

Salem News November & December 2019

From your pastor...

Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people and animals. How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. (Psalm 36:6,7)

One Christmas when I was in high school my parents gave me a guitar. I was so excited. I love playing music and had wanted to learn guitar for a long time. Now I finally had one! After seeing that big, conspicuously guitar-shaped package under the tree for a couple weeks, it was finally mine to play.

And I did! I unpacked it and learned to tune it and started following the instructions from my beginners guitar book that had accompanied the gift. This lasted for the rest of Christmas break. I went back to school with the guitar case proudly over my shoulder, put the guitar neatly on its stand in the corner of my dorm room, and there it sat.

My guitar has looked very pretty sitting on its stand in the various places I've lived. It looks pretty on its stand near the piano in our house today, but that's about all I've ever used it for. I've never truly learned to play, and now it mostly collects dust in between cleanings.

Sometimes when we get something new and exciting, we use it a lot and pay a lot of attention to it. Over time, we tire of it. The novelty wears off. The reality that it takes (a lot of) practice sets in, and we might even forget about that thing.

God doesn't feel that way about creation. Our heavenly Father created each of us and everything that exists alongside us, and

instead of tiring of creation, he continues to care for it and provide for it. Even after all these thousands of years, even after sin has corrupted creation, we see God's amazing love for us in the ways he continues to provide for us and maintain the world. When we need food, he feeds us. When we need warmth, he clothes and shelters us. When we need companionship, he gives us friends, family, and the community we share as fellow believers.

As we begin a new church year and look forward to Christmas, we see his love even more dramatically in the birth of his Son our Savior. God doesn't just provide for our physical needs. He provides for our greatest spiritual need as well: the need for a Savior. In the coming months as we relive the events of Jesus' life, find peace, comfort, and strength in your Father's love for you!

Praise be to our Father in heaven whose love never fails!

Serving the coming Christ together with you,

Pastor Wilde



2020 Offering Envelopes are now available. They have been re-numbered. If you do not find your envelope, please contact the church office. We have a few members who are using electronic giving. These people will still have envelopes assigned so they have an envelope number to record their offerings.



Special Services & Events

Advent	Dec 11 at 7pm
Band/Choir Concert	Dec 8 at 6pm at school
Children's Service	Dec 19 at 6:30pm
Candlelight Service	Dec 24 at 7pm & 10pm
Christmas Day	Dec 25 at 10am
New Year's Eve	Dec 31 at 6pm

Please note that there will be no Thursday service on December 26.



Our school's PTO is hosting their annual Cookie Walk after both services on Sunday, December 8th.



Fruit Baskets for shut-ins will be assembled and delivered on December 10th. If you would like to help

assemble, please be to the church by 11:45am. If you would like to help deliver the baskets, please be to the church by 12:45pm.

Church Council News:

Our financial report – as of November 17, 2019

	Nov 17	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	\$11,496.25	\$517,331.25
Offerings	\$ 10,364.15	\$455,752.92
Tuition/FEF/ Reg	\$ 231.50	\$ 49,602.56
Other	\$ 39.10	\$ 5,218.15
Total Receipts	\$10,634.75	\$510,573.63
Difference	-\$ 861.50	-\$6,757.62

Owed to Internal Line of Credit: \$5,000

Voters’ Meeting: There will be a special voters meeting on December 15th after the late service for the 2nd reading of the budget. Copies of the budget are available on the table in the back of church. If approved, the budget calls for weekly offerings of \$12,580.52, which equals about a \$4.50-\$5 increase per envelope.

Pastor and Meghan have purchased a house. Their new address is: 4325 S Morrice Rd., Owosso