

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

God's Plan of Salvation

December 26, 2010

AS WE GATHER

The shock may be greater than in other years when the First Sunday after Christmas falls at least a few days after the celebration. But this year we've hardly had time to sing all the familiar carols or clean up after our gatherings, meals, and gift-giving and we are told of the murder at Herod's hands of all the infant boys in Bethlehem, seeking to destroy the One born to be king of the Jews. Yet such is God's perfect plan of salvation that it takes place and unfolds in the middle of life's real tragedies, hurts, reversals, and disappointments. We know that Jesus was born and lived in order that He may give Himself into death as the perfect and only sacrifice for the sin and salvation of the world. So it is that God's perfect plan has been completed and comes to each sinner to bring us to eternal life.

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/EXCHANGE OF PEACE

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Angels From the Realms of Glory" LW #50

THE ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM - Donovan William Dederichs and
Lillian Elaine Houseknecht

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come,

People: God sent forth His Son.

Pastor: He sent redemption to His people;

People: Holy and awesome is His name! *Galatians 4:4; Psalm 111:9*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Dear friends, we gather here this second day of Christmas because it is also Sunday, the day on which we commemorate and celebrate our Lord's resurrection from the dead. We gather to give thanks for our Lord's birth and to proclaim His death. All of this, of course, was in order to provide the forgiveness of sins and deliverance from everlasting death to all who repent and believe in Him. Let us, therefore, prepare to hear and to rejoice, by confessing our sin, seeking God's grace for the sake of Christ.

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

Pastor: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray....

People: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ **WORD** +

OLD TESTAMENT - Isaiah 63:7-14 (*Remember the Lord's steadfast love.*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM - Psalm 111

Pastor: He sent redemption to His ' people;*

He has commanded His covenant for- ' ever.

**People: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my ' whole heart,*
in the company of the upright, in the congre- ' gation.**

Pastor: Great are the works ' of the LORD,*
studied by all who de- ' light in them.

**People: Full of splendor and majesty ' is His work,*
and His righteousness endures for- ' ever.**

Pastor: He has caused His wondrous works to be re- ' membered;*
the LORD is gracious and ' merciful.

**People: He provides food for those who ' fear Him;*
He remembers His covenant for- ' ever.**

Pastor: He has shown His people the power ' of His works,*
in giving them the inheritance of the ' nations.

**People: The works of His hands are faith- ' ful and just;*
all His precepts are ' trustworthy;**

Pastor: they are established forever and ' ever,*
to be performed with faithfulness and ' uprightness.

**People: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant for- ' ever.*
Holy and awesome ' is His name!**

Pastor: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of ' wisdom;*
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures for- ' ever!

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and ' to the Son*
and to the Holy ' Spirit; as it was in the be- ' ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. ' Amen.**

EPISTLE Galatians 4:4-7 (The fullness of time has come.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

THE ALLELUIA VERSE (Please stand)

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

GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23 (The Holy Family flees to Egypt.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, 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 Lord.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN "What Child is This" LW #61

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

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: Gracious God, we give thanks to You for Your mercies that never end; for Your wonderful and perfect plan of salvation by which everyone can know Your love and live by Your grace. Keep us steadfast in Your gift of forgiveness and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Bless and protect Your Holy Church throughout the world that all pastors and people of faith may boldly proclaim Your mercy to the salvation of many. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Keep the nations of the world under Your care by leading their rulers in the ways of peace and providing justice and freedom to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Hear the prayers of all who cry out to You who suffer illness or distress (*especially* _____). Grant healing and comfort to all in body and in soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Bless and strengthen all who receive the body and blood of Christ this day, that in true repentance and faith we may serve You faithfully all the days of our life. 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.

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 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 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LW #49

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 The Mueller Family in memory of Mildred Mueller, whose birthday was December 21.

BAPTISM - This morning **Donovan William Dederichs** is received into the Christian Church by the washing of regeneration in Holy Baptism. We pray God's blessings upon Donovan; his parents: Eric William Dederichs and Amy Michelle Dederichs; and his sponsors: Alexandra Boswell and Joelle Delgatti.

And **Lillian Elaine Houseknecht** is received into the Christian Church by the washing of regeneration in Holy Baptism. We pray God's blessings upon Lillian; her parents: Jeffrey Allan Jr. and Carolyn Elizabeth Houseknecht; her sponsors: Steven M. Lane and Sandra Boryczka.

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

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

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BIRTHDAY – Warren Miller Sr.'s 86th this Thursday

SICK - Sharon Miller; Leola Colvin; Allen Feltz; Carolyn Callea; Fran Wiedemann; all shut-ins; Lynda Yung; Mark Beyers; Delores Landwehr; Jean Poniwass; Hazel Murphy; Eleanor Senchoway; Betty Radke; Pastor Sprehe; Carl R. Radtke; Russ Alessi Jr.; Shirley Wilke; Cheryl Bak; Carol Engelbert; Eunice Foote; Grace Belter (Autumn View HCC, Room 404, 4650 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075); Augusta Schultz; Marie Radtke (Elderwood at Lakewood, Room 135, 5775 Maelou Dr., Hamburg, NY 14075); Arlene Ball ; David Poniwass (surgery January 6); all shut-ins.

USHERS ARE NEEDED – See Fred Bartz Jr.

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.

FELLOWSHIP FORMS – are being put in the pews. These are designed by Concordia Publishing House for gaining information for visitors so that we can do effective follow up. We also are alerted to changes in addresses and phone numbers among the membership.

SALEM/ST.JOHN BASKETBALL – THE Boys Basketball League started on December 4th – both teams played well and competitive, but both teams lost their games. The next two upcoming games are: Played at the HUB -Saturday, January 8 - A Team - 1:50 p.m. vs. Orchard Park Wesleyan; B Team – 12:00 a.m. vs. Youth Advantage; January 15, 2011 – A Team – 10:00 a.m. . Orchard Park Wesleyan & Hamburg Wesleyan A1; B Team – 2:30 p.m. Orchard Park Wesleyan B2, Orchard Park Wesleyan B1 and Cleveland Hill United Methodist. Any questions, see Jim Carr.

A NEW MEMBERS DAY – will be observed soon in the New Year. If you are interested in being brought into membership on that day, by transfer or profession of faith, please speak to Pastor Pingel.

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.

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 19, 2010 - \$_____ ; Attendance: 175; Weekly offerings needed to meet our *Current Fund ministry program* are \$_____.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK –

BIRTHDAYS - Today – James Ball; Tuesday – Mark Schermerhorn; Thursday – Douglas Miller, Warren Miller Sr.;

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.

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A word of explanation of the TWO TREES flanking the altar:

Their decorations are symbolic of sin and grace. The tree covered with red lights and 33 red apples reminds us of the fall into sin -- the apple reminding us of the fruit which Adam and Eve ate, the red lights reminding us of Isaiah’s words, “Though your sin be as scarlet . . .” The tree covered with white lights and 33 white roses reminds us of our Savior, referred to in Scripture as the “Rose of Sharon” through whom Isaiah says we sinners are made “whiter than snow” through the forgiveness of sins.

In both cases, the number 33 reminds us of the number of years Jesus lived on earth to fulfill His purpose of coming, which was to save all mankind from sin and to give them eternal life.

SERVING THE LORD

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

Organist/Pianist: Lois L. Jones

Welcomers:

Lector: Barbara Bartholomew

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

Acolytes:

Crucifer:

Altar Committee: Norrine Nagel and Maureen
Wilke

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Today: 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class

Monday: No Confirmation Class
Classes Resume Jan. 3

Tuesday: 6:30 – 8:30 – Girl Scouts

Wednesday: NO Choir Rehearsal

Thursday:

Friday: 7:00 p.m. – New Year’s Eve Service
at Salem with Holy Communion

Saturday: 11:30 – AA Group;

NEXT SUNDAY: 9:30 – Worship . . .
Thrivent Pancake Brunch Breakfast after
worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and
Bible Class Deadline for all Annual
Reports to be turned in to church office

STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE CARE-GIVERS, GOD IS THE CURE-GIVER – The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders – Rich Landseadel – 822-9695 or Dayle Austin – 822-5565 to learn more about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

**QUOTE OF THE DAY: "When Christmas bells are singing above the hills of snow,
we hear sweet voices ringing from lands of long ago,
and etched on vacant places are half forgotten faces
of friends we used to cherish, and loves we used to know."**

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