

# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to reach out to others, proclaim God's word, share our faith and celebrate His love.

## DECEMBER 2020

*"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him." ~ Isaiah 64:1 – 4*

Dear Friends in Christ,

For many of us, 2020 began as a year filled with Great Expectations! We were at the dawn of a new decade; we had worked hard in 2019 to recover from the floods, and we were ready for a season of joy and peace. This year has not met most of those expectations.

What happens when Great Expectations go unfulfilled? The nation of Israel was experiencing just such a situation in the verses from Isaiah printed above. As we begin our Advent Journey, here we find God's people experiencing utter hopelessness because of unfulfilled expectations.

The Babylonians had defeated Israel. The Israelites lost their land, identity, customs, and temple, the center of their worship of God. After living in exile for many years, the people of God were experiencing a spiritual crisis. God seemed far away, and either uncaring or unable to help them out of their hopeless situation.

Throughout the book of Isaiah, the prophet proclaimed that God was about to take action, that God would set the captives free and return them to their homeland. In 538 B.C., it appeared that at last God was acting, and the great expectations of God's exiled people would be fulfilled. A small group of exiles was allowed to return to Jerusalem. Immediately they laid the foundation for a new temple.

However, as years passed, the number of exiles returning home remained small. Construction of the temple soon ceased, not to be resumed for nearly 20 years. As the tiny band of returned exiles struggled to survive in their devastated homeland, they grew increasingly demoralized. In the face of unfulfilled expectations, feelings of hopelessness overwhelmed the community.

In Isaiah 64: 1-4, the prophet laments to God, begging for action and help. What Isaiah says here is, "God, remember when even the mountains shook with fear? But now, our enemies make fun of us and you. So why don't you tear open the sky and come down and work some miracles and straighten everything out for us?"

Here at the close of 2020, we can relate to Isaiah's frustration and fears. 2020 has not met our expectations, and we are tired of the fight to survive. We want God to get involved and help us fix the mess we see all around us.

But, as we begin our Advent Journey, we also celebrate the glorious fulfillment of all of God's promises. We remember that 2000 years ago, in the birth of Jesus, God did tear open the sky and come down to earth. In him, all the hopes of the world find fulfillment.

That does not mean that God's people don't struggle with life at times. That does not mean that we do not have questions for God. That does not mean that we do not still have Great Expectations that are sometimes shattered by disease, divorce, unemployment, abuse, or any other enemies in our modern world. Each one of us still struggles at times with unfulfilled expectations.

(continued)



*Preaching and  
Presiding in  
December  
Pastor Shari  
Schwedhelm*

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However, things are not the same as they were 2500 years ago. God has come down to earth. Because of that, we know that we will never be alone again. In that Holy Child born in Bethlehem's manger, we have the precious assurance that he is Immanuel – God with us always and forever. That makes all the difference in the world. Now we can truly have Great Expectations!

To God be the Glory!

*Rev. Shari Schwedhelm*

Rev. Shari L. Schwedhelm



STIR UP OUR HEARTS,  
LORD GOD, TO  
PREPARE THE WAY OF  
YOUR ONLY SON. BY  
HIS COMING  
STRENGTHEN US TO  
SERVE YOU WITH  
PURIFIED LIVES;  
THROUGH JESUS  
CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR  
AND LORD, WHO LIVES  
AND REIGNS WITH YOU  
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
ONE GOD, NOW AND  
FOREVER.  
AMEN.

PRAYER OF THE DAY  
DECEMBER 6, 2020

**Council Reports**  
are due by noon on  
November 4, 2020

**Newsletter articles**  
are due by noon on  
November 20, 2020

NEWS

**LifeHouse Meal**— Thank you to Salem's council for providing the Care Corps Lifehouse meal in November. Sloppy Joes, chips, green beans, milk, juice, and cookies were enjoyed by 35 people. Contact Janet Kletke if you would be willing to provide a food item for the December meal.

**Weekly Devotions**—Every week, Wednesday afternoon 4:00 p.m. Join Pastor Shari for a zoom meeting which will also be recorded. It will be based on our first reading for the coming Sunday. These are posted to Facebook, but will also be emailed to those on our list so that you can access them even if you do not have a Facebook account. We hope these devotions deepen your connection to the texts we do not have time to explore as closely during worship on Sunday morning.

**Sunday Intergenerational Education**—All ages are welcome! The classes are located on salemfremont.org under Education – Sunday Intergenerational Classes. The online class includes the Bible Reading, a Video and several Activities. Enjoy learning stories of the Bible.

**The Table Drive Thru**—Food drop off for The Table is Wednesday, December 9th and Wednesday, December 16th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. You can also drop off anytime at the church. Please put donations in the yellow wagon in the narthex. Need volunteers Friday, December 18th at 4:00 pm to bag food and Saturday, December 19th to distribute food.

Food items needed:

*peanut butter  
jam or jelly  
cereal  
mac & cheese  
tuna  
fruit cups*

*granola bars  
toilet paper  
spaghetti  
pasta sauce  
canned vegetables  
canned soup*

**The Table  
Holiday Schedule Change**  
December 19th (3rd Saturday)  
January goes back to the last  
Saturday of the month

Thank you for supporting this important outreach for the Fremont community.

**Assisting Minister and Projection Volunteers**—We are looking for volunteers to be an Assisting Minister and for Projection on Sundays. If you are interested in helping out please contact the church office 402-721-6158.

### **Advent Devotion - "O Lord How Shall I Meet You."**

Starting November 29th, we will have the opportunity to participate in a congregation-wide Advent Devotional Journey. The devotions this year are based upon the hymn, "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You." Printed copies of the daily devotions are available at church to be picked up, or call if you would like one delivered to you. We have large and regular print versions available. You can also receive these via email each morning. Please call the church office or send an email to request the email version. Let's join together in reading God's word daily during Advent!

### **Upcoming Special Opportunities for Worship**

We are providing several opportunities in the coming weeks and months for you to join us in worship for special occasions. We will host each of these services on Facebook Live if we are not able to gather in person, and they can also be heard on KHUB 1340 or Big Dog Radio 98.9.

- **Community Thanksgiving Service** – Wednesday, November 25th at 7 pm at Salem on the radio.
- **Christmas Eve Services** – December 24th, 5 pm at St. Timothy and 7 pm at Salem on the radio.
- **Community New Year's Eve Worship** – December 31st, at 7 pm at Salem on the radio
- **Service of Healing and Prayer** – Sunday, January 31st – will decide if this is a joint service or two separate services depending on the status of the virus at that time.

### **SALEM LITTLE SAINTS**

Salem Little Saints is looking for a responsible and timely individual to help aid our Center in transporting school age children to and from school in the morning, afternoon, and occasional early outs. Individual would need to be responsible in driving the bus by obeying all laws and timely to work so all children get to their individual schools safely and on-time. Individual would also need great attendance and are willing to fill in for other employees while being an aide/floater. Applicants must be 19 years of age or older and be able to pass a background check. Previous experience with working with children in a school or childcare setting preferred. Upon being hired, individual will take a Transportation class. Individual must have a clean driving record.

Call 402.727.6300 and ask for Lily or Sarah if you have any more questions. You may also visit [http://www.salemfremont.org/employee\\_application](http://www.salemfremont.org/employee_application) for an application.

Miss Lily

Lily Bowman  
Director of Salem Little Saints Childcare



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Ted and Colleen Osterloh  
December 2, 1977-43 years

Donald and Vivian Tank  
December 14, 2000-20 years

Ernest and Jean Nick  
December 16, 1961-59 years

Gary and Sharon Carlson  
December 22, 1979-41 years

Gary and Karin Hensens  
December 27, 1966-54 years

*If we accidentally missed your  
anniversary this month, please  
let us know (402-721-6158)  
so that we can correct/update  
our computer records.*

### GRATITUDE

Thank you to Janet Kletke for delivering  
the communion package. It is very  
much appreciated.

Jean Kinport



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

### October YTD

<b>Income</b>	\$196,153.89
<b>Expenses</b>	\$215,984.78
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	\$-19,830.89

Checking Account Balance is \$21,415.58

### December Sponsors for Flowers

December 6th—no sponsor

December 13th—no sponsor

December 20th—Helen Lannin

December 24th—Gary & Karin Hensens

December 27th—no sponsor

December 31st—no sponsor

### December Sponsors for Radio Broadcast

December 6th—no sponsor

December 13th—no sponsor

December 20th—no sponsor

December 24th—no sponsor

December 27th—no sponsor

December 31st—no sponsor



STIR UP THE WILLS OF  
YOUR FAITHFUL PEOPLE,  
LORD GOD, AND OPEN  
OUR EARS TO THE  
WORDS OF YOUR  
PROPHETS, THAT,  
ANOINTED BY YOUR  
SPIRIT, WE MAY TESTIFY  
TO YOUR LIGHT;  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,  
OUR SAVIOR AND LORD,  
WHO LIVES AND REIGNS  
WITH YOU AND THE HOLY  
SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW  
AND FOREVER.  
AMEN.

### SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRAYER OF THE DAY  
DECEMBER 13, 2020

BAPTISMAL  
ANNIVERSARIES



STIR UP YOUR POWER,  
LORD CHRIST, AND  
COME. WITH YOUR  
ABUNDANT GRACE AND  
MIGHT, FREE US FROM  
THE SIN THAT WOULD  
OBSTRUCT YOUR MER-  
CY, THAT WILLINGLY WE  
MAY BEAR YOUR RE-  
DEEMING LOVE TO ALL  
THE WORLD, FOR YOU  
LIVE AND REIGN WITH  
THE FATHER AND THE  
HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD,  
NOW AND FOREVER.  
AMEN.

December 1  
Kylie Leland  
Angela Schlieker  
Gene Schultz  
Dennis Heinrich

December 2  
Gina Brant

December 3  
Barbara Brimmerman

December 4  
Scott Johannesen

December 5  
Jean Kinport

December 6  
John Jugler

December 7  
Rosella Brei  
Chloe Davies

December 9  
Shelley Schiessler  
Deborah Fisher  
Cecilia Morris

December 10  
Kathy Satorie  
Marin Phelps

December 11  
Becky Smith  
Sherri Johannesen  
Mary Magstadt  
Luke Walters

December 12  
Benjamin Barnhart

December 14  
Marisa Kuhr

December 17  
Janet Thurman  
Brielle Mangum

December 19  
Lisa Novak

December 21  
Kashtin Wavrin

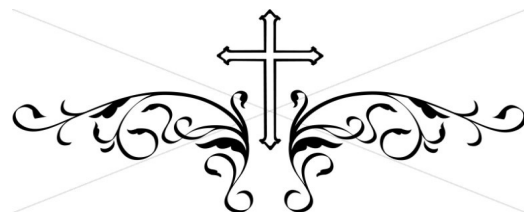
December 23  
Sharon Limbach

December 25  
Olivia Sims  
Lawrence Asare-Danquah

December 26  
Breena Walkenhorst

December 28  
Izik Tunick

December 30  
Stephanie Rasmussen



PRAYER OF THE DAY  
DECEMBER 20, 2020



## BIRTHDAYS

December 1  
Kennlee Wavrin

December 5  
Shana Clapper

December 7  
Carter Neubert

December 8  
Mark Remington  
Alan Reeh

December 10  
Nathan Siems  
Harvey Ladehoff  
Jayne Neal

December 11  
Randy Bartunek  
Douglas Hartmann  
Taylor Knipp  
Craig Siems  
Trenton Tank

December 12  
Nicholas Leland  
Patricia Anderson  
James Carlson

December 13  
Pat Ludeke

December 14  
James  
Messerschmidt

December 15  
Shaun Hoschiet

December 16  
Raymond Snodgrass

December 17  
Rod Hespen  
Jill Phelps

December 18  
Zachery Vogt

December 19  
Christine Johannesen  
Beverly Brei

December 20  
Holly Hendrickson

December 21  
Miranda Miller

December 22  
Katie Bishop

December 23  
Dawson Holverson  
Sheryl Kuhr  
Emily Miller  
Ron Mueller  
Rowan Vanosdel

December 25  
Todd Wheelock

December 26  
Corrina Christ  
Nicholas Novak

December 28  
Dolores Dunker  
Kloey Wheelock  
Allen Braxton

December 29  
Nicole Scheer



ALMIGHTY GOD, YOU  
WONDERFULLY CREATED  
THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN  
NATURE AND YET MORE  
WONDERFULLY RE-  
STORED IT. IN YOUR MER-  
CY, LET US SHARE THE  
DIVINE LIFE OF THE ONE  
WHO CAME TO SHARE  
OUR HUMANITY, JESUS  
CHRIST, YOUR SON, OUR  
LORD, WHO LIVES AND  
REIGNS WITH YOU AND  
THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE  
GOD, NOW AND FOREVER.  
AMEN



PRAYER OF THE DAY  
DECEMBER 27, 2020

Salem Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
October 12, 2020  
6:30 p.m.

Theme Verse: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Mission Statement: Salem Lutheran Church is to reach out to others, proclaim God's word, share our faith, and celebrate His love.

Book Discussion – "Autopsy of a Deceased Church" Chapters 10 & 11: "The Church Had No Clear Purpose" and "The Church Obsessed Over Facilities"

Attendance:

Present: Mark Remington, Fred Stinemates, Tammy Flittie, Rich Ronnenkamp, Sandy Terry, Donley Ruether, Pat Ludeke, Matt Wilson, Melissa Godfrey, and Pastor Shari Schwedhelm

Absent: None

Agenda Approval – Mark made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Donley seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Consent section: All matters listed under the Consent Section are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be minimal discussion of each report unless there is an action that needs to be taken by the Council.

Previous meeting minutes

Regular Meeting September 14, 2020 – no corrections or additions to the meeting minutes.

Financial Reports – Sandy Terry

Salem received a \$500 grant from the Department of Health & Human Services – half of the money will go to Salem Little Saints to be used for protection sanitation due to COVID

Salem received \$35,050.98 from Wally Wolfe's estate

Bartling A - \$448,113.68

Bartling B - \$143,890.27

Fuhlrodt - \$89,783.51

Committee Reports/Concerns:

Congregational Life Team meeting – Tammy updated the council on the grant request that was submitted to the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

D. Staff reports:

a. Pastor Shari

i. Report for September

Worship Services – 11

Salem – 4

St. Timothy – 4

Private Baptisms – 2

Shalimar Gardens – a

Funerals – 2

Dick Houser – September 11th

Bobby Lubker – September 27th

Baptism – 2

Tillie Jean French – September 13th

Leni Jean Klein – September 27th

Hospital/Communion Visits – 18 in person visits delivering communion cups, 2 hospital visits, 5 other pastoral care visits, phone pastor care 6.5 hours

Expense Report –

Community Engagement –

1 ministerial association meeting

1 ministerial association leadership team meeting

5 midweek devotional videos

### 3 confirmation classes

#### Administration –

1 council meeting with Bishop  
 2 baptism preparation meetings  
 3 council meetings  
 2 technology team meetings  
 1 congregational life team meeting  
 2 days First Call Theological Education  
 Newsletter articles  
 Council meeting preparation

#### Vacation time used –

Sunday used = 0 (2/4 used in 2020)  
 Weekdays used = 0 (18/20 used in 2020)  
 Sick days used = 0 (4/10 used in 2020)

Upcoming Vacation Time – Sunday, November 22nd (Sandy Terry will preach) December 3rd – 7th, using her last Sunday December 6th.

Upcoming professional development – Fall Theological Conference October 26th – 28th

Tasks to address:

Things to look forward to –

Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, November 29th

Some numbers Pastor feels we might want to know –

#### Midweek devotion views for September –

September 1st – 27 +1 minute views – 0 watched to the end  
 September 8th – 32 +1minute views – 0 watched to the end  
 September 15th - 25 +1minute views - 1 (from St. Timothy) watched to the end  
 September 29th – 10 +1 minute views – 3 (from Salem) watched to the end

#### Facebook numbers for August:

September 6th - reach 373, click 65, +1min 55  
 September 13th - reach 379, click 58, +1min 39  
 September 20th – reach 315, click 153 + 1 min 60  
 September 27th – reach 315 +1min 51

#### Sermon audio clicks per week –

September 6th – 60  
 September 13th – 48  
 September 20th – 19  
 September 27th – 7

ii. Matt made a motion to approve Pastor mileage of \$87.44 for September for Salem's half. Mark seconded. Motion carried.

b. Lily Bowman, Salem Little Saints – reported submitted.

Mark made a motion to approve the consent section. Matt seconded. Motion carried.

#### V. Business Section:

Midwest Sound Proposal - Donley made a motion to accept the bid of \$52,869. Melissa seconded. Motion carried.

#### VI. Other Items:

Ministry Covenant Review and Discussion

VII. Salem and St. Timothy Social Time – November 2nd @ 6 p.m. at Big Red Keno

VIII. Shared Council Meeting November 30th, 6:45 p.m. at St. Timothy

#### IX. Lay Readers:

October 18th – Matt Wilson  
 October 25th – Rich Ronnenkamp



November 1st – Lawrence Asare-Danquah  
November 8th - Pat Ludeke  
November 15th –

X. Next council meeting: November 16th @ 6:30 p.m.

XI. Adjournment - closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Flittie  
Council Secretary

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**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**



## CONTACT INFO

### Address

401 East Military Avenue,  
Fremont, NE 68025

### Phone

402-721-6158 Voice  
402-727-0482 Fax

### Email

slutheran6386@msn.com

### Web

www.salemfremont.org

### Facebook

Salem Lutheran Church

## OFFICE HOURS

### Monday—Thursday

8:00 a.m.—Noon  
1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

### Friday

8:00 a.m.—Noon  
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

## WORSHIP

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

Holy Communion on the  
first, third and fifth Sundays  
of the month

## BROADCASTS

Radio: Big Dog 98.9 FM  
KHUB-1340 AM

Cable: Spectrum  
Channel 1304  
Wednesdays  
2:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
Thursdays  
12:00 pm & 6:00 pm

## EDUCATION

9:45 a.m.—**Sundays**  
Intergenerational  
Education Time

7:00 a.m. **Fridays**  
Men's Bible Study/CG

11:30 a.m. **Fridays**  
Bible Study/CG

## CLERGY & STAFF

### Lead Pastor

Pastor Shari Schwedhelm  
402-830-4009  
church.sharis@gmail.com

### Salem Little Saints Director

Lily Bowman, Director  
402-727-6300  
salemibowman@gmail.com

### Administrative Assistant

Verna Kimball  
402-721-6158  
slutheran6386@msn.com

### Adult Choir Director

Rosie Parde  
402-721-0944  
salemrparde@msn.com

### Adult Handbell Choir Director

Matt Wilson  
402-727-9467  
Mewilson520@earthlink.net

### Custodian

Virginia Sagastume  
402-721-6158

### Records Volunteer:

Jeanette Stinemates  
402-720-0692

## MINISTRY COORDINATORS

### Assisting Ministers

TBD

### Acolytes

Ushers

### Musicians

### Projection

### Sound

### Video

TBD

### Communion Set Up

### Readers

Barbara Anderson 402-727-4585

### Greeters

TBD

### Ushers

Don Godfrey 402-720-6491

## Signup Sheets for 2020 Altar Flowers, Radio Broadcast, and Doughnuts

are up on the bulletin board by the  
stairway to the office.

### December Dates Available

Flowers: 6th, 13, 24, 27,

Doughnuts: n/a

Radio Broadcast: 6th, 13th, 20, 24th,  
27th, 31st

### January Dates Available

Flowers: 17th, 24th, 31st

Doughnuts: n/a

Radio Broadcast: 3rd, 10th, 17th,  
24th, 31st

Cost for Flowers—\$30.00  
Cost for Doughnuts—\$30.00  
Cost for Radio Broadcast—\$150.00

**Fellowship/Doughnuts will be  
on hold until further notice.**

## Email Updates

**Please contact the church office if you  
have an email address and are not  
receiving the weekly email news and  
opportunities that are happening.**

**Contact the church office at  
402-721-6158 or  
email slutheran6386@msn.com**

