

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



Salem Lutheran Church

December 2019



Pastor's Page

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Advent! Below you will find an introduction to our Midweek Advent Series this year entitled "Behold the Child."

God's own Son is born a child . . . ;
God the Father is reconciled.

What peace is found in those words. As the Church draws nigh to the Nativity of Our Lord, many also draw nigh to the harsh reality of broken families and friendships. The sting of estrangement intensifies in this season as many delight in family gatherings—a delight that is glaringly absent for others.

We long for reconciliation—a marriage healed, the return of a prodigal child, the open arms of a formerly harsh parent. Advent is just the season for reconciliation. It is a penitential season, calling us to examine ourselves, acknowledge our sin with contrition, and trust that our sin is forgiven for the sake of Christ. Such self-examination reveals that the fault for our broken relationships is not one-sided. The sin visited upon me by another has driven a wedge between us, but so has my sin. Part of the distance between me and others is due to my sinful actions—my sinful refusal to forgive, my sinful pride that will not admit my fault, my sinful contentment with a cold shoulder.



Advent calls us to repent of our divisions. Advent calls us to rejoice in reconciliation. Though you can forgive another even when he refuses to acknowledge his fault, reconciliation is found when both parties are willing to admit their culpability, seek forgiveness, and amend their ways. That can seem so difficult. It is hard enough for one sinner to confess his sin and trust that the Lord purges it from his life. How much more challenging it is for two sinners to do so. Yet that is exactly what Christ works among and within us. He grants us confidence in His forgiveness so that we forgive one another, receive one another's forgiveness, and are thus reconciled.

Reconciliation with some remains ever elusive. We hunger for it; we pray for it. Yet the distance remains. When a parent apologizes to a child so that they embrace for the first time in decades, we rightly rejoice. When our longing is not realized, sorrow results.

The only consolation amid such sorrow is the certainty of your reconciliation to the Father. It is certain because it is not dependent upon sinners humbling themselves in repentance. It is certain because it is dependent upon the sinless Son of God humbling Himself to take on human flesh and be born of a virgin.

That is the glorious, biblical proclamation found in "*The Quemmas Carol*." We are blessed to hear therein the refrain, "God's own Son is born a child . . . ; God the Father is reconciled." This is not wishful thinking driven by our longings. It is reality driven by Christ.

You are reconciled to the Father. Each stanza of "*The Quemmas Carol*" announces our reconciliation to the Father in Christ. Wednesday of the first week in Advent will greet us with the first stanza, in which the angel of the Lord makes known that reconciliation is had because Christ has come "For You and All the World." The second stanza will serve us on Wednesday of the second week in Advent as we hear that Jesus reconciles us to the Father "To Set You Free from All Your Sorrow." Then, our ears will be filled with the promise that we are reconciled to the Father because Christ comes "For You, to Bear Your Flesh in Weakness." Our joy will find its climax at the Nativity of Our Lord, when we hear the fourth stanza's message that Jesus' birth is the Lord's visitation of "All the World with His Free Grace Supplying."

Behind it all is the Word of God that the Spirit might quicken in us faith to trust these promises.

May God Bless you all as we enter this busy season. I also pray that you will find yourself some peace and joy during the business of this holy time.

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Michael J. Nielsen

Council Meeting of November 12, 2019

President Paul Millerman called the meeting to order and Pastor Nielsen led us in prayer.

Present: President Paul Millerman, Vice-president Chris Severt, Pastor Nielsen, Board of Ed Maryann Thompson, Trustee Tom Lipke, and Secretary Kelly Cornelius

Absent: Treasurer Stan Koenig

Guest: John Steele (President elect)

Secretary's Report: Secretary Kelly Cornelius read the Council Meeting minutes of October 8, 2019. A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tim Dennis to accept the minutes as read and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Same as the report given at the Voter's Meeting on November 10, 2019.

Elder's Report: The Children's Christmas Program will be December 8, 2019. The church service line is down. The wedding party paid only \$100 to use the church, rather than the required \$500. We need to make sure this does not happen in the future. Paul read the proposed agenda for the November 10 Voter's Meeting. Looks good, nothing unusual on the agenda. Pastor will be at "Rural and Small Town" conference next week. Pastor suggested that "Gift Planning Services" from Eau Claire meet with the congregation. They can explain such things as estate planning. Pastor suggested we look into "Right Now Media". It would cost \$60 per month for the church to subscribe, and provides such things as a Bible library, Bible studies, videos, etc. Good for youth groups and Bible studies. For 2020, Pastor said there is a program regarding caring for inactive members which would be helpful. Pastor said there is also a program called "Everyone His Witness", which teaches how to witness to various individuals and groups. In October, Pastor had 18 shut-in visits, and three office visits. Average attendance for October was 97.5.

Trustee's Report: Tom Lipke reported the newly built library box has been installed outside. Tom advised two programmable thermostats have been installed in the church. The back entrance door to the south was again in need of repair. Roger Fagerlin took on the job and the door now works great. Thanks go out to Roger.

Board of Ed: Maryann Thompson reports her report is the same as was given at the November 10th, Voter's Meeting.

Pastor's Report: Winkle was held at Zion Lutheran, Turtle Lake. Pastor will be attending the annual conference in the Twin Cities November 14 - 16, 2019. Pastor plans to have a session on Board Training for our various boards with the assistance of DJ Schultz. Pastor explained Gift Planning Services as it relates to Salem which would include estate planning. Council agreed to listen to Ron Smith of Gift Planning Services to get more information on this subject. New Member Class has started. Discussed reviewing the Constitution as it relates to teacher/commissioned worker as the Constitution may need to be modified in this area. Discussed and was decided to include in the bulletin the loan amount left to be paid back into Salem's Sterling Bank account regarding the Playground to keep members updated on this. Also discussed and decided to include in the bulletin beginning the first of the year our 2020 Budget weekly costs as to what it takes per week to balance the budget and further to give a running total throughout the year of where we are at financially. All

committees will meet this Sunday after Sunday School and Bible Class regarding Daycare/Preschool. Further as it relates to the Daycare/Preschool, it was decided to add this new ministry plan to Salem's website and Facebook.

New Business: Pastor explained to Council "Right Now Media" which is an online program providing such things as a Bible library, Bible studies, and videos for youth and adults at a cost to Salem of \$60 per month. It was decided to add this to the Needs List. Pastor will give a Sunday presentation on this at some point. Pastor advised that Don Peterson would be here this Sunday after the church service to give a brief presentation on the nonprofit senior housing building project plans for Barron.

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes by Secretary Kelly Cornelius



The advertisement features a large orange background. At the top, the text "rightnow MEDIA" is written in white, with "rightnow" in a lowercase, rounded font and "MEDIA" in all caps. Below this, it says "Over 10,000 free videos for you and your family". On the left, there is a small image of a tablet displaying a grid of video thumbnails. On the right, there is a circular logo for "NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH" with "PASTOR KENDALL GRANGER" written around the bottom edge. The main headline in large, bold, black letters reads "The Netflix of Christian Bible Study".

The North Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has entered into a partnership with RightNow Media. RightNow Media to put in the best description is the “Hulu” of Bible Studies/Children’s Bible Programs and numerous other areas of Spiritual Support. The Churches of the North Wisconsin District can provide this resource to each congregation family to be used for in-home use, use for Bible Studies, youth group, Sunday School and for other creative ways. **Salem can get this for a monthly rate of \$59.99. We are unable to include this in the budget currently, but it is now on the needs list.** If you have further questions on this remarkable resource for getting the bible into families, please see Pastor Nielsen.

Christ Lutheran Church in Pipe Lake is hosting an Everyone His Witness workshop on January 18, 2020 from 9 am – 2 pm. This event will be free of charge. There will be a [sign-up sheet](#) for interested Salem members to attend with Pastor on the back bulletin board during the month of December. There’s a couple pages attached to the newsletter that explains this training and see pastor if you have further questions.



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

Playground Balance Due as of Oct. 31, 2019 \$4404.20 is needed to pay this off!

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.



What is Gift From the Heart?

The Gift From the Heart Project is a cooperative effort of First Lutheran Church, Foursquare Gospel Church, Salem Lutheran Church and Preschool, United Methodist Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

The effort involves approximately 140 individual volunteers. These people donate

approximately 1200 hours coordinating the program, doing the shopping, wrapping and distributing the gifts. Approximately 40 area business and service organizations generously support the project by their financial contributions. Through their efforts we are able to make Christmas brighter for about 75 families and 193 children.

On behalf of all involved, we wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2019.

Gift From the Heart Sponsors and Volunteers



BAKE SALE

The youth group is hosting a bake sale on **Saturday, December 7 at the craft and vendor show.** The money raised will go towards the cost of their trip to Texas for the Youth Gathering in 2022. If you would like to **donate a baked good** please bring it to the church on Saturday morning, December 7th. Make sure to label your goods (no need to price) Thank you in advance for your support to Salem's Youth.

SLCW Meeting – November 12, 2019

- Pastor led us in the Bible Study "The Pharaoh's Daughter" who raised Moses. The Bible reference is Exodus 2:1-10. In this study we saw several people taking steps that were unexpected and extraordinary.
- President Maas called the meeting to order and we recited the LWML Pledge.
- The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were read and approved.
- We are ordering the Mission Tidings and Woman's Quarterly for 2020.
- Our next meeting is December 4th and will be our annual Christmas Party; lunch and Bingo after Advent Service. Bring something for lunch and a \$2 - \$3 wrapped gift for Bingo. Everyone is welcome!
- We said the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer.



Judy Kaehler, Secretary



December 3rd at 7 pm – Men's Club Big Buck Contest

There will be lots of prizes and great food for all. Contest is open to all members but you must be present to win. Everyone is invited to come and hear hunting stories and have a great evening of fun and fellowship.

Men's Club Meeting November 5, 2019

- Tom Lipke called the meeting to order.
- Pastor lead us in devotions.
- Minutes read from last meeting 10/1/19. Jim made a motion to approve minutes as read 2nd by Duffy.
- Treasurers' report was given by Ken. Lenard made a motion to approve treasurer's report, 2nd by Pete.
- ***Big Buck Contest:*** Big Buck Contest will be Dec 3rd. Don has a \$250.00 card from Thrivent that he will use for prizes and lunch.
- Leonard made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by Duffy.
- Watched a video on How We Got the Bible. Parts 1&2



Secretary, Don Duncan

Thank you very much for your generous donation to the Backpack Food 4Kids program your support is greatly appreciated as we work to help feed Barron's children. Again, many thanks.

Lynne Hanse



Repurpose Your Christmas Trees !!!

We will be collecting trees for our Christmas Tree Bonfire. Josh Millerman will have a trailer parked on the south side of the Church on the following dates:

December 27, 28, 29

December 31 from 7 pm until 7 am January 1

January 3, 4, & 5

Please feel free to drop your tree off at any of the dates listed above.

Come join us for an end of the season **Christmas Tree Bonfire on January 11th from 5 pm-7:30 pm at Josh and Jen Millerman's**. 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. Address is 897 16th St, Barron WI 54812





Happy marriage anniversary

QuotesPics.net

DECEMBER 2: DAVID & JANE ANDERSON

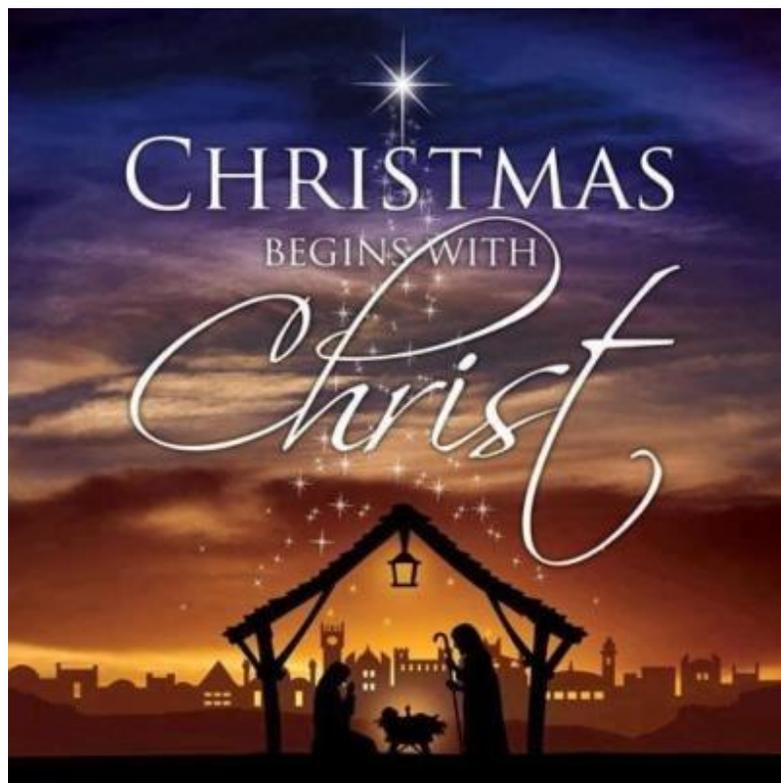
DECEMBER 11: JOSHUA & JENNIFER MILLERMAN

DECEMBER 17: JIM & JEANNE PERALA

DECEMBER 22: JIM & LORI CRAWFORD

DECEMBER 31: RICK & JUDY CHURCH &

RYAN & ERIN (HAMMANN) GRAF



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 1: Sarah Duncan

December 2: Dean Hanson

December 3: Caroly Dawson, Randi Lee Dennis, & Sue Millerman

December 4: Collin Duncan

December 5: Kendra Dennis & Harvey Germanson

December 9: Ken Harbaugh

December 11: Scott Davis, Dean Dawson, & Trevor Duncan

December 19: William Ray Weise

December 22: Karen Smith

December 30: Brooke Hammann & Michelle Thompson

December 31: Roger Fagerlin & Braxton Seeman



How to Contact Us

Pastor Michael Nielsen – (218) 280-0999

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

Office – (715) 537-3011

Paul Millerman (715) 234-4410

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>

December Greeters

1 – Tom & Debbie Lipke

8 – John Steele Family

15 – Shawn Dennis

22 – Don & Mona Duncan

29 – Pastor & Emily Nielsen & Family

December Ushers

Tom Lipke

John Steele

Leonard Splett

Don Duncan

Shawn Dennis

November/December Leaders

Randy & Sarah Forehand **715-637-1300**

Mary Ann Thompson **715-296-8751**

Dale & Becky Bryan 715-637-8341

Joan Church 715-637-3364

Rick & Judy Church 715-357-6214

James Dennis 715-418-2288

Mark & Amy Dennis 715-458-3306

Sharon Hammann 715-357-3074

Marcia Elliott 715-234-9321

Ken Harbaugh 715-637-3219

Diane Knoepke 715-637-5912

Aaron Mickelson 715-418-0234

Jim & Gwen Metcalf 715-642-0527

Alison Seeman Unlisted

Chris & Jolene Severt 715-458-4970

Melissa Weinert 715-418-1222

December Altar Guild: Mary Ann Thompson

December Elders

1 – 9:00 Dennis

4 – 12:00 Anderson

6:30 Duncan

8 – 9:00 Cornelius

11 – 12:00 Anderson

6:30 Koenig

15 – 9:00 Koenig

18 – 12:00 Anderson

6:30 Duncan

22 – 9:00 Anderson

24 – 6:30 Splett & Duncan

25 – 9:00 Millerman

29 – 9:00 Duncan

31 – 6:30 Millerman

Coffee Schedule

1 – Trevor & Sarah Duncan

8 – Christmas Program/Workgroups

15 – Michelle Thompson & Dwayne & Dennis Stabenow

22 – Tim & Paula Dennis & Scot & Becky Hammann

29 – Men's Club

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Blue 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am Bible Class 10:15 to 11:30 Christmas Program Practice 11am: Building Committee</p> <p>Gifts From the Heart - Hearts will be here!!</p> 	<p>2 7:00 pm Elders</p>	<p>3 8:00am Men's Bible Class 7:00 pm Big Buck Contest</p> 	<p>4 Noon Advent Service 1:00pm SLCW Christmas Party 4-5pm Confirmation 5-6:30pm: Vocal & Instruments Practice (only) 5pm Supper 6:30pm Advent Service</p>	<p>5 Noon Bible Class</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>4-7 pm Practice for Christmas Program 5-5:30 Supper</p>
<p>8 Blue 9:00 am</p>  <p>Children's Christmas Program</p> <p>10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 8:00am Men's Bible Class Winkel-Our Redeemer, Webster 7:00pm Council</p>	<p>11 Noon Advent Service 4pm: Policy Committee Meeting 4-5pm Confirmation 5pm Supper 6:30pm Advent Service</p>	<p>12 Noon Bible Class</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Blue 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class 11am BOE 11 am All gifts for Gifts From the Heart should be at the Church.</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17 8:00am Men's Bible Class</p>	<p>18 Noon Advent Service 4-5pm Confirmation 5pm Supper 6:30pm Advent Service</p>	<p>19 Noon Bible Class</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Blue 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 White 6:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 White 9:00am Christmas Service</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p> 
<p>29 White 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31 White 6:30pm New Years Eve Service After Service: Youth Lock In</p> 				

At Heartland, we depend on our hospice volunteers to help us provide the love, respect, and care our patients and their families need. Volunteer opportunities include friendly visits, reading aloud, writing legacy life stories, pet visits, caregiver relief/support, music at the bedside, and more. As a volunteer, you help decide which tasks you are comfortable performing. We serve patients throughout west central Wisconsin. New volunteer orientation and training are provided.

For more information, or to volunteer, call 715-214-2485 or email Charlotte.Hudgins@heartlandhospice.com. You can also visit our website at heartlandhospice.com/EauClaire



5th Annual Vendor Fair & Bake Sale

Salem Lutheran Church

1360 East LaSalle Avenue—Barron, WI 54812

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019
9AM-2PM

Local vendors and crafters participating include:

ThirtyOne, Pampered Chef, Norwex, Scentsy, Lipsense, Tupperware, Advocare,
homemade cards, ornaments, gift baskets, winebottle crafts and more!

Lunch served for a free will donation. Proceeds to benefit
Youth attending the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, TX