

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

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Office Hours:
M-TH 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Friday - closed

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 30, 2011

AS WE GATHER

Today we celebrate Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry is a ministry of caring for those in crisis. Stephen Ministers are caring Christians who are trained to come alongside the suffering person so that they need not walk alone. May God bless those who engage in this ministry with joy in service to the Lord and as occasion requires, may we be gracious receivers of this ministry undertaken in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRELUDE – All Glory Be to God on High” – J. S. Bach

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/EXCHANGE OF PEACE

INVOCATION and PSALM *Psalms 15*

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: O LORD, who shall sojourn in Your tent? Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?

People: He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;

Pastor: who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD;

who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

People: who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The prophet Micah asks: With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? *Micah 6:6-7, adapted*

People: We bear the same burden of our transgressions; but we also know that there is nothing we can offer God that would pay the price for our sins.

Pastor: So we confess our sins to God in repentant faith, trusting only in His mercy for the sake of Jesus.

(Silence for reflection)

Pastor: Almighty God,

People: we confess before You that we are sinners, sinful by nature, sinful from birth. We fail to treat people justly; we fail to show mercy; we do not walk humbly in Your sight.

Micah 6:8, adapted

We do not live the blessed life You offer us, as we reject Your ways. Forgive us, we pray, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Pastor: God the Father loves us; His Son, Jesus, died for us; the Holy Spirit guides us to a God-pleasing life. For Jesus' sake, I announce to you the forgiveness of all your sins; live out your forgiveness in goodness and mercy. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul" LW #457

THE KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

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.

People: Almighty God, You have chosen the weak of this world to shame the strong, the foolish to shame the wise, and have called blessed that which the world despises. Grant that we who are weak may find strength and protection in You alone, that the temptations of this world may not take us from You, nor the dangers of this world keep us from standing. We pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Micah 6:1-8 (*To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.*)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (*The cross is folly to some, yet God's wisdom.*)

Reader: 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 Mark 1: 40-45 (*Jesus heals a leper*)

Pastor: The Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the fifth chapter.

People: Praise to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN "I The Lord of Sea and Sky" ("Here I Am, Lord") SH 11

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.

A WORD ABOUT STEPHEN MINISTRY/RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

--Rich Landseadel, Stephen Leader

OFFERING/OFFERTORY MUSIC

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.

PRAYERS *(based on the Beatitudes)*

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have chosen to bless us beyond all measure, though we are not worthy of Your grace. For this we give You our thanks and praise. May we live out Your blessing in every way, and may we become a blessing to others.

People: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You remove us from the desperate places that burden our hearts. Thank You, Lord, for blessing us with Your gracious rule.

People: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Pastor: Lord, when we suffer losses, Your presence brings us comfort. We realize that what seems so dear to us may not be as dear to You. Shore us up with Your blessings of comfort and peace.

People: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Pastor: Lord, when we are content with who we are and what we have, when we are modest and unassuming, meek and lowly---then Lord, You bless us, for we embrace who we really are: Your children, created by You and redeemed by You. Thank You, Lord, for blessing us with meekness.

People: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Pastor: Lord, when we find no satisfaction, no fullness, in the things of this world, You bless us with a hunger and thirst to be filled with You. For in You we find true fullness, of joy, of peace, of love, and of righteousness. Thank You, Lord, for blessing us with a hunger and thirst for You.

People: Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Pastor: Lord, You have blessed us with the desire and the ability to show mercy to others, for You have been merciful to us. In caring for others, we also are cared for and find mercy. Show Your mercy, Lord, especially to those we name in our hearts. Thank You, Lord, for blessing us with Your mercy, that we may be merciful to others.

People: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Pastor: Lord, You graciously cleanse us with Your forgiveness, refreshing us with pure hearts and minds. May we see You, Lord, more and more each day. Thank You, Lord, for blessing us with purity of heart and mind.

People: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Pastor: Lord, You have blessed us with peace that the world cannot give, so that peace may be magnified among us and our troubled world. As Your sons and daughters, make us instrument of Your peace.

People: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Pastor: Lord, Your divine blessings surpass the world's concept of blessedness. How can we be blessed when we are persecuted? Yet even when our deep love and commitment to You causes us to be hated and hurt by our world, we know that through it we are driven even deeper into Your kingdom, and our love for You grows, and our dependence on You increases. Thank You, Lord, for blessing us, even through persecution.

People: Blessed Lord, who blesses us in ways unsurpassed, we praise You. We rejoice and are glad in the blessing You give. We praise You in the name of Jesus. 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 "O God of Mercy, God of Light" LW #397

THE POSTLUDE – "The Heaven's Declare" - Wetzler

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

SICK - Sharon Miller; Leola Colvin; Allen Feltz ; Carolyn Callea; Fran Wiedemann; Lynda Yung; Mark Beyers; Delores Landwehr; Jean Poniwas; Hazel Murphy; Eleanor Senchoway; Betty Radke; Pastor Sprehe; Carl R. Radtke; Cheryl Bak; Russ Alessi Jr. (Roswell – Room 6716); 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 Poniwas; Robert Yerbury; Phyllis Volkert; Darlene LaPenna; Arlene Forbach. all shut-ins.

VOTERS MEETING, Today, 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**

SALEM/ST.JOHN BASKETBALL – The next game is : February 5, 2011 – played at the HUB – A Team – 2:00 p.m. vs. Youth Advantage; B team – 1:00 p.m. vs. Orchard Park Wesleyan B1

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 23, 2011 – \$_____;
Attendance: 90; 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.

Special Note for Worship or meeting cancellations – If the worship service or any other meetings or activities are cancelled due to inclement weather or other reasons, please contact Dave Bartholomew, Property Maintenance Chairman at 822-2909 or (cell) 913-1120 as soon as the cancellation decision is made. He will contact various media outlets so the notice of the cancellation is available on Channel 2 or 7 and on WBEN Radio 930 am. Thanks for your cooperation.

2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES – are in your mailslots – please take them and your other family members are found on the table. If you would like offering assigned envelopes, please contact the church office – 824-2787.

LWML QUARTERLY RENEWAL – “Please let me know by February 4th if you wish to renew your subscription or start a new one. The cost will be \$6.50 per subscription as long as we have 10 or more subscriptions.” – Gretchen Putzman

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK -

BIRTHDAYS - Today – Kevin Miller; Tuesday – Jonathan Karl; Wednesday – Russell Alessi, William Anderson Sr., Mrs. Linda Ciminelli;

Our apologies for omitting correct birthdays from last Sunday’s bulletin – Jan. 24 – Sean Pfeiffer; Jan. 26 – Charles Karneth; Jan. 27 – Robert Kingsland Jr.; Jan. 28 – Claudia Thompson; and January 29th – Vi Kelm.

PRAYER IS AVAILABLE AT THE ALTAR following the service for anyone desiring individual prayer. ChristCare Small Group Ministry Leaders will be in the vicinity to pray and bless.

Stressed? Discouraged? Lonely? Sad? Don’t Suffer Alone. Help Is Available - Sometimes we fall into a trap where we think it’s a sign of weakness to ask for help. So when we’re stressed, discouraged, lonely, or sad, we try to keep our struggles hidden and are reluctant to ask for help. However, that’s not God’s plan. Galatians 6:2 says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” God wants us to care for others – and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you’re sad or struggling inside, **don’t suffer alone**. Ask for help. We’ve got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to provide confidential one-to-one care, encouragement, and support to help you through a tough time. Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Richard Landseadel (882-9695) or Dayle Austin (822-5565). Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God’s love and care into your life.

From our Stephen Minister, Dayle Austin:

“Sometimes love comes knocking at the door;
Not to judge, but to just be there through the thin times;
Not to heal, but to allow God to heal;
Not to be the answer, but to be a conduit;
Not to have the words, when God fills the silent room;
Sometimes love comes through and from a Stephen aMinister.
Are you being called?”

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

SERVING THE LORD

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

Guest Organist/Pianist: Lois Renz

Lector: Claire Carlson

Welcomers: Ken Kushka and Rich Landseadel

Acolytes:
Crucifer:

Ushers: Ken Kushka, Sue Gifford, Barbara
Turner, Michael Turner, Tom LaPenna Sr.

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 . . . Annual
Voters Meeting after worship

Monday: 6:00 – Confirmation Class; 5:15 –
ChristCare Dance Lessons, led by Darlene
LaPenna

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

Wednesday: 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday: 9:30 – ChristCare Bible Study, led
by Ruth Carr; 12:00 – Golden Agers; 6:30
ChristCare Leadership, led by Jim Carr; 6:30 –
Board of Christian Education;

Friday:

Saturday: 8:30 – Men’s Breakfast; 11:30 –
1:30 – A.A. Group

NEXT SUNDAY: 9:30 – Worship
10:45 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Classes
. . . . Souper Bowl Door Offering for City
Mission