

Here's a quick newsletter to keep you abreast of what is happening at Salem...

Salem had a full fall – a good thing:

- We've been having 3-8 kids participate in **Sunday School** each week.
- **Confirmation** for six teens was celebrated back in September.
- We had our annual **fall clean-up** of the cemetery/grounds; thanks to all who helped. *We are looking for people to serve on our cemetery board; please consider serving.*
- The **angel** (St. Michael) which Jim Otwell carved and donated has ended its stand guarding our cemetery (deterioration had set in); thanks to Lee Debele and Mitch Olson for taking care of this...and thank you, Jim, for this donation years ago.
- We had our **roof** replaced the end of October as well; the crew brought in through Knight Construction did a very good job. The **paint** was also touched up on the west gable end of the original building and the bell-tower; thanks to Jake Puchtel for helping out.
- On Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, 15 people helped pack meals for LifeRice in Cambridge to be donated to the Venezuelan refugees in Columbia; our congregation also donated over \$800 to the cause!
- We welcomed Evie Yates and Jim/Rosalind Elmquist as **new members** on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

We expect to have an exciting start to our winter, too:

- **Thanksgiving Eve Service** and Pie Social will take place at 7pm, Wednesday, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>.
- We will once again participate as **bell ringers** for Salvation Army at County Market in North Branch on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 10-7. If you are interested in volunteering for this, please contact Duane Bengtson at 651.706.4235.
- During the **Wednesdays of Advent** (Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>), we will meet at 7pm to learn about the Creed and to pray/sing in preparation for Christmas.
- While the **Women's Bible Study** won't meet until January (due to the Thanksgiving Eve and Wednesday night Advent services), the **Men's Group** will meet again Sat, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 8-9:30 am.
- We will decorate the **Christmas tree** after the service on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Almendingers and the Stacy Tree Farm for donating the tree and wreaths.
- The **kids' Christmas Program** will be featured during the Sunday service time (9:30) on Dec 15th; practices for this will be held during Sunday School time on Sundays Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, and Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like your child to be involved, please contact a Sunday School teacher or Pr Rob and plan to attend as many of the practices as possible.
- **Communion** in December will be celebrated on Sun, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, due to the Kids' program.
- We will again have a candle-lit **Christmas Eve** service on Tues, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, at 5pm.

As we near Thanksgiving, I would like to thank all of you for the way you are involved at Salem. Through various levels and ways, each of you brings something to the community. Your prayer, your light, your service, and your welcome for others in the name of Christ is so noticeable. I know each of the folks here is thankful for the other members of our community. Let's give thanks to God this season for our community, our faith, and the many blessings that have been bestowed on our congregation. May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a holy Advent, and a blessed Christmas season. In Christ, I remain yours. Rob.      651.261.7333      robkrajewski72@gmail.com