

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 374 -9544

Website: www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com

REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor

stinaschaeffer@gmail.com

Organist: Kim Bolig

Secretary: Linda Maurer lmaurer56@outlook.com

“ STAR SUNDAY “

Sunday, January 9, 2022



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen.** In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people; God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

HYMN: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seeking thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy.
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60: 1-6

The First Reading is from the 60th chapter of Isaiah.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
¹¹May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3: 1-12

The Second Reading is from the 3rd chapter of Ephesians.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind,

as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1-12

The Gospel according to St. Matthew.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

HYMN: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; now proclaim Messiah's birth;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Sages leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seeking the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.
All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Response to: "God of grace" **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate the presence of God in bread and wine. All are welcome to receive this gift.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

HYMN: *Beautiful Savior*

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise adoration,
Now and forever-more be thine!

SENDING

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the current COVID situation in our area, **everyone is asked to wear a mask and observe social distancing.** Additional seating is available in the basement where the Service can be viewed via video live stream.

Special Thank You to everyone who pitched in last Sunday with Worship! What a wonderful Community we have here at Salem! Truly the verse from Matthew 18:20 is lived out here every day! "From where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them."

Pastor Stina

Thank You from the bottom of my heart for your generous gift on Christmas Eve. My family and I will enjoy treats using the gift cards all year long and think of each of you when we do! I am so blessed to serve with you all here in this place! Thank You again!

Blessings,

Pastor Stina

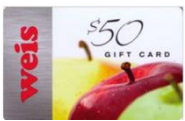
Council Meeting will be held tomorrow, **January 10th at 7:00 pm** in-person and via *Zoom*. A *Zoom* link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Next Sunday will be Installation of Council Members. All Council members are asked to be present.

Prayer Chain – Susan Athey will be handling all Prayer Chain calls & reports from January 10th through March 13th. Please contact Susan (sjdsathey77@gmail.com) for any additions. Thank you.

Prayer Meeting will be held on this Wednesday, January 12th at 7:00 pm.

College Care Packages: Salem has 6 young adults attending college & 1 in the military this year. We want to remind them that their Salem Family is thinking about them & praying for them. Due to the increased high cost of shipping packages, it is most cost-efficient to send them gift cards (*McDonald's, Wendy's, Dunkin',* etc.) with notes of encouragement throughout the year. **Please drop a monetary donation** in the *Support our College Students* containers on the table at the back of the sanctuary & on top of the sound system. Our college students are: Danielle Alba, Jessica Alba, Maegan Bogetti, Nathan Moyer, Ryan Moyer and Jordyn Nichols & our military personnel is Jake Hane. **PLEASE support our College & Military Students!**



Weis Markets Gift Cards are always available and **all proceeds benefit Salem Church!** Cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations. They never expire and **can be used at all Weis Markets stores** for groceries, gas and prescriptions. Contact Ricky & Debbie Bower: dturtlesracing3@verizon.net or Linda Carl: Linda.Carl@evanhospital.com.