

Chapel Chimes

"SHARING FAITH, LIFTING UP, REACHING OUT AND GROWING TOGETHER."

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, PLYMOUTH, WISCONSIN



First Notes

by Rev. Jim Hoppert

When I think back to my childhood memories of Christmas, the songs of the season are some of the more lasting impressions that I have. Some songs—whether sacred or secular—I learned early; others I learned later. The song, “O Holy Night” was not a song I learned early. If the truth be told, it isn't one of my favorite Christmas songs, either. However, it does contain a lyric that I have thought about often, especially in these days: “...Long lay the world in sin and error pining.” The lyric describes the world that Jesus was born into, and it sadly describes much of the world that we live in today. At this writing, we have wars between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hamas that have the potential to become multi-national conflicts. There are deep lines of division along political factions in our country. Societal dysfunction is widespread.

What Christians sometimes lose sight of in this season is that the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas came into this world to bring us the good news of God's inbreaking kingdom. This kingdom, unlike any other earthly dominion, would usher in God's forgiveness, God's righteousness, and God's justice. While Jesus announced the coming of this kingdom, it has not fully come to completion. As the world lays in “sin and error pining,” we wait for that coming day.

The season of Advent is that time when we wait for that completion of God's intentions for this world. It is a time that calls us to repent and turn back to God; it is a time that calls us to be watching and anticipating. This divine governance can only come to completion through God's intervention, but we can prepare our hearts and minds for its coming.

During the four Sundays of Advent this year we will focus on a one-word theme for each Sunday: wait, repent, prepare, welcome. Our goal is to become ready to receive God's kingdom in our midst.

Of course, after Advent we move in the celebration of Jesus' birth and the twelve-day season of Christmas.

This configuration of dates that we have in 2023 gives us our latest start to Advent (December 3rd) and the shortest turnout from the Fourth Sunday of Advent to Christmas Eve: five and-a-half hours from the end of the last Advent service to the start of the first Christmas service. Even though the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24th, the 10:00 a.m. service is not a Christmas service (despite the fact that the pointsettias will be in the chancel); that won't happen until 4:30 p.m.

I hope that the upcoming Advent season will be a time of fruitful preparation and that the Christmas season will be a season of great joy for you and those you love.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert



**The Church School
children will be having
their program on
Wednesday, December 13
at 6:30 p.m.**

You are cordially invited!



SCHEDULING NOTE FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

For church school families, a reminder that there will be a Christmas break on December 24 and December 31. Classes will resume January 7.

There will be no confirmation classes on December 27. Classes will resume on January 3 (Year 3 students will have a mentor meal that evening.)

December Lectionary

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

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

Psalms 126

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Gospel: Luke 1:46b-55

Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Day, December 25

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalms 97

Epistle: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday after Christmas

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalms 148

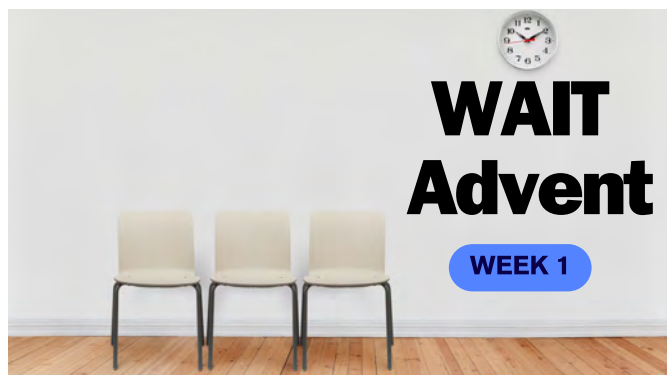
Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

JOIN
US

Advent

WEEKLY
TOPICS





COPIES AVAILABLE OF BOOK FOR ADVENT STUDY

Stop in or contact the church office if you would like a copy of the book for our Advent study. We will begin on November 29 at 10 a.m. in the Library - come for one or come for all. The Advent Study will provide fuel for your Christmas spirit - a much needed commodity!

James Harnish's book "When God Comes Down" is provided free to you through memorial gifts.

Come. Be Refreshed. All are welcome.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24 10 a.m. 4th Sunday of Advent "Welcome"
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 4:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. (Holy Communion served)
Monday, December 25 10 a.m. Christ the Savior is Born!

*Sending a warm hug to
these members -- and
anyone else who needs one*

Dolores Bohrmueller
Rollie Bruggink
Andrea Kapellen
Georgine Littlefield
Carole Hummell
Lynn & Ed York

Marian Lisowe
Eugene Boll
Mariann Picard
Tim Miller
Ed Ardell
Marilyn Rooker



ANNUAL REPORTS REQUESTED BY JANUARY 5

Reports from various organizations of the church are requested to be in the Church Office by Friday, January 5 to allow time to organize and distribute annual report books in advance of the annual congregational meeting. The annual meeting date will be announced soon.

Angel Tree Fulfills Wishes!



Salem is again supporting our community by purchasing Christmas gifts for the Angel Tree. Several tags remain and you are encouraged to take a look and select one that speaks to you. The tags for specific items needed by local families will ensure there are gifts under their tree this Christmas. Please don't wrap the gift but do return it under the tree with the tag by December 7.



Poinsettia plants will grace the chancel this Christmastime and we thank all those who contributed to what will surely be a beautiful display for the Christmas services.

Thank You!

SCRIP NEWS

Christmas is coming soon and we have **LOTS** of new cards for our program.

- Biggby Coffee (\$25)
- McDonald's (\$10 & \$25)
- BP Gas (\$50)
- Olive Garden (\$10) (we already have \$25 cards)
- Chewy (\$25)
- PetSmart (\$25)
- Starbucks (\$10 & \$25)

Also new to the program are Books & More (\$25) in downtown Plymouth.

Your support of this program helps your church!

The Food Pantry item being collected during December is:



pancake mix
and/or
pancake syrup!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

4 Scott Bunyea	14 Cora Meyer	20 Marilyn Rooker
9 Charles Machut	14 Jerome Miller	21 Kimberly Laack
10 Jeremy Pratt	14 Eric Raeder	22 Zoey Meinnert
11 Annette Bunyea	15 Maureen Greuel	24 Gail Matzdorf
11 Ramsey Fontany	16 Delaney Fischer	27 Harmon Gundersen
13 William Laack	19 Norman Raeder	30 Trenton Krueger

Blessings to you as you look back on a year filled with warm memories, and make room for more in the year to come. Happy Birthday!

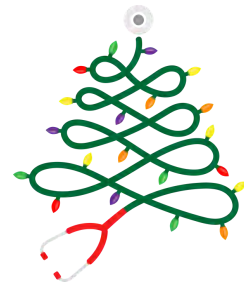


2nd Ed & Darla Ardell
3rd Clint & Erica Irrthum
18th Dale & Susie Katsma
20th Robert & Kay Scheible
31st Roger. & Gloria Eldredge

Blessings go out to you on your special day. May you enjoy the day to reflect and renew your love.

WE HAVE A NEW CHURCH NURSE!

You may have noticed some changes from what was the AV room and the former nurses "office" and if not, poke your head in and see. More news to come from Cassie Clarke.



Yes, YOU! The good people of Salem can be relied upon to rally in support of needs as they arise. Yes, we can each do better but sometimes you just need to know that YOU are an asset to this church. If we need money - you give it. If you see something needs doing - you do it. Your quiet ways and selfless giving is among the many reasons why I enjoy my work at Salem. You inspire me to be better and do better. Bless your heart. *Sandy* *thank you*



NEW GROUP INVITES YOUR PARTICIPATION

It isn't new that Salem Cares but the name of a recently formed group is!

This new group of members and friends meets monthly and intends to generate support around events and activities to show our love and concern for those of our congregation and those beyond our doors. The first activity of the group is the "Kids Night Out" on December 8. This event will provide a few hours for parents of youngsters time for ...whatever they desire!

We've started talking about rejuvenating other activities Salem has sponsored in the past, along with some new service projects we would like to undertake. We invite your ideas and especially your participation in the group.

Salem Cares will host coffee hour prior to worship on December 3, and members will be able to tell you more about our plans during that time. You may also contact Kay Scheible or Linda Bosman with your questions or ideas.

NIGHT TO SHINE 2024



Theme: "Love Grows Here"

Let's show our love as we transform Salem with an elegant Valentine's theme for our February 9, 2024 event. Join Sheboygan County Night to Shine by serving as a volunteer, inviting guests to be honored kings or queens, or providing financial or other support.

I am excited to share a little bit about Sheboygan County Night to Shine your opportunity for become involvement in this wonderful event providing a memorable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older.

Volunteers like you make this happen. In Plymouth, Salem UCC will be partnering with Christian Life Church in hosting Night to Shine 2024 on Friday, February 9. St. Paul Lutheran Church will be hosting an event at the same time, in Sheboygan Falls. Working together - our churches form Sheboygan County Night to Shine.

Guests of Night to Shine receive the royal treatment, including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining stations, limousine rides, corsages and boutonnieres. They walk a red carpet; and every one of the Night to Shine guests is crowned a king or queen of the prom, complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi! Honored guests enjoy prom favors and, of course, dancing. Photographs, refreshments and a Respite Room for parents and caretakers are also part of the evening.

Volunteers serve in many different way: Activity Stations, Decorating, Flowers, Food Service, Guest Buddy, Guest and Volunteer Check-In, Paparazzi, Parking & Transportation, Red Carpet Respite Room, Sensory Room, Here to Cheer, Set-Up, Tear Down, and more. Opportunities to provide monetary and other donations are also possible.

There are ways that each of us can play a part. Some things need to happen before the event, some during and others after. I know many at Salem have been part of Night to Shine in years past, just as I have.

I encourage those who have participated to share your stories. If anyone would like to hear some of my stories and/or learn more about this spectacular event, please let me know. I hope you will consider how you can contribute to making February 9th an evening to remember!

Blessings, Mary Bender



Pictured above: Salem UCC sanctuary decorated for Night to Shine 2023.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Newsletter Available 9am Church School 9:15am Coffee Hour (hosts: Salem Cares) 10am Worship 7pm AA	4 9am Men's Coffee	5 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10:00am Staff Meeting 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	6 10am Advent Study 2pm Salem Green Holy Communion 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir	7 <i>Council Items Due</i>	8 5-8pm Kids Night Out	9 (Fellowship Hall in use)
10 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9am Church School 10am Worship 3:30pm Sing Joy Unity Con- cert at St. Peters UCC Kiel 7pm AA	11 9am Men's Coffee 9am Women's Coffee	12 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 7pm Council Mtg. 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	13 10am Advent Study 6:30pm Church School Program	14	15	16
17 9am Church School 10am Worship 7pm AA	18 9am Men's Coffee	19 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Salem Gr. Board Meeting 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	20 10am Advent Study 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir	21 <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	22	23
24 <i>Christmas Eve Day</i> No Church School 10am Worship Evening Worship: 4:30pm and 10:30pm with Holy Communion	25 <i>Christmas</i> 10am Christmas Day Service of Carols & Readings	26 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	27 No Confirmation No Chancel Choir	28	29 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Assembly</i>	30
31 <i>New Years Eve</i> No Church School 10am Worship 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	<h1>DECEMBER 2023</h1>					

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PASTOR: Rev. James M. Hoppert
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Anne Hernandez / CHOIR DIRECTOR: Eileen Brooks
CONSISTORY PRESIDENT: Paul Clarke
TREASURER: Joshua Bender
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Mary Mullen
CUSTODIAN: Shannon Mendenhall
CHURCH SECRETARY: Linda Bosman/Sandy Rabe
ORGANIST: Scott Weir

*CHAPEL CHIMES IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN THE
INTEREST OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF SALEM UCC*

OFFICE HOURS: OPEN TUES 9-4; WED 9-4; FRI 9-1 CLOSED MON & THURS
Phone: (920) 892-7456 OR Email: churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org.
Website: www.salemuccplywi.org.

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