



The Church Bell

Salem Lutheran Church
PO Box 136, Longville, MN 56655

Volume 30, Issue 1

Pastor John Monson

January 2009

Salem's Christmas Program

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Rebecca Waterhouse, Ministry Associate (Email: riwaterhouse@hotmail.com)
Sharon Fischer, Sec./News, Editor & Carol Raines, Sec./Bkp.
Jan Elliott & Eunice Benson, Organists
Charlene Olson, Choir Director

Worship
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. winter months
8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Memorial—Labor Day
Office Hours
Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Telephones
(218) 363-2011 (office)
(218) 363-2253 (kitchen)
(218) 363-9070 (fax)
(218) 682-3092 (Pastor's res.)
Email address: salem@arvig.net
Web: <http://www.salemlongville.org>



Felicia Murtley, Amber Nornberg & Gracie Gilsrud signing "Come and Rejoice"

Jeff Arboldea (friend) & Jacob Murtley as Wise Men

Evan & Tyler Daudt as Shepherds

Living in a New Year

Pastor John Monson

“...anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new” (2 Cor. 5:17/Message).

With the joys and memories of Christmas behind us, there’s always somewhat of a letdown. Christmas demands so much of us. Now it’s back to the uneventful, ordinary routines of life...plus a few extra bills to pay and a few extra pounds to lose. An unknown author wrote, “’Twas the week after Christmas and all through the house Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse...Unable to giggle, no longer a riot. Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!” Many of us can identify.

We may wonder how Mary and Joseph felt in the days following that first Christmas—after the shepherds and wise men had left them, and the angels were no longer singing. After all these amazing events, they had to return to the real world just as we do.

With Christmas behind us, we focus our attention on a new year. We welcome the new year with parties and celebrations. Somehow it seems strange to celebrate the passage of time, getting older, facing uncertainty. I suppose one reason for celebrating New Year’s is our deep hope that the coming year will be just that—new.

We look back on the past and see our mistakes. We recall the disappointments we’ve experienced. We long for a new start. But new does not come easily, especially for creatures of habit. 2009 may be a new year but we’re the same people we were back in 2008!

Winston Churchill once commented that “Sometimes we learn from history, but most of the time we just pick ourselves up, brush ourselves off, and go right on as we had before.”

We long to be made new. One of the claims of the gospel is that God makes all things new—even us. This transformation happens over time. The website, mygoals.com, says that we can live well in the new year if we remember that “Nothing big gets accomplished in one day.” It takes a hundred tiny steps that happen throughout the year.

God who has given us Christmas and who sustained the holy family through every joy and sorrow with love and faith, keep and sustain you as a new person in Christ throughout the New Year.

Ways to start off the New Year...

According to historians, the celebration of the New Year is the oldest holiday. Ancient Babylonians first observed it in the spring about 4,000 years ago. In 153 B.C., the Roman Senate declared January 1 as New Year’s Day.

The early church started to hold religious observances that coincided with pagan celebrations. Some denominations still mark Christ’s circumcision on New Year’s.

The tradition of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians, who often promised to return borrowed farm equipment. Using a baby to symbolize rebirth and the new year dates back to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians.

Modern-day New Year’s customs often focus on prosperity. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes at midnight, hoping to have 12 happy months to come. The Dutch eat donuts because another year has come full circle.

One of the best ways to start off the New Year is by spending time in prayer. Look back on God’s many blessings during the completed year and ask for his guidance in the one to come. Also consider starting the tradition of praying for people around the world on New Year’s Day.

Office Notes

Salem Welcomes New Members

Salem welcomes people into our congregation as either associate or full members. Please contact the church office for more information. Please notify us also if you would like to be added to our "friends" list and to receive our newsletter.

BAPTISM

Grady Charles Ratz
December 28, 2008

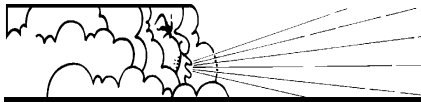
Transfer Out

Beth, (Tim) & Lauren Hardinger
to Lord of Life Lutheran
Baxter, MN

PASTOR'S VACATION

December 29--January 5th
Pastor John will be on vacation from January 1-5. If you need a pastor during this time, please contact the church office (363-2011).

On evenings and weekends please call Darold Daudt 363-2770 or Bob Alley 363-2770 or Rebecca Waterhouse 566-1403 for referral to an on-call pastor.



Emergency Weather Announcements

For notice of Salem's weather-related cancellations and postponements please tune to:

KLIZ 107.5 (Walker)
KLKS 104.3 (Breezy Point)
KTIG 102.7 (Pequot Lakes)
KBLB 93.3 (Brainerd)
WJYJ 106.7 FM (Brainerd)
KSAX or (Alexandria)
KCCO television (Alexandria)

Christ In Our Home DEVOTIONALS

The January, February, March daily devotional booklets are available and may be picked up from the rack by the church entrance. Take one for a friend.



Confirmation

Wednesday, January 7th
Confirmands will be studying the Lord's Prayer. Gathering at 6:00 p.m. and classes at 6:30 p.m.

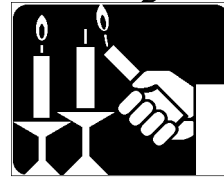
EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

New name tags have been made and placed in the numbered mailboxes. The membership/evangelism committee requests that Salem members wear the name tags on a regular basis. Members will be specifically reminded of this on the first Sunday of each month. Wearing name tags will help all of us—and especially newer members—to get to know each other better.



Happy New Year

Acolyte Schedule



"We light these candles to remind us that in worship Jesus is present with His light and life."

Sunday, January 4

9:00 a.m. Traditions/Communion
Jacob Murtley & Justin Wicks

Sunday, January 11

9:00 a.m. Traditions
Jordan Loren & Shelby Kline

Sunday, January 18

9:00 a.m. Jubilee/Communion
Gracie Gilsrud & Chloe Wolske

Sunday, January 25

9:00 a.m. Traditions
Tia Lilyquist & Hayley Hol

(At "Jubilee Services" acolytes will NOT be wearing albs. On communion Sundays acolytes have the added duty of assisting the servers at each table with the pottery grape juice chalice. If you have any conflicts with any of these assignments, please substitute with someone else, and notify the church office.)



Offering
Envelopes

2009 ENVELOPES

The 2009 Offering Envelopes are in your mail slot.

Envelopes not picked up will be held until spring, unless you ask to have them mailed. Don Waldera, Financial Secretary

Salem Council Highlights

December 10, 2008

“Seeking Clarity in Mission and Ministry”

Our Mission Statement:

“Celebrating Christ’s Love Through Hearts That Care and Hands That Share”
A Shared Vision for the Future to Which God Is Calling Us

Treasurer’s Report – The balance in the General Fund as of November 30th, was \$3,285.14. Aagard asked for the council’s help in filling out the pledge form for the NE Synod for 2009. The Council decided to keep the pledge at \$12,000, more can be given.

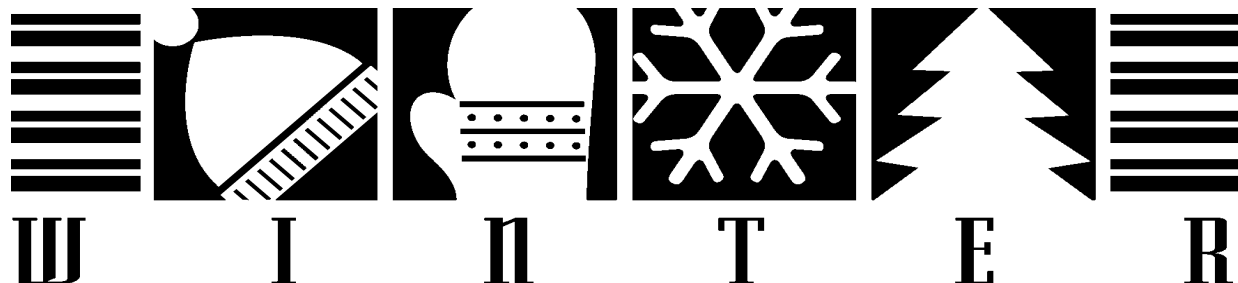
Membership Team- The Membership Team reported that the new nametags are being used. Because of the problem of the name tag flipping over, an additional name tag will be put on the reverse side of the present name tag. The first Sunday of each month will be name tag Sunday. Please wear your nametag as often as you can. A post card has been sent to all households in the 56655 zip code area.

Property Team - Thank you to the Women of Salem for having the chairs in Fellowship Hall cleaned.

Youth Ministry – The youth of Salem are continuing to sell their T-shirts. The kids are working hard on the Sunday School Christmas Program. Thanks to Joyce Digre for the wonderful living nativity.

Other Business – The Council members have been asked to work with all the committees to set goals for 2009. This will help to co-ordinate all the programs that are going on at Salem.

We always look forward to feedback from you –
Your council members will be *happy to talk to you* –
Come to the council meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.
Executive Committee, Bob Alley, President (363-2770)



Adults Saving Kids Christmas Prayers 2008

God could have overwhelmed us. Coming to earth, He could have put on a show that would have made Hollywood look like an antiquated throw away. He could have exposed all the new technology and powerful armaments as nothing but vapor. His purpose, we know was not to come to control us, to dominate us, to make us into some kind of scared-stiff puppets. He came to call us, to love us, to save us, to give us forgiveness and eternal life with him. He did this in a way that no one would have to miss His message. Into this small maligned town of Bethlehem; the runt of the litter; He came but not to the master suite at the top of the Hilton. Rather He was borne among livestock and odor.

Every person of low reputation, even a shepherd, even a defrauder, even a schemer, even an exploited or oppressed one, even a slave to addiction could come to this stall and be blessed. God meant business and so He came in the flesh, among us—to be seen, to be heard, to die that we might live. It is out of God’s great mercy for all people that Adults Saving Kids has the freedom and grace to do its work, to pray its prayers.

So at this time of Christ’s birth, we can look around our world and we can hear Jesus’ compassionate invitation to ask that we might receive, to seek that we might find, to knock that the door to His treasures might be opened unto us.

We pray, therefore, for all the people we have worked with over the years who have been exploited, who are still hurting, wounded and facing into a crippled future. O God, bless them, heal them, embrace them, uplift them, give them grace to connect with their families and friends, their children and benefactors.

We pray for their families and opening their spirits that they may forgive, may have compassion, may support, may know your blessing, O God to have regard for others and all who find themselves entrapped and mangled at this time.

We pray for all who seek to assist and provide for the exploited, the trafficked, the users, the exploiting. Give them grace to do their work wisely with loving perseverance.

We pray for all those who are or who have been involved in the ministry of ADULTS SAVING KIDS, for all the volunteers and workers, the board, the consultants, the sister organizations, the churches, the supporters, the prayers—that the promises of Isaiah 58:6-12 will be fulfilled in them for standing with the afflicted and regarding the plight of the oppressed and those about to be oppressed. In the powerful name of Jesus who has become the Christ by fulfilling His agonizing mission and now sitting at the right hand of God, we pray in His wonderful name. Amen.

Treasurer’s Report

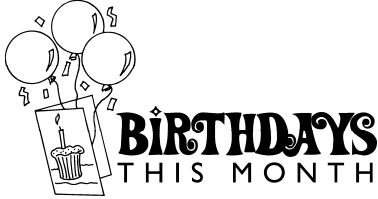


Mortgage Update

General Fund		
Beginning Balance Nov.1, 08	\$	5,215.73
Income for November		15,294.12
Expenses for November		17,224.70
Ending Balance Nov. 31, 08	\$	3,285.15

Beg. Mortgage Balance	\$	65,194.43
November payments:		
Principal	\$	1,347.75
Additional Principal		402.22
Interest		312.25
Mortgage Balance	\$	63,444.46
November 30, 2008		

January's Special People



- 1 Jackie Senst
- 2 Bill Fischer
- 3 Donna Kohanek
- 3 Alyssa Semmler
- 4 Doug Crosby
- 4 Harland Johnson
- 4 Omer Oestreich
- 5 Phil Mix
- 5 Tia Lilyquist
- 6 Tim Wolter
- 6 Dawn Hicok
- 6 Jennie Jager
- 6 Ken Schleif
- 7 Melanie Mix
- 7 Lisa Seifert
- 7 Stuart Rath
- 8 Sharon Galvin
- 10 Zachary Nornberg
- 11 Justin Wicks
- 11 Adam Frazee
- 12 Logan Gross
- 12 Barbara Kostial
- 13 Lori Daudt
- 15 Dara Hillstrom
- 15 Ellie Wheeler
- 16 Shelby Lewis
- 16 Connie Olsen
- 17 Doris Schmidt
- 17 Carole Houghton
- 18 Evelyn Pflugshaupt
- 19 Joan Antonson
- 24 Sondra Elliott
- 24 Grace Gilsrud
- 25 Troy Loren
- 25 Judy Owen
- 26 Georgia Jones
- 26 Diane Wiehle
- 28 Ardis Aagard
- 30 Betty Schultz
- 31 Darlene Konrad



January

Marilyn Sjodin, Chair
 Stacy Miller, Judy Johnson,
 Karen Nelson, Evelyn Burley,
 Margit Tormondsen

- 1 Connor and Sharon Galvin
- 17 Roger and Mary Kay Googins
- 24 Dennis and Dorothy Weaver
- 27 Bob and Donna Kohanek
- 27 Gile and Beverly Bixby

Usher



Lorin Neuenfeldt
 (363-2862)

ANCHOR CROSS



The anchor cross is a symbol of the Christian's hope in Christ. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19, NIV). The early Christians used this cross during the days of persecution. They saw hope in the anchor's cross, while non-Christians saw nothing but an anchor.



RED HAT MAMAS

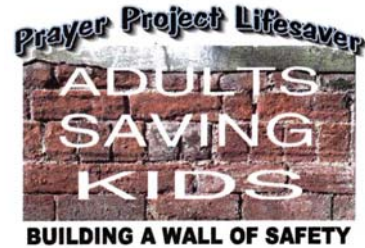
Ladies

The Red Hat Society (fun) luncheon will be held on Tuesday, January 13th at the Dancing Fire Restaurant at the Northern Lights Casino at 12:30 p.m.

Menu: Their choice so we will be surprised for \$12.95 which includes tax and tip.

Call Bonnie Krinke 682-3459 or Joan Falls 363-2480 by Friday, January 9th to register.

Car pool from Salem at 12:00 noon.



Just a reminder for all you pray-ers to continue to pray for your child/youth daily in 2009. It is so important to uplift our child/youth each day.

Co-Educational Bone Building

Tuesdays & Fridays at 9:00 a.m. Bone Building

Everyone Welcome!



HEARTLAND HOME HEALTH CARE & HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

You are invited to enrich your life by becoming a Hospice Volunteer. Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice provides care in Brainerd and the surrounding areas to people and their families who are facing a life limiting illness. Volunteer opportunities include: friendly visits, providing respite for caregivers, office and clerical work, bereavement care, and vigil hour care. The training is free of charge and scheduled to meet your availability. For more information, or to register for the training, please contact Noel Kautz, our Volunteer Coordinator at: 218-829-1252 or toll free at: 1-877-249-8836. This may be the most rewarding call you make!

ST. JOSEPH'S AREA HEALTH SERVICES

Grief Group

We are excited to announce that St. Joseph's Area Health Services Hospice program will be starting a Grief Group as of January 8th.

We will meet the first Thursday of each month from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in a conference room located in the new Hospital/Clinic building.

If you have questions please call: 218-237-5744.
Laurel Hed, LSW

Women's Page

Thank You

We want to thank everyone who helped make our Women's Brunch a success.

Thank you to the Ruth Circle for providing the delicious food, Eunice for the beautiful music and the men who served & did a fantastic job.


Doris for reading us a wonderful Christmas story and all the women who helped put beautiful baskets and plates of cookies together and helped deliver to the shut-ins and others in the community.

The Women's Board

✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿
✿	HELP WANTED								✿
✿	Pressers								✿
✿	Cutters								✿
✿	Assemblers (to sew)								✿
✿	Knot Tiers								✿
✿	Pinner								✿
✿	Hemmers								✿
✿	Packers (not from Green Bay)								✿
✿	Hours: Thursdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m.								✿
✿	Rewards:								✿
✿	Good fellowship and a good feeling								✿
✿	that you are helping missions warm								✿
✿	the unfortunate with Quilts and you								✿
✿	will get a <u>free lunch</u> .								✿
✿	The Quilting Group								✿
✿									✿
✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿

Rebekah Circle/Bible Study

Meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
for the 2nd half of the
Daniel Study




WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

Martha Circle/Bible Study
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009
at 9:00 a.m. at Salem
Hostess: Jackie Senst

Ruth Circle/Bible Study
Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009
1:00 p.m. at Salem

We INVITE all women to join us.



Library News

Even though Christmas is over, it's not too late to check out a book of Christmas stories, customs or inspiration. The Advent/Christmas books remain on the cart at the back of the sanctuary. These are both for adults and children. In addition, there is a good variety of devotional books in the library for both personal and group use. Consider checking out one of these books to use in January. The devotional books are usually catalogued under the number 242 on the book shelves.

Doris Nelson, Library Committee

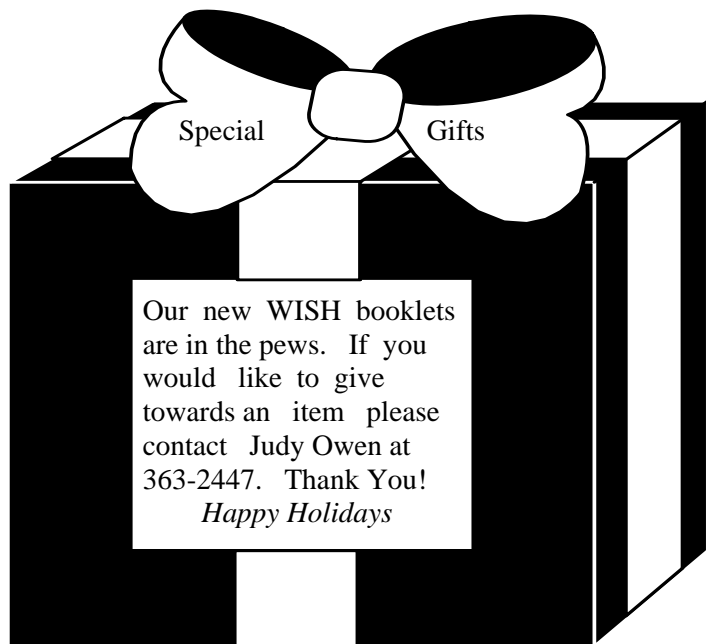
This and That

Daniel Study

**Starting Thursday, Jan. 8th
at 6:30 p.m.**

**This is the second part
of the Daniel series.**

**Contact Bonnie Hockett
218-947-3930
or email bonga@tds.net**



Tia Lilyquist, Felicia Murtley and Andrea Semmler *Liturgical dancers* interpreting "The Little Drummer Boy" at Salem's Christmas Program



Honoring our Veterans at Salem 2008

Get ready for Epiphany

Many Christian denominations celebrate Epiphany each year on or near January 6. “Epiphany,” which means “showing forth,” celebrates the visit of the magi, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. These men, also known as kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem.

The fact that these wise men were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: Their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all people.

In 1875, Philip Bliss wrote the hymn “The Light of the World is Jesus.” The first stanza captures the meaning of Epiphany, a season of light:

The whole world was lost
 In the darkness of sin,
 The Light of the world is Jesus!
 Like sunshine at noonday,
 His glory shone in.
 The Light of the world is Jesus!

WWJD key chain



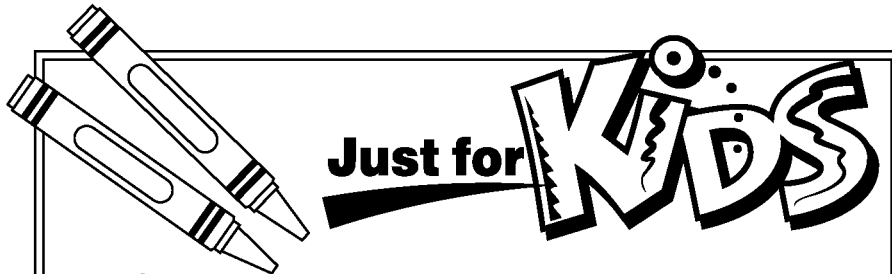
This craft is a reminder of Jesus' perfect example for us. When we ask "What Would Jesus Do?" we can build our character to be more like his.

What you need:

- 16 inches of bead and jewelry cord (about 1 mm thick)
- 32 mm split ring (key ring)
- 4 wooden beads (about 1 cm or 3/8")
- 5 jewelry beads (plastic or wooden, about 1/2 cm or 1/2")
- black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Fold your jewelry cord in half.
2. Put the loop of the jewelry cord through the split ring.
3. Put the ends of the cord through the loop to make a knot.
4. Thread the two ends through one of your small beads.
5. Then thread the rest of the beads (alternating between small and large, ending with a small bead).
6. Tie two or three knots at the end to hold the beads in place.
7. With a permanent marker, write a letter (W, W, J and D) on each of the four wooden beads. On the opposite side of each bead, write the same letter.

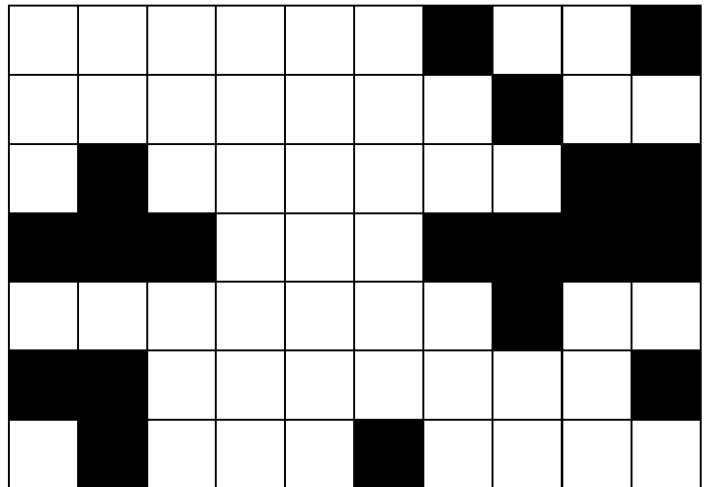


CHARACTER THAT PLEASURES

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.

Y		M	L	L	O	W	F	O
A	S	E,	A	M	P	L	E	X
		O	F	O	L	L	I	
O	F	E	A	M	P	L	E	X
.		S	C	H	R	I		
:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	



Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1

A new Christmas story by Carly Bixby. Out of the mouths of babes!

Today when Carly was playing, she was telling a story and singing to her dolls; part of it was,
 "Mary and her husband Joseph and baby Moses went to the north pole.
 And every where that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go.

Have you made yours yet?



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