

the Bugle

I have noticed several neighbors hanging lights and greenery the week after Halloween. It seems a bit earlier than usual, but I understand the desire of getting outdoor work done before colder weather sets in and suspect they believe that is coming sooner than later. I admit, Karen has been suggesting the same take place at our house and I have considered it. You know how it goes, neighbor cuts the grass and soon it seems important that the grass in one's own lawn needs cut again as well. Or, a neighbor pulls out the planter or begins to harvest the crops and soon it is like an itch that needs scratched and it is time to follow suit and go to the field as well. But for me, there is more to it than simply adding lights to gutters in October, even if they are not yet turned on. Attaching lights to the gutters inhibit the leaves from blowing over the gutter guards and off the roof and the large oak tree in our front lawn has yet to shed her full coat... but it is getting closer, and I suspect I will be crawling around on the roof to attach lights on Thanksgiving weekend, weather permitting. It is a process and there are things to consider when seasons shift, and we prepare for what it yet to come.

One year ago, it was decided that many of Salem's decorations were old and worn and needed to go. Hanging and packing away trees and garland left piles of artificial needles from one end of the church to the other. It really is true that for everything there is a season, a time to keep and a time to throw away. That time had come for many of Salem's trees and garland. After the renovation, it was not clear how we should decorate so a local florist was called upon to give us some ideas and as a result, it was decided that rather than purchasing decorations, we would rent them for a season or two to see what looks best. So, be prepared for a bit of a surprise as the

Advent season unfolds and Salem is decorated in anticipation for the Christmas celebration this year.

And just what will that celebration look like? For one thing, the Advent wreath will return as we count the weeks before Christmas. The choirs are rehearsing and will share music for each of the two Christmas Eve services, one at 4pm and another at 10pm. (There will be no Christmas Day worship on the 25th, but instead it will be celebrated on Sunday, the 26th.) Children and families will be invited to share in a pre-worship recital beginning at 3:30pm. Brass players will accompany the music at 10pm and each service will include holy communion and a candlelight moment as we sing *Silent Night* in semi-darkness and ponder the joy of the almighty coming among us not just once as a child in a manger, but time and again as the risen Jesus whose presence we are eager to wrap in our hearts and our lives so that we are made new, so that we are adorned with grace, mercy, love, peace, hope and joy.

As a guide to prepare us to celebrate more fully the Advent/Christmas season, each household was given the gift of a daily devotional intended to be shared each day. It is my hope and prayer that this daily walk will be shared with one another as we deepen our awareness of the presence of Jesus and celebrate what a gift that is for us, not just at Christmas but for each day of our lives. I look forward to sharing in this experience together and hope to see many of you in worship this blessed season. Blessed Advent. Merry Christmas!



-Pastor Craig

HOLDEN EVENING

Prayer & Reflection

Each Tuesday during Advent beginning on **November 30** through **December 21**, join online at 5pm for Holden Evening Prayer and Reflections. Watch in-person on Wednesdays beginning on **December 1** through **December 22**, in the Fellowship Lounge as requested.

Christmas

LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas worship services will be held on **Friday, December 24 at 4pm and 10pm**. There will be no services on Saturday, December 25.

POINSETTIA DONATIONS

The church is going to purchase poinsettias for the Chancel to provide a more festive atmosphere. You may make a donation along with any information describing "in honor" or "in memory" or "in celebration" to be included in the Chancel and livestream slides for Christmas. Donations may be made online or through the church office (office@salemfpeoria.com or 309-688-9212).

YOUTH MUSICIANS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Your student is invited to share prelude music as part of the Christmas Eve service. Vocal or instrumental music is requested. It is a wonderful opportunity to share gifts on this special night. Students may share their music in person preceding the 4pm Christmas Eve service, OR you can submit a video to be shared on the screens.

If you are choosing to submit a video, please submit your videos to the shared folder by **Thursday, December 11**. If you are needing accompaniment for a song or have questions about songs please let Maggie Sloter know as soon as possible. She may be reached at msloter@salemfpeoria.com. Usually one song, or two short ones, is appropriate.



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The Bugle is published by Salem Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1700 W. War Memorial Dr. Peoria, Illinois 61614-6724 phone: (309) 688-9212

Published Monthly

Periodicals Postage Paid at Peoria, IL 61601

Annual Subscription \$10.00

POSTMASTER:
Send Address Changes to:
Salem Lutheran Church,
1700 W. War Memorial Dr.,
Peoria, IL 61614-6724

January monthly Bugle content due date is Thursday, December 9.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to (left-right) Sheryl Sattler, Florence Clark and Maggie Sloter who joined as members to Salem Lutheran Church on **Sunday, November 14.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Congratulations to two students, Grant Kroodsmma and Micah Thompson who celebrated their Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday, October 31. Please pray for these students and their families as they also continue their faith journey.



Planning to Make a Year-End Charitable Contribution to Salem?

Thanks so much to those who have already made a special gift to Salem at the close of 2021. It's a real blessing to our ministry together. Such a gift can also be beneficial in easing your tax burden! If you are planning a gift to offset 2021 income, you'll want to be aware of the official rules from the IRS: "Donors must deliver or mail checks on or by December 31, 2021, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2021. Checks that are placed in the church offering on the first Sunday of 2022 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2021, even if the check is pre-dated to 2021 or was actually written in 2021. However, checks that are written, mailed and post-marked in 2021 will be deductible in 2021 though they are not received by a church until 2022."

Thank you for keeping these things in mind as you plan your giving, and blessings and peace on your New Year ahead!

COME BROWSE THE CHURCH LIBRARY!

Located on 2nd floor near the elevator
On display...

- Books by Walter Wangerin Jr., a Lutheran pastor, professor and author.
(Walter died August 5 in Valparaiso, Indiana)
- Books for the Advent/Christmas season

New books have been added to the collection.
Come see!



OUTREACH MINISTRY

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN DECEMBER:

- **Food donations** - non-perishable food items for Bethel United Methodist Food Bank
- **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) Project Room at the Inn**- Christmas gifts for foster kids
- **Christmas Food Gift Card Project** for CT Vivian Primary School
- **Salem Snowman project** for CT Vivian Primary School

Growing People in Christ... to Love & Serve



ABOVE: Lutheran World Relief packages starting their journey to those in need.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

FAIR TRADE

Merry Christmas from Your Fair Trade team! We will be hosting Fair Trade sales on **Sunday, December 5 and Sunday, December 12** following the church service. We hope to help you with your holiday gift needs - chocolate bars, nuts, olive oil, tea, and coffee can all make great gifts for someone on your list. Stop by to check out our products - we will also have some sample recipes using Fair Trade products for you as well!

If you can't come on those dates to pick up your items, please know that you can still order them online and we will prepare your order for pickup at an arranged time. We are happy to assist you. Thank you for continuing to support the Fair Trade small farmers and cooperatives who supply the ingredients for our products!

-Jennifer, Jane, and Karen - Salem's Fair Trade Team

DARK CHOCOLATE COCONUT BROWNIE

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5 Tbsp. vegetable oil | 1/2 c. all-purpose flour |
| 6 Tbsp. virgin coconut oil | 1/2 bar Equal Exchange |
| 1 1/4 c. sugar | Very Dark Chocolate, |
| 1c . Equal Exchange Organic | chopped |
| Baking Cocoa | 1/4 c. shredded coconut |
| 1 pinch of salt | for topping |
| 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract | |
| 2 large eggs | |

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Place coconut oil into the microwave for 1 minute until melted. Add melted coconut oil with vegetable oil, vanilla, and eggs. Stir well.

In another bowl, mix sugar, flour, cocoa, salt, flour, and chocolate pieces. Stir together until fully blended.

Combine all ingredients and stir thoroughly.

Grease an 8x8 baking pan and pour batter evenly inside pan. Sprinkle with shredded coconut.

Bake for 15 – 20 minutes.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

SWEET SNOWMAN FROM SALEM

Share the Christmas spirit while offering a sweet treat and a pair of gloves to the 400 students at Salem's Adopt-a-School, C.T. Vivian Primary School (formerly Thomas Jefferson.)

How to participate:

📦 **Donate craft supplies** as soon as possible:

- NEW kid size knit gloves to fit ages 6-12 (any color or multicolored) (These can be found at Dollar Stores in 2-pair packs while supplies last.)
- Milk chocolate bars (Hershey's 1.55 oz. is preferred for size consistency)
- Decorative cording or thin ribbon, lengths of 12 inches or more (Yarn or curling ribbon can also be used but donations are not needed for these.)

✂️ **Make-and-Take Craft Packet Available**

- Pick up craft packets at Salem to make at home or with other Salem friends

🏠 **Make at Home:**

- Buy your own supplies and make the snowmen (Instructions found online: saalemofpeoria.com/sweet-snowmen-from-salem)

ALL donations and completed snowmen must be brought to Salem NO LATER than SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5.

Questions? Need items delivered or picked up? Call or text Kris Griffith at 309-370-2336 or email griffdk@comcast.net. If dropping items off during the week, church hours are 8am–2pm on Mondays–Thursdays and 8am–noon on Fridays.



OUTREACH MINISTRY & CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

CT VIVIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS GROCERY CARD PROJECT

Salem has a long history of providing Christmas food baskets to families in need at our Adopt-A-School, C.T. Vivian Middle School (formerly Thomas Jefferson.)

Last year, we raised enough funds through coffee cake sales to give the school twenty \$50 Kroger cards that were very much appreciated by the families who received them!



**We are putting a new spin on our
SWEET TREAT fundraiser this Christmas
and have we got a SWEET DEAL for you...**

For every \$25 dollar tax deductible donation you make to our CT Vivian Christmas Grocery Card Project between now and Sunday, December 12 – you will receive your choice of a free Dave's Coffee Cake (variety of flavors) or one dozen Apple Cider donuts from Tanner's.

Please make checks payable to Salem Lutheran Church and write "Food Baskets" in the memo line, or, you may donate on-line at: <https://form.jotform.com/213136883857163>

You may pick up your free SWEET TREATS at church on Saturday or Sunday morning, December 11 and 12, from 10am-Noon or we would be happy to deliver them to you!

Coffee cakes and cider donuts make great Christmas gifts for friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. And, who doesn't love receiving a gift that helps out a good cause!

**We'll be keeping a list and checking it twice to be sure you get your SWEET TREATS.
No order forms necessary... See Jill Goldhammer if you have any questions or special needs.**

DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am: Zoom Bible Study 6pm: Chancel Bells 7pm: Chancel Choir 7:30pm: Zoom Book Club	2 9:15am: Adult Bible Study	3	4
5 Fair Trade/Food Collection for Outreach Sunday 9am: Worship 10:15am: Education Hour 11:30am: Gingerbread House decorating 2pm: Adult Fellowship at Christmas Carol and dinner	6	7 11am: Staff Meeting 6pm: Chancel Bells 7pm: Chancel Choir 7pm: Council Meeting	8 10am: Zoom Bible Study 4pm: Gingerbread House decorating 7pm: Praise Band Practice	9 Bugle Deadline 9:15am: Adult Bible Study	10	11 10am: Gingerbread House decorating
12 Fair Trade Sunday 9am: Worship 10:15am: Education Hour 10:15am-11:30am: Gingerbread House Party	13 6:30pm: Congregational Care	14 Northern Conference 6:30pm: PreK Christmas Program 7pm: Outreach Meeting 7:30pm: Faith Formation Meeting	15 10am: Zoom Bible Study 11am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Praise Band Practice	16 9:15am: Adult Bible Study 6pm: Chancel Bells 7pm: Chancel Choir	17	18
19 9am: Worship 10:15am: Education Hour 10:15am: CT Vivian Volunteer Meeting	20 6:30pm: Worship & Music Meeting 7pm: Salem Churchmen Meeting	21 11am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Property & Finance Meeting	22 10am: Zoom Bible Study	23 9:15am: Adult Bible Study 6pm: Chancel Bells 7pm: Chancel Choir	24 Christmas Eve 4pm: Worship with Chancel Bells 10pm: Worship with Chancel Choir	25 Christmas Day
26 9am: Worship	27	28 11am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Zoom Executive Committee	29 10am: Zoom Bible Study	30 9:15am: Adult Bible Study	31	

OUTREACH MINISTRY

PROJECT ROOM AT THE INN

Project Room at the Inn is the new Christmas program (formerly the Giving Tree) through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). The pandemic has challenged us all to re-examine how we engage with our communities, which inspired LSSI's Project Room at the Inn.



PROJECT ROOM AT THE INN

Project Room at the Inn is based on the Bible passage where Mary and Joseph were looking for a place to rest so that Mary could give birth to Jesus. The inn that they encountered had no room, but the owner allowed them to stay in the manger with the animals, which they gratefully did. What we learned from this act of kindness is that God made a way in what appeared to be an impossible situation. In the same way, we trust that God will make a way and bless the lives of the children in LSSI's programs.

The goal is to provide the 2,630 children in LSSI's care with Christmas gifts and help ensure that they know they are loved. Salem Lutheran Church will have 60 names, and gift tags will provide a suggested donation amount. Funds will be received by LSSI and they will in turn purchase gifts for the child.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Let our members know they're remembered by providing a cheery greeting for their Thinking of You Christmas bags! You may bring your cards on Sunday, during office hours (Monday-Thursday: 8am-2pm; Friday: 8am-12pm) or in the sealed container at the back entrance at church any time before **December 19** or call the church office to make other arrangements. Staff will place the items in the bags for you. These Christmas greetings are sure to be cherished! People to remember are:

Lynn and Ed Akers	Janet Jones	Jo and Gil Nolde
Joy and Walt Anderson	Bea Kent	Bruce Norgard
Natalee Arff	Clarence and Lois Knutson	Rick O'Connor
Susan Barham	Ruth Landes	Nancy Owen
Nancy Bastian	Carole Love	Kay Peterson
Wally Bastian	Arlan Maier	Linda Peterson
Betty & Matthew Bennett	Bev Maier	Marty Plunkett
Alf Berg	Elgene Martin	Marge Ryberg
Susie and Mike Bohm	Suzanne McMickle	Irene Sawatzky
Carl and Helen Buerger, Jr.	Elaine McHugh	Marilyn Setterlund
Velma Crowley	Marian Meinert	Marilyn Smith
John Day	William Mettam	Marilyn and Fred Stamerjohn
MaryAlice Erickson	Bob Middleton	Georgia Sutherland
Vi Gruber	JoAnn and Paul Misselhorn	
Ron Hipple	Carolyn and Henry Noe	

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Join Adult Fellowship on **Sunday, December 5, 2pm** for *A Christmas Carol* (at the Scottish Rite Theatre, 400 Northeast Perry Avenue, Peoria) followed by dinner at Obed & Isaacs (321 NE Madison Ave, Peoria) at 5pm. Attendees will be responsible for purchasing their own tickets at www.scottishritepeoria.com/upcoming-events/2021/12/5-a-christmas-carol.

Please contact Leah Grebner by e-mail at leah.grebner@icloud.com if you plan to join us for dinner so that reservations may be made.

Join Salem Families and Individuals of All Ages for Salem's 2nd Annual
Sunday, December 12:

Gingerbread House Party

Gingerbread Kits

- Free and fun for all ages!
- One per Sunday School child (plus we have some extras for adults!)
- Pick-up on **Sunday, Nov. 28 and Dec. 5** / deliver to your home / pick-up during the week during office hours after **Nov. 28**



New this year... in-person creation options!

Gingerbread Houses may be submitted by individuals, teams or families. Make your gingerbread house at home or at church. The social hall will be available for group Gingerbread House decorating as follows:

Sunday, Dec 5, 11:30AM-2PM Wednesday, Dec 8, 4PM-6PM Saturday, Dec 11, 10AM-Noon

Extra candies/items will be available at church. It will be awesome to work on this project with other families!

Completed designs for the contest are due to church by **10AM on Sunday, December 12.**

All congregation voting and a free will offering for the CT Vivian Christmas Grocery Card Project will take place from 10:15AM-11AM during education hour on Sunday, December 12.

**If you are not participating in our in-person contest, please submit your pictures to Meghan Peterson (mpeterson@salemofpeoria.com). Winners and prizes will be announced at 11:30AM, immediately following education hour and will also be posted in our CYF Facebook group.*

*Questions, to help, or to receive your kit(s) by delivery, contact Jill Goldhammer by email at JGoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com or text or call Jill at: (309) 370-1692.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER, RN

HOLIDAYS

Thanksgiving preparations are behind us and now we are preparing for Christmas at church and at home. Holidays may be a difficult time if one is dealing with grief. Remember, grief isn't always the loss of a loved one. It can be the loss of a job, a pet, a relationship, or just loss of the everyday "normal" that many are struggling with due to Covid. Over the last several years, I still at times struggle with question of "is this the right way to handle this?" A key thing to remember is there is no right or wrong way to grieve as there is no right or wrong way to celebrate Christmas during this time. Here are a few thoughts to help with coping at the holidays:

1. Decide what YOU can handle comfortably and let your family and friends know – this may include anything from meal preparation to talking about your loss.
2. Maintain traditions or start new ones. This can be difficult when members of the same household have different thoughts so communication is important.
3. Do something special for someone. Adopt-a-school partner Christmas grocery gift card project for families at CT Vivian Primary School, participate in the LSSI's Room at the Inn Project for foster kids, or participate in the monthly food drive – this can be a meaningful way to remember your loved one.
4. Recognize your loved one's presence in the family Christmas celebration by burning a candle or hanging a stocking with their name.
5. Be sure to get enough rest and eat properly. The grief process adds to an already stressful time so helping your body stay healthy can reduce stress and keep you feeling stronger.
6. Don't feel guilty if you feel happy. It is possible to feel both happy and sad. Feeling joy at the holidays does not take away from the memory of your loved one or other losses.

CONDOLENCES

PAUL BARTHOLOMEW

Prayers are requested for the family of Paul Bartholomew who has joined the church triumphant. Prayers of comfort and peace for his wife, Kay, their children, and all who mourn his passing.

LUTHERAN WOMEN OF GREATER PEORIA (LWGP)

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL OF NATIVITIES

A Thrill of Hope the Weary World Rejoices! This excerpt from "O Holy Night" creates a reason to begin thinking of the birth of Christ Jesus! Join us in seeing more than 750 nativities on display, musical performances and live artists. To register your nativity or volunteer at the event: www.CommunityFestivalofNativities.com. Coming soon: **December 2-December 5, 2021.**

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS! December BIRTHDAYS

December 1

Matthew Crone
William Fischer

December 2

Henry Arnold
Darlene Ford
Susan Hamann
Wren Jolliff

December 3

Gloria Kroodsma
Eric Webster
Hailey Zapf

December 4

Martha Plunkett

December 5

Susanne Hermanson
Donald Hoffman
Grayson Rook
Rosemary Swanson

December 6

Isaac Hartman

December 7

Jon Arehart
Bonnie Gallas

December 8

Caleb Bastian
Mark Holmes

December 10

Natalee Arff
Dan Starzynski

December 11

Walter Bastian
Wanita Van Scoyoc

December 12

Holland James Koss
Jody Jean McKinty
Greg Roberts
Marjorie Ryberg
Hans Vandervlugt

December 14

Viola Gruber

December 15

Julie Gannon
Laura Hartman
Bernice Kent
Gerald Snyder

December 16

Margaret Steele

December 17

Jill Goldhammer
William Ricketts

December 18

Audrey Koeltzow
Nancy Peterson

December 19

Julia Hokanson
Lisa McGregor

December 20

Julianna Rees
Jackie Scoville

December 22

Elise Rastatter

December 24

Jennifer Marquez
Richard Peterson

December 27

Joel Brinkman
Michael Petrakis

December 29

Beth Cooper
Spencer Lantz
Grant Peterson
Kathleen Self

December 30

Jill Becker
Braden Wallstedt



PRAYER REQUESTS

THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR...

- Salem's growing ministry

DIRECTION...

- Salem Congreg. Council
- Salem's Pastor, Deacon and Staff

PRAYERS REQUESTS...

- All those affected with COVID-19
- The men and women of our armed forces
- Support for all caregivers when loved ones suffer
- Individuals suffering from depression
- People of Guatemala
- Ulrich family in Malawi
- Families at Crittenton Center
- Midwest Food Bank
- Betty Ahlgren
- Mark Anderson and family
- the family of Paul Bartholomew

- Wally Bastian and his family
- Lesly Baumgarten
- Luan Borquist
- Butch Conard
- Stephanie Dammann's grandfather
- Ethan, grandson of Bea Kent
- Marilyn Franson
- Gabe
- Jack Grant
- Henry
- Ron Hipple
- Helen Johnson
- Larry
- Lizzie
- Morgan Lott
- Marta
- Bill Mettam
- Tom Mueller
- the family of Larry Newbanks
- Bruce Norgard

- Dr. Rick O'Connor
- Lana Pasco
- Donita Purcell
- Rosy Park
- Regina

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

Stateside: Clarence Gomez, Gibson Gonzalez, Emily Graff, Barry Joyce, Ashley Owen, Lucas Owen, Jim Sterling, Jason Sterr, Scott Wolfmeyer
Overseas: Ian Borquist, Talon Maki

If you would like your prayer request to appear on the prayer list beyond this one month period, please submit a new request each month. Thanks for your partnership in Salem's prayer ministry.

Please contact the church office with prayer requests at: 309-688-9212 or contact Norma Hartman at: 309-240-8387 or at nkhartman248@gmail.com.

The Bugle
USPS 477-460



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Thank you to those who helped organize and complete tasks during Work Day in October.