

The
Salem
Star

December 2019

Pastor's Corner

*Advent Meals at 6:00PM ~
Advent Worship following at 7:00PM;
Wednesdays December 4th, 11th and 18th*



*Mark your calendar! December 20th!
Christmas Karaoke Party
6-8:00PM
Community Wide - invite all!*



Salem Lutheran Church

2101 N. Virginia

Port Lavaca, Texas 77979

361-552-9379

pastordan@salemportlavaca.org AND secretary@salemportlavaca.org

“ Sharing the Love of Christ “

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00AM to 4:00PM

(Closed for lunch from 11:00-1:00)

Transitional Pastor	Pastor Sharon Wiggins	512-773-6356
Office Manager	Terri Malaer	920-4013
Financial Secretary	Kristel Knipling	552-2263
Choir Director	Altus Aschen	552-3085
Organists	Altus Aschen	552-3085
	Linda Hahn	552-1971
	William Hahn, Jr.	552-7750
	Kathy Riske	484-0835
Prayer Ministry	Jennifer Hahn	676-7348
Clothing God's Children		
	Kristel Knipling	552-2263
Altar Guild Leader	Retha Hahn	920-1248

Executive Council

President	Mike Rothmann	552-6893
Vice President	Joel Anderson	882-6872
Secretary	Lindy Cain	773-576-7845
Treasurer	Cathy Hahn	552-5100

Council Ministry Teams

Proclaim	Clairce Thiede	281-685-7409
Nurture	Debbie Martin	920-9851
Response	Wanda Hahn	676-2046
Property	Retha Hahn	920-1248

Pastor's Corner

Greetings and felicitations

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Check the box for invitations,

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Karaoke and a carol

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

food and fellowship a-waits you.

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Don we all our party voices

Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la.

Ready for the night a-head us

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

I think you get the idea—there is something very special in the air this time of year. The stores and the on-line merchants and all manner of people have been getting ready. Lights and tinsel and trees and poinsettias are appearing everywhere. Even the Scroogiest Bah-humbugging Scrooge cannot help but notice something is afoot.

Well, there is! All the remembering of Christmases Past and dreaming of Christmases Future has finally settled in on Christmas Present. And this year, Salem Lutheran Church is going to have a very special Christmas Program starring all the Singers of Salem plus all the Singers of Port Lavaca we can squeeze into the Fellowship Hall and the Courtyards.

Invitations abound! Family gatherings—how do we fit in all the in-laws? Was it Aunt Tilly's place this year or Uncle Ed's? Office parties, friends getting together, Christmas Caroling at the Nursing Homes and to the neighborhoods, presents to get, cards to send, calls to answer, cookies to make, it goes on and on and on, Advent dinners and services, did the poinsettias get ordered? What is Cousin Bill's new address? So much to do and so much to remember. This really is the season of invitations isn't it? And, not to be left out, we have a special invitation for everyone:

Karaoke, Carols, and Soup
Friday Night, December 20th, 6 to 8pm
Salem Lutheran Fellowship Hall
Come One, Come All
Bring a friend or two or three

I will make a very big pot of soup and sandwiches so you can go by the house, pick up the kids and some supper will be waiting for you—no cooking, no dishes, just come and enjoy.

With so much excitement in the air as we deck the halls and check the box for invitations it might be easy to overlook the small, bright light shining in a manger—the light the darkness can not overcome. The light from whose fullness we all receive grace upon grace. For unto us is born a Savior and we shall find him, lying in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes.

May the grace that came into the world with the Christ child grow in each of us all through the coming year. May the light that came into the world with the Christ child light our paths.
May the peace of the Christ child become our way of life.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Wiggins

**Salem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
Meeting November 11, 2019**

**A Quorum wasn't present so there was not an official
Salem Lutheran Church Council meeting in November.**

Next Church Council:

Congregational Council Meeting December 9th at 5:30PM



A full Treasurer's report was not available for presstime but ...

November's offering totaled: \$ 15,822.25



Special Holiday Announcements

*December 24th at 7:00PM is our
traditional Candlelight
Christmas Eve Worship*



*The church office will be closed on December 25th
thru December 27th for Christmas.*

PLEASE NOTE THE ENCLOSED CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIA INFORMATION FORM.

Forms are also available in the Narthex with an Usher and
on-line on our webpage; salemportlavaca.org.

Order forms are due by December 16, 2019!



This year's Wednesday Evening Advent Worship
services will begin at 7PM. Please come and join in the
celebration of the anticipation of Christ. Salem will hold
the traditional Soup and Sandwich meal before worship
at 6PM. Everyone is invited to join!

The dates of the Wednesday evenings are:
December 4th, 11th and 18th.

Advent's Offering Designation

*Advent's offering is designated to the
Calhoun County Pregnancy Crisis Center/*

**Christmas Karaoke Party -
December 20th; 6-8PM**



Monthly news ...

Choir Rehearsals for the month of December are as follows:

Dec. 4th, 11th, and 18th at 7:30 p.m.

(or directly after Advent Service)

The choir will sing at the December 8th and 22nd services.

Would you like pre-printed Offering envelopes with your Contribution number? A request form is located in the Narthex with the Ushers. Please note how many you would like and Terri will have them ready by the last Sunday of December to start the new year.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX
WOW! 43 WOW!**

Salem Lutheran Church members did 43 shoeboxes!!

Thanks to everyone who participated: filling a box, helping pay for shipping, Terri for helping everyone bringing boxes to the office, and Vera Hahn for those cute caps to put in each box. These boxes are a blessing to everyone, recipients and those filling boxes.

Thanks again for supporting this ministry of Salem Lutheran Church. De Colores!



We will be printing a 2020 Church Telephone Directory.

A clipboard with information I currently have will be passed during the December worship services.

PLEASE, PLEASE PLEASE! check it for you and your family to make sure all information is correct.



Christ the King Sunday, marked the end of our church year. The first Sunday after Thanksgiving we begin the New Year with the Advent Season which consists of four Sundays. Right after Thanksgiving, we set focus on Christmas, but what primarily is our focus? Could it be for some to just get Christmas over and done with so we can get on with our normal lives?

Let's hope for the majority of us, it is a time of anticipation....of waiting....of looking....of hoping. But it's really more than a young girl having a baby in a stable. It's about the promise God made to us to bring us life and salvation through the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ.

Are we also like the Jews of Jesus time and looking for Jesus to come and bring life to a dying world? We look for the birth of this new life and remember that all things are new in Jesus Christ. We also look for his continual presence through the Bible and Communion, and his eventual return to judge the living and the dead.

A visible sign of Advent is the Advent wreath which consists of evergreen branches encircling four candles.

At Salem, as candles are lit, the hymn "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" is sung beginning with the first verse and adding a verse each Sunday. What does this represent?

I would say the Advent wreath represents to us the eternal life that Christ Jesus gives to those who believe.

As Christians, we believe that Christ is not only a part of a past event, but a very real life in the present and the future. Advent is a time to reflect on what life means to us in our very own hearts. As we do this, we may also be extra observant of all that is around us.

It is suggested that each one of us look around for other visible signs and sharing them with each other and others we know. Each week we will have a focus word to guide us.

- Ø Week one beginning on December 2-Focus word is STIR. Look for signs that God is stirring things up.
- Ø Week two beginning on December 9-Focus word is HOPE. Look for things that are hopeful.
- Ø Week three beginning on December 16-Focus word is ADVENT. Look for things that announce the advent of God.
- Ø Week four beginning on December 23-Focus word is REPENT. Look for things that call us to repentance.

Taken from Sundays and Seasons, copyright © 2014 Augsburg Fortress

Use your imagination in sharing your findings, consider posting on Twitter or Facebook. This will change the way we hopefully await this important arrival.

And as the Israelites prayed for the coming of Christ, let us also mark this time of preparation with prayer with a spirit of repentance and a spirit of love for those who are still walking in darkness. Let us pray to be instruments in bringing light to this dark world.

'Go in peace. Christ is with You.'





A Family Christmas Bucket List

- 1. Decorate a gingerbread house**
- 2. Deliver baked goods to friends**
- 3. Visit a Christmas tree farm**
- 4. Volunteer**
- 5. Neighborhood scavenger hunt**
- 6. Make a tree ornament**
- 7. Sponsor a child**
- 8. Bake cookies**
- 9. Drive around & look at lights**
- 10. Take Christmas photos**
- 11. Have an ugly sweater party**
- 12. Watch the Nutcracker**
- 13. Read a holiday book each night**
- 14. Do a random act of kindness**
- 15. Go ice skating**
- 16. Christmas movie marathon!**
- 17. Make hot chocolate**
- 18. Write a letter to Santa**
- 19. Go on a sleigh ride**
- 20. Make a Christmas gift.**



December Anniversary's

1st: Kenneth & Ruthie Boyd-Robertson

9th: Steve & Pam Bales

19th: Kyle & Larena Kern



*Please call the office with corrections or additions to
Birthday's and Anniversaries*



December Birthdays

2nd: Damon Vickery

12th: Ronnie Riske

3rd: Sara Cain

16th: Hannah Bales

4th: Bernice Haith

21st: Laurel Myers

7th: Clint Myers

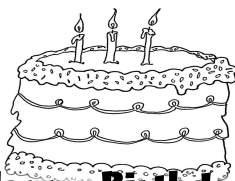
28th: William Boehl

8th: Martha Vickery

29th: Gail Wehmeyer

10th: Leroy Hahn

31st: Terry Thiede



Happy Birthday!

*Christmas Karaoke Party -
December 20th; 6-8PM*



"Sharing the Love of Christ"

ATTENDANCE:

<u>SUNDAYS of November:</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>
Worship Service:	65	92	37	44

Welcomed Visitors

November 3, 2019:

Carol Haverfield
Ruth Plumb
Codi Starnes

November 10, 2019:

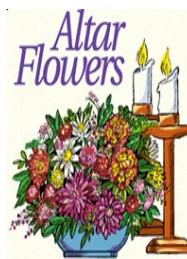
Helen Brown
Carol Haverfield
Mark & Terri Malaer
Joyce May
Christine Mayer
Ruth Plumb
Laurel Reiminger
Martha Riske;
Jackson & Abigal
Holly & Suthern Strakos
Mollie Strakos
Damon Williams

November 17, 2019:

Ronny & Darla Dentler

November 24, 2019:

No Visitors



Dec. 3rd:
Wanda Flisowski
Dec. 8th:
Steve & Pam Bales
Dec. 15th: OPEN
Dec. 22nd:
Wanda Hahn
Dec. 30th: OPEN



***Christmas
Karaoke Party -
December 20th;
6-8 PM***

In order to keep track of our members and their unfolding need for prayers and support, we have to rely on you and your family members to keep us updated. Please call the church office at 361-552-9379 or Pastor Wiggins at 512-773-6356 when there is a change in your or your loved one's condition or treatment plan. That includes when surgery is scheduled and especially when you return home. Making sure your family members have these phone numbers as well.



Remember in your prayers

ANSWERED PRAYERS:

Thank you for all your prayers for Cody Starnes, he is much better!

NEW PRAYER CONCERNS:

This is Time of Intentional Prayer and Discernment, please pray for our Call Committee and our future pastor (whomever that may be) daily.

Leigh Burton

Jerry Dykes

CONTINUED PRAYER CONCERNS:

Martha Vickery

Donald Wehmeyer

Shelton Albrecht

Waymon Boyd

Dorothy Caraway

Vera Hahn

Leroy Hahn

Joyce Schaefer

Gabrielle Rodriguez

Karen Fowler

Cindy Schneider

Rita Boudreaux

Candice Harabis

Lloyd Bales

Buddy Winder

BROOKEDALE RESIDENT:

Ruth Hahn

PORT LAVACA NURSING HOME RESIDENTS:

Annie Halliburton

Annette Ueckert

TODAY'S ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENT:

Betty Sue Kupatt

TRINITY SHORE RESIDENT:

Sonny Gottschalt

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY:

Shaughnessy Howell - Tripler AMC, Honolulu

Zane Williams (grandson Buddy and Lucille Winder)

Joe Workman (nephew of Kay Ham)

THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES:

The family of Sandra Ruddick in her death.