



Salem Lutheran Church Childcare and Preschool



January 2023

Pastor's Page

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

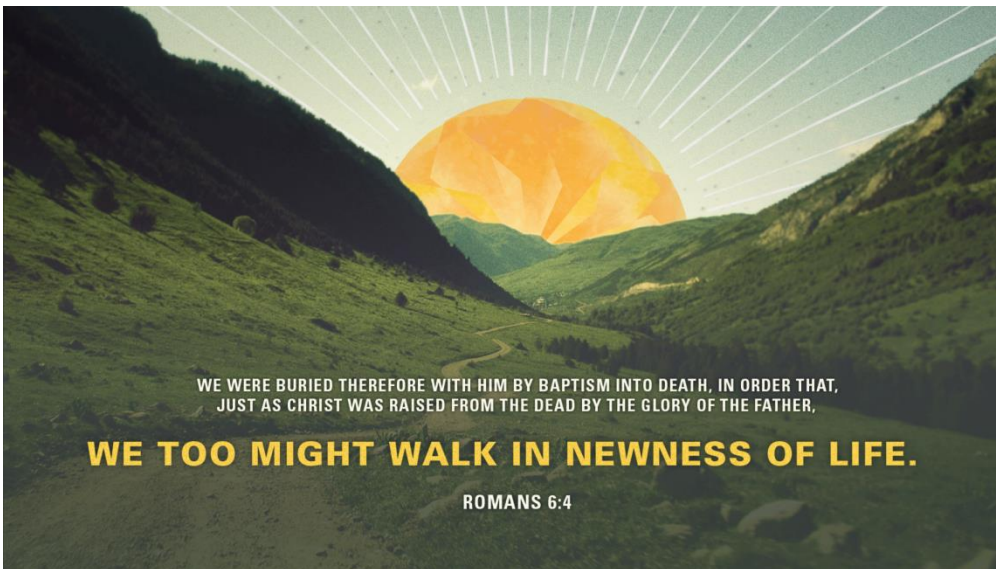
Happy New Year! When you think of the New Year, what do you think of? I think of newness. What happens? You get a new calendar. In college, a New Semester starts. You might even think about how to make a new beginning – maybe it with your health or wealth or family or relationships. I want you think about “newness” this New Year.



Jeremiah writes this in Lamentations 3:22-23: ²² *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;* ²³ *they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* ¹

What's new here? God's mercies, not just every year, but every morning. You have new mercies from your God every day when you wake up.

Paul writes to the Romans saying: ⁴ *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*²



If you do a quick search of the word “new” or “newness” in the Bible, the Scriptures talk about new things quite frequently. You see how God’s mercies are new each day. Especially in the Epistles as Paul talks about newness, he’s talking about newness in life. In Romans 6:4 as quoted above, in baptism we are made new, and we are called to walk in newness of life.

As we begin this “New Year of grace!” let’s focus on what can be new in our lives, especially when it comes to our life together as the Body of Christ. What can be new in the Body of Christ here at Salem? I recently asked for an idea to write on for January 2023 as my mind was blank. This whole thought of New Year and New Beginnings was given to me. Think about New Beginnings for yourself.

For me, we had a new beginning as a family of 8 in the middle of October and finally once everyone was finally home on November 30 did we fully get to start learning how to be a family of 8. What New Beginnings can you think of? Perhaps you have a new beginning in relationships that have been strained. This can be done

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), La 3:22–23.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 6:4.

through mutual confession and forgiveness. There is nothing greater on this side of heaven than hearing those words, "I forgive you," from someone whom you have sinned against and seek out their forgiveness. Maybe in the past year you have had your struggles in relationships, isn't it time for a new beginning in them, especially as we walk in our baptismal grace and know that God gives us new mercies every morning.

New Beginnings. Do I ultimately know what means for you? I do not. Do I know what means for me? Not entirely. Here at Salem let's "Greet the Swiftly Changing Year with joy and penitence sincere." Let's focus on our relationships with one another and with the whole body of Christ as we seek to be God's Hands and Feet in this New Year of Grace. How is God going to use us this year? I do not know, but God can use us for the advancement of His Kingdom even as we seek to mutually repent and forgive and have new beginnings in our lives.

New beginnings: That could mean a whole lot. Maybe you even had some in the last year, such as my family did with the birth of Timothy and Titus. However, one thing that we can all have at Salem is continued New Beginnings in our baptismal life as we work on our relationships with one another.

In Service to the Newborn King,

Rev. Michael Nielsen

Annual Meeting 12/04/2022

Council Members Present: Pastor Michael Nielsen, Head Elder Paul Millerman, Secretary Sarah Duncan, Board of Education Chris Severt, President John Steele, Vice President Josh Millerman, Treasurer MaryAnn Thompson, Trustee Tom Lipke.

Congregation members present total: 33 (including council-please see attached sign-up sheet)
Pastor led us in devotional and prayer.

Secretary Report: Secretary Sarah Duncan read the annual meeting minutes from December 5, 2021. A motion was made by Josh Millerman to approve the minutes as read and seconded by Tom Lipke and motion carried.

Treasurer Report: MaryAnn Thompson advised the October 2022 financial summary as follows: General fund balance as of 10/01/2022: \$56,893.45 Income: \$7443.84 Expenses: \$12,554.61 Net income: \$-5110.77. General Fund balance as of 10/31/2022: \$51,782.68. Envelope Giving for July: General Fund Envelopes: \$6411.00 Missions: \$208.00 Building Fund: \$158.00 Gifts and memorials: \$100.00 Sunday School offering: \$39.71 Daycare income (envelopes) \$135.00 Air Conditioning: \$100 Vacation Bible School: \$0 Oil Well Schultz: \$121.83 Interest Income: \$105.72 YFM: \$60.00 Amazon Smile: \$0 Lutheran Hour: \$0 Cemetery Fund \$0 Thrivent Choice Dollars \$0 Current Bank Accounts: Salem Church Checking: \$24,273.03 Savings: \$17,326.99 Daycare Checking: \$30,859.87 LCEF Account: \$29,716.57. General fund envelope giving is still down from last year. We will be tracking the gifts and memorials better so we can separate from the general fund. Lengthy discussion was had on budget. The projected church budget balance for 2023 is going to be around a negative \$-22,000.00. Scott Queiser introduced that he is the Hoff Financial Representative that

works on the church financial bookkeeping. He said that all is going well on their end. Discussion was had about how we are going to recover from the downward giving and that we should all be asking ourselves the hard WHY and WHAT questions to try to resolve the issue. A motion was made by Chris Severt and seconded by Marcia Elliot to approve the proposed church budget and the motion was carried. Comparison from last year's expenses to this year with daycare/preschool involved was discussed and determined that the daycare/preschool still needs time to get on their feet before expenses will be shared. At this point the daycare is showing a positive balance and that is because they have grant money that has come in this year totaling \$35,000. The daycare/preschool is paying the building loan monthly payment. The daycare is also working on a food program to cut costs. A motion was made by Chris Severt and seconded by Marcia Elliot to approve the proposed daycare/preschool budget and the motion was carried. A motion was made by Paul Millerman to accept the treasurer's report and seconded by Chris Severt and motion carried.

Trustee's Report: Tom Lipke advised that everything is working well here at the church. I thank my crew of men & women who are willing to help when things need to get done around here. The mowing went well this summer. We had fewer people sign up this year and that left a lot of weeks left open. I had to ask lots of people to help out and many of them did. I'm asking the congregation to please consider helping us out next summer. Some of the families signed up multiple times and that was much appreciated. Again, I'll say that every week someone mows the lawn it saves the church \$125.00 if I have to go out and get a lawn mowing contractor. A snow removal plan is in place for the winter. Thanks to all of you that come to help out. A motion was made by Duffy Anderson to accept the trustee's report and seconded by Chris Severt and motion carried.

Elder's Report: Paul Millerman advised that the elders have had discussion on Pastor's yearly evaluation but have not been able to discuss it with him so there is no report of that as of now. There was one transfer out of Bonnie Brown to First in Rice Lake. A motion was made by Josh Millerman to approve the transfer out and seconded by Tim Dennis and motion carried. There is a transfer in of Dewayne and Kari Longmire from Pilgrim in Green Bay. A motion was made by Tim Dennis to approve the transfer in and seconded by Jim Thalacker and motion carried. A motion was made by Don Duncan to accept the elder's report and seconded by Jim Thalacker and motion carried.

Board of Education Report: After DJ's class on Board Training, the board of ed reads Salem's mission statement and the childcare statement before each meeting. "The mission of Salem Lutheran Church is to be what God called us to be through faith in Jesus Christ, a body of believers engaged in building the Kingdom of God by discipling the Barron Area with His Word and Sacrament ministry." We extend this philosophy to the Salem Lutheran Childcare and Preschool with the belief that children need a safe and nurturing environment that will enhance their spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth and development. We also created Outcomes/Targets for: BOE 1. Support and improve all faith-based education that fall within the BOE. 2. Make sure that we are following the Mission Statement of Salem in all of our activities that fall under the BOE. 3. Maintain handbook and policies. Childcare/Preschool 1. More connection between church and childcare. 2. Good steward of finance and building. 3. Be intentional about our focus on growth and enrollment. Utilizing events, time, and the internet to recruit children and staff to have our center at full capacity at all times. 4. A childcare with a reputation for a Christ-centered, safe and superior educational program. Childcare/Preschool Update: Many policies were created, and other ones updated this year. Examples: medicine, PTO, exit interviews, visitor policy, etc. Mandi resigned as director and the Board hired

Melissa. We had many growing pains and Melissa has done an excellent job of turning things around for the center. She currently has enough staff, and they are all working well together. The Center is operating in the black for the first year but that is due to the Grant Money received by the Government. Program A is for supplies and Program B is for recruitment and retention. The plumbing issue we had several times has been fixed. New security door with video and buzzer installed. Open Enrollment/Tuition for 2022 – 2023. The board agreed to keep to 5 days a week as that is a plus for Salem. Another suggestion was to change hours from 8 a.m. to noon – currently is 8:30 to 12:30 p.m. The board agreed that making the change to 8 a.m. – noon may be better. The board agreed to go by room not by age as follows: Infant Room: \$175/week. Toddler Room: (Full-Time): \$150/week. Toddler Room: (Part-Time): \$35/day. Preschool Room (Full Time): 125/week. Preschool Room (Part Time): \$15/day. Before and After School: \$10/day. Cathy (Emily Steele's Mom) is working on the food program. Sunday School Update: Going well and has chosen the Pregnancy Help Center for the money that is donated. VBS Update: This year's theme is God's Living Water. YFM Update: They continue to support the church and the community throughout the year. Keep up the great work. A motion was made by Paul Millerman to accept the Board of Education's report and seconded by Jim Thalacker and motion carried.

Cemetery Report: Wil S advised that there were no new burials this year. Jim Thalacker and Marilyn Otto's son mowed. Thank you to them for making it look so nice. Still looking for some volunteers to mow this upcoming year. A motion was made by Josh Millerman to accept the Cemetery's report and seconded by Becky Hamman and motion carried.

Trust Fund Report: Marcia Elliot advised that the trust fund is down \$-13,081 because it has been a bad year for investments. The board is considering how investments are allocated and they are working with Ann Metheny. A motion was made by Paul Millerman to accept the trust fund's report and seconded by Jim Thalacker and motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Accomplished in 2022: a) We are continuing to stay steady from 60-70 people in worship. b) Shut-ins have been wonderful being able to see them all year. c) 2 members of Salem died in 2022. 3 Baptisms, 1 Wedding. 2 Transfers in, 1 Transfer out d) BACA started meeting again. e) Bible Studies have been ongoing all year. Tuesday morning, we have worked through Isaiah and Jeremiah. We started Ezekiel recently. Thursdays at 11 working through a book about Understanding the Bible Better. Sundays we worked through Christians in a Woke World, Equipped. We are going through the study that corresponds with the Advent series currently. f) VBS was held in-person this year. g) Participated in Commencement on May 20, 2022 h) We are in the second year of our Childcare. i) Attended Pastor's Conference in May and September. June was the District Convention. j) Twins were born on October 18 and then born into the family of God on October 19. I appreciate all the prayers, meals, cards, gifts, and those that stayed with the kids when grandparents were not available. This has been the most stressful 7 weeks of my pastoral ministry and time as father and husband. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. It's been humbling having to ask for help. Please know that all of us appreciate it. I ask that you keep being patient with me as we learn how to be a family of 8. k) Joined the Chamber of Commerce Board — this has been great in getting to understand the community a bit better and be more involved. Salem partnered with the Chamber for the Trunk or Treat/Vendor fair. We had around 250-300 kids participate. l) Shared my Doctoral work via the newsletter. Families are important in raising children in the faith. We need to work better at providing resources to our families. Pastoral Goals for 2023 a) Personal i) Keep eyes focused on Jesus ii) Pray for each member individually. — Along with this, I will be working on calling each family as they come up on the family of the week list. I fell off of this in the last couple of months.

iii) Work on Homiletic and Teaching skills iv) Looking at Continuing Education Opportunities — “Making Sense of Ministry In a Digital World” is a course that will be offered through Concordia Seminary and Concordia University Wisconsin-Ann Arbor in January and February via zoom.b) In-Reach i) Help Congregation keep eyes focused on Jesus ii) Work with youth of Salem. iii) Discuss stewardship and evangelism with leaders and then congregation (1) Stewardship is critical to the ongoing work of our congregation. (2) Yes we are behind as you heard in the treasurers report, stewardship of finances is crucial, but so is the stewardship of time and talents. (3) Evangelism is also critical to the ongoing work of our congregation. This is more than just pastor's job. This is everyone's responsibility. We are all commanded to share Christ and His Word with those in our lives. c) Out-Reach Goals i) The main goal of outreach is to bring Jesus to our community. We need to be creative in how we do this. ii) VBS iii) Connect with the families of the Childcare Center iv) Other outreach ideas would be good! 3) Other notable a) “This is My Son” is the ongoing Advent Theme b) Began last Sunday preaching on the Old Testament lessons — this will be ongoing through the next three years c) Lent 2023 will be Promised Treasures — Ashes, Salt, Water, Light, Bread, Palms (Water and Blood, Wood, Fragrant Oil, Milk and Honey) d) Pray for the Childcare staff, families, and children. e) District Convention was held. Stan Koenig was the lay representative. Elected leadership and passed a few resolutions. f) Synodical Convention will be held in Milwaukee in 2023. i) Circuit Delegates (1) Pastors — Rev. Preston Paul, Rev. Jody Walter (alternate) (2) Lay people — Randy Voelker, Brad Anderson (alternate) g) Selection of Presidential Voters — typically the delegates to the district convention h) Nominations for Synod President and Vice Presidents i) Suggestions — (1) Matthew Harrison, Peter Lange for Synod President (2) Peter Lange and John Wille for 1st VP (3) Regional VP — John Wohlrabe i) Teaching on Every Sunday Communion. A motion was made by Chris Severt to accept the Pastor’s report and seconded by Jim Thalacker and motion carried.

Old Business: Steering committee for Christ Community Lutheran School coming to our area. John Steele is the representative from our congregation. They have contracted with APEX-Estate Planning.

New Business: NONE

Nominations:

Vice President: Josh Millerman – Motion carried

Head Elder: Don Duncan – Motion carried

Secretary: Sarah Duncan – Motion carried

A motion was made by Paul Millerman to adjourn the 2022 annual meeting and seconded by Tim Dennis and motion carried.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Minutes by Sarah Duncan



January 1: Judith Kaehler

January 3: Jamie Bonneville & Amee Starck

January 4: Daniel Dennis & Marlene Kirkman

January 5: Joyce Kolba

January 6: Ava Slayton, & Bentley Slayton

January 7: Freida Lentz

January 10: Miriam Nielsen

January 12: Andrew Church

January 15: Sarah Bisonette & Carolyn Bremer

January 16: Earl Starck

January 19: Nathan Kirkman

January 20: Jeff Nyhus & Carl Mueller

January 28: Gail Espeseth & Robin McGowan

January 29: Linda Riebe



January Anniversaries

JANUARY 12: JAIMIE & SARAH BONNEVILLE



January 1: Caleb Duncan

January 5: Dwayne Stabenow

January 13: Jacob Duncan & Matthew Steele

Men's club Big Buck Contest 12-6-22

Had a very good lunch of BBQs and chips with cookies for dessert. Didn't have many people attend. Only had 3 bucks that we gave out prizes for. One doe. We know of more deer harvested.

Bucks

1st Prize – Chris Severt

2nd Prize – Collin Duncan

3rd Prize – Isaac Mickleson

No smallest legal buck and Owen Metz took a prize for harvesting a doe.

We had great stories to listen too. It was a good time to congratulate the successful hunters and to have the friendship with all who attended.

Minutes by Don Duncan, Secretary



How to Contact Us

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Pastor's Email – rev.mike.nielsen@gmail.com

Office – (715) 537-3011

John Steele – (715) 769-3133

Preschool – (715) 537-3011 ext.14

Mary Ann Wheeler, Parish Musician – (715) 205-1158

Church Service Phone –1 (888) 505-1870

Church Email: salemmos@chibardun.net

Salem's New Web Page Is:

<https://www.salembarron.com/>

Click on enter the following link and follow the prompts to support Salem.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6137330>

Rick and Kelly Cornelius	715-837-1698
Paul and Sue Millerman	715-234-4410
Sarah Bisonette	715-236-7868
Scott and Cathy Davis	715-637-5514
Mark and Jeannette Garrett	715-537-5838
Rita Herrman	715-637-3646
Joyce Kaseno	715-537-5955
Terry and Marlene Kirkman	715-637-3968
Mahlon and Barb Maas	715-537-5211
Jeremy and Michele Millerman	715-205-2615
John and Emily Steele	715-441-5169
Cindy Wright	651-335-3517

January Ushers

Josh Millerman – Head Usher

Rick Church

Randy Church

Jeremy Millerman

Cody Vought

Alex Millerman

January Elders

1 –Tim Dennis

8 – Josh Millerman

15 –Stan Koenig

22 – Trevor Duncan

29 – Don Duncan

January Altar Guild: Kathy Schuettpeiz



January Greeters

1 –

8 – Deb Church Family

15 – Josh Millerman Family

22 – Church Family

29 –

Coffee Schedule

1 – Men's Club

8 – Josh & Jen Millerman Family

15 – Chris & Jolene Severt Family

22 – Metz – Koenig Family

29 – David & Cindy Steele Family

Messenger



January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 White 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class 	2 7:00 pm Elders	3 7:30am Bible Class 8:30 am Men's Club	4 4-5pm Confirmation 5 pm YFM meeting	5 11 am Bible Class	6	7
8 White 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	9	10 7:30am Bible Class 7:00pm Council	11 4-5pm Confirmation 6:30 pm BOE	12 11 am Bible Class	13	14
15 Green 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	16	17 7:30am Bible Class 4:30 pm YFM meeting	18 4-5pm Confirmation	19 11 am Bible Class	20	21
22 Green 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	23	24 7:30am Bible Class	25 4-5pm Confirmation 4-9 pm Childcare will receive 10% of profits from the DQ	26 11 am Bible Class	27	28
29 Green 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	30	31 7:30am Bible Class				