

THE PARISH COMMUNICATOR

NEWSLETTER FOR FALUN/SALEMSBORG LUTHERAN PARISH

DECEMBER 2010

From the



...to you is born...a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Luke 2:11(NRSV)

I don't know about you, but every once in awhile, I need to feel important. I need to feel special. You know those times, when the world seems to be on your back. When things are not going well. When you are just feeling down, or stressed, etc. I just need to feel that God cares, that God hasn't forgotten about me.

me. I don't think I am alone for this need. I think that is why Advent and Christmas seasons are so special for us.

We hear the words that God is sending the Messiah. God is going to redeem the world. God is going to save us because God loves us. We hear about on a cold night, Jesus was born for us. We are so special that Jesus comes and is born in a stinky manger. Jesus gives up heaven! Jesus gives up being in the best place ever to be born in a stinky stable for us. FOR US!!!! For you and me!!!!

This same Lord will come again one day to end all the grief in our world. One day, Jesus will grab us by the hand and lead us to our eternal rest and glory; to the place He has prepared for us. We will experience the place He gave up for us to take on human form. We will then realize how special we were to Him.

I am so thankful that I am here at this parish because there is hardly a day that goes by that you don't make me feel special. You are used by God to show me God's love and blessings. I hope that God uses me to bless you in the same way. But on those days when we need that little extra kick of grace and love, we hear the words, *to you is born...a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

God's Peace, Pastor Ethan

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.

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We want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas! We will be celebrating our 10th Advent and Christmas together, WOW! We continue to be blessed in this place by God through you.

May God's Light shine in the midst of your lives! May the Advent and Christmas Seasons be a blessed time for all of you! May God move your hearts so that you may feel God's presence and experience the joy that only God can give! A blessed Advent! Merry Christmas! You are gifts from God to all of us!

Pastor Ethan, Kellie & Alex Feistner

Parish Christmas Caroling

We will be going Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 12th as a Parish. It is going to be a little different this year. We will be going to Bethany Home at 3:00pm and singing in the chapel. We hopefully will have the quartet, some bells and some singers who will be used by God to proclaim the gospel through music. Even if you can't sing, your presence will still be a great witness. We will be singing in the chapel so the residents who can't make it will still be able to hear us over the sound system. After we sing at Bethany Home, we will be heading out to other nursing homes in Salina. If you know of anyone who would like to sit and listen to the music, anyone in the Bethany Home Cottages, etc., please let them know about this special event. It's going to be a great experience for all involved!

Parish Christmas Schedule

Falun Lutheran Church

Dec 19th at 9:00am: Children's Christmas Program during the regular worship time.

Dec 24th at 9:00pm: Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion and candlelight service

Salemsborg Lutheran Church

Dec 19th at 6:30pm: Children's Christmas Program "Christmas in Reverse"; Gospel Quartet, Choir & JuBELLation will be a part of the program.

Dec 24th at 10:30pm: Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion and candlelight service

Mission to Haiti

As many of you already know, I will be traveling on a mission trip to Haiti from December 26 to January 3 with a team of six other college students from K-State. This summer I really felt a call to put my faith into action by serving and showing Christ's love to the people of Haiti. I will be traveling with an organization called GCOM (God's Chosen Ones Ministry). While in Haiti, we will help distribute food, serve in an orphanage and help in the construction of a school. As you may have heard, on top of the January earthquake, Haiti has recently been hit by a hurricane and is in the middle of a Cholera crisis. They are in need of our love, support and prayers more than ever. I am honored to represent you and our church community, and I thank you for all the support that has been given so far. Watch for more information about my trip and additional ways to support the people of Haiti in the coming weeks. Jason Carlson

Worship Service Time Change

In January 2011, the worship service times will change in accordance with the Parish agreement. Falun worship will be at 11:00am and Salemsborg worship will be at 9:00 am. Coffee time at Salemsborg will be at 10:00am with Sunday school at 10:30. Falun Sunday school will be at 9:30am with coffee at 10:30am.

In Case of Bad Weather

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

TACOL News

TACOL is sponsoring a trip to the McPherson County Food Bank on Friday, December 10th, leaving at 2pm from 126 S. Washington (south of Covenant Church). You must have a voucher from an area clergy or social service professional first. For more information, call Janice Morris at 785-822-4296.

Jultide at Bethany

Bethany College and the Music Department welcome you to "ring" in the Christmas season with a diverse program of musical performances, readings and audience carols. Jultide at Bethany is Sunday, December 5th at 7:00pm in Presser Hall on the Bethany campus. You--our special friends in the Smoky Valley region--are also invited to join our wonderful student and faculty musicians for cookies, cider and more music, immediately following the performance, in Lindquist Hall on the Bethany campus. Please come!

Bethany College Events

Dec. 2-7--Bryan Giesen Senior Art Exhibition--
Mingenback Art Center Gallery

Dec. 3--Swede Friday for prospective students--call 800-826-2281

Dec. 3-4--Alternative Gift Market & Christmas Bazaar--
11am-2pm on 12-3, and 10am-2pm on 12-4--
Levin Room of Pihlblad Memorial Union

Dec. 5--Jultide--4pm--Presser Hall

Dec. 7--Music Dept. Recital--2pm--Presser Hall
Jazz Ensemble Concert--7:30pm--Presser Hall

Dec. 9-14--Morgan Evans Senior Art Exhibition--
Mingenback Art Center Gallery

Dec. 11--Orchestra Concert--7:30pm--Presser Hall

Dec. 12--Christmas Concert--3pm--Sandzen Gallery

Parish Notes

On October 31st, the choir paid a special tribute to the charter members of Salemsborg who arrived here in 1868 and 1869 and founded the congregation. Many of those original settlers still have family members attending Salemsborg. Special thanks to the narrators, Nancy Anderson, Debbie Johnson, Anna and Brynna Anderson, who represent four generations, and to Tom Holmquist (trumpet), whose family was, in October of 1868, one of the first Swedish families to homestead (or arrive) in the Smoky Valley

Operation Christmas Shoe Box was celebrated again this year. Boxes were furnished. Members had fun filling each one for needy children all over the world. Instructions and entry forms came with each box. Thirty-nine shoeboxes were put together and donated.

Pastor Ethan attended the Bishop's Convocation at the Lake of the Ozarks the week of Nov. 8th.

The Salemsborg WELCA Annual Soup Supper was held at Salemsborg on Sunday, November 7th from 5-7pm.

The UYG met at the Salemsborg Fellowship Center at noon on November 14th.

Both Congregations decorated for the Advent and Christmas seasons after church on November 21st.

The Joint Parish Thanksgiving Meal & Worship Service was held at Falun Lutheran Church beginning at 6:30pm on Nov. 21st.

A Visit with Pastor Ethan will be postponed until next January. We will be discussing the book Good Things Happen When a Woman Trusts in God by Sheila Walsh. This book is not just for women. Ms. Walsh uses Biblical people to walk through the journey of trusting God. You can get the book through Amazon.

Sunday School Children at Salemsborg will be practicing for the Christmas Program during Sunday School time. Parents, please bring your children on time so they can practice as much as possible. The Christmas Program will be held Dec. 19th at 6:30pm.

Pastor Ethan & family celebrated Thanksgiving with family in Oklahoma. They returned on the 26th.

On November 28th we will begin using the With One Voice hymnals-Setting Four Liturgy of Holy Communion. We will be using the WOV throughout the Advent Season.

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.

If you are ever interested in using the Fellowship Center for any reason, please contact Nita Kay Carlson. If you need to contact her please email her at wncarlson@hometelco.net. By phone you can reach her on her cell at 785-227-5363.

Swedish Supper

The congregation of the Elim Lutheran Church in Marquette, Kansas would like to invite everyone to attend their 64th Swedish Supper. It will be held at the church, 5th and Lincoln, on Wed. night, Dec 1, 2010 in Marquette. Serving will be from 5-8p.m. A freewill offering is the admission to the supper. Authentic Swedish foods as well as some American foods are served including Swedish meatballs, lutefisk, ostkaka, Swedish brown beans, turkey, Swedish rye bread, Swedish tea rings, cookies, and many others. The church interior is decorated for Christmas and Swedish decorations are used throughout the Parish Hall where the supper is served. And, of course, live authentic Swedish music and Christmas entertainment will be provided while you wait! Don't miss it!!

Hospice of Salina

Every Christmas, Hospice of Salina depends on our Memory Tree event to raise needed funds to help us provide charitable services, including counseling and bereavement support for adults and children along with replenishing funds for indigent care at the Kaye Pogue Hospice Center.

This annual event can be a lasting memory for you and your family. Hospice of Salina is offering a special commemorative hand blown glass Dove ornament tipped with 22k gold. It becomes a warm and bright holiday beacon of your love, appreciation or remembrance of your loved one.

You have an opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one by having their name printed on an ornament which is placed on the Hospice of Salina Christmas Tree. Ornaments are \$35 each. Any donation is appreciated.

Then join us Tuesday, December 21, anytime between 3-6pm. Enjoy a time of quiet reflection or jubilant celebration to honor and remember friends and loved ones. Light a candle, tip a glass, tell a story, enjoy a warm fire, and think of those still with us or those dearly missed. At this time, you will be able to remove the Dove from our tree and place the Dove on your tree. If you are unable to attend, you will have an opportunity to pick up your Dove during regular business hours or for an additional \$5 for shipping and handling, your ornament will arrive in the mail before Christmas.

More information on the Memory Tree and the ornaments is located on the bulletin board.

The Salina Rescue Mission

We are in a new Christmas season, and the needs seem to be even greater than in the past. Therefore, we will need many donations to fill the Country Store. The Country Store is a service to the public that provides items for men, women, and children who attend our Christmas dinner and celebration which this year will be December 18th, at the 4-H Building in Salina.

Ways you can contribute to the Country Christmas Store include: individually collecting items to donate; as a church family, youth group project, etc; purchasing items to donate. Items can be new or used, as long as they are clean and in good condition. Needed items are on a list which has been placed on our bulletin boards at the church. They will be collecting items between now and Dec. 17th. Please contact Becky Covert at 785-819-1523 or 785-452-9204 to arrange drop off times or if you have questions. Please identify items as "Country Christmas Store" so that the SRM staff can get the items delivered to the right place.

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

Innocence is Priceless

One Sunday morning the Pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with little American flags mounted on either side of it. The six year old had been standing at the plaque for quite some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said "good morning, Alex". "Good morning, Pastor", he replied, "what is that?" The pastor said, "well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they stood together just staring at the plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "which service, the 8:30 or the 10:45?"

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: Elton Bloomberg, Loretta Feistner--Pastor's mother-dealing with age related matters, Debbie Allton's sister-in-law--hurt by a bull, Charles & Arlene Kelley, Harold Hartschorn--Tricia Hawk's father--prostate cancer, Marilyn Brown--surgery, Kathy Wick--Robin Roets' mom, John Mack--health concerns, Dolly Nelson--outpatient surgery, Bob Miley, Jan & Jim Nelson's daughters: Carlena Quisenberry--stroke, and Linda Martin--cancer, Michell Lemen--surgery to repair fractured heel. Arlene-Betty Pihl's nephew's wife--cancer has spread and has other health issues, Curt Forsberg-Dolly's brother-diagnosed with cancer, Carolyn Johnson suffering from MS, Leann Marr, Pastor Ethan's sister battling cancer. We also pray for many unspoken requests. If we have missed anyone, please let us know.

W/ELCA NEWS

Salemsborg WELCA

Thanks to each of you who have participated in activities of our W/ELCA this past year. We had 4 Sewing Days and 3 Bible study groups have met each month. Other meetings have been our Salad Supper in February and our annual business meeting in October. We hosted Smoky Valley Cluster Meeting in April. This month calendar group 4 will be responsible for Sunday morning coffee and refreshments after the Christmas Program on December 19th. We look forward to new leadership of our coordinating committee. We will have our first sewing day on January 13th. On Jan. 11th and Jan. 25th we will be responsible for Mending at Bethany Home. Calendar Group 2 will be responsible for Sunday morning coffee. Peace, joy and love to you this holiday season and may God bless you! Mary

On Sunday, January 9th, the Esther Group will meet for their Christmas get together.

Falun Lutheran Women

Falun Lutheran Women will hold their Christmas Party at Bethany Home on December 9th. If you can donate 10 doz. cookies for the event, that would be great. Please contact Gwen Oleen if you will be taking your cookies directly to Bethany Home.

The Falun Senior Citizens will celebrate Christmas with a catered noon meal on December 14th.

Falun Quilting Ladies

The WELCA Quilting Ladies have finished another year. This year we completed 20 quilts: 10 small quilts given to Bethany Home for Lap Robes or Surrey Cart rides; and 10 quilts to be split between Lutheran World Relief and DVACK for abused women and children.

We tie at either the Falun Church or Bethany Home. Martha Dunham is our busiest member, as she sews all the 10" square blocks together to form a quilt top. The WELCA group ties each quilt and then Martha Dunham binds the edges.

WELCA had an extra blessing this year. We were down to NO fabric, and Marjorie Dauer came to a session with two plastic baskets full of fabric...so we are in business for a while longer. The fellowship time is fun and the finished quilts help the needy.

Christmas Eve Services

We will gather to celebrate our Savior's birth during worship services on Christmas Eve. We will be celebrating Holy Communion and will be having a candlelight service at both congregations. We hope you can come out and worship and praise God celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ! The times for the worship services on Christmas Eve are as follows:

Falun Lutheran--9:00pm Salemsborg Lutheran--10:30pm

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Ethan and family will be on vacation celebrating Christmas with family from December 25th through January 1st. In case of an emergency, please contact your Council chair person, or a member of the church Council. Please keep Pastor and family in your prayers. It would be appreciated!

"Ding-A-Ling Days"

"Ding-A-Ling Days" are scheduled for Saturday, December 18th and Wednesday, December 22nd. If you have any requests for people you would like them to play Christmas carols for, please contact Nita Kay.

United Youth Group News

Thank you to everyone who either helped decorate the Rescue Mission or ring bells for the Salvation Army this past weekend. You touched a lot of lives and helped a lot of people by giving of your time & talents. You have another opportunity to help a family less fortunate this season....We have adopted a needy family for Christmas again this year. **We will be shopping for them on Sun, Dec 12th, following worship at Salemsborg!!!!** The Youth Group will be leaving from Salemsborg church. We will shop, eat lunch and return to the Fellowship Center to wrap the gifts. Please plan to be there! **We would like to challenge all of you to contribute financially towards gifts for the family with your own money.**

Poinsettia's for the Holidays

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one for the holidays, please bring them sometime after the Christmas Program on December 19th. Please write the name of your loved one on a piece of paper and get it to Donna before she does the bulletins for Christmas Eve. The names will be on a special insert for that bulletin.

Confirmation News

We will be having our first confirmation day on Saturday, December 4th. We begin at 9:00am. We will be done at 1:00pm. (I have a wedding in Wamego at 4pm, sorry). We will discuss the Ten Commandments. Norbergs, Carlsons, Lemens and Surfaces are in charge of the noon meal. Youth are to bring drinks & snacks to share for the day, also Bible and a writing utensil.

Thank You's

Thank you, everyone, for years of support and love. Cole and I appreciate your contributions to our joining our lives together. Many thanks to all of you. Love, Cara, Cole, Cade Camac

Thank you for sending the posters. I rounded up just to make it easy. Good to see the church looking so nice. Nikela Olson

Thank you so much for sending the print. Use the money wherever you need it. God's blessings be with you always. Lorraine Miller

Thank you for donating the diapers to Ashby House. We appreciate your kindness and generosity. Sincerely, Dorothy

Dear Friends, Thank you for your loyalty 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, Salina Emergency Aid/Food Bank, Freda Rees

Thanks to JuBELLation for playing "Amazing Grace" for the prelude on October 31st in memory of Dylan Soukup, a sophomore at Smoky Valley High School, who was killed in a car accident on the 25th.

Thanks to everyone who supported the UYG Haunted Trail in any way, it is very much appreciated!

Thanks to the choir for their special music on Nov. 7th. A couple of years ago, Darrel Holmquist donated the music to the choir anthem, "How Great Thou Art/Majesty". It was sung that morning in memory of Darrel and in appreciation of his many years as a member of the Salemsborg Choir.

Thank you to all who attended WELCA's Soup Supper. Also, much appreciation for the beautifully decorated tables, the tasty soups, the delicious pies and those who completed clean up. We are also grateful for the generous free-wil donations for benevolences.