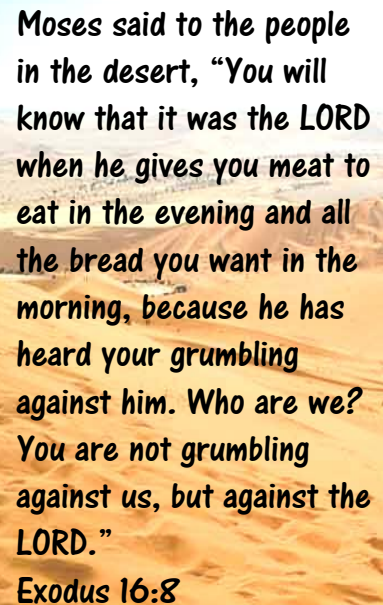


# Salem United Methodist Church

November 2021

## *Thoughts from Pastor Paola...*

I have been taking an exercise class in the water. I love it!! I don't care too much for the workout part of it, but being in the water makes exercising almost fun. Being in the water makes me happy. I can pretend it is summer, it is warm, and I am on a beach somewhere. I have been noticing a woman in my class who is constantly unhappy and complaining about almost anything. Her body language and facial expression signal her constant unhappiness. I think she is just a grumbler. I usually try to stay away from her; grumbling is contagious, and I don't want her to ruin my happy water time.



Moses said to the people in the desert, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."  
**Exodus 16:8**

The Israel people spent a great part of their journey toward the Promised Land grumbling. They grumbled for what they didn't have and for what they did have. Every morning they were receiving manna bread, every night they received meat, and fresh water out of rocks. They had been freed from slavery, crossed the Red Sea miraculously... but nothing took the grumbling attitude out of them.

Do you know what is the worst part of grumbling? You become unable to see the gifts in your life or to experience the joy of these gifts, and even worse, you can't recognize the Giver. Did you ever get caught in a vicious cycle of grumbling? I did. It is not fun. In grumbling, there is no space for joy and even worse, there is no space for a life with God.

November is upon us. I love the way the season of Thanksgiving forces me to slow down and remember to practice intentional gratitude. In gratitude, we can experience life as a gift. Gratitude opens us up to wonder, joy, and humility. It makes our hearts generous. It liberates us from the prison of self-preoccupation.

Enter into this season with a grateful heart. Try these two simple spiritual disciplines during this month:

- Write a card or email every week (or more) to someone you are grateful for. Tell him/her why you are grateful. It will be a huge gift of joy to you.
- Pray your own blessings. Each night before you go to sleep, write down four blessings for which you are grateful to God. It will fill you with joy even after the worst day.

Gratitude humbles us, allows us to see the gifts we receive, and makes us truly rich. Gratitude frees us from grumpiness and complaining, sadness and isolation. It may even help us to smile and talk to the negative grumblers in our lives. I tried this with the grumpy lady in my exercise class. I got an almost smile out of her yesterday!!

Happy Thanksgiving, my friends!!

Blessings,

Pastor Paola

# Worship Opportunities at Salem

## All Saints Sunday

November 7

We will remember and honor our loved ones who passed away in the past two years. Please email the church office with the name(s) of your loved ones who have died since November 2019.



Have You Filled  
a Bucket Today?



Worship Series  
November  
14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

This year our season of thanksgiving will be inspired by a children's story that tells us we were all born with an invisible bucket. When our bucket is full, we are happy and when it is empty we are sad. God fills our bucket every day with great blessings. People around us fill our bucket also, with their love and generosity. Through this worship series we have the opportunity to learn how to fill other people's buckets by blessing them with our love and generosity.

**November 14** Let Jesus Fill your Bucket

John 4:4-15

**November 21** Become a Bucket Filler

John 4:28-30; 39-42

Worship with our neighbors at

*New Perspective*  
SENIOR LIVING

Pastor Paola will lead worship (30 minutes) in the chapel with communion

**Wednesday, November 17, at 11 AM**

**Wednesday, December 15, at 11 AM**

**Wednesday, January 12, at 11 AM**



## Advent and Christmas

Every year the Christmas season comes to us with a promise of peace. But this year, more than ever, we enter into this season with a great deal of brokenness, division and conflict. How can we find true peace this Christmas? Let us open our hearts to the message of hope of the prophets who announced the coming of the Messiah as the source of peace and reconciliation.

**November 28** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Prince of Peace** Isaiah 9:2;6-7

**December 5** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Children & Youth will lead the service**

Holy Communion - Toy Drive

**December 12** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Peaceful Kingdom** Isaiah 11:1-9

**December 19** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**He Will Be Our Peace** Micah 5:1-5

**December 24** Christmas Eve

**\* NEW TIME 4 pm**

**Traditional Candlelighting**

**Peace On Earth** Luke 2:1-20

**December 26** Carols of Christmas



**From our Children, Youth & Family Ministries  
Coordinator, Mary Jo Martin**

## November Sunday School Schedule

### November 7

Neighborhood food collection during Sunday School time. Come back to church and sort food.

### November 14

Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing."

Middle & High School Teacher: Bonnie Wojcik  
Elementary Teacher: Mary Jo Martin

### November 21

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Middle and High School Teacher: TBA  
Elementary Teacher: Mary Jo Martin

**November 28:** No Sunday School  
Thanksgiving Weekend

**December 5:** Worship Service will be lead by all the children and youth! Children's Bell Choir plays, Blessing of the Toys

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Don't forget our **Christmas Toy Drive** beginning on November 14<sup>th</sup>! Children & Youth Ministries will be helping to support our Outreach Team. Collection ends December 5th.



The Children's Bell Choir is for all children, ages 5-12. We are so grateful for Katie Martin who is directing. **Practice dates are Nov. 14 & 21.** We

will be practicing for the Worship Service on December 5<sup>th</sup> when all of our Children and Youth will leading the service!! Song: "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Mark your calendars for our annual **CHARGE CONFERENCE** on Nov. 16 at 7 PM. All are invited. Rev. Kelly Fowler from Our Lord's UMC will be presiding.



**In gratitude, we thank you for giving  
generously for the following:**

**UNDIE SUNDAY** - you gave dignity to many needy people going into our Wisconsin winter!! We donated 760 Basic Items after monetary donations of \$621.00 and \$130.00 in Kohl's Cash! Thank you from the Outreach Team.

**FOOD DRIVE** – Sponsored by our Children & Youth Ministries. Thank you to everyone who donated to our food drive! Along with the Outreach Team, we are truly grateful for your donations!

**BOOK SALE** Many thanks to all of you book lovers who generously supported the book sale. We will be using the money to purchase library supplies and some new books. If you have any suggestions, we'll be happy to hear them!  
-Your Library Committee - Carol, Pat, and Gladys





### Order Your Poinsettias!

You can order poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary for the month of December. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins beginning on

November 14th. Orders are due by Sunday, November 28th. 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.

### Christmas Greeting Card Class

How would you like to learn to make unique Christmas cards for those special folks in your life? The Nurture Team will have two talented ladies, Kathy Knoll and Edna Lasada, teaching us how to make lovely cards. Join us on Saturday, November 20, 9:00 am - Noon for a continental breakfast, along with all materials necessary for this fun and interesting activity. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, as reservations are necessary. See you there!



Join us as we decorate the church for Christmas! We'll meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 4th!

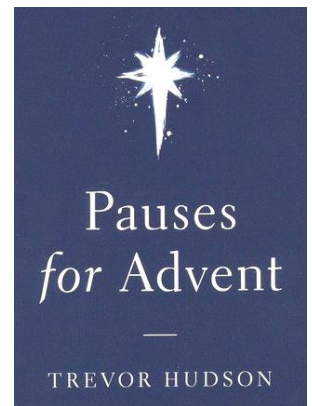
### Caroling Sing-along at New Perspective!

Come and join our Salem Choir on Wednesday, December 8, at 7 PM as we sing carols with the New Perspective residents next door! No singing experience needed!



### Advent Class

Advent starts Sunday, November 28. I would like you invite you all to live fully this year during Advent while preparing for the coming of Christ by reading with me a small but wonderful Advent devotional

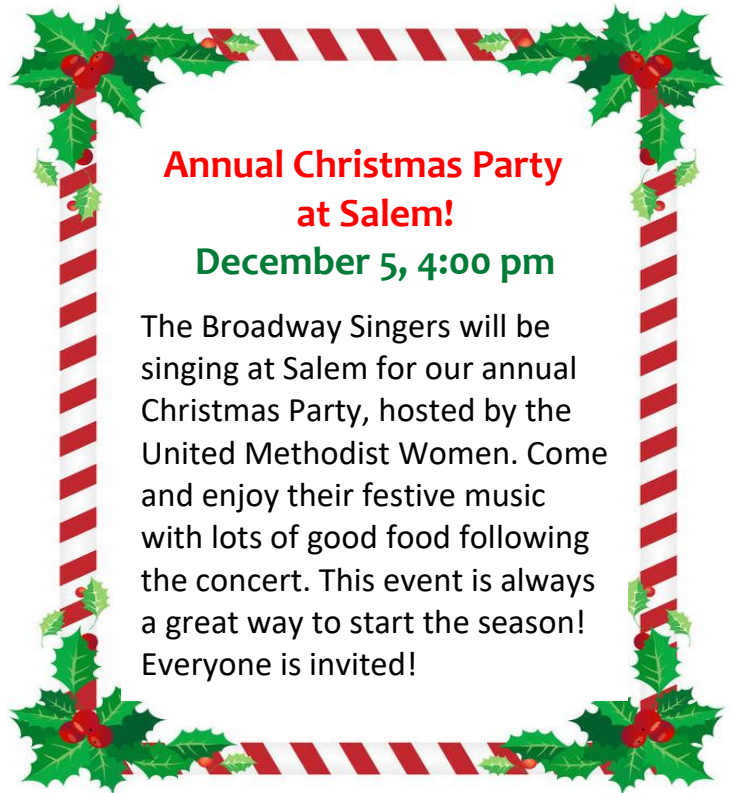


booklet, "Pauses for Advent". With a short reading every day, the author helps us to prepare for a meaningful Christmas. To complete the experience, I invite you to join me every Sunday during Advent to bring your coffee and refreshments and gather after the service at 10 AM in the conference room to discuss and share elements of the booklet. There is a sign up for the class and for the booklet (\$8.00) in the narthex. Please order your book by Sunday, November 14. We will distribute the book by November 28.

### Annual Christmas Party at Salem!

December 5, 4:00 pm

The Broadway Singers will be singing at Salem for our annual Christmas Party, hosted by the United Methodist Women. Come and enjoy their festive music with lots of good food following the concert. This event is always a great way to start the season! Everyone is invited!



# Christmas Giving Opportunities at Salem

For Christmas giving, Salem's Outreach Ministry is once again supporting two organizations (Christmas Clearing Council AND ERAs Senior Network). This will include young and old alike. Collection dates for all items are November 14th through December 5th. Here are the giving opportunities...

## ERAs Senior Network

Serving both Milwaukee County and Waukesha County seniors and adults with disabilities, the goal of this organization during the holidays is to provide up to 900 clients with Holiday Giving Packages that include stamps and gift cards totaling \$50. We will be collecting the following items from November 14th through December 5th.

### Here is ERAs wish list:

- Books of postage stamps
- \$10 Walgreen gift cards
- \$10 Walmart gift cards
- \$10 Pick n Save gift cards

*(Please include gift card receipts with each gift card.)*



## Christmas Clearing Council Toy Drive for their Holiday Toy Shop

Since 1949, the Christmas Clearing Council has been promoting and coordinating the giving to families in need during the Christmas season. Families are referred to the Christmas Clearing Council by more than 50 agencies that qualify families based on income, residence, and placement of children.



Salem's Children & Youth Ministries, in combination with the Outreach Team, will be sponsoring a TOY DRIVE at Salem from November 14<sup>th</sup> through December 5<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Christmas Clearing Council Toy Shop. Watch for a toy barrel coming soon in the narthex to drop off your **unwrapped** toys. The toys will be blessed on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> during worship.

### Here is the Toy Shop donation wish list:

- Any new toys for children ages birth to 11. Children ages 12-18 who are not sponsored will receive gift cards in lieu of toys.
- Mittens and gloves (especially waterproof) and hats: ages birth to 11
- New books: birth to 11, including Spanish or dual-language books
- Licensed items: Disney, Star Wars
- Infant and toddler toys: especially riding toys for toddlers
- Sleeping bags and blankets
- STEM-related craft item



### REMINDER!!

Change of time for  
our Christmas Eve  
service at Salem!!  
We will worship at  
**4:00 PM.**

This will be our traditional Candle-lighting Service. Make note of the time change and pass the word. We are excited that this will allow you to be with your family and friends for home celebrations during the evening on Christmas Eve.

*Looking ahead....*

### MOM'S TIME OUT

A one-day retreat for moms of children and teenagers at Siena Center in Racine! Saturday, February 19, from 9 AM to 4 PM. (lunch included) Let's have fun, get to know each other, read the scripture, make a real cool craft, and share our challenges and blessings about motherhood! Mark your calendars! See Pastor Paola for more information.



**Join the Choir or the Bells** (or both!) for the Advent and Christmas season! Wednesday night is MUSIC night at Salem. No experience necessary. Come give us a try! Handbells practice at 6:30 PM. Choir practices at 7:30 PM.



November 2	Paul Wojcik
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
24	Margaret Wogaman
26	Aimee Agpoon
27	Dale Henry

## Lectionary Readings

### November 7

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17  
Psalm 127:1-5  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

### November 14

1 Samuel 1:4-20  
1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25  
Mark 13:1-8

### November 21

2 Samuel 23:1-7  
Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18)  
Revelation 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37

### November 28

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36