

SHARING OUR FAITH



SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOOSTER, OHIO

Tim's Time—Lay Leader Thoughts

Finding the Light of Christmas in the Darkness of the Season

Advent is a season of anticipation, yet for many, it can feel like a time of stress, sadness, or even loneliness. The joyful expectations of Christmas may seem overshadowed by the weight of the world, personal struggles, or the sheer busyness of the season. If this resonates with you, take heart: the message of Advent is especially for those longing for hope, light, and the fulfillment of God's promises.

Throughout Scripture, God assures us that light shines brightest in the darkness. In Isaiah, we read the promise, "*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light*" (Isaiah 9:2, NRSV). This light is the hope and peace found in Jesus Christ, who entered our world to bring salvation and renewal.

If you're finding it hard to connect with the joy of the season, here are a few practical suggestions to bring a bit more Christmas spirit into your heart:

1. **Create Quiet Moments of Reflection:** Spend time in prayer or reading Advent devotions. Reflect on the promises of God and the hope that Jesus' birth brings to the world. Even five minutes a day can center your heart.
2. **Give Generously:** Sometimes the simplest act of giving—whether donating to the food pantry, helping with a meal ministry, or writing a kind note—can remind us of the joy of serving others as Christ serves us.
3. **Seek Community:** Worship together, join a small group, or simply gather with loved ones. Our faith is strengthened when shared, and our burdens become lighter when carried together.

For those especially struggling with grief, loneliness, or hardship, I invite you to our Blue Christmas service on December 21. This special service acknowledges the pain that many feel during this season and offers a space to find comfort, hope, and God's presence in the midst of life's challenges.

As we wait for Christ's coming, let us remember that Advent is a season of hope, a reminder that God's promises are true. Whatever darkness we may face, the light of Jesus shines brighter. Together, we can move through this season with renewed faith and joy, trusting in the God who keeps His promises.

May your Advent be filled with peace, light, and the sure hope of Emmanuel—God with us.

Yours in Christ,
Tim Barrage

DECEMBER
2024

BUILDING FAITH BY
PRAYING FOR GOD'S
GUIDANCE, HEARING
GOD'S WORD,
SHARING GOD'S
GRACE, SERVING
GOD'S CHILDREN



Bible Study Continues ...

Each Sunday morning at 9:00 Pastor Nathan leads a Bible study. Currently, we are studying the Psalms.

Fellowship

Meet us downstairs Sunday mornings for learning, fellowship, and good coffee.

MITTEN TREE

We are collecting gloves, hats, mittens, and scarves for the mitten tree in the Narthex. Donations support People to People Ministries.



Contact Beth Ann Zimmerman at 330-345-6748 w/ questions.



4	Ashley Stahl
7	Sherry Parish
14	Joe Gray
22	Julie McFarland Paige Baumgartner
23	Alex Miller
25	Jesus
28	Colleen Alexander
30	Debbie Thompson Ed Blake
31	Kathy Lee Barb Higdon

SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS



Come and perform your music prior to our Christmas Eve Service. Contact Tim For details

Salem Women

The women of Salem meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Buehler’s Towne Market in Wooster for brunch. All women of Salem are welcome!

Our next meeting is December 4.



TAKING WORSHIP ON THE ROAD

Our next services at Brookdale & The Avenue are scheduled for Sunday, December 08th & December 22nd, at 2:00 (respectively)

ROOF REPLACEMENT on SANCTUARY

During our Congregational Meeting, the roof replacement bid was approved and funded. Keep an eye on the church over the next few weeks, as the contractor has stated that it will most likely be completed before Christmas. Also consider giving a pledge or one time gift toward this project. Bike raffle tickets on sale.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kathy Bond, Barbara Fedor, Kenny Wise, Erin Eaken, Sherri Snyder, Mike Fiser Jr., Regina Carson, Sheril Buchwalter, Shirley Delefave, George Wise, Chet Molzen, Marvin Hartman, Tari Lowe, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Jean Shoup, Family of Betty Wise, Family of Randy Ross, Family of Don Fry, Family of Melba Toler.

If you are aware of any updates, please contact the office. Thanks!

SUNDAYS & HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 01, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - First Sunday of Advent

December 08, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - Second Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - Third Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Blue Christmas

December 22, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2024 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 29, 2024 10:00 a.m. - Lessons & Carrols Service

FINANCIAL NEWS

Regular Offering \$ 2,634.00
Designated Offering \$ 1,491.00

YEAR-TO-DATE
Total Income \$ 34,342.11

Receipts through October 2024

(giving reports will be completed in January—please remember to catch up on your giving by the end of the year)

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting October 27, 2024

Meeting called to order at 12:17 p by Garald

Devotions: Devotions offered by Garald – Psalms 139:1-6. Opening prayer read. Barb = devotions for November
Members: Barb Buchwalter, Garald Wise, Sharon Salmons, Beth Zimmerman, Sherrill Wise (Tim Barrage, Tabitha Burchett, Pastor Alan Nathan) Absent: Sherrill, Tabitha, Alan.

Minutes: minutes from September council meeting accepted: Motion Beth Ann, Barb 2nd. carried.

Treasurer's Report: Still attempting to get Treasurer balance sheets to work out. We will be able to have a firm balance sheet come January 1.

Financial Secretaries Report: Income Reports accepted as presented w/o objection. About \$3000 off of last years giving. Cards of Concern: Morris Richmond, Amanda Herbert, Lila Woods, Ed Blake,

Pastoral Report: Tim conducted all services in September totaling 5 services, plus Avenue, plus Brookdale, = 7. Hymn selections for November with the help (Sharon). 2 home communion visits. Pastor Nathan continues with Sunday morning Bible study. Worship at the Avenue as well as Brookdale service continue. Communion service provided well received. Pastor will offer communion ongoing on the first Sunday of each month and consecrate elements for Avenue & Brookdale services. Tim will continue to hold office hours as previously listed. Luther Seminary Lay Leader program completed in October, Tim started with programming from NEOS/NWOS Growing in Faith - Diaconia. Organists secured for November with the exception of 11/24 seeking fill in.

Report of Council Chair: Still planning to appoint one additional council member. Community pantry signage received – needs installed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS Faith Formation: Women's Group still meeting The first Wed. of the month at Brunch, held at Buehler's downtown. Monday night bible study will continue on Monday nights.

Property: Roof repair — estimates for roof replacement presented and recommendation made for sanctuary standing seam 24 gauge steel roofing costing \$24,650 – other half to be completed at a later date. Grant proposal writers to be sought. Twin Creek Roofing (\$24,650.00) Country Roofing (\$30,000). To place on ballot for a vote at the Annual meeting. Taking a loan out from ourselves and paying it back with pledges and fund raisers over the next few years. Motion: To present Twin Creek Roofing bid for approval, and plan to take monies from investment fund and pay it back with fund raising and pledge drive. Beth Ann: 2nd, Sharon, carried.

Evangelism: Working with Fellowship to share events to the community. Flyers still available.

Fellowship: Continuing to plan future events (to pair efforts with Evangelism): dates of upcoming monthly fellowship meals: Mexican Feast (TODAY – went well), Pot Luck Meal – annual meeting fellowship (11/24/24),

Social Ministry: Monday Night Meal and Bible Study AT SALEM Meal at 6p.m. with Bible Study to follow. Items needed for Baker's Pantry listed as: Mac& Cheese, Cereal, Canned meats. Cereal, shelf stable milk, personal hygiene items, tooth brushes. Zion meal is October 20 – 23 served. Looking for volunteers.

Worship & Music: Hymns selected through November (Sharon), Organ maintenance should be scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS: (1) roof repairs (see property) (2) Community Pantry signage. needs installed (3) Organists Tim Mann, and Sandra Smith still filling needs as needed. (4) Tim is still completing the duties for Secretary. (5) Nursing home ministry- going well, Brookdale 2nd Sunday, Avenue 4th Sunday. (6) NFL Meal going well. (7) Jeepers Creepers raised \$1391.00. Raffle baskets (in process of informing), Bikes raffle (tickets on sale now – drawn once goal raised) 4th Saturday in October 10/25/25– Motion: Barb, 2nd – Beth Ann, carried.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) Annual Meeting prep (2) Fund Raisers: November 30, craft show/bake sale – 10a-2p. Motion: Barb, Sharon 2nd, carried. (3) Bike Sale tickets

Adjournment: Motion: Barb: 2nd, Beth Ann, carried.

(next council meeting 11/17/24 12:00 pm)

We closed with The Lord's Prayer. Passing of Peace. 1:45 p

Respectfully submitted: Timothy J Barrage

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Caroling/Decorate	2 9:00 Secretary 6:00 NFL Monday 7:00 Chosen	3 5:00 Tim's Hours	4 10:00 Women of Faith Brunch at Buehler's Towne Market	5 5:00 Tim's Hours	6 9:00 Secretary	7
8 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 2:00 Brookdale	9 9:00 Secretary 6:00 NFL Monday 7:00 Chosen	10 5:00 Tim's Hours	11	12 5:00 Tim's Hours	13 9:00 Secretary	14 Bake & Craft Sale 10:00-2:00
15 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	16 9:00 Secretary 6:00 NFL Monday 7:00 Chosen	17 5:00 Tim's Hours	18	19 5:00 Tim's Hours	20 9:00 Secretary	21 Blue Christmas 7:00 pm
22 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 2:00 The Avenue	23 9:00 Secretary 6:00 NFL Monday 7:00 Chosen	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas	26	27 9:00 Secretary	28
29 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Lessons & Carols Worship 11:00 Fellowship	30 9:00 Secretary 6:00 NFL Monday 7:00 Chosen	31	December 2024			

BELL RINGING

Location: Buehler's
Downtown

Date: Mon, December 16

Time: 1:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sign up:
with Sharon Salmons
or on the Narthex table

4873 CLEVELAND ROAD
WOOSTER, OHIO



Hosted by
Salem
Lutheran
Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

CRAFT SHOW & BAKE SALE

2025 COUNCIL

Alan Nathan, Sharon Salmons, Garald Wise, Sherrill Wise, BethAnn Zimmerman. Amanda Herbert was re-elected to Endowment. Sherry Hughes was re-elected to Cemetery.

Installation of 2025 council members **January 5th**.

**SALEM LUTHERAN
BIKE RAFFLE**

\$50 / TICKET



\$2000 VALUE

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO SALEM LUTHERAN BIG BIKE RAFFLE
4873 CLEVELAND ROAD, WOOSTER OHIO 44691
(A TOTAL OF 200 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD BEFORE DRAWING)

**SALEM LUTHERAN
BIKE RAFFLE**

\$25 / TICKET



\$1500 VALUE

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO SALEM LUTHERAN BIG BIKE RAFFLE
4873 CLEVELAND ROAD, WOOSTER OHIO 44691
(A TOTAL OF 200 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD BEFORE DRAWING)