

Prayer Concerns:

- Shirley L. – Knee surgery; pray: successful outcome – 01/03/18
- Edith H. – Advancing dementia; pray: strength for family – 01/03/18
- Amara – Beginning chemo; may it be successful in eradicating any cancer cells – 12/31/17upd
- Eileen B. – Beginning chemo; may it be successful in eradicating any cancer cells – 12/31/17upd
- Deborah – unresolved medical issues; pray: resolution/healing – 12/08/17
- Daniel – cancer; pray: successful treatment, remission – 12/08/17
- Joey – several medical issues; pray: diagnosis & recovery – 11/28/17
- Paul – left hip replace; pray: success & speedy recovery – 11/26/17
- Hazel -- just entered hospice; pray: Peaceful passing – 11/25/17
- Sue L. – Lung infection; pray: speedy and complete cure – 11/17/17
- Greg – Skin cancer; pray: successful treatment, remission – 11/17/17
- Sandy – problem issues; pray: help & answers – 11/8/17
- Carol – undiagnosed pain; pray: relief, comfort, healing – 11/8/17
- Shirley – cancer; pray for her & her family – 11/8/17
- Bonnie – bone cancer discovered; pray: successful treatment, remission – 11/8/17
- John – kidney to be removed; pray: success going forward – 11/6/17
- Derek – renewed difficulties with Crohn’s Disease; pray: speedy recovery & resolution – 11/1/17
- Jim O. – another fall, broken hip; pray: speedy healing – 10/18/17(upd)



Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

God’s Higher Purpose

No moment, event, or detail falls outside of God’s supervision. God is the one who “causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matthew 5:45 NIV). He isn’t making up this plan as he goes along. Daniel 5:21 says, “The most High God rules the kingdom of men, and sets over it whom he will.”

So, if God is in charge, why does he permit challenges to come our way? Wouldn’t an almighty God prevent them? Not if they serve his higher purpose. The ultimate example is the death of Christ on the cross! Everyone thought the life of Jesus was over. Jesus was dead and buried, but God raised him from the dead. God took the crucifixion of Friday and turned it into the celebration of Sunday. Can he not do a reversal for you?

Responsive Reading: Psalm 72: 5-11

- North: May the King live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- South: *May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.*
- North: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- South: *May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute.*
- North: May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
- South: *May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.*



1st Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

2nd Lesson: Ephesians 3:7-9

I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, *"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."*

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, *"In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"*

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, *"Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."*

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Make a Note-able(s)...

Study-able...

The Men's & Women's group/Bible study sessions will commence/resume January 10th. The women's group has received rave reviews and there is no reason the new men's version will do any less...Interested? See Pr. Rob!

Is it your turn-able?...

There are two ministries here at Salem that need some love (by way of volunteering). They are:

- Supplying & Serving treats
- Usher duties
- Lector (reading the lesson on Sunday)

Neither of these are burdensome in any way, take little time, and little effort. Is it *your* turn? Sign up sheets on the bulletin board.

Parish-wide-able...

Sunday, February 4th – Annual Meeting – yes, it's that time again. This meeting is for all members and those considering membership!

The meeting discloses the financial condition of the church as well as discusses the status of ongoing ministries and other activities here at Salem. The church council will have some seats available.

If you are interested in being a part of the guidance of this church and its membership, please consider putting your name "in the hat" to join the council. Qualifications? Be a member for at least 1 year and be 18 or older. The council meets every month on the second Tuesday @ 6:30pm. If you are interested, see Pastor Rob or Kevin Almendinger (council president).



Catechetical-able...

Part 1 – The Ten Commandments

The Introduction – *"I am the Lord your God"*

The Third Commandment – *"Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy."*

What does this mean? – We should fear and love God so that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of it.

Grin-ables...

More Bulletin Bloopers (from 'other' churches ☺)

- ❖ The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.
- ❖ The agenda was adopted...the minutes were approved... the financial secretary gave a grief report.
- ❖ Announcement in a church bulletin for a National Prayer & Fasting Conference: *"The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals."*



Calendar...

- ☐ Next Council Meeting – January 9th @ 6:30pm
- ☐ Next Communion – January 21st