

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

“A Stephen Ministry Congregation”

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

Vicar Domenick Lettieri

Ernelle Pontivas, Secretary

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The Rev. Richard E. Blemaster, Pastor Emeritus

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Office Hours:

M-Wed. 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Thurs. & Fri. - closed

Sunday Services:

9:30a.m.

Sunday School:

10:45am for children

and adults

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR CHRIST THE KING

November 21, 2010

AS WE GATHER

The last Sunday of the Church Year looks to the promise of eternal life, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. But while the fulfillment and reality of heaven are still in the future, the Word of God wants us to know and to take comfort in the fact that Jesus, our King, is already ruling and reigning the universe now. Though the darkness of sin and fear and death continues to lurk and to tempt, Jesus Christ continues to be the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. The last word is that we do not fear because God has rescued us and transferred us to the saving, loving, secure reign of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/EXCHANGE OF PEACE

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the Name of the Father (+), and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

Pastor: As we look forward to the final victory of faith, let us draw near to God, confessing our sins that we may remain as Christ's own beloved possession.

People: Merciful God, we confess that the darkness of sin still makes us fear Your judgment and punishment. Send us Your light, the forgiveness in Your Son, our Lord Jesus, that we may be raised to the confidence of His victory for us and for our salvation.

Pastor: "In Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." *Colossians 1:14, 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 PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Rejoice, The Lord is King" LW #179

THE ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM

THE HYMN OF PRAISE "Glory to God in the Highest"

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.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray....

People: Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ **WORD** +

OLD TESTAMENT Malachi 3:13-18 (*Invitation for a faltering faith.*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Colossians 1:13-20 (*The preeminence of Christ.*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE (*Please stand*)

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

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46 (Servants of Christ, the King)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th 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 "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful" LW #274

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.

PRAYERS

Pastor: O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we come before You with thanksgiving and praise for all Your mercies that You have shown us all our days, especially for Your constant supply of the forgiveness of our sins and of the light of faith You have caused to dwell in us. Shine Your saving light in our minds and hearts that we may live in confidence and joy as we look forward to the day when Christ will cast out all darkness and reign in glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Under the shadow of Your throne Your saints have dwelt secure. Protect and bless all You have sent to preach Your Word and to care for Your Church. May they rightly and duly proclaim the Gospel and administer Your sacraments to the blessing and sustenance of faithfulness. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame, You are the eternal God. Guide all rulers of every nation to act according to Your will providing freedom, safety, and justice to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give Your help and hope to all who suffer illness (*especially _____*), to the lonely, and to those who are afraid. Assure the dying of Your deliverance to paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Feed us, Lord, that through Your Son's body and blood we may take comfort in Your grace and dwell in confidence and joy. 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, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY MUSIC

+ 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 ...

... evermore praising You and singing:

People: 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

Our Father, who are 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD (sung by Pastor)

AGNUS DEI

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. Have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS – “Come, Holy Spirit” - SH 43
“Love Divine” - SH 101
“Emmanuel” - SH 7

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

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 with joy and sounds 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 "Crown Him With Many Crowns" LW #278 Stz.1, 2, 3, 4

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 Bob Wolf in memory of wife, Carol Wolf, whose birthday was November 20th . . . and the other sidepiece is given by Sharon Croston and Gloria Pfohl in celebration of their mutual birthday, November 16th.

BAPTISM - This morning **Arianna Ruthann Anticola** is received into the Christian Church by the washing of regeneration in Holy Baptism. We pray God’s blessings upon Arianna; her parents: James and Marlene Anticola; and her sponsors: Robert Parry and Rachel Sibiga.

We greatly appreciate members of the congregation refraining for flash photographs during the service. Thank you!

STEPHEN MINISTERS – Sometimes It’s Hard to Ask for Help – We’re brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. 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.

-- We are in the process of forming a Publicity Committee and an Outreach Committee. Pastor will be making some phone calls. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor.

-- PASTOR’S CLASS - Is underway on Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. If you are interested, you are still welcome to come on board!

QUOTE OF THE DAY: “Bruised hand, take the scepter; bruised head, take the crown; blessed Son of God, take the throne for “thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.” - Paul Lowenberg

SALEM'S CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER
Sunday, December 19th
5 p.m.

Spiral cut ham and drink will be provided. Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share !!!

Also – bring the extended family, friends and neighbors for our most festive dinner of the year! A short program will follow the dinner. Come one – come all!