

Pastor's Page

Dear Children of God,

Happy New Year!



This time of year, the end of December, beginning of January we hear lots of conversation about New Year's Resolutions. Resolutions to eat healthier, to exercise more, to drink less caffeine, to eat less chocolate. Maybe the Resolutions are to read a bit more, to spend more time with family, to write more letters. Maybe the Resolutions include more face-to-face conversation and less via electronic means. Maybe we don't make resolutions, maybe we make goals for the upcoming year. I know some individuals make their own goals for the year. I know families will be put on their calendar their monthly goals. Yes, this time of year we like

to discuss goals and resolutions for the upcoming year.

As we think about Resolutions or goals, I am going to encourage you on one goal or resolution: Spend more time with Jesus. Spend more time in His Word. Spend more time in Church. Spend more time Bible Study. Maybe you've never been to Bible Study, this is the year to start. By doing all this you will able to see Jesus more clearly.



I'm sure by now you have seen articles or advertisements about the year, 2020. What do

we think of when we see that number? For me, I think of eyesight. That's perfect vision. I would love to go back to the day when I had 20/20 vision without glasses. That would be a great thing, but I know that I will never get back there.

As I have contemplated on this whole idea of Vision and perfect vision, I realize that on this side of heaven, none of us can see perfectly. None of us have 100% perfect vision. I do realize that we can see more clearly yes, with glasses, but in a different, with Jesus. With Jesus we can see things a bit more clearly. As I'm writing this to you on Christmas Eve, I have finished the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day sermons. I finished the funeral sermon for Jim Perala. I have even finished the sermon for the Sunday after Christmas. (I still do have New Year's Eve sermon to write). As each of these things get finished, I see Jesus a bit more clearly, because instead of writing and studying for you, I can read the Christmas story for myself. I can receive Jesus personally, which helps me see more clearly. This helps me serve you even better.

In the year 2020, things are changing at Salem. The congregation voted to start a daycare. You will begin to hear more about the building changes. You will begin to hear more about where we are headed with the staff of the daycare. Even with those changes to the building and to the ministry of Salem coming, I will be encouraging you throughout this year to look at all of this with 20/20 vision. To look at all of this with the eyes of Jesus. This is pretty remarkable, because not too long into the year 2020 we will be heading into the season of Lent (yes, I said it). This year during Lent we will be focusing on the Eyes of Jesus. That's the theme. I pray that as we serve together in 2020 here at Salem that you will be able to see more clearly with the Eyes of Jesus. I pray that the eyes of Jesus are the lens in which you see everything else.

Seeing everything with the lens of the eyes of Jesus is my New Year's Resolution. That's my goal for this year. I want to see things more in the way that Jesus sees them. I want to see you more in the way that Jesus sees you. For Jesus sees you as for one whom He died for. He sees you as one whom He has forgiven. That's how I want to see you. I want to see the changes that are going to happen here more clearly. I want to see what we do here impact the lives of the Children for whom Christ died.



Salem Messenger

I encourage you as we enter this New Year, as we enter a new decade that you would all see more clearly, with Jesus as your corrective lens. Jesus is the one who does correct, and more than correct, he heals. He is the one that heals you through the cross and the empty tomb. I pray that you would see that even more clearly.

Now May God Bless you all this New Year.

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

Congregational Voter's Meeting of November 10, 2019

President Paul Millerman called the meeting to order and Pastor Nielsen led us in prayer. Secretary's Report: Secretary Kelly Cornelius read the minutes from the last Congregational Voter's Meeting held on April 7, 2019. A motion was made by Leonard Splett, seconded by Josh Millerman to accept the minutes as read and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Stan Koenig reported the October, 2019, Financial Summary as follows: General Fund balance as of October 1, 2019, in the amount of \$12,359.28 (in the hole). General Fund income of \$10,393.36 and expenses at \$10,453.53 for a balance as of October 31, 2019,of \$12,419.45 (in the hole). Missions: \$615.00. Building Fund: \$303.00. Preschool Balance: \$8,597.20. Further, \$300 went to Pastor Walter's wife. Checking account balance at Sterling Bank of \$37,865.62 and savings account is at \$8,671.52. LCEF Building Fund: \$18,616.37. Further, the loan left to repay on our playground is \$4,404.20. The Trust Fund accounts were explained regarding spendable and unspendable monies.

Elder's Report: Elder Tim Dennis reports as follows: May, 2019: It was moved and approved to transfer Marge Newville to Apostles Lutheran in Peoria, Illinois. June, 2019: Regarding the Sound System, the Council approved additional equipment such as microphone, speakers, volume control and shutoff switch. Big screen 65 inch t.v. has been purchased for \$949.00. Pastor Buechner will conduct the service on June 23, 2019, while Pastor Nielsen is at Camp Luther. He will also conduct the July 21, 2019, service. Scott Peterson will conduct the July 28, 2019, service. Jake Wampfler may stop by July 21st or 28th, to say hello and thank you. Pastor covered the Daycare Committee's findings to date, mostly concerning several options for structural changes to the church building that may have to be done. Because all full-time church employees at daycare would have to be offered the same benefits (health insurance) as Pastor Nielsen, options other than family health insurance for pastor may have to be considered during open enrollment. July, 2019: It was moved and approved to accept Makayla Maria Dormancy into membership by transfer from a sister LCMS congregation. Jen Millerman explained the Concordia Health Insurance options for 2020 and also the option of Christian Health Ministry Health Insurance. Decisions will be made before open enrollment. The sound system is complete. A church audit has been completed and everything is good. The back door of the church should be locked at the start of each service for security and safety reasons. This should be the responsibility of the elders and head ushers. Pastor Jake Wampfler will be conducting the July 21, 2019, service rather than Pastor Buechner. Pastor has gotten quotes on two security systems. They are in the range of \$2,600 to \$3,500. It was moved and approved to have Pastor continue working on a website for Salem and to publish it when ready. August, 2019: It was felt the Shutz estate oil monies should continue to go into the General Fund. The Elder's Budget will be completed at the September meeting. Pastor's performance review will be at the September meeting. It is felt we should plan on replacing a computer every two years so each of our three computers would be replaced every six years. We went over the Elders and Ushers duties and the Ushers Schedule for 2020. September, 2019: Completed Pastor Nielsen's performance review. "Grace" is a home school group who Salem Messenger

would like to meet at Salem two Tuesdays a month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Approval by elders with the stipulation that they clean up after themselves. Pastor would like Salem to have communion on important Sundays like Palm Sunday, Reformation Sunday and Penticost even when they don't occur on the first or third Sundays of the month. The Elders agreed this would be good. October, 2019: We completed the Elder's Budget and it was moved and approved to accept. The theme for this year's Advent is "Behold the Child". It was approved to order 50 Advent devotionals. The greeter area gets congested before services. It was suggested the greeters and bulletins be moved to the center aisle to lessen the problem. A window will be put in the west wall of the secretary's office so she can see the front door of the church. November, 2019: The Children's Christmas Program will be December 8, 2019. 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 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. Each month we studied "Pastors and Elders" workbook.

Trustee's Report: Tom Lipke reported regarding the storm damage in July, Salem's insurance policy covered the repair of the outdoor cross and the replacing of the lights of both the indoor and outdoor crosses. Also reported the playground project was accomplished with great assistance of the Playground Committee as well as other members.

Board of Ed: Maryann Thompson reported the following: Sunday School: Started practicing songs for the Children's Christmas Service today. Lessons will be every Sunday in December except for the Christmas Program date of December 8th. Preschool/Daycare: Three committees have been formed from the yes vote for a daycare. There will be committee meetings for the three boards on November 17, 2019, after Sunday School. The Board of Ed will be putting a Mission Statement together for the daycare. Board of Ed would like to be the Call Committee for the Daycare Director along with an elder and anyone else who would like to volunteer. YFM: December 7th, is the Craft/Vendor show. Proceeds will go toward the Youth Gathering in 2022. Youth Group is putting on a bake sale at the Craft/Vender show. Funds will go toward the Youth Gathering. Sending out college/military packages from Salem this week.

Cemetery Committee: Wil Schuettpelz reported on the cemetery as to the size, number of people buried there as well as the number of plots available. Many thanks to the volunteers for the upkeep of the cemetery as it relates to lawn mowing as well as the work on the July storm damage. The policy on the cemetery is available should anyone being interested. Zoning was contacted as far as the possibility of adding more plots to the south. Zoning had no issue with it. Wil explained the Cemetery spendable/unspendable accounts. Wil advised as of 2020, two new members were needed on the Cemetery Committee. It should be noted that the Council directs the incoming and outgoing of Trust Fund monies unless those monies were specifically designated by the giving person (s).

Budget: The 2020 Budget was passed out to members today and after reviewing same a motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Leonard Splett to vote on the budget by hand ballot and motion carried. The hand ballot resulted in an unanimous vote to accept the budget.

Other Business: Stan Koenig reported on the issues with Stream Monster and Audio Architects. Will contact Audio Architects in getting a new company to replace Stream Monster. Paul Millerman advised members that pastor has set up Salem's website and it looks great. Encouraged members to take a look at it.

Elections: President: Rick Cornelius nominated John Steele. After no further nominations were received a motion was made by Josh Millerman, seconded by Don Duncan to close nominations and cast an unanimous ballot vote and motion carried. John Steele was then elected unanimously. Treasurer: Stan Koenig agreed to another term as Treasurer. After no nominations for this position being made a motion was made by Duffy Anderson, seconded by Josh Millerman to close nominations and cast an unanimous ballot vote and motion carried. Stan Koenig was then elected unanimously for another term. Board of Ed: Maryann Thompson agreed to another term. Since no nominations were brought a motion was made by Josh Millerman, seconded by Tim Dennis to close nominations and cast an unanimous ballot vote and motion carried. Maryann Thompson was then elected for another term unanimously. Trust Fund: To replace outgoing members John and Emily Steele, Rick Cornelius nominated Cindy Mickelson and Aaron Beckendorf. Since both agreed to serve, and no further nominations were made, a motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Duffy Anderson to close nominations and cast an unanimous ballot and motion carried. Both Cindy Mickelson and Aaron Beckendorf were elected unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Pastor gave Salem's Mission Statement. Pastor's 2019 accomplishments: First of all, pastor related it has been a good year even with some personal tragedies and thanked members. The playground was completed and dedicated in August. Daycare Feasibility Committee finished their work and the daycare passes to next steps. Averaging on non-summer months about 100 in worship. Have gone through ten cycles of visiting shut-ins. Six member funerals held at Salem, two non-member funerals, one upcoming funeral. One member wedding and one nonmember. Website up and running. New sound system up and running. Elected as the BACA Vice-president. Several Bible Studies up and running. Storyteller for VBS. Pastor's Goals for 2020: Personal: Keep eyes focused on Jesus. Pray for each member individually. Finish classwork for D-min. Beginning MAP project. Work on Homilectic and Teaching skills. In-Reach: Help congregation keep eyes focused on Jesus. Continue to work with the Youth Group at Salem. Help train new leaders, district office can be helpful here. Expand ministries to families, this will go with my MAP and daycare. Discuss stewardship and evangelism with leaders and then congregation. Other ideas are helpful. Out-Reach goals: The main goal of outreach is to bring Jesus to our community. Get daycare up and running. Next Sunday afternoon after Bible Class, all committees to meet regarding the daycare. I will hand information to the committees from the Feasibility Committee. Timelines will be discussed and then committees will break out into individual groups and discuss their process. Connect with the families of the daycare. This will connect with MAP. Other outreach ideas would be good. Everyone His Witness is a good program. Other Noteable: "Behold the Child" is the Advent theme. Beginning in Advent for the next three year cycle of the church year I will be preaching through the Epistles. Lent 2020, most likely the theme will be "Eyes on Jesus". Going to the Rural and Small Town Mission Conference this coming week. Needs List updated.

A motion was made by Leonard Splett, seconded by Chris Severt to adjourn and motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes by Secretary Kelly Cornelius

Council Meeting of December 10, 2019

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

Present: President Paul Millerman, Pastor Nielsen, Treasurer Stan Koenig, Board of Ed Maryann Thompson, Elder Tim Dennis, and Secretary Kelly Cornelius

Absent: Vice-president Chris Severt, Trustee Tom Lipke and President-elect John Steele

Secretary's Report: Secretary Kelly Cornelius read the Council Meeting minutes of November 12, 2019. It was noted by Council that actually only one thermostat was installed, not two. A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Tim Dennis to accept the minutes as read and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Stan Koenig reported the November, 2019, Financial Summary as follows: General Fund balance as of November 1, 2019, in the amount of \$12,419.45 (in the hole). General Fund income of \$8,380.20 and expenses at \$7,469.93 for a balance as of November 30, 2019, of \$11,509.18 (in the hole). Missions: \$576.00 Building Fund: \$271.00. Preschool Balance: \$8,652.20. Checking account balance at Sterling Bank of \$39,261.23 and savings account is at \$8,671.88. LCEF Building Fund: \$18,935.05. The General Fund for January to November, 2019, is at \$99,410.66. A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Maryann Thompson to accept the Treasurer's Report and motion carried.

Elder's Report: Duffy Anderson will be retiring from the Board of Elders at the end of January. Josh Millerman and Trevor Duncan have accepted appointments to the Board of Elders. The church service line is now working. Salem had to purchase a new "Stream Monster" box for about \$160.00. There will be a training session on ushering duties on January 6, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. Elders, head ushers and new ushers for 2020 should attend, and all ushers are invited. The Wednesday evening Deer Hunter Service will be discontinued due to lack of attendance. The "Everyone His Witness" program will be at Pipe Lake on January 18, 2020. In November, pastor had 18 shut-in visits, one home visit, one office visit, and two funerals. Average attendance for November was 93.

Board of Ed: Maryann Thompson reported that a bonfire is planned for January 11, 2020, at Josh and Jen Millerman's. A pie and chilli cook off is being planned for March 14, 2020. YFM is thinking of various fund raising ideas. Maryann reported the craft/vendor day was a success. The Board of Ed is meeting this Sunday.

Trustee's Report: In Tom Lipke's absence, Pastor reported that Tom did general maintenance, and put the stable and lights up. Further, the new thermostat is working fine.

Pastor's Report: Winkle was held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Webster. Pastor attended "Rural Small-town Ministry" where he gained knowledge on great resources online, webinars, and such. Pastor will start sharing some of these with various groups. Talked about all Boards training here at Salem. Further, planning on putting on a Gift Planning Services presentation in January for Council, Elder's and others. Lent Series to be "Eyes on Jesus". Pastor reported on the various bible studies. A New Member Class has been completed. The Daycare/Preschool Committees continue to meet. "Everyone His Witness" seminar is scheduled for January 18, 2020. Salem's Christmas Worship Schedule will be included in the Rice Lake Chronotype.

Old business: Pastor is reviewing "Right Now Media.

A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Maryann Thompson to adjourn and motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes by Secretary Kelly Cornelius



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:

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



SLCW

December 14, 2019



- This meeting was our annual Christmas Party. We enjoyed delicious salads, sandwiches, hot dish and a cheese tray.
- President Maas called the meeting to order and we recited the LWML Pledge. The Secretary's Report was read and approved.
- President Maas and Treasurer Knoepke are taking care of the organizations we support monetarily at Christmas time. They are The Lutheran Hour, Lutheran World Relief, The Pregancy Help Center, Orphan Grain Train, Bethesda and Bible Translators.
- Pres. Maas received her order of greeting cards and placed them in the card area.
- SLCW will not meet in January or February. Our next meeting is March 11th. Everyone is welcome!
- We said the Lord's Prayer and Barb read the verses "The Night Before Christmas" written by a WWII veteran.
- We then played Bingo.

Judy Kaehler, Sec.

Prayer request for: Bonnie, Don, Elsie, Ethan, Etta, Gene, Lenard, Lois, Louise, Marlene, Michelle, Salem's home bound, Wyatt

> Serving in our Military Ryan Graf Ethan Kobernick

Needs List:

Faith Alive Bibles \$26/book

Catechisms \$13/book Study Bibles \$40/book **Certificate Frames \$4/frame Air Conditioning**

Additional Hymnals \$27/book **Baptism Frames \$4/frame Convex Mirror \$50 - \$200** Lamp for organ \$250 - \$400 **Music Stands \$50 - \$200**

Church Computers - \$600 per computer (replacing 1 every 2 years)

Playground Balance Due as of Nov. 30, 2019 \$4349.20 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.



I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to **everyone** that had a part in the Children's Christmas Program this year. Everyone did a fantastic job! (It is a blessing to have such a talent-ladened Congregation.) A huge thank you to YFM for serving the supper during our Saturday evening practice and to all of the helpers that made this possible.

*A special Thank you to Cindy Wright for pre-recording the organ music in Mary Ann's absence, and to Jen Millerman for playing the recordings during the worship service.

Let's not forget the MANY volunteers at Salem: from those that clean our church every week, those that decorate for the seasons, ordering the church supplies, snow removal and to Sue for making the bulletins for every type of church service. I am grateful to each and every one of you! God's Blessings for 2020!

Jolene Severt - Director



January 1: Judith Kaehler

January 3: Jamie Bonneville & Amee Starck

January 4: Daniel Dennis & Marlene Kirkman

January 5: Joyce Kolba

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

January 7: Jessica Herrman & 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 21: Gene Hermann

January 28: Gail Espeseth & Robin McGowan

January 29: Linda Riebe

Salem Men's Club

- December 4th we held out Big Buck Contest. First prize went to Tim Dennis and Second prize went to Zack Mickelson. We had good food and listened to some great hunting stories. Had a lot of laughs and great fellowship.
- Next meeting will be January 2nd (Wednesday).
- We will start planning the youth Ice Fishing Contest!!
- All Salem men are welcome to come.

Don Duncan, Secretary





January Anniversaries

JANUARY 12: JAIMIE & SARAH BONNEVILLE



January 19:

William Weise

I would like to thank you for the college care package you sent to me at UW-Lacrosse. It meant a lot to me! Sincerely,
Logan Severt



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

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

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 715-537-5955 Joyce Kaseno 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

5 – Paul Millerman

12 - Don Duncan

19 – Stan Koenig

26 – Duffy Anderson

January Altar Guild: Kathy Schuettpelz



Coffee Schedule

5 - Paul & Sue Millerman

12 – Dean and Kim Hanson

19 - Mark & Amy Dennis

26 – Stan & Nancy Koenig & Rusty

& Melissa Weise

January Greeters

5 – Trevor Duncan Family

12 – Deb Church & Cody

19 – Jeremy Millerman Family

26 – Church Family



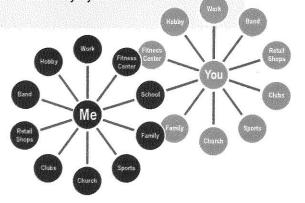
January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 White Happy New Year	2	CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING	CHRISTMAS TEEE RECYCLING
5 White 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	6 6:30 pm Usher Meeting 7:00 pm Elders	6 7:00am Men's Bible Class 7:00 pm Men's Club	8 4-5pm Confirmation 6:30 pm BOE meeting	9 Noon Bible Class	10	11
12 White 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	13	7:00am Men's Bible Class Winkel at St. Mathew, Almena 7:00pm Council	4-5pm Confirmation 6:30 YFM	16 Noon Bible Class	17	18 9am-2pm Everyone Witness Workshop Pipe Lake
19 Green 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	20	7:00am Men's Bible Class 10:00 am BACA @ Salem	22 4-5pm Confirmation	23 Noon Bible Class	24	25
26 Green 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	27	7:00am Men's Bible Class	29 4-5pm Confirmation	30 Noon Bible Class	31	

WITNESSING TO THE NONCHURCHED PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE

Witness is the purpose of your everyday life.

The Every One His Witness® Lutheran evangelism program considers the real world context in which Lutherans find themselves as witnesses of Jesus Christ. It puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with the people whom God has placed alongside His witnesses in their everyday lives.

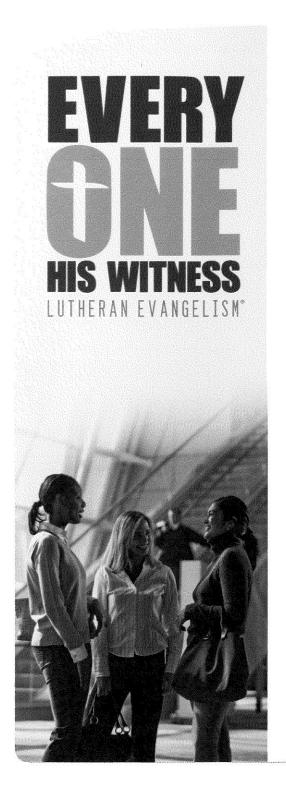


EVERY HIS WITNESS LUTHERAN EVANGELISM

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

1Peter 29





Not sure how to witness?

'LASSIE' is the answer. This relational, contextual witnessing approach teaches us to naturally share the Good News of Jesus Christ as we Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-and-Encourage people in our lives who are not yet part of the Church.

Completion of the *Every One His Witness* workshop unlocks online participation in context modules like witnessing to members of different world religions or cults, witnessing to people who are unchurched or dechurched, witnessing to those experiencing difficult life events, and witnessing while offering works of mercy.

Wondering how to be a witness of Jesus Christ in your particular context?

Every One His Witness Lutheran evangelism program is for you! Email witness-outreach@lcms.org to schedule a workshop for your congregation, circuit, district or organization.





Thank you to all of you who volunteer, donate and shop at Cupboard and Closet. We appreciate all your and could not do what we do without you God's Blessings to all of your Happy Holidays.

May the
WONDERFUL BLESSINGS

OF CHRISTMAS

REMAIN WITH YOU THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Cupboard and Closet