

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



Salem Lutheran Church

December 2020



Pastor's Page

THE JESSE TREE IS THE JESUS TREE!

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." (Isaiah 11:1)

Dear Family of God,

It is Advent—a time to reflect, pray, and worship the Christ who came, who comes, and who will come again. Imagine the world some two thousand years ago in the weeks before the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. People were busy doing whatever it was that defined their lives at that moment. For some, it was struggling against hunger, fear, and desperation. For others, it was enjoying their wealth and ease. For yet others, it was simply dealing with the pressures of their lives. But for all, the weeks we call "Advent" were just days and nights lived in darkness.

And indeed, it is a dark world. God had created the world to live in union with Him. He had breathed life into the father of our race, Adam, a creature of dust. He had formed Eve from the side of Adam and had joined the two together and to Himself. How bright the world must have been as Eden lived in harmony with the Creator.

But darkness came. Those created and loved by God rebelled against Him, bringing a darkness that permeated all creation. Death had entered through sin, and as the children of Adam filled the world, they took with them the darkness of that dreadful day in Eden when sin and death entered the world.

It was a world of darkness cut off from the source of all light, the Creator. Yet a light was breaking into the world. A young girl carried in her virgin womb a Son. This daughter of Eve was about to give birth to the One who would be the light of the world. This infant would reverse forever the horror of humanity's fall into sin and death and darkness. This was the miracle of miracles: our human sister Mary became, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the mother of God, the bearer of the Savior of the world.

No human eye could perceive it that night. All that could be seen was a child. Yet this child would forever destroy the darkness, for He brought life into death, and His light was to be the light of the world.

Every force of Satan would seek to put that light out. Herod would attempt to destroy Him by killing every male infant. Scribes and Pharisees would seek to silence Him as He spoke words of life. Failing to silence Him, they would seek to kill Him. Some thirty-three years after the first Christmas, the Babe of Bethlehem would be nailed to a cross. But this is what He had come to do. The Advent story, including the culminating Christmas story, is about a baby who had been born to die—yet not just to die but to be placed in the utter darkness of a tomb and on Easter morning to burst forth from the tomb. When the child of Mary rose from the grave, the light that began at Bethlehem shone so brightly that no one can put it out.



This Advent, we gather in the name of Jesus and consider His great story anew. The Jesse Tree is filled with symbols telling the story of Jesus from creation to His second coming. The story of the Bible, Old and New Testaments alike, is the story of Jesus. He is the Seed of Jesse's tree. He is the Root of Jesse's tree. He is the Life of Jesse's tree. And He is the Firstfruit of Jesse's tree. As the Church will sing with the angels on Christmas Day, "To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth" (LSB 383).

See you in church or you will see me online or hear me over the call-in line!

Pastor Nielsen

Council Meeting of November 10, 2020

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

Present: President John Steele, Elder Tim Dennis, Treasurer Stan Koenig, Pastor Nielsen, Trustee Tom Lipke and Secretary Kelly Cornelius

Absent: Vice-president Chris Severt and Board of Ed Maryann Thompson

Secretary's Report: Secretary Kelly Cornelius read the Council Meeting minutes of October 13, 2020. A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Stan Koenig to accept the minutes as read and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Stan Koenig reported the October, 2020, Financial Summary as follows: General Fund income of \$9,602.09 and expenses at \$8,630.86 for a balance as of October 31, 2020, of \$971.23 (net income). Gifts and memorials: \$1,010. Missions: \$358.00. Building Fund: \$243.00. Checking account balance at Sterling Bank at \$40,878.94 and savings account at \$14,192.32. LCEF: \$22,267.36. The General Fund (4101) for January to October, 2020, is at \$92,541.51. Income for January to October, 2020, of \$110,487.34 and expenses for that same time period of \$113,483.25 for a balance of \$2,995.91 (in the hole). A motion was made by Tom Lipke, seconded by Tim Dennis to accept the Treasurer's Report and motion carried.

Elders Report: On Christmas Eve (The 24th), the 5:30 p.m, service is masks required, the 7:00 p.m, service is masks optional. On Christmas Day (The 25th), the 7:45 a.m., service is masks required, the 9:15 a.m, service is masks optional. Stan presented the approved 2021 Elders Budget. He also went over the probable terms of a loan for the preschool (20 year loan at 3.875 percent). A discussion was had on what the plan would be if the pastor was ill or quarantined. It was felt that the elders could conduct any services, but without communion. It would be helpful if a spare sermon was available if needed. The nursing homes are currently not allowing visitors. Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday Bible studies are underway. At the November Congregational Voter's Meeting the following positions need to be filled: Vice-president, Secretary, Head elder, and two Trust Fund members. A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Tom Lipke to accept the Elders Report and motion carried.

Trustee's Report: Tom Lipke reported that sanitizing is going well. Ongoing maintenance with lighting. The furnace is in good working order. The door that was dismantled from the basement has now been installed in the mother's room. Tom brought up the fact that cleaners are needed for the church. Council decided to put up a sign up sheet for this purpose. A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Stan Koenig to accept the Trustee's Report and motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor updated Council on his Doctor of Ministry project. Winkle was held today via Zoom. Circuit Forum set for December 6, 2020, and a Circuit Visitor will be elected at that time. At the November Congregational Voter's Meeting members will have to take up nominations for District President, Regional Vice-president and Circuit Visitor as it relates to the District Convention. Confirmation is going well as well as the Men's, Thursday and Sunday Bible classes. Advent's theme is Jesse's Tree. Pastor further gave the Board of Ed report in Maryann Thompson's absence as follows: Military and college packages were sent out to our members. The library work room will be cleared and cleaned out soon in time for our building project to begin. Will ask Bill Balts if he would dismantle the bookshelves in the Library work room so we can use them where and when needed. The Youth Group did not meet in October. Pastor brought up the possibility of instituting a 40-day Congregational Challenge, getting congregation participation in it, and further looking for ideas for same. Discussed ways in which to raise monies for the daycare/preschool. Discussed possibly having an online auction with donated items as this fundraiser was successful in other congregations. A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Tim Dennis to accept the Pastor's Report and motion carried.

Old Business: Discussed the 2021 Budget which is to be presented for approval at the November Congregational Voter's Meeting.

New Business: The 20-year loan for our building project has been approved. Discussed the \$35,000 Klein Account from the Trust Fund and that those monies should be put into an account easy to access. The thought was to use the Klein Account monies first and after those monies were depleted to then draw from our loan account. Bill Balts will be contacted to see how Salem is to pay for his services as far as a time line. The start date for Bill to begin Salem's project is the first of January, 2021. Discussed ways in which Salem could pay off the deficit in the meantime such as fundraisers, Trust Fund, and members possibly stepping up in giving. A Finance Committee has not yet been formed. Discussed how the November Congregational Voter's Meeting will be handled as far as Covid-19 is concerned. A motion was made by Tim Dennis , seconded by Tom Lipke to adjourn and motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Minutes by Kelly Cornelius

Needs List:

Catechisms \$13/book

Study Bibles \$40/book

Certificate Frames \$4/frame

Air Conditioning

Lamp for organ \$250 - \$400

Faith Alive Bibles \$26/book

Additional Hymnals \$27/book

Baptism Frames \$4/frame

Convex Mirror \$50 - \$200

Music Stands \$50 - \$200

Church Computers - \$600 per computer

(replacing 1 every 2 years)

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.

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, Bernard, Harrison, Jeanne, Ken, Kim, Marlene, Wyatt, Owen, Esther, Pastor Mark Triplett

Those who lead our nation:

Donald Trump, Mike Pence, Tony Evers, Ron Fladten

Those who serve in our military:

Ryan Graf and Ethan Kobernick

Those that grieve: The families of Bonnie Walter, Dean Dawson, and Don Hahn.

Men's Club Meeting November 3, 2020

- Tom Lipke called the meeting to order.
- Pastor Nielsen lead us in devotions
- Secretary's report was read by Don Duncan from 9-1-2020 meeting
- Treasurer's report was given by Ken Harbaugh
- Old Business: Talked about pancake supper. What changes we should do.
- New Business : Big Buck Contest. as the covid virus is going strong again we decided to have anyone that gets a deer send us pictures with measurements of spread and tine length. Prizes will be the same as last year; 1st-\$30.00, 2nd- \$20.00, 3rd- \$10.00, \$5.00- Prize for the smallest Legal Buck! Contest will go through Jan. 3rd 2021. Ken made a motion The Big Buck Contest be virtual. 2nd by Don
- We closed with The Lord's Prayer



Minutes by Don Duncan, Secretary

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.



happy marriage anniversary

QuotesPics.net

DECEMBER 2: DAVID & JANEE ANDERSON

DECEMBER 11: JOSHUA & JENNIFER MILLERMAN

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 & Trevor Duncan

December 19: William Ray Weise

December 22: Karen Smith

December 30: Brooke Hammann & Michelle Thompson

December 31: Roger Fagerlin



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>



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

Stacey Bisonette 715-642-2415

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

Christopher & Kelly Mueller 715-418-2311

Coffee Schedule

6 – YFM

13 – YFM

20 – YFM

27 – YFM

December Elders

2 – 12:00 Don Duncan

6:30 Paul Millerman

6 – 7:45 Don Duncan

9:15 Tim Dennis

9 – 12:00 Don Duncan

6:30 Stan Koenig

13 – 7:45 Trevor Duncan

9:15 Stan Koenig

16 – 12:00 Don Duncan

6:30 Josh Millerman

20 – 7:45 Don Duncan

9:15 Paul Millerman

24 – 5:30 Don Duncan

7:00 Josh Millerman

25 – 7:45 Trevor Duncan

9:15 Paul Millerman




27 – 7:45 Trevor Duncan

9:15 Josh Millerman

31 – 6:30 Stan Koenig

December Altar Guild: Mary Ann Thompson

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Blue		1 7:30 am Bible Class 7:00 pm Men's Club	2 Noon Advent Service 4-5pm Confirmation 6:30pm Advent Service	3 11 am Bible Class	4	5
6 Blue 7:45 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class Noon: All gifts for Gifts From the Heart should be at the Church. 	7 7:00 pm Elders	8 7:30 am Bible Class 7:00pm Council	9 Noon Advent Service 4-5pm Confirmation 6:30pm Advent Service	10 11 am Bible Class	11	12
13 Blue 7:45 am Worship 9:15 am Children's Christmas Worship Program  10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am Bible Class	14	15 7:30 am Bible Class	16 Noon Advent Service 4-5pm Confirmation 6:30pm Advent Service	17 11 am Bible Class	18	19
20 Blue 7:45 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	21	22 White 7:30 am Bible Class	23 White	24 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 White 7:45 am Christmas Service 9:15 am Christmas Service 	26
27 White 7:45 am Worship 9:15 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 am SS/Bible Class	28	29 7:30 am Bible Class	30	31 White 6:30pm New Years Eve Service		

