



Salem Messenger

Salem Lutheran Church

1500 Salem Road, Brenham, TX 77833

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

Church Office E-mail – salem@salembrenham.org Website – www.salembrenham.org

Salem Sunday School E-mail– salem_sunday_school@yahoo.com

Like us on Facebook

Pastor - Dr. Craig Dohse- Cell - 832-498-9618; email: craigdohse@hotmail.com

Administrative Assistant - Jenny Sebastian -Cell – 979-277-2060; email: salem@salembrenham.org

December 2024



Advent



Our Advent Wednesday services begin on December 4th. Please join us December 4th, 11th, and 18th for a lite meal starting at 5:15pm and service starting at 6:00pm.

December 4th- Evangelism Committee

December 11th- Tiffany Weiss

December 18th- Renee Mueller and Debby Peele

**Annual
Report**



2024 Annual Reports for all committees and organizations are due January 3, 2025. Any questions, contact Jenny at the church office.

**Annual
Report**



The Worship Team invites you to come to Salem each Wednesday evening @ 6:00pm & Sunday morning @ 8:45am to prepare your heart in Advent to welcome the expected baby.



Christmas
Worship

Christmas Eve Services –

Christmas Eve:

6:00pm and 10:00pm *Candlelight Services with Holy Communion.*

Christmas Day Service – 9:00am *Service with Holy Communion*



Christmas
Worship

Senior Citizens Group is Sunday, December 8th, at 2:00 p.m. at Salem.



Fellowship Group

Greeting Cards

Christmas cards are available by the Salem Women of the NALC in the Gathering Place. Sold by full box only. Thank you for supporting the card sales.

From the Pastor

People of Salem!

Scripture tells us, "We are appointed once to die and after that the judgment."

But some people (some of you) have experienced death and then have miraculously been restored to life. (Called Near Death Experiences- NDE) In many NDE's people have seen Jesus, heaven and/or hell. Here are 2 excerpts from interviews with individuals who have experienced an NDE.

(Incidentally there are thousands of documented NDE's and these are typical.)

Erica McKenzie's glimpse of hell.

One moment I stood with God and the next...the absence of His unconditional love was obvious. This was Hell...They were criticizing and judging each other. There were angry and jealous conversations, full of gossip and spitefulness. These conversations were the exact opposite of the unconditional love and acceptance that emanated from God. Along with conversation came...the most extreme emotions of sadness, anger, hatred. Loneliness, jealousy, self-loathing, unworthiness, and everything you can imagine that was negative...I can't even find human words to explain the degree of sheer terror I felt.

Wayne Fowler's encounter with God.

Into his presence, brighter than ten thousands suns- and I'm transfixed! It was awesomely beautiful. And I can see down into this light. At the center is the form of a man, arms outstretched towards me, like to welcome me and to hug me. At that moment, I entered, I merged with the light and the light merged with me. Like when Jesus said, I am in you, and you in me [John 17:21]. I was like a glass container being filled up, filled up, filled up with him. And I was experiencing the most ecstatic love. It was bliss beyond belief, rapture beyond reason, ecstasy beyond explanation- loves times a billion- but our word *love* fails badly. Imagine every loving relationship combined all together, then blow them up billions of times all of that. I'm feeling more and more until I thought, *I'm going to explode*, and when I had that thought, it started to subside slightly. And I realized, he heard my thoughts, and I said, "No! Don't stop; give me all you've got!" And I heard him chuckle. He thought that was funny, and he began to increase the outpouring of his love. And I know who this is- this is Jesus, the one I gave my life to the week before this [NDE] happened.

Think on this.

Why faith matters. Just as love matters to God, so does faith. Why?

Because faith is the primary way, we use our free will to love God. Scripture says "It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

Build, grow your faith. It matters!

Dr. Craig Dohse

(Example quoted from *Imagine The God Of Heaven* by John Burke)



Salem Women of the NALC News

Circle meetings: Dorcas Circle Christmas Party and Meeting –The Dorcas Circle will hold their Christmas Party on Dec. 5th @ Salem .

December 5th - 6pm – Rachel Circle Christmas Party/Special Event at Salem

Visiting Committee members for December are: Betty Wiesepape, Debbie Young and Stacy Hartfield

A very special THANK YOU to you who donated material and slightly used bed sheets (backings for the quilts) to our Women's Quilting Group for the quilts we tack. The quilts are taken to the NALC Warehouse in Rosenberg for distribution to those in need following storms, hurricanes, etc. in the U.S.A. So far from your donations, 42 quilts were delivered to the NALC Disaster Warehouse this year. You helped in an important ministry here at Salem!

We are continuing to accept material and sheets to help in this ministry.

Thank you again,

Jan Wilhelmsen & Glenda Pieper



Offering Envelopes for 2025

The 2025 Offering Envelopes are in the narthex in December. Please pick up your envelope packet when you come to church. If you cannot find a packet with your name on it, please talk to Jenny. The envelope packets are in alphabetical order by last name.

Notes:

1/If you desire to give an offering to Salem Lutheran Church by the end of the year, please have it to the church office by December 31, 2024 to have it posted to your 2024 giving statement.

2/Do you wish to receive a weekly update email from the church office? You can sign up on Salem's website: www.salembrenham.org. You will see a link "Weekly Email Signup".



The 2025 Altar Flower Chart has been posted in the narthex of our church. Please sign up soon for the Sunday you would like to place flowers on the stands beside the altar. Or you may contact Glenda Pieper (979.277.5428) or Jenny at the church office (979.836.9320).



Holiday Magic

Salem is participating in the Holiday Magic project at the Brenham State Supported Living Center. Please take a card, make the gift wish come true! Return the gift with the card attached, unwrapped by December 3rd. You will find some old friends' names on the little tree in the Narthex. Thank you for providing magic to these folks.



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas child has been completed. 113 boxes were delivered on Monday November 18th with the help of Brian Fritz. Thanks for all the help packing these boxes and collecting the items. Two Thrivent Action Team Visa Cards of Maxine Schwarze and Alice Dannhaus, contributed towards purchasing new various items. Our Salem

Women, Alice Dannhaus, Betty Thomas, Jan Wilhelmsen and I met to pack boxes. Thanks goes to Betty Thomas for the hats & purses that were hand crocheted which we placed in as many boxes as possible. We begin this project in February of every year until pick up time in November. This is a worldwide mission project to demonstrate the Good News of Jesus' love for children. I wish that you could have attended a program this year in which the speaker was someone who had received one of the boxes as a child. Can you imagine someone who had to share a toothbrush, a bar of soap, or walk 3 miles one way to attend church every day? We should be thankful for what we have here in America and in our own church. Maybe next year I can get our church involved and we can do more. Our wish is that each child who receives one of these boxes will know that others care for them and make their Christmas a little brighter.

Thanks again, Maxine Schwarze



We are looking for people that can volunteer their help with Sunday morning coffee and donuts. There presently are four groups but we would like to add more to the rotation. We currently are serving from the kitchen/ fellowship area and would be happy to help you get started. If you would like to join us please contact Linnae Hirsch 979-421-0455 or Thana Kemper 979-203-3191.



Salem's Staff Addition

Dr. Bobby W. Leggett

Dr. Leggett was born in Indiana and grew up in Louisiana. His father, CMS James Leggett, was in the military for 32 years. Bobby graduated from Tumon High School in Agana, Guam.

Dr. Leggett received his BLA from St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas. He earned a Masters of Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio and his Doctor of Ministry from Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Leggett also received a certification in counseling/therapy from the Transactional Analysis and Gestalt

Psychology Institute. Dr. Leggett has served as pastor in four congregations all in South Central Texas. Dayna and Bobby have two children; five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Rev. Dayna Leggett

Greetings to all of you in the Name of our Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ!

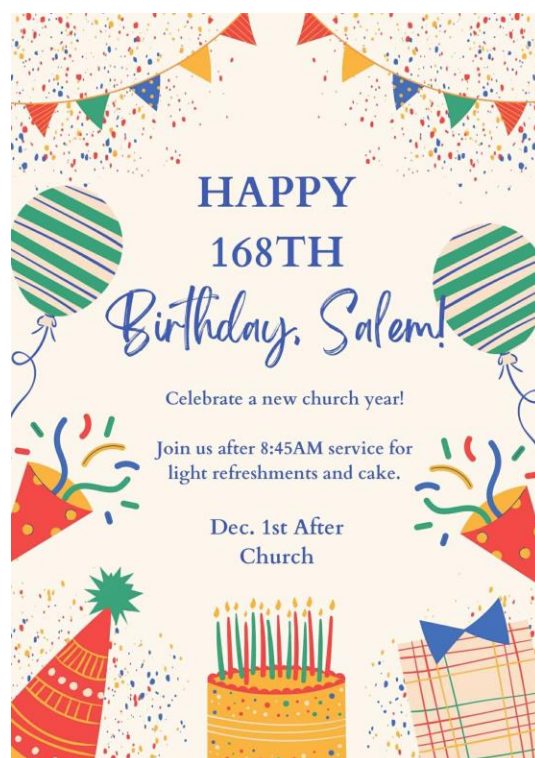
In the one short week Bobby and I have been officially on staff we have both been digging our way out of boxes, searching for pencils, figuring out the facility's floor plan and best of all...meeting and greeting both members and visitors at Salem Lutheran.

I will be focusing on Youth and Family Ministry and Education for the youth at Salem. Just to let you know, I will be contacting families with children of all ages over the next two months. It is just as important for children to know what we believe as Christians, and why we believe it - as it is for adults to know. Knowledge of our faith is a confidence builder for facing the trials of life in the outside world.

A little bit about me...born and raised in Houston, Texas, and have 5 brothers and sisters. My mother was born in Cuba (and never lost her Cuban accent!) and my father was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. His family fled Mexico to El Paso, Texas during the Mexican Revolution (Yep, the Pancho Villa era). Both of my parents were naturalized citizens.

I was ordained in the ELCA in 2003, and have served in four congregations over the years. In 2007, our church in Bulverde, Texas, was the second church in Texas to leave the ELCA and join the Lutherans for Mission in Christ.

Should you have questions or concerns about your child, please feel free to contact me directly. My contact information is: Phone/Text: 210.275.5638. E-mail: daynaL@gvtc.com. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you!



On Our Prayer List

The people below have requested our prayers and support. We pray for them every Sunday in worship and we invite you to remember them in your daily prayers.

In an effort to keep our prayer list updated, please let us know about your family or friends whose names can be removed from this prayer list.



Remember these folks in your daily prayers:

Salem members: Thomas Cook, Deloris Draehn, Doris Eckermann, Margie Fougeron, Clarence Hodde, Florine

Raska, Louis Resendez, Beverly Schlabach

Members requesting prayers: Hunter Schaper

Members in Care Centers:

Brenham Nursing & Rehab- Martin Wiesepape

San Saba Rehab & Nursing- Dorine Hall

Bec Blessings- L.G. Albright

Kruse Village- Rhonda Wehmeyer

Members in Assisted Living Facility -

Argent Court - Annie Marie Fritz

Family and Friends:

Tina Bartsch, Thana & Otto Kemper's niece;

David Beckendorf, friend of Cindy Holle;

Mary Bennett, friend of Danica Kenjura;

Paul Bennett, friend of Salem member;

Tammy Brauner, aunt of Grover Sebastian;

Theresa Clemons, sister of Nora Mills;

Janice Crook, friend of Ray Weiss;

Diana Cupples, friend of Dr. Craig Dohse;

Erin Eddings, friend of Charles & Janell Dierking;

Ashley Evans, friend of Salem Member's

Cameron Fitzcharles, nephew of Mark & Kristin

Wiesepape;

Jon Forsythe, friend of Salem members;

Christian Garcia, co-worker of Norma Mills 10yrs.old son;

Debbie Garner, Pam Grantham's sister-in-law;

George Gilmore, friend of Nora Mills;

France Glueck, great-niece to Mitch & Carolyn Hall;

Betty Haevischer wife of Gary Haevischer;

Kacey Harvin, granddaughter of Gary & Lavada Teinert;

Lance Hausenfluck, friend of Nora Mills;

Cathy Holder, daughter of Billie and Fernell Pieper;

Pierce Hughes, grandson of Doris Eckermann;

George Jurica, friend of Jerry & Elizabeth Schwake;

Brylon Kelly, son to Crystal Kelly & grandson to Nora

Mills;

Crystal Kelly, daughter of Nora Mills;

Marsha Killen, mother to Billy Killen;

Barbara Kokemoor, friend of Doris Draehn;

Lynnlee Kocurek, friend of the Gummelt family;

Johnnie Kopyschinski, friend of the Ladewig Family;

Loretta Laird, friend of Charles & Janell Dierking;

Wayne Laird, friend of Charles & Janell Dierking;

Willie Ludwig, friend of Charles & Janell Dierking;

Charlie McReynold, friend of Bruce Bockhorn;

Mark Marburger, father of Grayson Marburger;

Lana Meier, friend of Nancy Rosenbaum

Monica Mikeska, niece of Joe Green;

Christopher Miller, great nephew of Mallanee Vercher;

Rachel Niebuhr, cousin of Beckey Kuecker;

Aaron Nelson, Lynette Nelson's husband & Janet & Joseph

Green's son-in-law;

Lauren Parker, friend of Jeanell Dallmeyer;

Wesley Paul, Janell Dierking's God Child;

Sheree Pence, friend of Salem Members;

Joe Al Picone, friend of Nancy Roesler;

Katie Ray, granddaughter of Marsha Ray;

Pam Richardson, friend of Cindy Holle's;

Bennett Sachtleben, family of Nancy Roesler;

Doug Schreiber, cousin of Danica Kenjura;

Sue Schwartz, cousin of Jeanell Dallmeyer;

Aiden Simmons, Nora Mills' great great nephew;

John Simmons, Nora Mills' nephew;

Collin Smith (senior graduate from Brenham 2021);

Teddy Stansbury, Nora Mill's daughter's uncle;

Lincoln Tiemann, grandnephew of Nancy Roesler;

Amy Usalavage, Larry & Diane Ashorn's niece;

Sue Vierus, co-worker of teachers at Krause Elementary;

Choya Walling, friend of Bruce Bockhorn;

Boyce Weiman, Michael Ray's father-in-law;

Glenn Wellbrock, brother of Leonard, Kenny, & Ricky

Wellbrock, & Beverly Schlabach;

Michael Wendt, son of Eric & Rachelle Wendt;

Dean Winkelmann, brother-in-law of Kenneth & Linda

Dreyer, & David & Brenda Dreyer;

Sandy Winkelmann, sister of David & Kenneth Dreyer;

Lynda York, mother of Tiffany Weiss;

Military Personnel: Salem members: *Dylon Engstrom*

(Marine Corps., Virginia), *Craig Flentge* (Air Force,

Texas), *Shane Shupak* (Army Reserves, Kuwait).

Family and Friends: *Eric Amundson* (Marines, Texas)

[family friend of Bruce Bockhorn]; *Jay Bateman* (Air

Force, McGill AFB, FL) [Bruce Bockhorn's nieces'

husband]; *Mitchel Havard* (Army, Fort Hood, TX)

[Clarence Meinholdt family's friend]; *John Morris* (Army,

Ft. Leavenworth, KA) [Carobeth Bockhorn's former

student]; *Catherine Nelson* (USAF; Ghana) [Bruce

Bockhorn's niece]; *Cody Paul* (Air Force, San Antonio,

TX) [Charles Dierking family's friends]; *Barron D. Stone*

(Air Force, Patrick Space Force Base, FL)

[Bruce Bockhorn's friend's son]

Greetings From:
Salem 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.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Cost per poinsettia is \$13.00 (includes sleeve & delivery). Poinsettias are being purchased through Plants & Things.

Place this order and payment in an envelope and put in the box on the counter in the narthex or mail to the church office (1500 Salem Rd., Brenham, TX 77833) by **Sunday, December 3.** ***So please, take care of ordering your poinsettias early. No late orders will be taken.***

Checks made payable to: **Salem Lutheran Church.**

You may pick up your poinsettia following the 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day worship service or on the following two Sundays after the worship services.

Name _____

Quantity _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

