

Salem Lutheran  
Church and School

Jacksonville, IL 62650 | 217-243-3419  
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# January 2024 Newsletter

## Insight From God's Word: All Things New Through The Christ Child!



We  
are now  
towards the  
end of  
celebrating

the birth of the Christ Child. Some of our loved ones may still be home for Christmas, but others have already returned. The Christmas Eve services were a joy, reinforcing that old, old story which we have heard, year after year, of the birth of God's only Son to be the Savior of the world. The presents have been unwrapped and some returned. Another Christmas has come and gone. So why do we keep on celebrating Christmas? The story is always the same!

**We celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, because Christ makes all things new.** For example, even secular society numbers each year as part of a new era which began with the birth of the Christ Child. We are shortly entering the new year A. D. 2024, from the Latin "anno Domini", meaning "year of our Lord 2024."

Secondly, through faith in Christ we are members of the **new covenant** in His blood. In that new covenant, we receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. In the Holy Supper of the new covenant, we receive Christ's body and blood. In this new covenant, we forgive others, because God has first forgiven us in Christ.

Thirdly, through the Christ Child we are **new creations**. Through baptism into Christ, His death daily becomes our death, so that we die to sin and come alive again, sharing in Christ's resurrection. Because we are new creations in Christ, every day God gives us the power to turn over a new leaf: to turn from our sin habits to godly living for the sake of and by the power of Christ.

May this year's celebration of the birth of

the Christ Child be a reminder to you that **all things are new through the Christ Child**. May you look to the new year as the opportunity to demonstrate that truth in your life. Pastor Brechbuhl

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry —  
[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship) Newsletter Article – January  
2024 The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, "Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land" (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of "you shall not murder"? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

## 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
LAKAMP, Ashlynn E.	5-Jan
STEPHENS, William H.	5-Jan
ROSADO, JR Jr., Paul	7-Jan
Haynes, Ellen	8-Jan
Massey, Adalynn G.	9-Jan
SCHUMACHER, Jone P.	9-Jan
MATHIS, Lydia R.	10-Jan
SALCIDO, Paul W.	11-Jan
SCOBIE, Lauren K.	11-Jan
GLOSSOP, Lorri L.	12-Jan
HADDEN, Paul W.	12-Jan
HASCHEMEYER, Jennifer	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
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

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### PREACHING SCHEDULE PASTORS

NOTE: ALL START TIMES ARE AT 9 AM

Jan. 07	9 am	Brechbuhl
Jan. 14	9 am	Strattman
Jan. 21	9 am	Theilen
Jan. 28	9 am	Riemer

**REMINDERS:** DON'T ASSUME that Pastor knows when you are hospitalized. Please call the Church Office 243-3419 to let us know when you enter the hospital.

**SPECIAL CONGREGATION VOTERS MEETING:** A Special Congregational Voter's Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> after the morning Church Service to discuss the call committee recommendations. Please plan on attending.

**Circuit Epiphany Service Jan 6 10AM Beardstown:** Please join our circuit as we gather for worship on the Feast of Epiphany at St. John's in Beardstown. A Communion Service will be held on Saturday, January 6, at 10:00 a.m. As the Magi followed the star to the house where Jesus was, so we too behold Him and worship.

**LADIES GUILD MEETING:** The Ladies Guild meeting will be on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm with installation of officers. Please plan on attending. Thank you.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN-** We have received gifts of \$30,000 and have made that payment, bringing the balance down to under \$600,000 now. The balance of \$ 585,000. The balance in the LEAP Account is up to \$15,000. Anything over \$15,000 is being sent on to the Church Extension Fund. We are receiving more each week. We have received some Pledge Cards back as well. It is amazing to see what happens when the Lord goes to work. Continue to pray for the Capital Campaign. The Lord Bless you.

**SCRIPT CARDS:** We have ordered script cards to be available in the office. There are several different cards that are available. The gift cards that are available in the office are as follows: Amazon, Wal-Mart, Shell, Casey, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, and Walgreens. We can also order any gift card that you would need. Please let us know if you can use any of the above or we can place an order for you. The money made from these cards will benefit the School and PTL.

**ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** With the upcoming winter weather, we would like to ask for assistance in cleaning the sidewalks. Please contact David Hannel (217)-491-0722. Thank you.

**OUT FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK:** The School will be out for Christmas Break starting at noon on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will return on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Paula will be in and out during this Christmas Break, trying to use more of her vacation time. Please call the office to make sure Paula will be here. If no answer, please leave a message, Paula will check the voicemail. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Merry Christmas!

**THANK YOU:** I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank you. I have received all kinds of wonderful gifts this Christmas Season. You need to know that all of you hold a very special spot within my heart and I am very appreciative of the opportunity to work for you. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to a great New Year here at Salem. Paula

**LFL NUTS:** If you need nuts, the Lutheran for Life still has some. They have (5) Almonds, (10) Pecan halves and (10) English Walnuts. If interested, please contact Ruth Werries (217)473-6736. Thank you

**Capital Campaign - Continue to pray for the Capital Campaign that the Lord would send the money to pay the "LEAP" loan in full.**

**GREETERS WANTED:** The Evangelism committee is looking for volunteers to be Greeters at the Sunday morning Worship Service. You will need to be here by 8:30 am. If you would be interested, please contact Paul Reither, (217)-248-0550 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.

**FRIENDSHIP BIBLE DATES:** The Christmas Friendship Bible Service has been moved to January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm. Thank you

**COMMITTEES:** We are looking for individuals to be on our committees. We have several committees that are in need of adding to the committee. If you would like to join a committee, please talk with David Hannel. He will provide you with the available committees and what openings Salem has. Please be a part of the solution at Salem. 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

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.

**ADOPT A STUDENT:** The Adopt a Student Fund is receiving requests for assistance from some of our students for the upcoming school year. We would like to assist these families, but we need the help from the Congregation. If you would you like to help, please mark your envelope "Family In Need". The money you donate will go directly to these family's account. If you would like to sponsor a student for a month, 3 months, 6 months, or a full year, please call the office. We would love to have such donors. Thank you.

## SCHOOL NEWS

**NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA:** It is hard to believe, but we are finishing the first half of the school year! The year has really been moving fast for our school children. We have had many field trips, both off campus and on. We have shared in worship with our church family 3 times. We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior and enjoying a much-needed break from school before beginning the second half of the year. We wish everyone a blessed New Year. We will be back and ready to roll on January 8!

## **PRESCHOOL Pre-K2 News from Ms. Hathaway /Ms. Wilson,**

Learning Focus: Holidays and the Birth of Christ

The students have been working very hard on their Christmas Service Program songs. We have been learning about the birth of Jesus and what that means for us and the real reason we celebrate this season! All month long we are also celebrating by making Christmas trees, reindeer, snowflakes and ornaments. Pre- K 2 is working hard to name their colors, match the shapes and count to 5. We look forward to having our Christmas party with families next week and build gingerbread houses together.



### Pre-K3 News from Ms. Martin,

Learning Focus Birth of Christ the meaning of Christmas: Each day we have been discussing the birth of Christ and why we celebrate Christmas is more than just a day of gifts under a tree. Learning all of the Christmas service songs has been our big focus to sing and perform for all the families and members of the congregation. We are focusing on the letters E, F, & G this month and with the numbers 10, 1, & 2. Also, starting to work with our shapes and how many sides some of the shapes do have. Our arts have been in a variety of forms. They kids have enjoyed watercoloring painting, tempera paint sticks, and acrylic paint. We have been using other items other than paint brushes to paint with like, cotton balls and feathers.

### Pre-K4 Mrs Lysaythong:

Monthly Theme: Winter/Holiday Celebrations

Bible Story: Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem

The students listened to the story, "Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem" and related to the story of Christmas. Mary then wondered how this was possible since she had not been with a man. The Angel Gabriel then explains the miracle of Christ's incarnation. He was born of a virgin, just as the prophecy had predicted in [Isaiah 7:14](#), "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Preschool 4: The students learned the art of being kind to not just their immediate families but to friends and sometimes even to strangers who they have never met. We started the month of December with Kindness and what it looks like through kind words and actions. The students created greeting cards for the patients at Walker Nursing Home Inc. in Virginia, painted a giant kindness ornament, molded their own 3-D clay snowman, and discussed what they will be doing over the winter break! Most importantly the students have been busy practicing their songs and look forward to sharing the story of Christmas for their parents and the congregation!



### Kindergarten News from Mrs. Audrey Sprinkel:

This month we are learning so much in kindergarten! In reading, we are working on sight words, and doing more independent and parrot reads to work on our reading skills. We are talking about our neighbors and Christmas traditions in our families. In math we are working on counting by problem solving, paying with dimes up to a dollar, and following a recipe with halves and whole fractions. We will be practicing following a recipe for Christmas cookies! Students are learning about maps and globes as well as weather in social studies. Students are learning about how weather affects people and the areas in which they live. In science we are learning about characteristics of different objects. Students are so excited for Christmas, and we have been celebrating in religion class by talking about the birth of Jesus and the real reason for this season. Students have participated in our Christmas program on Dec. 13. The students did amazing and the program was a success! We are so excited for the rest of December, and we cannot wait to share it with you!

God Bless!

### 1st & 2nd Grade News from Mrs. Deborah

Steinacher: December has been an exciting month! The class loves spreading the Good News of Jesus. We made several art projects for the hallway. We painted Christmas trees, made a project of the town of Bethlehem on foil, and created a picture of the manger. Art is a wonderful way of telling others about baby Jesus being our Savior. The class also made Christmas cards and candy cane ornaments to send to several shut-ins in Jacksonville. It was a wonderful way for the class to spread Christmas cheer, to tell them Merry Christmas, and to show others Jesus' love. The month was also filled with learning recitations and songs for the children's Christmas service. They were so excited be apart of the Christmas service and to tell everyone about baby Jesus. God's blessings to everyone!

### 6th & 8th Grade News from Ms. Joy Reitsma:

Middle School ends the second quarter with history projects, science and math tests, debates in Language Arts and of course, a Christmas Party! They went shopping with the Ladies Guild to buy some much needed items for the Jacksonville Food Center. They are excited to enjoy a few weeks of rest before we tackle the second half of the year. Merry Christmas to all!

**WORK PROGRAM**

**Fiscal Year 8/31/2023 – 07/31/2024**

(From 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)

**CURRENT FINANCIAL**

**INDEBTEDNESS**

<b>7/31/23</b>		<b>10/30/23</b>
	Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$122,900.20		\$0.00
	Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00		\$0.00
	LEAP	
\$677,802.80		\$610,297.87

**Financial Status Report for  
September 2023**

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 59,549.42
Our operating receipts October 2023:	\$ 72,617.41
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$200,169.21
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$160,521.90
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	\$(39,647.31)