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# Salem SCENE

Winter  
Issue  
Vol. 30  
No. 5

## Upcoming at Salem

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connect · grow · go

# Let me show you!

by Pastor Mark Pattie

“Let me show you!” I heard Pastor Ben say. It was music to my ears. A woman was trying to figure out where to go for a meeting at church and rather than just telling her, Ben walked her there.

It was a great example of how I’m hoping all of us are seeking to help new people who come to Salem. From finding a classroom, to a seat in worship, to a meaningful devotional life, to engaging in ministry, to, ultimately, trusting and following Jesus in all of life, we are always more effective when we go beyond just telling people and instead show them the way.

Pastor Ben told me this idea was something he heard Hilton Hotels requires of all their employees. And while I’m happy to credit Hilton, it seems to me that like so many best business practices, the principle goes back much further. It reminds me of the way God didn’t just tell us about the pathway to life, but came and showed us, living among us, walking with us, dying and rising for us, all to open the way, to show the way, to be the way. Certainly Jesus’ example is a powerful model encouraging us to go beyond offering people a distant, impersonal word of assistance, and instead getting personally involved in offering care and support.

Our pastoral staff recently watched a video of an address that Horst Schulze, the founder of the Ritz Carlton Hotel chain, gave at the Willow Creek Leadership Summit. Warm, personal, caring customer service is the key difference maker for hotels he said, going on to suggest that it can be for churches, too. Both businesses and churches strive to provide a good product (for a church that means things like worship, Christian formation, mission and service opportunities, etc.) in a timely fashion, but not all make the extra, vital effort to show that they personally care about each and every person they encounter.

Schulze spoke of his experience at a big, opulent bank. He shared that he had received the product he was looking for, change for a fifty dollar bill, but was treated by the teller as more of a nuisance than a treasured customer. The experience did not encourage him to consider the bank for his continued banking needs, needs I am confident are of far greater financial significance to the bank’s bottom line than most.

He pointed out that it wouldn’t have taken any more time or effort for the teller to have treated him as a person she cared about and was honored to serve, inviting him warmly to her window, smiling and looking him in the eye, offering a kind greeting, enthusiastically asking him how she could help him. She could have called him by name, told him it was her pleasure to get his change, wished him a wonderful day when he left. Any or all of those things could have made a tremendous difference to him and how he felt about the bank, and none of them would have cost her anything. These are all things that are easy enough to do, for us to do, whether at Salem or elsewhere, and they can make all the difference.

Schulze said the turning point in his career was when he realized a hotel’s workers were not just employees doing a job, but ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and gentlemen. It makes me think of Psalm 8 that we reflected on in worship recently which proclaims not only the majesty of God, but also the inestimable worth of human beings created by God. In all we do and say, we should think of and treat ourselves and others that way.

From a biblical perspective, Schulze’s motto could be phrased this way, “We are people created in the image of God and beloved by God serving people created in the image of God and beloved by God.” This certainly ought to bring smiles to our faces; a smile of gratitude and pleasure in recognition of our own God-given worth and a smile of knowing acknowledgment as we look at others in recognition of their great God-given value, as well.

*Let me show you!*  
from page 2

Centuries ago, St. Benedict urged his followers to greet every guest at the door as if he or she were Christ himself. That's a pretty good principle for a hotel, even more so for a church. It's like music to my ears when I hear people at Salem, like Pastor Ben, going out of their way to welcome, encourage, and serve one another and especially those new to our church. From the way we treat ourselves to the way we treat one another, from the way we extend God's love to new guests who come to our doors to the way we extend God's love to those beyond, God calls us both to believe the good news of his love and to pass that good news on to others, all others, in word, in action, and maybe, why not, with a smile.

## Christmas Light

We love the bright colored lights of Christmas breaking up the extended darkness of winter. They point to the much greater Light revealed at Christmas that shatters a darkness far deeper and more crushing to the human spirit than a Minnesota winter. Join us this December as we look to the stories surrounding Jesus' birth and reflect on the Christmas Light that can brighten our lives and our world.

November 29

Luke 1:67-80—The Light of Second Chances

As we step into the Light of Christmas, even those who blunder can gain penetrating insight into redemption.

December 6

Matthew 1:18-25—The Light in the Darkness

Long expected, yet always surprising, the Christmas Light shines with the truth of God's faithful presence even when things look their worst.

December 13

Luke 1:26-38—The Light of Calling

Christmas reminds us that those who are vulnerable and seemingly unimportant can be channels of God's grace and light to a hurting world.

December 20

Luke 1:39-45—The Light of Community

The transforming Light of Christmas becomes clearer and more evident when we risk honestly seeking its truth together.

December 24 Christmas Eve

Luke 2:1-20—The Light in the Margins

The Light of Christmas can look very different depending on where you sit; listen to those on the fringes who may well see significant things the rest of us miss.

December 27

Matthew 2:1-12—The Light of Strangers

Those who seem so different from us may well share the Light of Christmas, too, revealing God's much greater purposes in a much bigger world.

## Membership Has Its Benefits *SALEM 101*

I asked a friend of mine who is a successful business man if he had joined his church. "No," he said, "There's no benefit to joining. It's not like a Gym where you get special access or like owning stock where you get a dividend. I participate. I give. I even serve. Why should I join?"

His response is a common one today. Full participation in the church is possible without going through the formality of the membership process. Annual Meetings might look a little different if you aren't a member, but really only at voting time. Salem, along with most churches, is glad to have people a part of the community, and doesn't pressure anyone into membership.

But, something does happen when you commit formally. A formal commitment increases your investment in Salem. When you enter membership, you enter into the part of the church which actually guides the church in its priorities and decision-making. You become a part of the way that God guides Salem into his plan for its future. Membership also opens up leadership possibilities at the highest levels of the church.

Our membership class *SALEM 101*, begins Sunday, November 1, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. It is a great way to get to know Salem at a deeper level. We'll explore the theology, the history, and the denomination of the church. We'll have a lot of fun and get to know each other a little better. Join me, Pastor Jonna, for four weeks (November 1, 8, 15, 22) and see what God might do as you explore the benefits of membership.

# Children and Family Ministry

Alice Johnson

Children and Family/Executive Pastor

ajohnson@salem-covenant.church



## Children and Worship

Salem has a rich history of excellence in its worship services. This fall, children in Sunday School and Children's Worship are learning about and participating in different

elements of the worship service: singing, blessing, call-and-response Bible readings, and prayer. A worship guide has been developed each week for children in grades 3-5 to use during the Traditional or the Contemporary Services. The guide was created to provide children with questions and activities based on the songs, Moments for Missions, Scripture readings, prayers, and sermon.

## Parenting with Spirit

We are a group of people who seek to parent with intentionality, energy, wisdom, and most critically the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We gather together weekly on Sunday mornings during Sunday School to encourage one another and learn about topics relevant to our role as parents. You are welcome to join us any time!

We began the year becoming familiar with parenting resources offered alongside the curricula used in Sunday School and Wednesday evening youth programs—*Homefront Weekly* and the *Parent Cue*. We discovered that what could be a forgotten sheet of paper crammed into a diaper bag or back pocket is actually rich with ideas on how to nurture our children's faith at home.

Our next topic will be on developing a faith in our children that "sticks" long term and defies the statistics of the alarming number of young people who walk away from their faith. **Sticky Faith** is a research-based and field-tested project that will give us insight and practical ideas for how to set our kids on the path for lifelong faith.

## Dates to Remember

### Thanksgiving Break

AWANA will not be meeting on Wednesday, November 25.

### Christmas Break

AWANA will not meet on Wednesdays, December 23 and 30.

Sunday School and Children's Worship will not be meeting on Sundays, December 27 and January 3.

## Children and Family Ministry Staff Updates

We have had some exciting changes in our Children and Family Ministry Staff over the past couple of months.

While **Hannah Jacobson** has been on our staff for about a year and a half, she has now assumed new responsibilities as the Early Childhood Director giving oversight to the ministry we have for children from age two through Kindergarten. She works with our volunteers serving in Sunday school, Preschool and Children's Worship, and AWANA Cubbies.

**Katie Gehrz** joined our staff at the beginning of September as the Elementary Director. She is giving direction to programming for children in first through fifth grades. Katie works closely with volunteers in providing experiences for this age group on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Katie is also investing time in developing ways for children to enter more fully into corporate worship.

Also joining our staff at the beginning of September was **Shelli Streeper**, who is serving as the Children and Family Activity Director. In this role, Shelli is partnering with the Children and Family Ministry Team to provide service and fellowship opportunities for families. With her extensive background in sports and coaching, she is also providing activity/sporting opportunities for our young children to participate in.

We are blessed to have these three women assume these roles and serve alongside our Nursery Coordinator **Mary Jacobson**. Please be praying for them and the significant ministries that they are leading.



## Arts & Crafts Fair Saturday, November 7 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

With over 100 Artists and Crafters, Bake Sale, and Concessions, this is a HUGE fundraiser for next summer's International Youth Mission Trip.

Ready to put a serious dent in your Christmas shopping, or simply have a great time browsing the offerings of over 100 local vendors? Come on out and support Salem Youth Ministries through our annual craft fair! There will be a wide variety of handmade gifts, specialty products, food items and other selections available for purchase.

A special thank you goes out to Mary Jacobson for once again heading up this event, which is a major blessing to our youth and their families!

### Your help is needed!

#### PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Please sign up to help for set-up on Friday, November 6, during the Arts and Crafts Fair, or tear down at 4:00 p.m. Sign up through the weekly newsletter emails, via Google Docs link, or in the Sr. High room.

#### BAKERS NEEDED:

Looking for cookies, bars, cakes, and breads to sell at the bake sale table.

Thank you in advance for all your help and serving with our youth in this way. We could NOT do this without you!



## Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

In November, you have an opportunity to help support the Youth Mission Trip for the summer of 2016! Beginning Sunday, November 15 through November 22, connect with one of our youth or visit the table set up in the Narthex on both Sundays. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our youth.

# Youth Ministry

Ben Pease

Youth and Ministry Deployment Pastor  
bpease@salem-covenant.church

## CHIC 2015 Prayers Answered!

So many of you prayed for our team of students and adult leaders as we headed to Knoxville, Tennessee last July for the Covenant denomination's triennial youth conference. THANK YOU for your prayers as well as for your significant financial support!

Here are just a few ways we saw God at work at CHIC:

- Generous financial support that allowed our students and their friends to attend CHIC at a very reasonable cost
- Safe travels to and from Knoxville, on campus and during our epic whitewater rafting trip!
- God's Spirit powerfully present during evening worship and teaching sessions
- Students making commitments to God in many areas of their lives
- Students wrestling with and responding to engaging morning teaching sessions
- Great connections within our group and between our students and others from across the country
- Powerful small group discussion times
- Christ's love demonstrated to students through our leaders' excellent care
- Students engaging in global justice issues through Project Blue's spotlight on clean water access

Take some time to ask a CHIC student or leader about their own experience. And again, **THANK YOU!**

# Adult Ministry

Jonna Fantz

Outreach and Community Life Pastor  
jfantz@salem-covenant.church

## Men's Ministry

Contact: Dan Gatto  
(djesgatto@mac.com  
or 612-750-7294)

Honing Steel Men's Bible  
Study Topical Studies from  
Biblical Principles

Meets on the  
First Thursday of the Month  
7:00-8:30 p.m.

All men are invited to join us for  
a monthly Bible study—large  
and small group discussion and  
prayer time.

The study information will be  
sent in advance via email. If  
you have not given us your  
email or don't have one, please  
check with the Church Office  
for a copy. We will then gather  
monthly, starting October 1, to  
explore *The Measure of a Man* by  
Gene A. Getz.

*As iron sharpens iron,  
so one person sharpens  
another. Proverbs 27:17*

## Large Group Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Gather together for a time of prayer for our community and a deep dive into Scripture this fall. Our focus this fall is a spotlight on Jesus, exploring his teachings and the impact of his life in two study series.

*Through the Glass Dimly: Blurred Images of a Future Messiah* on November 11-December 16

We will look at the first chapter of Luke as well as various supporting Old Testament texts as we consider the coming of the Christ. This will be an inductive Bible study where we will approach the texts as if we were living at the time of John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, and others in the Jewish community awaiting the promised Messiah although uncertain of exactly what that might mean. Teacher: Stephen Pitts

## Sr. Fellowship Ministry

Contact: Edna Harelstad (612-789-3685)

We would like to **CONNECT** with you  
and **GROW** in this fellowship,  
so we plan to **GO** forward with the following  
programs and lunches for November-January.

Friday, November 20, 12:00 p.m.

### Famous Soup Lunch

This is a must-prepay-in-advance event—cost \$8/person. Our speaker will be Adam Lindquist, who will portray Teddy Roosevelt and bring humor, foresight, and energy through entertaining and informational stories.

Friday, December 18, 1:00 p.m. (note time change)

We will feature a program with our Salem String Band, followed by a potluck dessert smörgåsbord—proven to be an array of goodies and lots of fellowship.

Friday, January 15, 1:00 p.m.

Come for another popcorn and movie matinee, followed by coffee and a treat.

Further details for all of these events may be found in the bulletins and the poster in the Narthex. We appreciate your signing up on the bulletin board, located behind the Welcome Center. Also, this year we will have a table in the Narthex the Sunday before each gathering (November we will be in the Narthex the three Sundays in advance of the event). Also, posted on the bulletin board in the hallway is a picture of the previous month's event. Thank you to Dayton Walker for these pictures! Brochures are available in the kiosk; new brochures will be available in December for January-May 2016 events.

So far this year, we have received a lot of good reviews about these events and pray that you will take time out of your busy schedules to join us for a time of relaxation, fun, and fellowship. We say . . . to God be the Glory!



# Intercessory Prayer Team

*“Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. . . .”*

With these words, Paul asked the Ephesians for the most important thing they could do to support him in his ministry. The same is true today; every event and activity, every decision at Salem needs to be thoroughly covered with prayer if we want it to glorify God. This lifting to God the concerns of another is called intercessory prayer, and Salem has a group dedicated to that service.

For five-and-a-half years, Salem’s Intercessory Prayer Team has been praying for all of our church’s ministries. We currently have forty-plus members who receive a weekly email highlighting daily events and activities, and also ongoing prayer concerns from any group that chooses to share them. The members commit to praying regularly—whenever, wherever, and as often as they choose—for those concerns.

Members of the team find blessing in their service, and have seen our prayers answered in wonderful ways:

“The Prayer Team continually makes me aware of the variety of ministries at Salem. In reading of the need for additional members on the Finance Ministry Team and after prayerful consideration, I joined the team and have found this ministry to be very rewarding.” —Jerry Green

“I have been on the Intercessory Prayer Team for a few years now and I thank God for the privilege of praying for Salem Covenant Church and serving God and the church in this way. It is a blessing to see God’s will being done through the many ministries and activities occurring each week and to lift these to the Lord asking for His guidance and presence. I encourage many to consider drawing close to God in prayer for Salem as He will draw close to you and you will see His amazing power at work in our church.” —Janell Giesler

If you would like to share in the joy this vital ministry can give, or if you know of a prayer need for any Salem ministry, please contact Kathy Sammartano (ksammartano@gmail.com or 763-786-5307). God will do amazing things as we are faithful in prayer.

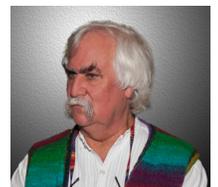
# Adult Sunday School

We are wrapping up a great class that Wayne Roosa is presenting entitled *Exploring Sacred Space in Architecture, Painting, and Theology*. This has been well received by attendees. Wayne has been leading us through the wonders of sacred spaces found in churches, cathedrals, and other structures from the Early Church through the present day.



Walter Sundberg is returning to teach *Separating Church and State* beginning October 25 and concluding on November 22. This class will challenge us as to how we should live in today’s ever increasing secularization of American society. From this class, we should come away with a renewed perspective as to how our faith must remain separate yet vital within today’s cultural environment. Walter has been a popular Salem Adult Sunday School teacher and we are thrilled that he has decided to become a member of our congregation.

On December 6 and 13, David Hawkinson will be leading us in *Reading the Parables of Jesus*. David will be bringing fresh perspectives to biblical parables. He will be using several parables to help us see powerful lessons for us that we can so easily miss because these stories have become very familiar to us.



Bob Clark will be leading us in a class that will musically look forward to Christmas. On December 20, we will have the opportunity to join with him in the *Singing the Christmas Story*; with a background of how we came to know these familiar songs and give us a chance to sing them.



The Prayer Ministry Team wants to hear your stories of how *God has Answered Prayer* in your life. Answers to prayer are vital to every one of us. Sharing of miracles, big and small, is an encouragement to our congregation and a testament to God’s love for us. Submit your stories to Heather Brumbaugh (hbrumbaugh@salem-covenant.church) or in writing at the Welcome Center.

# Missions and Service

Ben Pease

Youth and Ministry Deployment Pastor  
bpease@salem-covenant.church

## My ATTITUDE of GRATITUDE

God has been working on my attitude of gratitude this summer.

When I grew tired of all of the noise and commotion around me, He reminded me how lucky I am to have family and friends in my life.

When I grew tired of cleaning my house, He reminded me how fortunate I am to have a safe place to live.

When I wished that I didn't have to do another load of laundry, He reminded me that I have so many clothes and I don't need to go down to the river to wash them.

When I grew tired of constantly cleaning up crumbs under the table, He reminded me how precious my grandchildren are to me.

So, when the World Vision truck arrived, I had made some adjustments to my Attitude of Gratitude.

I went into the truck thinking about my grandchildren and came out thinking about children in the Congo and the Syrian refugees.

I now support a boy and a girl in the Congo and the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

### Thank you God for the Attitude Adjustment!

*You made the nightly news real—one person at a time. The gifts of hope and love brought by World Vision workers in these “margins” of the world is a message of courage and faith.*

*Oh Jesus, please teach me to love like you love, give like you gave, and always see you in the face of all. Amen.*

*I am overwhelmed by the injustice around the world today. Thank you, World Vision, for expanding my view and for the work you do. May we together make a difference.*

*Oh, Dear Jesus, words are inadequate. My spirit groans within me. I have so much and they have so little—spread me thinner. Amen*



## Reflections

From September 24- 27, Salem hosted the World Vision Experience. The 20-minute tour through the truck brought the suffering and needs of children in dark places around the world to the Salem community.

There were 277 adult (age 18 and older) visitors, and 41 chose to sponsor a child in Bangladesh or through Covenant Kids Congo. In addition, 24 people chose to support Syrian disaster relief. There were 14 one-time donations at the truck, and many more in the church for Hope Sunday II. In addition to the adult visitors, approximately 50 children went through the Experience as part of a class or group, or with their parents.

Salem's World Vision Experience planning team wishes to thank the 39 Salem member that volunteered their time to help run the event.



Greg Grimes became the 500<sup>th</sup> person to sponsor a child on this tour. Thank you Greg and all of you that sponsored children.

## Service Ministry Team Updates

This team is involved in identifying and organizing opportunities for members of Salem to participate in serving and meeting the needs of our local communities.

Our Mission Statement is:

“To provide opportunities for members of Salem Covenant to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ and present His gospel to those in need through service within the local community.”

The following are some of the organizations and activities we are currently involved in;

- Coat Drive—in cooperation with CEAP
- First Covenant Church Homeless Shelter in Minneapolis—providing meals
- Loaves and Fishes—providing meals
- Feed My Starving Children—packing meals
- Adopt-a-Park—clean-up of Driftwood Park (adjacent to church)
- Establishing a community garden in 2016 to provide vegetables to Ralph Reader Food Shelf
- Salvation Army and Ralph Reeder Food Shelf—monthly donations of food and money
- Living Hope Ministry—helping with various needs of this ministry

To identify opportunities to become involved with these ministries, please see the bulletin board at the top of the middle stairs, near the elevator.

Also, please watch for more information that will be provided during the Moment for Ministry at each service on November 15.

## Why serve?

*For me serving is a way to say thank you to God for His healing grace in my life. I serve in response to that grace by giving it away.*

## Thank you!

A very sincere thank you to the Salem Family for donating school supplies and money to Living Hope Ministries. We provided backpacks for 70 kids this year. We greatly appreciate your generosity in serving the families involved with Living Hope Ministries, they were blessed!!

Sincerely,  
Steve and Kelli Moen  
Living Hope Ministries



**Manna Market at Fridley Covenant Church**

Contact: Ray and Jan Schmidt  
(rayjanschmidt@gmail.com)

Volunteers are needed to sort food boxes every Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and to assist with the market 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



**Adopt-a-Park**

Watch the bulletin for spring and fall clean-up days.



**Feed My Starving Children**

Saturday, November 21, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Friday, December 18, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 16, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Sign up at the bulletin board by the middle stairwell for our next meal-packing session (Coon Rapids location).

# Music

Cindy Reents  
Music Coordinator  
creents@salem-covenant.church

## Wind Ensemble

Contact: Warren Starr (jwstarr@centurylink.net or 763-784-7266)

If you play a wind or percussion instrument you are welcome to join us. Just show up, or contact Warren Starr if you want more information.

Rehearsals: Sundays, October 25, November 1, and 8 at 12:30 p.m.  
Play: Traditional Services on Sunday, November 25,  
8:30 and 9:45 a.m.

Rehearsals: Sundays, November 22 and December 6 at 12:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m. (dress rehearsal)  
Play: Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 22, 6:30 p.m.

## It's time again for the Swedish Singers!

Contact: Ole/Stu Opel (stopel66@gmail.com or 612-819-1507)

Salem's Fika, our new Swedish Christmas Festival, will be on Saturday, December 5. Swedish Singers rehearsals will be Mondays, November 9, 16, 23 and 30, from 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Or, come at 6:30 for extra practice with Swedish pronunciation. Prior knowledge of Swedish language is not a requirement—come and learn or refresh those beautiful sounds.

## Joy Singers

Contact: Kirsten Griebenow (salemjoysingers@gmail.com)

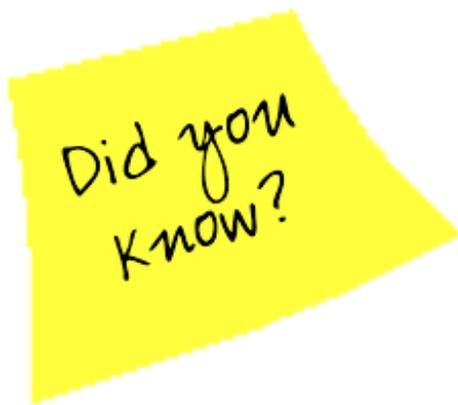
Attention 5th-8th Graders! Do you like to sing and make music? The Joy Singers are looking for music-loving people of all talents and abilities to join us in having fun, exploring how to sing in parts, and praising God. Grab your dinner upstairs, come on down, and check us out! Bring a friend! We rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:50-6:40 p.m.

## Sanctuary Choir

Contact Jon Veenker (jveenker@salem-covenant.church)

Would you like to serve in a vital part of worship? The Sanctuary Choir is open to anyone high school age or above and no audition is necessary. We rehearse Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and sing most Sundays September through May at both Traditional Services. Participation in every rehearsal and all services is not mandatory but singing brings such joy that it is hard not to!





# Covenant Pines Retreats

Retreats bring the best of the Covenant Pines program and staff to you, your family, and your church. We offer youth and family retreats for every season of the year. Register online at [www.covenantpines.org](http://www.covenantpines.org).

## Quilter's Retreat—November 5-8, 2015

Quilters Retreat is a time to let God give you a break. As a Quilter, it's hard to find time to work on your projects. As a Christian, it's hard to find extended time in fellowship with other women. This retreat provides both. Spend 3 to 4 days enveloped in your hobby. You don't have to set up and pack up every day like many have to when working at home. Here you can simply let your mess spread. So bring your projects, bring your snacks, and be ready for an amazing weekend.

## Men's Retreat—November 20-22, 2015

Wherever you are spiritually, Men's Retreat is an opportunity. It's an opportunity to separate yourself from the routine, to turn down the volume of the world, and speak authentically with other men. Of course, there will be tons of fun stuff to do. But that's not why we do this. The core reason we do this is to experience the love of Christ. That's why ManCamp exists. That's why this camp exists.

## College and Career Retreat—December 29, 2015-January 1, 2016

This retreat is for young adults everywhere! Folks from all over the Midwest come to celebrate New Year's and get their "buckets" refilled before 2016 begins. Activities include: broomball, nordic skiing, snowshoeing, work projects, worship, and fellowship.

Would you like to know more about Covenant Pines Bible Camp? Contact Sarmita Peterson, Salem's Camp Representative (612-600-4250) or scan the code.



Submit your own story and pictures of your experience at Covenant Pines for an upcoming Salem Scene to Heather Brumbaugh ([hbrumbaugh@salem-covenant.church](mailto:hbrumbaugh@salem-covenant.church)).

## As part of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign, Salem's Sanctuary has a hearing loop installed.

### What is a hearing loop?

A hearing loop helps persons hear sounds from an audio system directly and clearly in their hearing aids, because it reduces or cuts out background noise. It provides a wireless signal, called an induction loop, that is picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting. The loop system uses the existing microphone system to pick up the spoken word; an amplifier which processes the signal; and the loop cable, a small wire placed throughout the Sanctuary.

### How do I get it to work?

If you have a telecoil—a small metal rod wrapped in wire—in your hearing aids or cochlear implants and switch to the "T" setting, you will hear as if you are connected wirelessly to the sound system. There's no ambient noise, and the sound doesn't have to travel all the way from the chancel to your pew.

### Hearing Loop Dedication Service

Salem is holding a Dedication Service on Wednesday, November 4 at 11:15 a.m. for our newly-installed hearing loop in the Sanctuary. You are invited to join us to learn about how the hearing loop works and celebrate the improvement in sound it provides to our people with hearing loss.



## The history behind the Eyebrow Window in the Sanctuary.

The Eyebrow Window in the Sanctuary was designed by Dieter Spahn, a stained glass designer of German descent. The stained glass was made in Germany because Spahn knew craftsman in Europe who would produce the desired impressions on glass. The window symbolizes the Lord looking upon His people. It looks into the sanctuary, into every seeking heart, and sees the longing there. It looks out into the world with a look of love and concern.

*"The eyes of the Lord range through the whole earth . . ."*

—Information from Salem Archives

# Salem Preschool

Pam Carlson, Director

pam@salemcovpreschool.com | 651-633-0158

www.salemcovpreschool.com



In addition to preparing our students for kindergarten, one of our Preschool goals is to teach our students to love and care for their neighbors and their world. We want to be God's hands and feet in our community. Certainly this time of year presents many opportunities to talk about how we can love and respect others, how to recognize our blessings from God, and how to share what we have with others.

At the end of October, we finished harvesting our root vegetables in the Preschool Garden. Potatoes, onions, beets, and carrots were donated to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. By early September, we had already donated 56 pounds of produce from the garden. We are anxious to see what the total for this year will be.

As we begin November, we will revisit where our food comes from. Sure, we find it in the grocery store, but where does the grocer get it? We will sort foods into food groups, learn where they grow, which animal it comes from and which foods are best for helping us grow. Our Thanksgiving unit begins with the Pilgrims' story of faith. Coming to this new land, they trusted God to care for them as they established Plymouth Colony, made friends with the local Native Americans and learned to hunt, fish, and plant in a new world. Their celebration and feasting after the first year was an act of thanksgiving to God for his care! From the voyage on the Mayflower to the first Thanksgiving Feast, our preschoolers will learn how God guided the Pilgrims. He continues to guide us today. We end our unit with our own version of the Thanksgiving celebration. Dressed as Pilgrims and turkeys, our students will make individual pizzas and we will lunch together with our friends at school.

There is no month more exciting than December. It is ripe with anticipation! So many preparations are being made for Jesus' birth. Through stories and activities, we will visit the animals, shepherds, inn keeper, angels, and Mary and Joseph to see how they prepared for and responded to the birth. Baby Jesus was a gift of love from God. We are thankful for that love. We will be exploring ways we, too, can give gifts of love to others. Of course, we will be making surprise gifts for our parents and we can't avoid talking about gifts we hope to find under the tree. However, we want to show love to others in our community without expecting something in return. Therefore, we will be encouraging families to create a "Birthday Bag" to donate to the food shelf. This is a fun way to celebrate Jesus' birthday in a tangible way. Families may join in the drive by filling a grocery bag with the ingredients for a child's birthday party—cake mix, frosting, napkins, candles, favors, maybe a simple dinner such as spaghetti. The "Birthday Bags" will be handed out by Ralph Reeder Food Shelf as the need is apparent throughout the winter. We want to be God's hands and feet in our neighborhood.

As the snow fills our church yard in January, Preschool students will enjoy the beauty of winter. Getting outside to play and slide down the hills is great fun. Like the penguins we will learn about, we love the winter season!

## Get ready for the 2016-2017 school year!

Registration for Current Families,  
Salem Members, and Alumni  
Thursday, January 28, 2016, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Open House and Registration  
for New Families  
Saturday, January 30, 2016, 9:00 a.m.-noon

If you are looking for a preschool or know someone else who is, please share this information and mark your calendar!

## 90 Day Challenge

The Stewardship Team is issuing a challenge to the Salem community! For the next 90 days, we want to challenge you to consider how stewardship and giving back to the church influences your spiritual life. This challenge is biblical as the Lord challenges all of us in Malachi 3:10 to “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven...” Let us use this harvest time of year to also bring our produce to the Lord, trusting that He will use it for His glory through the ministries of our church.

If you do not currently tithe, we challenge you to begin tithing over the next 90 days. Or, consider giving on a consistent basis or increasing your giving level for the next 90 days.

We know that you will be blessed in more ways than you can imagine. This challenge is about more than just money—it is about trusting that the Lord will continue to provide for us when we honor him with our gifts and offerings.

## Offering Envelopes

2016 offering envelopes will be available to pick up in the Narthex beginning November 15. If you have not had envelopes in the past and would like to have some for 2016, please contact Janell Davalos.

## Thanksgiving Eve

The offering collected at the Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 25, will be dedicated to Covenant World Relief. If you are unable to attend this service and would like to contribute to this essential ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church, you may use the special Thanksgiving Offering envelope included with the 2015 envelopes or simply indicate CWR on the memo line of your check and include with the regular offering on Sunday or mail your donation to the Church Office. Donations may also be dedicated through our online giving site.

## Christmas Eve

The Christmas Eve Offering on December 24 will be dedicated to support our Salem Mission Ministry Team initiatives.

## Covenant Companion

The subscription year for *The Covenant Companion* renews on December 1. If you are currently receiving *The Covenant Companion*, please help defray the annual subscription cost of \$18. You may indicate Covenant Companion on your gift. For your convenience, a pink Covenant Companion envelope will be included in your 2016 offering envelopes. If you do not wish to continue receiving *The Covenant Companion* for this next subscription year, please contact Marcy Toensing.

## End-of-Year Giving

All contributions must be received by the Church Office or postmarked on or before December 31, 2015 to be included in your 2015 contribution statement.

# Finance Updates

Janell Davalos, Cash Receipts Clerk  
jdavalos@salem-covenant.church

Nichelle Kaul, Business Administrator  
nkaul@salem-covenant.church

Marcy Toensing, Business Administrator  
mtoensing@salem-covenant.church

## My Giving Story

This summer, I had brought the woman I had been dating for a few months to check out church. After lunch, she unexpectedly broke up with me. I decided to head down to Lake Harriet for a concert to get out of the apartment and be around people to ward off depression. On the way, my car died in the middle of a busy intersection on Hennepin. Most everyone I knew who could help me were away on vacation. The next day, I had it towed and discovered that the timing belt broke and it was going to be \$2-3,000. I had some good cries both days. As I drove home from the shop to figure out what to do with the car, I drove by church and went in and Pastor Mark took a moment before a meeting he had to pray with me. A friend from my old church helped put in a used engine for less. Mark's sermon that Sunday had been something about trusting God and knowing that even when it doesn't feel like it, God is still at work.

Finances have been tight, even before the divorce. Since leaving church work several years ago, I have been a stay-at-home dad and now I work at the kids' school. My pay is hourly during the school year and I didn't find a job for the summer that would work with my schedule with the kids. I've been taught to trust God and tithe my income since I was young, and have been doing it even though it doesn't make sense financially to do. But God provided.

Thank you for the sermon on October 11. It was meaningful to think about what am I working for and if I can give what I work for away.

—David Wenell

## Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, November 7, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2015 marks the Salem Arts & Crafts Fair 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Every year this event has gotten better and better and our attendance has been tremendous. This event is so unique in so many ways. Where else can you get a jump on your Christmas shopping, grab a bite to eat and visit with old and new friends? You won't want to miss this year's Arts & Crafts Fair as it is shaping up to be our best event yet. In addition to all the wonderful shopping we will again have the Salem Café and Bake Sale.

Our Salem members and friends have helped make this event a huge success. This event has really helped our Salem Youth Group over these many years, as all space rental, bake sale, and concession profits support their programs.



## Stamping Fellowship Christmas Card Event

Tuesday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m.

OR

Saturday November 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Spend the day making a collection of beautiful cards to share with your family and friends this Christmas season. We will create 25 cards—5 cards of 5 different designs for \$35.

Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot by contacting Jolene Jacobs by November 7 (763-432-9634 or JJStamps@comcast.net).

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 25 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a fellowship time with refreshments following the service. Nursery will be provided.

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
I Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Thanksgiving Offering—A special offering, directed to Covenant World Relief, will be collected at the Thanksgiving Eve service. A Thanksgiving envelope can be found in your offering envelope box. There are also supplies for making offering boxes, a soup can bank, and other CWR materials available at the Covenant World Relief tables, located in the Narthex and in the Gym.

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## Care Ministry

Jim Anderson

Visitation Pastor

janderson@salem-covenant.church



"Thank you" doesn't express deeply enough my gratitude for all the prayers-support from staff and members of Salem through recovery from heart surgery. Also, the many cards of encouragement were enjoyed many times over.

Thank you also to Pastor Mark and Pastor Jim for the hospital visits.

—Sarmita Peterson

### How may we help you:

- If you have a health concern or would like spiritual support during your illness or hospitalization, please call the Church Office and request that a member of the Pastoral Staff or the Faith Community Nurse follow up with you.
- Due to changes in the Federal laws, health institutions are prohibited from notifying faith communities without your written consent. It is often easier if you or your family notify us. This allows the pastors and/or Faith Community Nurse to come alongside you to offer prayer and support during a difficult time or rejoice with you and give thanks to God.
- Also, please know that your privacy will be respected. Your pastors or Faith Community Nurse can visit and no one else needs to know.

## What is Fika and why is Salem doing one?

Saturday, December 5, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

- 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Fika served in Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Swedish Singers in Sanctuary
- 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. String Band in Sanctuary

Salem was founded by Swedish Immigrants and 125 years later we celebrate that heritage especially at Christmastime. Our tradition has been to do a Swedish Smörgåsbord. This year we are trying a fresh tradition that will send us back to our ethnic roots and create a delightful experience for Swedes and non-Swedes alike.

Swedish coffee is just “kaffe,” but coffee with something to eat is “Fika.” The concept of fika is simple. It is the moment you take a break, often with a cup of coffee or tea, and find a baked good to pair with it. At its core, fika means “to drink coffee.” But the meaning goes much deeper. It is making time for a break in your day, the creation of a magical moment in the midst of the routine, a time when everything else is put on hold to nurture body, soul, and relationships.

Join our Salem Family for Fika on Saturday, December 5 to celebrate the Christmas season with coffee, open-faced sandwiches, traditional Swedish treats, and traditional Swedish music. All ages welcome! A freewill offering will be taken.



## Christmas Quiet

Wednesday, December 2, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Christmas has become a very hectic season of external preparations. Start your Christmas season by taking a deep breath, reflecting, and praying. This worship experience is a chance to quietly rest in God’s presence and in the hope and beauty of the incarnation.

Last year, there was a chance to do a guided prayer meditation, explore one of the stories of Christmas, and light a prayer candle for someone that was on each participant’s heart. One person who attended the service said, “After that service, I felt such a peace and have been able to carry that peace with me.”

If you would like to start your season a little differently this year, come join us for a little stillness.

## Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24

2:00 and 3:15 p.m.

Traditional Service

4:30 p.m.

Contemporary Service

## Let No Tongue on Earth Be Silent

Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 12

6:30 p.m.

presented by Salem Music Ministry



**salem**  
COVENANT CHURCH

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## Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
  - Sunday School (Children/Youth)
  - Confirmation
  - Sunday School (Adult)
  - Parent Discussion Group
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
  - Preschool Worship
  - Children's Worship
  - Sunday School (Adult)

## Wednesday Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Bells of Glory Rehearsal
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner
- 5:45 p.m. Joy Singers Rehearsal
  - Praise Singers Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. God's Children Sing
- 6:30 p.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 6:45 p.m. AWANA Clubs
  - Middle School Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Salem Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
  - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 8:10 p.m. Doxology Rehearsal

## For more details about the ministries at Salem:

- pick up a ministry brochure from kiosk in the Narthex.
- visit Salem's website at [www.salem-covenant.church](http://www.salem-covenant.church)
- contact the staff listed with each ministry.
- sign up for our email updates by clicking on the link on the website's home page.

Semiannual  
Meeting  
Tuesday,  
January 12  
7:00 p.m.