

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

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December

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: Cheryl Rortvedt

*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: churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org - 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 2017
Volume 67 No. 11

FIRST NOTES

Two weeks into my return from sabbatical leave, I believe I'm caught up on all of the loose ends! I am pleased to report that I was able to finish what I set out to do at the beginning of October: put 16 songs to the Jonah musical into a final draft form. Dialogue still needs to be finished and there's another song that I discovered needs to be written to fill in a gap, but the project has definitely moved forward. I appreciate your thought and prayers during the time I was away. It was a busy, productive time.

As we look forward, we will be entering the busy days of Advent and Christmastide. We will get as late of a start on Advent as is possible to get this year: December 3rd. However, that distinction doesn't mean much. The secular world has been ramping up Christmas ever since Halloween was finished. The hype and the noise will be at fever pitch by the time you receive your newsletter.

I personally find noise and the hype – as well as the hectic pacing of the days – to be something that I tolerate less and less well as time goes on. And as time goes on I have started to dream a dream for a different kind of December. Perhaps it's unrealistic, but I dream of a December that isn't so much a time to prepare for Christmas celebrations but is a time to prepare for the coming of God's Reign into my life and into the world. I dream of a December where the pace is slow enough to allow for moments of reflection, moments for the expression of genuine friendship and hospitality, and moments of genuine joy. I dream of a December that is marked by simplicity instead of complexity. I dream of a December where acts of mercy, kindness, and justice are common and not rare in this world.

What kind of December do you dream of? Is it a time where the things of God's Reign take priority or is it a time when those things take a backseat? May this December be a time for all of us to pursue those dreams which draws us closer to God's plan for us and this world.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Jim Hoppert



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/2	Julaine Thiel
12/4	Scott Bunyea
12/5	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	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
12/21	Kimberly Laack
12/22	Zoey Meinnert Virginia Radloff
12/23	Gary Ferguson
12/24	Gail Matzdorf
12/25	Carol Stib
12/27	Harmon Gundersen
12/29	Arlene Heckmann
12/30	Trenton Krueger

DECEMBER 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
12/31	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.



LITTLE LAMBS CHILD CARE

Sunday, December 3rd:
Faye Hughes & Cora Meyer

Sunday, December 10th:
Jill & Megan Thiel



Salem UCC will be hosting a living nativity on Friday, December 8th and Saturday, December 9th from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. A living nativity is a reenactment of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. There will be a program of scripture and music, which will accompany live animals, and the costumed characters of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, Herod, wise men and angels. Refreshments will be served in the Gathering Area. In the spirit of Christmas, please bring a food item which will be donated to the Plymouth Food Pantry.

DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm: Psalm 126

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 24, 2017

The Nativity of Our Lord -

Christmas Eve

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: Psalm 96

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Monday, December 25, 2017

The Nativity of Our Lord -

Christmas Day

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm: Psalm 98

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-4

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 31, 2017

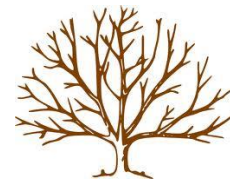
First Sunday after Christmas

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm: Psalm 148

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40



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 four Sundays of Advent.

1st Sunday of Advent, December 3rd:

Paper Products

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 10th:

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

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17th:

Non-perishable food items

4th Sunday of Advent, December 24th:

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. until December 10th. Watch for the mitten tree it will be located in the Gathering Area.

ADOPT A FAMILY

We will be collecting gifts for those in the community who need a little help this year with the Adopt a Family giving tree. Pick an ornament off the tree and write your name on the sheet provided next to the corresponding number on the back of the ornament. Bring your wrapped gift (with gift tag attached) to church by December 4th.

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 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 this year's Christmas Fund Offering.

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 Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to lower-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.



A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at 9:45 to discuss proposed changes to the By-Laws.

*Thank
You*

We want to thank you for the meal that was delivered to our home. It tasted very good. We also thank you for your thoughts and prayers for Ross during his hospital stay.

Ross & Margaret Bub



Thank you for the awesome meal you provided following my mother's funeral. That was very thoughtful and we really appreciated it.

Amy Debbink, Kelly Bertram,
Jeff Ahrens and Tim Ahrens



Thank you to Kris Meilahn, and her son Peter, for the donation of paper and envelopes. We will put them to good use!



Thank you to the Salem Care Meals Ministry. Once again you outdid yourselves with the fine meal you provided for Barb and her care partner [Art]. It was delicious and served us for more than one sitting. Your ministry is greatly appreciated.

Art and Barb Pahr

PRAYING HANDS MINISTRY

The Praying Hands Ministry will not meet in December, due to family commitments. Please watch the newsletter and bulletin for dates it will be held in 2018.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE . . .

HERNIA OPERATIONS

A hernia, also called a rupture, is a bulge of the lining of the abdominal cavity through a weak spot in the muscles. These muscles, together with the skin, form a casing for the abdomen. The lining membrane is thin and stretchable just like a membrane you have seen in a fish or chicken cavity. A gap develops in the muscle casing, the muscle fibers separate, and any increase of abdominal pressure brought on by coughing, lifting, or straining will push the lining membrane through the gap, separating the muscles still further. Remember the old tires that developed a "balloon" on the side? Air pressure inside found a weak spot in the casing and pushed the inner tube through it.

There are several weak areas in the abdominal muscles, the groin being the weakest in both men and women. In men, the cord which carries the pipeline from the testicle up into the abdominal cavity occupies a passageway, called the "canal", between the several layers of the abdominal muscles in the groin. In women, the suspending ligament of the womb runs out of the abdominal cavity and through a similar canal, to its attachment at the front of the pelvic bone. These natural passageways through the muscles are weak spots. Another passage subject to hernia is below the groin where the large blood vessels to the thigh leave the abdominal cavity. Muscles may become weak around the incisions of previous operations. The navel is another weak spot.

Once the lining membrane has popped out through the muscles, it will remain stretched and will protrude as a bag or pouch. This is called the *hernia sac*. Whenever the hernia patient stands, the intestine slips out of the abdomen into the sac and the bulge is visible. When the patient reclines, the intestine will fall back into the abdominal cavity and the bulge will disappear; the sac collapses. Thus a hernia bulges when the patient stands and collapses when he reclines.

As long as the bulge disappears with reclining, the hernia is said to be *reducible*. Here the

intestine slips readily in and out of the sac. If the hernia does not disappear when the patient lies down, it is called *incarcerated*. It is caught. The intestine, slipping into the sac, may twist, and if it does it will swell to such an extent that it cannot slip back even in the reclining position.

The real danger of a hernia is *strangulation*. When the intestine is trapped in the pouch, it will swell so tightly that its blood vessels become choked and blood cannot flow through them. The intestine becomes gangrenous, dead. The hernia is then painful and swollen. Strangulation is a real emergency, always requiring immediate operation for removal of the gangrenous intestine.

Hernia Repair - When a hernia is repaired by operation, the sac is removed completely and the stretch in the lining membrane is pulled together by stitching. The muscle and fibrous layers are rearranged by overlapping and then drawn up snugly around the cord. A new canal is formed for the cord and the back wall of the canal, which was previously weak, is now reinforced. When the muscles are of poor quality and are thin and frayed, a screen or mesh of fine, non-irritating wire or plastic is sewn in as an extra supporting layer. The screen is very flexible and cannot be noticed by the patient no matter what movement he makes.

After a healing period of six weeks the newly reconstructed groin is of normal strength. There is no further need to curtail activities or lifting.

You should not expect to get another hernia. The fact that you had a hernia does not indicate that there is anything wrong with your muscles in general, to make you subject to more hernias. It is natural in many people to feel that because they have once had a hernia operation they must curtail their activities. There is no reason for cutting down your normal activities or for worry about another rupture. The possibility of a new hernia breaking out in the same place usually is very slight.

HIATAL HERNIA

Your chest is separated from your abdomen by a domed sheet of muscle called the diaphragm. To

reach your stomach, your esophagus has to pass through an opening (the hiatus) in the diaphragm.

When the tissue around the hiatus weakens, part of the stomach may protrude through the opening into the chest cavity. This is termed hiatal hernia. Hiatal hernia is believed to be caused by a weakening of the anchoring tissues of the gastroesophageal junction to the diaphragm, perhaps due to increased pressure within the abdomen such as sometimes results from obesity or, rarely, trauma.

Hiatal hernias are common. About 25 percent of all persons older than 50 have a hiatal hernia. Because the majority of such hernias produce no symptoms, they usually go undetected. They are frequently found in patients with heartburn who undergo barium X-ray studies, and are than an incidental finding. It is likely that a small hiatal hernia will cause you any problems and, by itself, is not a dangerous ailment.

However, hiatal hernias are found more commonly in persons with heartburn than individuals who do not have this symptom. Malfunction of the lower esophageal sphincter is the most important factor in allowing heartburn to occur, but the presence of a hiatal hernia is a contributing factor also.

Large hernias (a substantial part of the stomach is above the diaphragm) can cause slow bleeding and iron-deficiency anemia.

One potential danger of a very large hernia, when almost all of the stomach protrudes through the diaphragm into the chest cavity, is strangulation. The herniated stomach can become so tightly constricted that its blood supply is severely compromised. If this occurs, you will feel persistent chest pain and have difficulty swallowing. This is a medical emergency and may require prompt surgery. Strangulation of the stomach in large hernias is uncommon, but surgical repair may be advisable to avoid emergency operations in more risky circumstances.

ZOAR -SALEM CEMETERY NEWS

The cemetery board spent much of the last year updating and organizing the operation of the cemetery since the church assumed full ownership in the summer of 2016. We reviewed and updated the cemetery pricing and rules, completed the surveying of new lots and correcting a boundary error, replaced the culvert for the Gerber Lake Road entrance and started a perpetual care account using the remaining certificate of deposit from the previous cemetery association.

Al Babler has done a wonderful job as caretaker and we have received many compliments on the appearance of the cemetery. In addition to general mowing and trimming, he has removed brush and weeds, added stone to prevent erosion at the culvert openings, cleared downed branches and filled gravel needed in several areas of the drive. He has enlisted volunteer help from the Boy Scouts on several projects because of his connection with their organization. We hope to organize a work day next year to straighten some of the leaning monuments in the cemetery.

We are thankful to have received grants from the Endowment Fund which helped to defray expenses for the completion of the land surveying, replacement of the culvert, general maintenance and provided an additional contribution to the perpetual care fund.

We will be looking for a new board member to be elected at the annual congregational meeting, January 28, 2018. The current board of directors consists of Terry Risse (chair), Lynn York (secretary) and Roger Rortvedt (director). Lynn's term is ending this year. Board positions are decided by the directors at the first meeting of the year. Any lot owner or member of Salem's congregation is eligible to serve on the board. *If anyone would like to serve as a board member, please contact the church office or Terry Risse by December 31.*

Terry Risse

DECEMBER USHER LIST

Saturday, December 2nd:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Linda Krueger, Bob Becher, Roger Rortvedt

Sunday, December 3rd:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Bret Schoenefeld
Marvin & Judy Paulson, Bette Humbracht

Saturday, December 9th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Mary Bender, Gerry & Reta Klemme

Sunday, December 10th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Linda Bosman
Ansel Tupper, Janice Bunyea, Steve Fieck

Saturday, December 16th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Mary Mullen
Ed & Darla Ardell, Shelley Bubb

Sunday, December 17th:

9:00 a.m. Head Usher: David Hengst
Confirmands

Saturday, December 23rd:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Ray & Robbie Gremminger, Sharon Klemme

Sunday, December 24th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Cyndi Huibregtse
Dale & Janis Knuth, Evie Kretsch
4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Tom Daigle
Norman & Karen Raeder, Cindy Conrad
10:00 p.m. Head Usher: Consistory
Meyer Family

Monday, December 25th:

10:00 a.m. Head Usher: Terry Risse
Rachel Risse, Judy Wilmot, Annette Bunyea

Saturday, December 30th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Julie Sukowaty
Linda Krueger, Bob Becher, Lori Holzer

Sunday, December 31st:

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

Saturday, January 6th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Consistory
Kevin & Debbie Lisowe, Richard Groene

Sunday, January 7th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Consistory
Marvin & Judy Paulson, Betty Klemme



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 2nd & Sunday, December 3rd:
Christmas Cookie Bake Sale

Friday, December 8th & Saturday, December 9th:
6:30-8:30 p.m. - Living Nativity

Sunday, December 10th:
4:00-6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 17th:
9:00 a.m. All Church Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 20th:
5:30 p.m. Sticky Faith

Sunday, December 24th:
8:30 a.m. Praise Worship
4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

Monday, December 25th:
10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

KEEP THESE FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZED

Aurora, Sheboygan

Barb Pahr, Pat Schoening

WEDDING

11/11/17 Adam Zorn* & Lindsey Mauk

*denotes non-member