



HOLIDAY PEACETALK

2021

FROM THE OFFICE

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us not forget why Jesus came. Jesus came to save us from our sins. We did not earn this gift. But we have to receive it in order to be saved, God does not force it on us. **He generously offers it to us.**

Kristina Bertsch
Church Secretary

From The Pastor's Heart

It is safe to say, we are all busy. People in retirement say they are busier than they have ever been. I am sympathetic to the dilemma of busyness that affect us all.

I see my role in all of the busyness two ways. One is to strive to challenge you to use your gifts to serve God within the church. We "labor together with God". This is a tremendous opportunity to have influence. That influence is valued and rewarded forever.

On the other hand, as your Shepherd and Teacher, God wants me to help you build balance into your lives and relationships.

It shocks some people when I say Family is more important than Church. Yet, God designed church to be integral to the success of the family. They exist in balance with each other and neither should be neglected.

I believe there is universal agreement in the Salem Family that we must attract young people. Sunday Tina Randall announced the restart of youth-oriented activities for teens. This is a great cause!

Great causes require great sacrifices. I am not shy to say, we need your help to be successful. Let me list some of what we will need. Prayer Warriors, People who warmly engage others, Teachers, the investment of your time, money, talent creativity and vocal support.

Our Nursery will be ready soon. This is an essential ministry. All of the same sacrifices are needed to engage small children and their parents.

Growth is in our future. We must plant. We must water, and weed. God will give the increase. We invest ourselves and our resources sacrificially for His glory; and for the sake of our families.

Warm Wishes!
Pastor Jeff
Psalm 62:5

I would like to remind Salem members that December 5th is the annual congregational meeting to approve the annual church calendar, elect council members, and approve the annual budget. It is important that everyone participates and voice their thoughts and opinions. Please contact Pastor Jeff or myself to voice your thoughts. It's imperative that we all work together to make Salem grow. May God bless us as we look forward to 2022.

Rodney Peters

Calendar of Events

11/07 – Totenfest Sunday, Communion

11/14 – Budget, Calendar, Cabinet Meeting at 6 p.m.

11/21 – Thanksgiving Sunday, Communion

11/21 – Thanksgiving Community Service 6 p.m. followed by light refreshments

11/28 – First Sunday of Advent (Hope)

12/05 – Second Sunday of Advent (Peace)

12/05 – Congregational Meeting, Calendar, Budget, Election Meeting

12/11 – Trim the Christmas Tree

12/12 – Third Sunday of Advent (Joy)

12/19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love), Christmas Communion

12/19 – Children's Christmas Program

12/24 – Christmas Candlelight Service at 11 p.m.

01/02 – Installation of New Council

01/02 – Epiphany Sunday, New Year's Communion

02/06 – Congregational Annual Meeting



If you did not receive offering envelopes this year, and would like to receive them for next year, please let the office know.



Plans are in the works for getting a Teen (ages 13-19) Youth Group up and running again at Salem. We hope to kick this off with a "fun activity" in November and we will be encouraging Salem teens to attend and bring a friend along if they'd like for this kick-off event. More information will be coming in the near future on the specifics once a few more details are hammered out. Tina Randall will be taking the lead on the Youth Group for now, but will appreciate and welcome other adult help as we move forward. Please get contact information (names, emails, phone numbers, and/or addresses) for any teens that are affiliated with our church

to her, so she can reach out to them regarding the Youth Group or pass her contact information on to the teens directly. Her email is tinaandjasonrandall@gmail.com and email is probably the best way to contact her with her work schedule. The loose description of the Youth Group moving forward will include a variety of fun activities and service/volunteer activities (and, of course, a Biblical focus) geared toward the interests of and ideas determined by the Salem Teens themselves.

We also want to collect a list of special activities, events, and extra-curriculars (sporting events, musical performances, Robotics Club events, Drama productions, etc.) that our youth are involved in, so all church members can show their support if so inclined. Please send a list of activities to Tina Randall via the above email and she will compile a Master Calendar of Youth Activities that can then be shared with church members. Note, that care will be taken to not advertise our youth's full names on any PUBLIC social media platform (Facebook).

We are having Choir practices on Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.
and Sundays 9:15 a.m.

Come join us as we make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



Food Pantry items needed- canned meat, canned pasta, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, apple juice, tomato juice, cereal, boxed potatoes, soup crackers, flour, sugar, kidney beans, tuna, hot chocolate, tea, chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, hamburger/chicken/tuna helper, tissue, toilet paper, toothpaste, bar soap, and dish soap. **Thank you** to everyone who has donated to the Food Pantry!

Totenfest for 2021

A candle will be lit for the following:

Helen May Steinke
Andrew Batzka
Bernice Gross
William H. (Bill) Homan
Georgette Marie Steinke
Julia Boldt
Janet Claire Wallace
Arlene Bos
Linda Mattox
Carol Kay Zippel
Viki L. Kuss
Barbara J. Berger
Scott O. Sanders
Virginia Matysak
Kay Huff

"If you believe in a God who controls the big things, you have to believe in a God who controls the little things. It is we, of course, to whom things look 'little' or 'big'." - **Elisabeth Elliot**



Christmas Poinsettia Tree
Watch Sunday bulletins for info for purchasing a poinsettia in honor or memory of loved one. Forms and pricing will be available soon. Thank you for helping decorate our sanctuary for the fast-approaching Christmas season.