

THE PARISH COMMUNICATOR

NEWSLETTER FOR FALUN/SALEMSBORG LUTHERAN PARISH

DECEMBER 2009



Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord... And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those he favors!" Luke 2:9-14 (NRSV)

The excitement was almost unbearable. Commercials dealing with toys and other great stuff had been on the television for quite awhile. Every day Christmas was getting closer and closer. It would soon be time to open up the presents and see what we got for Christmas. How many more days? I don't know if I can stand it!

Do you remember how excited you were around Christmas time? Do you remember counting down the days? Looking under the tree for presents? Getting out of school for Christmas break? It was an exciting time!

As I look back now on the past Christmas celebrations, I realize the excitement was there but not for the right reason. I could have been getting excited thinking about how the birth of Jesus changed the world, changed my life, and changed my future.

I could have been getting excited as I thought about how God broke into history in Jesus' birth. I could have been getting excited as I pictured in my mind the shepherds and the multitudes of angels singing and praising God. Wow, what a sight that must have been! I could have been getting excited over the gift of the Messiah given to the world.

As we go about getting ready to celebrate Christmas, may we remember the excitement of Jesus' birth. May we remember the angels singing and praising God. May we remember how our lives and our deaths have been changed through the gift of Jesus.

I don't know what you are going through in your life right now. I know for some this Christmas will be an emotional one with sadness clinging to the heart. Sadness caused as we miss loved ones and friends. But I do know it is during those times especially that we need to let the Spirit lead us to excitement. We need to let the Spirit lead us to remember what Christmas is truly all about for us in this life. We need to let the Spirit move us to celebrate the birth of Jesus who gave us and those who have gone before us the promise of eternal life.

It is an exciting time! It is a life changing moment! May God lead us and direct us to remember what Christmas was, is and shall be all about! The angels are standing all around us and we join in the hymn, "Glory to God in the highest....!"

Merry Christmas
Pastor Ethan

Thank You!

Words cannot express the feelings we have as we celebrate another Advent and Christmas together. We are so blessed to be here with all of you. You have made us feel like part of a family. God has shown us grace, love and forgiveness through you in too many ways to count. With love in our hearts, we want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God bless all of you with peace and joy! Pastor Ethan, Kellie and Alex

Parish Christmas Caroling & Soup Supper

Christmas Caroling will be on Sunday, December 13th. We will be leaving Salemsborg at 4:00 pm. We will be heading to Salina, and then finishing up in Lindsborg. Afterwards, we will eat some soup and continue to enjoy the fellowship. There will be sign up sheets at both churches for the event. It's a great way to evangelize and to show those who don't get out much that they are not forgotten. Highlight your calendars and plan on participating in this fun way to proclaim the gospel.

Parish Christmas Schedule

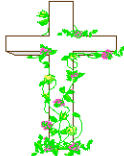
Children Christmas Programs and Christmas Eve Services for Falun/Salemsborg Lutheran Parish will be as follows:

Falun:

- December 20th at 11:00am--Children's Christmas Program during the regular worship time.
- December 24th at 9:00 pm Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion and candlelight service.

Salemsborg:

- December 20th at 6:30pm there will be the Children's Christmas Program "Mayhem in Bethlehem" followed by a handbell and choir concert "The Promise of Light".
- The Salemsborg Quartet is also scheduled to sing.
- December 24th at 10:30 pm Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion and candlelight service.



Ruth Norma Oborg
April 12, 1929–October 26, 2009

Ruth was born in Falun, Kansas on April 12, 1929, the youngest of 9 siblings, and daughter of Eben and Dora Johnson. Ruth lived her entire lifetime in the Smoky Valley area.

Jim and Ruth were married on August 25, 1951. She and Jim farmed and raised cattle for 49 years, and retired to Lindsborg in 2000. Ruth, a wife, mother and homemaker, was an active 4-H leader and church member at Salemsborg Lutheran Church. Ruth also worked 15 years at the Farmers State Bank.

Jim and Ruth have two children and three granddaughters: Craig (son) and Tammy Oborg, Lindsborg, KS, have two daughters; Jamie, of Kansas City and Jordan, a junior at K-State. Jodi (daughter) and her husband Tom Auerbach, Allen, TX have a daughter, Cooper, a senior in high school.

Ruth is also survived by her brother; Howard Johnson of Ottawa Ks, and sister: Bly Allen of Eau'Clare, Wisconsin; Wanda Block of Kansas City, KS; Alva Smith of Garland, TX and Minnie Beck of Lawrence, KS.

Ruth's favorite time was spent with her family and friends, and she will be greatly missed by all.

Ruth was laid to rest on Friday, October 30, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Salemsborg Lutheran Church. Memorials may be designated for Salemsborg Lutheran Church or the Kansas Children's Service League. A time of fellowship was held immediately following the committal service.

Please contact Pastor Ethan or Donna Swanson if there are names that can be removed from our prayer list.

Contact them as well if you would like to add someone.

We remember in prayer those who have been brought to our attention: The family and friends of Rosella Oleen, Cindy Dimitri, Carl Hershberger, Earl Wall, Michael Wineteer (Pat Stamm's father), Emery Frost, Mike Brown, Kristi Northcutt's dad Steve, The Lemen family, Peggy Cooper (Mary Ann Carlson's mom), Edna Kvacik, John Meyer (Karla Pihl's cousin), Roger Bulson (Kathy Rishel's step-brother), Ted Hodges, Josie Riggs, Missy Baxter, The people of New Orleans who were affected by Katrina, especially Kim, VirgieAnn Talley and their families, Beth Northcutt, McClure/Jaso family, Roger Pihl family, Leland Tillberg, Art Barnett, Mike Wineteer, Jaden McBride, Mary Craig, Nikki Driscoll, Don Cheever, Karson Schierling, Calvin Carlson, Marie Nelson, Axel Thomas, Gordon Gladden, Ron & Gayla Bloyd, Malcom Stambaugh, Kristy Bergstrom, Cal Williams, Caden Wekamp, Carlina Swisher, Rebecca Copley Johnson, Kristine Govier, Seretha Johnson, Jennifer Hoffmans, Leann Marr, Vickie Everhardt, Allen Nicholson, Tom Hollopeter, Harry Sandahl, Jim & Karen Gooch, Evelyn Peterson's daughter Kathy, Mary Tillberg's aunt, Pastor Steven Little, Joan Garman, families in conflict, Kathy Sadey, Briane Williams, Carolyn Johnson, Marjorie Oleen, Viola Miller

We also pray for many unspoken requests. If we have missed anyone, please let us know.

Thanks to everyone who was involved with the Haunted Trail all nights, your help and support is appreciated!

The Parish Coordinating Committee met in the kitchen at Salemsborg at 3pm on Sunday, November 1st.

The class on Lutheran theology concluded on November 1st. The class began at 7:00 pm

Pastor Ethan attended the Bishop's Convocation at the Inn at the Grand Glaze Lake of the Ozarks from Monday, November 2 through Thursday, November 5th.

Falun Lutheran Women hosted their Annual Soup Supper at Bethany Home Wed. Nov. 4th at 6:00pm.

The Falun Senior Citizens celebrated their 41st Anniversary with a catered noon meal on November 10th at 12pm. Entertainment was provided by Tom Mulhern.

The flowers at Falun on November 22nd were in memory of DeVere Blomberg from nieces and nephews. His birthday was November 26th.

Worship/Music Committee meeting was Nov. 22nd beginning at 5:00 pm. in the Salemsborg church basement.

The Falun/Salemsborg Lutheran Parish Thanksgiving meal and worship service was held Nov. 22nd at 6:00pm. in the Salemsborg Fellowship Center. It was catered by The Hickory Tree with a free-will offering being taken to help cover the cost.

Shoe box gifts for Operation Christmas Child needed to be in church by Nov. 22. All of the boxes will be taken to Crossroads Church in Salina on Nov. 23.

Next Sunday we will be starting to use the Setting Four Liturgy beginning on page 147.

On Sunday, November 29th there will be a Parish worship service beginning at 9:00 am. The joint service will be held at Salemsborg.

The Altar Guild decorated Salemsborg for Advent after the Thanksgiving Service. All who are interested and able were invited to help! Guys and Gals are needed!

The Noisy Offering at Falun for the months of Dec, Jan & Feb will be Bethany College Campus Ministries.

At Salemsborg, The noisy offering for the month of December along with the offering gathered at the Christmas Program event on Sun, Dec 20th and the offering dedicated at the Christmas Eve Service will all be going to the family of Rosa Gomez. Rosa died in the shooting at the Ramada Inn in Salina that happened in October. She left behind a family of 5 ranging from the age of 3 to 19 years of age. Gala Bloyd was a friend and co-worker. Please keep the family in your prayers, pray about how much you can give, it is appreciated!

If you are ever interested in using the Fellowship Center for any reason, please contact Kathy Miley. If you need to contact her during the day, please email her at bkmiley@gmail.com. By phone you can reach her during the evenings or weekends at 227-3107 or 643-6183

If you need to contact Donna Swanson with information for the bulletin or newsletter, you can call 668-2600 or email her at donlee@hometelco.net. Thanks

Salemsborg WELCA

Thanks to each person who had a part in making our Soup Supper a success--those present enjoyed the food and the fellowship. Each of you did your part. We are planning to have it on a Sunday again next year. There were about the same number of people who came as last year. There were some college students and people visiting family who took advantage of a meal before going back.

There was a good group of people helping with decorations at church after our Thanksgiving service. A suggestion was made to take pictures of the decorations so that next year we'll spend less time trying to remember where the decorations go.

The Salemsborg Christmas Program will be held on December 20 at 6:30pm. Calendar Group 3 will be in charge of refreshments following the program.

Mary Tillberg

Falun Lutheran Women

We had 34 attend our soup supper at Bethany Home. It was a wonderful time of sharing a meal, devotions and visiting. Thank you to all who helped prepare for the evening. Also, thank you for bringing your Christmas gifts for Bethany Home and decorating Falun Church for the Advent Season.

If you signed up for cookies for the Bethany Home Christmas party, please leave at Falun church Dec. 6th or Bethany Home. Let Gwen Oleen know if you are taking your clearly marked cookies to the home. Volunteers are needed to help serve during their party Thursday evening, Dec. 10th. Let Suzan Madden or Gwen Oleen know if you can help.

No quilting will be held at Bethany Home this month.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Ethan and family will be on vacation from December 25th through January 1 celebrating Christmas with family. In case of an emergency, please contact your Council president. They will have the name and number of the pastor who is covering for Pastor Ethan. Please keep the Feistners in your prayers for safe travel, it is appreciated!

Ding-A-Lings

The Ding-A-Lings will be going around town spreading their holiday cheer on Saturday, December 19 and Wednesday, December 23. If you have any requests or suggestions of places to ring, please contact Nita Kay.

Parish Chick Movie Night

A Parish chick movie night will be held at the Salemsborg Fellowship Center on Saturday, December 5th at 6:00pm. There will be Bible study/Fellowship followed by a movie at 7:00pm. Please bring snacks to share.

Parish United Youth Group

United Youth Group members, please turn in your Change for Change to Kellie so we can get it sent to New Orleans school. They will be shopping as a group for a needy family on December 6th.

Thank You's

Thanks to our Salemsborg family for all the prayers, support, cards, food and memorial gifts. We are truly blest.

The Family of Ruth Oborg

"Thank you for your loyalty in this fight against hunger and suffering. During these cold months, your kindness warms peoples stomachs and hearts. You truly make a difference in others' lives! May God bless you for your love." Sincerely, The Salina Emergency Aid/Food Band--Freda Rees

Salemsborg Sunday School

A Christmas offering will be taken during children's music. Please encourage your children to bring loose change. The money collected will be used to purchase gifts for the Angel Tree.

The Christmas Program is coming up! Moms and Dads; please remember to send your children upstairs to the sanctuary after coffee to practice. Thank you....Molly Johnson

The Christmas Program is called "Mayhem in Bethlehem". Children will be practicing each week during Sunday School and will continue through 2:00pm. They will eat lunch in the basement on those days. Sunday, Dec. 6th is a VERY IMPORTANT REHEARSAL! Dress Rehearsal will be Saturday, Dec. 19 beginning at 4pm....until done!

First Communion

Congratulations Rilee Carson and Emily Roets on your first communion Sunday, November 1, 2009! We celebrate with you and may you remember that you always have a place at the Lord's Table. Congratulations!

New Members at Salemsborg

Welcome to Christy Fink and her daughters Michaela and Brianna as new members of Salemsborg and the Falun/Salemsborg Lutheran Parish. It's great worshipping with you and working with you to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Christy, Michaela and Brianna have transferred their membership from Bethany Lutheran, Lindsborg.

TACOL News

TACOL is expanding it's ministry to those in need by offering food vouchers. If you, or someone you know, is having trouble buying groceries, TACOL wants to help. Wednesday evenings from 5-8pm or Thursday mornings from 9am-12pm you can stop by 126 S. Washington and apply with a TACOL representative for food assistance. Those in need will receive a food voucher that allows them to go to Scott's Hometown Foods in Lindsborg or Piper Foods in Marquette and purchase groceries. The churches of TACOL are: Bethany Lutheran, Falun Lutheran, Freemount Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, Salemsborg Lutheran, First Baptist, St. Bridget Catholic, Trinity Methodist, Evangelical Covenant and Bethany Home.

Salemsborg Lutheran Mission Statement

"We at Salemsborg have so benefited from the gifts of God's love, peace, strength and joy through Jesus, that we seek to share these same gifts with others in grateful response!"

Falun Lutheran Mission Statement

"As children of God, we strive to love, care for, and inspire one another as we extend the grace of Christ to all."

Parish Directory is Planned!

Olan/Mills will be coming to the Parish to take pictures for a directory. Please mark on your calendars the following places, dates and times: At Falun, Thursday, February 28th from 3:00-9:30 pm.; At Salemsborg, Friday, February 29th from 3:00-9:00 pm and Saturday, March 1st from 10:00 am—9:00 pm.

We need all of the people who attend Falun/Salemsborg Lutheran Parish to have their picture taken. Please give a heads up to all college folk and those who live away from this community, it really helps. More information will be coming out as the dates get closer, thanks! If you would like to serve on the directory committee, we need at least one person from Falun and at least two to three people from Salemsborg. It has changed a lot since the last time you had this done as far as what the company does and what we need to do. They have really taken off a lot of the burden the was placed on the people of the congregations. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor for now and later to a Evangelism Committee member

Food Bank Sunday

Food Bank Sunday is the first Sunday of each month. Below is an updated list of items suggested as possible donations each month. However, any item you would like to give will be greatly appreciated. A box is located next to the front door of the church for your convenience.

January--Cold Cereal

February--Flour

March--Sugar

April--Jelly

May--Small boxes Biscuit Mix

June--Small boxes cornbread mix

July--All kinds of pasta (particularly egg noodles)

August--Canned Fruit

September--tooth brushes & toothpaste

October--toilet paper

November--Canned Veggies (particularly peas & corn)

December--All kinds of soup

Angel Tree

Residents of Lindsborg have an opportunity to help local children celebrate Christmas. Angel tags with information about these children's needs, are on trees at the 3 local banks. Simply pick an angel tag from the tree, write your name on a card at the bank, purchase a new gift (at lease \$20), wrap the present, and return the gift to the bank where you picked the angel tag. Gifts MUST be returned by Dec. 5th, 2009.

Memory Lane

"In the Kingdom of God"

from October Messenger 1929

The 35th Annual Convention of the Salina District Luther League was held in our church Aug. 30, 31 & Sept. 1. The motto of the convention was "What Should be our Chief Concern in this Life?".

The answer to this question was given in the opening sermon by student Burke, in the greetings by Rev. Liljedahl, in the talks by Rev. Richard and Rev. Lorimer. Even the songs and recitations at the convention came in harmony with the all important question. Miss Anna Carlson's wonderful Bible Study went in direct answer to the question.

Sunday afternoon was also an answer to the question for then Miss Edyth Beck was commissioned as a missionary to Africa. Dr. Bergin's message to her and Dr. Pihlbalds' and student Lindquists' messages to our young people rung clear and loud answering the question "What should be our chief concern in life?".

It was a gathering of young people; a most wonderful convention. Rev. Lorimer was elected president, Rev. Leaf vice-president, Miss Verna Forsse secretary and Vernon Miller treasurer.

Our ladies served dinner and supper on Saturday and supper on Sunday to hundreds of people. All seemed happy and our social gatherings much enjoyed by all. The reception our local league gave the delegates Friday evening was very much appreciated.

Worship Service Time Change

In January 2010 the worship service times will change in accordance with the Parish agreement. Falun worship will be at 9am and Salemsborg worship will be at 11am. Coffee time at Falun will be at 10am with Sunday school at 10:30. Salemsborg Sunday school will be at 9:30 with coffee at 10:30.

In Case of Bad Weather

When there is bad weather this winter and you need to check to see if events or services for the parish will be held or cancelled, please listen to KSAL, look on ksallink.com, or watch Channel 12 or Channel 3 on your television.

Food Bank Sunday

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December--All kinds of soup