



The Church Bell

Salem Lutheran Church

PO Box 136, Longville, MN 56655

Volume 36, Issue 12

Pastor Trisha Jorgenson

December 2016

Message from Pastor

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit...All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:1-23)

Christmas, 'the most wonderful time of the year' is fast approaching. For many of us, Christmas is a time of family gatherings filled with joy, laughter and giving. Even if "the weather outside is frightful," Christmas brings a warm glow to our hearts and hope that the world is not such a bad place after all. Yet, for some of us, Christmas is just one more day filled with darkness.

I imagine the very first Christmas...at least the time leading up to Jesus' birth was not the most joyous time for Mary, Joseph, or their families either. What should have been a time of celebration, was instead a time of fear and uncertainty. Would anyone believe Mary and Joseph's stories about how this child was conceived? How would their friends and neighbors react once the news, or Mary's belly, was out? Would they want to have Mary stoned for the crime of adultery? Who did Mary think she was that she would bear the Messiah let alone that this child she carries was conceived by God? Would they shun Mary and Joseph making it impossible for them to do business in the little town of Nazareth, or have friends, or draw water from the well with the other women? Would they tell their children not to play with this illegitimate child, making Jesus the village scapegoat, the child who every parent would say, 'at least my child isn't as bad as Jesus.'

Isn't it amazing that God's most outrageous act of love toward humankind was to put on flesh and be with us...and not just with us, but be one of us? In the midst of the scandal of a virgin birth, the Creator of the universe, forms God's-self into the frailty of an infant; in the midst of a political climate filled with unchecked power, ruthlessness, murder, oppression and injustice, the Messiah entered, naked and completely helpless; and in the midst of religious exclusivity, class prejudice and systemic fear, Love's first breath is filled with the smell of a barn, that of grain and cattle and dung.

God is with us and continues to be born in us in ways that seem absurd, scandalous and quite up-side-down from the world's perspective. We don't just celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas, we also celebrate God's other outrageous act of love toward humankind in claiming, empowering, and sending us into the world to be Love, in the flesh, to those living in darkness.

Christ's birth changes everything but it especially changes us. As we allow the light of God's hope to shine through us and shatter the darkness of suffering, oppression, injustice, hatred, and fear, we are set free from destructive powers, attitudes and actions; and as we walk in God's footsteps of love with those who are marginalized, unwelcome, unwanted, and misunderstood, we are embraced in communities of grace, hope, peace, love and joy.

May God be with us this Christmas and change us forevermore.

Pastor Trish

Servant Leadership Council (SLC)
Unapproved November 17, 2016 Minutes

Present: Don Falls, Barb Anderson, Sara Felton, Dennis Zuelke (by phone), Pastor Trish, Beth Tobiason, Dave Trampe

1. Meeting called to order at 4:37pm.
2. The opening prayer and devotion were led by Pastor Trish: Faith Five, Colossians 3:12-17.
3. Objectives
 - a. Stewardship team committee has been formed and will report at the Jan. 19 meeting.
 - b. A mutual ministry team can either be named or the EMT can perform that function as sanctioned by the constitution, C13.04.
 - c. The Working Together Coalition will make a presentation to the SLC tonight at 6pm.
 - d. The Covenant for 2016-2017 needs to be signed by the SLC members.
4. Pastors Report – Pastor Trish noted the funeral for Don Eide, Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday and the community meal on November 9 – honoring veterans. She mentioned two topics currently being discussed in Confirmation class, stereotypes and biases, and bullying and relationship violence. Pastor Trish regrets not keeping up with her continuing education reading proposals. In the wake of the recent election Pastor Trish reiterated her commitment to serving the least among us.
5. Visioning – Discussion on how best to be an ELCA congregation.
6. Ministry Team Highlights
 - a. EMT - will continue in its role as Mutual Ministry team.
 - b. LMT – reports too large an agenda for too few members.
 - c. RDMT – was questioned on its decision concerning the possible family room electric fireplace since the LMT had originated the idea but had not yet submitted it for approval. MITP will pay for the addition to the gazebo currently being done.
 - d. SMT – report submitted, no discussion needed.
 - e. WMT – has restored the two Christmas Eve services for this year at 4pm and 9pm.

At 6:00pm John Grimley gave an informational presentation of the goals and programs of the Working Together Coalition, an anti-drug group.

Motion: Trampe/Tobiason/not passed – put an article in the newsletter regarding the Working Together Coalition.

The SLC referred the question of publicity and possible support for the Working Together Coalition to the LMT.

7. Review:
 - a. Motion: Anderson/Trampe/passed – approve minutes of the last meeting.
 - b. A question regarding “clearing” accounts was referred to Ardis Aagard.
Motion: Anderson/ Felton/passed – accept monthly financial report.
 - c. Covenant remains to be signed. Unresolved issues in the ministry team highlights can be revisited.
8. Motion: Tobiason/Trampe/passed - adjourn meeting.
The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Felton, Secretary



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

For more information about becoming a full member, associate member or "friend" of Salem, please contact the church office or talk with Pastor Trish. All are welcome here!



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**
Sunday School

Sunday, December 4th
11am - 1pm
3 yrs old - 6th grade

Lunch provided &
Helpers Needed

Please contact church office
for more information.

All are welcome

Our next Sunday School
will be Sunday,
January 8, 2017

**"CHRIST IN OUR HOME"
DEVOTIONALS**

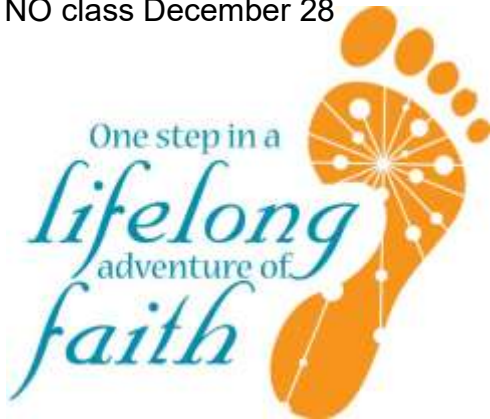
Pick up your October, November and December 2016 devotionals from the stand by the entrance. Take one for yourself and one for a friend.

We also have *Our Daily Bread* devotionals.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Wednesdays at 6:30pm
December 7
December 14
NO class December 21
NO class December 28



All 7th thru 9th grade students
are welcome!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

4:00-5:00 p.m.
Conference Room

Led by
Pastor Trish



All are welcome!

**Council and
Ministry Team
Meetings**

Executive Management
Team -
1st Friday of the month

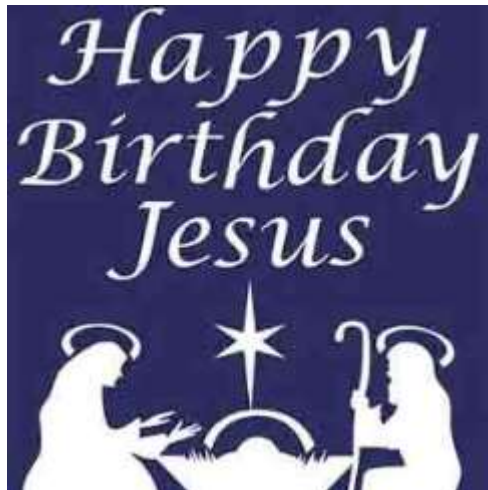
Learning Ministry Team -
2nd Friday of the month

Resource Development
Ministry Action Teams:
Technology Action Team -
First Wednesday of month
Property Action Team -
First Thursday of month

Servant Leadership
Council -
3rd Thursday of the month

Serving Ministry Team -
2nd Tuesday of the month

Worship Ministry Team -
2nd Wednesday of month



2016 GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT October 31, 2016

General Fund Beg. Balance 10/1/16	\$ 4,233
Receipts 10/1/16 - 10/31/16	\$ 19,285
Disbursements 10/1/16 - 10/31/16	<u>\$(19,919)</u>
General Fund Balance 10/31/16	\$ 3,599

REMINDER: \$4640 is needed weekly to support the 2016 budget approved at the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting.

With God's Blessing,
Ardis Aagard, Church Treasurer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING

Advent Evening Prayer (Evening Vespers)

Wednesday, November 30, December 7, 14, 21

7:30pm – 8:00pm (following Confirmation Class)

Advent Evening Prayer is an opportunity to 'take a breath' in the midst of the busy holiday season. Our prayer service will include time for quiet reflection on scripture pointing to Christ's presence in the world and the joy we claim and hope we hold onto as we wait for the fullness of Christ's reign on earth to come.

STEWARDSHIP

As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

How do we respond to God's call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God's love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes.

www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Stewardship



CHRISTMAS BASKETS AND COOKIE TRAYS

The Salem women will be making up Christmas baskets and cookie trays on Wednesday, December 7th at 9:30am. We will have coffee and goodies followed by putting trays and baskets together.

We are asking for Christmas cookies for the cookie trays and little snackie things for the baskets (like little bags of chips, fruit cups, hot chocolate mix, etc.)

You can bring the items with you when you come or drop items off at the church before that day.

Thank you! Salem Women





1	Joyce Halver
2	Harriet Mouw
4	Travis Wheeler
5	Sandy Elison
8	Lauren Hardinger
9	Del Minske
10	Terry Daudt
11	Nan Ladehoff
12	Brad Ferris
13	Craig Anderson
15	Shari Pretzer
15	Lenny Brooks
16	Gail Hanson
17	Sandy Boring
18	Sam Nordstrom
18	Brent Weaver
19	Diana Hager
19	Curtis Haflund
20	Ron Wiehle
23	Gerald Konrad
24	Tom Dollins
24	Judy Bogard
24	Trish Jorgenson
28	Dot Waterhouse
28	Terry Rosen
30	Dylan Daudt

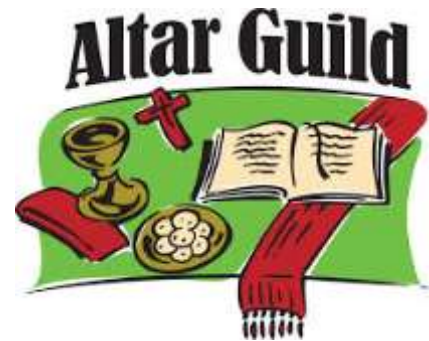


17	Tim and Jan Marr
17	David and Judy Owen
19	Ed and Judith Olson
19	Egon & Carol Overgaard
28	Ken and Ruth Ploetz
28	Ron & Jan Stadtherr
31	John and Sandy Weins

**Hospitality Team
Captain for December**
Karen Nelson - 363-2411

Don't forget to sign up on our Hospitality Kiosk in sanctuary to help usher, lay read, greet or help serve communion or fellowship

**Ruth Circle
Women's Bible Study**
Thursday, December 8th
1:00 pm at Salem



December
ALL members

**Thank You to
Our Altar Guild**
for your faithful and joyful service. Our Altar Guild members work with our Pastor, Worship Ministry Team, and Staff to maintain and clean our altar area, care for communion elements and needed elements for baptisms, and decorate the sanctuary for special holidays, seasons, and Sundays (including changing banners with church seasons). The team generally meets three times a year. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry, please contact the church office.

THRIVENT UPDATE

Your Thrivent Congregational Advocate Team of Doris Schmidt, Eileen Higgins, Toni Drum and Mary Schmid have met and made a final dispersal of your Thrivent Choice money that you have **designated to Salem during 2016**. Throughout the year as events arose, we paid for the new handwashing sink in the kitchen. We also paid for all of the faucets, fittings, hardware and labor to get it operational, including the granite company to cut the countertop and set the sink. In February we gave money to the organ fund. Currently we are dispersing money to the Columbarium, the Food Shelf, Faith in Action, Veteran's Volunteer drivers, and Music in the Park. **Thank you to all who have designated your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Salem.** Please remember to call 1-800-thrivent or go to www.thrivent.com and click on Thrivent Choice to designate the money in your Thrivent Choice account! It is very important to continue to designate your dollars or Thrivent will make the decision for you! If you have questions or suggestions, please contact any one of us. Thank you.

PV FOR PHEBE

Dear Members of Salem Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you for the generous financial donation(s) you and many others have given to the PV for Phebe solar project for Phebe Hospital, Bong County, Liberia. God's work, our hands is truly being lived out.

In August, the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL), our partner and solar provider, was awarded a \$100,000 National Geographic Great Energy Challenge grant. That gave a tremendous boost to reaching our goal of \$624,000. With this grant and the other donations from churches and people like you we have \$340,000 on hand. To meet the completion date of September 2017 required in the grant we are working hard to raise an additional \$284,000 by February 1, 2017.

As you make your year-end charitable gifts please consider making an additional gift to PV for Phebe. Make online gifts at <https://bit.do/PV4Phebe> or mail checks to NEMN Synod, ELCA, 1105 E. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802 (note "Phebe" on the memo line).

Thank you. Your generosity will truly make a difference in the lives of the patients and staff at Phebe Hospital.

Blessings on your day,
Mary Jo Mettler and Salem Hunger & Justice Action Team



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

The Longville Area Community Choir
will present
its 25th Annual Christmas Concert



25 Years of
"Singing In"
Christmas

4:00 pm Sunday, December 4
Salem Lutheran Church in Longville

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



<p>1 9:30am Property Team Meeting</p>	<p>2 8:45am Staff Meeting 9:00am Bone Builders 9:15am Child/Teen Checkup 9:30am EMT Meeting 5:00pm LACC Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p>
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4
9:00am Communion
Worship
10:00am Coffee and
Fellowship
11:00am - 1:00pm
Sunday School
4:00pm LACC Christmas
Concert

SECOND SUNDAY
Advent

5
1:00pm
Busy Needles
2:30pm
Book Club

6
9:00am (co-ed)
Bone Builders
3:00pm
Pastor's
Text Study

7 9:30am
Christmas
Baskets and
Cookie Trays
11:00am
Technology Team
4:00pm
Adult Bible Study
5:00-6:00pm
WATW Meal
6:30pm
Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm
Conf. Class
7:30pm Advent
Evening Prayer

8
1:00pm
Ruth Circle

9
8:45am
Staff Meeting
9:00am
Bone Builders
9:30am
LMT Meeting

10

11
9:00am Worship
10:00am Coffee and
Fellowship

THIRD SUNDAY
Advent

12
1:00pm
Busy
Needles

13
9:00am
Bone Builders
9:30am
SMT Meeting
3:00pm
Pastor's
Text Study

14 9:30am
WMT Meeting
4:00pm
Adult Bible Study
5:00-6:00pm
WATW Meal
6:30pm
Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm
Conf. Class
7:30pm Advent
Evening Prayer

15
4:30pm
SLC Meeting

16
8:45am
Staff Meeting
9:00am
Bone Builders

17
9:00am
Sunday
School
Christmas
Practice

18 *Newsletter Deadline*
9:00am Sunday School
Christmas Worship
10:00am Coffee and
Fellowship

FOURTH SUNDAY
Advent

19
9:30am
Endowment
Committee
Meeting
1:00pm
Busy
Needles

20
9:00am (co-ed)
Bone Builders
3:00pm Pastor's
Text Study

21 4:00pm
Adult Bible Study
5:00-6:00pm
WATW Meal
6:30pm
Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm Advent
Evening Prayer

First Day of Winter

22

23
8:45am
Staff Meeting
9:00am
Bone Builders

24
4:00pm
Worship
9:00pm
Worship

Christmas
EVE

25
9:00am Worship

Christmas
DAY

26
*Office
Closed*

27
9:00am (co-ed)
Bone Builders

*Office hours
10am - 2pm*

28
5:00-6:00pm
WATW Meal
6:30pm
Choir Rehearsal

*Office hours
10am - 2pm*

29
*Office hours
10am - 2pm*

30
*Office
Closed*

Welcome **2017!**

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Pastor Trish Vacation Dec. 27 thru Dec. 31

Salem Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. Trisha Jorgenson, Pastor

Cell Number: 320-248-9479

Email: pastortrish1968@gmail.com

Carol Raines, Secretary / Bookkeeper

Office Phone: 218-363-2011

Office Email: salem@arvig.net

Jan Elliott & Eunice Benson, Organists

Charlene Olson, Choir Director

Joan Kickhafer, Custodian

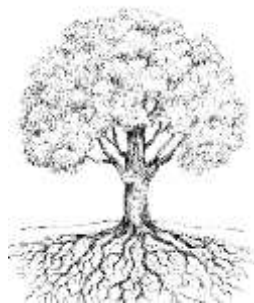
Salem Lutheran Church Website

www.salemlongville.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm



Salem Lutheran Church

1340 County Road 5

PO Box 136

Longville, MN 56655

Rooted in Christ
to Love, Grow & Serve

Salem Lutheran Church Ministry Teams

Servant Leadership Council (SLC)

Don Falls, President

Dave Trampe

Barb Anderson, Vice President

Beth Tobiason

Sara Felton, Secretary

Jan Stadtherr

Ardis Aagard, Treasurer

Dennis Zuelke

Executive Management Team (EMT)

SLC President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

Learning Ministry Team (LMT)

Beth Tobiason, Facilitator & Council Liaison

Resource Ministry Team (RMT)

Ardis Aagard, Facilitator

Dave Trampe, Council Liaison

Serving Ministry Team (SMT)

Barb Anderson, Council Liaison

Dennis Zuelke, Council Liaison

Worship Ministry Team (WMT)

Jan Stadtherr, Facilitator & Council Liaison

ALL are welcome to join any of our ministry teams. If you are interested in any of the areas listed above or have questions about how each team serves, please contact one of the team leaders listed above or call the church office.

Join us for
Worship
Sundays at 9am
All are welcome here!