

the Bugle

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined. – Isaiah 9:2*



As December comes, the length of sunlight each day lessens. Winter is coming along with more darkness and colder temperatures as the earth makes its way around the sun and leans away from the more direct path of the sun's light leaving us more often in the dark. Shadows disappear in the darkness and as a child that left me feeling alone and afraid. I was comforted by the presence of my shadow while the light of the sun was present but in the dark, that companion disappeared, and in its place, lived all sorts of scary things lurking in the darkness. Over time, I grew less fearful of the dark, and now even value the dark for rest and renewal. We also know the earth's orbit continues and by the end of the month, we will slowly experience a change and the light will return. The shadows will shorten as the sun rides higher and higher in the sky until it is right overhead again.

The prophet Isaiah shared a message from God to a people who were at the eve of the darkness. Soon, the armies of the north would overtake them and haul them off from their homeland to captivity. They too would be left in the dark and removed from what they experienced as the presence of God. But for them, too, the light would come. The presence of God would be revealed, and the darkness of their captivity would be transformed into the brightness of God's glory yet again.

As plans unfold this month, I invite you to join me in celebrating the coming of God's Son, bright with hope to illuminate the darkness and restore our joy once again. This issue of the Bugle includes several opportunities to celebrate Christ's coming among us. The candles in the Advent wreath will count the weeks as we anticipate the fullness of love, joy, hope, and peace fulfilled in the promise of a Savior as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true light coming into the world. May the joy of his coming renew our hearts, and I pray we come together with renewed hope for Christ the Savior comes among us. Walk and live in the light of his love. I encourage you to invite someone to share the good news of Jesus through the many opportunities for worship and fellowship at Salem this month.

Blessed Christmas! -Pastor Craig



Poinsettia Donations

The church is going to purchase poinsettias for the Chancel to provide a more festive atmosphere. You may make a donation along with any information describing "in honor" or "in memory" or "in celebration" to be included in the Chancel and livestream slides for Christmas. Donations may be made online (<https://form.jotform.com/salemofpeoria/poinsettia-donations>) or through the church office (office@salemofpeoria.com or 309-688-9212).



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Pastoral Emergency Number:
In case of emergency please call:
Pastor Craig: 309-258-4759 or
Lori Reimer: 309-303-3808

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 at 6:30PM

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

Holden Evening Prayer is a simple Lutheran vespers service. Join in this evening prayer on **Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30pm**, and experience the heart of the Christmas narrative beautifully set to the words and music by Marty Haugen. Coffee and cookies available following this service.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 6:30PM

SERVICE OF SOLACE

The weeks of Advent and Christmas are for many, times of great joy and exuberance, but for some they are also difficult weeks filled with grief, regrets, and longing. May this service on **December 14 at 6:30pm in the Faith Chapel** offer the hope and healing promised in Jesus' coming.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 at 11AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, Sunday School will be offering their Christmas program during the **11am worship service on December 18**. We will join our voices together in worship and praise for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the life everlasting he gives.



CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **4PM** - Service especially for children and families ending in candlelight
- **7PM** - Service with brass ensemble and Sanctuary Choir with the service ending in candlelight

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

- **10AM** - Christmas Day Sunday Worship

NEW YEAR'S DAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

- **10AM** - New Year's Day Sunday Worship

Planning to Make a Year-End Charitable Contribution to Salem?

Thanks so much to those who have already made a special gift to Salem at the close of 2022. It's a real blessing to our ministry together. Such a gift can also be beneficial in easing your tax burden! If you are planning a gift to offset 2022 income, you'll want to be aware of the official rules from the IRS: "Donors must deliver or mail checks on or by December 31, 2022, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2022. Checks that are placed in the church offering on the first Sunday of 2023 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2022, even if the check is pre-dated to 2022 or was actually written in 2022. However, checks that are written, mailed and post-marked in 2022 will be deductible in 2022 though they are not received by a church until 2023."

Thank you for keeping these things in mind as you plan your giving, and blessings and peace on your New Year ahead!

Salem Library



Emmanuel: An Invitation to Prepare Him Room at Christmas and Always
by Ruth Chou Simons (242.33 CHO)

Christmas isn't the end of our celebrations---it's only the beginning! In this gorgeously illustrated 25-day Advent devotional, best-selling author Simons invites you to let the story of Jesus' birth change the way you celebrate the season. Discover how to replace unrealistic expectations with a simple focus on experiencing "God with us" every day---all year long!

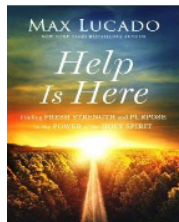


Christmas Changes Everything by Elisa Morgan (242.33 MOR)
Mary said yes.

Joseph surrendered.

Herod rejected the true king.

Christmas changes everything--and everyone. Nowhere is this more evident than in the stories of the men and women who experienced the first Christmas. From Zechariah's encounter with an angel in the temple to the Magi who traveled to a village in the Judean wilderness. Christmas influenced who they were, who they would become, and how they would live out their faith--or leave it behind. Elisa Morgan explores how God coming to earth as a human child can change us today. We learn to say yes to God, accepting His design for our lives. We learn to rejoice, even when we don't understand His ways. And we learn to hope expectantly, confident that He will fulfill His promises to us.



Help Is Here by Max Lucado (231.3 LUC)

Are you drowning in questions you can't answer and problems you can't solve? Grab on to the life-saving strength of the Holy Spirit! Reminding you that limitations don't define you, Lucado reveals who the Spirit is, how he can empower us to become more joyful, and ways we can overcome anything when we draw closer to God.

Celebrating the Reformation

Thank you to the Salem youth for providing a Reformation skit, to the Sunday School teachers for helping assist children with crafts, and to Jason Brinkman for special music during Education Hour on Reformation Sunday on Sunday, October 30.

Sunday School Students Learn about Lutheran Heritage



photography by Laura Hartman

Salem Youth Christmas Party

Salem Youth (6th – 8th grade and high school) will join youth at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Washington for a combined Christmas Party on **Sunday, December 18, from 5PM-7PM**. There will be great food, fun and games, including a Christmas gift exchange. Please bring a fun, gender-neutral, wrapped gift- something sure to be a hit with your peers - that costs you less than \$10. (Note: There will be a prize for the gift voted "favorite gift exchange item" by the group). Watch for your invitations and be sure to RSVP as indicated. We will leave by bus from the Salem Parking lot at 4:30PM or you can meet us at St. Mark's off of the square in Washington at 5PM. Both Salem and St. Mark's Youth are encouraged to invite a friend!



CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Adult Fellowship, Dec 1

There will be an adult fellowship Christmas party on **Thursday, December 1 at 7pm** at the Lariat Steakhouse (2232 W. Glen in Peoria) at a private room to right of entry with a space for 14-16 persons. Please call Merrell Hickey (309-231-9512) to sign up as space is limited.

Christmas Greetings

Let our members know they're remembered by providing a cheery greeting for their Thinking of You Christmas bags! You may bring your cards beginning on **Sunday, November 27 through Sunday, December 11**. The names of people to be remembered are:

Lynn and Ed Akers, Joy Anderson, Betty and Matthew Bennett, Alf Berg, Susie and Mike Bohm, Carl and Helen Buerger, Sue Colloton, Velma Crowley, John Day, Vi Gruber, MaryAlice Erickson, Ron and Norma Hartman, Ron Hipple, Janet Jones, Clarence and Lois Knutson, Ruth Landes, Carol Love, Bea Kent, Suzanne McMickle, William Mettam, Bob Middleton, JoAnn and Paul Misselhorn, Marian Meinert, Carolyn and Henry Noe, Jo and Gil Nolde, Nancy Owen, Rosy Park, Kay Peterson, Linda Peterson, Marty Plunkett, Marilyn Setterlund, Phyllis Shadley, Marilyn Smith, Marilyn and Fred Stamerjohn, Georgia Sutherland, Wanita Van Scoyoc.

- A basket to receive your cards and items for Christmas bags will be located at the Welcome Center through **December 11**. (Staff and volunteers will place the items in the bags for you.)
- All will have the opportunity to make cards in the Social Hall from **November 28-December 11**.
- Delivery of the bags will begin on **Sunday, December 18**. If you are interested in delivering these greetings please sign-up at the Welcome Center. Bags will be available for delivery on **Sunday, December 18**.

These Christmas greetings are sure to be cherished!





Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Daniela and Sarah Gonzales delivered the Lutheran World Relief school kits to St. John's Lutheran in Bloomington on Saturday, October 29. The map to the right shows where all the kits will be distributed. Thank you for your support by donating items, making school kit bags and assembling 173 school kits.

Outreach Ministry Christmas Giving Tree Opportunities 2022

This holiday season the Outreach Ministry group is providing opportunities for Salem to purchase gifts for OSF Almost Home Kids (online gifts) and Lutheran Social Services foster kids programs (gift purchase and return to Salem).

Almost Home Kids (AHK)

Almost Home Kids provides transitional and respite care in a home-like setting for children with complex medical needs and their families. Funded entirely through community donations, Almost Home Kids is a 12-bedroom, 21,000-square-foot home. AHK provides compassionate, competent care to children from birth to age 21 who have complex medical needs.



Almost Home Kids Target Wish List:

www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=f39ad81a-88ea-11eb-a89e-2fadf0c18e30&type=CUSTOM



Almost Home Kids Amazon Wish List:

www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/2WRTD03THZ6BM/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_SCRnBb81NVQX4



Lutheran Social Services of Central Illinois (LSSI)

LSSI's Children's Community Services office in West Peoria last year served 565 children, ages infant to 19, across Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, and Stark Counties in addition to the recruiting and training of foster parents. Salem has 25 gift requests for LSSI foster kids available for you to purchase gifts. Gift tags will be available for you to shop for the child's gift in the morning narthex on the second floor.

Fair Trade Sunday, December 4

Outreach Ministry group will be selling fair trade items in the atrium on **Sunday, December 4**. We hope to help you with your holiday gift needs - chocolate bars, nuts, olive oil, tea, and coffee can all make great gifts for someone on your Christmas list.

December Food Collection

To continue the non-perishable food collections for Bethel United Methodist's Food Pantry please donate anytime during the month.

Noisy Can Offering, December 11

During **December 11th's** two worship services Noisy Can Offering will be received to support the CT Vivian Christmas Gift Card outreach focus.

Community Benevolence

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation the second installment of community benevolence were sent:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Lutheran Social Services of Central Illinois (LSSI) - \$750 | Neighborhood House - \$500 |
| Bethel United Methodist Church - \$500 | Crittenton Centers - \$500 |
| Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA) - \$500 | Lutheran Hillside Village (LHV) - \$500 |
| | CT Vivian Primary School - \$500 |
| | Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) - \$500 |

Salem Lutheran Church Outreach Ministry has received thank you notes from each of our community partners for the benevolence.

CT Vivian Primary School Grocery Gift Cards for Christmas:



Tanner's Donut Fundraiser on Sunday, December 11.

Salem has a long partnership with its Adopt-A-School, C.T. Vivian Primary. This partnership has included a variety of meaningful projects – including many years of providing Christmas Food Baskets to families in need. In the past few years, we have updated the project to provide full value \$50 gift cards for families instead of canned food items. Last year, Salem held a “sweet treat fundraiser” and sold enough goodies to provide \$2100 in gift cards to families.

Pre-ordered apple cider donuts from Tanner's will be available for pick up or delivery throughout the weekend and carryout donuts will be available after worship services on Sunday, December 11. Donuts are \$20 per dozen with all proceeds going to our CT Vivian Christmas Grocery Card Project. We would love the congregation's help telling your friends about this fundraiser by sharing the attached link or the written order form.

Paper order forms are available at church and can be turned in at the office. Please make paper checks payable to Salem Lutheran Church and write “Food Baskets” in the memo line. Or, you may donate on-line at <https://form.jotform.com/salemofpeoria/2022-sweet-treat-fundraiser>.

All pre-orders are due by **Sunday, December 4**. There will be a limited number of extras for sale on Sunday, December 11. Apple cider donuts make great Christmas gifts for friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. And, who doesn't love receiving a gift that helps out a good cause! Contact Deacon Jill in the church office if you have questions.

Food Preparations

Time always seems limited when you visit a health care provider (HCP) so make the most of your appointment by being prepared. Your HCP needs to know a lot about you, your family, and your lifestyle to give you the best medical care. And you need to speak up and share your concerns and questions. Clear and honest communication can help you both make smart choices about your health.

Before your appointment, make a list of any concerns and questions you have. Bring this list to your appointment, so you won't forget anything. Don't wait for your HCP to bring up a certain topic, because they may not know what's important to you. Even if the topic seems sensitive or embarrassing, it's best to be honest and upfront with your health care provider. It's better to be thorough and share a lot of information than to keep quiet.

Consider taking along a family member or friend when you visit the doctor. They can help you describe your feelings or ask questions on your behalf. They may think of questions or raise concerns that you hadn't considered. As Parish Nurse, one of the things I have enjoyed is accompanying members to appointments when family is out of town or unavailable. Being that second set of ears to help relay information to families or answer questions after the appointment.

Many people search online for health information. But you can't diagnose yourself based on an internet search. You can use this newly discovered information to learn and ask questions. Ask your HCP to recommend specific websites or resources, so you know you're getting your facts from a trusted source. Some reliable websites include .edu, .gov, and .org.

Many health care providers now use electronic health records. Ask your health care team how to access your records, so you can keep track of test results, diagnoses, treatment plans, and medicines. These records can also help you prepare for your next appointment.

After your appointment, if you're uncertain about any instructions or have other questions, call or email your health care provider. Don't wait until your next visit to make sure you understand your diagnosis, treatment plan, or anything else that might affect your health.

Some information is from the National Institute of Health

Christmas Cookie Walk, December 16

Stop by for a sweet treat at Lutheran Hillside Village (6901 N. Galena Road, Peoria) on **Friday, December 16 from 8am - 1pm**. Homemade baked goods will be sold for \$10 per pound. Proceeds benefit the Benevolent Fund for those residents who have outlived their resources. A special thank you to Inez Norgard and Paula Sydow for their ongoing support of Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria.

Thank You

On **November 11** the Noisy Can offering for Center for Prevention of Abuse was \$198.41 .

Condolences

Susan Barham joined the church triumphant on Tuesday, November 1. A funeral service was held at on Saturday, November 5 at Wright & Salmon Mortuary. Prayers for strength, comfort and peace for her family and all those who mourn her passing.

Elgene Martin joined the church triumphant on Friday, October 21. The funeral was Saturday, October 29 at Deiters Funeral Home in Washington. Prayers for strength, comfort and peace for her family and all those who mourn her passing.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS! DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1 Matthew Crone William Fischer Alexander Zapf	December 6 Isaac Hartman	Marjorie Ryberg Hans Vandervlugt	December 20 Ashlynn McKinty Julianna Rees Jackie Scoville
December 2 Henry Arnold Darlene Ford Susan Hamann Wren Jolliff	December 7 Jon Arehart Bonnie Gallas Lucas Owen	December 14 Viola Gruber	December 22 Elise Rastatter
December 3 Gloria Kroodsma Eric Webster Hailey Zapf	December 8 Caleb Bastian Joanne Bridges Mark Holmes	December 15 Julie Gannon Laura Hartman Bernice Kent Gerald Snyder	December 24 Richard Peterson
December 4 Martha Plunkett	December 10 Dan Starzynski	December 16 Margaret Steele	December 25 Jack Cooper
December 5 Susanne Hermanson Donald Hoffman Grayson Rook Rosemary Swanson	December 11 Walter Bastian Wanita Van Scoyoc	December 17 Jill Goldhammer William Ricketts	December 27 Joel Brinkman Michael Petrakis
	December 12 Holland Taubert Koss Jody Jean McKinty Greg Roberts	December 18 Audrey Koeltzow Nancy Peterson Payton Rook	December 29 Beth Cooper Spencer Lantz Grant Peterson Kathleen Self
		December 19 Julia Hokanson	December 30 Braden Wallstedt

PRAYER REQUESTS

THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR...

- Salem's growing ministry
- Salem's Pastor, Deacon and Staff

DIRECTION...

- Salem Congreg. Council
- Salem's Pastor, Deacon and Staff

PRAYERS REQUESTS...

- Salem's Sister Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church (Olney)
- All those affected with COVID-19
- The men and women of our armed forces
- Support for all caregivers when loved ones suffer
- Individuals suffering from depression
- People of Guatemala
- Ulrich family in Malawi
- Families at Crittenton Center
- Midwest Food Bank
- Wally Bastian and his family
- Lesly Baumgarten

- Susie Bohm
- Luan Borquist
- Jim Chelgren
- Butch Conard
- Gabe
- John and Tanya's daughter-in-law and their family
- Jack Grant
- Henry
- Norma Hartman
- the family of Bob Hazel
- Ron Hipple
- Lesley Howard
- Rebecca Johnson
- Helen Johnson
- prayers for the family of Earl Gallas' cousin, Diane Kelley
- Debbie Kelone and her family with the loss of David
- Kim
- Eric Lambie
- Linda
- Lizzie

- Morgan Lott
- Dave Lyons
- Dave Mabee
- the family of Mac
- Marta
- Bill Mettam
- Bill Monckton and Deacon Jill
- Jo and Gil Nolde
- Larry Olsen
- Linda Peterson
- Donita Purcell
- Rosy Park

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

Stateside: Gibson Gonzalez, Emily Graff, Barry Joyce, Ashley Owen, Lucas Owen, Jim Sterling, Jason Sterr
Overseas: Ian Borquist, Talon Maki



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Affirmation of Baptism



On **Sunday, October 30 at 8:30am** worship Salem Lutheran Church students affirmed their baptisms. Photograph to the left shows: Pastor Craig Swenson, Brent Wallstedt, Brianna Schroeder, Sydney Hopkins, Emily Arnold, Sienna Hopkins please continue to keep these youth in your prayers as they grow in their faith.