

The SEOR



Dec. 24, 7:00 & 11:00 pm

Candlelight Communion

Dec. 25, Lessons and Carols

9:30 service only

No Sunday School

Jan. 1, Service for Christmas Season

9:30 service only

No Sunday School

Sunday Services at

New Times

8:30 am & 10:45 am

Jan. 8, Epiphany, Baptism of our Lord-
ELW Setting 4

Jan. 15, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany,
Light of Christ

Jan. 22, 3rd Sunday, With One Voice,
Light of Christ

Jan 29, 4th Sunday, Light of Christ

Feb. 5, 5th Sunday, Light of Christ

Feb 12, 6th Sunday, Light of Christ

Feb. 19, Transfiguration, Setting 4

Feb. 27, 1st Sunday in Lent, Setting 9

Sunday School is for all ages!

New time is 9:40 am.

Childcare is available for infants &
preschool children at both services on
Sunday mornings.



From the Pastor:

Of course we've been into the 'new year' for a month of Advent already, but in the joy of the Christmas season (which ends on Epiphany, Jan 6) it's exciting to watch the calendar year turn and to dream of new things.

At Salem we are also turning the page of a hundred-year calendar. *Therefore, says Jesus in Matthew, every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.* Friedens Kirche, Salem Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, indeed, the Christian Church – all need to be shuffling through the treasures and bringing out the new as well as the old.

New things can be unsettling, but they can also be exhilarating. Many people are turning their backs on traditional church for a variety of reasons; what might we experiment with to make them feel welcome, while remaining solidly grounded in scripture and the gospel?

Our new, bold Lutheran Rose is getting lots of notice and comments. How else might we change our place and space to say, 'we are about God's mission and future, and we want you to be a part of it too.' We need not fear change if what we bear is good fruit for the Kingdom.

Pastor Sally



Reflections on Sunday School

The recent "Saving Jesus" video and discussion in Adult Sunday school presents an understanding of Jesus that appeals to my children. They find the traditional understanding of Jesus has lost coherence. It is not that traditional understanding is wrong. Rather it is not as important as this understanding for them. What was it about Jesus' humanity that people found divine? Why did the Centurion at the foot of the cross claim Jesus was divine and not Caesar, who also claimed to be Son of God?

What we recently learned in Lent about the Sermon on the Mount, presented Jesus as both clever and courageous. My son, Chris, and I communicated our amazement after hearing the same sermon on the same Sunday, though we were miles apart. There is something about the toughness and resolve of Jesus, to challenge all oppressive power with love and non-violence, that makes him compelling. We rejoice that others like Gandhi and Martin Luther King have followed Jesus' example. When we attempt to do the same, we discover Jesus' divinity. This is a Jesus I find easy to talk to others about, from fundamentalists to atheists. And they have listened intently.

Interested? The "Saving Jesus" videos are available to check out.

Blessings,
Bruce Ackerson

2012 WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL – ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS SCHEDULE

January 1st – New Years Day, No Sunday School

Jesus and the Gospels – "Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson attempts to show us the human Jesus underlying the many portraits we have. In these lectures, Dr. Johnson analyzes key lines of text, balancing his readings and explanations of the significance of language and terminology with overviews about important issues with which scholars have long grappled. But it is the figure addressed by the Gospels who dominates these lectures, sometimes in ways less familiar than the portrayals of Jesus we most often encounter. It concludes with a look at how Jesus is understood today, not only by Christians as they worship, but also by theologians, historians and artists."

January 8th – 'Why Not "The Historical Jesus"?'

January 15th – "The Resurrection Experience"

January 22nd – "The Matrix – Symbolic World of Greek and Jew"

January 29th – "Parallels – Stories of Greek and Jewish Hero's"

February 5th – "The Context – Jesus in the Memory of the Church"

February 12th – "Earliest Stages – Paul and the Oral Tradition"

February 19th – "Why Compose Gospels"

February 26th – "The Synoptic Problem and Its Solutions"

March 4th – "Gospel of Mark – Apocalyptic and Irony"

March 11th – "Good News in Mystery"

March 18th – "Teacher and Disciple"

March 25th – "Passion and Death"



Church Council Minutes December 6, 2011



The meeting was called to order by President Ken Eastman.
Judy Lewis gave the devotion.

New Business:

The Church Women's United, State Board has requested use of the church on Friday, January 13th or the 20th. Approximately sixteen will be in attendance. It was moved and seconded that the request be approved.

Elise Merkel provided information of a Youth Ministry Workshop which will be held in Dallas and one in Kansas. Elise recommended that this would be a great Leadership opportunity for the new Youth Director, Hanna Wallace to attend and paid by Salem. The cost including registration, flight and food would be approximately \$600-\$650 which could be covered by the 2011 Youth Director Budget surplus.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is December 11, 2011. The 2012 budget will be presented for approval. An overview of the Nave Improvement Committee Guiding Principals will be presented along with the information regarding church repair and Nave Improvement projects and a plan to move forward with a suggestion of a Building Campaign.

Treasurer Report:

2011 Budget - Scott discussed line items that are in the negative and what areas have a surplus that could be transferred.

2012 Budget- Scott provided Level I, (balanced) and Level II (requested) budgets. Pledges are down for 2012. Each line item was reviewed for potential areas that could be reduced until a balanced budget was reached with a last resort for CD and Money Market funds being used to assist in reaching a Level I budget. It was discussed that pledges are still likely to come in that could prevent using CD or Money Market funds and that the congregation be kept informed of the status of the budget throughout the year. A motion was made to accept the 2012 budget figures and adjustments for presentation in the Annual Congregation meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Ken Eastman adjourned the Council Meeting at approximately 8:50.
Pastor led the Council in the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Susan Prater

salem

Evangelical Lutheran
Church (ELCA)
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Stillwater OK 74074



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MINISTRY STAFF

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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

Email Address: sailemelc@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: www.SalemOSU.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Thursday 9 am to 11:30 & 12:30 to 3 pm
Friday mornings 9 am to Noon



The flower calendar has been wiped clean for the new year. If you have a special occasion that you would like to commemorate in 2012 with a donation of flowers to the church, please sign up and mark in the occasion.

Little Shop of Flowers charges \$25-30 for 2 large vases of flowers of their choice. (Often you can pick colors.) The vases can usually be found in the white refrigerator in the kitchen. You can take them to and from the florist or they will deliver for an additional \$15.

Thank you for your contributions!

We recently took pillows left from the Bake/Craft show to the **Payne County Youth Shelter.**

The kids were so pleased to see that someone had brought items that they had a real need for.

The Shelter has a wish list for 2012 that includes twin sheets, pillows, towels, laundry supplies, paper products and craft items. Also, they are looking for items for their Silent Auction Feb. 11th.

If you can help, please take gifts to the Shelter at 2804 W 32nd

Thanks
for Your
Kindness



It is nice to be
appreciated!

The whole staff would like to say
thank you for all the kind notes and
generous Christmas gifts.

God bless you!

Pastor Sally, Krystal, Bill, Elizabeth & Lisa

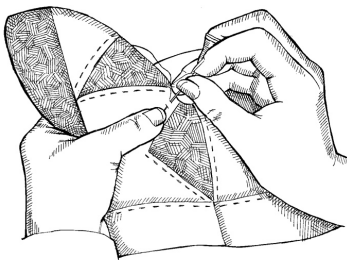
Thanks
for a great year

I would like to add my thanks to
Dorothy and Gordon Johnson.

It's a blessing to be able to call if there is a
problem or question with the building and
know that it will be taken care of.

Thank you also to **Judy Lewis.** There was so much to do
to make the Centennial year a good one. She did a won-
derful job with grace and kindness.

Thank you to the generous people who help with mail-
ing the SEER! **Ken & Gloria Sandvold, Lydia Godfrey,**



SEW-ERS

Salem's SEW-ers have had a very successful year. Many local groups
benefitted from our work: Habitat for Humanity, COCAA, American Red
Cross, Payne County Youth Shelter, Mission of Hope, JKarman Hospice,
Golden Oaks Village, individuals were given various items, including baby
quilts to newborns. We also sold 11 items during the recent Bake
Sale. The money will be used to replace the freezer that is in the hallway.
We can always use more hands on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 –
noon, so come join us! Knowing how to sew isn't a requirement.

Odds and Ends



Hymn Sing will be at 7pm Sunday, Jan-
uary 8th at Sumner Baptist Church. For
more info contact John Andrews, 372-
3751 or pjandrews3455@sbcglobal.net

**The Third Sunday Food Offering will be
Jan. 15** at both services. Canned, fresh
and packaged foods are all appreciated by
the COCAA food pantry.

Service Ministry, will host a **January Global
Missions event.** Cindy Pennie will make a
presentation about the Tanzania Medical
Mission. The 5th Sunday Offering (January
29th) will go toward that work. Date TBA

The Synod Office is moving!

Starting on January 1, 2012, you can find
them at: 7030 S. Yale Avenue, Suite 404
Tulsa, OK 74136. The telephone number
and e-mail address will stay the same.

SLY is still planning for January. Please
keep your eye on your (e-)mail!

The Briggemans have moved– you can
now find them at 2017 Arthur Dr,
Manhattan KS 66502.



Looking to turn over a new leaf in 2012?

We can help you!

Sign up to help with coffee hour....

Or Love Feast (It'll truly be good for your soul)

Help with tending our atrium garden

Serve behind the scenes on Altar Guild

Bring Flowers to brighten Sunday mornings

Plan a Jr. SLY event

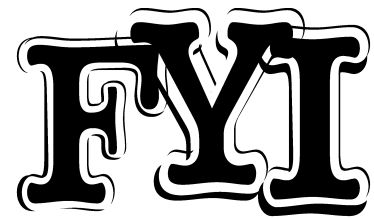
Once the spring comes, mowers are
desperately needed!

Help with Sunday services as an Usher,

Greeter, Assisting Minister or Acolyte

Sing in the Choir

Contact the office to get more involved.



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Don't forget our change of our worship and education hour times beginning the second Sunday in January. Starting January 8th the new times will be:

8:30 am Worship

9:40 until 10:35 Sunday School

10:45 am Worship

We hope that this might encourage some who now attend at 10:30 to try the earlier time. We have the wonderful 'problem' of a full to almost full nave on some Sundays at the later service, and studies have shown that when conditions appear full or even 80% full, some members and especially visitors are discouraged from attending.



**Books for
Warm Winter Reading-**

Fifth Avenue 5am – Audrey Hepburn, Breakfast at Tiffany's, and the Dawn of the Modern Woman (Wasson) at Dorothy Schrader's home– 819 W Knapp
January 30

The Language of Baklava (Diana Abu-Jaber) – host
TBA, February 27

We welcome all newcomers !

Meetings are the last Monday of each month.
Next meeting is Monday, Jan. 30 at 7pm.



Centennial Reflections from Pastor Ott

I continue to be amazed at the power of God to enliven and challenge communities. We know that God shows God's presence through fire, water and wind; the stories are throughout the Bible. So...what is it about Salem that there is a persistent natural disaster theme in its history? Perhaps grappling with fire, water and wind that ushers in new eras of possibility.

I seem to recall that there was an unexplained fire in the parsonage in the 1970's that gave rise to expansion of the building to include Sunday School space. Exodus talks about a pillar of fire leading by day and by night as a sign of God's on-going presence.

Then there was the roof that leaked for years and then 13, count them, 13 floods that occurred during the building of the expansion in 1999-2000. You are well acquainted with water—in and out of the baptismal font. Like Nicodemus, it seems that this community was born again and again out of water—and the spirit.

Wind is also a persistent theme in this congregation's story. I see current evidence as I drive down Duck Street: a new face for Salem's west side. And who can forget the other winds that passed through Stillwater in 1990 that took away that persistently leaky roof and which marked the beginning of a whole new era of ministry for the church?

Fire, water and wind remind us of God's constant presence and strength. They also give us great stories to tell—about what it means to live a faith that is told in both the history of belief in God as Creator, Redeemer and Spirit—but also in how we go about being what God's is calling us into in this time and place--looking back to look forward.

I am reminded tonight of a tapestry I once saw in a large cathedral with human figures woven into it, almost as if they are moving toward communion. Tonight, gathered here in this Parish Hall, I see all of you—faithful, thoughtful folks—and I also see a tapestry. Behind you. Around you. In front of you. Embracing you. Those who have shaped the community once called Friedans, now Salem—Peace Church. Mothers, and fathers. Brothers and sisters. Spouses. Aunts and uncles. Children. Founders and those who were a part of the community ever so briefly. Friends and dear ones. Folks who have recently been a part of these circles of faith—and people who have long ago become part of stories of history and connection. People whose faith continues to influence and shape. People who now bump against us in the present to shape the space that will include those who are not even yet born to carry on whatever possibilities God provides in this part of the vineyard.

Wrestling with fire, water and wind – God's energy made now-- is part of your history as a community. May your ministries to come be inspired by God in Jesus showing ways to be the hands, feet and the heart of faith made known in Stillwater and beyond.

(October 22, 2011)



**Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting, December 11, 2011**



Pastor Sally opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer and asked members to complete the Synod survey that was on the table.

Budget-2012

Scott Wolff provided an explanation of the Budget creation process including the difference in Level I (balanced) and Level II, (requested). Scott explained that pledged amounts for 2012 are down. He reviewed the different budget levels and what were reduced for an approximate overall decrease of \$19000. At this point, the CD and Money Market funds would need to be used for the budget to balance. However, if pledges increase, decision can be made to not use CD/Money Market Funds or/and to increase budget line items.

A concern was brought up regarding the need to use the Money Market Funds to balance the budget. It was explained these funds would be used at the last resort.

The budget of Witness and Care was discussed. Love Feast funding is being cut by 50% with a 5th Sunday offering needed to continue.

Pastor's expenses being cut was discussed. It was determined that the reduction came from no salary increase, plus the suspension of the Sabbatical Leave fund and travel reimbursement.

With no further discussion, the budget was approved.

Church Repairs and Nave Improvement

Ken Eastman discussed the congregation coming together during difficult times. He provided information about church repairs and Nave Improvements and explained how having a church where others feel comfortable makes it not about us but about other members in the future. Ken asked Tom Hennessey to discuss the Nave Improvement Committee's Guiding Principles to identify repair and improvement projects. Tom went over the principles and explained the importance of calling upon outside advice and expertise. Lambert Construction and Shelly Annella have been consulted to address structural improvements, getting rid of steps leading to the altar, parking lot improvements, and the issue of non secure windows that need to be more energy efficient. Pastor Sally stated that estimated expenses would also need to include rolling in the current mortgage.

Capital Campaign

Ken recommended that we consider moving forward on the projects by developing a Capital Campaign. Information on specific project recommendations will be presented to the congregation before projects are done. It was recommended that ideas and suggestions be funneled through Nave Improvement. A motion was made to move forward with a Capital Campaign. It was seconded and approved.

Synod Delegate

Pastor Sally explained the need to vote on a Synod Delegate and nominated Ken Eastman. It was approved that Ken Eastman serve as Salem's voting delegate to the Synod.

Recognitions

Gordon and Dorothy Johnson were thanked for their dedication and work inside and outside of church. They have assisted so much with planning and are always there to be called upon for service to Salem.

Judy Lewis was recognized for serving as Chair of the Centennial Year Celebration. She put a lot of hard work into planning the event and making it happen.

Ken Eastman adjourned the meeting at 10:02 with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Susan Prater, Council Secretary 12/16/11



A Blessing for your Home at Epiphany

Twelfth Night (January 5) or another day during the season of Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing of the home, using the following as a model.

Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage.

INTRODUCTION

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

GREETING

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Based on Proverbs 24:3-4.)

SCRIPTURE READING

As we ask God's blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:1-4, 14, 16)*

INSCRIPTION

Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 12. The numbers represent the new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedica*, which means, "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi, as **C**: Caspar, **M**: Melchior, and **B**: Balthasar .

Inscribe the blessing in this way: *"The magi of old, known as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us two thousand and twelve years ago. +: Christ, bless this house, +: and remain with us throughout the new year."*

PRAYER OF BLESSING

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then everyone may walk from room to room, blessing the house with incense or by sprinkling with water, perhaps using a branch from the Christmas tree.

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