

Salem Ev. Lutheran Church & School

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

Visit our Website at www.salemlutheran.org

January, 2010

Consecrated to the Lord

Luke 2:21-24

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

²² When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "***Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord***"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

When was the last time you heard a sermon on "The Naming of Jesus"? When was the last time you read these words from Luke 2? We remember the first 20 verses—the familiar story of Jesus' birth and the angels' announcement over the hills of Bethlehem. We remember verses 25-51—the story of Simeon and Anna, and the story of the boy Jesus in the temple. In the wake of Christmas we usually don't take time to consider what Jesus accomplished for us in these 4 short verses.

The Law of Moses required that "**every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the LORD**" (Exodus 13:2,12). God demanded that gift as a reminder of the miracle he accomplished at the first Passover. When the lamb's blood was painted on the doorframe, the angel of death passed over the homes and spared the Israelites' firstborn. By dedicating their firstborn to the LORD, the Israelites remembered their gracious deliverance by the LORD's own hand.

When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple and consecrated him to the LORD, it offered more than just a look back at God's deliverance from the land of Egypt. They caught a glimpse of the deliverance God would provide just 33 ½ years later! Jesus was set apart from birth to execute God's plan of salvation. From his first breath until his last, he was dedicated to his Father's will. No wonder he was surprised at his parents as he sat in the temple courts: "**Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?**" (Luke 2:49).

Is that how we plan? Do we take care of all the details years in advance, and then watch as they all come to perfect completion? We can't. We aren't God. We don't know what January 1, 2010, holds for us, let alone a whole year, or an entire lifetime. That doesn't have to be worrisome. We have a God who planned for the smallest things, like having his Son consecrated in the Temple. He will take care of the small details in our lives, as well as being there for us in every major event, good or bad. That's what enables us to wish each other a Happy New Year!

To God alone the glory!

Pastor Jon Brohn

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

The following are actions accomplished at the December 15, 2009, Council Meeting...

Overview of New Salem School Website

Will Johnston and Principal Graf overviewed the updates that have been made to the school website. Positive comments were made by the council that this was a good job. The plan is for all entries to the website to enter through a common domain. A plan for adding a contacts list and electronic delivery of information and updates was discussed, but requires further action by the Communications & Marketing Committee. The "go live" date for the updates is planned to be January 01, 2010.

FYI - New gym light savings for the first month - \$800!

Jeff Lefto briefly commented on the positive savings. No motions.

Parish Nurse Position.

Ben Olson recommended that Salem fill the parish nurse position. At 10 hours per week and \$18.50 per hour the cost would be approximately \$10,000 per year.

MM/S (Olson/Lefto) Fill Parish Nurse position at 10hrs/week and at approximately \$18.50 per hour. Motion failed.

Discussion of the motion included the situation with the uncalled seminary graduates, as well as a need to prioritize this need within the overall budget and spending priorities. Position could be considered again within context of FY2010-2011 planning discussions.

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Meyer, Secretary

EFT Contributions are now Available!!

The Stewardship Committee has made arrangements with Thrivent and their "Simply Giving" program to make available the option of authorizing electronic transfers from your checking/savings account to make your contributions to church. Forms are available in the rack in the Narthex. Forms should be turned into the Church Office. If you have any questions, contact the church office.

Financial Update...

Weekly Offerings

November 22	\$10,147.81	\$ 765.00 Missions
November 26	\$ 1,501.77	\$2,465.00 Missions
November 29	\$ 9,450.48	\$ 670.00 Missions
December 2	\$ 1,069.50	
December 6	\$14,156.91	\$1,777.00 Missions
December 11	\$ 855.80	\$ 5.00 Missions
December 13	\$ 8,752.15	\$ 622.00 Missions
December 16	\$ 1,817.46	
December 20	\$ 9,584.24	\$1,052.00 Missions

Offerings needed to meet budget each week
\$12,784.88 & \$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!

Quarterly Voter's Meeting

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting will be held
Monday, January 25, beginning at 7 pm.

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.

Women's Guild

The next Women's Guild Meeting is Thursday, January 7, 2010, beginning at 1:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall

All Women are invited to 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.

Moms Bible Study

The 2nd & 4th Wednesdays are our days. Play begins at 9 am and Bible study begins at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room. All moms & their children are invited!



If you want to reach our Pastors...

Pastor Birkholz can be reached at home, 651-430-2391

by e-mail mbirkholz@salemlutheran.org

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

Dear Members of Salem:

I wanted to extend my thanks for the care package that was recently sent to me. The thoughtful letters that were sent along really are helpful. Thank you all so much for your support and prayers. It is truly one of the greatest items that fuels a soldier's motivation. Also I must say, despite having American sponsored shopping centers on base, I cannot find a single Salted Nut Roll for the life of me; it was a very nice touch.....all 8 of them.

A lot of activity has happened this past week. While being currently stationed in Wiesbaden, President Obama, as you may have heard, has called for more troops to be sent to Afghanistan. As a result, I'll be deploying to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan under what's called the 'Umbrella' of the 82 Airborne Infantry Division (the umbrella is just a way of saying, we're deploying with this unit but we still are attached to our original unit in Wiesbaden). I was one of the lucky 27 of the 66 Military Intelligence Brigade who received their deployment orders last week. I am prepared and ready to serve; I've heard it to be quite a life changing and moving experience, as well as a spiritual one. I guess it just proves true to the saying, "There are no heathens in foxholes".

Thank you all again for the wonderful encouragement from the home front; it really means a lot to me and helps all of us get through one day at a time. Knowing I am in your prayers and have your support means more to me than I could ever express.

I will be home soon and I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone over Christmas leave.

Take care and God bless you,
SPC William J Hansen Jr

Please remember SPC Hansen and David Zolldan in your prayers as they serve our country overseas!

Caring Committee Christmas Tree

THANK YOU so much to everyone who helped make the families on the tree have a Merry Christmas!

Marriage Retreat

Please save the weekend of February 27 & 28. Spiritual Growth Committee is in the process of planning a great weekend for husbands and wives. Time away from the kids, just the two of you to sharing some time together.

Pastor Brohn and Kay will be presenting **THE FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE STUDY INTEGRATING MOVIE CLIPS FROM FIREPROOF**, along with key Scriptures,

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 12, 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.



*A manger bed in a humble place
Where shepherds came to see His face.
Not just the face of a tiny child
This was God's face, so meek and mild.*

*In Bethlehem's stable God sent His Son -
This is the Savior, He is the One!
Promised to rescue us from sin,
Through Him alone eternal life begins.*

*Rejoice with us again this year,
God's solution to sin we celebrate here
For unto us the Savior's come
In Him is salvation for everyone.*

Merry Christmas from the staff of Christian Life Ministries

Christian Life Ministries

2756 Lakeshore Avenue, Little Canada, MN 55117

Phone: 651-649-3538

Website: www.clmonline.com

Email: welsfltcc@usfamily.net

Lutheran Home Annual meeting set for January 19 in Belle Plaine

We hope to see you, our Association pastors and delegates, at our annual meeting on Tuesday, January 19, in Belle Plaine. Your vote matters as we plan for the future! We welcome all members from our Association congregations; all are invited to attend.

The meeting will be held in the newly renovated chapel at The Lutheran Home Campus in Belle Plaine at 611 West Main Street. The day's schedule begins at noon with lunch. The worship service, the rededication of The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine and the meeting will follow. The meeting will have an educational segment entitled "Leading with Technology." This session will be about how technology at Kingsway Retirement Living enhances the safety and the independence of our residents. The entire building is WiFi compatible allowing multiple wireless sensors to alert staff to assist residents, such as if a person fell. Our system also can communicate health information to nurses and physicians instantly via the Internet, helping avoid costly appointments and travel. These exciting new developments in technological services will be shared.

Please direct any questions about the annual meeting to Jenny at jscherer@tlha.org, (952) 873-4749 or 1-888-600-TLHA (8542), ext. 120.

TLHA's Board of Directors met on November 30. The following was discussed:

The board reviewed and discussed the financial results from the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. The board recognized the marked improvement in financial results between the 2008 and 2009 fiscal years. The results for 2009 showed a small positive income for the year.

1. The board passed three resolutions directing the president to begin the process to renew various short-term and long-term loans that will mature during the first half of 2010. The president will contact current lenders to work through the renewal processes.
2. The board accepted the annual 401k audit from the audit firm Wipfli LLC. The board had neither adjustments nor concerns.
3. The board approved the board-member ballot for the upcoming annual meeting in January. The nominating committee reported that all board members with expiring terms have agreed to stand for re-election to the Board of Directors or Board of Regents.

Annual tree lighting ceremonies

St. Michael's Lutheran Home and The Lutheran Home Campuses in River Falls and Belle Plaine sponsor and host tree lighting ceremonies in early December. People we serve as well as people in these communities are able to purchase a light or a string of lights to honor or remember loved ones. In

addition, our chaplains have a chance to remind people of the meaning of Christmas. We are thankful to all those who participate and the opportunity to serve so many through our homes. For more information about these locations, please visit our Web site at <http://archive.wels.net/cgi-bin/site.pl?2601&collectionID=1248>.

Christmas card contest winner shares Christ

“I wanted Christ in Christmas,” Ron Willadsen stated. That was his focus as he decided how to depict the first Christmas for The Lutheran Home Association’s (TLHA) annual Christmas card contest. He wanted to share the message of Christ because “that’s what Christmas means to me.” Ron is a resident at St. Michael’s Lutheran Home in Fountain City, Wisconsin, which provides skilled nursing care, rehabilitative therapies and adult day care. Over 26,000 cards were sent out to supporters of TLHA. We congratulate Ron and thank him for his message!

Thrivent donation program changing

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has decided to change its matching donation program. The program GivingPlus[®] has ended. A new program, Thrivent Choice, will begin in spring 2010 (Thrivent is providing all past GivingPlus[®] participants information about how Thrivent Choice will work). In the interim, Thrivent is offering a challenge grant to continue to supplement funds for organizations that have benefited from GivingPlus[®] in the past. We believe that The Lutheran Home Association will qualify for this supplemental funding. We will continue to inform you as we learn more about these programs. Thank you for your support of our ministry!

Thrift store hosts new events

Our Home to Home Thrift Store in Belle Plaine, Minnesota, continues to support our ministry through its sales and volunteer staff. Recently, the thrift store has started to host “Ladies’ Night,” offering opportunities to shop, socialize and enjoy refreshments. The most recent event was held in late November, focusing on a Christmas theme. This was a successful night, bringing in over 100 customers who enjoyed Christmas treats as they found great deals. The thrift store staff is hoping to host more special events for the public. We invite you to visit the thrift store when you are in Belle Plaine. For more information about our store or how to donate gently-used items, please visit our Web site at <http://archive.wels.net/cgi-bin/site.pl?2617&collectionID=1340&contentID=53005&shortcutID=19851>.

Thank you for your interest in our ministry! We ask that you keep our ministry in your prayers.

Caring about the Care of the Soul,

School News

Terra Nova Testing Results: The results have been received. In my early examination of the scoring, all areas of the testing look very good. The one area we as a school need to work on is “math computation” skills. During the Christmas break I intend to tabulate the scores for an overall grade by grade comparison.

Basketball Season: The Salem Saints are off to a good start. Through the first two games of the season our team records are as follows:

B Girl's: 2 – 0

B Boy's: 1 – 1

A Girl's: 2 – 0

A Boy's: 2 – 0

8th Grade Meetings: We have held two meetings as of this date in regards to the 8th grade class trip. We are exploring fund raising and locations of the class trip.

Welcome back to everyone—Hope you had a great Christmas/New Year's Break!

Preschool Enrollment!

If you or someone you know has a child who will be 3 or 4 years old and are looking for a preschool to attend – Salem is now taking registrations for the 2010-2011 school year for members and previously enrolled families. The preschool will hold an Open House on Tuesday, January 26, 12:30-3:00 and 6:30-8:00 pm. At this time all other enrollment will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

If you would like more information, please contact the school office!

Kindergarten Round Up

If you have a student or know of a student who will be starting kindergarten this fall, we invite you to attend Salem's Kindergarten Round Up which will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 10 am to 11:30 am and 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Contact the school office for more information.

Pioneer News

Pioneer Winter Campout

The Pioneer's Winter Campout will be held January 15-17, 2010. This campout is a family activity open to all members of Salem Church and School. As in the past, we will stay in the Lodge and Cabins at Camp Croix. Planned activities include Fishing, Hiking, Sledding, Swimming, the Shooting Range, Mapping and the 4th Annual Klondike Race. Can't make the whole weekend? Just come for a day on Saturday or Sunday. More information is available on the flyers located next to the Winter Campout poster board on display in the Narthex. Please contact Mark Enter by Wednesday January 11th if you plan to come along.

Pioneer Wild Game Feed

The Pioneer Wild Game Feed has been scheduled for February 7th, 2010. This fundraiser helps support the Pioneer program, especially the winter campout. If you've never attended this activity, mark your calendar now. It's a great way to sample more than 25 dishes of wild game. There is always turkey and mashed potatoes for the less daring. If you are willing to donate game from your hunt, there are two ways for you to do this. You can simply contact Earl Plattner and arrange to get the game to him, or you can prepare it yourself and bring it to the Game Feed on the 8th. Either way please contact Earl, 715-294-3317, so he can plan for the feed. If you have questions in general, contact Mark Enter at 715-491-1992 (cell).

Worship Helpers January, 2010

Ushers

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
Jan 2	Koester Family	
Jan 3	Plattner Team	Loss Team
Jan 9	Swanson Family	
Jan 10	Knefelkamp Team	Koester Team
Jan 16	Lillo Family	
Jan 17	Crowder Team	Wohlers Team
Jan 23	Gruetzmacher Family	
Jan 24	Plattner Team	Raleigh Team
Jan 30	Gruetzmacher Family	
Jan 31	Knefelkamp Team	Koester Team

Vestrymen

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
Jan 3	T Kopel	G Galler
Jan 10	V Crowder	J Wohlers
Jan 17	T Gruetzmacher	J Beaudry
Jan 24	T Kopel	
Jan 31	V Crowder	G Galler

Communion Helpers

Jan 9	Roger Zolldan
Jan 23	Tom Gruetzmacher

Greeters

	<u>8 am</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Jan 3	Jerry & Jan Ulrich	Mark & Amy Enter
Jan 10	Terry & Sheryl Graf	Joe & Cynthia Covelli
Jan 17	Stace Family	Robert & Susan Bacholke
Jan 24	Lyle & Dorothy Doerr	Clay & Kristie Raasch
Jan 31	Al Sehloff	Tom & Nancy Meyer

Video Taping Crew

Jan 3	Gary LeMay & Judy Zolldan
Jan 10	Mark & Nancee Prchal
Jan 17	Joe Covelli
Jan 24	Quentin Johnson
Jan 31	Gary LeMay & Judy Zolldan

Thanks For All Your Help!