



# Salem United Methodist Church

## December 2021



### Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

“God reconciled the world to himself in Christ,  
not counting people’s sins against them...  
and he calls us to become ambassadors of reconciliation.”  
2 Corinthians 5:19-20



With these words, the apostle Paul explained Christmas to the church in Corinth who was struggling to understand the central message of the coming of Jesus into the world. It is all about one word: Reconciliation!

In Jesus, God reconciles Himself with each of us, by forgiving our sins and opening a new way of life, the way of love. In the moment we are reconciled with God, we are called to become ambassadors of His reconciliation in the world.

Visions of being reconciled captures our hearts today as we have been experiencing a dramatic worsening of divisions, conflicts, hatred, and polarization at all levels during the last few years. And just like in the children’s story of the *Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, our hearts have been shrinking at least two sizes (or more) in the process.

On this scale from condemning to embracing, where are you today as you think of some of the people in your life that you cannot stand?

Condemning  
Resisting  
Tolerating  
Accepting  
Embracing

Reconciliation doesn’t mean we all agree on everything or that we choose neutrality in the name of peace, but it means we realize we are all interconnected, woven together by our fragile humanity. If we don’t use grace in how we treat each other, we will all go down.

We need reconciliation and healing this Christmas; we need to grow our heart back a few sizes. Look again at the scale above. Can you move up one or more levels from condemning to embracing during this Advent?

Blessings,  
Pastor Paola

# Worship Opportunities at Salem



## 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.

**December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**Children & Youth will lead the service**  
Holy Communion - Toy Drive

**December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent**  
**Peaceful Kingdom** Isaiah 11:1-9

**December 19 4th 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**



**January 2**

**9:00 AM**

John Wesley introduced the

annual covenant renewal service in 1755. This service reminds us of our commitment to be witnesses to Jesus Christ in the world by the way we live and love every day in the new year.

## January Worship Series

**The old has gone,  
the new is here!**

2 Corinthians 5:17

**Everything old has passed away;  
see everything has become new:  
Finding transformation, renewal, and growth  
in unexpected changes**

We live in a time of changes: the global pandemic all the way to our remodeled building at Salem, so much has changed in the past couple of years. It is a new year. As a church, and personally, we are called to be transformed and renewed in our faith to take the challenge for spiritual and numerical growth.

### **January 9 Embracing Change**

The story of Mary - Luke 1:26-38

### **January 16 Preparing for the Change**

Jesus in the desert - Luke 4:1-13

### **January 23 The challenge of Change**

Walk to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35

### **January 30 Facing change**

The conversion of Saul - Acts 9:1-19



## 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 FREE event is always a great way to start the season! Everyone is invited!

## Advent Adult Class

### Advent Class

Pastor Paola invites us to join her for an Advent Class at 10:15 AM on Sunday,

Dec. 5, 12, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Bring your coffee and refreshments, and we'll meet in the conference room. Everyone is welcome.

### Worship with our neighbors at New Perspective

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

**Wednesday, December 15, at 11 AM**  
**Wednesday, January 12, at 11 AM**



**Equal Exchange Products** are going fast! We still have large candy bars for \$3 (Dk. Chocolate with almonds, Caramel Crunch and Orange). These would make great stocking stuffers!

For those cold winter nights coming up, how about a can of hot cocoa mix for \$6. Treat yourself or a friend!



### Children & Youth News - Mary Jo Martin

#### Saturday, December 4th

Practice for Dec. 5th Practice will be held 11-12:00. Pizza will be provided

#### Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

Youth and children will participate in the service. ALL kids must be at church by 8:15 AM for a quick rehearsal with our choir. There will be a **Blessing of the Toys** that have been donated for the Toy Shop (Christmas Clearing Council). Children's bells will play. Following worship, there will be **cookies and cocoa with Santa** 10:00 -10:30 AM. Get your photo with Santa! He will have a surprise for the kids.

**\*\*Youth and children's families... please bring a dozen cookies or treats for fellowship that day.**

**Sunday School Teachers are needed** for Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and January 9<sup>th</sup> for both elementary and youth. Please let Mary Jo know if you can help!

**No Sunday School** on December 26th and January 2nd.



### 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. Join us for this special service as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.



## News from our

### *TRUSTY TRUSTEES*

Batteries have been replaced in all four electronic door locks.

Dave is fixing the door keypads.

Caryn installed downspout tubes to avoid flooding. Jim donated and installed bricks and material for the walkway entrance by the shed so we will be able to get in and out during the winter months.

Robert and Bill hired a mud jacking company who fixed the slabs in front of the church so nobody will fall, and this will also make it easier for shoveling and salting.

We continue to have problems with the wireless doorbell; if anyone has time to help with this challenge, please see one of the trustees.

We have some upcoming 2022 projects:

- 1) The spotlight on the front of the church shines too bright and blinds drivers when leaving the church. We are looking for ways to dim it a little.
- 2) Bonnie is working on having sensor lights at the entrance doors lights.
- 3) We will be making an inventory of the church.

It was brought to our attention that some of the groups have been propping the doors open and we are concerned about mice and cold air. The doors should not be propped open for a long period of time.

With a sad note, due to health issues, Rob must step down as chairperson of Trustees, so we will be looking for a replacement. He will be missed, and we thank him for a great job. He will continue to finish some of the outstanding projects.

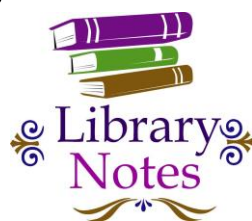
We would also like to thank the members of the church for their support, and we are looking to serving you in the New Year.

Christmas Outreach: ALL TOYS, gift cards, and stamps need to be at church by Sunday morning, December 5<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for your generosity!



Salem Church was a founding partner of Healing Hearts, and for over ten years has continued to be a supporting partner. The program started as an organization with trained facilitators providing free, peer support for children and their parents who were experiencing grief. Healing Hearts has grown to meet the needs of a variety of individuals and communities. In addition to the children's group, there are also groups specifically for teens, young adults and adults. After meeting requests for help from neighboring communities, **the organization's name is being changed to Healing Hearts of Southeastern Wisconsin.**

Due to the continuing impact of events during the Waukesha Christmas parade, please keep Healing Hearts in mind if you recognize individuals in need of support. Participants can join at any time. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator or just want more information talk to Carol or Paul Becher.



Has anyone left some books at church that they bought at the book sale? They are on the counter in front of the office. If not claimed soon, they will be put in the next sale! Also, if you are leaving book donations for the library, please include your name. In case we can't use them, we'd like to know what you'd like us to do with them. Watch for more new books in the library in January!





*St. Joseph Clinic, Thomassique, Haiti*

### Haiti Fundraiser January 23

Four years ago, the Salem Outreach Team took on a project to support the salary of Wilner Osse, the Malnutrition Program Director at St Joseph Clinic in Thomassique, Haiti. St. Joseph is the only medical facility serving Thomassique and its outlying villages with a population of over 125,000! The clinic provides numerous programs including Maternal and Infant Care, Fortified Salt Program, Dental Hygiene, Chronic Disease Treatment, Childhood Malnutrition School Lunch and Medika Mamba. (The latter is a peanut butter substance that restores 90% of severely malnourished infants to health.) We are so happy that Salem has been able to pay the salary of Wilner to oversee these extremely necessary programs.

In the past years, Salem has sent \$1,800 from a Lasagna Cook-off, \$2,048 from a Chili Cook-off, and last year the Savory Egg Dish Cook-Off raised \$4,235!

On January 23, 2022, the Bake-Off theme will be **banana bread**, and our contestants will compete for a special trophy. You will have the opportunity to make a free will donation, and then you can vote for your favorite banana bread. We need at least three people to make a contest! Please contact Gladys Roszkowski for details or questions as soon as possible!



### Mujila Falls Update

Check out this insert from the Thanksgiving newsletter written by Temba, our Missionary, at Mujilia Falls in Zambia. Stop at the Outreach Board and read some of the new challenges facing Mujila Falls as well as other projects being done there.

“Our new buildings are now almost complete. We have recently fitted glass on our windows and have painted inside the buildings. This week we will start to prepare the exterior walls for paint which we are acquiring from a distant town. Our Mama Roxanne Community Center building is also now at an advanced stage. We are grateful that the new building will be connected to the national electricity grid. We are so grateful to Salem United Methodist Church for their support on Salem house and our supporting churches for the office building.”



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- Bob Stuempfig is in the hospital with possible pneumonia and severe breathing problems.
- Families of victims in the Waukesha Christmas parade. Continue praying for all those who are in need of physical and emotional healing.
- Marsha Everson's mother who has a return of cancer.
- Sue Yont's brother, John Giraetz, passed away last weekend.

# Nativity Quiz



December 4	Sue Guenther
6	Jacques Crusan
10	Harriet Young
11	Bonnie Stuempfig
16	Liz Scrima
18	Mason Tonz
22	Sheryl Crusan
22	Jeff Everson
24	Ed Padgett
27	Jen Tonz
28	Gary Rongstad

## Lectionary Readings

### December 5

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

### December 12

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

### December 19

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

### December 26

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52

1. What was the name of the angel that told the Virgin Mary she would have a child?
2. What did Joseph do for a living?
3. Why did Mary and Joseph leave to go to Bethlehem?
4. Jesus was born on December 25. True or false?
5. How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus?
6. What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?
7. According to the Bible, which animals were specifically mentioned as being present in the stable when Jesus was born?
8. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?
9. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
10. What is the City of David also known as in the bible?
11. The wise men travelled which direction to Jerusalem.
12. What does "Emmanuel" mean?
13. Which two of the gospels tell the story of the Nativity
14. Who was the Roman ruler at the time Jesus was born?
15. Christmas wasn't celebrated for over 300 years after Jesus died. True or False?

#### Answers:

1. Gabriel
2. He was a carpenter
3. To register for the census (and possibly pay taxes)
4. Unknown. The exact date is not mentioned in the Bible
5. The bible doesn't say.
6. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
7. None
8. Eight days, as was required by law at the time
9. The shepherds
10. Bethlehem
11. West
12. God with us
13. Luke and Matthew
14. Caesar Augustus
15. True