

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 L. 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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 2, 2011

AS WE GATHER

As our children do not remain so small for very long but grow up quickly, so our celebration of our Lord's nativity moves on quickly. On this ninth out of twelve days of Christmas, Luke has us fast-forward twelve years and Jesus is already well versed in the Scriptures. The main issue is His growth and increase not only physically but especially in the wisdom of God. As Solomon prayed for wisdom as God's greatest gift, today we are given a glimpse into God's wisdom. It is the greatest and highest wisdom that a person is not and cannot be saved by his own works or actions, but solely by faith in the gift of Jesus Christ. We become God's children, God's family by God's action of adopting us. For all who may doubt this wisdom or their salvation, here the Bible teaches that God has chosen you in Christ. It is totally God's action and gift, not ours. Therefore our salvation is completely in God's hands.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANOUNCEMENTS/EXCHANGE of PEACE

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love" LW #182

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

Pastor: He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world,

People: that we should be holy and blameless before Him. *Ephesians 1:3-4*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Dear friends, we gather here as our Christmas celebration continues. But we are aware how quickly time flies, and there is more to the story of the Gospel and so much more for us to learn. Let us begin by recalling that which makes any hope of salvation impossible: our sin and our inability to free ourselves from sin's grasp. Yet we are bidden to confess our sins to God in the confidence that He has first chosen and loved us, and gives us forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: "Because you have asked this, behold, I now do according to your word." *1 Kings 3:11-12, adapted*

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

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.

People: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same 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 1 Kings 3:4-15 (*Solomon asks not for riches but wisdom.*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Ephesians 1:3-14 (*God chose us in wisdom.*)

Pastor: 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.

GOSPEL Luke 2:40-52 (*Jesus grew in stature and wisdom.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the second 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 "Of The Father's Love Begotten" LW #36

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.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY MUSIC – Choir: “Christmas Isn’t Christmas” – Owens

1. Christmas isn’t Christmas till it happens in your heart;
Somewhere deep inside you is where Christmas really starts.
So give your heart to Jesus; you’ll discover when you do
That it’s Christmas, really Christmas for you.
2. Jesus brings warmth like a winter fire – a light like a candle’s glow.
He’s waiting now to come inside as He did so long ago.
Jesus brings gifts of truth and life, and makes them bloom and grow.
So welcome Him with a song of joy, and when He comes, you’ll know
That Christmas, really Christmas for you.

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 –

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

Pastor: Blessed are You, O God the Father, for You have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing. We praise You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You especially for the forgiveness of our sins, our redemption, and adoption into Your family through Christ our Lord. Grant to Your whole Church on earth Your light, Your wisdom, and strength to proclaim Your glory to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Bless all pastors and leaders in the Church with an abundance of Your wisdom and grace that in their life and conduct they may rightly proclaim Your Word and duly administer Your holy sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give to the leaders of all nations, the wisdom that comes from above that they may make wise decisions and provide for impartial justice and peace or all. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Look with favor upon the sick and hospitalized, those facing surgery or recuperating from illness (especially . . .). Assure them of Your mercy and give them patience and comfort, restoration of health, and grace to accept their troubles with courage and hope. Lord, in your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Send us Your Spirit that we may repent in our hearts and receive by faith the presence of Our Lord’s body and blood in the holy sacrament. May we receive the benefit of His holy death on the cross, the forgiveness of our sins, life, and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy;
through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

+ SACRAMENT +

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (sung by Pastor)

THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God you take away sin of the world; have mercy on us; Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: "I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes" LW # 56
(Communion Prayers – page 128) "His Name Is Wonderful" SH 13
"Emmanuel" SH 7

THANK THE LORD

Thank the Lord and sing his praise, tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

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 "Let Us All With Gladsome Voice" LW #42

THE POSTLUDE

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 Marilyn Krentz in loving memory of sister, Sally Krentz.

2011 Church Council – President: Paul Thomas Jr.; Vice-President: David Carlson; Deacon: Fred Bartz Jr.; Secretary: Claire Carlson; Treasurer: Nancy Thomas; Worship and Music: Sally McAlpine; Board of Christian Education: Norrine Nagel; Youth: Darlene LaPenna; Elder: Paul Swierczynski; Property Maintenance: David Bartholomew.

=== Mission: SALEM/Peace – As the Father sent me I send you. ===
Vision: Preach – Teach – Heal – doing what Jesus does.

BIRTHDAYS - Charles Pokrandt's 93rd today . . . Lois Yox's 86th this Wednesday.

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.; Shirley Wilke; Carol Engelbert; Eunice Foote; Grace Belter (Autumn View HCC – Room 404, 4650 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075); Augusta Schultz; Marie Radtke; Arlene Ball; David Poniwas; Robert Yerbury; all shut-ins.

SALEM/ST.JOHN BASKETBALL – The next game is : January 8, 2011 – A Team – 1:50 p.m. vs. Orchard Park Wesleyan; B Team – 12:00 p.m. vs. Youth Advantage. 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 December 26, 2010 – \$ _____; Attendance: 118; Weekly offerings needed to meet our *Current Fund ministry program* are \$ _____.

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.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK -

BIRTHDAYS – Today – Charles Pokrandt; Tuesday – Ryan Houck; Wednesday – Lois Yox; Thursday – Suzanne Baron, Jim Carr; Friday – Malachi Reese; Saturday – Ryan Shanahan.

ACTIVITY of the CHRISTCARE SMALL GROUP MINISTRY PRAY AND WORSHIP --- After the worship service today, the ChristCare Small Group Ministry Leaders will remain forward in the Chancel area for anyone desiring individual prayers at the altar.



When “Pull Yourself Together!” Doesn’t Work! You’ve heard it time and time again: “Pull yourself together . . . Cheer up . . . Touch it out . . . It’s not that bad.” Perhaps people have said it to you. Or perhaps you keep saying it to yourself. But it hasn’t helped. You are still hurting. Things are coming apart, not coming together. Here’s the good news: You don’t have to go through your struggles alone. Help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers who will walk with you, listen to you, and provide confidential one-to-one care as you search through the pieces and find what is truly in your heart. To learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself or someone you know, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: Rich Landseadel (882-9695) or Dayle Austin (822-5565). Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

COMMUNION STATEMENT - The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For henever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

I Corinthians 11:23-26. “One is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words, “Given and shed for you for the remission of sins.” But the one that does not believe these words, or doubts, is unworthy and unprepared; for the words ‘for you’ require all hearts to believe” – Luther’s Small Catechism

Communion cards – Please put communion cards in offering plate or give to an usher.

FROM THE BIBLE: “Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ ”

SERVING THE LORD

Celebrant: The Rev. John L. Pingel
Assisting Minister: Vicar Domenick Lettieri
Communion Assistants: Vicar Dom and David
Carlson

Prayer Leader: Pastor Pingel
Organist/Pianist: Lois L. Jones

Welcomers: Shirley Banas and Paul Yox

Ushers: Mel Beyers, Renee Richards, Dennis
Croston, Jim Carr, Mark Johnson

Altar Committee: Claire Carlson and
Lois Mudie

Acolytes and Crucifer: to be assigned

Lector: Seminarian Nycholas Greig

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Today: 9:30 a.m. Worship, with Holy
Communion . . . Installation of Church Council
Members . . . 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible
Classes

Monday: 6:00 – Confirmation Class;
6:30 – ChristCare Book Club, led by Sally
McAlpine at Norrine Nagel’s house; 5:15 –
ChristCare Dance Lessonns, led by Darlene
LaPenna;

Tuesday: 1:00 – Bible Study, led by Sally
McAlpine; 6:30 – Church Council meeting;
6:30 – 8:30 – Girl Scouts, led by Dawn Thomas;

Wednesday: 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

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

Friday:

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast;
11:30 – 1:30 – AA Group

NEXT SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. – Worship . . .
10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class . . .
Thrivent Pancake Brunch after worship . . .
deadline for Annual Reports – please turn into
church office.