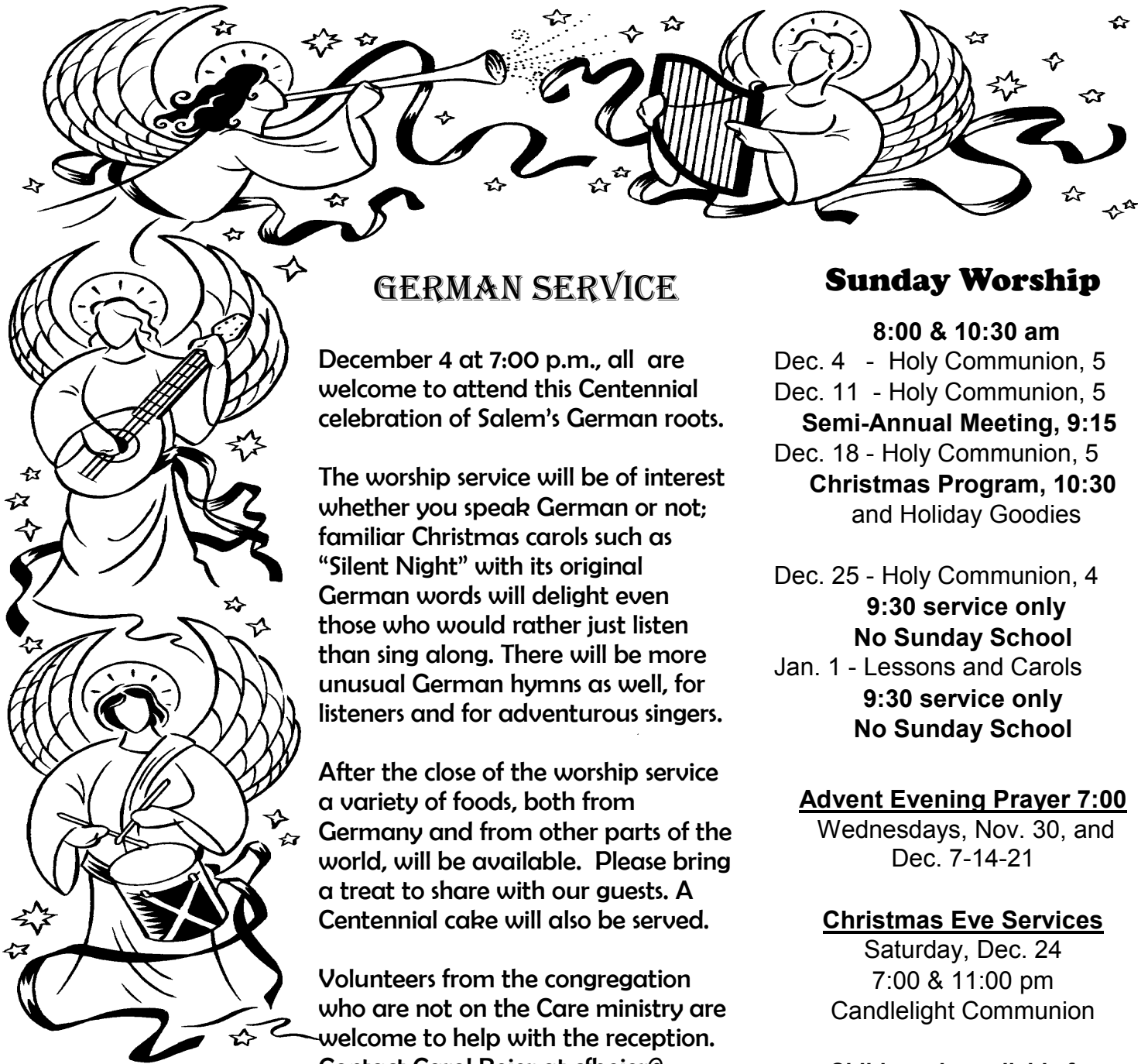


The SEER

Salem Lutheran Church A Community of Believers, Praising and Serving God



GERMAN SERVICE

December 4 at 7:00 p.m., all are welcome to attend this Centennial celebration of Salem's German roots.

The worship service will be of interest whether you speak German or not; familiar Christmas carols such as "Silent Night" with its original German words will delight even those who would rather just listen than sing along. There will be more unusual German hymns as well, for listeners and for adventurous singers.

After the close of the worship service a variety of foods, both from Germany and from other parts of the world, will be available. Please bring a treat to share with our guests. A Centennial cake will also be served.

Volunteers from the congregation who are not on the Care ministry are welcome to help with the reception. Contact Carol Beier at cfbeier@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday Worship

8:00 & 10:30 am

Dec. 4 - Holy Communion, 5
Dec. 11 - Holy Communion, 5
Semi-Annual Meeting, 9:15
Dec. 18 - Holy Communion, 5
Christmas Program, 10:30
and Holiday Goodies

Dec. 25 - Holy Communion, 4
9:30 service only
No Sunday School
Jan. 1 - Lessons and Carols
9:30 service only
No Sunday School

Advent Evening Prayer 7:00

Wednesdays, Nov. 30, and
Dec. 7-14-21

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, Dec. 24
7:00 & 11:00 pm
Candlelight Communion

Childcare is available for
preschool children on Sunday
mornings and Wednesday
evenings during Advent.

From the Pastor

If you look carefully at our hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, you will notice an odd thing. The hymns are grouped by season and by theme (this is not the odd thing). Because Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year, Advent hymns are the first section (this is still not the odd thing). ‘Hark the Glad Sound’, ‘The King Will Come’, ‘O Come, ‘O Come Emmanuel’ are all hymns that are hymns of longing and waiting, themes of Advent. During this season we wait in the past along with Israel for the advent of a Messiah; we wait in the present for the festival of Christmas and for the Christ who comes once again into our hearts and lives; and we wait for the future, for the Day when all things will be made new. OK, here’s the odd thing: ‘Joy to the World,’ one of the most beloved of Christmas carols, is listed as the last hymn in the Advent section. Wait a minute: ‘Joy to the world...*the Lord HAS come.*’ That’s not waiting. Is this a mistake? No, they have placed it there because of another famous phrase in the carol: ‘Let every heart prepare him room’. This hymn is poised at the end of one season and the beginning of the next – often how we feel in December.

It’s not a bad phrase to carry with us through the blur that is December. ‘Let every heart prepare him room.’ Let *my* heart prepare him room. Advent is meant to be a season of spiritual practices, much like Lent, to prepare for a time when we will hear once again the amazing news that we have a God who chooses to be a God-with-us, not a distant unknowable deity. Daily devotions, an increased prayer life (or a prayer life period, if that is not an easy practice for you), attending church on Wednesdays and Sundays, lighting a candle with your children every evening to sing Away in a Manger – all of these are Advent spiritual practices that help us to ‘prepare him room’.

Let *our* heart –Salem Lutheran Church --prepare him room as well. We will meet on Sunday, December 11th for the final bite of Centennial birthday cake, and to attend to the mission and ministry of our congregation. We will also consider how we will ‘prepare him room’ by making our facility a more welcoming place and by pondering together what the Christ child will do among us for the sake of the world.

Joy to the world! The Lord has come...is coming...and will come...into our own hearts, into the heart of this faith community, and into the heart of the world.

Pastor Sally

PS– Speaking of carols– please join us at the church, 6:30 pm, Friday, Dec. 16th for an hour of caroling to some special Salem folk. fa la la la la la, la la la la....



*Pastor's
Advent
Message*

Advent Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7pm
**“The Dawn From On High: Zechariah, Elizabeth and the
Advent Child”**

Join us on Wednesdays in Advent to take a half-hour breath from holiday preparations and ponder the mysteries of the season. We will sing the beautiful and lyrical Holden Evening Prayer. Pastor Sally will reflect on the story of the birth of John the Baptist, herald of the Messiah, found in Luke Chapter 1. This is a story of skepticism, forced silence, and expectation, ending in a joyous outburst.

Wednesdays-- November 30, December 7, 14, and 21



Church Council Minutes from November 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Eastman and a devotion was given.



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 11
at 9:15am

The main items to be discussed are the 2012 proposed budget and important projects.

We look forward to your input.



Poinsettias will be available this year to decorate during Christmas week. Please turn your order in no later than Dec. 11th.

The forms to order the flowers will run in the bulletin for the next few weeks. Please place the form with your check marked "poinsettia" in the offering plate or come by the office.

Our dedicated Altar Guild will put the plants out for the Christmas Eve service and they will brighten the church thru January 1st. You are welcome to take your plant home that morning after the single, 9:30 service.

New Business:

It was agreed that Salem be included in the NewsPress Directory, Church Publication that has a Dec. 5th deadline for the new annual publication for 1 year. Judy Lewis and Mike Malahy will work to provide Salem information for the publication. Money saved from not posting Salem in the Yellow Pages can be utilized toward the costs.

Lambert Construction provided an estimate for repairing the east roof leak, work to prevent future leaks and work on the West and East facing sections of the church.

It was agreed that the Girl Scouts be allowed to meet in the upstairs Sunday School room every other Tuesday throughout the current school year with occasional use of the kitchen.

Pastor Sally presented a request/need of financial support to the Synod. It was moved and seconded that a Synod Support offering occur during the upcoming Advent Services.

Old Business:

The Nave Improvement Committee met with Shelly Annella to discuss the scope of recommended Nave Improvements and estimated costs. After discussion by the Council, it was moved and seconded that Salem move forward by providing church repair and Nave Improvement project information at the Annual Congregational meeting.

Treasurer Report:

Scott Wolff requested that Council Committee Chairs with budgets meet with their committee to discuss budget requests for 2012 and to get their Committee Budget requests to Scott by November 24th. This will allow time for Scott to develop the 2012 Salem Budget to be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Questions regarding line items on the current budget were discussed and resolved.

The Annual Congregational meeting will take place on December 11, starting at 9:15.

The Council Meeting was adjourned by Ken Eastman with The Lord's Prayer.

Susan Prater, Secretary

salem

Evangelical Lutheran
Church (ELCA)
101 S. Duck
Stillwater OK 74074



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MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor—Sally Houck 334-3432
pastorsally@sbcglobal.net
Office Coordinator—Lisa Murray-Francis 372-3074
salemelc@sbcglobal.net
Director of Music, Organist—Krystal Hennessey
624-3018
Choir Director—Elizabeth Albright 743-4008
Maintenance—Bill Ebertz 612-1210
Peer Minister— Michael Bull
Youth Director- Hanna Wallace—918-408-1592
hannajwallace@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Thursday 9 am -11:30 & 12:30 -3 pm
Friday- 9am -noon
Dec. 26-30th— No set schedule. Please call ahead.

Sunday, Dec. 3, Time: TBA, Parking, OSU/ OU BEDLAM

Students- come help volunteer to park cars for the Bedlam game!!! Help us show our OSU pride!

Sunday, Dec. 4, Time: 9:15am, Panera Hour (7th– 12th)

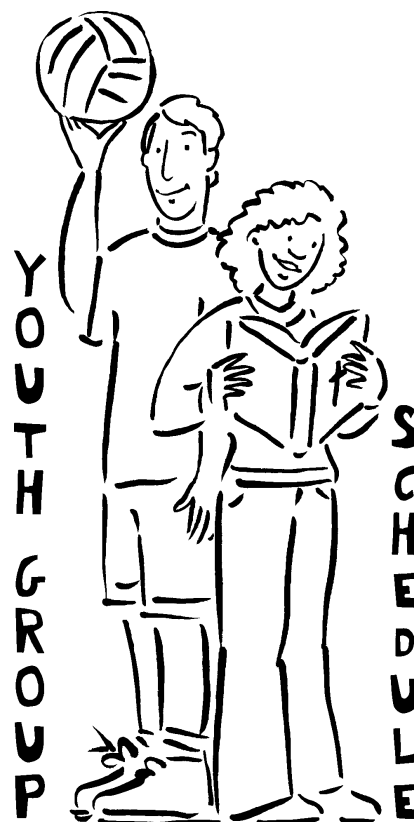
Meet at the church and walk on over with us to Panera for some quality breakfast and conversation. We will then be back at the church before the 10:30am service.

Sunday, Dec. 11, Time: TBA, Jr. SLY Christmas Party

Come hangout and celebrate Christmas with games, food, etc.

Friday, Dec. 16, Time: 6:30pm-7am, SLY Lock-N (8th-12th)

An All-Night-Blast!!! Start the evening off with Christmas caroling and then head back to the church for food, games, movies, Dirty Santa Wal-Mart run, etc. Parents can pick their students up the **next morning at 7am**. If coming, please let me know by Dec. 14th. **Bring \$5** and some friends if you want! A health form will need to be filled out anyone who has not done so recently. Forms can be picked up in the office or emailed from Hanna to you.



Thank You

Thank you so much for inviting us to your church and to the game. Everyone had a great time!! Our group had planned on leaving early but when I called Traci to check on them she said "Oh we are still here, we do not want to leave." I said I would have to agree, it was a very exciting game. Thank you again for your hospitality and for always thinking of the kids here at Oaks.

Judy

NEWS & Notes

The Sunday School Christmas program, "Just A Little Christmas" will be performed at the end of the 10:30am service, Dec, 18th. Join us for Christmas goodies following the performance.

Third Sunday Food Offering will be taken up Sunday, Dec. 18th.

Office Hours for December 24– 31

No set hours this week. Please call in advance to make sure someone is here.

Book Club's December book- My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientists Personal Journey is by Jill Taylor Bolt. Please watch the bulletin for meeting info.

Handel's Messiah will be presented Dec 3rd & 4th at 5 & 7:15pm at First Lutheran in Tulsa– 13th and Utica.

Our own Doug Droste will conduct "**Messiah**" on Dec 2nd at the OSU Seretean Center at 8pm.

Welcome to our New Members

Jason Miller is an Athletic Trainer for OSU Men's Basketball. Besides begin Henry's dad he enjoys running, wood-working, reading and fishing.

Teresa Miller is pursuing a masters degree in Nutritional Sciences. Besides being Henry's mom she enjoys running, lifting weights, sewing quilts, and going on road trips.

Henry Thomas Miller loves outings, the family dogs, laughing and smiling. His motto: Don't leave home without the bunny rattle. He is especially excited about being baptized on November 19th.

Carl Geczy-Haskins is pursuing a Masters of Arts in Jazz Music at the University of Central Oklahoma. Besides all kinds of music, he enjoys...fixing computers!

Laura Geczy-Haskins is pursuing a Masters in Counseling from OSU and is currently doing clinical work at the VA hospital in Oklahoma City. She enjoys reading and cooking in her spare time.

Jason, Teresa and Henry Miller
206 Windsor Dr.
Stillwater, OK 74074
(Teresa) 405 269 9690
(Jason) 405 269 9575

Laura and Carl Geczy-Haskins
3421 Lytal Terrace
Edmond OK 73013
(Laura) 405 436 2948
(Carl) 507 339 9863

Don't forget, we change our worship and education hour times starting the second Sunday in January. Beginning January 8th the new times will be:

8:30 am Worship
9:40 until 10:35 Education Hour
10:45 am Worship

We hope that this might encourage some who now attend at 10:30 to try the earlier time.



Dear church family of Salem;

Where do we begin?... Our mother, Olga, was so overwhelmed by all who attended her 90th Birthday Party! The day was filled with much joy & happiness. The love and support that you gave her on that special day will shine in her heart forever! She just keeps saying over & over; "I can't believe all those people came to my party".

Mother has always loved her church and the fellowship she has shared with her family at Salem.

Thanks to all of you for the many hugs, cards, prayers, and support you continue to give her! Olga is proud to have been a part of your lives most of her "90" years!

May God's Peace fill your lives; The Family of Olga Reinholtz



Alternative Gift Market

Once again Salem will offer you the opportunity to purchase "alternative" gifts for Christmas and thereby help people globally. Anybody want to buy a goat for your mom for Christmas? How about purchasing special training for a woman in Africa, so she can start a crafting business to support her family? The display will go up in the Parish hall and be available for several weeks. In past years, Salem members have generously contributed thousands of dollars to this effort and made a difference for many people around the world.

The Sharing Tree

The Sharing Tree is up and decorated with the requests from the children at Oaks Indian Mission. Please take a moment to look over the requests and choose one (or two!). Many of the young residents of Oaks come to that safe haven with very little and they truly appreciate your loving kindness.

When you select a wish-list item, **please remember to sign the posted list so that we know who you have matched with for gift giving.** Gifts will be delivered to Oaks in December, in time for the children's Christmas party.

HOLIDAY Joys ★

GIRL'S NIGHT OUT

Sunday, December 11, 6pm
Karen High's home
4016 Deer Crossing

Everyone is asked to bring an

Appetizer or dessert

to add to Karen's main dish

Also an ornament to exchange.

DIRECTIONS: South on Sangre Rd. to 32 St.
and then go to the next right
It's the 9th house on the right up the hill

**ANYONE WANTING TO CARPOOL OR
WHO WOULD LIKE A RIDE
MEET AT THE CHURCH BY 5:30.**

Questions: call Karen at 372-2399 or 747-5105
or Judy Lewis at 377-4298 or 747-9116

SUNDAY SCHOOL – ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS

The Adult Sunday School Class will be completing it's current series of discussions on "Saving Jesus," on November 27th. On December 4th we will begin a two part discussion on the origins and meaning of the concept of the Messiah lead by Pastor Houck. Come join interesting and thought provoking discussions on one of the ideas that are at the core of the Advent Season.

After Christmas, the class will have a presentation by Dorothy Schrader on her experiences at Holden Village, a Lutheran community in the North Cascades of Washington. On Jan. 15th the class will initiate a series of 12 discussions on the Mark's Gospel. These will be based on the series of lectures by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson on "Jesus and the Gospels."