



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 11, 2022

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From Pastor Steve



WHY ADVENT?

Do we really need Advent? Why can't we just jump right into Christmas like the stores and the radio stations?

Here's why: Unlike the culture around us, Christians don't push "the Christmas season" into Thanksgiving. We *prepare* for Christ's birth by keeping Advent (from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival").

The stores may be all Jingle Bells and ho-ho-ho, but we celebrate Advent as a way of reflecting on the deeper meaning of the coming of Christ. We don't sing Christmas carols during Advent, because Advent has special meanings of its own that need to be emphasized:

Expectation: In a violent and corrupt world, we are called to repent as we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, who does not condemn us in our sins but leads us to healing and restoration.

Hope: We long for the peace and joy that God has promised us, and so we do not despair. We refuse to give up hope, even in the face of war, terrorism, and the barbaric acts of those who use unrestrained violence to further their ends.

Fulfillment: The world that we know is an unfinished place, so we look for the time when our Lord will return to gather all the faithful to himself.

As far back as the fifth century AD, Christians in Europe had developed a season of preparation for Christmas. Originally Advent was a period of six weeks, probably modeled on Lent. It gradually evolved into a four week observance, and it is not as somber and penitential as Lent. Properly celebrated, Advent should be a peaceful, quiet time of reflection, but observed with great joy and anticipation. *Joy to the world! ... Let every heart prepare him room!*

Expect our Lord to reveal great things to you — hope for his grace and power to make you your best self — be fulfilled as the partial and incomplete is made whole and strong through his coming. A blessed and joyful Christmas to all!

- Steve Mindrup

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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Please remember in prayer. . .

CURRENT—Jane Burkett*, Patrick Welsch, Newborn William Lein, Augie Frietsch, Debi Clausen

CONTINUING—Carolyn Wyant*, Tom Glover*, Lila Mattson*, Janet Klotz*, Marge Meyer*, Shirley Hines*, Pat Clason*, Ruth Erickson*, Steve Guyer*, Ben Burkett*, Jackie Cline*, Mick Kimmey*, Grace Pearson, Jim Kee, Darwin Classon, Mike Clayton, Mary Gliszczynski, Martha Poggi, Candy Gomes, Jeanne McNish, Sylvia and Cesar Hurtago, Max Garland, Larry Peppers, LaVerne Schober, Linda McVicker, 7-year-old Tinley, Kate Gage, Marci Bluestone, Bridget Yaeger, Ava Hawbaker, Tyler Mall, Jim Martin, Nick Morgan, Sarah Flanigan, Scott Evans, Joanne Sumner, John Mason, Suzi Diab, Sally Ferko, Jacob Kenyon, Nadine Vehe, Steven Johnson, Bobby E., Brian DeFalco, Brian Porter, Wesley Calkins, Brad Engle, Colleen McMahon, Pearl Undesser, Jeff Shulkin, Julie Cook, Carol Peisker, Darlene Comiskey, Scott McGary, Breanna Mann, Erin Stiver, Jerry Burd, Carol Wilhelm, James McMahan, Shandol Dulin, Tanya Kimmey, Tom Wysoglad, Joe Petit, Mike Guzzardo, Mandy W. & children

MILITARY—All people serving in the military, especially: Kaden Brennan, Danny Cassidy, Charlie Golowacz, Nathan Hunt, Brandon Jakubiec, Shawn Jakubiec, Joseph Kimmey, Ross Magee, Garrett O'Dell, Jared Usey, and Kevin Zaleski

***Indicates Salem member.**



Please help us keep this list up to date by checking on any persons you may have referred.



DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. —Psalm 98:4

“Joy to the World” ELW 267 is a paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9.



IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT WINTER WEATHER: If you have concerns about cancellation of worship services or meetings, please check your email or tune in to WSPY 107.1 FM radio for cancellation announcements. The health and safety of our members is our primary concern; so please use your judgement about whether or not to venture out in severe weather.

In our church family. . .



HENRY ROBERT HAYES was received on Sunday, November 13 as a Child of God and a member of this congregation through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Henry is the son of Tom and Kayla Hayes and the grandson of Fred and Nancy Hayes. His sponsors are Shante Avila and Colton Beard. We rejoice with Henry and his family.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gloria and Brett Gilbertson on the birth of their newest grandchild, William Andrew Lein born on November 20 to their daughter Gina and her husband Andrew. May God bless William and his family.

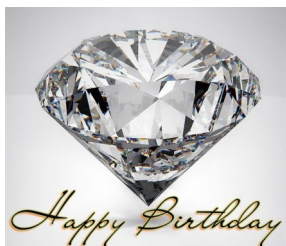


We share in the sorrow of the Kossman family as they mourn the passing of Leigh's father, Neil Stiver on November 26. Visitation and funeral service were held on December 3 at First Lutheran Church in Ohio, IL. You may view the obituary at www.garlandfuneralhomes.com.

We also extend sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Sharon Johnson. Visitation and funeral were held here at Salem on Tuesday, November 22.



Friends of Marge Meyer are encouraged to participate in a card shower for Marge's 90th birthday in January, 2023. Cards may be sent to Marge at PO Box 523, Somonauk, IL 60552. Salem friends are also invited to celebrate with Marge at an Open House hosted by her family on Saturday, January 14 from 12-2 at Lisa Vandermeer's home at 500 N Green St, Somonauk. No presents requested; your presence is gift enough. For more details or questions you may call Lisa at 815-970-4024.



DIAMOND PLUS (75th +) BIRTHDAYS—We are working on a new format for our monthly calendar which will not lend itself to adding birthdays. Therefore, we will be noting these significant birthdays for the month here in the Salem *LIFE*. Birthdays for December & January are:

Dec 22—Jim Whitten; Dec 24—Michele Farley

Jan 8— Nancy Shehorn; Jan 9—Eileen Negley; Jan 19—Marge Meyer
Jan 22—Verdell Hanson; Jan 25—Betty Scofield



DECEMBER 2022 SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, following the Advent Midweek Worship Service and snacks. Council members Alan Deaton, Patricia Farley, Walter Farley, Bonnie Guyer, Dean Lundeen, Sandy Martens, Pastor Steve Mindrup, and Nancy Rex attended this meeting.

Minutes of the November 1, 2022, Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Alan Deaton were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for October 2022. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances in the following accounts as of December 6, 2022.

General Fund: \$9,883.75; Designated Fund: \$27,391.66; Capital Fund: \$28,457.86
Bonnie also noted that all current bills are paid, and that so far this year no money has had to be transferred from one fund to another to stay current with expenses. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Monthly reports were presented by Pastor Steve Mindrup and representatives of Salem's committees noting completed projects and events and plans for upcoming projects and events.

Sunday, December 18, 2022, was set for installation of 2023 Salem Congregation Council members during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

The date for the 2023 proposed budget hearing was set for Sunday, January 22, 2023, starting at approximately 10:15 a.m. following the worship service.

The date for the Annual Meeting of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church was set for Sunday, January 29, 2023, starting at 10:15 a.m. There will be a potluck following the annual meeting.

An update on the call process was presented, and council members were reminded that the Nominating Committee has work to do.

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN NEWS



Good News!

The stewardship response surpassed last years' numbers. It takes all the barnyard animals and other critters to help Salem provide worship experiences, Christian education, and ministries and keep the building in good repair and comfortable. This news makes the Stewardship Committee members *Hoot and Hiss! Squeak and Snort! Bellow and Buzzzzzzzzzz!* Translated, it means the Treasurer is very happy!

There's a total of \$115,856 pledged to the General Fund with \$62,320 pledged towards the Capital Fund. This is a total of \$178,176 from 36 pledgers.

Thanks to the supporters, sustainers, visionaries and tithers who made giving to Salem a priority. If you have not yet sent your pledge to Salem, please quickly do so to be tabulated in the Annual Report.

God loves a cheerful giver! Thank You, Congregation!



Advent Midweek Worship

**ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES
TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 6, 13 & 20, 6:00 pm**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6—6:00 PM
Commemorating Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13—6:00 PM
Commemorating Saint Lucia of Syracuse

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20—6:00 PM
Commemorating Katharina von Bora Luther



**THIS TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE
WILL BE HELD ON CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, AT 5:00 P.M.**



Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25—9:00 am

Coffee Fellowship follows worship.

This Month at Salem

QUILT GROUP—The December work days for Salem's Quilters will be **Monday, December 12** and **Tuesday, December 13** from 9:00 am to noon. They would welcome any willing workers to do a variety of tasks; no experience is needed. There are also quilt top kits pre-cut and ready for anyone to pick up in the narthex and take home to sew together.



Christmas Caroling & Chili Supper
sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

Sunday, December 18

Meet at church at 2pm Caroling from 2—4 pm
Chili Supper follows

Please sign up soon.

Salem's Member Support Committee will be preparing cookies on December 17 for carolers to deliver to shut ins.

DECEMBER LUNCH BUNCH GATHERING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 11:30 AM

Sunfield's Restaurant

382 E Veterans Pkwy, Yorkville

Meet at the restaurant.

Please sign up to reserve your spot.

Call Donna Fraley (815-263-7227) if you need a ride.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK—Registration has been submitted for our December 20th volunteer shift at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The next volunteer opportunity will be January 17. NIFB is now requiring registration two weeks in advance, so please sign up no later than January 3 if you plan to go. New volunteers are always welcome. The group meets in Salem's parking lot at 8:00 am to share rides as needed. The shift is from 9:00 to 11:30 am, and the group stops for lunch on the way home.



Deadlines are near
for some of our holiday
sharing opportunities.

TOYS FOR TOTS—Salem Sunday School's collection—final day: December 11

COAT COLLECTION for Hope Haven shelter in DeKalb—final day: December 11.

FRANKLIN MALL non-perishable food for holiday grocery boxes—final day: December 12.

DIAPER CLOSET & BLESSING BOX ongoing collections—donations always welcome.



- ◆ to Nancy Hayes for the November harvest display in our sanctuary
- ◆ to Cheryl Carls for our Advent wreath
- ◆ to Stan & Linda Benson for December chancel bouquets
- ◆ to all who helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas
- ◆ from Alice Merkel for all of the birthday cards from her Salem friends

SOME YEAR END REMINDERS:

- Installation of all Congregation Council members, new and continuing, will be during the December 18th worship service.
- Reports for the Annual Bulletin of Reports are due in the church office by the week of January 1. Digital copies are preferred.

- YEAR END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

HESED HOUSE

Salem's Congregation Council selected Heses House, a Comprehensive Homeless Resource Center in Aurora, Illinois, as Salem's sharing project for Christmas offerings. All gifts given in special offering envelopes provided for Christmas and loose offerings on Christmas Eve will be forwarded to Heses House.

SALEM

If you would like to give an extra gift to Salem for Christmas, place your donation in the regular offering envelope designated for December 25, 2022. Gifts to Salem could also be placed in a plain envelope labeled for Salem or placed inside a Christmas card for Salem, or delivered to Salem in person any time, etc. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Please note that all contributions to be credited to the 2022 year must be received in the church office no later than December 29 so that they can be deposited in the bank by Friday, December 30. Any funds deposited after 3:00 pm on December 30 will not post at the bank until January 2. Our contribution record must match the bank deposit dates.

Looking ahead to January.....

January 1, 2023—Happy New Year! We will celebrate Name of Jesus with a contemporary worship service at 9:00 am.

Praise Team and Handchime Ensemble will be taking a break for the month of January.

January 8, 2023—Sunday School classes will resume.

January 8, 2023—3N1 Youth Group will meet at Salem at 5:00 pm for pizza and quilt tying.

January 14, 2022—Fellowship Committee will sponsor a Game Night.

January 22, 2023—The Finance Committee will hold a Budget Hearing at 10:15 am.

January 29, 2023—Annual congregational Meeting is set for 10:15 am with a potluck lunch to follow.

Salem Sunday School. . .

- shared their Christmas tree and handmade ornaments at the Sandwich Park district's Festival of Trees held December 3 & 4 in the lobby of Classic Cinemas. Thanks to Libby Welsch for helping us make our ornaments and for setting up the tree.
- presented their annual Advent-Christmas program, "*The Friendly Beasts*", for the congregation on December 4. Thanks to students, parents, and leaders. Very special thanks to Sharon Wallis for writing and directing the program and to Pat Clason for being our Storyteller.
- will have classes on December 11 & 18 (Birthday Party for Jesus) and will take a break on December 25 and January 1.



Pictured at left, Sunday School children listen intently as Storyteller Pat Clason reads them the traditional story of Jesus' birth.



At right, the "Friendly Beasts" gather around the manger to tell their version of Jesus' birth.