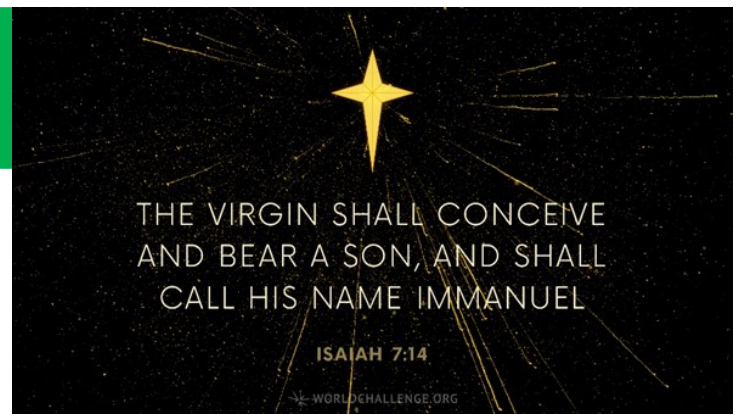


Salem United Methodist Church

December 2024



Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

Dear Salem family,

Immanuel means God with us. We are not alone.

On Christmas, God comes to be with us in his Son Jesus. God is no longer on a faraway throne somewhere up there. He is here. We are not alone in fear, isolation, anxiety, and discouragement. From now on, God is with us.

Immanuel, *I am with you* says Jesus. You are not alone.

On Christmas, as we get ready to gather around tables to celebrate and enjoy each other company we may think about those who are not sitting around our table anymore. Looking at that empty chair becomes particularly hard during this time of the year.

On Christmas loneliness becomes more unbearable, loss more heartbreaking, and the pain more intolerable.

I would like to invite you this Christmas to become the face and the hands of Immanuel, for those who are struggling so they are not alone, so that through you they can experience the presence of God walking alongside them.

On Christmas poverty, hunger, and homelessness becomes overwhelming. You can become Immanuel even in small ways, by serving, sharing, and being generous.

When we choose to become Immanuel to someone else, something incredible happens: we can actually experience God with us in our own hearts and lives.

In this Tidings, you will read of opportunities to be Immanuel for those who are struggling. Remember to invite a friend or a family member to worship with you at Salem and experience in person the powerful presence of God with us.

It may just be the best gift you ever gave to anyone.

Cannot wait to welcome Immanuel, God with us at Salem this Christmas with you all.

Blessings,

Pastor Paola

This Christmas Season...



This Advent we are invited to welcome Jesus into our lives by receiving the words of the angels in the Christmas story and recognizing the angels in our lives.

December 1st 1st Sunday of Advent - Hear Communion

An Angel Visits Zechariah - Luke 1:5-24;57-66

December 8th 2nd Sunday of Advent - Believe
The Angel Sent to Mary - Luke 1:26-38

December 15th 3rd Sunday of Advent - Accept
Worship led by Children and Youth

December 22nd 4th Sunday of Advent - Obey
An Angel Appears to Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25

December 24th Christmas Eve – Candle lighting
4:00 pm – Welcome
An Angel Appears to the Shepherds - Luke 2:1-20



December 29th

First Sunday After Christmas
Carols service



January 5th Epiphany Sunday
Communion
Pastor Pete Peterson



We were created to be connected with each other through family, friendship, and community. Relationships are a source of joy, fulfillment, and support. At the same time, relationships are hard work, and could cause hurt. We will start the New Year by learning from the book of Genesis how our faith leads us to create lasting life and joy-giving relationships.

January 12th (Baptism of the Lord)
From Loneliness to Companionship
Genesis 2:4b-9;15-25

January 19th
From Joy to Shame
Genesis 3:1-13

January 26th
From Envy to Hatred
Genesis 4:1-16

February 2 Communion
From Conflict to Blessing
Genesis 11:1-9 and 12:1-9

February 9
From Rejection to a New Beginning
Genesis 21:8-21

February 16
From Deception to Healing
Genesis 28:10-22

February 23
From Brokenness to Reconciliation
Genesis 45

STAND ALONE SUNDAY



March 2 Transfiguration
Sunday Communion
This is my Son, the Beloved;
Listen to Him
Mark 9:2-8



Lent 2025 *In the Footsteps of Jesus*

This Lent we will follow Jesus through the Gospel of Mark, from Galilee to Jerusalem as He brings hope, healing, and grace into the lives of the people he encounters.

March 9 First Week in Lent

Location: Sea of Galilee

Becoming Part of a Bigger Plan

Fishers of People - Mark 1:16-20

March 16 Second Week in Lent

Location: Desert area in Galilee

Healing Touch

The Leper - Mark 1:39-45

March 23 Third Week in Lent

Location: Capernaum

Friends In Low Places

Call to Levi - Mark 2:13-17

March 30 Fourth Week in Lent

Location: Gennesaret

Who Touched My Clothes?

The Woman Ill - Mark 5:24-34

April 6 Fifth Week in Lent Communion

Location: Jericho

What Do Want Me To Do For You?

The Blind Bartimaeus - Mark 10: 46-62

April 13 Palm Sunday

Location: Jerusalem

Save Us

Entrance in Jerusalem - Mark 11:1-11

April 18 Good Friday 7:00 pm

Travel with us the Way of the Cross

April 20 Easter Sunday

Who will roll away the stone?

Mark 16



Chapel Service *Next Door*

December 18, 2024

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Hymn Sing at 10:30 am

Come worship with our neighbors at New Perspective! Pastor Paola will lead worship in the chapel on the 3rd floor.

Communion will be served.

Future services: Jan 15th and Feb 19th

A special thanks to **Susie** for playing the piano, **Dave** for playing flute, and **Bill** for prep & planning.

Please join Our Choir or Handbells...

Choir practice on

Sunday Mornings

See calendar for times



If interested in our choir, please contact

Rev. Dr. Michelle Oberwise Lacock

(630) 336-2317. We'd love to have you sing

with us and Michelle is happy to teach you how

to read the music line that fits your voice!



Bells practice at

6:30 pm every Wednesday

Please contact Brenda Lindsay

(262) 894-0644 if you'd like to join the bells.

We play the 3rd Sunday of every month.

You do not need to read music to play bells just be able to count up to 4!

Come one and all and make a joyful noise!



Bible Presentations

Adeline, Damian, Illyana, Logan, Mason, Molly, and Owen received a Bible this past month.



Having a BLAST during Children's Time...



Please join us for Sunday School after Children's Time. Here is the December schedule:

December 1st & 8th - Practice parts for December 15th worship service.

December 15th - Children will lead our worship service. They will present the toys for blessing for the Christmas Clearing Council. After the service, everyone is invited to have Breakfast with Santa in Fellowship Hall.

December 22nd - Mrs. Martin is teaching

December 24th - Christmas Eve Service

December 29th - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**



**PANCAKES
WITH SANTA**

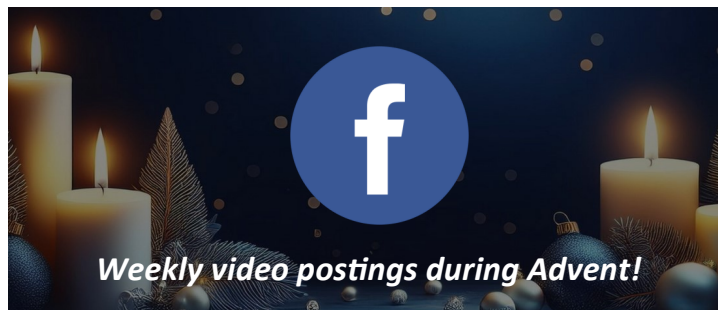
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH | 10 AM



On Dec 15th, come and enjoy photos and pancakes with Santa in Fellowship Hall after the service. **Sign up for food is in The Happenings Center.**



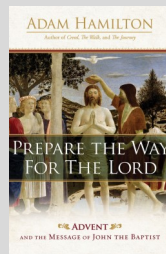
The children will be receiving special gifts during Children's Time. We hope to see you all each and every Sunday as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.



Weekly video postings during Advent!

Check out our Facebook Page

Every week during Advent our children will invite us to be part of worship as we receive the stories of the Christmas angels. They will be in videos created from marketing and posted on Facebook. If you haven't already, make sure to subscribe to Salem's Facebook page and share the advent video that will be posted every week. This is a wonderful opportunity to spread the voice about Salem and invite your friends to join us in worship.



UPCOMING ADVENT CLASS

Meeting after worship
all 4 Sundays of Advent

Dec 1 - Dec 22 @ 10:20 am

Prepare The Way of The Lord
by Adam Hamilton

Prepare to receive Christ this Advent with the message of John the Baptist and bestselling author and pastor Adam Hamilton in Prepare the Way for the Lord. In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to "Prepare the way of the Lord." When we hear the message of John the Baptist, it makes us and our world ready to receive Christ.

Order forms for **Christmas Poinsettias** will be available in the bulletin until 12/1.

Simply put in the offering plate. They may be purchased to acknowledge someone, either in honor or in memory. You may take your plant home following the Christmas Eve service.





Holiday Giving 2024

Eras Senior Network works with our community to fill over 400 self-sufficiency gifts for older adults and adults with disabilities living on a fixed income. Their goal is to give at least \$50 in gift cards and postage stamps to each client.

Salem will be collection books of postage stamps and \$10 gift cards to Walmart, Walgreens, and Pick 'n Save. Gift cards and stamps can be dropped in the green basket, located by the Outreach board.

Our collection ends December 8th. Please attach the gift card receipt to each card.

Thank you, Salem for your support!



Christmas Clearing Council

Since 1949, the Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County has been promoting and coordinating the giving to families in need during the Christmas season.

Salem has supported this organization for many years, and the Blessing of the Toys has become a favorite event at Salem during the Advent Season. The unwrapped toys are brought to St. Williams Church, where they are organized for families to come to the "Toy Shop" to pick gifts for their children.

Please help us help the Christmas Clearing Council provide gifts for their Toy Shop Weekend!

Drop your unwrapped gift in the Red Barrel located by the Outreach board. Gift cards for teens are welcome as well!

Please return your unwrapped presents by December 15th for the Blessing!

Thank you, Salem for your support!



Snack Collection



Snack collection for Hadfield Elementary School continues throughout the school year! **We already collected 1140 snacks this school year.** **THANK YOU** for bringing snacks and placing them in the basket found at the Happening Center. Hadfield School Staff is compiling a wish list for special needs students. We look forward to being able to help with that.

...Thank you Windy Hill...



A special thank you to Windy Hill for the concert that was performed last weekend. \$2183.00 was raised for **Healing Hearts of Waukesha**.





A special thank you to everyone who provided food and helped serve the meal at Healing Hearts this past month! Everyone loved the taco bar. A blessing to all.

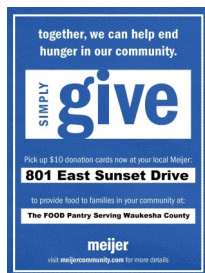
Paola & all ~ Nov 2024

Thank you for serving up a wonderful taco meal to all our participants, facilitators and staff. We appreciate your support.

Blessings,

Cheryl Prutz

Executive Assistant



Meijer Simply Give Holiday Campaign

During the holiday season, Meijer on Sunset Drive continues to partner with **The Food Pantry** as they work to feed hungry families in our community.

As you shop through Sat, Dec 28, please consider purchasing a \$10 Simply Give card at the Meijer store on Sunset Drive.

Want to increase your donation? Mark your calendar for **Double Match Day on Saturday, December 14**, when Meijer provides an additional \$20 for each \$10 card purchased. The cards are converted into Meijer gift cards that the food pantry uses to purchase food and other supplies.

If you would like to donated to Double Match Days through Salem, simply drop your donation in the offering plate and label it Meijer Simply Give. Debbi Oswalt will purchase the cards for you.

Thank you in advance!



8th Annual Fundraiser for Haiti Sunday, January 26th

Calling all cooks! We are excited to be planning for the 8th annual fundraiser for Haiti. It will be held Sunday, January 26th and will once again support the St. Joseph Clinic in Thomassique, Haiti. The clinic supports the Medika Mamba program to combat child malnutrition and other invaluable programs including Maternal and Infant Care, vaccines, Dental Hygiene, Chronic Disease Treatment, Birth attendant training, and community health worker program.

This year our contest will include "dips for donations". We are seeking volunteers to enter their favorite dip recipe into the running. Bean dip? Cheese? Salsa? And more! All are welcome so feel free to get creative. Reach out to Amanda Rogers (708-710- 2610) if you are willing to enter or if you have any questions. And everyone, please save the date for this exciting event to help support such an important program!

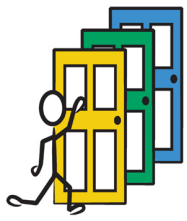
**CHECK
IT OUT**

Former Youth Room Items

You have the opportunity to rehome the items that were in the former Youth Room. Check the items out in Fellowship Hall.

There are 2 couches, a Foosball Table, an electronic 2 player basketball game, 3 small tables, and 1 small book shelf. It is first come, first serve.

We ask anyone interested in picking up an item to make a free-will offering that will be deposited in our youth fund so that we will be able to recreate the youth room when Restauración moves to their own building.



Opportunity Knocking

The Outreach Committee would like to call your attention to a posting on the Community News Bulletin Board located in the Narthex.

Throughout the year, the Outreach Committee receives requests from many organizations. Our feeling was that we have a full slate with the 8+ fundraisers and or meals we support. But, we decided to pass the info on to you and yours! Maybe you need a community project at work? A school or club project? Something for your family or neighborhood to work towards? We put together a short list of organizations that have contacted Salem for help. Feel free to take a picture of our flyer. That way, you'll always have the document on hand when the subject comes up. Thank you for all you do for our community.



It is with great joy that
Salem opens its doors to
**Restauración
Hispanic Ministry**

At our church conference we unanimously approved the relocation of Restauración Hispanic Ministry into our building. They will worship at noon on Sundays. Their first worship service was on Sun, Nov 24.

They will have a Bible Study at 7 PM on Thursday. Pastor Carlos will establish his office in the former youth room. Please make sure to welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ if you meet them.



A heartfelt thank you to Mary Jo Martin for generously volunteering her time and talents to our Children's ministry. She makes a lasting impact on the lives of the children and families at Salem. We are incredibly blessed to have you here.

From Pastor Paola...

A BIG thank you to the Staff Parish Committee for surprising me with the most wonderful appreciation. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and wonderful cards.



HOSPITALITY



Please consider signing up for our hospitality ministry on Sunday mornings. Greeting or serving refreshments is more important than ever. Helps us to welcome new and old friends who come to Salem.

Looking for my new book...

About 2 weeks ago, I received a book from my daughter-in-law's newly widowed mother.

Anxious to read it, I brought it along in the car on the way to church, planning to start it on the way home. I brought several items into church that day and must have brought the book in my mistake. Where did I put it? I couldn't find it when I left Salem. I only know it had the word "angels" in the title and had a white paper cover. Perhaps someone picked it up to read (I am happy to share the book.) I would just like to know where it is! If you have it, would you please let me know? Thanks for your help.
Gladys



MANY THANKS FROM THE TRUSTEES...

- Thank you Dave Pauly for doing roof repair.
- Thank you to Kermit Bohning and Don Callen for cleaning up under the trees.
- Thank you to Kermit Bohning, Bill Hauenstine, Cory and Zach Buxengard, Dave Pauly, Jeff Seeboth, Don Callen, & Jim Seegers for the work done on the pathway lighting project between Salem and New Perspectives. *A special thank you to the Hauenstine family for providing the funds for the project as a memorial for Jo Ann.*



NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES...

- The geocache was removed during the clearing of the tress, but it is back now. It is a favorite location for many.

DECEMBER Lectionary

December 1

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

December 8

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

December 15

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

December 22

Micah 5:2-5a
 Psalm 80
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-55

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-20

December 29

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:15-21



Salem's Peace Pole

Matthew 5:9 says,
 "Blessed are the
 peacemakers for they
 shall be called children of
 God."

In this time of unrest in the world, you might like to know about Salem's outward expression of the desire for peace - peace in our families, our community, our country and the world. Our Peace Pole was sponsored by three former United Methodist Women's Circles at Salem in 2007. We wanted our community as well as our congregation and visitors to be reminded to pray for peace. On each side of the Peace Pole the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" are written in the four languages most prominent in Waukesha County – English, Spanish, German and Hmong. Our Peace Pole links us with people all over the world who have also planted Peace Poles. There are over 250,000 Peace Poles in all continents, some in simple places such as gardens and churches, others in extraordinary ones such as the Pyramids in Egypt and the World Health Organization in Switzerland.



Salem's knitting ministry has donated 57 hats, 56 pairs of mittens, and 3 scarves to The Women's Center in Waukesha. The items were made with love and blessed by Pastor Paola. We pray they will be a source of warmth and comfort to those who receive them. Thank you to our knitters.