

The SEER

DECEMBER 2023

Service Schedule

Sundays in Advent, 9:30 am

December 3- ELW, setting 5
December 10- ELW, setting 5
Congregational Meeting
December 17- ELW, setting 5
3rd Sunday Food Offering
Hanging of the Greens
December 31 - Service
of the Word
5th Sunday Offering-
Utility Bill Assistance

Sunday, Christmas Eve Noon & 7pm

December 24- Lesson & Carols
No morning service
No Adult Discussion Class
No Coffee Hour

Wednesdays, 7pm

December 6, 13 & 20
Advent Evening Prayer

Be Still and know that I am God. Ps 46:10

Children's Time in December

Pastor Dawn will invite the children to join her for a brief message during the December Sunday worship services and on Christmas Eve.

The children will receive an Advent Calendar the first week.

There will be more surprises in the following weeks.



Update on the Reconciling in Christ journey

After fifteen months of studying the Bible, praying, soliciting input, and addressing concerns the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) exploratory team presented to Salem a draft welcoming statement on Sunday, November 5th. The response from the congregation was overwhelmingly positive. Pr. Dawn will address any requests for more information in the coming weeks.

A vote will take place at the congregational meeting on December 10, 2023 concerning Salem's desire to be a RIC congregation. Below is the list of commitments required to be recognized as a RIC partner congregation.

Thank you for your prayerful and patient support during this journey.

Annette Cowell
Tricia Auberle
On behalf of the RIC team



Welcome Statement

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church affirms that all people are beloved children of God, made in God's image. We openly welcome all people into full communion and ministry at this church as an outward expression of the reconciling love of Jesus Christ. We share Christ's love with all races and ethnicities, gender identities and sexual orientations, ages and faith histories, marital statuses and family configurations, physical and mental abilities, education levels and economic circumstances, and all who may have been marginalized for whatever reason.

Our community is open to calling a LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) rostered leader.

Our community allows community space/sanctuary to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.

Our community will make a meaningful contribution to support the national RIC program.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

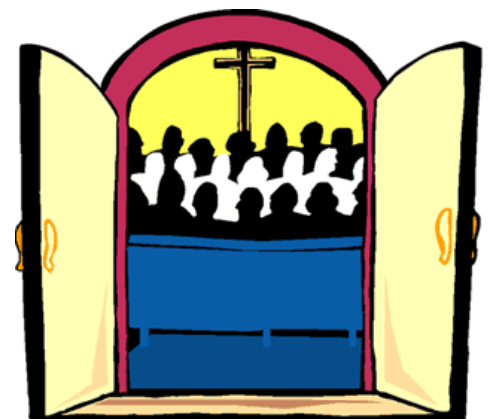
Sunday, December 10 at 10:45am

We will hear about the church's needs, then vote on a budget for 2024, and vote on becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church.

We are also in need of a woman to go to the annual Synod Assembly in late Spring.

If you are interested please contact Pam Talley.

Your presence is important.



**Congregational
MEETING**



Christmas Eve at Salem

All are invited to hear the story of the birth
of Christ and sing the carols of Christmas

Services are at 12 noon
Candlelight service at 7pm

Greetings and Merry Christmas to everyone.

2023 has been a year of change for sure. We said goodbye to Pastor Sally and John as they entered a new chapter in their lives. We welcomed Pastor Dawn as our Interim Pastor.

We are in the lengthy process of calling a new pastor. We have assembled a very capable and dedicated call committee. They are diligently working through the very detailed process.

Pastor Dawn helped us reactivate the Stewardship Committee and initiate the Transitional Prayer Team, that are providing valuable information and support to our congregation and the call committee. All our other established ministries are continuing to keep us active in our mission of service and love.

Most importantly I would like to personally thank everyone in the congregation for your prayerful efforts to keep Salem moving forward. We are a family and you have all shown your dedication to keeping our family focused and together.

We have our semi-annual Congregational Meeting coming up on December 10th. We have our 2024 Budget on the agenda. Thanks to the Stewardship Team and the pledges we have received we can proceed with a clear and realistic knowledge of our financial position. This information is directly related to the calling of a new pastor. Thank you to everyone who has returned their pledge information. If you have not had a chance to return your pledge, there is still time to do so. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Pam (jnptalley@hotmail.com), Scott (Scott.wolff@okstate.edu), or Michelle (mwolfe131@gmail.com). We will also be voting on becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Just a refresher from our constitution on the requirements of being a voting member of the congregation.

Confirmed Member of Salem Lutheran Church

Communed at Salem Lutheran Church during the current or preceding calendar year

Made a contribution of record to Salem Lutheran Church within the calendar year

I personally would like to thank everyone for the support you have shown to me in the last few months.

Pam Talley, President of Salem Church Council

Sunday School SCHEDULE

ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS

During December the Adult Discussion Class is continuing as a joint in person/zoom meeting at 11:00 AM on Sundays following the post service coffee hour. David Lewis is sending out the weekly reminder with the Zoom address. If you wish to receive the reminder, contact David at (david.lewis.oxen@gmail.com).

During Advent (November 29 to December 24) the discussions will shift to the Gospel of John in preparation for the Lectionary for the coming year. The discussions will be based on Great Courses lectures, "Jesus and the Gospels" by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson.

The schedule for our Sunday classes

December 3rd – "Gospel of John – Jesus as the Man from Heaven"

December 10th – Congregational Meeting – **NO CLASS**

December 17th – "Gospel of John – Jesus as Obedient Son"

December 24th – Christmas Eve – **NO CLASS**

December 31st – New Years Eve – **NO CLASS**

Join us for thoughtful discussions.



Schedule and Notes for December

Saturday, Dec. 2

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

Wednesdays, Dec 6, 13, 20

Advent Evening Prayer is in-person and live-streamed, with our beloved Holden Evening Prayer. Join for our **soup supper** beginning at 6pm, the service at 7pm, then **choir practice** immediately after. Come 'take a breath together' during the busy holiday season.

Sunday, December 10

Congregational Meeting
after the service

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday Food Offering
Food, bags, and 12 ct. egg cartons can be left in the baskets under the south coat rack. Contributions can be placed in the Offering Plate.

Hanging of the Greens

Help decorate for the Christmas Eve service
All are welcome - no experience necessary!
Directly after the 9:30 am service.

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Eve Service at Noon & 7pm

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

December 22 - January 2, there are no set office hours. Please call ahead if you need assistance.



What does the
**GINGERBREAD
MAN**
put on his bed?
•••
COOKIE SHEETS.

Come find out what our cookie sheets
have produced at our Craft, Fair Trade,
Quilt and Baked Goods Sale!
Saturday, December 2, 9am~Noon



Hanging *of the* Greens

Come help decorate the
church for our Christmas
Eve service!

We need helpers of all
skill levels directly after
Worship on Sunday,



**Graduation
Announcement**
Olie Weaver
is receiving his Bachelors in
Business Administration (MIS)
on Saturday, December 16!

“All the Christmas presents in the world are
worth nothing without the presence of Christ.”
— David Jeremiah

“God goes to those who have time to hear him
— and so on this cloudless night he went to
simple shepherds.” — Max Lucado

“May God give you peace with yourselves; may
he give you good will towards all your friends,
your enemies and your neighbors; and may he
give you grace to give glory to God in the
highest.” — Charles H. Spurgeon



Lessons &

CAROLS

This year a Service of Lessons and Carols will be offered on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 at both the Noon and the 7pm Candlelight service. (No morning service.) Both services will be the same, so you can come at either time. The evening service will have a beautiful prelude. Come at 6:45pm if you would like to hear it.

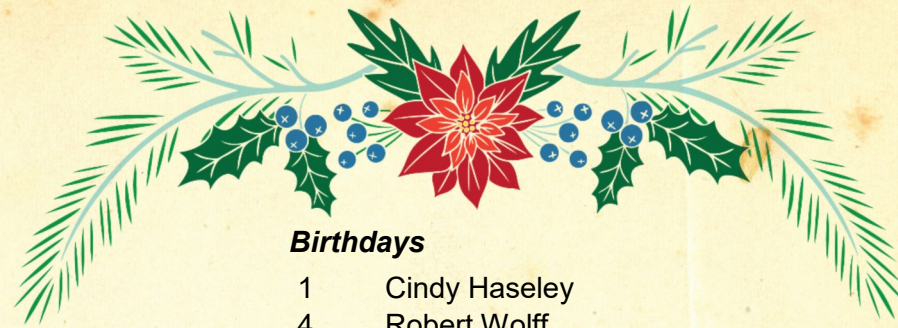
On Sunday, December 17 we will have Altar in the Garden, from 3:00 - 4:00pm at the Stillwater Botanic Garden. We will meet at the South end OSU's Botanic Garden (3300 W. 6th Street, Stillwater) Lawn chairs and clothes comfortable for the weather are recommended. Drinks and snacks are welcome. Wish to learn more, or get involved? Contact Amie Haar- together-weemerge@gmail.com



Coffee Hour!



We have a new Coffee Hour sign-up at the pass-thru to the kitchen. We'll need at least 2 people to help with the Coffee Hour before the Congregational Meeting on December 10. There won't be coffee hours after the Christmas Eve services at noon and 7pm.



Birthdays

- 1 Cindy Haseley
- 4 Robert Wolff
- 8 Lisa Carney
Violet Macklin
Kaitlin Schmidt
- 11 Aspen Lenning
- 13 Michelle Ratzlaff
Jacob Wolff
- 14 Lawson Hearp
- 16 Scott Hubbard
Chris Headrick
- 18 Elaine Ackerson
- 21 Amie Haar
- 22 Stephen Haseley
Nate Wolfe
- 29 Margaret Redburn
Miles Haar
- 31 Scott Wolff

Anniversaries

- 19 Ken & Jan Bartels



MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor ~ Dawn Enderwood
Director of Music ~ Krystal Hennessey
Choir Director ~ Elizabeth Albright
Office Coordinator ~ Lisa Murray-Francis
Parish Nurse ~ Cindy Pennie
Media Specialists ~ Olie Weaver
Peer Minister ~ Aspen Lenning

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday -Thursday 8-1pm,
Friday 8-11am

Telephone number: 405-372-3074
(leave a message)

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: saalemstillwaterok.org

The Sharing



The Sharing Tree is up.....

....and 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 10** so they can be delivered to Oaks in time for the children's Christmas party.



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

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