



December 2022

Volume 34, Number 12

Salem

United Methodist Church

Forecaster

Christmas Services

Blue Christmas Service December 21, 7 PM

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other situations make this season difficult for some. There is growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas.

We desire to make a sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accept us where we are at, and hold out healing and hope.

Salem United Methodist church will be holding a service of worship on the longest night of the year, which falls on Wednesday, December 21 at 7 PM. We want to personally invite you to join us for our "Blue Christmas" Service. We hope that you will join us for this night of worship in order to allow you to name your grief, and receive an opportunity to begin healing. Our best wishes and prayers of condolences are with you. We trust that this night of worship will instill a sense of hope and comfort in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christmas Eve Services December 24, 5 PM & 11 PM

*5 PM

- Blended Modern/Traditional
- Family Friendly
- Carols
- Candlelight

*11 PM

- Carols
- Candlelight
- Communion

***Sunday, December 25**
Online Worship only at 10 AM.*

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December 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed holidays)			9 AM Circuit Pastor's Meeting 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	1 11 AM Options of Linn Co. 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 3:45 PM Salem Servants Serve at Green Square Meals 5:30 Children's Program Rehearsal	2	3 8 UM Men's Breakfast
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:15 AM Children's Program Rehearsal 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 2 PM Ladies Advent Tea	5 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	6 9:30 AM Prayer Room	7 9 AM Circuit Pastor's Meeting 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	8 9:30 AM UMW Sarah Circle Meeting 11 AM Options of Linn Co. 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 5:30 Children's Program Rehearsal	9 1 PM UMW Rachel Circle Meeting	10 11 AM Project Linus
11 3rd Sunday of Advent Food Bank Sunday 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Children's Program Rehearsal 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 12:30 PM Women's Care Group	12 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	13 11 PM Red Hat Luncheon 1 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Leadership Board	14 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 12 PM Golden Links	15 11 AM Options of Linn Co. 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 1 PM UMW Executive Meeting 5:30 Children's Program Rehearsal	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Children's Christmas Program 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 3 PM Cocoa and Carols	19 <u>Forecaster articles due to Church Office</u> 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	20 9:30 AM Prayer Room	21 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 7 PM Blue Christmas Service	22 9:30 AM Dignity for Girls Workshop 11 AM Options of Linn Co. 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 3:45 PM Salem Servants Serve at Green Square Meals	23	24 Christmas Eve 5 PM Christmas Eve Worship 11 PM Christmas Eve Worship
25 Christmas Day 10 AM Online Worship	26 Church Office Closed	27	28 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	29 11 AM Options of Linn Co. 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	30	31 New Year's Eve

The Promise of Christmas

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The Christmas season is a time filled with promise. But what is the promise of Christmas? If we're not clear about what Christmas really promises, we might just miss out on what makes it the most wonderful time of the year. Join us as we take a five week journey this Advent back to Bethlehem and recall the promises that were made by the prophets, the angels, the wise men and the shepherds, and how their fulfillment is still what makes this the most wonderful time of the year!

Each week you will enjoy the music of Christmas and the lighting of the advent wreath. Rediscover the joy, hope, and promise of Christmas!

November 27: Light in the Darkness

December 4: God So Loved the World

December 11: God Lifts Up the Lowly

December 18: God of the Second Chance

December 24: The Visit of the Magi

Be Bold, Be Strong,

Rev. Matt German

Come and Worship!

Sundays

9 AM—Modern

Online & In-person

11 AM—Traditional

Online & In-person



Both 9 AM and 11 AM Worship Services are livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and salemchurch.life.

The links are www.facebook.com/salem.cr, www.salemchurch.life, and <http://youtube.com/channel/UCnWq4K2wc3F0nmk8h9y8Xjw>.

As a reminder, the worship videos continue to be available online anytime after they go live.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1 Sharon Lindo Steele
- 2 Ginnie Clark
- 3 Saffie Kamara
- 4 Evelyn Frame
- 5 Emory Fayram
- 6 Pat Ellickson
- 7 Cathy Halsted
- 8 Dixie Burg
- 9 Holly Mara
- 9 Nolan Studt
- 12 Kathy Miller
- 13 Lee Borntrager
- 13 Cindy MacLeod
- 14 Linden Hague
- 16 Shari Kendall
- 18 Luna Lawson
- 19 Susan Lillard
- 20 Sandy Minger
- 21 Lynn Richards
- 25 Grace Thompson
- 25 Francis Halsted



- 25 Greg Johnson
- 26 Marlene Primrose
- 26 Julie Lefebure
- 27 Max Stransky
- 28 Barb Walker
- 28 Jeff Gipple
- 29 Larry Vondracek
- 29 Courtney Templeton
- 30 Robin Brophy

Anniversaries:

- 3 Bill & Susie Heald
- 26 Tim & Linda Nolan
- 29 Ron & Sandy Andreasen

Ladies Advent Christmas Tea



Please mark your calendars for our 6th Annual Advent Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 4 at 2 PM in Fellowship Hall. We invite all women to sign up and join in for a fun afternoon at the first event of the season here at Salem. For questions contact Judy Thomas (319) 390-6574 or Kathy Wickham (319) 573-9427.

Announcements and Articles

Please submit any church-wide announcements for Sunday to the Church Office for review by noon the Wednesday prior. Please note: depending on the timing and quantity, not all announcements submitted can be mentioned. Thank you for your understanding. Office email is office@salemchurchcr.com.

Website or social media announcements are due by Monday to the Church Office.

Forecaster articles are due to the Church Office by the third Monday of each month.

Finance Update

Salem Finance Update as of October 31, 2022		
Operating Income (Annual Giving):	YTD	October
Offering Income	218,436	29,188
Operating Expenses		
Expenses to date	257,693	25,448
Net Amount of Income over/(under) Expenses	(39,257)	3,740
Average monthly deficit	(3,926)	
Building Fund		
Offering Income	59,033	7,363
Mortgage payments	53,720	5,372
Net Amount Income over/(under) Expenses	5,313	1,991
Outstanding Loan Balance	585,808	
Building Fund Reserve - 5.7 months	30,659	



Year End Giving

Thank you to all for your generous support of the ministries of Salem.

As we approach year-end, please note that for tax reporting purposes, donations must be made by December 31 in order to be included on your 2022 giving record. If you are mailing a check to the church, it must be postmarked by December 31.

In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep Salem in mind. We welcome your donations through check, online at <https://saalemchurch.life/give>, through the mobile app Vanco Mobile, or via text to (855) 917-1810.

For those donating with an online recurring contribution, please note that your contribution will end if you requested an end date of December 31, 2022 for this year's transactions. To continue your contributions, you will need to set up a new recurring gift. Simply log into your personal account at <https://saalemchurch.life/give> and set up your recurring giving for 2023.

If you did not request an end date to your recurring contribution AND you wish to change your amount for 2023, you will need to cancel your 2022 contribution after the last payment is made for 2022; then you must add a new transaction for 2023 with your new amount.

If you have not set up a recurring gift, please consider doing so. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. When travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. All electronic donations are directly imported into your giving record, with no need for manual posting. This saves time and improves accuracy of contribution reports. If you have questions or need assistance with online, mobile or text giving, please do not hesitate to contact Linda Curson at (319) 651-8029 or financeoffice@saalemchurchcr.com.

Mission Focus: Change a Child's Story

Our congregation is helping “Change a Child’s Story.” We are accepting book and monetary donations to buy books for students in need. You’re never too young for books. Reading to babies as young as six months of age leads to stronger vocabularies and better early literacy skills four years later, just as the children are getting ready to go to school. Only 53% of children ages three to five are read to daily by a family member. Children in families with incomes below the poverty line are less likely to be read to aloud everyday than are children in families with incomes at or above poverty. It all starts by giving a book as a gift to a child. A child can learn from a book read to them or by them reading a book to their family. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus who transform the world. We can transform the world when we help a child read a book. Read a book to a child, grandchild or friend on FaceTime or Zoom or video. It makes a huge difference in their lives.



Will you help us Change a Child’s Story this year? Your involvement can make all the difference in a child’s future. If you have books to donate, please place them at the foot of the Lord’s table in the sanctuary. If giving by text, code is Books. Questions, contact Mission Team Leader Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or jsalazar412@gmail.com.

Mitten Tree



Our Mitten Tree is in the Narthex, ready to be decorated with hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Please donate these warm items for our local elementary schools. Kids are happy to receive hand-made, gently used, or new items to keep them warm. Many students don’t have the appropriate items for the winter weather. Let’s keep as many kids warm this winter as we can!

Prayer Tree

Bring a Christmas Ornament for our Prayer Tree before Christmas.

Label the ornament with your name or family names and hang it on the tree in Fellowship Hall.

On Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day, pick out an ornament brought by someone else. Pray for that person or family during the next year.

If you have any questions, please contact Judy Thomas at (319) 390-6574.



Project ♥ Linus



"Providing Security Through Blankets"

All are invited to join us on Saturday, December 10, from 11 AM—3 PM for a Blanket Making Party. We'll be making fleece tie blankets (no sewing required) for our local chapter of Project Linus. You can help by donating fleece (two pieces—1.5 yards minimum for each piece), providing refreshments, or helping to make blankets. There will be some volunteers with sewing machines to sew on the official Project Linus tags after the blankets are completed. Folks are encouraged to bring a snack to share. Come for as little or as long as you'd like. For more information, please contact Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or jsalazar412@gmail.com.

Chrismon Tree

The word Chrismon is a contraction of the two words—Christ and Monogram. A Christmas tree decorated with symbols from Christian history tells a story of the true spiritual meaning of Christmas. Christian monograms or Chrismons have been used throughout the ages as signs of the Christian faith. Chrismons are gold and white, representing majesty and purity. Ideas for fashioning them are developed from early Christian symbols, the Bible and



church histories. The ornaments on our Chrismon tree in the sanctuary are all handmade by the UMW.

Cocoa and Carols

Join us on Sunday, December 18 for a warm and wonderful afternoon of Cocoa and Carols!

We will meet at the church at 3 PM to go caroling to our shut-ins and homebound members. At 6 PM, we'll warm up back at the church with delicious hot cocoa. You are invited to bring a treat to share. All are welcome to join in on this family fun, spreading cheer that afternoon!

Please contact Deb Black with questions at (319) 350-8843 or d.black@saalemchurchcr.com.



Winter Weather Alert



With winter on its way, and the potential for snow, ice, and severe cold making travel treacherous, we offer this reminder. If events are canceled at Salem due to safety concerns, it will be posted on our website, saalemchurch.life, and Facebook page, facebook.com/saalem.cr, as well as on the TV channels KCRG (9), KWWL (7), and KGAN (2).

In general, when the Cedar Rapids Public Schools cancel due to dangerous weather conditions, Salem will also cancel activities.

All Golden Agers Welcome!

Golden Links will be meeting on Wednesday, December 14 at 12 PM at 16th Avenue Grill (3130 16th Ave SW). Everyone is welcome! Call Josie Lanz at (319) 362-3859 for more information.



Report of the Leadership Board

The monthly Board meeting opened at 5:30 PM. Those attending were Amy Schilling, Donna Sanders, Dave Clark, Brian Schooley, Jan Johnson, *Deb Fritz, and *Pastor Matt.

*Virtual Attendees

5:30—Pre-Meeting called to order

Stewardship - Giving for October was \$29,188, expenses were \$25,488 leaving a plus of \$3,740! This is our first positive month this year, Praise the Lord. Our year to date on the operating budget is -\$39,257. The building fund has 5.9 months reserve. This will be shared on the announcement loop prior to church services.

Linda has two bids for insurance coverage, the board will review and chose the best option by the next meeting.

Trustees – Mark reported the following

- Mark painted the black streaks on the wall in the sanctuary. Had tried cleaning first. The cause is unknown.
- Water Leak has been repaired; the area covered with topsoil. Will plant grass seed in spring.
- Building inspections for 2022 completed.
- Snow removal has been contacted, same cost as last year.
- Lawn area outback has been leveled out and tilled. Board approved planting grass next Spring.
- A Big Thank You to Mark Simonson who mows our lawn. He will be covering the cost to have the big mower tuned-up. We appreciate this along with the great job he does on the lawn.

6:05 PM Meeting called to order

Loving: Shared what we were Thankful for and our favorite Thanksgiving food.

Learning: Reading from Mark Chapter 10 – How we measure our lives discussion of Business versus Christianity and that the sacred learns from the secular and vice versa. A unity of perfect love, harmony, and honor comes through service.

Leading: Its who and how we serve that can define us.

SPRC – The Board has an applicant for the Treasurer position and will set up an interview soon.

11-15-2022

Christmas Season Schedule

Wednesday, December 21
at 7 PM – Longest Night
Service

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve Services at
5 PM and 11 PM

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Service – 10 AM
Online Digital Only

Sunday, January 1 - 10 AM
Service Only

Next Board meeting moved up one week to December
13 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned with prayer at 7:45 PM.

Next Meetings:

December 13, 2022 5:30 PM

January 17, 2022 5:30 PM





December 2022 Forecaster

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319-362-6178
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www.facebook.com/salem.cr
salemchurch.life

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Salem's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
"connecting people, building community, transforming lives through Jesus"

Salem's Sunday Morning Schedule

Online Worship
www.facebook.com/salem.cr
<http://youtube.com/channel/UCnWq4K2wc3F0nmk8h9y8Xjw>
www.salemchurch.life

9:00 AM	Modern Worship	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall
10:10 AM	Children's Sunday School	Lower Level
11:00 AM	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary

Nursery for infants through 4-year-olds is available on the Lower Level during worship services and Sunday School.

Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM
(closed standard holidays)

