

From your pastors...

Salem's "Welcome Home Weekend!" is history! Though we didn't literally "pack the house", we did have a total attendance of 279 in our three weekly worship opportunities. (And that is 34 above our 2019 average attendance thus far! Praise God!)

As people were exiting church, there was a genuine atmosphere of excitement. Many people commented on how wonderful a service it was, but in reality, it was nothing far different from the regular worship we conduct here at Salem. We used the Common Service from page 15 in the hymnal. Sure, we had choir sing (and they sang beautifully), but we often have choir sing. The children's message was a new element, but can't be credited with creating that wonderful warmth.

All credit for that wonderful atmosphere on Sunday has to go to our Heavenly Father, and our Brother, Jesus. What we experienced was nothing more than the wonderful love that God has for us as his children and brothers and sisters. Isn't it a blessing God uses even the most simple and familiar of worship services to create that love and warmth among us? God's house truly is our home!

God blessed our efforts, but the work is far from over. Each week we want to work at being a warm and welcoming congregation, a family of believers loved by the Lord and loving Him and each other as brothers and sisters. Each week we will want to identify a member we know who has stopped coming to church and invite them back. It could be a friend or family member or someone you used to sit in the same pew with. Take the time to send them a note or give them a call or text them.

The Lord will bless our ongoing and consistent efforts to invite and invite again those we know who no longer come to church.

As shepherds of the entire flock under our care, both of us are committed to searching for and regaining the straying. The task is intimidating, but not impossible. Last week Pastor Bare went through the “worship report” and identified 306 precious souls who are “lost” to Salem. (Some are literally lost because we don’t have a current address or phone number.) We will need to enlist your help in reaching these members and lovingly encouraging them to come back home.

We ask the Lord to bless each of us with the strength and the love to carry out this vital work for the sake of souls loved and redeemed by Jesus.

Church Council News:

Our financial report – as of October 20, 2019

	Oct 20	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	\$11,496.25	\$482,842.50
Offerings	\$ 9,738.76	\$424,198.42
Tuition/FEF/ Reg	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 48,390.30
Other	0	\$ 5,178.11
Total Receipts	\$10,738.76	\$477,766.83
Difference	-\$ 757.49	-\$5,058.37

Owed to Internal Line of Credit: \$0

The council approved the transfer in of Michael & Cheryl Valus from Shepherd of the Hills (WELS) in Fenton.

Our Thanksgiving Services will be Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7pm and Thursday, Nov. 28 at 10am.

EHV Bibles – Copies of the new WELS/ELS produced translation, the Evangelical Heritage Version of the Bible are still available for purchase through the church office at the discounted rate of \$18. If you'd like to take one for a "test drive," we have EHV Bibles in the basement and use them for Bible class. The single column format is easy to read, and having another trustworthy translation to compare will enrich your Bible study time.

Children's Messages – Guest Pastor Paul Mueller and Branches Band both recently gave examples of how to effectively dedicate a portion of a worship service as a special time for children. As parents find less and less time to be able to bring children to Sunday School, children's messages like these can be the only time a child gets to hear God's Word applied directly to them. While children certainly gain much from the main sermon, and while we will continue to encourage Sunday School attendance (and Bible Class attendance for parents!), these messages during church have been well received, and are a good way for us to show that God's Word and worship are for everyone, no matter how young! We will likely continue to have children's messages on non-communion Sundays.

Flint Pregnancy Care Center – Hi, Pastor Wilde here! As you might already know, last year I was nominated and elected onto the board of directors for the Flint and Saginaw Pregnancy Care centers. They do wonderful work for women, children, and families who desperately need love and support. (Look for an

exciting and heart-warming success story in the upcoming “Speaking Up” newsletter!) While the pregnancy care centers are operating very well financially, there is a constant need for women to volunteer, especially at the Flint location, where I am spiritual advisor. We are only able to be open about five days per month in Flint, and there are more clients who need help than we can see in that short time. Your donations and prayers are always powerful and welcome and received with thanks. If you are interested in helping as a mentor or in another way, even just one day a month helps! While it can be an intimidating thought at first, you’ll receive the training and guidance you need to feel confident. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to share Jesus’ love with others: you might literally save a life! Let me know if you are interested.



Volunteer Opportunities at Salem Church:

We are always looking for greeters and ushers. Ushers serve for a one month period about 4 times a year. Greeters are on a rotation of about 3-4 Sundays a year. We have ushers at all three services (Thursday night, Sunday 8 & 10:30am) and greeters on Sunday mornings. If you’d like to help with either ushering or greeting, please let the church office know.

Radio Room helper: We could use 1-2 more people for both service times on Sundays. After learning how to operate the radio room, you would be added to the rotation and serving for a month at a time about 3 months a year.



Adult Confirmation of Tuffy Wolfrom and John Sutphen



Baptism of Danika Hoenshell



**Children's Message
By Pastor Paul
Mueller**

Salem School News:

Salem School participates in various rewards that allow the school to receive money. If you would like to participate, please take a look at the various opportunities:

Box Tops 4 Education – They are switching over to an app and you will no longer be able to clip the Box Tops. (But if you have box tops send them in. We can still send those in.)

VG's receipts - You can turn in the points section of your VG's receipt. For every \$150,000 in sales receipts, VG's will send a check to Salem School for \$1,000.

Kroger – You can link your Kroger card to Salem Lutheran School (NPO# DG733). A percentage of your sales will be sent quarterly to the school. The last quarterly check was for \$89. This money goes into our faculty continuing education fund.

Coke Rewards – You can turn in your bottle caps and codes from multi-packs. The school can enter those codes in and earn reward money to spend on various items.

School Spirit from Soft 'N' Good Bread – You can turn these into the school

Tyson a+ Coupons (On fully cooked products) – You can turn these into the school.

By the school secretary's office there is a file cabinet that has the drawers labeled for the different donations. You can also drop them off to the church office and they will be taken over to school.

Recycling Option:

Our school recycles as much as they can. There are boxes in each classroom dedicated to recycling paper, workbooks, newspaper, cardboard and magazines. A group from Community Mental Health come every Tuesday and collects our recyclables. If you have newspapers or magazines you would like to recycle, there are large trash bins between the double doors outside the school office that you can put your items in.