



Salem Messenger

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

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

E-mail - salembrenham@broadwaves.net Web page - www.salembrenham.org

Pastors - Charles Parnell – Church office – 979-836-9320; email: pastorcp@broadwaves.net

Toby Burk – Church office- 979-836-9320

Administrative Assistant - Glenda Pieper – Church office – 979-836-9320; email: salembrenham@broadwaves.net

January, 2012

Help Us Welcome Pastor Toby Burk!



Pastor Toby Burk will be installed as a pastor of Salem Lutheran Church on January 15, 2012 at 3pm by Pastor Erich Schafer, dean of area deanery. The installation service will include Holy Communion and Pastor Schafer will be preaching. All Salem members are encouraged to come out and make this a hearty welcome for Pastor Burk. The Fellowship Committee will be serving refreshments after the service.

To help welcome Pastor Burk, we invite you to bring a gift for his home or a gift certificate to your favorite eatery. It could also be something you enjoy that represents Brenham, like a Cub cap or something representing Blinn. Pastor Parnell received a Blinn mug which he still enjoys for his coffee.

Let's show Pastor Toby that we are excited about his ministry. We can do this by having a full house at his installation and reception. Mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

Celebrating Our 2011 Holy Baptisms

Celebrating a child's baptism is a significant time to help us remember our baptismal promises. On Sunday, January 8th, during the 10:05 a.m. service, we will celebrate the 2011 Baptisms at Salem Lutheran Church – Abigail Marie Shupak [5/1/11], Jamison Blace Hejl [8/8/11], Khloe Audrey Holmes [7/17/11], Tavan Charles Thompson [9/4/11], Teague Dayton Weinert [9/11/11], Gabrielle Leann Sommerfield [9/18/11], Laityn Lynne Davis [11/6/11/], and Riese Ashton Wiesepape [11/13/11].



Annual Reports are due January 6th from all committees and organizations of Salem Lutheran Church. Chairpersons, you need to turn in a typed or written report to the church office or e-mail your report to salembrenham@broadwaves.net by January 6th. [E-mailed is preferred.]

If you need to see a report from last year to assist you in writing your report, please contact Glenda.

The Congregation Annual Meeting is January 22 following the 10:05 service. All confirmed members are encouraged to attend. The newsletter with all the committee reports and annual meeting agenda will be mailed out the week of January 8th.

From the Pastor



In the life of Salem, we truly begin a new year. Pastor Toby Burk will begin sharing ministry with us on January 3, 2012. His first Sunday to preach will be January 8, 2012. His installation will be January 15, 2012 at 3pm. Please read elsewhere in this newsletter for some good suggestions about helping Pastor Burk's beginning.

New can be a threatening thing. New means different. New means unknown. New means change. All of these can bring anxiety to us as human beings. We like things to rock along smooth, without waves.

However, new can also be exciting. Newly married people find life together wonderful, and they marvel at each new experience. New parents find joy in the experience of having a child, and they treasure each new thing their child does. A family moving into a new home finds happiness in discovering the roominess of a larger house.

New doesn't have to be threatening. It can be fun and adventurous, too. New can be challenging, and challenge is good. It brings growth. Without challenges and newness, we would still be chiseling out wheels of stone, or picking up berries.

I want to encourage us to embrace the new in this New Year. Accept the challenge that Pastor Burk's ministry will bring to us. Let us grow in spirit and faith by exploring the newness of his gifts. Let us open our hearts to him and to the Spirit of God that has called him to ministry.

Have a blessed, challenging and exciting New Year.

Pastor Parnell

Invitation to Bid on Church Restroom Renovations

Plans have been made to do some needed updates and renovations to the restrooms within the Church building. If you or someone you know are interested in submitting a bid, please contact trustee Robert Lehmann prior to January 15th for details.

Attention... Committees & Organizations - Please contact Glenda in the church office to get your committee's and organization's meetings on the monthly calendar. We have lots going on in this congregation and your help is very much appreciated! So to get your information in the newsletter, please get your information to Glenda by the deadline [even before sure does help].

If you have a meeting scheduled in January and it is not on the monthly calendar, please contact her so it can be included in the Sunday bulletin.

The deadline for the monthly newsletter is posted on the calendar each month.

2011 Contributions will be handed out or mailed toward the end of January. If you have any questions concerning your offerings, please contact Glenda by January 31, 2012.

2012 Offering Envelopes are in the narthex. Please pick up your packet when you come to worship. If you are unable to find your packet, please talk to Glenda.

Food Drive for January

As we reflect over our four months of giving in 2011, we can be very proud. Our goal is 1,000 lbs. and we've already collected 965 lbs. Wow! We did receive help with the collection in December. Salem Senior Citizens and Salem 4-H Club collected and added a large amount for which we are grateful. December's total was 227 lbs.

Let's not stop now as we have 5 more months to go. We want our neighbors in Washington County to know that Salem is important in this community. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we doubled our goal?

With the cold weather at this time of the year, it is comforting to have some good hot soup to eat. In January we will focus our collection on soups and cornbread. This can be canned or packaged soup and cornbread mix. As always any canned goods are appreciated.

So let's start 2012 with soup in their bowls, peace in their hearts, and hope in the lives of our needy neighbors.

Social Concerns Committee



WELCA General Meeting



All women are invited to attend the general meeting of Salem Women of the ELCA Saturday, January 7, 2012.

The meeting begins at 9:15 a.m. in the Education Building with the Dorcas Circle hosting a brunch for the meeting. The program will be presented by Pastor Mindy Roll. She is the pastor with the Brazos Valley Campus Ministry at Blinn College [Brenham and Bryan] and Texas A & M. She will speak about the ministries on these campuses.

Visiting Committee members for January are: Dovie Addicks, Jeanette Poehlmann, Nancy Rosenbaum

2012 Women's Yearbooks – Ladies, if you are serving in some position in the church, please pick up your yearbook in the narthex [names are on the yearbooks]. If you are not serving and desire a yearbook, take one that doesn't have a name on it.

If there are any additions or corrections to the 2012 yearbook, please contact me or Glenda.

Gail Timm, Mission Growth Chairman

Quilting Day will be held January 17, 2012 and February 21, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the parsonage. All ladies are invited to come help tack quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Fabric Kits [formerly Sewing Kits] are being collected for Lutheran World Relief during the months of January and February. Items needed for a fabric kit include: 2 pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester). Fabric should have no stains or holes and be cut into pieces measuring 2 ¼ yards of 60" wide fabric or 3 yards of 44" wide fabric or 4 yards of 36" wide fabric and 2 spools (250-300 yards each) of matching general purpose thread. Place items in the women's closet located in the hallway across from the kitchen. Everyone is invited to participate in this project!!

LYO Upcoming Events



Jan. 29: Youth will participate in the service. A Noisy Offering will be taken up to help with expenses for those going to the National Youth Gathering. Also, a bake sale will be held in the Gathering Place.

Feb. 5: Souper Bowl of Caring

Feb. 12: Valentine's Dinner (More details coming... watch the Sunday bulletin).

A Note from the WELCA President

Thank you to all you purchased cards from the Salem WELCA. This year we sold out of Christmas Cards! All of the proceeds from the card sales go to fund Women of the Church projects.

It is not too early to be thinking of Valentines, Confirmation and Easter. We have cards for all of those occasions. They can be purchased as a single card and are 50 cents each. All of the cards have a scripture verse in them.

If you need help with the cards please see me at church, phone me 836-9867, e mail me at elizabethmeinholdt@yahoo.com or message me on Facebook. Yes, Facebook...I sold 4 boxes of cards this past year by people sending me a message and checking to see if I had the cards they needed. I will be glad to pull cards out for you and place them in an agreed upon space for you. On January 22, 2012 I will have the cards displayed in the Gathering Place for your easy shopping.

This year we will be celebrating Bold Women's Day on February 26 and I plan to highlight the Bold Women who serve with Salem WELCA in the Newsletter this year.

Since we are talking about cards I would like to recognize Lori Dernehl and Evelyn Menn who on a regular basis send cards to Salem members at joyful or sad times. The alphabet of the membership is divided up between the two of them and when the need arises they send out a card. These two ladies purchase the cards and stamps and mail out the cards. The cards are available for them in the women's closet free of charge but they often put the payment in for the cards and they always purchase their own stamps without reimbursement.

So if you or family has been the recipient of a card from the Salem Women of the Church these two ladies are the ones responsible and we are grateful for their ministry to Salem Members.

Elizabeth Meinholdt

Salem WELCA President

First Communion



On December 10th, Colton Wayne Martin, son of Curtis & Crystal Martin, received his First Communion.

On December 18th, Kaylea Rae Killen, daughter of Billy & Candace Killen, and Dustin Wayne Swonke, son of Mark & Tina Swonke, received their First Communion.

We welcome you, Colton, Kaylea and Dustin, to the Lord's Table!



Wedding

Congratulations to Karianne (Shupak) & Kent Cook on their marriage December 10th here at Salem!
May God bless your lives together!

College Graduate

Congratulations to Kaci Dannhaus on her graduation from Texas A&M! She graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Agricultural Science.

Birth



Congratulations to Buddy & Jeanell Dallmeyer at the birth of their grandson, Austin Hamilton Dallmeyer on December 15th. His parents are Andy & Heather Dallmeyer. His proud big brothers are Mason and Alex and aunt Amy Dallmeyer.

We express our Christian sympathy to...



..Peggy & Otto Acker and family at the death of Peggy's mother Dois Holland on December 1st.
..Tasha & Jason Ladewig and family at the death of Tasha's father Tony Lett on December 11th.
..Broc Bosse at the death of his grandfather, John Bosse on December 18th.
..Evelyn Menn and family at the death of her sister-in-law Esther Mareth on December 20th.
Remember these families in your prayers.

Thank You to....

..Nancy Rosenbaum for selecting hymns for our January worship services.
..these outgoing council members: Delbert Boeker, Vickie Haack, Greg Phillips, David Thompson, Barbara Treptow, Betty Wiesepape, and committee members: Thana Kemper, Kelly Kwiatkowski, Brenda Engeling, Paul Weiss, Linnae Hirsch, Barbara Treptow, Bruce Bockhorn, David Folschinsky, Edith Lehmann, Lois Albright, Joyce Zientek, Diana Hodde, Maxine Schwarze, Jeanette Poehlmann, Melanie Roberts, Jennifer Wilson, and Jerry Hartnett. Several others, Sandra Sebastian, Diane Pieper, Betty Wiesepape, and Laura Kwiatkowski, terms expired but have been re-elected or re-appointed to serve again.
..Lloyd & Diane Pieper for installing and donating some new ceiling fans for the parsonage.

..the following for sponsoring the *Day 1* program: Carolyn Warmke on December 4th in memory of Jerry Warmke, and Oralene Giebel on December 25th.
..Carolyn Warmke for sponsoring *Focus on the Family* on KWHI each Monday in 2011 on behalf of Salem Lutheran Church.
..Randy & Susie Ullrich for pulling the trailer in the Christmas stroll.
..Lloyd & Diane Pieper for loaning the Sunday School their generator for the Christmas stroll.
..the LYO members and their families for preparing and serving three delicious meals at our Advent Wednesday evening services.
..the Senior Citizens Fellowship for their donation to Salem.
..the following for serving as Advent Wreath Readers: Bruce & Carobeth Bockhorn, Greg Phillips family, Bob & Jan Wilhelmsen, Mike Pittman family, Lenny Kwiatkowski family, Russell Engeling family, Matt Kwiatkowski family, and Wesley Maurer family.
..all the LYO members and their families that participated in the caroling to the nursing home residents and shut-in members! It was a fun evening for all!
..Dorothy & Lonnie Addicks, Ervin & Dovie Addicks, Edith Lehmann, Calvin & Dorothy Wehmeyer, Barbara & Dick Dietzmann, and Clemence & Doris Weiss for another year of serving on the Counting Committee.
..Sheila Dyer, Tina Swonke, and Kristin Wiesepape for serving in the Nursery in December.

Thank You Notes received:

Thank you to Tiffany Brinkmeyer for all the time she put into this year's Christmas program! The program was great! Also, thank you to all those who helped put together goody bags for the program and those who worked in the kitchen serving refreshments that night. A big thank you also to the children who participated, the teachers and parents that helped at practices, and everyone who came out to support the kids as they told the story of the Birth of Christ.

God Bless,
Parish Education Committee

Dear Family of Salem,

We would like to thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and support during Betty's illness and in her passing. Thank you to everyone who sent cards and provided the refreshments after the service. Thanks to Terry for playing the organ, to Glenda for keeping things running smoothly. Thanks to Pastor Parnell for all his visits to the house, for presiding over the funeral service and giving a beautiful sermon. We are truly blessed to be part of such an amazing church family. All your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

With sincere thanks,
The Family of Betty Burran

I would like to thank my extended family and friends of Salem for your thoughts, prayers, and phone calls during my recent surgery. I would also like to thank Pastor Parnell for your visit to the hospital. Your thoughtfulness and prayers help me through my time of need.
 ~ Joy Grimm

To our Salem family,

Thank you for your prayers, words of comfort, cards, and hugs following the death of my mom. You have made this burden easier.

In Christian love,
 Peggy & Otto Acker and family

Thank you very much for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls during my illness. Also thanks to all who asked about me and/or asked my family about me. All my tests turned out fine and hopefully with the help of medication I will start feeling better. I am so thankful to all of you and may God bless you.

Gladys Hueske

Church Council Highlights

The Church Council at its meeting:

- 1/ heard a report that the average worship attendance through 48 weeks was 225.
- 2/ approved motion for a noisy offering in January to help raise funds for the youth gathering.
- 3/ approved motion to proceed with the change to DSL.
- 4/ heard report that two 70" monitors and a laptop have been purchased for the Projection System in the sanctuary.
- 5/ approved motion to transfer Blake Becker's membership from Salem to St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill.
- 6/ set tentative date for council retreat for March 24th at Salem.
- 7/ approved motion to give Christmas bonuses to Pastor Parnell, Glenda, Nancy, Terry, Pastor Timm and Doris.
- 8/ approved motion to put up signs for no trespassing and no loitering on the church and cemetery premises after obtaining more information concerning this.

Sunday School News

Attendance	Perfect Attendance Classes
12-04 – 33	None
12-11 – 39	Special Ed

The Lutherhill Post Holiday Workout Plan Fire Cleanup Workday Part 2 is Saturday, January 7, 2012. They have gotten a lot of work done after the fire, but there is still more to be done. Information is posted in the narthex for anyone interested in helping with this workday.

We would like to thank the Salem congregation for the Christmas Bonus checks presented to us on Christmas Eve by Delbert Boeker, congregation chairperson. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. You are truly a blessing to us and to the Salem Family of Faith. We wish to all of you a very healthy and prosperous New Year!

God's blessings to all,
 Pastor Charles Parnell, Pastor Gene Timm, Nancy Rosenbaum, Terry Boeker, Doris Draehn, Glenda Pieper

Thank you notes were received from the Boys & Girls Club for our donation of \$250.00, from the Holy Open Charity Golf Classic [\$1,600 was distributed to each of the organizations], from the Volunteer Services Council for our \$250.00 donation, and from the Ministry to the Port of Houston for the seafarers Christmas boxes. Their letters are posted in the hallway of the Education Building.

Financial Highlights for November

Income:	General Fund -	\$21,786
	Thrivent Choice Dollars -	4,391
	Building Fund -	618
	Mission Offering -	<u>635</u>
	Total -	\$27,430

Expense Accounts:		
	Mission Work	\$1,333
	Parnell Compensation	8,051
	Rostered Leader's Compensation	2,689
	Administrative Asst. Compensation	2,739
	Worship/Program	1,044
	Utilities/Maintenance	724
	Non-Budgeted	<u>-0-</u>
	General Fund Sub-Total	\$16,580

Non-Budgeted Misc.	-0-
Thrivent Choice Dollars expense	<u>-0-</u>
Total General Fund Expenses	\$16,580
Building Fund Expenses	<u>-0-</u>
Total Expenses	\$16,580

Assets:

General Fund	\$79,911
Thrivent Choice Funds	\$8,023
Building Fund	\$139,160
Special Memorial Fund	\$247,139
Trust Fund	\$169,072
Spec. Memorial-Recreation Bldg.	<u>\$19,919</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$663,223</u>

January Mission Interpreter Minute – All are Welcome

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton noted the vital work of Lutheran social ministry organizations in welcoming refugees to the United States, during her Dec. 7 address at the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees ministerial conference in Geneva. The ministerial conference brings together more than 150 representatives from around the world. Clinton is a member of the U.S. delegation.

In her presentation to world leaders, Clinton shared a story about Fatuma Elmi, who applied for asylum in the United States after civil war broke out in her native Somalia in 1991. Settled in Minneapolis, Elmi has worked as an employment counselor at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota for the past 17 years. She has been able to find jobs for 79 percent of her clients this year, despite the difficult economy. Elmi's life is "clear evidence of the wisdom of investing in women," said Clinton.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is an affiliated ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), along with 285 other social ministry organizations across the country.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson said he appreciates Clinton's sharing of Elmi's story and the recognition of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, "In sharing Fatuma Elmi's story, Secretary Clinton has affirmed the invaluable contributions resettled refugees bring to life in American communities. In naming Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, she has also recognized the vast network of Lutheran social service organizations that are an expression of faith active in loving service to our neighbor."

"This is who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Many are descendants of a once immigrant people, and others of those who came as slaves. Together we are now participating in God's work of restoring and reconciling communities by welcoming refugees and working towards fair and just immigration reform," he said.

"As individuals, congregations, Lutheran social ministry organizations and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, we know we can achieve things together on a scale and scope we could never do otherwise. As the ELCA, let us make these significant anniversaries an occasion for renewing our commitment to welcoming the new immigrant into the life of our neighborhoods and congregations."

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is one of the United States' leading agencies in welcoming and advocating for refugees and immigrants. Based in Baltimore, it works on behalf of the ELCA, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Kim Dettmer, director of refugee services at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, said Elmi has "dedicated her life to helping refugees find safety and stability in our community as an employment specialist. Through partnerships with employers, primarily in manufacturing and hospitality industries, many refugees have found entry-level work that has required minimal technical or English skills."

Calling this "a win-win-win situation for refugees, employers and our community," Dettmer said it takes "a community to help refugees succeed. Minnesota has a long tradition of lending a hand to refugees, and they have enhanced our quality of life in many ways. Fatuma is a great example of people from war-torn countries who have worked hard to establish new lives and have given back to the community."

Shortly after her arrival in the United States and prior to her work at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Elmi volunteered at a Somali women's organization mentoring mothers and daughters to ensure that both understood women's roles in the U.S. and the value of an education. Her actions were effective, as five of the six girls Elmi mentored went on to receive a college education, according to Dettmer.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is one of five resettlement organizations in Minnesota helping refugees gain self-sufficiency. Information about the service is at www.lssmn.org.

Information about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is available at www.lirs.org.

Your gifts help support Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and the 285 other social ministry organizations across the country. Through these and other organizations, our ELCA touches 1 in every 50 Americans! We do more together than we could ever do alone. This would not be possible without your gifts, thank you!

"We cannot be quiet about what we have seen and heard" Acts 4:20

Christine Donahue

Mission Interpreter Coordinator TLGCS

cedonahue@gmail.com



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

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Reaching out to:



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, January 3, 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

The Lutheran Men In Mission 2012 Annual Men's Gathering is February 10-12, 2012 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Kenner, LA. The theme is: "Fail-Safe Friends".

Bringing men from Texas and Louisiana together for work, worship and play! This is for all the men of the ELCA and their friends 14 years to 104!!



Senior Citizens Fellowship is Sunday, January 8, at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. You are invited to come spend time together in fellowship and playing cards and dominoes.

The 2012 Altar Flower Chart has been posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers on the altar stands, please sign up on the chart or call Glenda at the church office. Sundays available in January: 8th & 15th.