

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER:

Week of Nov. 1:

- Joshua 3:7-17
- Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
- 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
- Matthew 23:1-12

Week of Nov. 8:

- Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
- Psalm 78:1-7
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Matthew 25:1-13

Week of Nov. 15:

- Judges 4:1-7
- Psalm 123
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Matthew 25:14-30

Week of Nov. 22:

- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
- Psalm 100
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Matthew 25:31-46

Thanksgiving Day:

- Deuteronomy 8:7-18
- Psalm 65
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Luke 17:11-19

Week of Nov. 29:

- Isaiah 64:1-9
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- Mark 13:24-37

MARK-ET PLACE

New Opportunities Will Be Before Us Soon

The report I prepared for the congregation's Annual Meeting focuses on the church program, mission, and spirit we have built over the years, making ours a church that can survive the limitations brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While that report looks to the past, this newsletter article looks to the future. How should the church that survived the pandemic develop its program, mission, and spirit for the years immediately ahead?

The complexion of Verona is about to change. The changes present new opportunities for Salem. The church is wise to prepare for them and to position itself to be pro-active in relation to them. If the changes are ignored, much can be missed, leaving the church stuck in a past that no longer exists.

The changes I have in mind all have to do with new construction, much of it in the form of apartment dwellings, in the near vicinity of our church building. Verona has already changed west of Nine Mound Road with the construction of the new high school. Anticipated new construction will take place in a variety of spaces between Nine Mound and Shuman Street. I am picturing the areas where the car wash, Avenue Auto, and the truck stop once stood as well as where the bank, the Klassik, and what was Sugar Creek Elementary School now stand. I do not have the proposals before me as I write, but my understanding is that a significant number of apartment buildings will be going up in these spaces.

Who will reside in those newly constructed apartments? What will their spiritual needs be? How can Salem reach out to them? How can Salem connect with them? How will those people be made aware that Salem is here? How will they realize we are Open and Affirming? How will they know the faith we are gathered around? How will they know the love and support that is ours, under God, to share?

Each question is worth asking and answering. There are related questions, all equally important. How will Salem adapt itself to meet the needs of these new neighbors? What are we willing to change in order to reach them and meet their needs? What are we unwilling to change? How will we decide what is worth changing and what is not? Who will do the deciding?

It strikes me that there are three places to begin. One is with the new context as best as it can be discerned presently. The second is with the mission statement and

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values statements that have guided us in the recent past. The third should take place in concert with the first two. It is conversation – conversation with God in prayer and with one another in shared reflection.

Little can be known about the new context now, but much can be discovered by reading the plans that are before the city and the projections that are before the community. This can give at least some partial insight into the eventual inhabitants of the proposed residences. Will they tend to be older or younger, empty nesters or people with families, lower income or higher, members of one or another minority group? Gaining clear insight into these facts can sharpen our thinking.

Salem's mission statement, which already shapes our budget and guided our BETTER TOGETHER stewardship work, can be a starting point for plotting our approach to the residents of these apartments. So can our four key values of desiring to be faithful to God, relevant to today, open to all, and striving to improve. Given the potential needs and interests of our potential new neighbors, how can we witness to them of the word and work of Jesus so all of them can know the welcome of God, worship with joy, grow as disciples, live as servants, and enjoy the strength of Christian fellowship.

The phrase is more than a little crude, but prayer can be the spigot of insight. Prayer can open our eyes, guide our thoughts, and inspire our thinking. Prayer can help us move beyond our preferences and hear God's call. The Lord will bless us where we respond to the divine call. If we lingered only with our preferences, blessing may not follow.

What a wonderful time this promises to be for Salem! What a fantastic time to be the church! But it means we have to get to work, studying, thinking, and praying with one another.

MEY

TOTENFEST: NOVEMBER 22

We will observe the Liturgy of Totenfest in our online worship service for November 22. Totenfest is the ceremony in which we remember by name those from our congregation who have died in the last twelve months. It is a liturgy that falls each year on the Sunday immediately prior to the beginning of Advent. This is the last Sunday of the church's year. A new church year begins on the First Sunday of Advent.

In the Liturgy of Totenfest there is a roll call of the dead. As each name is read, a candle is lit in their honor, and a bell is tolled. There is an extra candle in addition to one for each person from the church who has died. At the time the extra candle is lit, worshipers are invited to name aloud anyone whom they chose to remember.

Salem's Totenfest roll for 2020 includes the following persons:

Fritz Neuenschwander, who died April 26, 2020

Gilbert Strelow, who died August 9, 2020

Valeria Feller, who died September 15, 2020

Sonia "Sue" Rotar, who died September 28, 2020

Richard "Mercy" Zurbuchen, who died October 2, 2020.

FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD

Because we lost our two main money makers this year (both the Spring Luncheon and the Christmas Bazaar and Raffle), the Women's Guild officers felt we needed to come up with a plan to supplement our treasury. The officers, along with Cindy Remus, who has agreed to coordinate future raffle activities, met on September 22, 2020 to brainstorm ideas for a Bazaar Fundraiser. We know it is impossible to host the Christmas Bazaar and Raffle this year with the pandemic upon us, so we have come up with a plan and will provide details in the near future.

We are including a new 2020 – 2021 Women's Guild Schedule for your perusal along with this notice (see the next page).



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Soren Winterle, Virginia Witt
Jared Zurbuchen
- 2: Matthew Gust, Dana Zurbuchen
- 5:: Samuel Shubak, Jackson Pundt
- 8: Susan Hegeman
- 9: Savannah Burke
- 12: Celia Hauser
- 13: Anna Pauley
- 14: Bryan Blake
- 18: Laura Williams
- 19: Gary Butzlaff
- 23: Tom Bass, Rodney Waldman
- 24: Nan Zurbuchen
- 26: Bruce Quade, Greg Bass
- 29: Beth Yurs

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - WOMEN'S GUILD - 2020 - 2021

Co-Presidents:	Elisabeth Pankonin	576-8199
	Judy Skupien	516-5765
Secretary:	Debbie Bass	212-3425
Treasurer:	Mary Cutler	845-6122
Funeral Luncheons:	Gladean Zurbuchen	845-6959
Co-Chairs -	Rosemarie Wieland	274-6313
	Helen Hageman	845-7807
Sunshine Chairperson:	Elisabeth Pankonin	576-8199

Women's Guild meets the first thursday of the month at 1:30 p.M.

In the months of: March*, April, June, Sptember, October*, and November. * Denotes "Program" months

GUILD ACTIVITIES CANCELLED DUE TO PANDEMIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

DATE:	HOSTESSES:	PAYING HOSTESSES:	
Sepember No Mtg	Rosemarie Wieland	Pat Anderson	Gerri Hall
Business Meeting	Helen Hageman	Marsha Behnke	Doris Waldmann
		Carla Hageman	Rosemarie Wieland
October No Mtg	Judy Hansen	Debbie Bass	Carolyn Kleinfeldt
Program Leader:	Kathy Hauser	Kay Berry	Joan Uren
Debbie Bass		Bernice Hamilton	
November No Mtg	Anna May Rhiner	Mary Cutler	Anna Pauley
Business Meeting	Gladean Zurbuchen	Jane Legler	Mary Poole
		Cathy Kwilinski	
March No Mtg		Verlis Luchsinger	Pat McCarthy
Program Leader:	Judy Skupien	Joyce Fredrickson	Becky Hagenston
		Ann Nelson	
April Tbd	Mary Cutler	Helen Hageman	Judy Skupien
Business Meeting	Rhoda Gust	Lisa Hart	Susan Hageman
June Tbd	Debbie Bass	Gladys Behnke	Karen Williams
Businessss Meeting	Elisabeth Pankonin	Sue Thiede	Sherrol Yurs
		Ruth Ellen Phillips	

Paying hostesses may contribute anytime through the year. Paying hostesses Donate what amount they want for the mission of the guild.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND RAFFLE - CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

KITCHEN: Becky Hagenston, Chr.; Rhoda Gust; Ann Nelson; Deb Zurbuchen

RAFFLE COMMITTEE: Cindy Remus; Judy Skupien; Lis Pankonin; Anna May Rhiner

DINING ROOM: Rosemarie Wieland, Chr.; Barb Smith; Judy Skupien; Kathy Hauser

BAKED ITEMS: Mary Cutler, Chr.; Marsha Behnke; Doris Waldman; Pat Mackler-McCarthy; Gladean Zurbuchen; Joan Uren

SALAD LUNCHEON - MAY 6, 2021 - 11:30 AM-12:30 PM (**We're thinking positively!!**)

CASHIERS:	KITCHEN:	DINING ROOM:
Anna May Rhiner	Mary Cutler - Chr.	Judy Skupien, Chr.
Debbie Bass	Rhoda Gust	Judy Hansen
	Marsha Behnke	Elisabeth Pankonin
	Gladean Zurbuchen	Rosemarie Wieland
	Kathy Hauser	



THANK YOU

2021 Stewardship | BETTER TOGETHER

The 2021 Stewardship committee wishes to share our gratitude with everyone that supported the preparation and implementation of the campaign.

We thank the speakers that testified how Salem's Mission is and has been relevant and meaningful to them. We thank the callers that reached out to encourage our congregation to attend our two parking lot services for Communion and Consecration Sunday. We thank the Council for their leadership and for providing Parking Lot welcomers and Communion servers, as well as for pledge card distribution and collection. We thank the musicians and technicians that successfully implemented some new technology to support the two live services, and those who continued to record the church service, whether pre-recorded inside on Wednesday or live on those two recent Sundays. We thank the Financial Secretaries and the Office Administrator for adding up the pledged amount on October 11th, for creating an online giving form in Breeze, and for sending out the follow-up and thank you letters to the congregation.

George Adams
JoAnn Aebley
Nathan Bahr
Cara Bahr
Cari Bass
John Bass
Greg Bass
Kevin Booth
John Cashman
Scot Cullen

Janet Dahl
Chris Fox
Joann Gering
Gene Hafermann
Harlan Hall
Hugh Hauser
Kathy Hauser
Dawn Lingard
Kelli Malueg
Randy Marks

Sarah Pundt
Bruce Quade
Cindy Remus
Judy Skupien
Barb Smith
Julie Sundby
Heather Thoma
Diane Triplett
Rv. Andrew Warner
Frank Westphal

Kari Westphal
Chris Wilbricht
Karen Williams
Brian Winterle
Sarah Worley
Dale Yurs
Mark Yurs
Sherrol Yurs

Last, we also want to thank you, as the readership and wider congregation, for continuing your commitment to Salem, where with your support, we are and will be Better Together!

The Stewardship Committee

Martha Booth
Brandon Grotelueschen
Ruthellen Phillips
Jon Pundt
Mark Shubak
Mark Yurs

Martha Booth *Jon Pundt*
Brian J. Shubak *Mark K. Shubak*
Ruthellen Phillips *Mark E. Yurs*

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Following a Parking Lot Service on Sunday, November 8

Our church's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8, immediately following a Parking Lot Service.

Come for worship in the parking lot, with Holy Communion, at 10:15 A.M. The meeting will begin at the conclusion of the service. Both the service and the meeting will be rather abbreviated by comparison to other services and other meetings.

The chief business of the Congregational Meeting will be to adopt a budget for 2021 and elect officers. There will also be a brief report on the current progress of our BETTER TOGETHER stewardship emphasis this year.

Instructions will be given at the meeting to describe how to raise questions and how the voting process will proceed.

The peculiarities of this year call for special allowance permitting persons not physically present to participate in the meeting. To that end, the meeting will be able to be accessed live at the following Zoom link. Those without computers can have telephone access to the meeting using one of the numbers below.

Meeting materials will be available electronically prior to the meeting to allow members to review them in advance. Questions about the reports Should be emailed (cbahr@salemchurchverona.org) or phoned (845-7315) in advance to facilitate the process during the meeting.

Joining with video by smart phone or computer

Please be sure to download the Zoom app prior to the meeting if you have not already done so, by visiting zoom.us/download.

Log in to Zoom. On the "home" tab click "join".

Enter in the following Meeting ID:

918 5407 7063

*If you need assistance or have any questions prior to the annual meeting, please contact
Cara Bahr
(cbahr@salemchurchverona.org)
(262-716-1253)

Joining by phone (without video capability)

Dial 1 312 626 6799

Enter Meeting ID: 918 5407 7063

**WE WALKED. WE GAVE,
WE HELPED CHANGE THE WORLD**



Our community believes in ending hunger. And, in 2020, we joined in raising funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need this year. We raised just over \$1000 this year! Thank you so much for walking, praying and donating!

~ Salem Youth Group

THANKSGIVING

Several churches in our community are hard at work creating this year's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. It will be a little different this year. The hope is to have the service available the week of Thanksgiving to be viewed in a similar manner to our online worship services. Look for details in the future about how to access that service.

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sarah Pundt, Director of Christian Education
608-692-3239 or spundt@salemchurchverona.org

***Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves
in all your conduct.*** (1 Peter 1:15)

In our Safe Church Program, we use this verse from 1 Peter to guide our behavior toward one another at church. As the national election is approaching, I call on each of you to hold this verse close and use it to guide your conversations and reactions with others. This verse calls on you to conduct yourself in a way that is befitting your faith. This does not mean that you should remain silent or passive. Afterall, Jesus wasn't either of those things. However, as you stand up for what you believe to be true and just, conduct yourself with understanding, integrity, and love. Remember who you are and whose you are.

Sunday School

Weekly Sunday school available online via Zoom for all ages. Current participants will automatically receive a link to join their group. If you are new and would like to join a group, please contact Sarah Pundt.

LEANING ON GOD IN A DIFFICULT TIME

Reading Key Chapters of the Book of Revelation

The adult Sunday school class continues their discussion with Mark Yurs. The Book of Revelation is not peculiar truth about a mysterious tomorrow. It is strength for today, just as it was when it was first written. It tells the good news of God's overarching presence in a world full of turmoil. It offers a lifeline of hope to people tempted to give in to despair. It helps beleaguered people persevere through turbulent times by telling of the promise and power of God. Our class will read a number of the key chapters of Revelation with a particular eye on its promise for today.

Advent

Advent is fast approaching! Our Advent programs will be based on the adult and children's books "Celebrating a Christ Centered Christmas" by Emily Freeman. We will focus our Advent journey on the characters of the Nativity and what they can teach us about living a Christ centered life.

Ornament/Advent Sunday Nov. 29@10am (via Zoom) This is our second Inter-Generational Sunday school program of the year. Our Fall Kickoff Inter-Generational event was a huge success with 37 attendees! We hope you will join us for this Advent program. Remember that Inter-Generational means old, young, married, single, kids, adults.....EVERYONE!

Every participant will receive an Advent kit in advance that contains the book, and the supplies for creating a Nativity set and ornaments. Please rsvp by Nov. 5 to Sarah Pundt (spundt@salemchurchverona.org) or Janet Dahl (jdahl@salemchurchverona.org).

CHRISTIAN ED CALENDAR

November 2020

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 1 | 9am | Sunday School Prek-Grade 5;
Middle/High School |
| | 10am | Adult Sunday School |
| 8 | No Sunday School-
Parking Lot Worship &
Congregational Meeting | |
| 12 | 7pm | Parent's Promise |
| 15 | 9am | Sunday School Prek-Grade 5;
Middle/High School |
| | 10am | Adult Sunday School |
| 17 | 6:30pm | BoCE |
| 19 | 7pm | Koinonia |
| 22 | No Sunday School for
PreK-Grade 5;
Middle/High School | |
| | 10am | Adult Sunday School |
| 29 | 10am | InterGen Event for
Ornament/Advent Sunday |



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Christmas Program: "A Salem Christmas: The Movie"

To create our Salem Christmas movie, we are hoping to involve everyone. Please contact Sarah Pundt spundt@salemchurchverona.org or Janet Dahl jdahl@salemchurchverona.org to participate in one of the following ways:

- **Kids in Costumes:** Children and Youth can choose the character(s) they want to play. They will not have speaking roles, but they can choose to be multiple characters. We have costumes for angels, wisemen, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, sheep, and some other barn animals.
- **Readers:** We need adults and older youth to read (videotaped)
- **Technical Support:** Janet and Sarah would be very grateful to engage the services of someone who can guide us with all technical aspects of filming and editing.

Small Groups Online

Parent's Promise Nov. 12 @ 7pm

This group is for parents of tweens, teens, and young adults. Join this circle of parents for online conversation as we support each other in raising young people of faith. On 11/12, we will discuss chapter 6 of "Growing With: Every Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family, and Future" by Kara Powell and Steve Argue. The book may be purchased on Amazon, however, you do not need to read the book to participate in the conversation. Please contact Sarah Pundt for the Zoom link to the gathering.

Koinonia Table Talkers Nov. 17 @7pm

At our Nov. 17 virtual gathering, we will use the fun conversation starters from "Table Talkers". This group is open to women for a time of conversation and fellowship. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you would like to join our next virtual gathering.

Politics and Spirituality:

How do we come together as "one nation under God"?

Explore the national UCC website for the many resources they have regarding politics, spiritual growth, and justice ministries. Follow the two links below to explore more on the topic of politics and our faith. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you would like to organize a small group virtual conversation regarding these or other related topics.

Our Faith Our Vote 2020

<https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote>

Tuesdays for Nurture webinar series

https://www.ucc.org/search_results?q=tuesdays+for+nurture

SPECIAL FEATURE

Expressing Our Faith

During VBS this summer, the Sunday school groups examined some of the Psalms that celebrate creation. In response to exploring these Psalms, members were encouraged to create their own Psalm to celebrate nature or to express whatever was on their hearts at the time. Each month the Salem newsletter will feature a different Psalm by different Salem authors. If you feel moved to contribute your own expression of faith, please contact Sarah Pundt.

God of all the nations, as your beloved children, we strive to love you with all our heart, all our soul and all our minds and our neighbor as ourselves. We do love you! But you must know that our hearts are aching, our souls are despairing, our minds are confused, and our neighbors are hurting. Families are being divided; bodies are breaking, spirits are broken, and families are being asked to choose between lives and livelihoods. It seems the world has been turned upside down.

Where are you God?! Have you left us?! Has evil been allowed to take control?! Forgive us for losing hope! We pray to you, we worship you; we listen for your voice of reassurance and eagerly watch for your hand of intervention. God of all things new, come to us, lift our souls from the pit of despair Show us where your hand is restoring that which has been destroyed. Send us leaders that are just, truthful, compassionate, and trustworthy. Give us the strength to withstand the storms of this time.

Just as the tall fir sways in violent winds but does not fall; let us give refuge to the vulnerable in our sturdy branches. Let our roots reach deeper still drawing strength and security from your fertile ground and unseen springs of life-giving water. Give us faith that night will once again turn to day, while the winds calm and the sun shines again, allowing the birds freedom to leave their nests. Restore the natural rhythm of your creation and sustaining righteousness.

Creator God, remind us that just as you have seen to every detail of creation, forgetting nothing through your extravagant and genius construction given anew everyday, over and over again; will you not, also give the gifts needed to your children, created in your likeness and restore us to what you intended; and in doing so, your glory and goodness be known and praised anew!

God of love, in your infinite wisdom, make us worthy of your goodness and grace, so that we might love equally all humanity and work for justice and freedom for all your children as long as we have breath to breathe.

Oh God, our one and only God, we bow before you now, as we wait for your healing touch upon our hurting world. To you all honor, praise, and glory!

- Sherrol Yurs

FAITH 5

Faith habits for every night in every home.

Turn off the TV, put down the newspaper, set your cell phones on silent and invest 5 minutes with your spouse, your family, or individually the Faith5.

The Five Steps of the FAITH5:

STEP ONE: **SHARE** your highs and lows

STEP TWO: **READ** a Bible verse or story

STEP THREE: **TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

STEP FOUR: **PRAY** for one another's highs and lows

STEP FIVE: **BLESS** one another

NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient
2. Colossians 4:5-6 Let your speech always be gracious
3. Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God
4. 1 John 1:9 He is faithful
5. Galatians 5:13 You were called to freedom
6. Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you
7. Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers
8. Romans 5:8 God shows his love for us
9. Hebrews 16:9 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul
10. 1 Corinthians 16:13 Let all that you do be done in love
11. Ephesians 6:10-16 Be strong in the Lord
12. Deuteronomy 3:22 The Lord your God who fights for
13. John 16:33 You may have peace
14. 1 Samuel 16:7 The Lord looks on the heart
15. Colossians 1:17 He is before all things
16. Romans 8:34 Christ Jesus is the one who died
17. 1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD
18. John 15:3-4 Abide in me
19. John 15:5 Apart from me you can do nothing
20. Psalm 16:8 I shall not be shaken
21. Philippians 1:6 He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion
22. Hebrews 13:5 Be content with what you have
23. Matthew 28:19 Go
24. Isaiah 6:8 Here I am! Send me
25. 2 Timothy 2:1 Be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus.
26. Hebrews 12:1 Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us
27. James 1:5 Ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach
28. Psalms 4:5 Put your trust in the Lord
29. Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord
30. Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

November 2020

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They don't have any wine." –John 2:3

At the company where I work, we are lucky to have coffee provided to us for free. I don't know if any of you are coffee drinkers. I like a cup first thing in the morning. I get in to work earlier than a lot of other people. Usually I'm the one to make the first pot of coffee, and I get to enjoy the benefit of a nice fresh cup. After that, I try not to have any more, or I tend to get stomachaches and jitters.

Coffee is very, very serious business in an office environment. We go through gallons of the stuff every day. The unwritten rule of the coffee room is that if you take the last cup, then you should start the next pot brewing. That way, whoever comes in after you will have a pot ready without having to make it and wait for it to brew. It's a good system. It's kind of a social contract. Not everyone follows it.

Although I don't drink coffee later in the day, I am in and out of the coffee room to get my lunch, fill my water bottle, or wash my dishes. I always take a peek at the coffee pot. Surprisingly often, there it is: bone dry. Or barely enough for one swallow.

How rude, I think. What is the matter with people? What about the social contract? I frown and hmmph around self-righteously. I wouldn't take the last cup and leave nothing for the next person. Why can't other people follow the rules, too? Sometimes I start another pot myself. I praise myself for what a good person I am to make the coffee when I wasn't the one who left it empty.

At some point it dawns on me that my coffee-making would mean a lot more if I did it willingly and graciously. Is there a Christian way to make coffee at the office? What would Jesus do?

OK, I am pretty sure he would just make the coffee. He wouldn't give himself a medal for it. He wouldn't obsess over the rules and requirements surrounding coffee-making. If he thought about it at all, he might think about how maybe some people don't know how to operate the coffee machine, and maybe they are too ashamed to ask for help, and maybe they are having a bad day and just need something hot and caffeinated to get them through the next few hours.

So lately, I am trying to have a new and improved attitude. Making the coffee is a ministry. It's the Ministry of Coffee. It's not the kind of mission that will bring justice to the world. Or is it? Doing something that I am not obligated to do, without expecting appreciation, and without nominating myself for sainthood, might be just the kind of thing that people do in the kingdom of God.

What is your Ministry of Coffee? What is the small thing you can do, perhaps behind the scenes, to serve someone else? What can you do with a generous heart, even if no one but Jesus sees you do it?

Praying that you may find your ministry and know the joy of service,

Cathy Kwilinski, on behalf of the Salem Youth Ministry Team:
Janet Dahl, Cara & Nathan Bahr, and Sarah Pundt (advisory)

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to the Father through him. –Colossians 3:17*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun Nov 8 1 - 1:30 PM

Zoom Check-In using FAITH5

***Be sure to bring your bibles and "tabs" (they are in the outside zipper, if you haven't discovered them yet)

Sun Nov 22 1 - 1:45 PM

Zoom Gratitude Scavenger Hunt

***Watch emails coming soon for directions

Sun Nov 29 10-11AM

Intergenerational Advent Program
(no MS/HS Sunday School)

December gatherings TBD

depending on needs for Christmas program

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. --Luke 2:1

Every ten years, according to the U.S. Constitution, we must count the number of people living in the United States. This is called the census. It has happened 22 times since 1790, the year of the first census after the American Revolution.

An accurate count of the population is important for our democracy. It's how we decide how many representatives a state gets to send to the U.S. House. It's used to draw voting districts and to determine how much federal assistance goes to each state for things like highways, education, and health care.

Why, you may ask, are we talking about counting people as a social justice issue?

How we choose our leaders and how we spend the money collected in taxes reveal our values and ethics. Where values and ethics are at stake, social justice is too. As Christians we believe in the dignity of every person. We believe that we are called to uplift those who suffer and to care for those on the margins of society. In order to distribute power fairly and fund programs equitably, we need to know how many people are living in each place.

When Caesar Augustus famously ordered a census, all the people had to travel to their hometown to be counted. His decree resulted in Mary and Joseph having their baby in a stable in Bethlehem rather than in their home in Nazareth. Thankfully, our government is more accommodating than the Roman Empire. In every census year, thousands of census workers fan out across the country to knock on doors and count those who have not responded to the census on their own. The people most difficult to count are people in poor neighborhoods, young children, people of color, and people whose first language is not English. Unfortunately, to complicate the important work of the census, it happens to fall in a year when we are reeling from the physical and financial effects of a global pandemic. It's hard to find enough census workers and hard to do the work safely and efficiently without increasing the spread of the virus.

For all these reasons, the work of the census needs to be competently managed and fully funded. We need to allow the process to be completed even if COVID-19 makes it necessary to extend the counting period. We need to know that our elected officials are committed to a fair and accurate count. The Census Bureau has asked for the deadline to be extended. Instead of granting that, the Trump administration has sent conflicting and unclear messages about what will happen to the census.

The census is important. You can let your elected officials know that it's important to you by sending a message from the UCC's Justice and Peace Action Network. Go to <https://p2a.co/SICvfUy?iframe=1> to sign a message that will go directly to U.S. Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and U.S. Representative Mark Pocan.

VOLUNTEER READERS

Youth are encouraged to VOLUNTEER TO BE READERS for the online worship service or provide special music/art. Email Janet to schedule a date.



FAITH5 is a tool for every household to use every night in the homes. Spend 15 minutes doing:

SHARE highs and lows

READ the weekly Bible verse

TALK about the weekly Bible verse

PRAY your highs and lows

BLESS each other

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 9AM - PreK-Grade 5 Sunday School 10AM - Adult Sunday School MS/HS Sunday School (Time TBD) 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	2 6PM - YMT	3 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	4 6:30PM - Handbells 6:30PM - Confirmation	5 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	6	7
8 10:15AM - Parking Lot Worship 11AM - Annual Congregational Meeting 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98 1-1:30PM - Youth Check-In	9	10	11 6:30PM - Handbells 6:30PM - Confirmation	12 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	13	14
15 9AM - PreK-Grade 5 Sunday School 10AM - Adult Sunday School MS/HS Sunday School (Time TBD) 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	16	17 6:30PM - BoCE	18 6:30PM - Handbells 6:30PM - Confirmation	19 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6PM - Men's Fellowship 7PM - Women's Fellowship (Koinonia)	20	21
22 Totenfest 10AM - Adult Sunday School 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98 1-1:45PM - Youth Gratitude Activity	23 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	24	25 6:30PM - Handbells 6:30PM - Confirmation	26 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 THANKSGIVING DAY	27	28
29 10-11AM - InterGen Event for Ornament/Advent Sunday 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	30					

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020



ORNAMENT/ADVENT SUNDAY

Nov. 29@10am (via Zoom)
RSVP by Nov 5 to receive your
craft supplies and book.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Join us for a parking lot service on November 8 at 10:15am followed by our Annual Congregational Meeting.

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An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Sharing Our Good News
SALEM UNITED CHURCH

