



SALEM SHINES *Christ's Light* OF  
HOPE & COMPASSION, INVITING ALL TO  
*grow, connect & serve.*

December 2019

*A Note from Pastor Paola...*

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believe on him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16*

**What is your most memorable Christmas gift?**

Perhaps it was something unexpected and out of the ordinary. Maybe something that touched your heart or a surprising gift from someone not very close to you. Or it was a very personal and thoughtful gift. Those memorable gifts remain with us forever and truly remind us of the love and the care of the gift-giver.

This is what Christmas is about: God giving us the most memorable gift, a history-changing gift. The biggest gift humanity has ever received: The gift of Jesus, God with us. He is a gift for us from the Father to defeat the ultimate fear and to give us hope in life eternal. What a gift!!! This gift will be at the center of our church life during this coming Advent and Christmas Eve.



Every Sunday morning, a new gift will be disclosed and brought to us during worship.



The worship service on December 8th, led by our youth and children, will bring to us the gift of joy.



Our Music Ministry will bring us gifts of music throughout the month in worship.



We will have plenty of opportunities to become an image of The Giver by blessing others with our gifts!



Gifts will be collected for children (Toy Drive) and also seniors & adults with disabilities (Walgreens, Pick n' Save, Walmart, & McDonald's gift cards, postage stamps). Also the "Reverse Advent Calendar" (collection of items for the Waukesha food pantry)



Discover in this issue of Tidings all the opportunities we will have during this month to receive gifts and bring gifts to others.

....And of course, remember that the best gift you can give to a friend, a neighbor or a relative is to invite them to come and worship with you at Salem during this blessed season. You may just transform his/her life and fill his/her life with joy and hope.

Make this a memorable Christmas for you and for your family! See you in church!

Blessings,

*Paola Demicheli*

# Worship Opportunities

## Advent and Christmas at Salem



### *The Gift*

It is gift-giving time. Let's discover the true gift of the season through the prophetic words of Isaiah.

**December 1 – Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent**  
**The Gift of Vulnerability** – Isaiah 11:6-9

**December 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Advent -**  
Children and Youth will lead worship!  
**“The Gift We Give”**

**December 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent**  
**The Gift of Service** – Isaiah 52:13-15

**December 22- fourth of Advent**  
**The Gift of Humility** – Isaiah 53:1-6

**December 24 – Christmas Eve 7:00 PM**  
**The Best Gift of All** – Luke 2

**December 29 - First Sunday after Christmas**  
**The Gift of the Magi** – Matthew 2:1-16  
A Service of Carols (We'll sing along with Christmas carols and hear the stories behind each carol)

## NEW TIME THIS YEAR!! 7:00 PM



*Tuesday, December 24*  
*7:00 pm Traditional*  
*Candlelight Service at Salem*  
*with Holy Communion*

## Winter Worship Series



**“Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”**  
**Psalms 126**

Let's make this New Year a year filled with joy, laughter, love and hope! Open your heart to the sermon of the mountain where Jesus teaches us the way to joy even in the midst of sorrow.

**January 5** (Communion Sunday) Matthew 5:1-4  
**Humor** Have a wholehearted belly laughing

**January 12** Matthew 5:5-8  
**Humility** Laugh at the imperfect you

**January 19** Matthew 5:43-48  
**Compassion** Let love transform your life

**January 26** Matthew 6:9-11  
**Gratitude** Open your heart to gifts

**February 2** (Communion Sunday) Matt. 6:12; 14-15  
**Forgiveness** Free yourself from the past

**February 9** Matthew 6:19-24  
**Generosity** In giving we receive

**February 16** Matthew 6:25-34  
**Perspective** Look at it from a different angle

**February 23** Matthew 7:1-5  
**Acceptance** Welcome pain, imperfection, and beauty



Join us as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas! We'll meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>

### Order Your Poinsettias!

You can order poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary for Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Christmas Eve worship! Please fill out an order form found in the Sunday bulletins. Please indicate if the poinsettia is in memory of someone or in honor of someone. You can take home your poinsettia on Christmas eve after the service. See Marlys Tesch for more information.



### Annual Christmas Party at Salem!

**December 1, 4:00-6:00 pm**

On Sunday, Dec. 1st, you are invited to a Christmas concert at Salem, put on by the Master Singers of Waukesha West High School. This is a very talented group of young people! The concert starts at 4:00 pm, followed by an array of heavy appetizers and desserts provided by the United Methodist Women. The concert is a great way to start the season!



### Bethlehem Live All are invited!

Salem's Nurture Committee and S.A.L.T. group have made arrangements with Oakwood Church, 3041 Oakwood Rd. in Hartland, to attend their "Bethlehem Live" event on Saturday, December 14. It is a totally free **indoor experience** to "pet the animals, smell the spices, visit the carpenter's shop and see the baby," promising to be an inspiring and memorable Christmas happening. We will meet at Salem at 9:30 a.m. and carpool to the event which starts at 10:15 and lasts about 40 minutes. Afterwards we'll come back to Salem and the Pizza Ranch just down the road for lunch. Doesn't this sound like fun? Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to register as soon as possible, as we have a limited number of tickets available.

### *Cookies with Santa*

**Sunday, December 8th**

What a special Sunday!!

At 9:00 AM, our children and youth will lead the worship service with the theme:

*"The Gift We Give"*

Following worship, plan on staying for a fun time with Santa! We'll be doing crafts and games, and getting photos with Santa, and of course sharing some delicious Christmas cookies!



*Invite a  
friend!*



### Overflow Shelter Concert

The Windy Hill Brass & Handbell Choir held their concert on Nov. 15 at Salem. A freewill offering

was collected to support the Women's Overflow Shelter, and \$1,010 was collected!!! Approximately 95 people were in attendance for the event and it was enjoyed by all. Waukesha County Circuit Judge Laura Lau, a Housing Action Coalition Board member, spoke to the audience about the shelter's needs. Many thanks to her, the band and choir, and all those who helped to support this event!



## Building Team Report

At the October meeting, we reviewed the comments of Steve Knudson from VJS, a design, build, construction service. He had done a quick walk through of the church and made some note-worthy observations. With his comments in mind as well as the list of our church needs necessary for our ministry, we are now going to look at the original building plans identifying where new space can be created and old space can be used more efficiently. In order to do this, we will be going through the building section by section. At our next meeting, we will focus on the sanctuary in terms of what changes or updates may be needed.

The Committee also discussed in depth the type, placement, and location of a new outdoor electronic sign. There are still a few more questions that need to be answered before we can proceed. When we make our final decision, the project will be presented to the congregation for their approval. Installation will not and cannot be done until Spring however.

### New Books Available in the Salem Library

We have just received a generous gift from a friend of Salem: THREE series of fiction books published by Guideposts! They are:



#### Chesapeake Antiques Mysteries

A widow takes over her sister's antique shop and discovers a family mystery which sends her and an old friend on an adventure.

#### The Chicory Inn Series

The mother of five grown children and her husband are turning their home into a B & B. With a daughter returning home with a U-Haul, and guests arriving, the opening weekend is off to a rocky start.

#### Secrets of The Wayfarers Inn

A mystery series with a very interesting historical background. Three life-long friends purchase an inn built in 1851 which was a part of the Underground Railroad. As they work to remodel the building into a café and B & B, they come across hidden passages filled with secrets which sets them on a course to solving mysteries both past and present.

**More new books coming soon!**



### Tales from the Trustees

#### Tales from the Trustees

Everyday maintenance and planning continues with priority on the replacement of the front doors. We expect two more proposals to come in next week.

The trustees cleaned out the garage and moved the last of spare roof tiles to the north side of church. New sensors for water leaks, pipes freezing, and heating failures have been installed and connected to monitors at the offices of our insurance carrier.

We have agreed to continue to allow many of the workers who are constructing the building for New Perspective Senior Living to park in our parking lot. Iconica, the Contractor, will pay for all of the plowing & salting in our parking lot **on weekdays**. We will pay for all of the plowing/salting in our parking lot **on weekends**.

New Perspective Senior Living is finalizing plans for the "green space" which they are going to develop on the south side of their building. The "green space" will include a swing/play set, bocce ball, planters, a fire pit and patio. We will have access to this space via a sidewalk (at our expense) which will connect to a new entrance on the north side of our building.

## Stewardship Update

Thank you to all those who brought or sent in the pledge cards for your 2020 financial commitment! If you didn't send your pledge card yet, we encourage you to do so. It

greatly helps the sustainability of the budget knowing the amount that comes from pledges. Please remember that if anything changes financially in your household, you can change the pledge at any time during the year.

Unfortunately, we are finding ourselves about \$8,000 behind at this point due to lower offerings in October & November and a few large unexpected bills (such as snow plowing last winter that was double what we budgeted, and now we have started already!). We are striving to close the year in the black, but we need everyone's support to do that. Please consider catching up with your giving and/or doing a special financial gift above and beyond your pledge. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us at any time.

–Your Stewardship/Finance Team

*Thank  
you!*



## OUTREACH DEADLINE!! December 8th

Sunday, December 8th, is the last day to return gift cards and forever stamps for the Eras Holiday care packages and also for your unwrapped toys for the Toy Drive for the Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County. Here is more information:

### Toy Drive Wish List:

- Gift cards (for ages 12-18) in \$10, \$15 and \$25 increments from Kohl's, Walmart or Target.
- Mittens and gloves (especially waterproof), and hats: ages birth to 11.
- NEW books: birth to 11, including dual-language books in English/Spanish.
- Licensed Items: Finding Dory, Disney, Paw Patrol, Star Wars, Pokémon, Zoom, Zoom, etc.
- Infant and toddler toys: especially riding toys for toddlers.
- Other: sleeping bags, blankets, STEM-related craft items.

### ERAs Holiday Care Packages

Gifts we are collecting this year:

- Books of Forever Stamps
- \$10 Walgreens Gift Cards
- \$10 Pick 'n Save Gift Cards
- \$10 Walmart Gift Cards
- \$5 McDonald's Gift Cards
- Thin Crossword/Word Search Books

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Add 1 item to a basket or bag each day before Christmas. At the end, you will have a full box to deliver to the Waukesha Food Pantry (or food pantry of your choice)! For more information and list of items to collect, please see inside the pew pads in the sanctuary. Thank you for making the holidays brighter for our community.

## Food Pantry Sunday is December 8th

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

## 98th Birthday Celebration!

Let's help Harriet Marks celebrate as she turns 98!

The celebration will be Dec. 31, 1:00-2:15 pm at Summit Woods Independent & Assisted Living, where Harriet lives! Harriet's friends at Summit Woods are invited, along with her friends from Salem and around the area. Kurt Guenther will be performing with hits from the 60's & 70's. Come sing along to songs from Sinatra, Elvis, Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash, Dean Martin, Kenny Rogers, and more! \*\*Summit Woods is located at 2501 Summit Ave. in Waukesha.



## Come Sing with Us (if only for December!)

Our **choir** is now rehearsing for the Advent season and for Christmas Eve! Perhaps you don't have the time to be consistently part of the choir, but we invite you to consider singing with our choir just for December and being part of the celebration. The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:15. Remember, everyone can sing... we need YOU!

## AED



### Defibrillator at Salem

We have a newly installed defibrillator in the narthex. If you are willing and able to operate the defibrillator, please notify Marsha

Everson: [marshaeverson@hotmail.com](mailto:marshaeverson@hotmail.com) or 414-698-6716. We are considering a group training session, so if you don't have certification but would like it, please let Marsha know that also.

## National Homeless Persons Memorial Day

Saturday, Dec. 21, 3:30-4:30 pm  
Waukesha Riverfront Gazebo

Please join us to reflect and remember those who lost their lives this year while living in our community without a permanent residence. Dec. 21 is the longest night of the year, and it has been designated as National Homeless Persons Memorial Day. Join us for a brief program. The event will be outdoors; dress accordingly. Parking is available by Waukesha State Bank. Sponsored by the Housing Action Coalition. [cocwaukesha@gmail.com](mailto:cocwaukesha@gmail.com)



## 2020 Budget

Our 2020 budget was approved at the charge conference on Nov. 18. The increase is about 2% or \$5000. This is driven by increases in apportionments, insurance, snow and ice control, lawn care, and building repairs/maintenance. Thank you for your continued generous support! If you would like detailed information, please contact Kermit Bohning.



## Women in the Middle

Our next gathering will be on **Friday, Jan. 10, at 6:00 pm** when we meet for a holiday white elephant party at Eileen Fischer's home. Please bring an appetizer to share.



## 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 1

Greeters: Gary & Gloria Rongstad  
Acolyte: Chase H.  
PowerPoint: Gary Wollenzien  
Worship Leader:  
Advent Wreath: Bob & Michelle Lacock  
Liturgist: Gladys Roszkowski  
Children's Time: Pastor Paola  
Flowers: Ralph & Sue Yont  
Refreshments: Julie Vang

## December 8

Greeters: Ralph & Sue Yont  
Acolyte: Aaron B.  
PowerPoint: Paul Becher  
Worship Leader: Doug Lindsay  
Advent Wreath: Roszkowski and Bennett  
Liturgist: Carol Becher  
Children's Time: Pastor Paola  
Flowers: Bill & Harriet Young  
Refreshments:

## December 15

Greeters: Rob & Gladys Roszkowski  
Acolyte: Brooke N.  
PowerPoint: Harriet Young  
Worship Leader: Kermit Bohning  
Advent Wreath: Nick & Jen Tonz & family  
Liturgist: Paul Wojcik  
Children's Time: Pastor Paola  
Flowers:  
Refreshments:

## December 22

Greeters: Bob & Bonnie Stuempfig  
Acolyte: Zach B.  
PowerPoint: Greg Trombley  
Worship Leader: Kermit Bohning  
Advent Wreath:  
Liturgist: Peggy Barnes  
Children's Time: Pastor Paola  
Flowers:  
Refreshments: Paul & Bonnie Wojcik

## December 29

Greeters: Paul & Bonnie Wojcik  
Acolyte: Anna Hobbins  
PowerPoint: John Klopp  
Worship Leader: Harriet Young  
Liturgist: Sheryl Crusan  
Children's Time: Pastor Paola  
Flowers:  
Refreshments: