

Salem Lutheran Church

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1 OFFICE CLOSED <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2
3 9:00 a.m. Traditions Communion Worship 10:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	4 9:30 a.m. Education Team 1:00 p.m. Busy Needles	5 8:00 a.m. Women's Renewal at Salem 9:00 a.m. (co-ed) Bone Building 6:00 p.m. Membership/Evang. Committee	6 8:00 a.m. Men's Renewal 9:30 a.m. Martha Circle 6:00 p.m. Confirmation & Post-Confirmation Gathering 6:30 p.m. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Choir	7 9:30 a.m. Quilting Party 6:00 p.m. Rebekah Circle Video and Discussion	8 9:00 a.m. (co-ed) Bone Building	9
Pastor's Vacation December 27 thru January 19						
10 9:00 a.m. Traditions Worship 10:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	11 9:00 a.m. Worship Team Planning 1:00 p.m. Busy Needles	12 8:00 a.m. Women's Renewal at Salem 9:00 a.m. (co-ed) Bone Building 4:00 p.m. PMLT	13 8:00 a.m. Men's Renewal 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Gathering 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Council	14 9:30 a.m. Quilting Party 1:00 p.m. Ruth Circle 6:00 p.m. Rebekah Circle Video and Discussion	15 9:00 a.m. (co-ed) Bone Building	16
Pastor's Vacation December 27 thru January 19						
17 9:00 a.m. Praise Connection Communion Worship 10:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	18 1:00 p.m. Busy Needles <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	19 8:00 a.m. Women's Renewal at Salem 9:00 a.m. (co-ed) Bone Building	20 8:00 a.m. Men's Renewal 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Gathering 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	21 9:30 a.m. Quilting Party 6:00 p.m. Rebekah Circle Video and Discussion	22 9:00 a.m. (co-ed) Bone Building	23
Pastor's Vacation December 27 thru January 19			Rebecca's Vacation Jan. 21—Jan.29			
24 9:00 a.m. Traditions Worship 10:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Homosexuality in the Bible and Ministry Rebecca gone Jan. 21—Jan.29	25 1:00 p.m. Busy Needles 6:30 p.m. Homosexuality In the Bible and Ministry	26 8:00 a.m. Women's Renewal at Salem 9:00 a.m. (co-ed) Bone Building	27 8:00 a.m. Men's Renewal 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Gathering 6:30 p.m. Confirmation (includes grades 4-6)	28 9:30 a.m. Quilting Party 6:00 p.m. Rebekah Circle Video and Discussion	29 9:00 a.m. (co-ed) Bone Building	30
Pastor's Vacation December 27 thru January 19			Rebecca's Vacation Jan. 21—Jan.29			
31 9:00 a.m. Traditions Worship 10:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School						

Thank you to the entire cast and crew of the 2009 Christmas Program

This includes:

Our families, who prioritized their time for their children to attend practices and performances.

Our kids, who really stepped up their confidence and maturity levels to become the surly brothers of Joseph as well as Go-Go-Go encouragers of Joseph.

Our soloists, Tim Marr, Jan Marr, Mark Houghton, Pamela Edwards, Cheryl Crosby, Keith Lorensen, Andrea Semmler, and Tia Lilyquist, who used their God-given talents of song and dance to convey both the laughter and the tears in the Biblical story.

Our Salem choir members, who prioritized their time and efforts to master their parts so well that the production could be a professional one.

Our speaking narrator, Bonnie Hockett, who was the bridge we needed to clearly tell the story to the congregation.

Our costume designer, Julia Jones, who knows how many hours she unselfishly spent creating Joseph's amazing coat, the classy turbans for the brothers, posters and gift bags?

Thank you also for the talents of **Sharon Fischer**, who created a masterful printed program for the production, for photographer **Sandy Strausser**, for **Pastor John**, who videotaped the program, for **Don Waldera**, our trusted sound technician, and for **Clarence Sjodin**, who made charming pendants for every cast member to keep as a memory of the production and God's story.

Our goal was to perform bits of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat to foreshadow the life of our beloved Savior, to the best of our God-given abilities, and to a level of excellence.

Since it is the living Lord in the final analysis who appraises that excellence, it is He whom we must please and serve, honor and adore.

Rebecca Waterhouse

HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE BIBLE AND MINISTRY

(a time for learning and conversation at Salem)

Identical events will be held Sunday, January 24th and Monday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the gathering is to clarify actions taken at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; to review pertinent biblical texts; and to provide opportunity for those who wish to express their views. The goal of the gathering is not to poll members nor to take action leading to the establishment of a position or policy at Salem. Those who are away for the winter or otherwise not able to attend these meetings, are invited to email or mail their views in a paragraph or two (signed or identifying the author) to the attention of Pastor John. These will be shared at the gatherings in January.

Helpful resources are available at the ELCA website or from Salem's office, including "Faithful Journey Resources: Parts One, Two and Three" and "Background Essay on Biblical Texts" (2002—2006) as well as "Frequently Asked Questions about the 2009 Churchwide Assembly Actions Regarding Human Sexuality." (<http://www.ELCA.org/faithfuljourney>.)

Some recommended book resources include: Walter Wink. Homosexuality and Christian Faith: Questions of Conscience for the Churches. Augsburg Fortress, 1999; Robert Gagnon and Dan Via. Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views. Fortress Press, 2003; and Herbert Chilstrom and Lowell Erdahl. Sexual Fulfillment: For Single and Married, Straight and Gay. Augsburg Fortress, 2001.