

"Salem's Good News Letter"

Message from Pastor Christenson

Dear Salem Family,

Christmas day has come and gone but Christmas Season continues for twelve days until January 6, the Day of the Epiphany of our Lord. The Epiphany of our Lord tends to get lost in the post-Christmas life of the church, but the Season of Epiphany continues on and leads us to Ash Wednesday.

Epiphany is the season when we celebrate the amazing truth that the Christ Child came for all people of all nations. The Light shines in the darkness of our world and the darkness will not overcome it. Epiphany is the Season when we recall that the Wise Men came from afar to worship the Baby King.

Before we move too far away from Christmas, Ruth and I want to thank you for the many cards and gifts you gave to us at Christmas. The best gift of all has been your warm welcome to us as we began our life with you in Ponca. We look forward to working together in the new year.

Do you make New Year's resolutions? I think we all tend to think of the new year as a chance to begin something new, to do better at something. My doctors keep telling me to eat right; drink lots of water; don't breathe too much of the cold wintry air; exercise; get more rest; and take your meds. As I get older I have a difficult time finding the "right time" to do my exercises. But, as the New Year dawns, I pledge to do better.

The same is true in the church. The new year is an opportunity for us to think about our past performance and to pledge to do better at some things. We have been commissioned to show the Light of Christ to the world by the way we carry out our mission. What do you think? Looking back, how do you think we have done? What do you think we can do better? We need to put our thoughts and our feelings together to come up with some new resolutions. If you have thoughts and/or feelings to share, I'm all ears, and your elected leaders are also.

I pray that God will, again, lead us into this New Year. I pray that God's Spirit will bless us with a renewed vision and new opportunities to make his love known. I hope and pray that you have a happy and a healthy New Year.

Pastor Bud



**MESSAGE FROM
PASTOR CHRISTENSON**

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**CHRIST MAKES LIFE
EXCITING**

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“Christ Makes Life Exciting!”

All Women of the ELCA are invited to join us for a day of fun, education and inspiration during

The Northeast Conference Spring Gathering

When: February 25, 2012
Where: Christ Lutheran Church
517 8th Street, Wisner, NE
Phone: (402) 529-6285

Featured Speakers
Bishop David deFreese
Author Rachelle McCalla
Pastor Bob Bryan, Prison Ministries
And other presentations on Chair Yoga, Foot Reflexology,
Photography and Real Estate

Northeast Conference Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone: _____

Church _____ Location _____

Make checks payable to NSWO

Mail registration form and \$15 fee to: Janet Schmidt, 2639 S 38th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

Please call or e-mail Janet with questions at (402) 488-6034 or sogschmidt@inebraska.com

TANGIBLE OFFERING LIST PRISON MINISTRIES, LINCOLN AND YORK

LINCOLN

- Clothes
 - Men's Jeans 32—38
 - Men's underwear
- Hygiene products
 - Shampoo
 - Deodorant
 - Soap
- Bedding
- Dishes
- Pots and pans
- Towels

YORK

- Nursery items, 0 - 12 mo
 - Diapers
 - Baby Clothes
 - Games
 - Books
 - Toys
- Prison chapel needs:
 - Cloth for Baptismal table
 - Doilies
 - Seasonal decorations
 - Books

This is a recent list. New or gently used items are acceptable. After the Fall Doings, they have collected ample kitchen utensils. Their needs may change after the holidays so please watch for an updated list in the January newsletter from our Board Representative, Mae Greve. Thank You.

OUR RECORDS NEED YOUR HELP.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an Information Form for you to complete. Although you may have completed them in the past, we are purchasing a software used by churches that will assist us in tracking memberships as well as other pertinent information. Please take a minute and complete the form. It may be dropped off at the church or mailed back to PO Box 316, Ponca, NE 68770. We ask that you return your form by **January 15**.

Information printed beginning in February will be based on the information returned to us. Please know it is important for each of us to return a form.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Youth Group (Grades 8th through 12th)

Come join us as the youth group meets on Sunday, January 22 at 6 p.m. at the church. Everyone is welcome and bring a friend!

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to Lisa Balvantin, Michelle Rinas, Saumbra Hall and the Sunday School teachers and students who made this year's Christmas Program a success.



January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship HS Youth to The Feast and Bridges of Hope in Lincoln			5:45 Confirmation 7:30 Choir	Text Study 9:30 Bulletin Deadline		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Potluck and Annual Meeting following Wor- ship		10-2 Cluster	5:45 Confirmation 7:00 Council 7:30 Choir	Text Study 9:30 W/ELCA 7:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 PM HS Youth Gathering		10-2 Cluster	5:45 Confirmation With Parents 7:30 Choir	Text Study 9:30 Bulletin Deadline	Newsletter Deadline	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6 PM HS Youth Gathering		10-2 Cluster	5:45 Confirmation 7:30 Choir	Text Study 9:30 Bulletin Deadline		
29	30	31				

DECEMBER COUNCIL MINUTES—SUBMITTED BY JOLI GEHRING

Salem Council Minutes from December 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Schweers. Members present were, Jane Armstrong, Doug Bauman, Scott Bottorff, Brian Burrell, Kevin Dohma, Joli Gehring, Teri Harder, Monty Miller, Sheryl Persinger, and Tyler Uthof. Also present was Pastor Christenson.

The treasurer's report was provided to the council by Tammy. Jane made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Scott seconded the motion. MCU.

Teri made a motion to approve the minutes from last month and Kevin seconded the motion. MCU

The meeting then continued with the following committee's reporting:

Stewardship Focus Group – Joli reported the mission minutes have been incorporated into Sunday services. The time and talents sheets were completed and there will be many new faces helping Salem on Sunday. Pastor discussed youth activity in stewardship.

Worship & Music – Jane reported the committee had met to plan January. Joli indicated 145 hymnals have been purchased.

Christian Education – Michelle Rinas was at the church and reported the Christmas program is Sunday at 5 p.m. Practice will be Saturday morning. Sunday school attendance has improved since Thanksgiving. The Nursery through Kindergarten is in one class and may need to be split. The bake sale earned \$325 which will go to prison ministry.

Youth Ministry – Sheryl reported they met at Pastor's house on Sunday and they will begin meeting twice a month beginning January 8th (2nd and 4th of each month). The youth will help serve the soup supper. The New Orleans trip is still a possibility. The Lincoln trip that was postponed will be rescheduled for January.

Evangelism – Teri reported the silent auction raised \$1,600. The committee put the float together for the Christmas parade. They also visited shut-ins in November.

Social – Council discussed the Christmas Program and Annual meeting. Pastor talked about a senior citizen get together.

Property – Tom Torson joined the meeting to discuss the kitchen. Rick reported the holes in bedrooms at the parsonage were plastered. Scott discussed the floors being waxed.

Pastor Report: Pastor discussed a Husker Party and asked permission for Salem to host. The council approved.

New Business:

A new software package called Shepherds Staff was discussed. Doug made a motion to purchase and Teri seconded the motion. MCU. Scott made a motion to pay for the software from the undesignated memorial funds and Sheryl seconded the motion. MCU.

Christmas Gifts were discussed and approved.

The choir was discussed. Kevin made a motion to pay \$50 per week when the choir performs and Monty seconded the motion. MCU. This will be further discussed when Stewardship meets to set the budget for 2012.

The office manager position at the church was discussed with a job description presented. Brian made a motion to approve the job description and Sheryl seconded the motion. The position will be posted in the bulletin as well as the Nebraska Journal Leader.

As we closed the meeting, Pastor led us in prayer. The next meeting will be January 11, 2012 at 7 p.m.

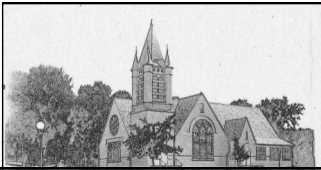
Salem Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 316
 Ponca, Nebraska 68770
salemlutheran@gpcom.net

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 Ponca, Nebraska 68770
 Permit # 8

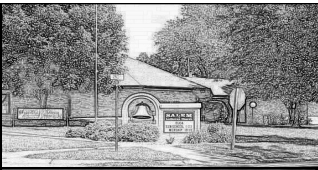
Change Service Requested

January 2012



Leadership at Salem

Church Office 402.755.2728



Council Members

Rick Schwærs— Præsident	402-755-2933 Property	Scott Bottorff	402-987-2558 Property
Jane Armstrong— Vice Præsident	402-355-2557 Worship/Music	Doug Bauman	402-755-2895 Property
Joli Gæhring— Sæcrætary	402-755-4292 Stewardship	Kevin Dohma	402-755-2911 Property
Monty Miller	402-755-2838 Stewardship	Brian Burrzil	402-755-2160 Property
Teri Harder	402-632-4468 Evangelism	Sheryl Persinger	402-755-2599 Youth Ministry
		Tyler Uthof	402-755-2149 Youth Ministry

Organist	Diane Smith	402-755-4285	Altar Guild	Connie Brinkmann	402-755-2628
Pianist	Ruth Christenson	402-755-2331	Custodian	Sandra Rahn	402-755-2869
Mutual Ministry	Bob Anderson	402-632-4567	W/ELCA	Barb Bauman	402-755-2781
Treasurer	Tammy Book	402-755-2754	Finance Sæ.	Hildi Rush	402-755-4150
Sunday School	Michelle Rinas	402-755-2697	Memorials	Willis Brinkmann	402-755-2628
	Saundra Hall	402-355-2270	Cemetery	Clair Hamar	402-632-4229