

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Sunday Services:**

9:30a.m.

**Sunday School:**

10:45am for children  
and adults

Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod  
*“A Stephen Ministry Congregation”*

**Rev. John L. Pingel, M. Div., M.A., Pastor**

Vicar Domenick Lettieri

Ernelle Ponivas, Secretary

Lois Jones, Director of Music

Stephen Jarmusz Sr., Custodian

The Rev. Richard E. Blemaster, Pastor Emeritus

**Phone:**

Office: 716 824 2787

[Salemoncircle@yahoo.com](mailto:Salemoncircle@yahoo.com)

[www.salembuffalo.com](http://www.salembuffalo.com)

**Office Hours:**

M-TH 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Friday - closed

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 23, 2011

### AS WE GATHER

**In today's Gospel, fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah that light would shine on those living in darkness, Jesus calls His first four disciples up north in Galilee. The close-knit group would grow to become the Church, but one seemingly fractured by party spirit. In the Epistle, Paul points us back to the cross of Christ, in whom is all our hope and unity.**

**THE PRELUDE** – “He Touched Me” - Gaither

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The light of the Gospel has shined on our hearts, but we have too often focused on our own hopes and fears, our interests and preferences. We need God's forgiveness for our failings and His strength to find anew the unity we have in the cross of Christ.

### CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have shined the light of the Gospel in our hearts.

**People: But we confess that we have not always rejoiced in it, at times preferring the darkness of our self-centered ways. Forgive us.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we give thanks that You have called us to work in Your kingdom.

**People: But we confess that we have not always sought to catch others in Your gracious nets, preferring to know only that we have been saved. Forgive us.**

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, we give thanks that You have united us through Holy Baptism into the one Body of Christ.

**People: But we confess that we have thought, spoken, and acted as if only those who totally agree with us are in the true Church. Forgive us.**

Pastor: There is only one God, one Lord and Savior, one cross of Christ. Although at times we might appear divided outwardly, in His great mercy, God unites us in the body of Christ and forgives us all our sins for His sake. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**THE HYMN: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" LW #88**

### ***THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS***

Pastor: Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**People: Lord God heavenly King, Almighty God and Father; we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities

**People: and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 9:1-4 (*The people in darkness have seen a great light.*)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM            Psalm 27:1-14

**ALL: The Lord's my light, my salvation; who is it I should fear?  
The Lord's the stronghold of my life;  
of whom need I be afraid, of whom need I be afraid?**

Pastor: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,

**People: my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

Pastor: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

**People: though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

Pastor: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

**People: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,**

Pastor: to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD

**People: and to inquire in His temple.**

Pastor: For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;

**People: He will conceal me under the cover of His tent;**

**He will lift me high upon a rock.**

Pastor: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,

**People: and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

**I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Pastor: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;

**People: be gracious to me and answer me!**

Pastor: You have said, "Seek My face."

**People: My heart says to You, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."**

Pastor: Hide not Your face from me.

**People: Turn not Your servant away in anger,**

Pastor: O You who have been my help.

**People: Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!**

Pastor: For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

**People: but the LORD will take me in.**

Pastor: Teach me Your way, O LORD,

**People: and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.**

Pastor: Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

**People: for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they breathe out violence.**

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

**People: Wait for the LORD;**

**be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

**EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Brothers, agree with one another!)**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE ALLELUIA VERSE**

**People: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 4:12-25 (*Jesus calls His first disciples in Galilee.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**THE HYMN** "May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill" LW #389

### **THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **THE RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY MUSIC** – "I Will Share God's Love" – Besig/Price

1. God surrounds me with beauty and love, bringing joy to each day.  
With these gifts from heaven above, I have found my way.
2. God restores me with healing and faith, giving peace to my soul.  
Through the gift of unfailing grace, God has made me whole.

REFRAIN: I will share God's love with a song in my heart;  
I will walk in the light of the Lord.  
And my voice will ring with the praise I sing  
As I share God's love with the world.

3. God sustains me through sorrow and strife, calming all of my fears.  
Ev'ry day I celebrate life. God is always near.
4. God renews me with courage and hope, hearing all of my prayers.  
Ev'ry day, wherever I go, I am safe in God's care.

REFRAIN.

**People: Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest of the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH [1 Timothy 2:1-4]**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Holy Spirit, increase and expand the Church into the farthest corners of the earth, that many may hear the Gospel, come to faith, and rejoice-more than at the harvest, more than after the victory (*Isaiah 9:3*). Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Lord Jesus, protect and defend all who find themselves unjustly assailed and pursued, denied human dignity and freedom, or oppressed for their faith. Grant them strength of faith to see You as their light and salvation (*Psalms 27:1*), so that they fear no one. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Heavenly Father, accompany all those who live in loneliness and isolation, those who have been forsaken by friends or family (*Psalms 27:10*), community, or even the Church. Surround them with caring people and loving friends to make firm Your great compassion. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: O Holy Spirit, renew in us a recognition of the unity we have in our one Savior

(*1 Corinthians 1:10*). When we have disagreements, point us to the one cross; when we fail to listen to the faith You have placed within one another, open our hearts to hear again the one Gospel; and grant us all to remember our baptism into the one Body of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Lord Jesus, as You called Your first disciples to follow (*Matthew 4:19*), so You have called us into discipleship. Open our eyes to see the opportunities You place before us to announce Your kingdom and forgiveness. Enable us to serve in Your name; and now, hear us as we call out to You on behalf of those in need of Your touch. [Specific concerns may be

included here.] Visit, relieve, and restore them-and use us when possible to be part of the answer to their prayers. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God over all, raise up, we pray, leaders in each nation who will order society in justice and compassion. Grant them wisdom to find the ways that lead to peace within their borders and with their neighbors. And move us to be active citizens in our nation and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN "Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" LW #218**

**THE POSTLUDE – "We Are One"**

## **WELCOME**

**All who enter here are welcome! It is the house of the Lord; come with a spirit of reverence; worship with a spirit of humility; and do not leave without a prayer to the Lord Jesus Christ for yourself, for those who worship here, and for him who ministers.**

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD** by Lois Doll in memory of father, Robert Doll.

**BIRTHDAYS - Allen Feltz's 80<sup>th</sup> today.**

**PASTOR'S CLASS – "See Through The Scriptures" started this past Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 7 p.m. It will run approximately eight weeks. There is still room for you!**

Today we welcome new members –

-- Sam Zawada (husband of Marjorie, and father of Thomas), 3115 Angle Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127 – Phone:997-6791

-- Bob and Shirley Hagner (brother of Lois Mudie) 11 Gilmore Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14225 – Phone: 844-8676

-- Robert Jr. and Julie Schmidt and children Robbie Jr. and Aubrey Schmidt, Jeremy and Lindsey Calzone (family of Rich and Shirley Landseadel), 1401 Billington Rd., East Aurora, NY 14052 – Phone: 652-2563

**VOTERS MEETING, next Sunday, January 30, 2011 after worship service in the social hall**

**– AGENDA includes: -- Annual Reports**

**-- Review of Committee Members**

**-- Viewing of permanent sign options**

**-- Maintenance updates including: - Painting of the church;**

**- Congregational “Cleaning Day”; - Remodeling of Pastor’s office**

SICK - Sharon Miller; Leola Colvin; Allen Feltz; Carolyn Callea; Fran Wiedemann; Lynda Yung; Mark Beyers; Delores Landwehr; Jean Poniwias; Hazel Murphy; Eleanor Senchoway; Betty Radke; Pastor Sprehe; Carl R. Radtke; Cheryl Bak; Russ Alessi Jr.; Shirley Wilke; Carol Engelbert; Eunice Foote; Grace Belter (Autumn View HCC – Room 203, 4650 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075); Augusta Schultz; Marie Radtke; Arlene Ball; David Poniwias; Robert Yerbury; Russ Alessi Jr. (Roswell); Phyllis Volkert; Kristopher Mulvaney; all shut-ins.

SALEM/ST.JOHN BASKETBALL – The next game is : Saturday, January 29, 2011 – played at the HUB – A Team – 3:00 p.m. vs. Hamburg Wesleyan A1; B Team – Bye Week. Any questions, see Jim Carr.

*When a member of the family is in the hospital, or in need of pastoral counsel or care, PLEASE phone Ernelle at the Salem church office, 824-2787, or contact Pastor Pingel at 825-3253 (parsonage) or 1-724-494-9492 (cell), or Vicar Domenick Lettieri at 525-1044 (home) or 392-1148 (cell). Thank you! Family members are asked to please inform the church office and/or pastor when a member of Salem is released from the hospital and goes to a rehab center. Thank you!*

OFFERING UPDATE - Weekly offerings for January 16, 2011 – \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; Attendance: 96; Weekly offerings needed to meet our *Current Fund ministry program* are \$\_\_\_\_\_.

LABELS for Education – Please include the entire perforated lined section including the UPC symbol. All Labels for Education and Boxtops for Education may now be given to Claire Carlson or leave in the designated container in the upper parish hall. Thank you.



**SERVING THE LORD**

Officiant: The Rev. John L. Pingel  
Assisting Minister: Vicar Domenick Lettieri  
Prayer Leader: Pastor Pingel

Organist/Pianist: Lois L. Jones

Lector: Paul Thomas Jr.

Welcomers: Fred Bartz Jr. and Joanne Kushka

Acolytes: Erin Webster and Brittany Houck  
Crucifer: Jennie Swierczynski

Ushers: Paul Yox, Judy Hoffmann, Matthew Hoffmann, Ashley Hoffmann, Ryan Carr, Erik Radtke

Altar Committee: Claire Carlson and  
Lois Mudie

**WEEK AT A GLANCE:**

**Today:** 9:30 a.m. Worship . . . 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Classes . . . deadline extended for February DOVE.

**Monday:** 12:00 – Salem Piecemakers; 3:30 – ChristCare “Single Serving” – led by Joyce Vassallo and Ernelle Ponivas; 6:00 – Confirmation Class; 5:15 – ChristCare Dance Lessons, led by Darlene LaPenna; 7:00 – Publicity Committee

**Tuesday:** 1:00 – Bible Study, led by Sally McAlpine; 6:30 – Girl Scouts; 7:00 – “See Through the Scriptures” led by Pastor Pingel

**Wednesday:** 6:00 – Worship Committee; 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday:** 9:30 – ChristCare Bible Study, led by Ruth Carr; 6:30 p.m. – Stephen Ministry

**Friday:** 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class to Ellicottville for Retreat. (Return Saturday afternoon).

**Saturday:** 9:30 a.m. – LWML Breakfast and meeting at Salem; 11:30 – 1:30 – A.A. Group

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 9:30 – Worship . . . .  
VOTERS MEETING after worship . . . .  
10:45 a.m. – Sunday School and No Bible Classes