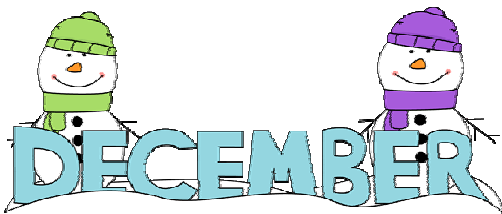


Salem United Church Of Christ
217 Salem Drive
Plymouth, WI 53073

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



PASTOR: Rev. James M. Hoppert
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY: Marsha Meyer
CHURCH SECRETARY: Pamela Miller
MONETARY GIFTS SECRETARY: Jennifer Schoenefeld
MONETARY GIFTS ASSISTANT: Sharon Schoenefeld
CUSTODIAN: Pietje Markus

CHAPEL CHIMES IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday
E-MAIL ADDRESS: salemuc@excel.net - WEB SITE: www.salemuccplywi.org
TELEPHONE: 920-892-7456/Rev. Hoppert's Cell 920-838-0405

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MISSION STATEMENT

To praise and glorify God through Jesus Christ, Salem United Church of Christ will be a nurturing family that shares the Good News with people of all ages. Our congregation will invite and warmly welcome others into this faith community. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will create and maintain places and programs, which satisfy needs and nurture spiritual growth while recognizing and utilizing the diverse gifts and talents of all.

DECEMBER 2016
Volume 66 No. 11

FIRST NOTES

As a number of you may have figured out by this time, I haven't exactly been bashful in hiding my concern and lament over what's happened in the popular culture during our 2016 national election. We've had other contentious elections and have experienced other turbulent years in our nation's history. I'm old enough to remember 1968 with some clarity. This year seemed different, though. With the internet, social media, and wide variety of blogs and websites available to the general public it has all gotten more intense, personal, and frankly, nasty. Perhaps this conflict has largely come about due to competing ideas of what the future of the nation should look like. When visions clash, it can ignite the sparks. In the meantime, the rest of us just look on in open-mouthed amazement as the flames grow higher around us.

Perhaps it is a good thing that Advent is just around the corner as we try to sort all of these things out. I know that much of the church misunderstands what Advent is all about; it isn't a time to prepare for the upcoming Christmas season, but rather it's a season to prepare for that coming day when that new thing that God is creating will come to pass. It will be that time when the thing we pray for every week--"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"--will be a reality. It will be that time when the Kingdom or Reign of God will be realized in full.

In the current time, we struggle with the gap between what is and what God promises. The words of the Advent hymn I learned as a third-grade child puzzled me: "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear." Now, I understand it better.

That time of "not yet" seems like a time of exile, a time of being away from the thing that we're supposed to be. God has better things in mind and we are not there, yet. Human governance, even in a republic crafted as well as this nation was put together, will always fall short of our ideals. The ultimate trust and allegiance in this life can't be given over to princes and mortals who cannot save (Psalm 146); it can only be given over to God.

During Advent, we pray, we discern, and we join God's redeeming and reconciling work in this world as we look for the completion of God's Reign in our midst.

May God's blessing be upon you and those you love in this season of Advent.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Jim Hoppert



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------|--|
| 12/2 | Julaine Thiel |
| 12/4 | Scott Bunyea |
| 12/5 | Matthew Lehrke Ken Schoening |
| 12/6 | Janet Lau |
| 12/8 | Ross Bub Lynell Jenquin |
| 12/9 | Charles Machut |
| 12/10 | Jeremy Pratt |
| 12/11 | Annette Bunyea |
| 12/13 | Jeff Knuth William Laack |
| 12/14 | Cora Meyer Eric Raeder Melissa Laman |
| 12/15 | Maureen Greuel Gloria J. Kleinhans |
| 12/16 | Delaney Fischer |
| 12/18 | Carol Fischer-Melger Marceline Kraemer Megan Thiel Kristen Mahler Lilly Hengst |
| 12/19 | Thomas Nabak Norman Raeder Ansel Tupper |
| 12/20 | Marilyn Rooker Tanja Schneider |
| 12/21 | Kimberly Laack |
| 12/22 | Zoey Meinnert Virginia Radloff |
| 12/23 | Benjamin Katsma Gary Ferguson |
| 12/24 | Gail Matzdorf Cassandra Littlefield |
| 12/25 | Carol Stib |
| 12/27 | Harmon Gundersen |
| 12/29 | Arlene Heckmann |

| | |
|-------|-----------------|
| 12/30 | Trenton Krueger |
| 12/31 | Dusty Medved |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 12/2 | Ed & Darla Ardell |
| 12/4 | Steve & Cheryl Rortvedt |
| 12/16 | Dale & Judi Miller |
| 12/18 | Dale & Susie Katsma |
| 12/20 | Fritz & Kay Scheible |
| 12/28 | Jim & Annette Ostrom |
| 12/31 | Roger & Gloria Eldredge |



In case of inclement weather, please tune to WJUB or WHBL for any weather related cancellations. You can also view cancellations on WTMJ 4, FOX6 and WISN 12. If confirmation classes are cancelled on Wednesday evenings, students will be contacted by their coaches.

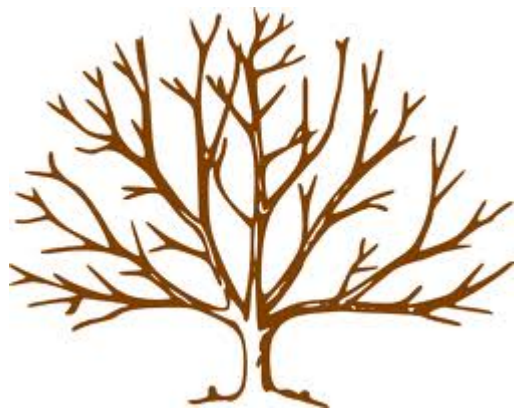


LITTLE LAMBS CHILD CARE

Sunday, December 4th:
Amy & Greta Debbink

Sunday, December 11th:
Gail Kleinhans

Sunday, December 18th:
Faye Hughes & Cora Meyer



TREE OF HOPE

Advent is a privileged and much-loved time for expressing hope in public, for working to restore others' hope, and for strengthening the dreams that carry us through the entire year. You can bring hope to those in need by participating in the "Tree of Hope" drive. Listed below are items that will be collected during the Sundays of Advent.

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 4th:

Soap and personal care products: laundry soap, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, cleaning products, hand lotion, dish soap, etc.

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 11th:

Non-perishable food items

4th Sunday of Advent, December 18th:

Baby care items: diapers, baby wipes, baby cereal

Place your gifts under the Tree of Hope in the Narthex.

MITTEN TREE

We will be collecting hats, mittens, scarves, etc. for our mitten tree located in the Gathering Area. We will be accepting donations through December 9th.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Watch for the Adopt-A-Family tree that will be placed in the Gathering Area in the coming weeks.

2017 COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 7/Sunday, January 8, 2017 - 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 11/Sunday, February 12, 2017 - 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 - Ash Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 11/Sunday, March 12, 2017 - 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 13, 2017 - Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15/Sunday, April 16, 2017 - Easter - 4:30 p.m. /7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 6/Sunday, May 7, 2017 - Confirmation - 4:30p.m./8:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 3/Sunday, June 4, 2017 - Pentecost - 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 8/Sunday July 9, 2017 - 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 12/Sunday, August 13, 2017 - 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 9/Sunday, September 10, 2017 - Faith Formation - Sunday 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 30/Sunday, October 1, 2017 - World Communion - 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 4/Sunday, November 5, 2017 - All Saints' - 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 9/Sunday, December 10, 2017 - 4:30 p.m./8:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 24, 2017 - Christmas Eve - 4:30 and 10:00 p.m.

DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms: Psalm 122

Epistle: Romans 15:4-13

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms: Psalm 146:5-10

Epistle: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Epistle: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday, December 24, 2016

The Nativity of Our Lord –

Christmas Eve (Proper I)

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms: Psalm 96

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 25, 2016

The Nativity of Our Lord –

Christmas Day (Proper III)

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalms: Psalm 98

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-4

Gospel: John 1:1-14

KEEP THESE FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZED

Aurora, Sheboygan

Ray Gremminger

DEATHS

11/3/16 Pat Morrison

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact, it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives." . . . thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the meantime."

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering. You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in the 2016 Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering. This year's theme is "God's love colors everything."

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" gift checks next December to low-income retirees. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.



Dear Members:

Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, visits and cards. Also, thank you to the care meal ministry for the delicious meal.

God's blessings,
Betty Klemme

Dear Care Meal Ministry,

Thank you for the delicious meal delivered to our home. We enjoyed it.

Florence Kleinhans

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

The following grants were awarded at the October Endowment Fund Committee meeting:

Existing Ministries:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| General Fund | \$1,400.00 |
| Altar Guild | 500.00 |
| Red Tent Ministries | 500.00 |

Innovative Ministries:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Lakeland College for Reinhard Ulrich | |
| Theology Endowment | \$ 800.00 |
| Salem Back Bay Mission Trip | 1,000.00 |
| Salem Back Bay Mission Team | 500.00 |

Capital Improvements:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Replace Ceiling Fan in Gathering Area | \$ 600.00 |
| Capital Improvement Fund | 1,200.00 |

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Klemme, Secretary

DECEMBER USHER LIST

Saturday, December 3rd:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Lori Holzer
Ralph & Carol Groene, Rollie Bruggink

Sunday, December 4th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Mary Bender
Dale & Janis Knuth, Betty Klemme

Saturday, December 10th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Lori Holzer
Kymn Schicker, Ed & Darla Ardell

Sunday, December 11th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Consistory
Terry, Amy & Greta Debbink

Saturday, December 17th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Sunday School Youth

Sunday, December 18th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Bret Schoenefeld
Steve Fieck, Lois Faas, Cheryl Rortvedt

Saturday, December 24th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Tom Daigle
Terry & Rachel Risse, Annette Bunyea
10:00 p.m. Head Usher: Mary Mullen

Sunday, December 25th:

10:00 a.m. Head Usher: Consistory
Anne Hernandez, Bette Humbracht, Cindy Conrad

Saturday, December 31st:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Consistory
Sharon Klemme, Linda Krueger, Judy Wilmot

Sunday, January 1st:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Consistory
Norman & Karen Raeder, Paul Clarke

