

Salem Ev. Lutheran Church & School

14940 62nd Street North
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082
651-439-7831

Visit our Website at www.salemlutheran.org

January, 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DO LUTHERANS BELIEVE IN PRAYER?

This week I was asked that question. Of course I answered the question in the affirmative. The person was not really asking about what we believe but rather do we practice what we believe. Does our prayer life reflect our faith? Or do we only give lip service to prayer, but do not really bring everything to the Lord in prayer. Prayer is a special privilege we experience as children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. We read of a special promise found in the scriptures. **James 4:2 (NIV84) — 2 You do not have, because you do not ask God.**

As we enter the New Year I would ask that with the challenges of ministry before us that each week of January special prayers are brought before the throne of our gracious God.

During the first week pray for our family of faith at Salem. Pray for those members who are weak and struggling in their spiritual walk. Pray for those who are wrestling with temptation. Pray for those who are trying to reach out to others and share their faith. Pray for those who have fallen away that they would be brought back to the Lord. Pray for the leaders in the congregation that the decisions made are in line with the will of the Lord. Pray for the faith and life of the congregation.

During the second week pray for the pastors. Pray that in their preparation of worship that they faithfully proclaim the law and gospel of God. Pray that as they work with word and sacrament that those receiving it will be strengthened in their faith and life. Pray that their health is strong to carry out the work they are to do. Pray for their families.

During the third week pray for our school. Pray for the children that they may learn the special truths of Jesus' love for them and that it remain a joy throughout their lives. Pray for the parents as they work hard to make a Christian education possible for their children. Pray for those who travel over the miles that they are safe on the roads. Pray that God will bring more families into our school that we might have the opportunity to share God's word.

During the fourth week pray for our teachers. Ask for God's blessings on their preparations each day. Pray that as they teach the children that the right application of law and gospel will be experienced by the children. Pray that as they struggle with all the demands both in the classroom and outside the classroom the joy of the Savior will always be with them. Pray that God would give them special insight to be a blessing to those children with special challenges in learning.

On behalf of the ministry of Salem, thank you for the prayers you have brought to the Lord.

Rev. Marcus Birkholz

Actions accomplished at the December 20 Council Meeting

The minutes were not ready before print time.

The Congregation will have an Open Forum on Sunday, Jan 22, after the 10:30 am service, to discuss options for a new pastor when Pastor Birkholz retires in June.

The quarterly Voter's Meeting I scheduled for Sunday, January 29 following the 10:30 am service. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Financial Update...

Weekly Offerings

Nov 23	\$ 2,043.50	\$2,905.00 Missions
Nov 27	\$ 9,450.81	\$ 900.50 Missions
Nov 30	\$ 1,400.50	\$ Missions
Dec 4	\$11,710.72	\$1,525.00 Missions
Dec 7	\$ 1,119.50	\$ 15.00 Missions
Dec 11	\$12,097.18	\$ 765.00 Missions
Dec 14	\$ 2,228.25	\$ Missions
Dec 18	\$18,512.00	\$2,011.00 Missions
Dec 24-25	\$11,798.99	\$3,128.25 Missions
EFT Offerings	\$ 2,059.50	\$ 120.00 Missions

Offerings needed to meet the
'11-'12 budget each week
\$13,611.53 & \$1,250.00 Missions

(2 Corinthians 9:7) Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Please use separate checks for offerings other than current & missions. Thanks!

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild meets the first Thursday of each month. We will meet Thursday, January 5, 2012, beginning at 1:15 pm. We certainly hope you can join us!



Altar Guild Update

Remember to contact the church office if you want to place flowers on the altar!

Mary Ecker & Tracy Poirer are the January Crew.

Monday Night Services

If you are away for the weekend and would like to worship during the week, we have an arrangement with Christ in North St. Paul, who offer Monday Night Services at 7 pm, every Monday, all year round. If you use your offering envelope from Salem, they will send it back to us.

If you want to reach our Pastors...

Pastor Birkholz can be reached at home, 651-430-2391 by e-mail revmlbirkholz@hotmail.com

Pastor Brohn can be reached at home, 715-381-1120 by e-mail jbrohn@salemlutheran.org

The Pastors' Church Office Phone Number is 651-439-5465.

New Broadcast times from the Cable Company: We have received new broadcast times for our worship service. The times on Channel 18 are:

Monday – 1 & 7 pm Tuesday – 7 am
Wednesday – 4 & 10 pm Thursday – 10 am



Thank you to everyone who gave gifts to the families on the Giving Tree – All recipients were very *thankful!* Watch for "thank you" notes on the bulletin board in the next few weeks!

The Caring Committee



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...

The Gospel of John DVD: Daniel Dexter presents the Gospel of John, memorized word-for-word from the NIV (1984), in a verbal and visual storytelling style. Dexter's proclamation demonstrates that the Word of God is dynamic and dramatic and that the message of salvation is clear. This DVD can be a blessing for your personal time in the Word, and it can be useful to share with others for evangelism and encouragement. Filmed in 2010 at Salty Earth Pictures. 132 minutes – 2 DVD set.

For more information about Daniel's ministry, visit his website at www.word4wordgospel.com

The DVD's sell for \$12 – We have a few on hand. If you would like to purchase one, please contact the church office.



Please keep our members who are serving in the military in your prayers. Brandon Marth, David Zolldan, John McConnell, and William Hansen, Jr.

Keep Saving Campbell soup labels and General Mills Box Tops for edu-

Parish Nurse Fund

We currently have \$6,755.69 in the Parish Nurse Fund. It costs about \$500 a month for the Parish Nurse's services. We rely solely on donations to support the parish nurse program. You can donate to the fund by marking your envelope for that purpose. Thank you for your support so far!

Communication Improvement

If you haven't been receiving the parish notes via email already, now is the time to sign up. To do so, go to salemlutheran.org, click "newsletters" in the menu, and enter your name and email address on the right.

If you are on Facebook, you can also "like" Salem's

COUPON BOX

Do you clip coupons and have coupons you don't use, or get a Sunday paper with coupons you don't use?

Salem now has a coupon box located near the food shelf where you can drop off any or all of your coupons, coupon booklets, coupons received in the mail or even coupons printed from the internet, if you think someone else may be able to use it, please bring it in.

We would encourage **EVERY** coupon!

There is no need to have your coupons clipped ahead of time before bringing them in, but if you have the time and are willing to cut them out, that is also appreciated.

Committee Meeting Day

The Council decided to streamline operations and have all committee Meetings on the Tuesday prior to their council meeting.

All of the Committees will have their meetings on Tuesday, January 10, at 6:30 pm

If you would like to be a part of a committee or have an issue to bring up at a meeting, this would be the time to do so.

Parish Notes Available Online and via Email.

The Parish Notes monthly newsletter is now available through the website and email. To sign up to receive the monthly email, go to

<http://www.salemlutheran.org/newsletter>

SCRIP

The Scrip ordering schedule is every second and fourth Monday of the month. Orders should be in no later than noon. Orders can be picked up in the school office or other arrangements can be made by contacting Dee or Jennifer. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jennifer Agen at 651-430-9991/651-246-6373 or Dee Kane at 651-738-1733/651-248-3772. Thank you for supporting our church and school through this wonderful program!

New families to Salem—contact us to see how you can use SCRIP to help with your tuition payments!



Are you feeling a bit overwhelmed by who is going to make meals for the next few days with a recent chal-

lenge? Maybe illness, a new baby, death in the family? Please let Debbie or one the Pastors know, or call Janet Rider [651-439-0584](tel:651-439-0584) (RidersUSA@comcast.net). We have some great cooks ready and willing to help.

We are still collecting cans for recycling by the garage. The money raised is used to help fund our athletic department. Thank you for bringing in your cans for us!

Ladies' Night Out

All women of the congregation are invited for a **Ladies' Night Out**. This is a great opportunity to get to know the women of our congregation. It will be held every 4th **Monday of each month. At Acapulco's** Restaurant, located in Stillwater, at 6:30 pm This is also a great time to take advantage of our SCRIP Program—\$25 gift cards for Acapulco are available any time and the great part is \$7.50 can go towards **your child's tuition or tuition assistance!** If you have questions about SCRIP, contact Jennifer Agen or Dee Kane (their phone numbers are listed in the SCRIP article on page 6). If you have any questions about the Ladies; Night Out, contact Patricia Goplen at 715-441-6878. We hope you will be able to join us!

Food Shelf Update

Please note the "new" food shelf sign and accompanying food shelf "shopping list" located in the Narthex by the Sacristy.

The shopping list will give church members a guide to needed food as well as suggested personal care items needed by families.

We appreciate all the donations we have had in the past and look forward to all your generous donations in the future! Thank you again!

Salem's Caring Committee



News from our Parish Nurse...

Happy New Year to all.

Be sure to come to the fit club every Monday at 9 am. **We will be doing "Zumba" in the gym!**

Also, I will be doing Blood Pressure checks on the third Sunday of each month between services. Just stop by and have your blood pressure checked!

Dana Mattingly, RN

School News

Enrollment

Enrollment is holding steady at 124 for the K-8 and Pre-K is still at the 33.

STEM

The 6-8 grade classrooms are starting a STEM project that deals with airports. I have 7 lessons to teach the kids and then I hope to get them out to the Lake Elmo Airport to put into practice what they learned in the classroom. Susan Schmidt came on December 20th to give a presentation about flight and what it is like being a pilot. The students really enjoyed the presentation. Thank You!!

Christmas Program

We performed our children Christmas Service on December 18 in the gym. There were about 400 people in attendance. The students did a wonderful job! I would like to thank all the people that helped set up the gym, take down the gym and decorate the gym. I would also like to thank all the people who worked behind the scenes with music recital and with the service programs.

Special Interest

3M came to Salem on Friday, December 16 to present a program called "Wizards." Chad Mistele, a member of Salem, taught the K-3 graders about the properties of water. He will be coming at a later date to teach the 4-8 grades about electricity.

Sports

Our basketball season is off and running. So far it has been going pretty well. Each team has won at least one game and for the most part has been competitive in each contest. I truly thank the volunteer coaches for all the extra time they invest in our students. I am looking into the possibility of offering baseball this year. I was hoping for softball as well, but that will not be happening. Salem, Christ, N.S.P., Crown of Life, and St. Croix Middle School are looking into getting a team that would compete in a Catholic league. It looks like we would have one practice and one game a week. This would be offered to the 7-8 grade boys. We will also be participating in the same track league as last year. It should be a busy season.



Pioneer News

January

4 Wednesday - Meeting, 6:30-8:00

11 Wednesday - Meeting, 6:30-8:00, Hand out Pine Cars

14-Saturday Cross Country Skiing

15 Sunday - Viking District Swim Night at Shoreview Community Center in Shoreview

22 Sunday - Wild Game Feed, 12:30pm

31 Monday - Pioneer Council, 7:00

If you are looking for the ParentLink Teen news—we have e-mailed that separately to the teens. If you would like to be on that e-mail list, please contact Mr. Krause at jkrause@salemlutheran.org

preschool registration



The time is here already to register your child for preschool. If you are currently enrolled at Salem School or a member at Salem you can register and reserve your spot for the 2012-2013 school year. We will have 3 classes available; Monday-Wednesday-Friday a.m. 9-11:30 for 4 year olds and **High 5's**. Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoons for mixed age; 3, 4 and 5 year olds. Tuesday-Thursday a.m. for 3 year olds by September 1st.

We are in the main building, upper floor with the church entrance as our main entrance. Check out the new classroom at our Open House on Tuesday, January 24th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and in the evening 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. If you have any questions you can call [651-439-7831](tel:651-439-7831) and talk to Jane Grobe.

If you know of any 2-4 year olds that we could send a packet of information, please call or email the address. Remember, word of mouth is our best advertisement.

Marriage Retreat

In 2012, Salem Lutheran Church will be holding a marriage retreat. In years' past, we have dedicated a weekend and a location offsite for the retreat. The Spiritual Growth Committee has decided that this year we should follow a different course, which will allow more members to benefit from the program.

Instead, we are setting aside the month of February and dedicating it to marriage and family. Each Sunday in February a different topic related to marriage and family will form the basis of our Sunday morning service and sermon.

The marriage and family series will culminate on Saturday, March 3rd with a service in which members will have the opportunity to renew their marital vows. The service will be followed by a couple's dinner and dance.

Please plan on the dates and keep your eyes open for the opportunity to register for the March 3rd event.

Vacation Bible School

It is never too early to start planning for Vacation Bible School.

Summer is just around the corner (well, not really); however, planning for VBS has started. Salem Lutheran Church will again host its annual VBS program in June this year. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in taking on a leadership role for this year's program. Roles include teaching, crafts, snacks, games and many other opportunities. If you are interested in lending a hand, please speak with Pastor Brohn or Kurt Sames

Spiritual Growth Committee



January 2012

Church & School 651-439-7831
 Toll Free 877-439-7831
Pastor's Office 651-439-5465
 Fax 651-439-0035
 Website www.salemlutheran.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>Happy New Year!</p> <p>10:00 am Communion</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>10 am Bible Support Group</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>6:30 am Men's Bib St 9:15 am Chapel 5:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Pioneer Mtg 6:30 pm Sr Choir 7 pm YES Meeting 7:30 pm Men's Chorus</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>1:15 pm Women's Guild 7 pm Prison Ministry 7 pm Handbells</p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>8 am Men's Bible at Gorman's 5 pm Worship</p>
<p><i>8</i></p> <p>8 am Communion 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Communion</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>SCRIP Orders are Due! 9 am Fit Club</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>10 am Bible Support Group 6:30 pm Council Committee Mtgs</p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>6:30 am Men's Bib St 9 am Mom's Bible St 1:15 pm Chapel 5:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Pioneer Mtg 6:30 pm Sr Choir 7 pm YES Meeting 7:30 pm Men's Chorus</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>7 pm Prison Ministry 7 pm Handbells</p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>Pioneer Cross Country Skiing 5 pm Communion</p>
<p><i>15</i></p> <p>8 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour Blood Pressure Checks 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>NO SCHOOL 9 am Fit Club</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>10 am Bible Support Group 6:30 pm Church Council</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>6:30 am Men's Bib St 9:15 am Chapel 5:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Sr Choir 7 pm YES Meeting 7:30 pm Men's Chorus</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>7 pm Prison Ministry 7 pm Handbells</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>5 pm Worship</p>
<p><i>22</i></p> <p>8 am Communion 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Communion Open Forum for Call Noon—Pioneer Wild Game Feed</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>NO SCHOOL SCRIP Orders are Due! 9 am Fit Club Ladies Night Out!</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>10 am Bible Support Group Preschool & Kindergarten Open House</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>6:30 am Men's Bib St 9 am Mom's Bible St 9:15 am Chapel 5:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Sr Choir 7 pm YES Meeting 7:30 pm Men's Chorus</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>7 pm Prison Ministry 7 pm Handbells</p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>5 pm Communion</p>
<p><i>29</i></p> <p>8 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship Quarterly Voter's Mtg</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>9 am Fit Club 7 pm Pioneer Council</p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>10 am Bible Support Group</p>				