

Salem Lutheran
Church and School

Jacksonville, IL 62650 | 217-243-3419
salemjax.net | salemjaxschool.net

January, 2023 Newsletter



INSIGHT FROM THE WORD OF GOD: EPIPHANY

The Festival of Epiphany falls on January 6th each year and focuses on the wise men following the guiding star which lead them to Bethlehem to worship the Christ Child. Epiphany is a Greek word which means "appearing" referring to the appearing of the star which pointed to the appearing of Jesus Christ, the Son of God born into the world to save the world from sin. The shining star brings to Epiphany the theme of light. And because the wise men were the first non-Jews to worship Jesus, Epiphany reminds us that Jesus was born not to save just the Jews, but all people! "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19), so that Jesus is "the Light of the World" (John 12:46). Let me encourage you to share the good news of Jesus with others—in your family, at work, with your friends. This good news is the simple, attractive message: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son!" Pastor Brechbuhl

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – January 2023

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds. The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures. St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace

abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15). St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether. First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22). Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16). Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34). Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it. So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

UPCOMING SALEM WORSHIP SERVICES

Jan. 1 8:30 am Rev. Brechbuhl Sunday (preaching afterwards at St. Paul's Church)
Jan. 8 9:00 am Rev Brechbuhl Sunday
Jan 15 9:00 am Rev. Brechbuhl Sunday
Jan 22 9:00 am Rev. Riemer Sunday
Jan 29 8:30 am Rev. Gene Strattman Sunday

JANUARY BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

AUSTIN Jr., Marshall H.	1-Jan
ENGBRECHT, Karen A.	1-Jan
ERIXON, Lance K.	1-Jan
HILSABECK, Robin H.	1-Jan
KORDING, Daneita J.	1-Jan
LASHMET, Ronald N. (Ron)	1-Jan
LAWSON, MICHELLE	1-Jan
LEINBERGER, David A.	1-Jan
LEUTZ, Darr W.	1-Jan
NOBIS, Claudine M.	1-Jan
PRATT, Alan S.	1-Jan
RAHE, Alice R.	1-Jan
THRASHER, Tracy S.	1-Jan
WILEY, John	1-Jan
WARCUP, Haylee S.	4-Jan
DAVIDSMEYER, John W. (Bill)	5-Jan
LAKAMP, Ashlynn E.	5-Jan
STEPHENS, William H.	5-Jan
ROSADO, JR Jr., Paul Haynes, Ellen	7-Jan 8-Jan
Massey, Adalynn G.	9-Jan
SCHUMACHER, Jone P.	9-Jan
MATHIS, Lydia R.	10-Jan
SALCIDO, Paul W.	11-Jan
SCOBBI, Lauren K.	11-Jan
GLOSSOP, Lorri L.	12-Jan
HADDEN, Paul W.	12-Jan
HASCHEMEYER, Jennifer C.	12-Jan
BAKER, Roger L.	14-Jan
BUMGARNER, Cheryl L.	15-Jan
GERMAN, Aileen	16-Jan
BEZLER, Jack W.	17-Jan
BEZLER, Samuel Q.	17-Jan
IRLAM, August J.	17-Jan
IRLAM, Carsyn R.	17-Jan
OLIVER, Marjorie A. (Marj)	17-Jan
HADDEN, Lisa D.	19-Jan
GANT, William T. (Willie)	20-Jan

POCKLINGTON, Mary E.	20-Jan
RUNYON, Jeffrey D.	21-Jan
CHAPPELL, Alicia R.	23-Jan
SALCIDO, Henry M.	23-Jan
ALEXANDER, Stephanie D.	25-Jan
SHORT, Kelcy S.	25-Jan
ZIMMER, Dennis M.	25-Jan
DAVIDSMEYER, Darcy E.	26-Jan
BAKER, Rhonda J.	27-Jan
SMITH, Tahni L.	27-Jan
SHEELEY, Rose M.	29-Jan
TOMHAVE, Philip W.	31-Jan

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.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

ELDERS & DEACONS INSTALLATION

JANUARY 8th Both new and continuing Elders and Deacons will be installed during the service.

ELDERS: David Hannel, Chairman; Kevin Eckhoff, Vice Chairman; Danny Magelitz, Treasurer; Rodney Dolen, Secretary; Larry Baker, Bruce Engebrecht, Danny Engebrecht Darin Gehrke Gary Hadden, Kyle Schumacher, John Steinacher, Gerald Warcup

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
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

KEY MAN LIST: Attached to your January, 2023 Newsletter is the Key Man List for 2023. If you are listed and are unable to serve your appointed week, please contact the office so we can find an alternate for you. If you are not on the list and would like to become a key man, please contact the office. Thank you

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

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.



PACK THE HOUSE: It's back! Come socialize with the Salem Lutheran family at Leo's Pizza every 3rd Thursday of the month! January 19th Dine-In or Carry out. Mention this event and Salem receives 15% of all sales for the night

THANK YOU: Thank you to Doorbell Dinners volunteers who helped deliver Doorbell Dinners during the week of December 5th-9th: Elaine Jarman, Mary Anne Lawson, Danny Magelitz, Joanne Campbell, Ruth Werries, and Linda Strubbe. Also, thank you to the following students from grades six-seven: Alicia Antemate, Sophia Robinson, Alex Baker, and Phoenix Dertz. We have fun helping those in need in the Jacksonville community. If you want to join in the fun our next assignment is the week of April 3-7. May God bless all of our faithful helps.

LADIES GUILD: Ladies Guild meeting will be Monday, January 16th at 3:00 pm. Please plan on attending. Thank you.

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 19-Jan 2- NO SCHOOL- Christmas Break
- Jan. 3 - School resumes
- Jan. 11 - PTL meeting 4:00 pm
- Jan. 13 - Report Cards go out
- Jan. 16 - No School - MLK Day
- Jan. 18 - Awards after 8:30 chapel
- Jan. 19 - Pack the House at Leo's pizza
- Jan. 22-28 National Lutheran School's Week (Stay tuned for more details!)

**OUR 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	10/31/22
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
October 2022**

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 51,874.82
Our operating receipts October, 2022:	\$ 81,754.30
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$ 155,406.41
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$ 166,561.65
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	\$ 11,155.24

SCHOOL NEWS



**NEWS FROM
PRINCIPAL JOY
REITSMA:**

As we head into the 4th week of Advent, we wait with prayer and penance for the birth of our Savior. This week follows week 3 where we celebrated with joy, the birth of our Savior to come. In week 4, we wait again with hope for the one who will bring "Peace on earth, good will toward men." May the peace that comes with the Savior's birth be with you this Christmas season and always. "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12 We have had a great first half of the school year! This month featured another successful Pack the house at Leo's pizza. Funds from Pack the House will be used for the start up costs for the new 2K program starting this summer. Our students lead worship for the

third week of Advent. Their service, Promises, was a fantastic reminder of the reason Jesus was sent- to redeem us from our sins. Thank you to Lauretta Scheller, Gloria Kusy and Leta Malcott for putting together the costumes for this service. We will also have one of our students, Phoenix Dertz being baptized Christmas Day! Come celebrate this special event with him! Watching our students share the Gospel and getting baptized is the reason we have Salem Lutheran School! Thank you all for your continued support!

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN News from Mrs. Lysaythong & Mrs. Wiegand: The students learned how God created the gift of winter to slow us down from our day to day busy schedule. With less sunlight, cooler weather, and days off during winter the break will give us more time to relax and spend with our families and friends! Thank God! In preschool 3 the students practiced cutting with a scissor, sorted Christmas shapes by colors, and decorated gingerbread houses! In the area of cognitive development they focused on identifying and writing the letters in their first names. With the preschool 4 and kindergarten class they explored in-depth into the season of winter by understanding the process of how snow is created and the effects of winter on the natural environment and as well as people. For art and math the students engaged in a long-term paper Mache snowman sculpture project to enhance their brain development in the areas of motor (physical), language and communication, social and emotional, and cognitive. Both classes ended the month by celebrating the birth of baby Jesus with a gift exchange and dance party!



1st & 2ND GRADE NEWS from Mrs. Deborah Steinacher: The month has been a busy one! We were so excited to practice our songs and recitations for the Advent service that the students presented. They really enjoyed being able to tell the Good News of Jesus birth to everyone! It was exciting for them to see the Nativity with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the animals, the shepherds, the angels, and the wise men. We also did a variety of Christmas activities to help the class be prepared for the true meaning of Christmas. We wrote a poem about the first Christmas. We made two ornaments to help them see the connection between Christmas and Easter. The class also made an ornament and some Christmas cards for some nursing home residents. They were so excited to be able to tell them about Jesus birth through our cards and ornament.

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! God Bless, Mrs. Petri