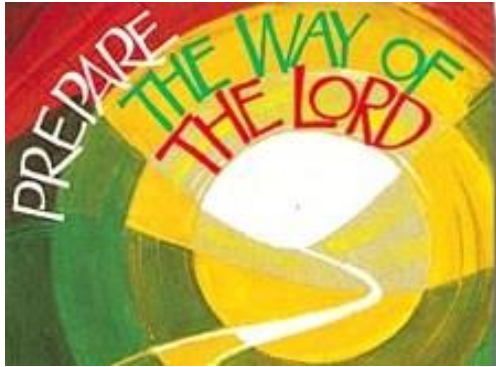


December 2018

Salem United Methodist Church

Growing Together on the Journey with Christ



From Pastor Paola

***In the desert someone is shouting,
“Get the road ready for the Lord!...
Then everyone will see the saving
power of God.”*** *from Luke 3*

John the Baptist repeats the words of the prophet Isaiah calling all those who would listen to prepare the road for the coming of the Messiah.

This is the true meaning of Advent: “coming”.

I know quite well that we have made this time of the year from the “most wonderful” to the most stressful of all: too much going on, too little time, strained finances, pressure to find the perfect present, struggling to balance work and family, overeating, dealing with difficult relatives, managing your expectations.... it can be a nightmare.

Self-help books have been written about managing this stress. Exercise classes, diets, relaxing techniques have been developed to help people.

Yet, there is nothing that calms my heart and fills it with true Christmas spirit like being in worship. In worship, I experience with words, music,

symbols, and traditions the coming of God’s love among us. In worship, I learn the freeing power of Christmas giving. In worship I am surrounded by the love and support of the spiritual family.

Prepare the way for the Lord to come into your heart this Advent. Attend worship and invite friends and family to come to worship with you.

Inviting someone to worship with you is the best gift idea!! It would bring great blessing to that person and to you. In fact, YOU may be exactly what someone needs this Christmas.

This Advent, keep your eyes and heart open for people God is sending on your path looking for good news, hope and peace. They may just need your invitation to come and see in worship what God has been doing for you through the ministry of Salem!!

I know it is sometime uncomfortable to invite others to worship with you. It helps to remember that:

You are inviting, not forcing or imposing on anyone;

It takes several invitations for someone to make a step to go to a church;

God uses people like you and me to bring His Good News.

***Get the road ready for the Lord.
Then everyone will see the saving
power of God.***

Blessings,
Pastor Paola

Some December Highlights

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 9:00 am

Christmas Party At Salem

Sunday, Dec. 2
4:00 pm
Hosted by UMW

Advent Adult

Class: “Christmas in the Movies”
Sundays 10:30 AM,
Dec. 2, 9, and 16

Lunch at Pizza Ranch hosted by SALT. Sat., Dec. 8
11:00 am

Children & Youth Christmas Program
Sunday, Dec. 9, 9 AM

The Christmas Giving Tree/ERAS
Items are due Dec. 9

Taking Down the Greens
Saturday, January 5,
9:00 am

Worship Series at Salem



We'll enter in the world of angels, meeting the angels who are part of the story of the birth of Jesus. Are angels part of our lives and our world today?

December 2 First Sunday in Advent (Communion)

Advent Candle of HOPE

An Angel visits Zechariah - Luke 1:5-24

December 9 Second Sunday in Advent

Advent Candle of LOVE

Children and Youth Christmas Program 9:00 AM

December 16 Third Sunday in Advent

Advent Candle of JOY

An Angel is Sent to Mary - Luke 1:26-38

December 23 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Advent Candle of PEACE

An Angel Appears to Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 Christmas Eve – (7:30 PM)

Christmas Eve Service with Candlelighting

The Christ Candle

The Angels bring Good News to the Shepherds
Luke 2:1-20

December 30 First Sunday After Christmas "Christmas Around the World"

We will welcome a guest worship and song leader, Tito, who will share with us songs of Christmas from around the world.



January 2019

Join us in January as look into beliefs that some people have regarding faith and God.

I have a friend who...

Jan. 6 ...Believes that you don't need to go to church to worship God.

Jan. 13 ...Believes that human suffering disproves that there is a God.

Jan. 20 ...Believes that Science and Faith are not compatible.

Jan. 27 ...Believes that God is judgmental.

Feb. 3 ...Believes that all religions are the same.

This series is an excellent time to bring a friend to church with you!

Come Dream With Us

Visioning the future of Salem.

Visioning the Future: Up, In, Out

February 10 "UP" Developing a transforming relationship with God

February 17 "IN" Inviting into an authentic community with each other

February 24 "OUT" Reaching out in service and mission

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.*

Proverbs 16:3



Come one,
come all to the...
**Annual Christmas Party
at Salem!**
December 2nd
4:00-6:00 pm

Bring your family and friends!
Hosted by our Salem UMW.
We will enjoy the music of the
season brought to us by the
talented Civic Broadway Singers
from Waukesha. Come and enjoy
music, food, fellowship, and fun!

Sunday School

Sunday, December 2: Worship & experience Holy
Communion with your families

Saturday, December 8: 2:00 pm Final practice for
Christmas Program

Sunday, December 9: Christmas Program, no
Sunday School; Confirmation at 10:30 am

Sunday, December 16: Children: The Birth of Jesus
Teens: KIVA update, sharing our faith, youth
room décor planning

Sunday, Dec. 23 & Dec. 30 No Sunday School



Christmas Outreach Items due December 9!

Christmas Clearing Council:

The "ornaments" from
the Giving Tree
disappeared fast! But
you can still help! Bring
an unwrapped gift to

Salem by Dec. 9. These items will go to children
who were not "adopted" for this project. Some
examples of gift ideas are: Mittens & gloves
(especially waterproof), hats & scarves (infant to
tween size), NEW books (birth to age 11), Licensed
Items: Disney, Paw Patrol, Star Wars, Pokémon,
etc., Infant and toddler toys, Pre-teen items –
blankets, craft kits, hair accessories.

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. For many of
the recipients, this is the only present they will
receive this holiday season. Our Outreach Ministry
team is collecting the following:

\$10.00 gift cards for Walgreens, Pick n' Save, and
Walmart. \$5.00 gift cards for McDonalds, and
Books of Forever Stamps. Please include the gift
receipt with your gift cards and place in the green
box under the Outreach bulletin board. Thanks! ☺



Equal Exchange for Christmas

Are you in need of a small hostess
gift, a stocking stuffer or special
treat for the holidays? Consider
purchasing products such as coffee,
tea, baking cocoa, hot cocoa mix,
and dark chocolate candy bars from
the Equal Exchange table. The Equal

Exchange program allows farmers and artisans all
over the world to be able to sell in the fair-trade
market. They are then able to stay on their land,
educate and support their families, and plan for their
future. Please stop at the Equal Exchange table on
Sunday morning and check out our products. Bags
of chocolate and large chocolate bars are available
with gift packaging.



Food Pantry Sunday is December 9th

Bring in non-perishable food, personal care
products, and monetary donations for the
Waukesha County Food Pantry. Thank you for
your generosity!

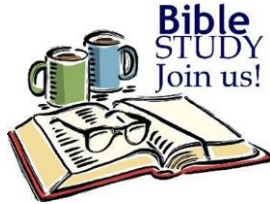


Order Your Poinsettias!

If you would like to order a poinsettia to beautify our sanctuary for December 23rd and 24th, please fill out an order form found in the Sunday bulletins. You can indicate if the poinsettia is in memory of someone or in honor of someone. Each plant is \$10.00, and you can take home your poinsettia on Christmas eve after the service. See Marlys Tesch for more information.

Thursday Morning Bible Study News

The Thursday morning Bible study group has made the decision, for the time being, to meet the first Thursday of each month at **8:00 AM at church**. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 6th. January's bible study will be January 3. We hope you can join us. We will serve coffee! No preparation is needed.



*Monday, December 24
7:30 pm Traditional
Candlelight Service at Salem UMC
with Holy Communion*

Confirmation

The next Confirmation Class will be on Sunday, **December 9th at 10:30 AM**. The theme for the class will be: "Not a Normal Christmas". January's class will be on the 13th.

Women in the Middle

Our next gathering will be on **Friday, January 11, at 6:00 pm** when we meet for a holiday white elephant party at Eileen Fischer's home. Please bring an appetizer to share. See Pastor Paola for more information.

Salem's Leadership Retreat

Please mark your calendars for this very important event! The Salem leadership Retreat will be held on **Saturday, January 26th from 9AM to 2PM**. We will be using the facilities at First United Methodist Church (121 Wisconsin Ave, Waukesha). A lot is happening at Salem right now, and it is time for all of us to recognize where we are and dedicate some time to brainstorm the vision for Salem's future. Your presence is valuable, and we hope you can make it. Chris Taylor will be facilitating the retreat. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please let Pastor Paola know if you can attend, if you haven't already.



Salem's Knitting/Crocheting Ministry

We meet most Thursday mornings at 10 AM at Salem. See Becky Henderson if you are interested in joining us!

Looking ahead....

CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 3

Save the date for this fun event! Following worship, there will be a competition and fundraiser to see who makes the yummiest chili! If interested in competing for "Best Chili Chef", contact a member of the Outreach Ministry Team. The proceeds will be used to provide the salary for the director of the malnutrition program at the Haiti Medical Mission. More information to come!



With Sympathy

It is with great sadness that we learned the news of the death of Kris Hanson on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22. He was 62 years old. Many of you know Kris because he brought his mother Lois to church often. Kris was also an active guitarist in the Salem Singers several years ago, and lately he played guitar on occasion in worship. The funeral for Kris was held at Salem on December 1. Our hearts are full of sympathy for the Hanson family.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 4	Sue Guenther
6	Jacques Crusan
10	Harriet Young
11	Bonnie Stuempfig
16	Liz Scrima
18	Chris Taylor
22	Sheryl Crusan
24	Ed Padgett
27	Jenny Tonz
28	Gary Rongstad

DECEMBER LECTIONARY

Dec. 2	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36
Dec. 9	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6
Dec. 16	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18
Dec. 23	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:47-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45
Dec. 30	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

We need
refreshments
for
December!

Serving Salem in December

Sunday, December 2

Greeters: Ralph & Sue Yont
Acolyte: Brooke Nease
PowerPoint: Greg Trombley
Worship Leader: Doug Taylor
Scripture Reader: Sheryl Crusan
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers: Ralph & Sue Yont
Refreshments: Ralph & Sue Yont

Sunday, December 9

Children & Youth Christmas Program

Greeters: Rob & Gladys Roszkowski
Acolyte: Zach Buxengard
PowerPoint: Harriet Young
Worship Leader: Kermit Bohning
Scripture Reader: Carol Becher
Flowers:
Refreshments:

Sunday, December 16

Greeters:
Acolyte: Anna Hobbins
PowerPoint: Paul Becher
Worship Leader: Amy Manns
Scripture Reader: Bonnie Stuempfig
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers:
Refreshments:

Sunday, December 23

Greeters: Greg & Kim Newton
Acolyte: Abby Buxengard
PowerPoint: Gary Wollenzien
Worship Leader: Marlys Tesch
Scripture Reader: Bonnie Wojcik
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers: Poinsettias
Refreshments:

Sunday, December 30

Greeters: Bill & JoAnn Hauenstine
Acolyte: Cole Nease
PowerPoint: John Klopp
Worship Leader: Cory Buxengard
Scripture Reader: Aaron Buxengard
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers:
Refreshments: