of war, political unrest, and worry about new illnesses in our future, I wanted to take a moment and ponder about the new year. What does this year hold for us? What should we do?

If you talk to your friends often enough, you will find a reason to argue. It seems that we all have our sides to defend, and our sides to promote. It's sad at times when families stop talking to each other due to such a disagreement. The truly sad part of all of this is that most of the time, these "reasons" that we have for not wanting to talk to each other are so distant that we have had to make up new reasons to be mad.

Maybe something happened that was truly heartbreaking and life-changing. So much so, that we have somehow frozen ourselves, or isolated ourselves from those who love us.

I have had several conversations over the past few months—all about how families stopped talking. While members reached out, those being called would not respond. In every situation, the people that were reaching out began to create reasons for the failure to respond. No evidence, just a hunch, and never having anything that would validate the hunch. Doubt sets in and the mind takes over. So we go on thinking that we did something wrong, or said something wrong. Ultimately, we too isolate ourselves and stop reaching out. "Why bother—they don't want to hear from us."

Has this happened to you? Have you reached out and then eventually gave up on reaching? I have at times. Life is too short for us to keep badgering ourselves with negative thoughts of how others are thinking of us. Life is too short for us not to reconcile ourselves to each other.

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***Faith by Praying for  
God's Guidance,  
Hearing God's Word,  
Sharing God's Grace,  
Serving God's Children***

### JANUARY SERVICES

- 07 Baptism of Our Lord
- 14 Second Sunday after Epiphany
- 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany
- 28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**9:00 am—Bible Study**

**10:00 am—Worship Service**

Bible Study and Worship Services are being live-streamed on Facebook. Our Worship Services are also being held in-person. Visit us at: [Facebook.com/SalemLutheranWooster](https://www.facebook.com/SalemLutheranWooster).

### 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you wish to have your offering envelopes for 2024 mailed to you, please call us. We are accepting offerings on Sunday mornings, through PayPal, Drop offs at the church office, and by mail.

### **We are on YOUTUBE!**

Make sure you subscribe to Salem Lutheran Wooster on YouTube so as to follow all of our videos that we post.

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—11/26/23

Meeting called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Garald

Devotions: Opening prayer read together. Beth Ann = devotions for December.

Members: Barb Buchwalter, Garald Wise, Lila Woods, Sharon Salmons, Beth Ann Zimmerman, Sherrill Wise (Tim Barrage, Tabitha Burchett, Pastor Alan Nathan)

Absent: Sherrill, Lila, Tabitha, Alan.

Minutes: "Motion to accept as presented" Barb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Beth Ann, carried

Treasurer's Report: Endowment fund will distribute the allocated \$1500 as follows: \$500 to MOCA House, \$500 to Monday Meal, \$500 to Baker's Pantry. October was a very slow month for income. As compared to last at this time we are - \$3400.00 income. Report accepted as presented w/o objection.

Financial Secretaries Report: Income Reports – numbers match. October giving \$2051 less than last October.

Cards of Concern: Lynn Dilyard, Lila Woods

Pastoral Report: Tim conducted all services in October. 2 children sermons as well. Hymn selections for January with the help of Music and Worship committee (Amanda). Pastor Nathan continues with Sunday morning Bible. Worship at the Avenue was attended by 7 people in October - Communion service provided – well received. Pastor will offer communion ongoing on the first Sunday of each month and consecrate elements for Avenue service. Tim will continue to hold office hours as previously listed. Luther Seminary Lay Leader program continuing. Bible study on Monday night continues. 7:00 pm. Visited 2 families/Home bound communion. Continuing to promote Reading the Psalms Together through Facebook stories.

Report of Council Chair: Still planning to appoint at least one additional council members. Community pantry signage needed. Donations to keep pantry filled requested.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faith Formation: The Women's Bible Study will be held at College Hills

Senior Living with program determined by those in attendance. Women's Group still meeting The first Wed. of the month at Brunch, held at Buehler's downtown. Monday night bible study will continue on Monday nights.

Property: Roof repair – in process of working with contractor that might be able to submit a report to the insurance company regarding the need for them to cover roof repair – also looking into Vocational School to see if they would be interested in our roof as a project. Tree removal in process.

### FINANCIAL

Regular Offering	\$ 4,964.00
Designated Offering	\$ 1,091.00

### YEAR-TO-DATE

Total Income	\$ 40,808.70
Disbursements	\$ 61,446.88
Difference	\$-20,638.18

*Receipts through November 2023*



02 Garald Wise  
03 Joseph Mernagh  
14 Sherry Hughes  
18 Joy Hendrix  
22 Shirley Wise  
29 Marianne Powrie

### Prayer Requests

Mike Brown, Marvin Hartman, Tari Lowe, Noreen Miller, Patti Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Marian Martin, Jean Shoup, Mike Ringgenberg, Beverly Cleverly, Zane Cleverly, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Lynne Dilyard Molzen, Sue Haumesser Miller, Family of Charlie Raudebaugh, Family of Gary Kennedy, Family of Triton Fritz, Family of Sharon Salmons, Family of Zachary, Family of Andy, Family of Erin Cronick, Family of Barbara Coulter, Family of Evelyn Weiser, Family of Pete Blunt.



### COUNCIL MEMBERS

2024

Barbara Buchwalter  
Sharon Salmons  
Garald Wise  
Sherrill Wise  
Beth Ann Zimmerman





## Women's Bible Study

Join the Facebook Group

[www.facebook.com/groups/WomenOfSalem](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WomenOfSalem)

## NFL Monday Night!

Join us as we celebrate our newest ministry to our local community:

N - ourishment

F - ellowship

L - earning

Monday Nights at 6:00 p.m.

Each week we will serve a free meal open to the community with a bible study that follows.

So far we have 36 of the 52 weeks of meals committed. If you would like to help with this ministry, let Barb Buchwalter know.

## A RESOLVE For Every Morning of the New Year

**I** will this day try to live a simple & sincere and serene life & repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity and self-seeking & cultivating cheerfulness & magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence & exercising economy in expenditure, carefulness in conversation diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust and a child-like trust in God

From a Calendar by Bishop John H. Vincent  
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Council Meeting Minutes (continued from page 2)

Evangelism: Cards are available for upcoming special Sunday meals, as well as the Monday movie night series – still promoting mailing out invites to friends and family who might want to join us for our Bible study and beyond and other special events. Working with Fellowship to share events to the community.

Fellowship: Continuing to plan future events (to pair efforts with Evangelism): Salad Bar went well with 9 different types of “salads” shared. Reminder: 12/17/23 Christmas cookies. New Years Eve: 12/31/23. Motion for February (02/25/24) Meal to be “Sub Sunday,” March Meal to be “Easter Breakfast” (03/31/24), April Meal (04/28/24) to be “Pasta Sunday.” Barb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Beth Ann, carried.

Social Ministry: Monday Night Meal and Bible Study AT SALEM in January 2024 will begin with January 1<sup>st</sup>, Sour Craut and Kielbasa (Tim). Meal at 6p.m. with Bible Study to follow. So far 36 meals have been committed too.

OLD BUSINESS: (1) roof repairs (see property) (2) Community Pantry signage in process. (3) Organists Tim Mann, and Sandra Smith still filling needs as needed. (4) Tim is still completing the duties for Secretary. (5) Nursing home ministry- no report

NEW BUSINESS: (1) Name for Monday Meal (2) Holiday Service Post Card to be sent to all members.

Adjournment: Motion by Sharon. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beth Ann, Carried. (next council meeting 12/17/23 12:00 pm)

We closed with The Lord's Prayer. Passing of Peace. 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Timothy J Barrage

**THANK YOU...**  
to all who purchased poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary during the Christmas season.

**THANK YOU...**  
to all who donated to the Mitten Tree!  
Donations were sent to People to People.



Wave goodbye to the old and embrace the new with hope, dreams, and ambition.  
Wishing you a Happy New Year full of happiness!



(Tim's time: Continued from page 1)

Life is too short for us to argue over meaningless things. Life is too short. Do we want to be fighting until its too late? Do we want these issues to go unresolved? I hope not. We must be open to forgiveness. Not only of others, but forgiveness to ourselves.

*Matthew 5:23-24 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.*

Let us spend our time in this new year reconciling with our family of faith. Reconciling with our friends and those with whom we disagree. Let us reconcile our differences so that we may then approach the altar of forgiveness with a clear heart. Let us come together and start anew this year; showing love to our neighbor, being the change that we want to see; and sharing the grace of God with everyone we meet. Happy New Year! May God bless us with his strength, comfort and love through this entire year.

**Women's Brunch moved to second Wednesday for January**

January 10, 2024 10:00 am  
Buehler's Downtown

Views of livestreams for  
December: (as of January 1, 2024)

Views: **428**

Comments: **37**

Likes: **27**

Following the meal:

Join Us for  
Monday Night  
Movie Night



**Fourth Sunday Fellowship:**

January 28, 2024  
**SOUPER Sunday**

Bring your favorite Soup  
recipe to share.

**2023 Giving Statements:**

Statements of giving will be sent out in the coming week. Please check your reports and let Tim know of any adjustments that need to be made.

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