

Salem Lutheran
Church and School

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December, 2022
Newsletter

INSIGHT FROM THE WORD OF GOD:



The Three Advents of Christ

This Sunday, the Christian church begins the Season of Advent. "Advent" is a Latin word meaning "coming"—referring to the coming of the Christ Child, His birth on the first Christmas about 2,000 years ago. The Advent season is the Christian's time of preparation spiritually, so that we might fully celebrate and rejoice in the coming of Christ Child at Christmas to be our savior and the savior of all the world. We prepare in the Advent season by focusing on the promises of God centered in Christ through devoting ourselves to faithful worship and the disciplined reading of God's Word. For God the Holy Spirit uses His promises to motivate and empower us to grace filled, faith filled and hopeful Christ-centered living. There are actually three advents, three comings, of Jesus Christ into our lives and the life of the world: 1) His first advent in His birth, life, death and resurrection, 2) Christ's ongoing presence in the Lord's Supper and 3) His second coming at the end of the world for judgment and salvation.

Christ's First Advent in Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy: He was born about 2,000 years ago in the little town of Bethlehem, a village about eight miles from Jerusalem. He was born in Bethlehem in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. His birth was proclaimed by an army of angels singing "glory to God" and witnessed by lowly shepherds. He was born of a virgin, again in fulfillment of prophecy. He grew from a baby to a child to a full-grown man. During his short life of about 33 years, Jesus never sinned once, living a life in perfect obedience to His Heavenly Father. He never wrote any books, never led any armies into battle, never owned much of anything. In His adult life, He taught large crowds, healed the sick, raised the dead, and fed the hungry. During the last three years of His life, He led and taught twelve disciples, one of whom eventually betrayed Him to the authorities, so that He was crucified, a terrible, agonizing death reserved only for the worst of criminals. Disheartened and discouraged, His twelve disciples went into hiding out of fear of what the

authorities would also do to them. Amazingly, on the third day, the first Easter which we celebrate each Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead. His resurrection from the dead energized His disciples. Boldness replaced fear. By the power and grace of God, they boldly proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus and the forgiveness of sins through Him. The Holy Spirit inspired them to record the deeds and words of Jesus Christ forming a collection of writings which we now know as the New Testament. That was the First Advent, the first coming of Jesus Christ.

Christ's Second and Ongoing Advent in the Lord's Supper: But we do not simply celebrate the First Advent of Christ in this Advent Season, but also His ongoing present Advent, His coming to us in the Lord's Supper. For in the Lord's Supper, Jesus promises to give us His body and blood, so that He comes to us every time we receive the Lord's Supper. When Jesus established the Lord's Supper, the evening before He was crucified for us, He promised us that the bread is His body and the wine is His blood, and that we receive the bread/body and the wine/blood for the forgiveness of our sins, the forgiveness which He won for us on the cross of Calvary.

Christ's Third and Final Advent: Because God is rich in His grace and mercy, there is even another advent of Christ in addition to His First Advent in His birth, life, death, and resurrection and to the ongoing presence of His body and blood in the Lord's Supper. That is what is called Christ's Final Advent, His second coming, at the end of the world, when He returns for judgment and salvation. For the entire life of the believer is lived in the light of the certain promise and hope that Christ will soon return visibly to take all who believe in Him home to heaven. In Matthew 24:30ff, Jesus gives this certain promise of His final Advent, when He will send out His angels to gather all the believers, all the elect, the chosen, from the far corners of the earth to bring them to heaven: "All the nations of the earth...will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." God's promises of the Final Advent of Christ, His return for judgment and salvation, are given to us so that we might be hopeful, not in the sense of a maybe hope but a certain hope. No matter how bad our lives get, we know what will happen to us when we die or when Christ returns—we will go to heaven through faith in Him.

In this Season of Advent, we focus on the three Advents of Christ, so that we might be grace-filled, faith-filled and hope-filled! May God bless you through the coming of Christ in this Advent Season of 2022! Pastor Brechbuhl

Anxiety vs. Trust

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25-33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). God's kingdom is His rule

among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

- LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

DECEMBER BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

ARING, Brandon N.	1-Dec
HASCHEMEYER, Christopher B.	1-Dec
MAGELITZ, JUDITH A.	1-Dec
MCCLELLAN, Bailey E.	1-Dec
MICHAELS, Catherine I.	1-Dec
LAIR, Allison M.	3-Dec
KING, Stephen M.	5-Dec
SNIDER, Doris D.	5-Dec
STEINACHER, HENRY	5-Dec
WHITE, Erika K.	5-Dec
SIEVING, Stephanie O.	7-Dec
STEINACHER, John H.	8-Dec
BAKER, Carol A.	9-Dec
ERIXON, Brenda L.	10-Dec
FREED, Michelle B.	10-Dec
GARRETT, Michael D.	10-Dec
PETERSON, Alli B.	10-Dec
STRUBBE, Aaron C.	10-Dec
DUDLEY, Barbara	11-Dec
HAYNES, EMBRY T.	12-Dec
LEUTZ, Benjamin J.	12-Dec
CARL, Carol A.	13-Dec
MCCLELLAN, Rebecca S.	14-Dec
SANDERS, Zachory J.	15-Dec
CASEY, Ashley A.	17-Dec
WIEGAND, Amber N.	17-Dec
WIEGAND, Audra L.	17-Dec
BAKER, Heather	18-Dec
BAKER, Heather L.	18-Dec
BUMGARNER, Joseph M.	18-Dec
DERGES, Sarah M.	18-Dec
O'HARA, Kristy N.	18-Dec
WANKEL, Caleb M.	18-Dec
MCFADDEN, Robin L.	19-Dec
REEVES Jr., Robert W.	19-Dec
GARMAN, Nicholas A.	20-Dec

SCHAEFER, Blake R.	22-Dec
STRUBBE,W, Dalton W.	22-Dec
BLANCHETTE, Joshua P.	23-Dec
DERTZ, Jonathan M.	25-Dec
SHERRILL, Susanna L.	25-Dec
WILLIAMS-B-EDWARDS, Amy J.	26-Dec
CLEMONS, Tyler R.	27-Dec
CROW, Kelsie L.	27-Dec
SIEVING, Kameron A.	28-Dec
SLAVENS, Kristel N.	28-Dec
JACKSON, Donna M.	29-Dec
LIETZ, Mark C.	29-Dec
MATHIAS, Alexandra V.	29-Dec
GREGORY, Deborah A.	30-Dec

Jan. 1st 9:00 am Rev. Brechbuhl with Holy Communion + The Adult Bible Class will be immediately after the service and taught by Rev. Riemer, when other pastors have to leave to preach elsewhere.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

ANNIVERSARY INVITATION: Randy and Rita Tendick will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, December 2. Their family is hosting a reception for them in Salem's Annex from 2-4 pm on Saturday, December 17. The congregation is invited to attend. The couple requests that gifts be omitted.

SALEM LADIES GUILD: The Salem Ladies' Guild will be hosting their annual Cookie Walk on Friday, December 2, 2022, from 3:00-5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Guild members will be calling church members for cookie donations, which will be 4-5 dozen cookies. If you would like to volunteer your cookie donation in advance of the call, just contact Vickie Austin (217) 361-9423. As always, the Ladies' Guild is most appreciative of the generosity of our Salem members for this yearly project

RADIO OPENING: Salem Lutheran is in search of volunteers that would like to learn how to broadcast our services. If you would be interested in the opportunity to do that or would just like to see if you would enjoy doing this, please see Kevin Eckhoff. He would be willing to let you sit in and check it out. Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. An opportunity to learn something new and help Salem out. Thank you

SCRIPT CARDS: Please remember the script card program here at Salem. The money made from you purchasing gift cards goes directly to the School. In today's world, it is much safer to use a gift card to make purchases, buy gasoline and etc., that way you are not putting your credit card into a machine that might get compromised. Please remember Salem when making purchases of gift cards.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Salem is back to having monthly committee meetings. With the COVID19 we all have become lacks and have taken a step back to being in meetings. We would like to invite all who are on committees back to the meetings and invite anyone new that would like to participate on a committee to come. Committee meetings are held the second Tuesday night at 6:30 pm here at Salem. All are welcome and everyone needs to come together and get involved. Thank you.

DEACONS: Listed below are the names of the Deacons for Salem Lutheran 2022. Please feel free to give your Deacon a call.

Group 1: "AA-GARM" Wade Mathis 217-690-2693
Group 2: "GARR-MAN" Austin Tomhave 217-883-3461

NEW BABY: Crystal and Travis Trisler became new parents of a baby girl, Haley Nicole Trisler on October 26th. Haley weighed 7 lbs 3 oz and 18.5 inches long. Haley joins siblings Rebecca and Natalie. Grandparents are Steve and Deborah Steinacher. May the Lord Bless this new addition to the Trisler/Steinacher family.

GENERAL ELECTION: The General Election for Elders was held November 5th & 6th. The results of the election are as follows: New Elders elected are, Danny Engebrecht, Darin Gehrke, Kyle Schumacher, John Steinacher.

CONGREGATIONAL HELP: Our PTL funds Christmas for our staff. With the passing of the Morgan County Tournament these funds are not as available. If you would like to help fund this, please mark your envelope "PTL" Thank you

SWADDLING CLOTHES: We are excited to announce that we will begin accepting donations for Swaddling Clothes program at Salem. Donations could include: diapers, wipes and any monetary donation would be gladly accepted. Please contact Linda Strubbe if you have any questions or need any more information.

UPCOMING SALEM WORSHIP START TIMES:

Dec. 4th 9:00 am Rev. Riemer – Advent 2
Dec. 7th 6:00 am Rev. Phillips (Wednesday MW) Advent 2
Dec. 11th 9:00 am Rev. Brechbuhl – Advent 3
Dec. 14th 6:00 pm Rev. Brechbuhl (Wednesday MW)Advent 3 - /School Advent Svc.
Dec. 18th 9:00 am Rev. Brechbuhl Sunday Advent 4
Dec. 21st 6:00 pm Rev. Brechbuhl Wednesday MW Advent 4
Dec. 24th 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight with Holy Communion
Dec. 25th 9:00 am Rev. Brechbuhl Christmas with Holy Communion
Dec. 31st 6:00 pm New Year's Eve with Holy Communion

Group 3: "MASS-SHE"
 Group 4: "SHIR-ZIM" Dwayne Middendorf 217-248-2091
 Two Elders assisting Deacons:
 Larry Baker (217)370-1480, Gerald Warcup (217)243-2620



PACK THE HOUSE: It's back! Come socialize with the Salem Lutheran family at Leo's Pizza every 3rd Thursday of the month! December 15th Dine-In or Carry out. Mention this event and Salem receives 15% of all sales for the night

**R FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
 WORK PROGRAM**

Fiscal Year 8/31/2022 - 07/31/2023
 (from 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)

**CURRENT FINANCIAL
 INDEBTEDNESS**

7/31/20	9/30/22
Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$122,900.20	\$0.00
Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00	\$0.00
	LEAP
\$828,100.60	\$672,653.83

**Financial Status Report for
 September 2022**

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 51,874.82
Our operating receipts September, 2022:	\$ 476,921.93
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$ 105,771.54
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$ 84,807.35
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	\$ -11,122.90

SCHOOL NEWS

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA: As we approach the time of year where we reflect on all things that God has provided, I wanted to take a moment to thank YOU! I have been blessed by many of you in my journey to get here and get the beginning of the school year going. From the moment I accepted the call to be principal, there YOU were!

When I needed a place to live, but couldn't come look in person, there YOU were! When I got here ahead of my household items and needed a place to stay, there YOU

were. When my pod needed unloading (Multiple times due to delays) there YOU were! When my laundry room needed help with the new washer and dryer, there YOU were! When I wanted to make changes to help our school grow, there YOU were! Whenever I have reached out, for personal or professional needs, there YOU were. Thank YOU for making this time of transition go so smoothly! I look forward to getting to know YOU better! A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17

What a month we have had! Trunk or Treat was a great success even with the rainy weather. We were able to serve around 100 children and their adults. Special thanks to those who provided a trunk with a treat: The Reimers, Leta Malcott, The Tomhave's, Deaconess Strubbe, Paul, The Petri's, All three Steinacher's, The Wiegand's, Ms. Reitsma, The Robinsons, Mrs. Lysaythong, and Little Mexico Food Truck. Our first Pack the House was a HUGE success!!! Thank you to all who supported the school by either dining in or carrying out from Leo's pizza. We had many field trips this month as well. Our preschool went to the library and to Leo's pizza to learn the process of making pizza. They even got to make one themselves! Our grade school students visited the Strawn Art Gallery where they learned about two local artist who were showing there. We were also blessed to have author Tracy Schlepffhorst and her dog, Ripley, who came to share her book series and the writing process with our students. This event was sponsored by Thrivent. Thank you Jane Henderson for putting this together for us! Our middle school students continue to make us proud here at Salem by serving the community. Most recently, they have begun serving at the food bank on Thursday mornings. They help unpack the truck, organize shelves as well as measure out sugar and flour. We are so excited to see them learn the value in serving others and being the hands and feet of God to those in our community. Thank you Rita Tendick for taking them!



PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN News from Mrs. Lysaythong & Mrs. Wiegand: The students learned about the animals that God created through the story of Noah the Ark. The story taught the students what it means to be faithful in the Lord regardless of what other people may say or think. In our Spanish component the students learned how to say their favorite animals in Spanish, researched about the animal's habitat and how they live and survive in the wild. To further expand the student's knowledge about animals we added the study of

hibernation and nocturnal animals. In the preschool 3 classroom, the students created a cave and sign for their bear to hibernate! Throughout the week the students had to be quiet when entering the classroom to make sure not wake-up the bear. Per the preschool 4 and kindergartners our focus was on the science of a bear's metabolic activity which causes the body's temperature to drop as well as the heart rate necessary to enter into the state of hibernation! The students did more than just became competent in the world of animals but acquired the knowledge to appreciate all God's creation and respect for the natural wonders all around them!



Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 23-25- NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 1- Picture RETAKE Day
- Dec. 7- PTL meeting at 4pm
- Dec. 14- Students lead Advent Service 6pm
reception to follow
- Dec. 15- Pack the House at Leo's Pizza
- Dec. 16- End of 2nd Quarter
- Dec. 19-Jan 2- NO SCHOOL- Christmas Break

1st & 2nd GRADE NEWS from Mrs. Deborah Steinacher: We have been busy admiring God's wonderful creation! October was filled with lots of great things. In science we learned about rocks and minerals. We looked at all shapes and sizes of rocks. Some of them were geodes, lava rocks, and even rocks with fossils. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to discuss the Great Flood. It gave us time to learn about the Great Flood and how it created fossils, We have also been learning about the Reformation and Luther's seal. The class loved kept telling

me, "That's what we have been learning about in class!" In November we have been continuing to pull in things about Luther's seal when we have been discussing the many, many things that God has blessed us with and to be thankful for especially Jesus dying and rising for us, forgiveness of our sins, and eternal life in heaven with Jesus. Thank you so much for your support. God's blessings.

3rd, 4th & 5th GRADE NEWS from Mrs. Blayre Petri

It is so fun to see the excitement on the student's face when a familiar hymn or song is played during music time on Fridays. My 3rd and 4th grade students truly enjoy praising God through music. We have been joining the 1st and 2nd graders on Fridays which is also so much fun! For the past few months we have been working hard on our hymn "Father Welcomes," that we will be singing in October. The Christian songs we sing during music remind us of the everlasting love God has for each and every one of us! God Bless, Mrs. Petr