



# Salem Messenger

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Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1500 Salem Road, Brenham, TX 77833

Office Phone - 979-836-9320 Fax - 979-836-2799

E-mail - [salembrenham@broadwaves.net](mailto:salembrenham@broadwaves.net) Web page - [www.salembrenham.org](http://www.salembrenham.org)

Pastors - Charles Parnell - Home phone-979-251-8972; email: [pastorchp@broadwaves.net](mailto:pastorchp@broadwaves.net)

Toby Burk – Home phone-979-551-9030; email: [revburk@gmail.com](mailto:revburk@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant - Glenda Pieper - Home phone-979-836-4656; email: [salembrenham@broadwaves.net](mailto:salembrenham@broadwaves.net)

February, 2012

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## LENT 2012: The Cross In Our Lives

February 22, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent. As a congregation, we will participate in the Lenten tradition of mid-week worship with services at 12:10 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday in Lent. We will culminate our Lenten worship with services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday of Holy Week, April 5 and April 6.

After the mid-day service, you are invited to attend a potluck luncheon. Those who can are invited to bring a dish to share with others, and if you can't bring a dish, you are invited to stay for lunch. There is always plenty. After the meal, some people gather for a fellowship of dominos or cards.

The Lenten Theme is "The Cross In Our Lives", and will include weekly reflections from the Gospel of Mark Chapters 8:20-10:52. These passages include the three passion predictions of Jesus, as well as an equal number of times when the disciples misunderstand Jesus' words on the cross. Through these predictions and misunderstandings, we will contemplate the role of the cross in our lives.

### Here are the Themes:

The Call of the Cross  
The Cost of the Cross  
The Confusion of the Cross  
The Community of the Cross  
The Challenge of the Cross  
The Courage of the Cross



Pastors participating in the pulpit exchange are: S.A.M. Ken Weiss, Eben Ezer Lutheran Church, Berlin Community; Pastor Alan Kethan, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Gay Hill; Pastor Phil Fenton, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brenham; Pastor Jim Abbott, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wiedeville; Pastor David Hansen, St. John Lutheran Church, Prairie Hill; and Pastor Charles Parnell, Salem Lutheran Church, Brenham.

As Christ's disciples, let us join the ancient Lenten Journey by worshipping on Wednesdays in Lent. Attend either the 12:10 or the 7:00 services during Lent.

## From the Pastor



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for the welcome to Salem. The gifts and warm greetings encourage me and warm my heart. This great welcome warms my heart because you are not merely welcoming Toby Burk. You are welcoming a Pastor. You are welcoming a fellow Christian. In these welcomes and gifts you are honoring our Lord. God bless you for welcoming the stranger as well as a preacher of the Gospel.

My focus and my passion for ministry is a bottom-up church. What I mean by that is, the strength and beauty of a church lies in its member's relationship with God. To have every member engaged in a living faith is what the early church was all about and that has not changed. Each one of us is equipped and empowered to live this life by being a part of the church. We can engage the difficult stages in life and have order in the structure of righteousness and grace for our own lives as well as society. Lastly but certainly not least is the ability and courage of every member to pass on the faith to the next generation as well as the current. Learning, teaching, listening, for the glory of God.

As your new Pastor I do not want our interactions to stop after the liturgy and Sunday morning. I expect to hear ideas about what the church can be doing, and how you want to help implement it. I expect to hear concerns and joys about lives and faith journeys. I expect to hear about doubts and examples of faith. I expect to see people try to get involved in the church in some way. I expect everyone to hold each other respectfully and lovingly accountable in living a Christian life. If the church is not meeting your needs (i.e. classes, questions, ministries, activities) it is your responsibility to voice that need and see if the church can go in that direction.

The purpose of all this is to actively engage faith and Holy Scripture, to struggle with our identity in our seemingly complicated time. Gone is the old way of everyone going to church and claiming right living. Our present time and hour is about intentionally living and letting God live through us.

I have a vision and am excited. However, if you put your trust in me to fix and save, I will let you down. Our trust and hope as a community will be in Christ and the gift of this community functioning as one body, the 'body of Christ', will be from the Father.

I would just like to let everyone know that I am very excited to begin. I think there are many areas of growth as well as much beauty and value with what already exists. Pastor Parnell and Glenda have been awesome and I am sure we will work magnificently together, y'all are very blessed to have them. I look forward to hearing from you all and I look forward to seeing you in worship on Sunday morning. I look forward to our worship by living the other 6 days of the week for His glory.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Burk*



## ATTENTION ALL SALEM MEMBERS



THE PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR OUR  
2012 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT RACHELLE BOWMAN OR ANY PARISH ED MEMBER.



## **“Baby Items” Drive for February**

February is often noted with hearts and love. This month we want to make a change in our collections. We want to focus our attention on "Baby Items". Some suggestions may be baby food, diapers, blankets, etc. Faith Mission continues to have a high demand for these items. Remember we always accept any other food items as usual.



In our continuing effort to help our needy, we can't overlook those precious babies in Washington County. Let's open our hearts and share the love of Christ by placing some items in the basket.

*Social Concerns Committee*

## **Salem Women of the Church News**



The ladies gathered on Saturday, January 7, for the first time in 2012. The Dorcas Circle served a delicious brunch. Pastor Mindy Roll presented the program regarding her pastoral duties at Texas A&M and Blinn in Brenham and Bryan. The business meeting was held and all reports were accepted as presented.

The General Board decided to place the Altar Flowers in honor of Pastor Toby Burk for his installation as Salem's Associate Pastor. The two vases of flowers were taken on Monday to Hospice so they could be enjoyed once again by those who are ill and are on Hospice.

Last month I wrote about Bold Women's Day which we will be celebrating later this month. I will be writing about the Bold Women of Salem this year in the newsletter. Last month I wrote about the two ladies who on regular basis send cards. There is another group that sends cards. But not only do they send cards...they call...they visit our members who are in Care Centers, members who are ill, members who are home bound, members who are grieving and members who are rejoicing.

Helen Ladewig in her position as Mission Action Chairperson contacts the ladies. Visiting this year will be the following: Dovie Addicks, Jeanette Poehlmann, Nancy Rosenbaum, Janell Dierking, Dee Shupak, Bertha Kammerer, Dorothy Sommerfeld, Maxine Schwarze, Glenda Weyand, Dorothy Wehmeyer, Frances Lehmann, Linda Thomas, Helen Rodenbeck, Helen Ladewig, Betty Thomas, Diana Hodde, Lois Albright, Delores Schroeder, Glenda Pieper, Doris Weiss, Verbie Weiss, Margaret Schwettmann, Betty Becker, Peggy Acker, Rosalie Wendler, Dorothy Hupe, Hildegard Brinkmeyer, Doris Eckermann, Brenda Engeling, Shirley Hueske, Dorothy Addicks, Barbara Dietzmann, Joyce Zientek, Edith Lehmann, Alice Dannhaus, and Elverda Kiecke.

Thank you, Visiting Committee, as you are Bold and share this Ministry with Salem members.

*Elizabeth Meinholdt, Salem WELCA President*

Visiting Committee members for February are: Janell Dierking, Dee Shupak, Bertha Kammerer.

Our Quilting Group has been working real hard. We met in January and our next meetings will be February 21 and March 20 at 9 a.m. in the parsonage.

Thanks go to Janice Doehring, Lynn and Glenda Pieper, and Frances and Alvin Lehmann for their donations. Also thanks to all who came out and worked on the quilts. You are all wonderful people.

Our newest stitcher is Pastor Burk. Thanks, Pastor Burk, for being so co-operative and for your help.

## LYO Upcoming Events



Feb. 5: Souper Bowl of Caring  
Feb. 12: Valentine's Dinner (See flyer in this newsletter for details.)

**The registration for the Youth Gathering in July 2012 is still open.** If anyone that is currently in grades 8-12 would like to attend, please contact Gloria Arnold.

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**A BBQ Chicken Drive Thru Benefit** for Matt Rybarski (brother-in-law of Brian Fritz) to help defray the cost of medical bills will be held Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 4:00-6:00 p.m., at the Brenham Elks Lodge, 400 E. Germania, Brenham. Tickets are \$8.00 each for BBQ chicken with buttered potatoes and green beans. If interested in purchasing tickets, please contact Brian Fritz, 979-836-0079, Cathy Fritz, 979-836-1937 (home), 979-830-3517 (cell) or Christie Schroeder, 979-830-3827 (cell). Raffle tickets are also available.

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**The Texas Lutheran University Choirs Spring Tour 2012** "A New Creation" will have a performance at the Round Top Music Institute Festival Concert Hall, Round Top, Texas, on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 p.m. A flyer is posted in the narthex with sites and dates for the rest of that weekend. You can go to their website for more information: [www.tlu.edu/choirtour](http://www.tlu.edu/choirtour).



Altar Flowers

**Altar Flowers** – The following dates are open for altar flowers: February 22 (Ash Wednesday), February 26, March 18, April 5 (Maundy Thursday), April 29, July 29, September 9, September 23, September 30, October 7, November 25 and December 16. If you are willing to place flowers on the altar stands on one of these dates, please sign up on the flower chart in the narthex or call Glenda at the church office.

## Births



Congratulations to Floyd Addicks at the birth of his granddaughter, Jenna Suzanne Addicks on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Jenna's parents are Dave & Trina Addicks.

Congratulations to Cody & Meghan Wagner at the birth of their son, Caellum Blake on January 8<sup>th</sup>.



Congratulations to Craig Flentge, son of Glenn & Cindy Flentge, on his selection to play trombone in the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois!

Congratulations to Kate Roberts, daughter of Donny & Melanie Roberts, on her selection to be the junior queen of the 2012 Junior Maifest!

Congratulations to Brittni Knebel on her graduation from Texas A&M in December, 2011! She received a Bachelor's of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. She graduated Cum Laude.



## We express our Christian sympathy to...

..Broc Bosse and family at the death of his grandfather, John Bosse on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

..Ervin Sommerfeld and family at the death of his brother-in-law, John Kruse on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

..Ruby Naumann and Ruth Kelling at the death of their brother-in-law, Johnnie Kramer on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

..the family and friends of Luther Utesch at his death on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Luther's father, Pastor William Utesch was pastor here at Salem from 1920-1940.

..the family and friends of Kathy Stone at her death on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Kathy was a co-worker of several Salem members who teach at Krause Elementary School.

Remember these families in your prayers.

## Thank You to....



..Charles & Linnae Hirsch for selecting hymns for our February 5, 12 and 19 worship services and the Bold Women's Day committee for February 26.

..the following for sponsoring the *Day1* program: Clamens & Ora Nell Tiemann on January 1<sup>st</sup> in honor of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchild; Carolyn Warmke and family in honor of Pastor Charles Parnell, Pastor Toby Burk and retired Pastor Bill Derrick; and Franklin & Evelyn Menn on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in honor of Pastor Parnell, Pastor Burk and Glenda Pieper.

..Laura Kwiatkowski, Cindy Thornton, Jeanell Dallmeyer and Candace Killen for serving in the Nursery in January.

## Thank You Notes received:



Thank You  
Notes

Thank you to all Parish Ed members, Sunday School teachers, Superintendents, and Friends of Sunday School that helped with our room clean-up on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Your help made our organizational day a GREAT success!!

We want to thank the members of Salem for your prayers, cards, telephone calls and visits following Alfred's death. We especially thank Pastor Parnell for being with us at the hospital, for leading the service, and for the wonderful sermon. Thanks to Nancy for playing the music at the service and to everyone who provided refreshments. Your many expressions of sympathy have been such a great comfort to us, and your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

God's Blessings,  
*Helen Rodenbeck and Family*

I wish to thank the LYO for the beautiful Christmas carols they sang for me when they came by my apartment on December 16<sup>th</sup>. You made my holidays more special.

*Wilfred Winkelmann*

Thank you letters were received from Texas Lutheran University for the \$179.50 Congregational Aid Program gift in December and from Lutherhill Ministries for the \$375.00 from our quarterly

budget item donation. (Letters are posted in the Education Building hallway.)

## Church Council Highlights

The Church Council at its meeting:

- 1/ heard a report that the average worship attendance through 52 weeks was 221.
- 2/ approved motion to paint one wall in each Sunday School room and maybe add some art work to some of the walls.
- 3/ heard report that the TV monitors have been delivered.
- 4/ heard report that the Council Retreat is set for Saturday, March 24, 2012.
- 5/ approved motion to invite the Committee Chairs to the March 24<sup>th</sup> Council Retreat and to put together a task force to look into changing the annual meeting from November to October so elections can be held earlier.
- 6/ approved motion to designate the Lenten Offerings to the End Malaria Project.
- 7/ heard report that the Synod Assembly will be held May 11-12, 2012.
- 8/ approved motion to restructure Pastor Burk's housing allowance with his approval, to reflect a \$500.00 a month change.
- 9/ approved motion to release Lindsey Gandy from Salem to join Friedens United Church of Christ, Washington.
- 10/ approved motion to accept the request for transfer of membership by Kevin & Amanda Knebel, son Dillon and daughter Delaney from Martin Luther Lutheran Church of Carmine to Salem.

## Annual Meeting Highlights

- 1/ All reports were approved as printed in the Special Mailing. An extra sheet was passed out with information pertaining to the Memorial Fund report that was with the Treasurer's Report. (If you desire a copy, please contact the church office for a copy.)
- 2/ Approved the motion to accept the recommendations of the Trust Fund for disbursement in 2012. They are:
  - 1/ Congregational Endowment Fund: \$1250.00 to Faith Mission and \$1250.00 to Washington County Senior Citizens.
  - 2/ Buerger Endowment Fund: \$500.00 to Salem LYO.

3/ Grimm Memorial Fund: \$450.00 to ELCA  
 Missionary Sponsorship.  
 4/ Loeffler Memorial Fund: \$475.00 to Blinn  
 Campus Ministry and \$475.00 to the TAMU  
 Campus Ministry.  
 5/ Schroeder/Weiss Fund: \$400.00 to Salem Youth  
 Camping.  
 6/ Hueske Memorial Fund: No distribution at this  
 time.  
 7/ Priesmeyer Memorial Fund: No distribution at  
 this time. Total of all funds \$4800.00.

### Sunday School News

Attendance Perfect Attendance Classes  
 01-01 – no information  
 01-08 – no information  
 01-15 – 61 None  
 01-22 – 77 None

### HOLY OPEN CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC DISTRIBUTES FUNDS

The planning committee of the 2011 Holy Open has distributed \$1,600 to each beneficiary by mail on December 6. Your participation in making this fundraising effort a success to five Washington County organizations was greatly appreciated. The 2011 beneficiaries were Bread Partners, Hospice, Goodfellows, Faith Mission and Help Center and Habitat for Humanity. We hope to see you at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Holy Open Charity Golf Classic in 2012.

### Financial Highlights for December

Income:	General Fund -	\$30,086
	Thrivent Choice Dollars -	3,528
	Building Fund -	338
	Mission Offering -	173
	Total -	\$34,125
Expense Accounts:		
	Mission Work	\$2,363
	Parnell Compensation	8,507
	Rostered Leader's Compensation	-0-
	Administrative Asst. Compensation	2,739
	Worship/Program	3,017
	Utilities/Maintenance	7,058
	General Fund Sub-Total	\$23,684
	Non-Budgeted Misc.	-0-
	Thrivent Choice Dollars expense	1,707
	Total General Fund Expenses	\$25,392
	Building Fund Expenses	-0-
	Total Expenses	\$25,392

Assets:		
	General Fund	\$84,517
	Thrivent Choice Funds	\$9,844
	Building Fund	\$139,361
	Special Memorial Fund	\$239,205
	Trust Fund	\$244,657
	Spec. Memorial-Recreation Bldg.	\$19,893
	Total Assets	\$737,475



“Residual beneficiary: the beneficiary to whom the residue of the estate is left” (after bills are paid). For more information about Estate Planning and to “Get Your Ducks in a Row”, contact John Hunsicker, Director of Development of the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, 1-866-542-1349 or [johnh@LFSW.org](mailto:johnh@LFSW.org).

**Greetings From:**  
*Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*1500 Salem Rd.*  
*Brenham TX 77833-6958*

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### **Mission Statement of Salem Lutheran Church**

***AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES, WE STRIVE TO LOVE AND SERVE ALL PEOPLE, SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE.***

### **Men in Mission**



Men in Mission will meet Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 a.m. at The Bread Basket Café on Alamo Street. All Salem men and friends are invited to attend this breakfast.

*Ralph Poehlmann*



**Senior Citizens Fellowship** is Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. You are invited to come spend time together in fellowship and playing cards and dominoes.

*Alice & Ben Dannhaus & Alvin & Frances Lehmann*

