



Salem Lutheran Church



January 2021

Pastor's Page

Dear Family of God,

Happy New Year! Writing the newsletter article for January 2021 has been on my to-do list along with the sermons and bulletins to get together for the week of Christmas and New Year's, however, it has not been easy to come up with an idea. I looked back at last year's and wondered what I wrote about. I wrote about seeing Jesus with 20/20 vision. I introduced our Lenten theme as *Eyes on Jesus*, and we all know what happened in the middle of Lent.

2020 threw us for a loop. It was a hard year. Nobody is happy about the way the year turned out. I do not even have to list the many things that have caused us apprehension, anxiety, and fear. We all know what that is. Since 2020 is ending and 2021 is coming, I will let the newspapers give you a recap of the year. I do not need to remind you of all that happened.



There have been times this year that we have all put our hope in something else than Jesus. In many and various ways we have taken our eyes off Jesus amidst this storm. Just recently many have put their hope in the vaccine during this Christmas Season and not in the one whose birth we celebrate and grew up to save the world from the greatest disease, the disease of sin. I have been one of those, it's our human nature.

Yet, many good things have happened over the last year, a person might have to look for them, but good things have come. Here at Salem, we were finally able to vote to proceed with the building updates for the Daycare. Those updates should be starting in January sometime. This will be exciting to see how the project develops. Members are being creative in ways to come together safely. For myself personally we welcomed Naomi into our family and into the family of faith in Holy Baptism. I was able to officiate at my sister's wedding when if it were not a Pandemic, I would not have had that opportunity. Good things have come out of the Pandemic, look in your own lives and see what these things are.

Now as we turn our calendars to 2021, let us again look to the future. We do not know what the future holds, I don't know what I will be writing for the January 2022 Newsletter, but what I do know is that God holds the future in his hands. As we look to the future, let us look to the future with eyes of faith. We are going to do a couple of different things this year with that in mind, number one during the season of Lent we will be focusing on the theme *Return to the Lord*. This is important for God's people. Many



of us have wavered. We need to return to the Lord, and that will only happen by the grace of God. We also need to be encouraging one another to come back safely into the Lord's House.

Number two, I will be Lord willing finishing my doctoral project with family-centered, church-supported faith development. You will see that this is biblical. This will help our families return to the Lord in their own homes and help them see the priority of teaching the Christian faith in their homes.

Number three, the Childcare Center: Lord willing we will be opening this sometime in 2021 and be able to bring the message of hope of Jesus to many other families in the Barron area.

I don't know the future, I don't know if these goals will actually happen, only the Lord does, and I am thankful that the Lord knows the future and that He has our futures in His hand. I am glad that we do not hold the future in our own, we would screw it up mightily.

So, as we close out 2020, let's look forward in hope, united around the gospel message of Jesus Christ and common goal at Salem to disciple the Barron Community.

In His Service,

Pastor Nielsen

Council Meeting of December 8, 2020

President John Steele called the meeting to order and Pastor Nielsen led us in prayer.

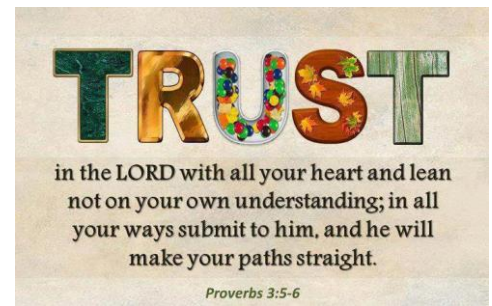
Present: President John Steele, Pastor Nielsen, Vice-president Chris Severt, Elder Tim Dennis, Treasurer Stan Koenig, Board of Ed Maryann Thompson, Trustee Tom Lipke and Secretary Kelly Cornelius appeared via telephone.

Guest: Sarah Duncan

Secretary's Report: Secretary Kelly Cornelius read the Council Meeting minutes of November 10, 2020. A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Tom Lipke to accept the minutes as read and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Stan Koenig advised the November, 2020, Financial Summary as follows: General Fund (4101) income for January to November is \$101,378.51. General Fund (4101) for November is \$8,837.00. Checking account at Sterling Bank is at \$40,982.40 and savings account at \$14,192.32. The LCEF: \$22,267.36. Missions: \$479.00. Sunday School: \$65.00. Building Fund: \$263.00. A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Chris Severt to accept the Treasurer's Report and motion carried.

Trustee's Report: Tom Lipke reported a half wall was installed for Cindy as well as bookshelves. Rooms still being cleaned out in preparation for construction to begin. Tom requested that when people are done in the storage area adjacent to the mother's room that the curtain be closed and latched when they exit. The



cleaning sign-up sheet going o.k. so far. A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Stan Koenig to accept the Trustee's Report and motion carried

Board of Ed: Maryann Thompson reported on the status of the library. Further said Sunday School going well. Children's program scheduled for this Sunday, December 13th. Cookies will be provided for the children. YFM will be meeting in January to discuss ideas for 2021. A Christmas tree burning event is again being planned, to be held here on the church grounds. The authorities will be notified of the date and time for this event. A motion was made by Tom Lipke, seconded by Chris Severt to accept the Board of Ed report and motion carried.

Elders' Report: Rick Cornelius is retiring from the Board of Elders. It was moved and approved to transfer Cassandra Miller to St. Matthews, Almena, WI. The loan papers for the daycare will be here late this week or early next week. Things are moving along. Nursing homes are still shut down to visitors. Discussed sending Christmas cards to members (each family unit) from Salem. This is to help keep in touch with members during Covid. Do we need a new member for the Board of Elders? Something to think about. Josh Millerman volunteered to be the secretary for the Board of Elders. Pastor is thinking about Lenten devotionals. At the Circuit Forum, Pastor Buechner was re-elected the Circuit Visitor. Pastor read a letter from Synod detailing the problems that Covid is causing with the upcoming District Convention. It was proposed to have District Convention in 2021 or 2022, and have the National Synodical Convention in 2023 (one year delay). It was felt that congregations should decide if this is acceptable. A Congregational Voter's Meeting will probably be held in January to vote on this. We should probably use battery powered candles for the Christmas Eve candlelight service for health safety reasons. A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Stan Koenig to accept the Elders' Report and motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor gave a status report on his Dr. of Ministry project . At the recent Circuit Forum, Pastor Buechner was re-elected Circuit Visitor. Pastor thanked outgoing members of the Council and welcomed those members that are coming on board. Winkle held today via Zoom. Advised the District and Synod Convention might be pushed back a year due to Covid concerns. A brief Congregational Voter's Meeting will need to be set in January or February to address and vote on this issue accordingly. On doxology, The Encore is coming to Buffalo, November 12 -14, 2021, which Pastor will be attending. All Bible Classes are in session. Confirmation Classes going well. At this time the shut-ins are being visited by pastor by phone. Pastor reported on the possible series for Lent 2021. Pastor further advised the Barron Area Clergy Association has not met recently. A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Tim Dennis to accept Pastor's Report and motion carried.

Old Business: Stan Koenig advised of the progress of the loan paperwork. Bill Balts is to begin construction mid January.

New Business: President John Steele and Trustee Tom Lipke will be the designated signers of the safe deposit box at Sterling Bank, and the bank will be noticed of same in writing. A \$50.00 Treasury Bond for the Building Fund that was in the safe deposit box has matured in the amount of \$115.00 and will be applied to improvements to Salem's Shelter.

A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tim Dennis to adjourn and motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes by Kelly Cornelius

Repurpose Your Christmas Trees !!!

We will be collecting trees for our Christmas Tree Bonfire.



Please feel free to drop your tree off at the South edge of the Church parking lot by the current brush pile.



Come join us for an end of the season **Christmas Tree Bonfire on January 15th from 5 pm-7:30 pm at Church.** Enjoy the company of family and friends around the warm fire. Please bring a dish to pass for supper and a chair to use by the fire. Everyone is welcome.

Prayer Requests for:

Those in the nursing home:

Caroly, Elsie, Etta, Frances, Leonard, Lois, Louise, Vi

Those Shut-in at home:

Char, Gail, Joan, Joyce, Loretta, Wilma

Those recovering from surgery: Roxanne Espeseth, Mona Duncan, Steve Amdall

Those recovering from an accident: Rusty Weise

Those with ongoing health issues:

Agnes, Dorie, Harrison, Jeanne, Kathy, Ken, Keith, Kim, Marlene, Wyatt, Owen, Esther, Pastor Mark Triplett

Those who lead our nation:

Donald Trump, Mike Pence, Tony Evers, Ron Fladden

Those who serve in our military:

Ryan Graf and Ethan Kobernick

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 1: Judith Kaehler

January 3: Jamie Bonneville & Ameer Starck

January 4: Daniel Dennis & Marlene Kirkman

January 5: Joyce Kolba

January 6: Esten Pedersen, Ava Slayton, & Bentley Slayton

January 7: Freida Lentz

January 10: Miriam Nielsen

January 12: Andrew Church

January 15: Sarah Bisonette

January 16: Earl Starck

January 19: Nathan Kirkman

January 20: Frances Bauch, Jeff Nyhus & Carl Mueller

January 28: Gail Espeseth & Robin McGowan

January 29: Linda Riebe

Dear Families of Salem,

It has been my absolute honor and privilege serving as director of the childrens' Christmas programs over the past several years. It brings me joy and delight to think about all of the children I got to work with, and also being able to hear our most precious story and treasured gift of all through their voices.

I've worked with many incredible adults along the way as well. There is so much that goes into these programs and everyone's roles and time have been valued and appreciated. We are a congregation laden with talent and ability from instrumentalists, vocalists, organists, pastors, hand-bell ringers, ushers, altar guild, costume designers, crafters, organizers-creating schedules, practices/snacks/meals, the bulletins and janitorial duties. (The list goes on and on.)

Thank you for trusting in me, and blessing me with this leadership role at Salem. It is one that I will forever cherish. I am happy to pass this honor to new talent in the upcoming years. Thanks again for my years in serving our Lord.

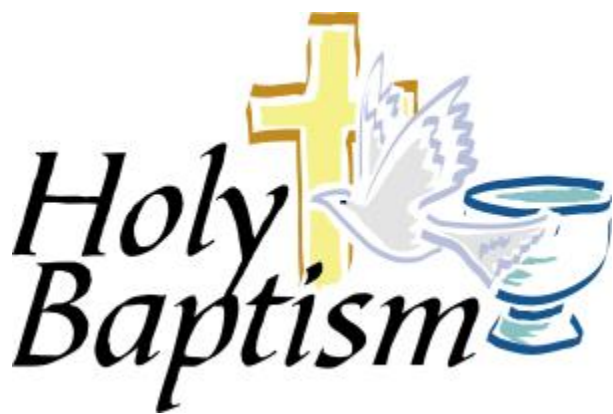
God's Blessings and Happy New Year,

Jolene Severt



January Anniversaries

JANUARY 12: JAIMIE & SARAH BONNEVILLE



January 1: Caleb Duncan

January 5: Dwayne Stabenow

January 13: Jacob Duncan & Matthew Steele

January 19: William Weise

How to Contact Us

Pastor Michael Nielsen – (218) 280-0999
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: salemмос@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>

January/February Leaders

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
Vi Meisegeier 715-637-3491
Jeremy and Michele Millerman 715-205-2615
John and Emily Steele 715-441-5169
Cindy Wright 715-357-3411

January Ushers

Jeremy Millerman – Head Usher
Rick Church
Randy Church
Josh Millerman
Cody Vought
Trevor Duncan

January Elders

3 – 7:45 Don Duncan
9:15 Stan Koenig
10 – 7:45 Trevor Duncan
9:15 Josh Millerman
17 – 7:45 Don Duncan
9:15 Paul Millerman
24 – 7:45 Trevor Duncan
9:15 Josh Millerman
31 – 7:45 Don Duncan
9:15 Tim Dennis

January Altar Guild: Mary Ann Thompson



Coffee Schedule

3 – YFM
10 – YFM
17 – YFM
24 – YFM
31 – YFM

January Greeters

3 –
10 –
17 –
24 –
31 –





January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3 White 7:45/ 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:15 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	4 7:00 pm Elders	5 730 Bible Class 7:00 pm Men's Club	6 4-5pm Confirmation 7 pm BOE meeting	7 11 am Bible Class	8	9
10 White 7:45/ 9:15 am Worship 10:15 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	11	12 7:30am Bible Class 7:00pm Council	13 4-5pm Confirmation 7pm YFM	14 11 am Bible Class	15 5-7:30 pm Christmas Tree Bonfire 	16
17 Green 7:45/ 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:15 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	18	19 7:30am Bible Class	20 4-5pm Confirmation	21 11 am Bible Class	22	23
24 Green 7:45/ 9:15 am Worship 10:15 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	25	26 7:30am Bible Class	27 4-5pm Confirmation	28 11 am Bible Class	29	30
31 7:45/ 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:15 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class						



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE NIELSENS! MICHAEL, EMILY, HANNAH, MIRIAM, JONAH & NAOMI

Needs List:

Catechisms \$13/book

Study Bibles \$40/book

Certificate Frames \$4/frame

Air Conditioning

Lamp for organ \$250 - \$400

Church Computers - \$600 per computer

(replacing 1 every 2 years)

Faith Alive Bibles \$26/book

Additional Hymnals \$27/book

Baptism Frames \$4/frame

Convex Mirror \$50 - \$200

Music Stands \$50 - \$200

Please see the church office before ordering/purchasing any of these items. Any amount of money can be donated toward an item on the needs list.