

# The SEER

Salem Lutheran Church November 2023

## Join us at 9:30am in person or on-line!

Nov 5 - ELW, Setting 1, All Saints  
Daylight Savings Time change  
Nov 12 - ELW, Setting 1  
Nov 19 - ELW, Setting 1,  
Thanksgiving Celebration  
Third Sunday Food Offering  
Nov 26 – Christ the King,  
Final Sunday after Pentecost



**On-line services** can be found on Facebook: Salem Lutheran Church at 9:30am. It will remain there or you can find it later on our YouTube channel: Salem ELC Stillwater OK

### Join us also for-

**Friday Morning Bible Study, 10am via ZOOM.**

and

**Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Class, 11am in person and on ZOOM.**

*Thanks* for being part of Salem's

**2024 Stewardship Pledge Drive**



**Your gifts ensure**

*Salem's* future!

## ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS

During November 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. To receive the weekly reminder with the Zoom address contact David Lewis at david.lewis.oxen@gmail.com

During the first three week of November the discussions will continue to be based on lectures from "The History of Christian Theology" by Professor Phillip Cary from the Great Courses videos.

Beginning November 26th, we will shift to the Gospel of John for the Advent season. The discussions will be based on lectures from the Great Courses class, "Jesus and the Gospels" by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson.

The schedule for the discussions is:

- November 5th – "Baptists and Quakers"
- November 12th – "Pietists and the Turn to Experience"
- November 19th – "From Pietists to Revivalists"
- November 26th – "Gospel of John – Context of Conflict"



## Thoughts on the ELCA's Youth Gathering from Council Member, Matthew Schmidt

After being canceled twice in 2021 and 2022, the ELCA's Youth Gathering will be held July 16-20th 2024 in New Orleans, LA. The Gathering has been in New Orleans three times before: 1997, 2009 and 2012. The theme is "Created to Be" based on Psalm 139:14. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." The stated goals of the Gathering are to provide opportunities for faith formation through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service and fellowship.

In 2017, I visited Guatemala and was able to do some service projects and really enjoyed the opportunity to help others, so I am looking forward to the accompaniment day while at the Gathering. I will also enjoy meeting the 1000's of other Lutheran youth from around the country and learning more about the city of New Orleans. I have never been to a Gathering and only heard stories from my two older sisters. I am excited to finally be able to experience it first hand!

The Gathering offers several programs over a five-day period and participants will rotate these areas each day. Groups will move through Interactive Learning, Accompaniment Day and Synod Day throughout the week. Each evening everyone will gather at the Superdome for worship, music and guest speakers. Each day will have its own theme. 1. "We are created to be brave, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged. 2. We are created to be authentic, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator. 3. We are created to be free, to be transformed by the gospel. 4. We are created to be disruptive, to work for justice for all of our siblings. 5. We are created to be disciples, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God. According to the Youth Gathering website, "New Orleans, has always been its true, authentic self. Our theme, "Created to Be", highlights the arts, music and soul of this beautiful, vibrant and resilient city. New Orleans was built to host and be a city where all God's children come together."

Because of previous cancellations, in addition to the Youth Gathering for 8th through 12th graders, there will be the first ever "Young Adult Gathering". It is open to everyone the ages of 18 and 35 with programming geared toward this age group.



# November JOY

Have a  
blessed  
year!

## Birthdays

- 1 Priscilla Gerfen & Trey Ratzlaff
- 2 Maegen Schmidt & Jim Long
- 7 Jesslyn Lovell
- 11 David Auberle
- 19 Ken Bartels
- 21 Roger Sahs
- 26 Belinda Hammergren
- 28 Morgan Scott
- 29 Maria Wolff

## Anniversaries

- 29 Ruth Ann & Darald Haedt

## Sew-ers Holiday Schedule

- Nov 1 – 9-11:30
- Nov 8 – 9-11:30
- Nov 15 – 9-11:30
- Nov 22 – No Sew-ers, Thanksgiving Week
- Nov 29 - 9-11:30, Set up for Quilt Sale
- Dec 2 - Saturday, 8-noon, Quilt - Bake -  
Craft Sale
- Dec 6 - Clean up for year
- Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3 - holiday break
- Jan 10 – Sew-ers resume



Everyone is welcome to join in on Wednesdays for special projects, quilting, coffee & conversation!

## Report on 2023 Trip to Tanzania

In August of this year I went on a short trip to Tanzania with Nancy Bean, one of our long time team members. Because it had been 3 years since we had been there, due to Covid, we wanted touch base with all of our friends, and let them know we hadn't forgotten them.

Everyone is anxious for us to come back! It is easier to see the changes that have occurred while we were gone. Mazimbu would really like to have a general surgeon. Dr Kivuma has retired, but there are now two OB/GYNs and a pediatrician. They have a new anesthesia machine, can do generals on children. They would like a fetal monitor or a fetal doppler. Lutheran Junior Seminary has done lots of remodeling. All rooms are considered single with a double bed, a fan, and an in-room bathroom.

Roadwork has been done in Dar, some parts with 6-8 lanes of traffic, but goes back to the 2 lane highway most of the way to Morogoro. The train would be great if it gets final approvals - most infrastructure in place. Many more petrol stations along the highway. Berega has made changes, improvements. all fencing completed, new sunflower press building & oil processing project functioning. New office/classroom building almost completed. Bridge over the river almost completed. They are being able to provide more support to the bintis after they leave Berega.

Bishop Mameo and the Diocese seem to be doing well. There is a new head of the Department of Women & Children who will help us get our paperwork completed. Ebenezer Secondary Math/ Science School is completed- 200 students, 70 acre campus, dorms, staff housing, dining hall, etc. Women's Center is also completed.

We were able to finally deliver the money we had collected for sewing machines for the women's group Pr. Sally visited in 2016, at Sokonie Church. They were pleased, and surprised that we still remembered them.

I have just sent out an email to all who have expressed interest in going to Tanzania in 2024. We are looking at July 26 to August 12 or August 2 to August 19, 2024.

Thank you all for your continuing support!

Cindy Pennie







## Game Nite 5:30, Friday November 17

At our first games nite it looked like a good time was had by all.

Join us for our November games, snacks, fun, prizes and conversation!

Salem's Reconciling in Christ (RIC) committee has been thoughtfully and prayerfully preparing a welcoming statement for the congregation to adopt as part of becoming an RIC congregation. A Welcome Statement is not a political or cultural statement...it is simply a statement that recognizes what we know, that all persons created by God are children of God...and are welcome at Salem.

Sunday, November 5, EXPLORATORY SURVEY cards with a DRAFT Welcome Statement will be distributed before our 9:30 service. We look forward to your responses...it's a short, quick survey...you may return it in the offertory basket.

For those who are absent on the 5th, survey cards will be available on the following Sunday. Call the church office (372-3074) if you need a survey delivered to your home. Pr. Dawn will address requests for more information in the coming weeks.

We hope that you have had the chance to read the ELCA Welcome Statement and the ARKANSAS/OKLAHOMA SYNOD Welcome Statement on the posters displayed alternately in Salem entrance hall and in the parish hall.



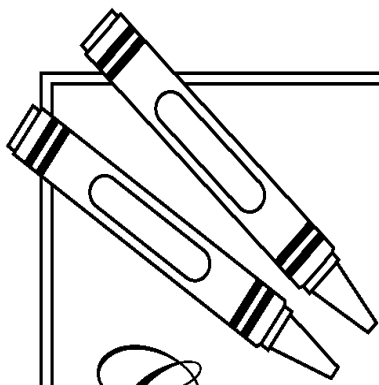
## *Christmas is Coming....*

**Fair trade craft catalogs** are here. Pick up a copy on Sunday (along with an order sheet) to pre-order before the Bakesale. We need to get our order in before the stock runs low. To get a jumpstart on shopping, go to the SERRV website ([serrv.org](http://serrv.org)) to take a look at everything available. If you find items you want, just make note of the item title and the 5-digit code below the item name, and send the info to Priscilla Gerfen ([priscilla@gerfen.org](mailto:priscilla@gerfen.org)). If your order is included with Salem's, there is no shipping cost.



## Apple Pie Makers Needed November 11 & 18, from 10 am - noon

Pam, Paula, Priscilla and Aspen turned up for our first Saturday of apple pie making. Our goal is to have at least 20 pies available for sale at our December Bakesale. We're a third of the way there! Please consider joining the effort November 11 &/or 18 – all materials are provided and it's fun and educational. Sugar-free pies are available for pre-order, please let Priscilla Gerfen ([priscilla@gerfen.org](mailto:priscilla@gerfen.org)). know in order to guarantee that you get one.



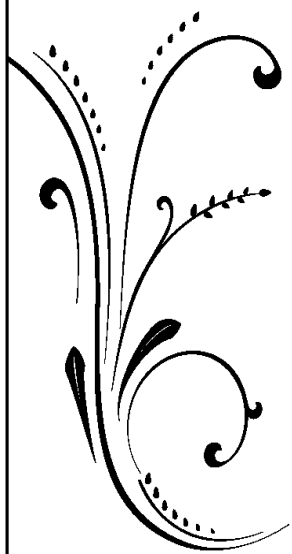
NOT  
Just for

**KIDS**

# Counting Our Blessings

THANKSGIVING IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO "COUNT OUR BLESSINGS."

GOD BLESSES EACH OF US DAILY IN SO MANY WAYS. SOLVE THE FOLLOWING MATH PROBLEMS. THEN WRITE THE WORDS ON THE NUMBERED LINES BELOW TO COMPLETE EPHESIANS 1:3, NIV.



- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ____ Father    | 10 + 15 = ____ in        |
| 10 + 9 = ____ heavenly  | 6 - 3 = ____ to          |
| 10 + 5 = ____ blessed   | 12 - 6 = ____ and        |
| 2 - 1 = ____ Praise     | 6 + 6 = ____ Christ      |
| 7 + 7 = ____ has        | 18 - 9 = ____ our        |
| 11 + 11 = ____ every    | 22 - 11 = ____ Jesus     |
| 12 + 12 = ____ blessing | 1 + 1 = ____ be          |
| 10 + 10 = ____ realms   | 7 + 6 = ____ who         |
| 13 + 13 = ____ Christ   | 2 + 2 = ____ the         |
| 8 + 8 = ____ us         | 10 - 5 = ____ God        |
| 8 + 9 = ____ in         | 4 + 4 = ____ of          |
| 5 + 5 = ____ Lord       | 9 + 9 = ____ the         |
| 10 + 11 = ____ with     | 10 + 13 = ____ spiritual |

“

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6

\_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_”

\_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18

\_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 21 \_\_\_\_\_ 22

\_\_\_\_\_ 23 \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 26 \_\_\_\_\_”

EPHESIANS 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

## LET'S GO TO THE THEATRE

Town and Gown theatre is presenting White Christmas in December featuring our own Kevin Gerfen.

If you would be interested in going as a group to the December 10 matinee, I would be willing to order the tickets for us.

Adult tickets - \$18 and Senior tickets \$16. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Judy Lewis

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"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."

—Native American saying

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"On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence."

—William Jennings Bryan

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"People will accept your ideas much more readily if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first."

—David H. Comins

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"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."

—G.K. Chesterton

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Why did the turkey decline dessert?  
Because it was stuffed.



**Salem Lutheran**  
**101 S Duck St**  
**Stillwater OK 74074**

### **MINISTRY STAFF**

Interim 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, Olen  
Weaver & Jeremy Hennessey  
Peer Minister ~ Aspen Lenning

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

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

**Telephone numbers:** 405-372-3074  
(leave a message)

**Email Address:** [salemelc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemelc@sbcglobal.net)

**Church Website:** [salemstillwaterok.org](http://salemstillwaterok.org)

### **Bugs- and not the good kind!**

We are seeing bugs in the kitchen. If you are in charge of any kind of meal or coffee, please make sure the kitchen is as clean as we can make it.

We have 2 dishwashers. Please make sure they are both loaded and there are no dirty dishes left in the sink. Dishes should be rinsed if the dishwasher won't be run immediately. Sinks should be scrubbed out and trash removed from the strainers/drains. Counters need to be wiped off. Crumbs on floors should be swept.

We are hoping to avoid the mess and expense of having everything sprayed. Thanks for your help!

Kelsey Haseley and Matt sent a Thank You for the baby gift as well as letting them use the building for their shower celebrating baby Henry. Kelsey says "Matt & I so appreciate of all the love and support!"

Dan & Ashely Cooper from Oaks sent a note thanking us. They enjoyed sharing information about their new program as well as getting to spend time with us.

Joanna Kuster sent a card thanking us for keeping in touch. (She is listed in the Directory.) She just had a hip replacement but is still perking along in Tx.

A fund raiser for Central Oklahoma Adult and Teen Challenge is December 12 at 7pm. Call 850-637-5572 for more information or to buy tickets.

(If you'd like to read the full card from any of these, you'll find them on the bulletin board in the main hallway.)

