

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

MARCH SERVICES

03 3rd Sunday in Lent
10 4th Sunday in Lent
17 5th Sunday in Lent
24 Palm Sunday
29 Good Friday
31 Easter Sunday

* Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm during the Lent season, we continue the Holden Evening Prayer services, followed by a Bible Study—*Beyond Question* (03/06, 03/13, 03/20).

9:00 am Bible Study

10:00 am Worship Service

Bible Study and Worship Services are being live-streamed on Facebook for viewing. If you wish to join us [live on Zoom](#) for bible study click on our link "CLICK HERE TO JOIN GROUP" on our website.

Communion is offered the first Sunday of every month.

Baker's Pantry

The pantry continues to be utilized on a regular basis. It has also started to have contributions from the community. Items needed: Cereal, Tuna, Canned Chicken, Can openers.

4873 Cleveland Road
Wooster, OH 44691
330-345-6727

slcmain@gmail.com

www.SLCW.org

[Facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/SalemLutheranWooster)

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Tim's Time - Lay Leader Thoughts

I heard a story about how a man and his wife were in the mood for donuts and headed out to Krispy Kreme to pick up some hot, fresh out of the oven doughnuts. You know, those freshest of the fresh glazed creations that melt in your mouth. The sign that said "Hot Doughnuts" was not on. The man said to his wife "why don't we finish our errands and come back when the doughnuts are hot and fresh." His wife said—"Sign or no sign, I am going in and getting some doughnuts."

When they got inside, they found that there were hot and fresh glazed doughnuts ready for them, but the employees forgot to turn on the light. Did you hear that?

There were hot doughnuts ready—and the sign was not on. These folks were happy to find the goodness of a fresh hot glazed doughnut, even though the sign was off.

Are you waiting for a sign? I know for me, it's true that I tend to be waiting for a sign before I act. The times in my life that I have waited for a sign from God have been those times that I have let fear and doubt overcome me. I seem to use the lack of a sign from God as a reason for not acting.

Let us be more like the wife in this story. Acting without a sign telling her to act. Her actions not only led to her getting a warm fresh doughnut, but also her husband. It is amazing how a simple act of faith leads others to great things. Acting also limits the waiting game.

If you are waiting on God to give you a sign to do what God has put inside of you to do, you may be missing out.

I was. I was waiting for a sign to move toward serving our faith community for many years. I helped out and served on council - it's true, but I hadn't taken that step that was needed to be fully committed to the process. I hadn't said "I am going in there and getting a doughnut, with or without the sign." I had signs appearing before me, and I saw them, but they didn't stand out. They were there - but they weren't obvious. The neon light wasn't on.

Those excuses that I made; the things that kept me busy; the worries that had my focus placed on other things; the struggles that kept having me say "I can't put my energies into another project, I'm too busy," were stopping me from doing what God wanted me to do.

I found myself showing up. Still waiting for a sign. All the while, the presence of Jesus was surrounding me through the friendships and fellowship of people I have encountered here at Salem Lutheran Church. Ironically, our church sign out front had been off for an extended period. Did we really need the sign on to see that things were going on at Salem? We might not need it, but others?

Jesus is here at Salem Lutheran Church. His presence and gift of grace granted to us through his death and resurrection is THE sign. Those who have come inside are seeing the gifts of God granted to them through Jesus. Join us as we share this most gracious gift.

Don't wait on the neon sign from God, join us and see what Jesus is doing. This Lenten season is full of opportunities to share in his grace: Monday night meal and bible study; Wednesday night Holden Evening Prayer and "Beyond Question" bible study; Sunday morning bible study with Pastor Nathan; and the Easter celebration on March 31st. For good measure, there may be some doughnuts as well.



Prayer Requests

Shirley Delefave,
 George Wise,
 Chet Molzen,
 Marvin Hartman,
 Tari Lowe,
 Noreen Miller,
 Patti Stuart,
 Bill Buchwalter,
 Marian Martin,
 Jean Shoup,
 Mike Ringgenberg,
 Zane Cleverly,
 Amanda Herbert,
 Monica Crawford,
 Sue Haumesser Miller,
 Families of our recently departed.

**Sunday March 31, 2024
 Easter Breakfast Fellowship**

8:30 a.m. breakfast includes egg casseroles, waffles, sausage, and fruit salad. Come and bring your favorite pastry items to share.



Worship Team

We are looking for assistance continuing our online and in-house service. Consider being a part of this ministry.



EASTER CELEBRATIONS!

Dates to Remember:

Palm Sunday Service March 24, 2024 10:00 a.m.
 Good Friday Service March 29, 2024 7:00 p.m.
 Easter Breakfast March 31, 2024 8:30 a.m.
 Easter Egg Hunt March 31, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday Celebration Service
 March 31, 2024 10:00 a.m.

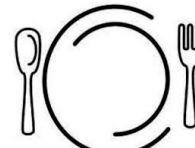


- 07 Susan Wise
- 09 Bill Buchwalter
- 10 Erick Greenawald
- 14 Matt Woods
- 15 Beth Ann Zimmerman
- 19 Kayla Fisher
- 30 Deborah Dunlap

NFL Monday Night Community Meal
 Nourishment / Fellowship / Learning

Join us every Monday night at 6:00 p.m. for a hot meal, great conversation and spend some time with Jesus and the Chosen.

A special thank you to all who have volunteered to assist in this new ministry, with food, with serving, with smiling faces. We are blessed to be able to provide this meal to our community. We hope that you too would join us and invite a hungry friend to join you.



Andy & Amanda Hartman
 March 6

April 21, 2024

Please contact Barbara Buchwalter if you are able to help with the meals that Salem Lutheran Church provides to Zion Lutheran Church.

FINANCIAL

Regular Offering	\$ 2,481.00
Designated Offering	\$ 1,753.69

YEAR-TO-DATE

Total Income	\$ 4,234.69
Disbursements	\$ 3,999.66
Difference	\$ 253.03

Receipts through January 2024



Our monthly services at the

Avenue continue on the fourth Sunday of every month at 2:00 PM. Please join us at this very special ministry to the nursing home residents of our community.



EASTER LILY AND SPRING FLOWER SALE 2024

	Number	Price	Total
6" pot - 1 stem Lily	_____	x \$12.00 =	_____
6.5" pot—Daffodils	_____	x \$12.00 =	_____
6.5" pot—Tulips	_____	x \$12.00 =	_____
6.5" pot—Bulb Garden	_____	x \$12.00 =	_____
<i>(Bulbgarden includes mix of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths)</i>			
6.5" pot—Hyacinths	_____	x \$12.00 =	_____
10" Hanging Fern Basket	_____	x \$23.00 =	_____

Please clip and return this form to the church office.
The last day to order is Thursday March 14, 2024

___ I wish to donate my flowers.
 ___ cash ___ check Total Order: \$ _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please include your payment with your order.

Your name: _____

Phone No: _____

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Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2024

Meeting called to order at 12:11 p.m. by Garald

Devotions: Opening prayer read together. Barb led devotions with a reading from Mark, Sharon = devotions for February

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

Minutes: "Motion to accept as corrected" Sharon, 2nd Barb, carried

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted as presented w/o objection. Compared numbers from beginning of year – even with withdrawing money throughout year, our investments have more than kept up.

Financial Secretaries Report: Income Reports – numbers match. December giving equal with last year.

Cards of Concern: Amanda Herbert, George Wise, Chet Molzen, Lila Woods, Carraways,

Pastoral Report: Tim conducted all services in December totaling 8 services. Hymn selections for February with the help (Amanda/Kathy). 3 home communion visits, 3 hospital visits. Pastor Nathan continues with Sunday morning Bible. Worship at the Avenue was attended by 6 people in December - Communion service provided – well received. Also visited and conducted 7 additional communion services in rooms.

(Council minutes - continued from page 3)

Pastor will offer communion ongoing on the first Sunday of each month and consecrate elements for Avenue service as well as Easter Sunday 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. Meal going well, while the word is not out yet – it will get out, to encourage members to join us on Mondays to partake in meal. Organists secured for all services through Easter.

Report of Council Chair: Still planning to appoint one additional council member. Community pantry signage needed. Donations to keep pantry filled requested (see Social Ministry).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faith Formation: 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 – no report. Tree removal in process.

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. Time to start promoting Easter Sunday services (news paper, cable access, signs for yards.)

Fellowship: Continuing to plan future events (to pair efforts with Evangelism): Souper Sunday went well – small turn out. Next fellowship meal to be held on February 25, Sub Sunday! Upcoming Meals: March Easter Breakfast (03/31/24), Pasta Sunday (04/28/24), Men's Cook out (05/26/24), Summer Cook out (06/23/24), Chili Cook off (07/28/24), Ice Cream Social (08/25/24), Mexican Feast (09/22/24), motion to accept schedule as presented by Bath Ann, Sherrill 2nd, carried.

Social Ministry: Monday Night Meal and Bible Study AT SALEM, meals secured for February. Meal at 6p.m. with Bible Study to follow. Flyer created for meal. To Contact Panera Bread regarding bread donation. Items needed for Baker's Pantry listed as: Cereal, Tuna, Canned Chicken, Can openers.

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- going well. (6) NFL Meal – going well.

NEW BUSINESS: Easter flowers order form to be placed in Newsletter. Insert in bulletins.

Adjournment: Motion by Sharon. 2nd by Barb, Carried. (next council meeting 02/25/24 12:00 pm) We closed with The Lord's Prayer. Passing of Peace. 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Timothy J Barrage



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Saint Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He is credited with successfully spreading Christianity throughout Ireland—hence the Christian celebration of his life and name. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17 because that is the day Saint Patrick himself died in the small village of Saul in 461 AD, not far from the town of Downpatrick in Co. Down where he is reportedly buried.

The symbol of St. Patrick is a three-leaf shamrock, not a four-leaf clover. Long before the shamrock became associated with St. Patrick's Day, the four-leaf clover was regarded by ancient Celts as a charm against evil spirits. In the early 1900s, O. H. Benson, an Iowa school superintendent, came up with the idea of using a clover as the emblem for a newly founded agricultural club for children in his area. In 1911, the four-leaf clover was chosen as the emblem for the national club program, later named **4-H**. We are proud to host our own 4-H club here at Salem. They meet every other Thursday evening in fellowship hall.