



Salem United Methodist Church

Growing Together on the Journey with Christ



A note from Pastor Paola

Blessed to be a Blessing

We are entering into the season of Thanksgiving, and it is a wonderful time to take the opportunity to count the blessings in our lives.

Giving thanks is an act of faith because:

- It leads us to praise the Giver of all and the source of our blessings.
- It frees us from fears and anxieties as we recognize the One who, in the midst of the upside-down of our lives, will always take care of us.
- It calls us to give back and share faithfully a portion of our blessings.

During the month ahead of us, I would like to encourage you and your family to find every day occasions to express your gratitude and to recognize how blessed you are. You will soon notice a lot more joy and laughter in your life.

In positive psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

In the Old Testament, in the 26th chapter of Deuteronomy, we find the ancient roots of our modern-day Thanksgiving. At harvest time, the Israelites would give 10% of their fruits back to God and to the poor. Thanksgiving is about giving thanks, being joyful for our blessings, and discovering ways to bless others so that the gift keeps on giving.

The month of November at Salem is all about “Blessed to be a Blessing”. We will follow through with this theme in the following ways:

- Our Miracle Sunday is coming up! Become a blessing by stepping up in faith in your financial commitment to Salem.
- Our worship themes in the second part of November will be about being a blessing. Take part in worship and invite a friend or family member to worship at Salem with you. Become a blessing by giving to others the best gift ever: A Faith Community!
- Our church is providing a lot of opportunities to serve and spread blessings during the month ahead. Look inside this Tidings issue to see Outreach opportunities coming up soon.

May God fill your heart with gratitude!

Pastor Paola

Inside this issue....

One Step Can Make All the Difference

Gratitude and giving go hand in hand.

Miracle Sunday

November 12
We'll celebrate with lunch in the fellowship hall.

Food Pantry Sunday

November 12

Thanksgiving Eve Worship,

Wednesday,
Nov. 22, 7:00 pm
El Buen Samaritano

“Ask the Pastor”

Pastor Paola continues to answer your questions!

Worship Themes

It's going to be an Extra-ordinary Christmas!



November Worship Themes

The Miracle of the Stone Soup (Salem UMC Stewardship Campaign)

Join us in worship as we reach toward our Miracle Sunday, growing in faithfulness and discipleship:

October 29th 1st Sunday

The Mighty Penny: The Widow's Offering

Mark 12:41-44

November 5th 2nd Sunday

The Loss of Hoarding: The Rich Young Man

Mark 10:17-27

November 12th Miracle Sunday – Consecration of our Pledge Cards during the service

The Liberating Joy of Giving: Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-9

Simply Blessed

In this season of Thanksgiving, discover your blessings and pass them on

November 19th **Become a Blessing**

Genesis 12:1-6, Psalm 113

November 26th **Stop and Remember**

Genesis 12:7-8, Psalm 100

SUNDAY SCHOOL November Teaching Plan

November 5th

No class enjoy worship

November 12th

John The Baptist

November 19th

The Temptation of Christ
Teens Class (seeking Justice)

November 26th

Sermon on the Mount



December Worship Themes

An Extraordinary Christmas!

Tired of all holiday pressures and demands? Searching for a renewing and relevant way to celebrate this season? Join us this Advent as we discover how surprising and unexpected the first Christmas was.

December 3 First Sunday of Advent (Communion)

Hope: Joseph: Unexpected Blessing

Matthew 1:18-25

December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

Love: Children & Youth Christmas Program:

December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

Joy: Mary Surprising Promise

Luke 1:26-38

December 24 (9:00 AM) Fourth Sunday of Advent

Peace: The Shepherds' Incredible Good News

Luke 2:8-19

December 24 (7:30 PM) Christmas Eve Service with Candlelighting

A Life Changing Christmas

John 1:1-17

December 31 First Sunday After Christmas – New Year's Eve

Following the Star

Matthew 2:1-12

Food Pantry Sunday is November 12th

On the 2nd Sunday of every month, Salem takes donations of non-perishable food, personal care products, and monetary donations for the Waukesha County Food Pantry. These items are taken to the pantry by our Salem volunteers who help there once a month. Thank you for your generosity!



(As promised, Pastor Paola will answer some of your questions you asked that she did not have an opportunity to answer during the two Sundays of "Ask The Pastor" in October.)

Is God male or female?

God is neither male nor female. God is not a sexual being; God is a spiritual being. Nevertheless, the Bible is very rich in images to help us to understand God and God's attributes. Images, metaphors, parables help us to understand the nature of God in human terms. The Scriptures portray God as a man and a father. But we can also find female images of God. Since the male images are the most common and you are probably already familiar with them, I am listing here the female images for your reading:

- Hosea 11:3-4
- Hosea 13:8
- Deuteronomy 32:11-12
- Deuteronomy 32:18
- Isaiah 66:13
- Isaiah 49:15
- Psalm 131:3
- Psalm 123:2-3
- Matthew 23:37
- Luke 15:8-10

Let's look at one specific passage: Genesis 1:27.

"So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

So here, the situation is reversed: God made both woman and man in his image. What does this mean? We carry within ourselves the life and the eternal desire that is in God!

Just as God is a God of relationship (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), so it is with us. We were made to be in community, in relationship, and in connection with each other.

In the creation, only human beings were made in God's image. We are to be care givers of the creation; women and men equally are stewards of God's creation. God creates a partnership and equality between men and women in becoming co-creators and life-givers.

**ONE STEP
CAN MAKE
ALL THE
DIFFERENCE**

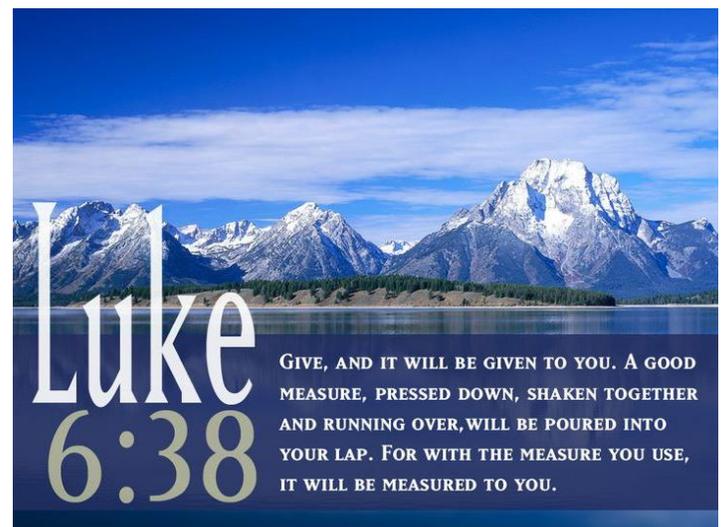
Stewardship Campaign: Will You Grow One Step This Year?

The 2018 stewardship and pledge campaign is underway and will culminate on Miracle Sunday November 12. THANK YOU for pledging your support of Salem!

What is a Pledge? A pledge is a commitment to support the church's ministry with your gifts.

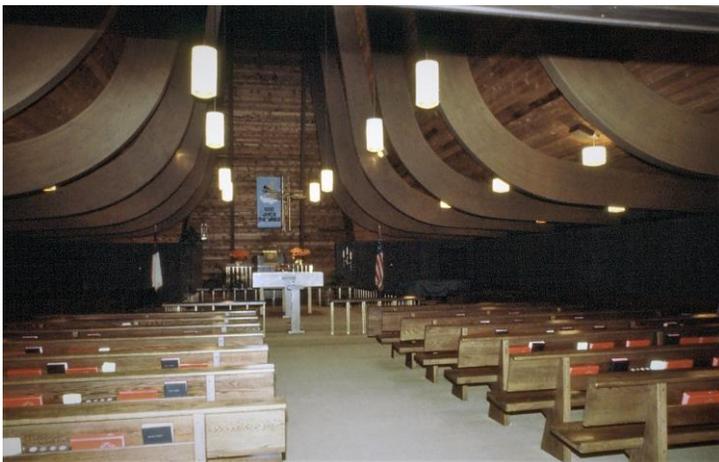
Why is pledging important: This helps the church to understand the funding that it's members intend to provide. Without this pledge, it is difficult to budget with confidence for the coming year. A pledge also serves as a reminder to you of your commitment to the support of Salem.

Will You Grow One Step? You should have received a mailing that included the giving steps at Salem. We are asking you to grow one step in your 2018 pledge. We expect that our budget needs will grow in 2018 and pray that you will consider pledging to grow in your giving. Areas of increases include insurance costs, maintenance expenses and projects, and the opportunity to grow our ministry activities.



“BURN THE MORTGAGE”

The **first goal** of our capital campaign in November is to retire the mortgage from the narthex construction and sanctuary remodeling. Here are before and during the remodeling (circa 2002):



Let's Burn the Mortgage!
Help us make this happen!

Hope Center

Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction

This Annual Fundraising event will be held on Thursday, November 16th at the Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee. The night includes a gala dinner with silent and live auctions. The theme this year is 1920's (Gatsby). Hope Center has experienced an ever increasing number of clients coming to them for help. To that end, each year, Hope Center, holds its annual Hope Thanksgiving Dinner and Auction, which is a fundraiser for Hope Center programs that help the less fortunate in Waukesha County. Please see the poster on the kiosk for information to RSVP.



"Goodie Boxes"

Nurture team will be mailing gift boxes to our wonderful young people in the military and to our college students in November. If you would like to contribute a small item, God bless you! Gum, mints, lip balm, pens, your own hand-written message, or post-it notes 3"x 3" are always welcome, but we are open to suggestions. All must fit into the small U.S. Priority Mail boxes that ship for \$5 each. A gift bag will be set up in the narthex for such items and all will be sent out before Thanksgiving. Or, if you'd like to chip in toward postage, please see Bonnie Stuempfig.



Make your Thanksgiving more meaningful and spiritually richer this year. Join us in worship on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday Nov. 22, at 7:00 at EL Buen Samaritano United Methodist, 915 Magnolia Drive in Waukesha. This is a combined service with the five United Methodist churches in the area. During the service, we will have an anthem by the combined choirs led by our choir director Hanna Koechel. El Buen Samaritano, our host church, will serve some refreshments after worship. You don't want miss that either!! 😊

Christmas Outreach Opportunities

The Giving Tree



Christmas is Around the

Corner! The Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County (CCC) promotes & coordinates giving to families in need during the Christmas season. They

match these families with area groups, families, businesses, and individuals who wish to help people who are less fortunate on a person-to-person basis. In 2015, they coordinated giving to more than 1,900 families and nearly 4,500 children in Waukesha County. Many in Waukesha are desperately struggling due to unexpected job loss, death of a wage earner, divorce or abandonment, illness, disability, or other crisis. Salem is adopting 3 families from the Christmas Clearing Council. The "Giving Tree" will be going up in November, and we are counting on Salem's generous support to assist these three families in need during this Christmas season. You can make the Christmas season brighter for children who might not otherwise experience the joy of the holidays. We are thankful of the past outpouring from Salem. Please consider taking an ornament off the tree again this year and help bring the joy of Christmas to a needy family in Waukesha.

ERAS Senior Network (formerly Interfaith) Holiday Giving

Each year, ERAS' Senior Network works with congregations, businesses and community groups to fill up to 500 self-sufficiency care packages for Waukesha County seniors and adults with disabilities living on a fixed income. Recipients of the gifts must have a demonstrated need for the donations. For many of the recipients, this is the only present they will receive this holiday season. Care packages include gift cards to the grocery store and pharmacy, postage stamps, gripper socks, personal care items, and handmade gifts such as ornaments and door hangers.

During November, the Outreach Ministry team will be collecting gift cards and postage stamps for this Holiday Giving Program. Watch for more information coming soon!



Advent 2017 Adult Class

"Bah! HUMBUG!"

Scrooge despises Christmas and its traditions! But if Scrooge can find the true meaning of Christmas, so can we! In this three-session study, we'll use clips from the movie, "A Christmas Carol" that will lead us to rediscover the meaning of Christmas through the prophet Isaiah's Advent Scripture.

Nov. 26 (Sunday after Thanksgiving) Isaiah 11:1-10
The Ghost of Christmas Past: "Finding Hope"

Dec. 10 (Second Sunday in Advent) Isaiah 40
The Ghost of Christmas Present: "Receiving Love"

Dec. 17 (Third Sunday in Advent) Isaiah 35:1-10
The Ghost of Christmas Future: "Discovering Joy"

Salem Library Social Issues Book Reviews

Check out the table in front of the library to read about some of the most important Social Issues facing us today:

The Suicidal Planet – The latest information on global warming and what technology, the government, and we ourselves must do to protect our planet.

Dreamers: An Immigrant Generation's Fight for Their American Dream - This book was written before the Dream Act but it has important stories of the undocumented immigrants, many of whom came here as children.

Snake Oil: How Fracking's False Promise of Plenty Imperils Our Future - A look at fracking from both economic and environmental perspectives.

Moral Ground – Contributors from around the world call us to honor responsibility to our planet. This book shows that scientific study and moral conviction can work together successfully.

They Take Our Jobs! and 20 Other Myths about Immigration – This book challenges assumptions about immigrants, immigration, and U.S. history.

Inside Islam: The Faith, the People and the Conflicts of the World's Fastest Growing Religion – This book will bring new understanding about the religion whose influence is felt round the world.

Troubled Water: Saints, Sinners, Truths and Lies – Why are the politics of water so skewed and what's being done about it? What can WE do about it?



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am - Noon

Before you know it, a Merry Christmas will fill the air around Salem and our community! Salem will be hosting Breakfast with Santa at Salem on Saturday, December 2, from 10:00 AM until Noon. A hot breakfast will be served and a story time will be featured along with Christmas carols. The cost has been reduced to \$4.00 per person with any children under two will be free. A picture of your child/family with Santa Claus will be provided. Please help us spread the word so Breakfast with Santa is a wonderful time for all! Please reserve seats no later than Saturday, Nov. 25 by signing up on the display in the narthex.



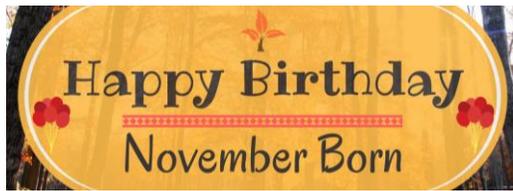
Come one,
come all to the...

**Annual Christmas Party
at Salem!**

**December 3rd
4:00-6:00 pm**

Bring your family and friends!
Hosted by our Salem UMW,
Come and enjoy music, food,
fellowship, and fun!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 10th! Our youth and children will present their Christmas Program with the morning worship service at 9:00 AM. They are inviting everyone to bring in a couple of canned goods for food party or make a cash contribution.



- November 2 Paul Wojcik
- 3 Cindy Loppnow
- 4 Steve Stachowicz
- 7 Bill Hauenstine
- 7 Bill Watt
- 13 Karla Henry
- 13 Rich Manns
- 13 Elliot Agpoon
- 14 Joan Callen
- 15 Aaron Buxengard
- 16 Rob Roszkowski
- 20 Jim Prescott
- 20 Bill Pardoe
- 21 Ruth Teschner
- 22 Todd Cochran
- 24 Margaret Wogaman
- 26 Aimee Agpoon
- 27 Dale Henry

Refreshments
needed for
November!



- Nov. 5** Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 23:1-12
- Nov. 12** Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13
- Nov. 19** Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123 or Psalm 76
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov. 26** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46



Sunday, November 5

Greeters: Terry & Sue Ristic
Acolyte: Aaron Buxengard
PowerPoint: Paul Becher
Worship Leader: Maggie Bringa
Liturgist: Ruth Teschner
Children’s Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers:
Refreshments:

Sunday, November 12

Greeters: Ralph & Sue Yont
Acolyte: Isaac Chapin
PowerPoint: Gary Wollenzien
Worship Leader: Amy Manns
Liturgist: Rich Manns
Children’s Time: Bill Pardoe
Flowers:
Refreshments:

Sunday, November 19

Greeters: Brian & Debbie Campbell
Acolyte: Seth Hernandez
PowerPoint: Harriet Young
Worship Leader: Kim Newton
Liturgist: John Klopp
Children’s Time: Bill Pardoe
Flowers:
Refreshments:

Sunday, November 26

Greeters: Lenny & Karen Hernandez
Acolyte: Zachary Buxengard
PowerPoint: John Klopp
Worship Leader: Kermit Bohning
Liturgist: Peggy Barnes
Children’s Time: Bill Pardoe
Flowers:
Refreshments: