

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2023 Newsletter

Tim's Time - Lay Leader Thoughts



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BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM

Join us by clicking the link on our
www.slcw.org website

WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM

Bible Study and Worship may be
viewed at any time on our Face-
book page

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

December Services

1st Sunday of Advent	03
2nd Sunday of Advent	10
3rd Sunday of Advent	17
Blue Christmas Service	21
Christmas Eve Service 10 & 7	24
New Years Eve Service 10 & 7	31

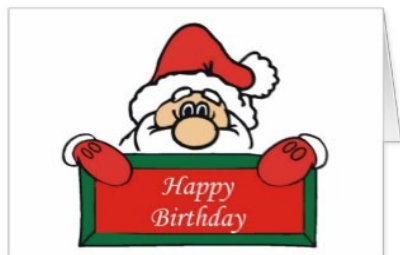
Christmas can sometimes be a difficult time for people. Is this time of year tough for you to get through? There can be a variety of reasons for being less than excited during the holidays: A loss of a loved one; a family member being away; a job loss; a friendship strained; general stresses of daily life. These things can take over and result in negative attitudes about the season. To top it all off, all of the Christmas lights, the rush of family gatherings and gift giving can be overwhelming. How much is too much? Is it good enough? This time of year can sometimes be not just depressing, but paralyzing.

We know the stressors that we ourselves experience. We may have a collection of those that I mentioned, and they can prevent us from experiencing the season as God intended. Think about it, we are all stressed. We focus on our own situation. Do we realize what others are going through? We simply can't know what others are dealing with at this time of year. There is only one thing that we can be sure of. This one thing provides hope and meaning to our lives. This one truth: Jesus came to be with us

Christ came to be born in a stable in Bethlehem. God with us. What a joyous gift to the entire world. Our Savior coming down to earth to live with us. To be with us. To share his love with us. To share with us in a human form.

I feel that this is a most powerful message: That Jesus came to share in our troubles. To live as humans live in order to experience our heart-ache. To experience our pain and suffering. He came to be with us in order to share with us the greatest gift mankind has ever been granted. His Grace. This Grace which surpasses all understanding. What a wonderous gift has been given.

I encourage all who read this newsletter to consider this gift that has been given to us when interacting with everyone this Christmas season. I ask that you share this gift of grace with others with all the love that Christ showed us. Merry Christmas everyone! God Bless us Everyone!



- 07 Sherry Parish
- 12 Mark Baumgartner
- 12 Wayne Green
- 15 Brock Burchett
- 15 Corbin Burchett
- 15 Grayson Burchett
- 15 Hadley Burchett
- 22 Paige Baumgartner
- 23 Alex Miller
- 28 Colleen Alexander Green
- 30 Debbie Thompson
- 30 Ed Blake



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 Tom & Deidra Woods
- 31 Jim & Kelly McKinley



Noreen Miller, Patti Stuart, Bill Buckwalter, Barb 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 Salm- ons, Family of Zachary, Family of Andy, Family of Erin Cronick, Family of Barbara Coulter, Family of Eve- lyn Weiser, Family of Pete Blunt.

WORSHIP AT THE AVENUE

Understanding how hard it must be to be an inpatient at a nursing home, at this time, the Christmas Eve service will be held at 2:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Please consider joining Tim and sharing Christmas with Avenue residents.



Women of Faith is on Facebook called “Women of Salem.” If anyone is interested in meeting for brunch at Buehler’s Towne Market at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month, please let us know: 330-345-6727.

<http://www.facebook.com/WomenOfSalem>

Baker’s Pantry / Monday Meal

This past year, we dedicated a new community pantry in our parking lot which has received much attention since July. We are asking all interested parties to consider a financial contribu- tion to assist in keeping this box filled with food and sup- plies for those most in need. Help is needed in the Baker’s Pantry as well as our Newest Food Ministry—The Monday Meal Night. Please consider joining us as we prepare to provide a meal on a weekly basis for our local community. Barba- ra Buchwalter heads this meal ministry with the help of you our members. If you are willing to help with these meals and, more specifically, be willing to volunteer to bake something to serve at these meals, please contact the office by phone: 330- 345-6727, or by email: slcmain@gmail.com. Many thanks!



December 03, 2023

Join Tim Barrage and a group of Salem Lutheran parishioners in attending The Mt. Vernon Nazarene University performance of Handel’s Messiah. Tim will be leaving from the church parking lot at 5:00 pm and expects to return sometime between 11:00—11:30 pm.

This performance benefits the MVNU Music Scholarship program. The cost is \$5.00 per person. \$20.00 per family. If you haven't seen a performance of Handel’s Messiah, you are missing out.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

December 21, 2023, 7:00 PM,

As Elvis might say, “I’ll have a Blue Christmas without you.” for many of us, the holidays are painful, and for some, very difficult to enjoy due to the burdens and loss of the previous years. Once bright with excitement, now sad reminders of loved ones lost. This service is one of remembrance and solemnity. We remember those who are no longer with us, we address the stress of work, life, and the holidays. And we leave with the joy of knowing Christ is coming soon.

FINANCIAL - Receipts through Oct. 2023

Regular Offering	\$	1,652.00
Designated Offering	\$	0.00

YEAR-TO-DATE

Total Income	\$	42,721.08
Disbursements	\$	56,988.28
Difference	\$	-14,267.20

The Advent season is a four week period before Christmas that celebrates the anticipation and coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The origin of "advent" is from the Latin word *adventus* which simply translates "coming" or "arrival". Not only is the Christian meaning for preparation and celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ, his birth at Christmas, but also to celebrate the new life when someone accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior, and lastly, the anticipation of Jesus returning again.

There are beautiful and rich traditions behind the celebration of Advent. Let's take a deeper look at the focus and themes of each week of Advent and some of the traditions celebrated around the world during the Advent season. May you find time to slow down this Christmas season, say "no" to the things that distract you from Jesus and say "yes" to the gift that God

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2023, 7:00 PM

Join us for our Christmas Eve Service here at the church sanctuary, or via our Livestream broadcast on Facebook.

⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

- Isaiah 9:6-7

This is what we anxiously await on Christmas Eve. God With Us! Emmanuel! Join us as celebrate the prophesy of Isaiah, and welcome the Christ child into our midst.





The Salem Lutheran Church Council Wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SALEM LUTHERAN COUNCIL MINUTES – Sunday October 22, 2023

Meeting called to order at 12:37 p.m. by Garald

Devotions: Sharon opened meeting with devotions / prayer. Beth Ann = devotions for November.

Members: Barb Buchwalter, Garald Wise, Lila Woods, Sharon Salmons, Beth Ann Zimmerman (Tim Bar- rage, Tabitha Burchett, Pastor Alan Nathan) **Absent:** Lila, Tabitha, Alan.

Minutes: Accepted as presented. w/o objection

Treasurer's Report: comparing to last year at this time (end of September numbers), we are only \$688 off pace on income, and \$3362 less in spending. Endowment fund distribution received \$1,061.69, with mes- sage from Don Palmquist stating that the fund will be reinvested for a while, but the endowment fund will remain at Salem. Distribution to be determined by the endowment committee. This year available = \$1837.14.

Financial Secretaries Report: Income Reports – numbers match. September giving \$107 ahead of last year.

Cards of Concern: Lynn Dilyard, Lila Woods, Marian Martin, Carraway Family

Pastoral Report: Tim conducted all services in September. Hymn selections for November and December with the help of Music and Worship committee (Amanda). Pastor Nathan continues with Sunday morning Bible. Worship at the Avenue was attended by 11 people in September - 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 started and will go through December of 2024. Bible study on Monday night continues. 7:00 pm. Visited 4 families/Home bound communion. Set up speaker for 10/22 from mental health agency = well re- ceived.

Report of Council Chair: Still planning to appoint at least one additional council members. Community pan- try signage needed. Donations to keep pantry filled requested. Needing to move Annual meeting to 19th to have Pastor Nathan in attendance. Motioned – Barb, 2nd - Sharon – carried. Motion to have Sharon's pray- er be used to start every council meeting – Barb, 2nd Beth Ann, carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faith Formation: The Women's Bible Study will take a hiatus until a plan can be put in place to continue. 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: Switch needing replaced - fixed. Roof repair – still in search of a contractor that would be able to submit a report to the insurance company regarding the need for them to cover roof repair. Tree removal in process.

The Mitten Tree is up!

Please help us with covering this tree with gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, slippers, socks, earmuffs...really, anything that would help stave off the cold. This ministry is part of the Peo- ple 2 People collection event. All items donated will be given to them and help the needy stay warm this winter. This pro- gram runs through the end of December, so don't miss your opportunity to give to this worthy cause.

Bell Ringing at Buehler's, Milltown

December 20, 2023 3 pm to 8 pm

We are locked in and ready to ring in the season for the Sal- vation Army. Make sure to stop by and say hi to our bell ring- ers at Buehler's, Milltown. Let us get together and ring the bells, share the Christmas Spirit, and occasionally sing a carol or two. Contact Sharon Salmons for details (330) 416-5882.

(Council minutes continued from page 4)

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. Pantry notice placed on front sign. Working with Sharon's family in creation of signs for pantry.

Fellowship: Continuing to plan future events (to pair efforts with Evangelism): Pie Bake off went very well with 13 pies entered. Motion for 11/26/23: Salad Bar, to be moved to 19th to coincide with Annual Meeting – Barb, 2nd Sharon, carried | 12/24/23 Christmas cookies. Motion for January = Souper Sunday – Beth Ann, 2nd Sharon, carried, Post cards to be created and made available.

Social Ministry: Zion Meal occurred on October 15th, small turn out. Motion to establish a committee to support the start of Monday Night Meal and Bible Study AT SALEM in January 2024 – Beth Ann, 2nd Barb, carried. Community Food pantry (see evangelism report) Motion to withdraw from helping with Zion Meal – Barb, 2nd Sharon, carried. Meal to be scheduled at 6p.m. with Bible Study to follow. Committee to be looking for people to provide casseroles for meals on a rotation. To request endowment funding of Pantry and Meal.

OLD BUSINESS: (1) Received check from insurance company for interior repairs \$1713.69 (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) Hoping to expand nursing home ministry – potentially to Smithville Western – Inquiry still in process. (6) tables and chairs returned.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) Budget Discussion and deadlines reviewed. (2) Motion to Schedule special council meeting to be held on November 12 to approve budget for presentation to congregation, and to finalize nominations for council – Beth Ann, 2nd Sharon, carried.

Adjournment: Motion by Beth Ann. 2nd by Barb, Carried.
We closed with The Lord's Prayer. Passing of Peace. 1:49 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Timothy J Barrage

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Following the Holden Evening Prayer Service

Service at 7:00 p.m., party till 9:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite New Years treat or snack item to share.

We will be ringing in the New Year at 9:00 p.m. (with countdown) It'll be midnight somewhere in the world. Tim is providing Kielbasa and Saurcroust.

Join us in a fun time of fellowship to ring in the New Year together!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS





The sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful poinsettia plants again this year.

If you wish to give one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out this form and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

The price of a 6.5 inch potted plant is **\$13.00 each**.

Your order must be turned in to the Church office no later than **Tuesday, December 05, 2023**

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: _____

Amount Enclosed: Check/Cash _____