

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible
Class – 10:45 a.m.

Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod
“A Stephen Ministry Congregation”
10 McClellan Circle
Buffalo, New York 14220

Phone:
Office:
Office Hours:
M-Thurs, 9 a.m. –1:30 p.m.
Friday - Closed

Rev. John L. Pingel, M. Div., M.A., Pastor
Vicar Domenick Lettieri

NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

Rejoicing in the Light

AS WE GATHER

The observances of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are special church traditions, each of which has a rich history. In many places, New Year's Eve is celebrated as a time when God's people gather in church to express thankfulness for the year and ask God's blessing on the year about to begin. New Year's Day, the "eighth" Day of Christmas, is observed as the time of the Circumcision of our Lord - a time that previewed and prefigured that day when His sacred blood would most fully be poured out on the cross. One theme that unites the two observances is the theme of light. New Year's Eve celebrates the time of returning light to the world after the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. New Year's Day celebrates that Jesus, the Light of the World, has come in human form to bring the light of salvation to the darkened world. In gathering for worship, we celebrate that Jesus is our Light and our Redeemer.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/EXCHANGE OF PEACE

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION and OPENING VERSICLES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear?

People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? *Psalm 27:1*

Pastor: God is light

People: and in Him is no darkness at all. *1 John 1:5b*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

People: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Pastor: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

People: If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.

All: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we confess that we are indeed sinful. We have broken our fellowship with You and have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Light and our Salvation. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may walk as children of the light in this world until that time when we finally come to light eternal in Your glorious presence.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. May He keep you steadfast in the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE HYMN: "O God Our Help In Ages Past" LW #180

THE PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, we bless You for Your light that is growing among us. We rejoice in the lengthening of daylight and in the hope and promise of the New Year. We bless You for the growth of Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem and the Light of the World. Look with favor upon Your people gathered for worship at this time. Be our Light in all times and places. May Your Holy Spirit enlighten us with His gifts that we may reflect Your glory in all that we say and do. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 30:15-17 (*In trust shall be your strength.*)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 8:31-39 (*Nothing separates us from the love of God.*)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE

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

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:35-40 (*Being ready for the coming of the Lord.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twelfth 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" LW #451

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

We pray for the whole Church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout the world and the light of the Gospel may shine brightly everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the nations of the world, asking that in the New Year there may be harmony among all peoples and expanding peace, security, and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for our families and everyone in them. May the light of Christ enlighten the homes of the faithful, and may families dwell together in love and unity. Lord, in Your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

People: We pray for all who serve us through their callings, enlightening the pathways of our lives. Especially we remember those in church vocations both locally and abroad, asking that the coming Year of Our Lord may be one in which their vocations bring them joy and fulfillment. We also remember the military forces of our nation, those deployed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times and who guarantee our safety in times of peace. Lord, in Your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those with special concerns and needs at the turning of the year: those who are hospitalized (*including* _____), those who sorrow, the unemployed and under-employed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all others whose needs for God's special mercies are known to us at this time. May we find meaning for our lives in assisting those who need the care and compassion that we can offer. Lord, in Your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. As one year closes and another begins, we remember those no longer among us on earth, but who now rejoice in the glorious light of Your heavenly kingdom. Lead us to follow in their way, blessed Redeemer, that we may rejoice together eternally at Your throne. Lord, in Your mercy

People: hear our prayer. Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY MUSIC/PASSING OF FELLOWSHIP FORMS

+ 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 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 peace.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC – (*Prayers for Communion – page 128*)

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray...Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year that is ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE BLESSING

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 "We Praise You, O God" LW #494

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.

SERVING THE LORD THIS EVENING:

Celebrant: Rev. John L. Pingel

Assisting Minister: Vicar Domenick Lettieri

Organist/Choir Director: Lois L. Jones

Assistants: Vicar Dom and Paul Thomas Jr.

Ushers: Ken Kushka, Sue Gifford, Barbara Turner, Michael Turner, Russell Alessi Jr.

Reader: Paul Thomas Jr.

Greeters: Ken Kushka and Rich Landseadel

Altar: Norrine Nagel and Maureen Wilke

TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS...we are pleased and honored by your presence with us this evening. We want you to be aware of the various ministries which we enjoy as a family of faith here at Salem Lutheran Church. If you would like to know more about Salem, or are interested in membership, please call the Church Office at 824 2787, or speak to Pastor Pingel or Vicar Dom.

WE APPRECIATE ALL IN ATTENDANCE THIS EVENING signing our Fellowship Form, located in the pew near the middle aisle, in a maroon folder. Please pass along and leave at the wall end of the pew. If you are visiting with us, we appreciate your giving us not only your name but your address. Thank you!

THANKS TO ALL who helped with the Advent Service and Supper, the Children's Christmas Program and service, and the Congregational Christmas Dinner and program. Thanks to all participating in tonight's service as well!

**QUOTE OF THE DAY: “ Were earth a thousand times as fair
Beset with gold and jewels rare
She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.”
--Martin Luther**

SERVING THE LORD THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

Celebrant: The Rev. John L. Pingel
Assisting Minister: Vicar Thomas King III

Organist/Pianist: Wendy Reese
Soloist: Susan Kantz

Sound Tech: Mark Statton,
Ross Morgan

Elder In Charge: 5 p.m. Ken Mihalcin
11 p.m. Steve Peterson

Altar Guild: Jeanne Logan, Dolly Gall & Loretta Thellman

Ushers:
5 p.m. Rose Ruddick, Doug Ruddick
11 p.m. John Schofield and Ron Heitsch

Readers:
5 p.m. Byran Leslie and Cheryl Greiner
11 p.m. Jeannie Porter and Doreen Hietsch

Greeters:
5 p.m. Ken and Kelly Meverden
11 p.m. Matt and Deb McCauley

Acolytes: As Assigned

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

TOMORROW, Christmas Day

NO 8:15 a.m. SERVICE!

9:30a.m. Breakfast

10:45 a.m. FESTIVAL COMMUNION SERVICE

MONDAY Office Open Pastor's Day Off
Vicar and Secretary in the Office

Tuesday No "Two of a Kind" this week

WEDNESDAY: NO GOSPEL GANG this week
7:00 p.m. Informal WORSHIP

THURSDAY: NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES
NO APOLOGETICS CLASS

Friday

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

7 p.m. NEW YEAR'S EVE COMMUNION

SUNDAY January 1st

8:15 a.m. Communion Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Communion Service