



# Salem

United Methodist Church  
Forecaster

## Yes.

Happy New Year! New Year's Eve is a wonderful time of celebration in the midst of the Christmas season. Many of us had our gift exchanges, family get togethers, and festive meals. Christmas day comes and then it is off to the next party. The New Year's Eve party to be exact.

As I ring in the new year with you, I think back to 2021 and realize there are so many new things that have happened in my life this last year. Last January, I got a call from the District Superintendent about an appointment opportunity at Salem United Methodist Church. The District Superintendent instructed me to pray about it that night, and call him back in the morning and tell him, "Yes!" Salem has been a wonderful "Yes." I am so grateful to be your pastor since July.

There is another "Yes" that I am celebrating. I am recently engaged to a wonderful woman. Her name is Nicole. Nicole has twin 4-year-old daughters named Lemon and Leia. I am in love with all three of these ladies. I proposed to Nicole in the bed of my truck underneath trellises of Christmas lights at Vanderveer Park in Davenport Iowa a few weeks ago and she said...YES! So now our two families are going to become one. Addisyn is excited to be a big sister as well. We have decided to do a private wedding on January 3 to begin our lives together. Nicole and her girls will be moving to Cedar Rapids and they are looking forward to meeting you.

I am also excited for another yes that will be coming this Spring. We are planning a larger wedding here at Salem in the coming months where more of our friends and family will be able to be present as we will say YES in front of witnesses that have been impactful on our journey.

While there are a lot of new things happening in my personal life, there are also a lot of new happenings at Salem. We've begun livestreaming all our worship services that accounts for half of our worship attendance on Sundays. We typically have about 160 people that worship in person and just as many that worship online with us as well. We have added staff persons to enhance our ministry. There are new faces showing up at Salem and I celebrate the new thing God is doing in our ministry together.

Jesus instructs us to let our yes be yes, and our no be no. In other words, we commit fully to our yes and we draw healthy boundaries in our lives to be able to say no at times. I pray that our yes would be more and more to Jesus and our no would be more towards the things of the world. God bless you in your 2022 as we journey forth together.

Be Bold, Be Strong,  
Rev. Matt German

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# January 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Salem Office hours:</b> Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM <b>(closed holidays)</b>						1 New Year's Day
<b>2 Epiphany Sunday</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	3 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	4 9:30 AM Prayer Room	5 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	6 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 3:45 PM Salem Servants Serve at Green Square Meals 7 PM ZOOM Share Group	7	8 8 UM Men's Meeting
<b>9 Food Bank Sunday</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 1 PM Women's Care Group	10 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	11 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	12 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	13 9:30 AM UMW Sarah Circle Meeting 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 7 PM ZOOM Share Group	14 1 PM UMW Rachel Circle Meeting	15
<b>16</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	17 <u>Forecaster articles due to Church Office</u>  12 PM Recreation for Seniors	18 9:30 AM Prayer Room 5:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting	19 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	20 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 7 PM ZOOM Share Group	21	22
<b>23</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	24 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	25 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	26 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	27 9:30 AM Dignity for Girls Workshop 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 3:45 PM Salem Servants Serve at Green Square Meals 7 PM ZOOM Share Group	28	29
<b>30</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	31 12 PM Recreation for Seniors					

## New Sermon Series: A Thinking Person's Guide to Faith

When I was in third grade I was presented a Bible from Asbury United Methodist Church in Bettendorf, IA. I began to read the Bible as a young student from cover to cover. But as I began to read the Bible, it began to raise questions for me as I started to think critically about what I believed. I struggled with reconciling a loving God and all the violence that we see witnessed in scripture. I struggled imagining how a loving God would send any of his beloved children to hell. I was struggling to make sense of the Bible because it seems to contradict itself in places. I really struggled with all the terrible things that have been done in the name of God throughout history across a wide spectrum of religions including the Christian faith. I struggled to understand how God would allow such terrible tragedies to happen to good people.

As I wrestled with these concepts, I did what many critical thinking people do...I stopped reading the Bible because it didn't make sense to me. At the age of 19 I came back to my faith and I began to wrestle with these questions again. I have found as a pastor those who are new/newer to faith, those outside the Christian faith, and those who have been Christians their entire lives wrestle with these same questions.

I do not want you to check your brain at the door when you come to church. I want to be a church that deeply believes in the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives but also a church that thinks critically about what we believe and why we believe it. I invite you to join me during the month of January as we wrestle with questions you have likely had your whole life long. You may just come to find a new appreciation for the Bible and a new found appreciation for science and logic too.

1. **Science, Religion, and the Rationality of God**—January 9
2. **When Christians Get it Wrong**—January 16
3. **Making Sense of the Bible**—January 23
4. **The Love of God and the Logic of Hell**—January 30
5. **God and Suffering**—February 6

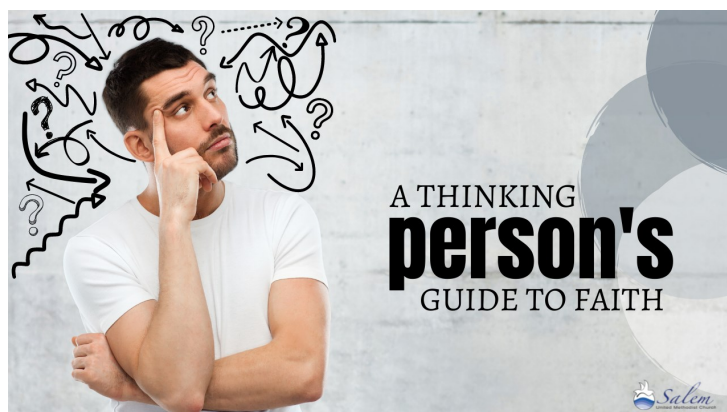
I trust this series will move you deeply and resolve some of the questions that you have been carrying. Join us in January for, "A Thinking Person's Guide to Faith."

Be Bold, Be Strong,

Rev. Matt German

**Both 9 AM and 11 AM Worship Services are livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and [saalemchurch.life](http://saalemchurch.life).**

The links are [www.facebook.com/salem.cr](http://www.facebook.com/salem.cr), [www.salemchurch.life](http://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.

**Come and Worship!**

**Sundays**

*9 AM—Modern*

*Online & In-person*

*11 AM—Traditional*

*Online & In-person*

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- |    |                       |    |                    |
|----|-----------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Jodi Anderson         | 19 | Jim Sheets         |
| 2  | Amy Schilling         | 19 | Norman Schade      |
| 2  | Chatty Lullmann       | 21 | JoEllen Jacobus    |
| 3  | Sheilah Perry-Rosales | 22 | Richard Whittlesey |
| 4  | Kay Haring            | 25 | Jodie Hansen       |
| 6  | Glenda McMillen       | 26 | Kathy Kos          |
| 6  | Ann Dreyer            | 27 | Jace Jacobus       |
| 7  | Kory Thomas           | 29 | Tim Soukup         |
| 7  | Ausha Ayers           | 29 | Lydia Whitaker     |
| 7  | Grant Schilling       | 31 | Billie Shaffer     |
| 8  | Mark Lindo            | 31 | Marci Mudanya      |
| 12 | Harley Tunis          |    |                    |
| 14 | Gerry Wheeler         |    |                    |
| 15 | Barb Soukup           |    |                    |
| 15 | Gary Warmbier         |    |                    |
| 18 | Jack Schilling        |    |                    |

*Celebrate!*

## Job Opportunity



Do you have an eye for detail? Do you pay attention to the cleanliness of your surroundings? Are you interested in serving others in a tangible way? Salem's **Custodian** job opportunity may be right for you! Contact the church office for the job description and application, or go to [salemchurch.life](http://salemchurch.life).

## Finance Update

Salem Finance Update as of November 30, 2021	
<b>Operating Income (Annual Giving):</b>	
Offering Income	\$232,339
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Expenses to date	\$256,169
Net Amount of Income over/(under) Expenses	<b>\$(23,830)</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	
Offering Income	\$60,467
2021 Mortgage payments to date	78,140
Net Amount Income over/(under) Expenses	<b>\$(17,673)</b>
Building Fund Balance held in Reserve (3.5 months)	\$24,772

## 4 Ways to Give at Salem



There are four ways to give your offering •mail an offering to the church office •give electronically at our website [salemchurchcr.com/donate](http://salemchurchcr.com/donate) •use the mobile app Vanco Mobile •send a text to (855) 917-1810 with the dollar sign and the amount you are giving (e.g. \$25) and the text code, if applicable (e.g. \$25 LCFB). Need help? Go to [salemchurch.life](http://salemchurch.life).

## REASONS TO CHOOSE eGIVING

Did you know our church offers multiple ways to give? Our eGiving options are convenient alternatives to cash and checks, which are difficult to use if you're joining us virtually and can easily be forgotten at home when worshipping in person. But that's not the only reason to consider our eGiving program for your one-time gifts or recurring donations. Here are seven benefits of eGiving.

### **1) It Makes Giving Easy**

eGiving makes it simple for you to give exactly how and when you want. You can make a one-time donation or set up recurring gifts right from your computer, tablet or phone.

### **2) It's Safe and Secure**

You never need to worry about your donation making it into our account. Unlike with checks and cash, which can be misplaced, gifts made via eGiving are directly sent to our church's bank account. Our payment solutions provider ensures your personal information remains secure.

### **3) No Cash, No Checks, No Problem**

Never worry about forgetting your cash or checkbook at home again. With eGiving, you can make a donation right from your phone. For further worry-free giving, you can also set up recurring donations online, so your gift continues even when you can't make it to service.

### **4) You Can Choose Where Your Gift Goes**

We know our members feel passionately about supporting many causes. When you make a gift using our eGiving tools, you can direct the funds toward the cause you wish to support at our church.

### **5) It Gives Our Church Stability**

Your generous donations support our mission, operations and many ministries. By setting up recurring donations online, you enable us to maintain financial stability and plan for the future.

### **6) You Can Give on the Go**

With eGiving, you don't have to physically be at church to contribute. Use our church's convenient eGiving tools to donate from the beach, on the road or right at home.

### **7) You Can Easily Track Your Giving History**

From your eGiving account, you can view past donations, update bank account or credit and debit card information, and set up recurring gifts or adjust existing ones.

### **SUPPORT OUR CHURCH WITH eGIVING**

eGiving brings flexibility to your generosity. You can direct funds, set up one-time or recurring payments from your phone or tablet and give from anywhere at any time! Learn more about our eGiving options by visiting the church's website at [saalemchurch.life/Give](http://saalemchurch.life/Give).

Linda Curson, Treasurer

[financeoffice@saalemchurchcr.com](mailto:financeoffice@saalemchurchcr.com)

(319) 651-8029



## Mission Focus: Linn County Food Bank

Joni Salazar

As joblessness has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, many residents of Cedar Rapids have faced hardships including a lack of income, loss of resources, and homelessness. Salem is supporting the Linn County Food Bank this month. It has been feeding the hungry since 1972. It is funded and supported solely through donations from the community and it is 100% non-profit. **100%** of your donation is used to feed hungry men, women and children in our local community. We are asking for monetary donations so Linn County Food Bank can buy products in bulk at a great price. During the derecho and the pandemic, Linn County Food Bank has served a lot more families than in previous years.

If you are in need of services, the Linn County Food Bank provides a 3 day emergency supply of food to families in need on a first come/first served basis. You must register at the food bank. To do so, a picture ID is required for the



Head of Household. Also, proof of Social Security number (SSN) is required for yourself and every member of your household before you can place your first order. Once you are registered, you only need a valid photo ID to place an order. Clients are eligible to use the food bank 12 times per year. For more information, go to [www.linncommunityfoodbank.org](http://www.linncommunityfoodbank.org). It is located at 310 5th St SE.

If giving by text, code is LCFB. Questions, contact Mission Team Leader Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or [jsalazar412@gmail.com](mailto:jsalazar412@gmail.com).

## Coming Soon



Dinner for Six is an opportunity for fellowship and fun, to gather together for a meal and fellowship with six Salem members. The groups will meet in homes (a potluck meal?) or at a restaurant once a month for 3 months, and at the end of the three months, each person or couple may sign up again and be assigned a new group!

Questions, contact Sandy Andreasen at (319) 541-2638 or Ginnie Clark at (319) 551-3411.

## Demolition of the Outback Building

The outback building was demolished and removed from the church grounds. It had extensive damage from the derecho. Mark Minger (Building Superintendent) will put together a plan to shore up the decking and make sure it is up to code. New landscaping will follow in the spring. Thank you Brown's Tree Service for your work!



## 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](http://saalemchurch.life), and on Facebook, 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.



## Report of the Leadership Board

12-14-2021

The monthly Board meeting opened at 5:30 PM. Those attending were Amy Schilling, Donna Sanders, Jeremy Hague, Richard Pankey, Brian Schooley, Jan Johnson and Pastor Matt. Guests -Linda Curson (Treasurer)

Next Leadership meeting  
Tuesday, January 18 at 5:30  
PM.

5:35 PM – Meeting called to order.

Loving- Shared Best Christmas experience, favorite tradition and how we keep the focus on Jesus.

Learning – 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Chapter 13 versus 4 through 13. During a difficult time, Love should rule the day. Love is everything.

**Stewardship** - Giving for November was \$20,758.35. Expenses were \$22,113.29. Our monthly deficit was \$1,354.94. Our year-to-date deficit is \$23,830.31. We are also down to under 3 months reserve on the Building Fund.

Discussion of the budget – Currently pledges are \$188,048 compared to \$223,000 in 2021. Nominated a task force to further review budget to balance for 2022.

A special charge conference was held on December 4, 2021, regarding the Boys Scouts of America Bankruptcy. Salem did have a BSA group in the past and we voted in accordance with the recommendation from the United Methodist Council.

Reviewed paying apportionments and will continue with the 40% at this time.

**Trustees** – We continue to work towards a resolution in replacing burnt out cam lights in sanctuary. It appears we can not just replace the bulbs.

The furnaces in the Fellowship area (older portion of building) are going to need to be replaced, we reviewed bids and will re-visit as they should be good though the heating season.

Outback building damaged in Derecho has been removed. Mark Minger (Building Superintendent) will put together a plan to shore up the decking and make sure it is up to code.

**SPRC** – Reviewed and approved new job description for the Janitorial position. Pastor Matt will get this posted to various sites.

We reviewed the Bishop's vision for the church.

Meeting closed with prayer at 8:40 PM.





## January 2022 Forecaster

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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"**

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## Salem's Sunday Morning Schedule

		Online Worship
	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/salem.cr">www.facebook.com/salem.cr</a>	YouTube
	<a href="http://www.salemchurch.life">www.salemchurch.life</a>	<a href="http://www.salemchurchcr.com">www.salemchurchcr.com</a>
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)