

# The SEER

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



SUNDAY  
SERVICES

## Sunday Worship

8:30 & 10:45  
am

Feb. 5 - Light of Christ  
Feb. 12 - Light of Christ  
Feb. 19 - Light of Christ  
Feb. 26 - Service of the Word  
March 4 - ELW, setting 9  
March 11 - ELW, setting 9  
March 18 - ELW, setting 9  
March 25 - ELW, setting 9

Sunday School is at 9:40am.  
Classes for all ages. Please check  
with an usher for class locations.

### Ash Wednesday, 7pm Service February 22nd

Lenten Prayer 12:15 & 7:00  
Wednesdays, Feb. 29, and  
March 7, 14, 21, 28

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

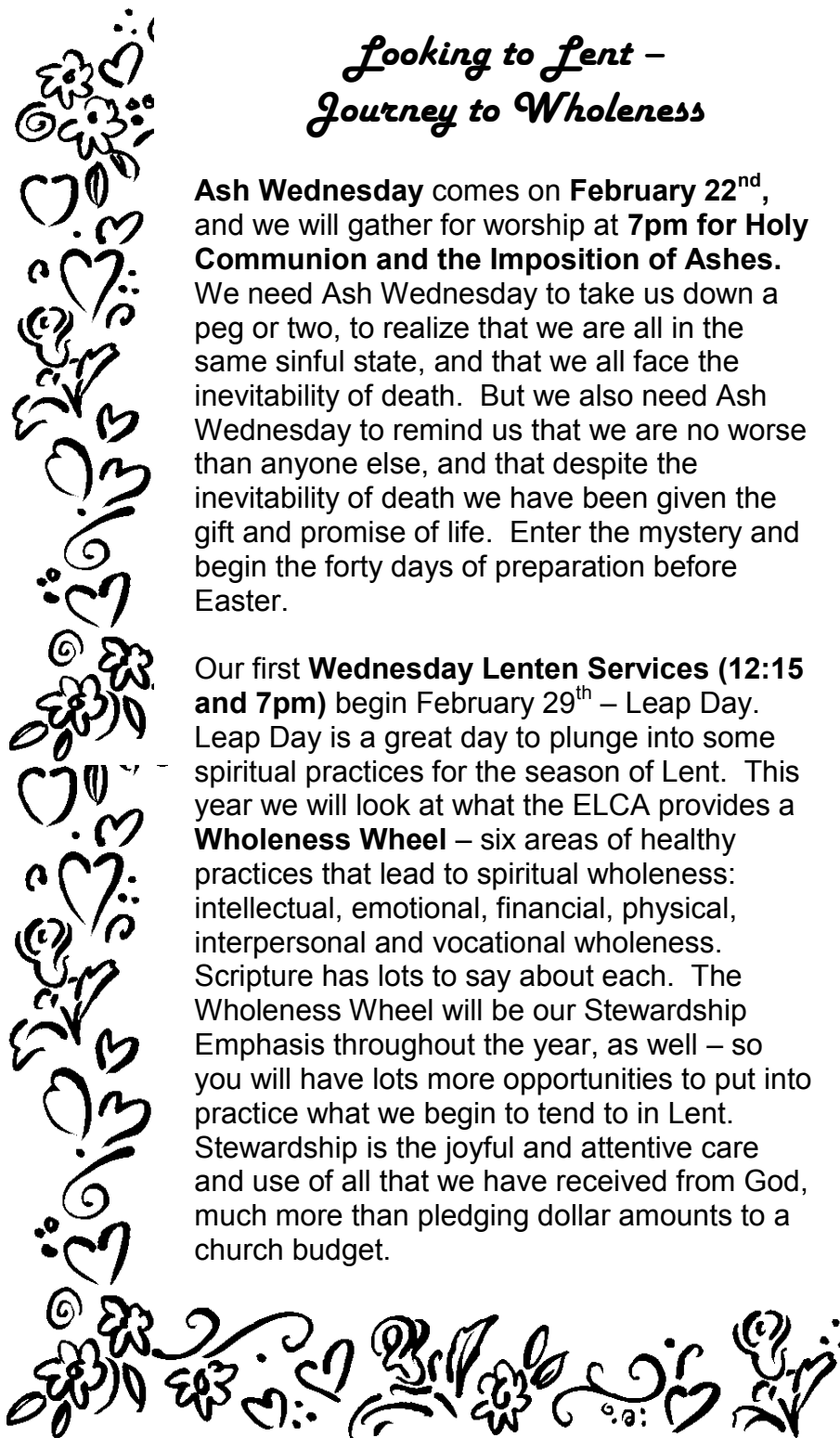
### *Preview of February-*

Lent is coming!  
SLY's many activities  
Council Update

## *Looking to Lent - Journey to Wholeness*

Ash Wednesday comes on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and we will gather for worship at 7pm for **Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes**. We need Ash Wednesday to take us down a peg or two, to realize that we are all in the same sinful state, and that we all face the inevitability of death. But we also need Ash Wednesday to remind us that we are no worse than anyone else, and that despite the inevitability of death we have been given the gift and promise of life. Enter the mystery and begin the forty days of preparation before Easter.

Our first **Wednesday Lenten Services (12:15 and 7pm)** begin February 29<sup>th</sup> - Leap Day. Leap Day is a great day to plunge into some spiritual practices for the season of Lent. This year we will look at what the ELCA provides a **Wholeness Wheel** - six areas of healthy practices that lead to spiritual wholeness: intellectual, emotional, financial, physical, interpersonal and vocational wholeness. Scripture has lots to say about each. The Wholeness Wheel will be our Stewardship Emphasis throughout the year, as well - so you will have lots more opportunities to put into practice what we begin to tend to in Lent. Stewardship is the joyful and attentive care and use of all that we have received from God, much more than pledging dollar amounts to a church budget.





## From the Pastor

Recently I presided at the wedding of a family friend in Edmond at the First Christian Church. At the reception a man sought me out to make the point of thanking me for having the assembly participate in the ritual. I was surprised because the couple had requested a simple ceremony and I merely had the congregation promise their support during the Declaration of Intent and then later to stand and join in the Lord's Prayer. "That's rarely done," the man continued. "Oh", I replied, "I didn't realize that. We Lutherans are prone to 'audience participation.'" "Well thank you," he said, "I really felt a part of this wedding."

'Liturgy' means 'the work of the people.' We call back and forth to one another, chant the psalm together, voice our assent to the prayers, and the congregation has the last word ('Thanks be to God!'). I know that things can become rote and that with familiarity our minds can wander, but liturgy provides a structure within which the Holy Spirit can speak to us.

Worship professor Tom Long says that worship is a mixture of **hospitality** and **mystery** -- both are critical. Our ancient liturgy and Holy Communion allow for the mystery. Announcements, Passing of the Peace and Coffee Hour yield hospitality. Here are some ways you can be a part of both the **hospitality (H)** and **mystery (M)** of our worship times:

- (H) Come early, and quietly greet those in the pews around you.
- (M) When the Prelude begins, refrain from talking and center your mind and Spirit in God.
- (M) Be aware of the beautiful words of our liturgy, and that there are Christians from all over the globe who are also using the same words and hearing the same scripture lessons.
- (M) Bring your own desires, anxieties, sorrows and concerns and allow the liturgy to minister to your needs or to the needs of others you are aware of.
- (M) (H) I love the sounds of having babies and young children among us! Non-parents, be patient and helpful. Parents, take time to help your children attend (sitting close to the front actually helps). If your child cannot settle down during readings, sermon or prayers, take him or her out of the Nave until later in the service.
- (M) If you or one of your older children needs to leave the Nave for any reason, choose when possible to do so while all are standing and singing (which is often ;). Also, use the side aisles when possible. Some are distracted by such movement and some are not; let's be mindful of those who are.
- (H) Share the Peace of Christ with those around you; if you wish to step out from your pew, fine; if you'd rather do this from where you are, also fine.
- (H) Don't forget to sign the pew pad during the offering. Visitors do not feel singled out and are more likely to sign if all of us are doing it.
- (M) At the 10:45 service, learn to appreciate the silence we have while Krystal takes time to come down for Communion. Read the lyrics to the upcoming hymns, or take some time to meditate or pray.
- (H) After the service, greet those around you, especially those who might be new to you. ("Help me with your name...do you worship here regularly?") If they are new, offer to introduce them to your pastor J and invite them for coffee.
- (H) Stay for coffee! And at least sometimes make it a point to talk with folks you don't know well, or whom you notice have no one sitting or talking to them



## Church Council Notes January 3, 2012

Ken Eastman called the meeting to order and Terri Gipson provided a devotion.

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

**Campus Ministry-** Pastor Sally provided information and a history of Salem being designated as a Campus Ministry site for the ELCA working out of our congregation. The ELCA Regional branch will be conducting a Quadrennial Review of our Campus Ministry program on January 31, 2012 to meet with the Board (Council), the Peer Minister, Michael Bull, and student participants to hear about our Campus Ministry and provide us with suggestions for growth. A required Four year Plan was prepared by Pastor Sally and distributed with an explanation provided to the Council. The Review Team will eat dinner with the Peer Minister and students and will meet with the Board (Council) at 7 pm.

**Capital Campaign –** The Annual Congregational meeting approved moving forward for a discussion on developing a Capital Campaign for church repairs and the Nave Improvement. Ken Eastman asked that a meeting be held for a discussion to set strategies to move forward with the Campaign. Judy Lewis has information to share left from the last Capital Campaign. The date of January 24, 2012, at 7 pm was set for Council members

**Treasurer's Report:** With Scott Wolff absent, he submitted a prepared document that included questions about the December 2011 budget that were discussed. A couple of additional 2012 pledges have been received and 53 Sunday's versus 52 Sunday collections will result in additional monies for the 5 weekly pledges made. The General Fund carryover to 2012 will be more than expected and overall, the 2012 Budget may be somewhat better than originally thought.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Ken Eastman adjourned the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Susan Prater  
**Secretary**

## Wrapping up Eben Ezer and the Centennial Celebration



Our challenge of "Change for Change" going to Eben Ezer Lutheran Church at Oaks ended in December. All total we were able to share with Eben Ezer a gift of \$808.47.

Last summer when we learned they needed money immediately to help them finish painting, we sent a check for \$262.54. In December we were able to send them a final check for \$545.93.

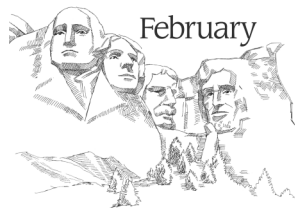
Many "thanks" to all of you as you shared your change to help this congregation meet their challenge of repairing the parsonage so they can call a pastor.

Having a minister is so important, as this is the church and congregation that serves the children and staff of the Oaks Indian Mission.

Judy Lewis



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



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**PAID**  
Stillwater, Ok  
74074  
Permit #245

**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

**Saturday, Feb. 4, Time: 5-7pm, Jr. SLY Game Night**

Come hang out and eat food, play games, have lots of fun, etc.

**Sunday, Feb. 5, Time: 9:40am, Panera Hour**

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 10:45am service.

**Sunday, Feb. 5, Tackle Hunger**

Students- come with prepared hearts to take part in giving on SOUPer Bowl Sunday to Feeding the Hungry.

**Sunday, Feb. 12, Youth Gathering Meeting**

This meeting is for all who are attending the Youth Gathering in the summer. We will be meeting **after the 10:45am** church service ends.

**Saturday, Feb. 18, Time: 1:15-11pm?, Winter Jam, OKC**

As of now- meet at the church, followed by a late lunch in Bricktown. Concert doors open @5pm. Students will inform parents when to pick them up- around 11pm. If coming, please let me know **by Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>**. **Bring \$10** for your ticket, **\$\$\$** for food, and some friends if you want! Scholarships are available (talk with Pastor Sally). 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 me.

**Friday, Feb. 24- Sat. Feb. 25, Time: TBA, Weekend Mission Trip**

We will be driving to Bentonville, AR on the 24<sup>th</sup> after school and arriving back home on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We will help pack meals for Feed My Starving Children on Saturday and return home that afternoon. More info to come.





## We are the ELCA

Our prayers and offerings help support many and varied ministries in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Each month in the SEER we will mention some.

A pastor from Bethlehem will soon receive a German prize for work he has done establishing a wellness clinic and a school that is now the second largest employer in Bethlehem.

The ELCA works with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, especially through our coordinator of the 'Peace Not Walls' Campaign, the Rev. Robert Smith – who is, by the way, a son of our own congregation!

While at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly a pastor from Iowa learned about the drought in Texas and the severe shortage of hay. He went home and organized a 'hay lift' from northeast Iowa that has donated truckloads of hay to hurting ranchers.

A mining activity in West Virginia is believed to have contaminated drinking water and caused several illnesses and even deaths. An ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant helped the residents organize a 'Water Weekend' bringing in much needed clean water, and even more important, knowledge on how to tackle the problem.

Thank you for being the ELCA!

# NEWS & Notes

## Hymn Sing

Please contact John Andrews at 372-3751 for this month's details.

The Church office receives a good bit of sample **Lenten Youth and Adult study materials**. If you would like any of these items, there will be a basket put on the back tables starting Feb. 12th. Please feel free to take whatever will add to your Lenten experience.

**FREE printer ink cartridges** left from old printers. Almost new HP 940's black and color cartridges and HP 27's— black, new, still in the package If you can use any of these, please contact Lisa at the church office.

Food will be collected for the **Third Sunday Offering** on Sunday, February 19 for COCAA's food pantry.

Macaroni & cheese, pasta, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, dry beans, dinner kits, spaghetti sauce, and rice are all needed.

To save mailing expenses, please call the office, if you need **your year end statement**.

During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

From the Journey of Hope sermon series.

Dear Salem Family,

We can't begin to express our gratitude for all your prayers and support during Brad's surgery and recovery. We often take the simple things in life for granted; such as swallowing. November 30, 2011 changed our lives forever when our child could no longer swallow and had the fight of his life ahead of him. You are a gracious group of believers that allowed and encouraged Pastor Sally to come to the hospital and be with us while we waited for 6 hours in prayer, during Brad's surgery. You have held us in your arms, dried our tears, comforted us with your prayers and your cards have given Brad strength beyond measure! Thank you for all your love, concern and prayers! Each of you has truly made a difference in this uncertain journey. We ask for your continued prayers as Brad heals and learns to adjust to life again with an even stronger faith in our God!

Blessings to each of you! Scott and Michelle Hubbard



### Souper Bowl Sunday

February 5, 2011

Salem youth will collect donations in large soup pots as worshippers leave church. The youth will donate all funds received to a local charity or food bank. Please help our youth help the community.

### Book Club



**Feb 27** - The Language of Baklava (Diana Abu-Jaber) - host TBA

**Mar 26** - Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet (Jamie Ford) - host needed

**Apr 30** - The Bookseller of Kabul (Selerstad & Christophersen) - host needed

**May 21** - Crazy Love (Chan) - host TBA

**Everyone is welcome!**

### ADULT DISCUSSION

**OUR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** is continuing its discussions from "Jesus and the Gospels" in preparation for lectures & discussion of the book of Mark. In February we have scheduled discussions on the following topics:

- "The Context – Jesus in the Memory of the Church"
- "Earliest Stages – Paul and the Oral Tradition"
- "Why Compose Gospels - The Synoptic Problem and Its Solutions."

After these preparatory lectures and discussions the class will deal specifically with the Book of Mark in March. Join us and share in our interesting and informative discussions of the New Testament Book that is the basis for our Gospel readings this year.



**Stillwater Interfaith Counseling Center Chili /Hot Dog/ Soup All You Can Eat Supper, Saturday, Feb 25 from 11-7pm at First Christian (Duck & Mathews).**

Proceeds go to support our not-for-profit counseling center.

Please see Judy Lewis or Sharon Schonthaler for tickets. Or buy at the door before or after the men's & women's basketball games. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 children under 12 or \$15 for a family of four.