

The SEER

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2023



SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9:30AM

January 1- 1st Sunday of Christmas

January 8- Baptism/Epiphany of
Christ, Light of Christ

New Members Welcomed!

January 15- 2nd Sunday after
Epiphany, Light of Christ

January 22- 3rd Sunday after
Epiphany, Light of Christ

January 29- 4th Sunday after
Epiphany, Light of Christ

You can find our services on
Salem Facebook Page, live:

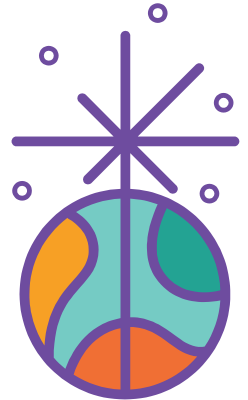
"Salem Lutheran Church"

Salem YouTube channel:

"Salem ELC Stillwater OK"

Service Ministry Activities for 2022

As 2022 comes to a close, a quick review of how Salem has helped to make the world a brighter place is appropriate. We started the year with news of our new Afghan neighbors. We supplied these families with large bags of food staples to help them get settled and Walmart cards to buy more food as needed. And once they became more comfortable in their new home, we provided them with new sewing machines (and gift cards to buy sewing supplies), and the recipients have been attending sewing classes. As the year came to a close, we gave them gift cards. In 2023, we will provide rent assistance for those families who must move out of OSU Housing.



Through our Fifth Sunday collections, we provided Covid Relief funds for our partners in Tanzania, disaster relief funds for tornado-destroyed areas of Kentucky and help to the Oklahoma Red Cross. \$1000 of our bake sale proceeds went to Lutheran Disaster Relief for Ukraine. As usual, we conducted Service Projects - food for our Little Free Pantry and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We also collected books and stuffed animals for our Reading Buddies project for immigrant students in Stillwater Public Schools.

We have been in active support for Oaks Indian Mission, bringing a group of the students for a football game, and delivering Christmas gifts.

And finally, we continued to focus on food. Offerings during Lent and Advent went to Lutheran Hunger Relief. Members of the Hunger Focus group participated in several Bread for the World webinars and meetings, including hosting the Bread regional coordinator for an update. Our annual Offering of Letters offered an opportunity to let our Congressional representatives know of our support for programs which focused on poverty and food-related concerns.

Your Service Ministry team (Annette Cowell, MaryJo Lanier, Cindy Pennie, Pam Talley, and Priscilla Gerfen) look forward to new ways to help our neighbors.

As January begins, we are still in the Christmas season. Even as we put away the trimmings and lights of the holidays, the Light that came on that silent, holy night still shines bright and strong enough to last the year, to last forever.

As hymnwriter Ken Bible says,

*Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us,
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you God on high!* (ELW 292)



From the Pastor

The love of Christ will bind us together, always.

Pastor Sally



Christmas Eve 2022

We need your **articles** for this monthly newsletter. Please send your news items/ calendar notes to the Church office around the **Third Monday of each month.**

From a bulletin:

Today's Devotion

How to Spend Eternity With Cod

Hymn of the Day

That sounds a bit fishy!

From Your Council President



Merry Christmas dear members and friends of Salem!

As I write this, it's Christmas morning and I'm hoping you are all well and warm. We are in Kansas but the cold weather caused problems for our Texas family so they will arrive today rather than Friday as planned. The Arkansas family will arrive today also. Tomorrow when we all gather for a game day there will be 16 of us, including 8-month-old Wesley.

December has been a busy month. Started with the traditional Quilt and Bake Sale, Wednesday night soup suppers and the beautiful Advent Service, filling our Reverse Advent calendar boxes, providing gift for Oaks Mission kids and the semi-annual congregational meeting. And we received the letter from Pastor Sally. I think we all knew she was considering retirement, but were surprised and saddened when we read it and saw a date. But as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also give thanks for the love, prayers, spiritual guidance, and leadership she has given us for 16 years. We have been blessed!

January will be a month of celebrating those wonderful 16 years. Save Saturday, January 21 for a special time, details will come later. Then on Sunday, January 22 we will invite community friends to join us in a cookie reception from 2:00-4:00. Cookie bakers we'll need you help with your good cookies. And looking at February, Bishop Mike will lead us in worship on the 5th and he'll meet with council on February 18th. I've been in conversation with him and we'll discuss our opportunities and challenges in February. For now, the focus is Pastor Sally and her ministry with us.

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Safe New Year!
Hugs, Judy

Midweek Service Soup and Solstice



JOIN US FOR
**Adult
Discussion**



During January the Adult Discussion Class will complete its look at the Gospel of Matthew based on lectures from The Great Courses, “Jesus and the Gospels” by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. Following Matthew’s Gospel, the class will move into “The History of Christian Theology” by Professor Phillip Cary.

January’s schedule is:

January 1st - New Year’s Day – No Class

January 8th – “Gospel of Matthew – Teacher and Lord”

January 15th – “The History of Christian Theology -What is Theology?”

January 22nd – “Early Christian Proclamation”

January 29th – “Pauline Eschatology”

The Class will continue as a Zoom meeting at 11:15 AM on Sunday mornings following in-person worship at 9:30 AM.

If you wish to participate this winter and spring contact Pastor this month and she will put you on the E-Mail list for the Class. (Editor’s Note: You don’t want to be at the mercy of Lisa trying to add you!)

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



Thank you to everyone who helped proclaim The Good News of the birth of Christ, from our marvelous musicians to our tireless Altar Guild—to all who did tasks large and small: God bless you, everyone!

Thanks to the many angels that provided Christmas gifts for the children at Oaks and to coordinator an ddelivery driver, Priscilla Gerfen.

We are grateful to our Choir Members for their hard word and beautiful music.

Coffee hour is such a wonderful time to connect. We appreciate everyone who has so considerately brought goodies to eat, made coffee to enjoy and shared a kind word with everyone who came by.

Many thanks to our Volunteer Coordinators who make sure that we have Altar Guild, Counters, Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes and Assisting Ministers here each week.

Our college students greatly appreciate everyone who has brought a Campus Ministry dinner. It is a wonderful gift of your time as well as good food.

Thank you to Ministry Team members who help put together our big projects; Oaks Mission projects, Bake Sale, Bread for the World, Global Mission, the Church council, and more!

And thank you to Judy Lewis for taking care of the indoor plants for the final year, and to all who take care of the building and grounds all year long, especially Rick and Annette Cowell!

You all are a wonderful gift!





2023	Jan. 1 First Christmas	Jan. 8 Epiphany/	Jan. 15 Light of Christ	Jan. 22 Light of Christ	Jan. 29 Light of Christ
Assisting Minister/ Lectors	Tricia Auberle	Lynn Lester	Kevin Gerfen	Joanna Gipson	Susan Prater
Ushers	Moses & Catherine Vijayakumar	Jess and Susan Prater	Brandon Hearp	Pat Darlington	Roger Sahs
Greeters	Annette & Rick Cowell	Dave and Judy Lewis	Kevin & Priscilla Gerfen	Elaine & Bruce Ackerson	Diane Tipling
Counters					
Altar Guild	Dorothy Johnson	Mary Jo Lanier	Joanna Gipson	Maria Wolff	Shelley Schmidt & Joanna Gipson
Altar Flowers			Annette & Rick Cowell		
Coffee Hour	Dorothy Johnson		Lynn Lester		
Campus Ministry	*****	January 5 *****	January 12 *****	January 19	January 26

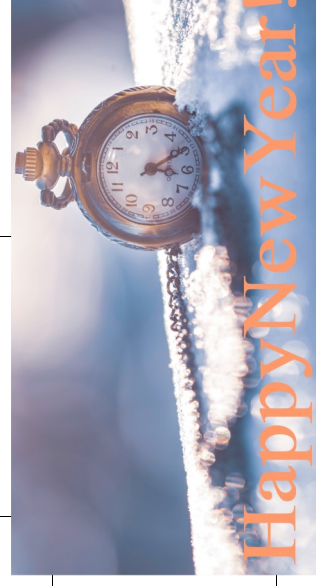


January

**“Let December close
with gladness in Jesus,
and January open
with the joy in the Lord.”
- Charles Spurgeon**

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Christmas, ELW setting 4	2 Lisa out of office -----	3 On-Line Chat 11am -----	4 -----	5 -----	6 Bible Study 10am -----	7 -----
8 Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord- Light of Christ	9 -----	10 On-Line Chat 11am Council Meeting 6pm	11 Sew-ers 9am	12 -----	13 Bible Study 10am	14 -----
15 Second Epiphany Light of Christ Third Sunday Food Offering MLK, Jr Event	16 MLK, Jr Walk	17 On-Line Chat 11am	18 Sew-ers 9am	19 Campus Ministry 6pm	20 Bible Study 10am	21 -----
22 Third Epiphany Light of Christ	23 -----	24 On-Line Chat 11am	25 Sew-ers 9am	26 Campus Ministry 6pm	27 Bible Study 10am	28 -----
29 Fourth Epiphany Light of Christ Fifth Sunday Offering	30 -----	31 On-Line Chat 11am				9:30am Worship In person, on Face- book or YouTube 11:15am Zoom Adult Discussion





Campus Ministry Resumes

Please sign-up in the Parish Hall or contact Lisa (sailemc@sbccglobal.net) if you are willing to prepare a meal (or even part of a meal) for our students. Pick a Thursday or just put yourself in the queue. Meals can be super simple. They are a most appreciative audience!

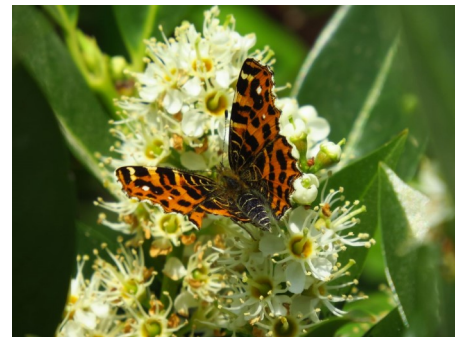
Michelle Hoerning, our Financial Secretary, wanted you to know that statements listing your giving from 2022 will go in the mail between January 15 and 22. If you don't receive yours by January 25, please contact Michelle at sailemc.fs@gmail.com



Thrivent Gift

Daryl Osmus and Ethan Hulme, Thrivent Financial Advisors sent us beautiful 2023 calendars.

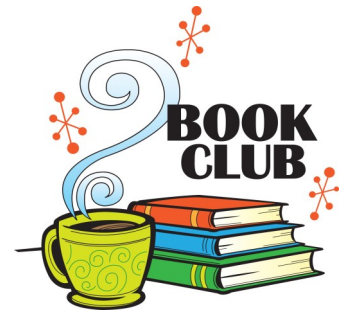
They are stacked in the church's library on the center table. Please take as many as you can use or share.



Our **Book Club** is reading The Kitchen Front by Jennifer Ryan.

Meetings are the last Monday of each month at 7pm. (January 30) If you have any questions, please contact Priscilla Gerfen at 405-612-7731.

Everyone is welcome!



If you haven't yet, please bring your **Reverse Advent boxes** to the tables in the Parish Hall. Thank you for your kindness!

Campus Ministry resumes January 19. Our sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall on the bulletin board nearest the kitchen. **There are dishes and pans left from dinners at the church-** If you are missing baking pans, bowls or other kitchen items, please check the kitchen counters.

The 2023 Altar Flower Calendar is up! To provide flowers for any special dates or if you just enjoy flowers, please sign up. If you would like an announcement in the bulletin, let Lisa know by Wednesday of that week. Questions? Call- 405-372-3074.



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

Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9 - 11am

Telephone numbers: 405-372-3074,
372-0879 (please leave a message!)

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net



**Third Sunday
Food**

Offering

Sunday, January 15

All donations are appreciated. Checks, food (especially cereal and hygiene items) dropped off at Salem will be go to Our Daily Bread. For more info- I nfo@ourdailybreadstillwater.org or 405-533-2555

The January Series

A FREE 15-day lecture series that takes place each year at Calvin University and aims to cultivate deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day in order to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizens in God's world. (This is the one that First Presbyterian has offered in past years.)

The January Series returns January 9-27. The 2023 lineup can be found at <https://calvin.edu/january-series/speakers/>