

Thoughts from Pastor Paola...



*Wait for the LORD;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14*

I remember when my kids were little, they could not wait for this time of the year to take our nativity out the box and set it out on a special table. We had a tradition though: we left the manger empty until Christmas Eve. Every year, I would explain to the kids that we needed to wait for Christmas to put the baby Jesus in the manger. Yet every day through Advent, they would ask me: “Can we put Jesus in the manger today? Is it time yet?”. Waiting was never their strongest suit. Waiting is really not my strongest suit either. Actually, I don’t know anyone who loves waiting.

We struggle deeply with impulsivity. We don't want to have to wait. We hate to wait because when we wait we are not in control. One of my least favorite waiting times is when I am on a plane and it is delayed. And here comes the pilot: “We are doing all we can to take off. I want to thank you for your patience”. How does the pilot know that I was being patient? I may not be patient at all.

The message of Advent is about waiting for Jesus to come. Yet our waiting is not to be boring, but it is time to be expectant. It is about anticipation and excitement. It is a time to make room for Jesus in our lives. It is about waiting for the Lord.

The prophets of the Old Testament and the psalmists were waiting. Mary is waiting; Joseph is waiting. Elisabeth, Zachariah, the Wise men, Simeon and Anna, and John the Baptist are waiting for the coming of the Lord.

Please join me this Advent at Salem every Sunday as we wait for the Lord to come and bring to our lives the gifts that we yearn for the most, gifts that cannot be bought: hope, love, joy, and peace. And as we wait, we change and make space in our hearts for the Lord to come.

These Tidings are filled with opportunities of service, ministry, and celebration for this Advent season.

Advent Blessings,
Pastor Paola



Advent: What Child IS This?

November 30th 1st Sunday of Advent

Candle of Hope

King of Kings - Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:1-5

December 7th 2nd Sunday of Advent

Candle of Peace - Communion

The Silent Word - Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

December 14th 3rd Sunday of Advent

Worship led by Children and Youth

Candle of Joy

Son of Mary - Luke 1:26-56

Blessings of the Toys

December 21nd 4th Sunday of Advent

Candle of Love

Enthroned by Love - Matthew 1:18-25

December 24th Christmas Eve Candle Lighting

Candle of Christ - Communion

The Babe - Luke 2:1-20



Join us on Wednesday, December 24th at 4PM
for our Christmas Eve Service with Communion.

Make sure to invite Family & Friends!



December 28th 1st Sunday after Christmas
Carols Service

This, This... - Matthew 2:1-12



Stand Alone - Pastor Pete - Communion

January 4th **Epiphany Sunday**



Led by the story of the people in the desert, we
will dedicate the beginning of the New Year to
discovering what we need to do to live the
Good Life that God created us to have.

January 11th **Step into the Unknown**

Exodus 14: Crossing the Red Sea

January 18th **Take Care, Body and Spirit**

Exodus 16: The Manna

January 25th **Live With A Purpose**

Exodus 17:1-7: Water Out of a Rock

February 1st **Communion**

Surround Yourself With A Great Community

Exodus 17:8-16: Moses is Supported

February 8th **Slow Down in a Hurry Up World**

Exodus 35:1-3; Exodus 40: Rest and Worship

Stand Alone Sunday

Pastor Pete - Communion

February 15th

Transfiguration Sunday



Lent 2026 Friends in Low Places



Chapel Service *Next Door*

December 17, 2025

10:30 AM Hymn Sing

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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 21st and Feb 18th



A special thanks to **Susie Brown** for playing the piano, **Dave Pauly** for playing flute, & **Bill Watt** for planning & leading the services at New Perspective!

SAVE THE DATE...



Sunday, March 15th - 10:00 am Brunch
10:30 am - 12:30 pm Program

Join us for a special intergenerational event featuring guest speaker Mrs. Pattycake! The Bible can often feel like one giant jigsaw puzzle—but Blast Through the Bible brings all the pieces together. This engaging, hands-on experience will help both young and old see the BIG picture and understand the Bible as ONE connected story from beginning to end. Come be part of this fun, interactive learning adventure!



CHILDREN's Christmas Service Practice & Celebration Details

We will have a full run-through on
December 7th, 10:00–10:30 AM.

The **children will lead the service on December 14th**, including the Advent candle lighting, a short play, and presenting toy donations for a blessing.



Pancakes with Santa will be served after the service...all are welcome to stay and enjoy! We need volunteers to help bring some food items for the Breakfast.

A food sign up is in the Happenings Center.

Confirmation Class

Please continue to pray for the confirmation class of 2025/26: Maura, Ava, and Josephine.

Next meeting is on Dec 21st at 10:30 am

Not A Normal Christmas
Advent, Christmas, Epiphany



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Extending Love to our Neighbors



Holiday Giving 2025

Collecting begins Sun, Nov 30th - Sun, Dec 7th

Each year Salem supports **Eras Senior Network** Programs by participating in their annual Holiday Giving Project. The project provides holiday gifts for older adults and adults with disabilities living on fixed incomes in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. All recipients are current Eras clients with a demonstrated need. The goal is to mail a gift valuing at least \$50 in gift cards and postage stamps to each recipient - helping them to meet their most basic needs.

***There will be snowflakes on the Outreach Board.
Feel free to take one as a reminder!***

- Books of Forever Postage Stamps
- \$10 Pick 'n Save Gift Cards*
- \$10 Walmart Gift Cards*

**Please include receipts with each gift card*



Outreach for Hadfield School

Thank you to Salem for continued support with Hadfield's needed snacks. 886 snacks have been provided to them so far this year.

Our 3-year grant from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is coming to an end.

Through the grant we recently purchased 17 pairs of waterproof mittens and gloves for the winter season.

We are waiting for feedback from Hadfield's special ed classes to see how we can meet their needs.



Christmas Clearing Council
of Waukesha County

Be a Christmas Angel

Help make Christmas brighter for children of Waukesha County who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the joy of the holidays.

Salem will be hosting a toy drive from **November 30th through December 14th**. Look for the "red barrel" by the Outreach board. Gift cards for teens, toys, books, and waterproof mittens and hats, are just a few of the choices! The toys will be Blessed on December 14th with the children and youth of Salem participating!

THANK YOU!



Healing Hearts
of Southeast Wisconsin



THANK YOU WINDY HILL CONSORT

Salem extends heartfelt thanks to the Windy Hill Consort for their beautiful and uplifting concert to benefit Healing Hearts of SE WI. Their music brought joy to all and helped raise \$1,625 in support of Healing Hearts, which cares for children and families grieving the loss of a loved one. We are grateful for their generosity and partnership in this very special concert.





The **FOOD**
Pantry
SERVING WAUKESHA COUNTY

We are blessed to have several opportunities at Salem to give to the Waukesha County Food Pantry. Our honey sale, Meijer Simply Give, Giving Tuesday, and our Christmas Offering.

As some of you may have heard, the Food Pantry recently received a 3.5 million dollar donation, but the guidelines of the donation is that none of the donation will go toward food purchases.

2.5 million is to be used for a new building.

The current building is rented, is too small, and has limited parking. Purchasing or building a new place could fix these problems and maybe even save some money.

1 million will be used for an endowment fund

The 1 million will create an endowment fund, allowing the interest to provide ongoing financial support.

There is a concern that donations (food and/or money) will drop due to this generous donation. Please don't let that happen.

Client numbers have risen 108% over three years, and community support is needed. Please continue supporting the Food Pantry with your monetary and/or food donations.



This Sunday, November 30th is the last day to purchase honey. 100% of sales will be donated to The Food Pantry.

Pick up a small jar (1 1/2c) for \$10, 1 pint (2 1/4c) for \$14 or 1 quart (4c) for \$28.

All sales are cash only.

See Debbi Oswalt if you are interested.



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 via **Simply Give Cards**.

The cards are converted into Meijer gift cards that the food pantry uses to purchase food and other supplies. Want to increase your donation? Mark your calendar for **Double Match Day on Saturday, Dec 13th**, when Meijer provides an additional \$20 for each \$10 card purchased. If you would like to donate 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.

GIVING TUESDAY

Salem's Outreach Committee has decided to combine the current quarterly Food Pantry offerings, honey money, and various donations for a separate **Giving Tuesday donation on Tuesday, Dec 2nd**. Our hope is to help the pantry meet the quota needed for matching donations of \$45,000.

Use a pew envelope, label it for Food Pantry and drop it into the collection plate.



Salem's Christmas offering will be dedicated to the Waukesha Food Pantry this year.



On **December 1st**, Salem will be providing an Outreach meal for the families currently active at Healing Hearts. You can help by volunteering or providing food items for the meal. Please watch for sign-up sheets at the Happening Center to see how you can help. **Thank you Salem!**

Save THE Date

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Haiti Fundraiser

During the **FIRST Sunday of Lent**, we will be hosting our annual cook-off fundraiser to support the St. Joseph Clinic in Haiti and their Medika Mamba program to combat child malnutrition.

This year's event will be held on:

Sunday, February 22nd.

Stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved with this special event. Reach out to Amanda Rogers you have any questions.



HOSPITALITY



GREETERS NEEDED

Love God. Love others. Make Disciples.

We are in need of greeters and fellowship snacks during the winter months. Signing up is easy—just stop by The Happening Center and snack counter to add your name to the list.



Kwik Trip

Our Christmas Kwik Trip card sale ends on
This Sunday, November 30th

Great for Christmas gifts or for yourself.
\$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200.

Car wash cards also available for the winter mess
5 washes for \$36. **Last sale this year.**

Sign up in the Happenings Center or see Kermit.
Cards will be available for pick up on 12/7/25.
Make payment to Salem with KT Cards in memo.



This Sun, Nov 30th is the last day to order Poinsettias. Order forms are available in the bulletin. Purchase in honor or memory of a loved one. Put them in the offering plate with payment.

You may take your plant home following the Christmas Eve service.



Stewardship 2026

A heartfelt thank you Salem for being devoted to generosity!

Our 2026 stewardship campaign allows Salem to continue to shine Christ's light of hope and compassion, inviting all to **GROW, CONNECT, and SERVE.**

Getting to Know... Who's Who in the Pews



Betty and Ed Padgett were both native

Nebraskans who met at college in a speech class, and they're still talking! They were married in 1959 and moved here through Ed's work as an engineer at Wisconsin Electric. Betty was a teacher and continued her career in Wisconsin. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren. Betty loves to read and enjoys putting up bulletin boards at Salem. Ed does most of the lawn care and gardening. Together, they spend a lot of time taking care of grandkids.



Bonnie Wojcik was born and raised in Milwaukee. She taught junior high school in West Allis where she met her late husband, Paul, who had the classroom next door! After living in Milwaukee, they moved to Vernon and lived there 23 years. Bonnie stayed home while her two children were growing up, and then went back to teaching, this time in Mukwonago. After she and Paul retired, Bonnie inherited a family cottage in Dousman. The first thing they did was tear it down and build a new home on the lake. Bonnie now spends a lot of time caring for the yard and doing work associated with a lake home. She loves photography, reading, and spending time watching her 4 grandchildren's sports and activities.

Rei and Edna Lesada were born in the Philippines. While at college, Edna met Rei through his sister, who was her friend at college. Six months later they were married! All five of their children were born in the islands while Rei worked for a Swiss Pharmaceutical Co. and Edna was in nursing. Upon the urging of Edna's sister, they came to "visit" in 1971 and made the U.S. their home, eventually in Brookfield. When the Brookfield United Methodist Church closed, they looked for a new church home and found Salem. Edna worked at the VA almost 25 years, and Rei retired from the pharmaceutical business in 2020. Both Edna and Rei are avid participants of karaoke at least twice a week, and they often give crafts and handmade items to karaoke friends, and Salem's Circe members as well as to charitable facilities.



Thank you to Gladys Roszkowski for taking the time to write the "Getting to Know"...articles.

Board of Trustees

News and Thank You's

*November's focus was cleaning up
a couple projects...*

- Buckthorn eradication effort continues, **Thanks to Dave Pauly, Jim Seegers and Jeff Seeboth** we have cleared another 50 yards south along the east property line. The long-term plan will include planting of decorative bushes and grasses in the spring
- The security system door bell camera is working perfectly, however the bell itself needs an interface module to connect to the bell inside of the building, they are on back order and Kari Schmidt is following up.
- The exterior light above the east entrance door was rewired for temporary use, a new light was voted on and approved for a replace fixture. **Thank you Jim Seegers for installing it.**
- The building's heating system required extra attention this month. **Thanks to help from Jim Seegers, Jeff Seeboth, and Doug McGrath by phone**, the system has been sorted out. This highlighted a gap in our knowledge, so we will be creating a full tutorial—with photos—to ensure anyone can operate the system confidently in the future.

Respectively submitted, Jeff Seeboth

Community Groups at Salem

We have been blessed with the opportunity to open our building to several community groups:

Restauración Hispanic Ministry, AA,
Compassionate Friends, Windy Hill musical ensembles, a local condo association, and other private gatherings.

Our space serves as a place of support, connection, and hope. We give thanks for it.

December Lectionary

December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 21

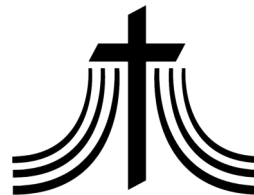
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve

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

December 28

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23



It has been a year since Restauración Hispanic Ministry began a partnership with Salem. Restauración holds worship services each Sunday at noon, Bible Studies on Thursday nights, and various other activities throughout the year. The partnership has been a blessing. This past Sunday we had a bilingual Thanksgiving Worship Service followed by food and fellowship served by Restauración. Thank you to everyone who provided food and fun activities.

We had such a wonderful time together.

