

The SEER

DECEMBER 2022



Services for Advent, Christmas Eve, Sundays of Christmas

Sunday, 9:30 am

December 4- ELW, setting 5
December 11- ELW, setting 5
Congregational Meeting
December 18- ELW, setting 5
3rd Sunday Food Offering
Hanging of the Greens
December 25- Christmas Day
ELW, setting 5
No Sunday School
January 1- New Year's Day
Lessons & Carols
No Sunday School
January 8- ELW, setting 4

Saturday, 7pm

December 24- Christmas Eve

Wednesdays, 7pm

December 7 & 14
Advent Evening Prayer
Soup Supper at 6pm

Schedule and Notes for December



Saturday, Dec. 3

Annual **Bake/Craft/Quilt Sale** from 9-noon
Bring a friend!

Sunday, December 11

Congregational Meeting
after the service.

Please bring your wrapped **Sharing Tree** gift.

Sunday, December 18

Hanging of the Greens
after the service

All are welcome - no experience necessary!

Third Sunday Food Offering

Food, bags, and 12 ct. egg cartons can be left in
the baskets under the south coat rack.

There will be no December **Book Club** or **Bible Study**.

**Newsletter Articles, Calendar Items
and Volunteer lists** are needed Monday,
December 26 for the January SEER.

**December 23 - January 2, there are no set office
hours. Please call ahead if you need in the building
or some assistance from the staff.**

Altar in the Garden Soup and Solstice: An Advent Spiral, December 21st at 5pm

Please join us as we mark the longest night of the year by walking an Advent Spiral. This is a reflective time where we can invite Christ's light to shine more brightly as we wait for his coming birth. The Advent Spiral celebrates and honors the seasons of light and dark and the coming together of our community to light the world together during the dark days of winter as we remember that Jesus is the light of the world. It is a time to share a meal, stories and songs as we prepare for Christmas!"

This will happen at the Schmidt home. Space is limited to make the experience ideal, so a sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall, or email salemelc@sbcglobal.net for Lisa to sign you up. Each family/person is asked to bring soup to share, but if that is not easy you can also ask to have a 'soup buddy'. Bring a lawn chair, or ask to borrow one. Details will be provided after you sign up.

No one knows the true origin of why December 25th was chosen as Jesus' birth date, but one theory is that it was once thought to be the solstice date, and a perfect time to celebrate how the light of Christ came into the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**Join us to experience a celebration of
Christ our Light!**



Thank you all!

Anastasia of the Stillwater Public Schools English Language Learner program says thank you to Salem for our books and Book Buddies for the children:

“The kids LOVED the books and stuffed animals. They were so surprised and thankful. They picked out a new friend and a couple books to take home.

On behalf of the ELL department, thank you!!“

As I write this, it is Christ the King Sunday and it's always a favorite service as we review the church year and fully appreciate our crosses. I have read the description of the crosses before, but appreciated the description and meaning of them again.

On Thursday we will celebrate Thanksgiving and I hope it's a good day for all of you whether you travel, have family and friends in your home or can enjoy a quiet day reading, watching a movie or whatever gives you rest and enjoyment. I know I have much to be thankful for and I include all of you in my prayers.

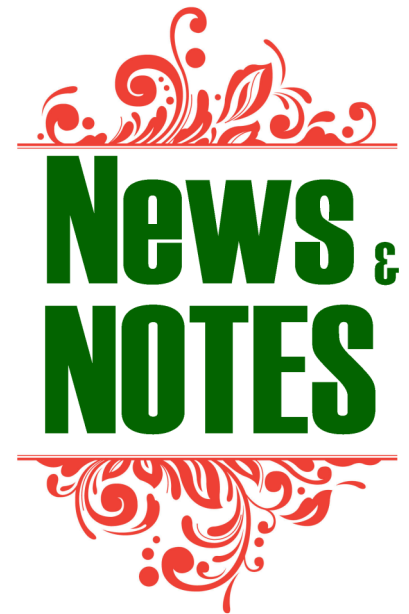
Sunday, November 27, we celebrate the first Sunday in Advent and the preparations for Christmas really begin. Wednesday, November 30, the Advent Wednesday evening service starts with a soup supper and fellowship at 6pm before we gather for the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service at 7pm.

I'm sure your calendars are marked for the Quilt, Fair Trade Market and Apple Pie and Bake Sale on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 – noon. A good day to enjoy a cup of coffee while shopping and enjoying good conversation. Many thanks to the pie bakers and all of you that contribute goodies for the sale. Many friends of Salem look forward to our Quilt and bake Sale.

Also, check your calendars for our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting at 10:45 am on December 11th. Get your cup of coffee and a snack as we will vote on a male voting member to Synod Assembly and the budget for 2023. With anticipated higher utilities, cost of goods and services, Treasurer Scott Wolf is working hard with the pledged amount Financial Secretary Michelle Horning can give him to bring us a balanced budget. It's not too late to still pledge if you've not had an opportunity.

With busy calendars and much to do during this blessed season, be sure to enjoy some quiet time to enjoy it all.

Stay warm and well. *Judy Lewis, Council President*



During Advent (December) the Adult Discussion Class will take a recess from our current topic. In preparation for the Year A Lectionary, the class will undertake a series of discussions of the Gospel of Matthew, based on the course "Jesus and the Gospels" by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson.

The topics include:

December 4 – "The Messiah of Israel"

December 11 – No Class

December 18 – "Jesus and Torah"

December 25 – No Class

December 29/January 5 – No Class

ADULT
Sunday School
SCHEDULE

The class is a Zoom meeting at 11:15am. Contact Pr. Sally to be added to the Sunday email list.

Join us for thoughtful discussions on the Biblical foundations of our faith.

No prior knowledge is required.

Bake, Craft, Quilt, Fair Trade & Alternative Gift Market

**Saturday, December 3rd -
9am until noon**

Bring a friend for a cup of coffee and buy a pie for Christmas dinner, quilts and crafts for Christmas gifts!

We'll also have traditional German items.



We need your **articles** for our monthly newsletter. Please send articles/news items/thank you's to the Church office around the Third Monday of each month. We love your photos and graphics!



For the **100th year**, the combined choirs of the Tulsa area Lutheran churches will be presenting the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah.

The presentations will be at **3:00 and 5:30 PM on Sunday, December 11 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Broken Arrow (400 N Aspen Ave)**



The Sharing Tree is up!

It's decorated in the Parish Hall with requests from the children at Oaks Indian Mission.

Please take a moment to look over the requests. Many of the young residents of Oaks come to that safe haven with very little and they truly appreciate your loving kindness.

When you select a wish-list item, **please remember to sign the posted list so that we know who you have matched with for gift giving.** Only one gift from the list should be purchased and wrapped.

Gifts should be returned to Salem by **December 11** so they can be delivered to Oaks in time for the children's Christmas party.



**Preparations for
Christ the King
Sunday
and
Advent

(Help will be needed
Dec. 18 for Hanging of
the Greens)**



Christmas crackups

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?

Cookie sheets.

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?

"Freeze a jolly good fellow!"

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

Ornamints.

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?

Santa walking backward.

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?

Because he went down in history.

What is an elf's favorite kind of music?

Wrap music!

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing. It was on the house!

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?

Elfies.

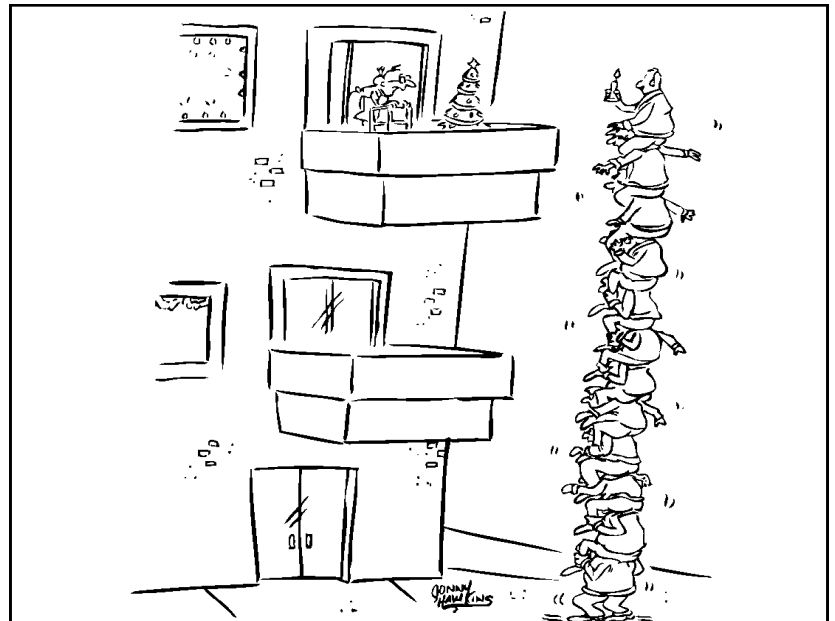
The internet reveals little about Wilda English — only that she lived from 1916 to 1997 and once resided in California. No details exist about her family, work or interests.



A Prayer for Christmas

Just this prayer, widely shared online. And it is no small thing. Indeed, the prayer tells much about her faith. God bless Wilda English for sharing these words with the world.

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.



Cass Park Church's carolers were always ready to make necessary adjustments.

Bible Quiz

Complete this Bible verse: "The (1)_____ (2)_____ in the (3)_____, and the (3)_____ has not overcome it."

- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above

Answer: (See John 1:5.)



(B)



Evangelical Lutheran
Church (ELCA)
101 S. Duck St.
Stillwater OK 74074

MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor ~ Sally Houck
Director of Music ~ Krystal Hennessey
Choir Director ~ Elizabeth Albright
Office Coordinator ~ Lisa Murray-Francis
Parish Nurse ~ Cindy Pennie
Media Specialists ~ Olie Weaver,
Olen Weaver & Jeremy Hennessey
Peer Minister- Aspen Lenning

CHURCH OFFICE

Office is open- Mon.-Thurs. 8am - 1 pm
Friday mornings 8 am - 11am
Telephone numbers: 405-372-3074, 372-0879
(telephone answered only during office hours)
Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net
Church Website: SalemOSU.org



WE ARE HIS HOUSE.
HEBREWS 3:6

**Semi-Annual
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 11
after the 9:30 service**

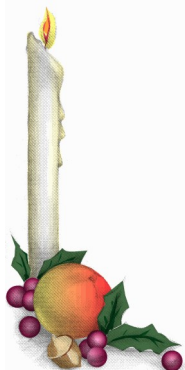
We will vote on a budget for 2023
and **we will elect a male voting
member for Synod Assembly
next Spring.**

Your presence is important.



**May the Christ child dwell
in your hearts and home!**

From the Staff of
Salem Lutheran
Pastor Sally, Krystal, Elizabeth,
Lisa, Cindy, Olie, Olen, Jeremy
and Aspen.



***Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service
Saturday, December 24 at
7pm***

This year there will be one Christmas Eve
service at 7pm.
The service will be live-streamed.