

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2024



WINTER WORSHIP

Jan. 7- Baptism of our Lord
Jan. 14- Light of Christ
Jan. 21- Light of Christ
Jan. 28- Light of Christ

The nursery is open for parent and child to use.

We have open communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table!

Friday Morning Bible Study resumes January 5 at 10am via ZOOM. Newcomers are welcome. Pre-reading not required!

Our Sunday Morning Service is at 9:30am followed by Adult Discussion at 11am on Zoom and in person.

Our on-line services continue at 9:30am on Facebook at Salem Lutheran Church or anytime on YouTube Salem ELC Stillwater OK

Contact the office, if you would like to have the service link sent to you or if you are not receiving the service booklet.



Salem's staff greatly appreciates your cards, notes and generous gifts. The ministry we share with you is a treasure. We thank God for the opportunity to serve with you.

Have a blessed 2024!

Krystal, Elizabeth, Lisa, Cindy, Olie and Pr. Dawn

Campus Ministry will re-start January 18. If you can help provide a Thursday evening meal, please sign up in the Parish Hall

The 2024 **Flower Calendar** has been posted. Please sign up for any special dates, you'd like to commemorate or if you just enjoy the flowers.

If you are interested in reading the on-line articles from The Living Lutheran magazine, please check out their website www.livinglutheran.org There is no password. If you would like to have the magazine read to you, scroll to the bottom and pick "Audio Issues".

Building Use Requests- If you are ever in need of a part of the building for a party or group meeting, please contact the office for the paperwork. Generally, the Council authorizes these requests the first Tuesday of each month, so it's good to get it in as early as possible.

BookClub is reading *The 1619 Project from the New York Times*. The meeting will be Monday, January 29 at Salem or by Zoom. Everyone is welcome!



Call Committee January 2024 Update: Salem Lutheran's Call Committee has been meeting regularly since mid-September 2023, working diligently to fulfill its responsibilities and make progress on its most important initial task, developing our "Ministry Site Profile" (MSP). The MSP is used by congregations seeking to call an ordained minister of the ELCA. It is a highly structured information-gathering process that poses many questions regarding who we are at Salem, Salem's vision for its mission, and what Salem needs from its pastoral leadership. It identifies our strengths, talents, and needs. After the MSP has been completed, the next steps in the call process can proceed.



Any member of Salem who has questions about the call process is invited to contact members of the committee. Paula Long is chair. Other members are Bruce Ackerson, Pat Darlington, Kevin Gerfen, Stephen Haseley, and Maria Moccia-Wolff. (Aspen Lenning moved to South Dakota in January 2024 and is no longer on the Call Committee.)

Legacy Gifts from SLY

For many years, our Salem Lutheran Youth (SLY) group and their parents, worked each of the OSU home Football games parking cars to earn money for their activities, meals, national ELCA Youth Gathering, and mission trips. They did a wonderful job and created quite a nest egg. Unfortunately, we no longer have teens to keep up a youth group. (Maybe someday when the babies get big!)

The Church Council met and thoughtfully discussed how best to distribute the funds. After consulting with parents and SLY members, it was decided that each recent SLY member could choose a charity and that organization would receive \$2500. The remaining money will send any of the SLY members who wish to go to the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, and we will save part to fund future SLY activities.

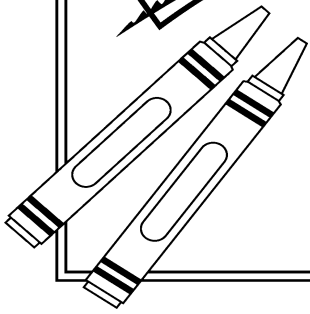
Wonderful organizations were selected and those monies are out doing good in the world. Nate Sah's gift was divided between Salem's Little Food Pantry and the Boy Scouts of America's Order of the Arrow. Lawson Hearp chose Wings of Hope's SARA Team for his gift. C.J. Wolfe's legacy gift went to The Pioneer Pantry at Stillwater High School. Trace Phillips' gave to the Payne County Youth Services, Inc. Jacob Ebersole's chose the Jed Foundation for his legacy gift and Matthew Schmidt chose the Backyard School in Guatemala. (A thank you note from Pioneer Pantry is included in this newsletter.)

Our thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to the SLY fund. It was a big job that lasted over many years.

Church members will take over the football parking this fall. Earnings will go into the general fund.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to any of the Council Members.





Puzzle!

Match each clue with the correct biblical dreamer.
Use the Scripture hints if needed.

- ___ 1. This person's brothers were irritated to hear of certain dreams.
- ___ 2. Angels went up and down a ladder in this person's dreams.
- ___ 3. This person dreamed about skinny cows eating fat cows.
- ___ 4. After an unpleasant dream, this person warned a loved one to avoid Jesus.
- ___ 5. This person saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone.
- ___ 6. A dream warned this person (plus family) to flee to Egypt.
- ___ 7. This person saw a vine produce grapes, with juice squeezed into a cup.
- ___ 8. A dream warned about Herod's evil plan.

- A. Pharaoh (Genesis 41:17-21)
- B. The Magi (Matthew 2:12)
- C. Jacob (Genesis 28:12)
- D. Pharaoh's cupbearer (Genesis 40:9-11)
- E. NT Joseph (Matthew 2:13)
- F. OT Joseph (Genesis 37:9, 11)
- G. Pilate's wife (Matthew 27:19)
- H. Daniel (Daniel 2:31-35)

Answers: 1. F, 2. C, 3. A, 4. G, 5. H, 6. E, 7. D, 8. B

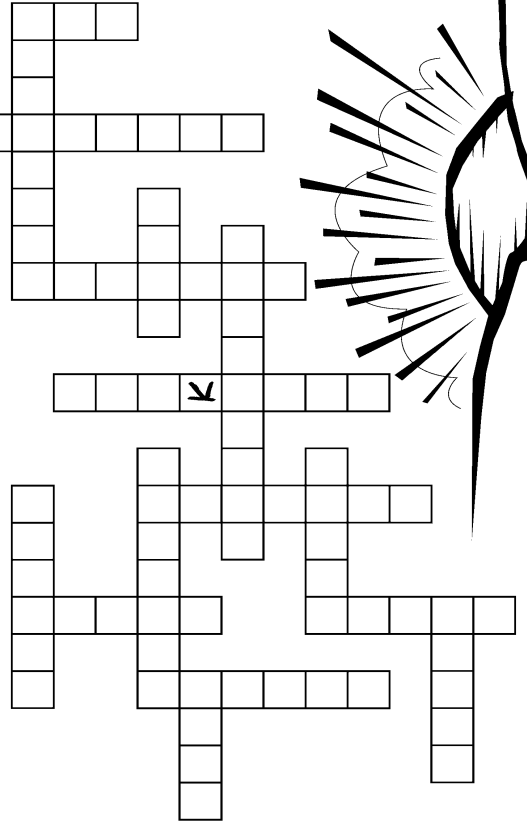
Puzzle!

The Beginning

The start of a new calendar year is a great time to praise God for his amazing creation.

Directions: Read Genesis 1:1-3 (NIV), below. Place the underlined words into the crossword. One letter has been provided to help you start.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.



The Sunday school teacher asked her class this question: "Why is it good at times to get away from everyone and have some quiet moments?"

A lad named David promptly replied, "So our conscience can bother us."

-Mrs. R.M. Nies, Wahpeton, North Dakota

From Your President

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have just completed a year that had so many ups and downs and the council and I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support through it all.

Our mission right now is to focus on the future. We know this is a challenge, but Salem is a strong congregation and we will move forward. We have so many good ministries in place right now and have the opportunity to implement some more that we will be exploring. More information to come on this in the next few weeks.

The council would like to thank the congregation for the many accomplishments that occurred last year. To name just a few as it is impossible to name them all, the continuation of the many successful projects and ministries that were already established, a successful Stewardship drive and voting to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Jobs well done.

The council would like to commend that Call Committee's effort in getting us to our objective of calling a new pastor. Hopefully in the months to come.

The council's message to Salem is to keep the faith, work together, and move forward. If you have any question, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact any of your council members.

Your Council: Pam Talley, Elaine Ackerson, Barbara Bliss, Scott Wolff, Michelle Ratzlaff, Mary Jo Lanier, and Matthew Schmidt

Pam Talley



Friends,



Thank you so much for thinking of the Pioneer Pantry when you closed out some (SLY) funds...with your generous donation, we were able to buy lots of coats and winter weather gear for students in need. In addition, your donation will help restock our shelves after the Christmas Break.

Thank you so much,

Rolu Johnson,
Pioneer Pantry, Stillwater Public Schools

Dear Salem Lutheran
Congregation,

Thank you for all the encouragement throughout the years! Thanks again for the nice card with warm word as well as the gift. Hope to bring fame and good fortune to all I work and serve with in my career field.

Best, Nick Sahs



Claire Tipling graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma on Saturday, December 16th with a BS in Forensic Science, a BA in Political Science and a minor in Pre-Law.

Congratulations!



Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 S. Duck St., Stillwater, OK 74074

MINISTRY STAFF

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

CHURCH OFFICE

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

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

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: salemstillwaterok.org

Now that we have enjoyed Christmas...

We can continue to spread the message of hope, courage and unity in our Stillwater Community by reaching out to those who are different from yourself and getting better acquainted.

Dr. Martin Luther King shared a dream of unity - it begins with **each of us** sharing concern for the "**other**". We are blessed to have persons of many colors and cultures living right here so join us for two events where we can gather to enjoy music, singing, conversation, refreshments, ... and even exercise.

Community Celebration

With refreshments and conversation
Exhibit of posters created by Middle School students - you can vote for "People's Choice".

Sunday, January 14th at 6:00 pm
Stillwater Community Center - 315 W. 8th Ave.

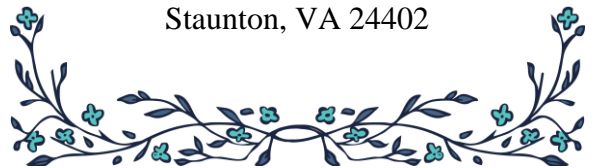


MLK Day Unity March

Start at Southern Woods Park on 12th Ave at 1:00 pm
All are welcome (See map at visitStillwater.org)
You can join the march at any point along the way)

As you may have heard, Helen Jordon died Sunday 12/31. If you would like to send a card, her nephew's address is-

The Jordan Family
% David Didawick
PO Box 2976
Staunton, VA 24402



Thank you to the Salem family for keeping my sister, Janet, in your prayers these past few months. I am truly appreciative of the many calls, cards and conversations I have received since her passing. I have many fond memories of my sister and will miss her very much, but rejoice in the knowledge that she is at peace in the arms of Our Lord and Savior. Thank you all again.



Pam Talley