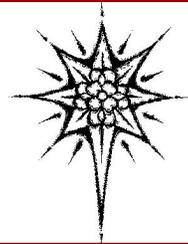


SALEM CHIMES

Volume 62 Issue 9

January/February 2014

Matching Grant Awarded: pg. 2
Choose Forgiveness: pg. 4
Guest on January 26: pg. 7



Diaper Drive: pg. 8
Youth Winter Retreat: pg. 8
Advent/Christmas: pgs. 10-11

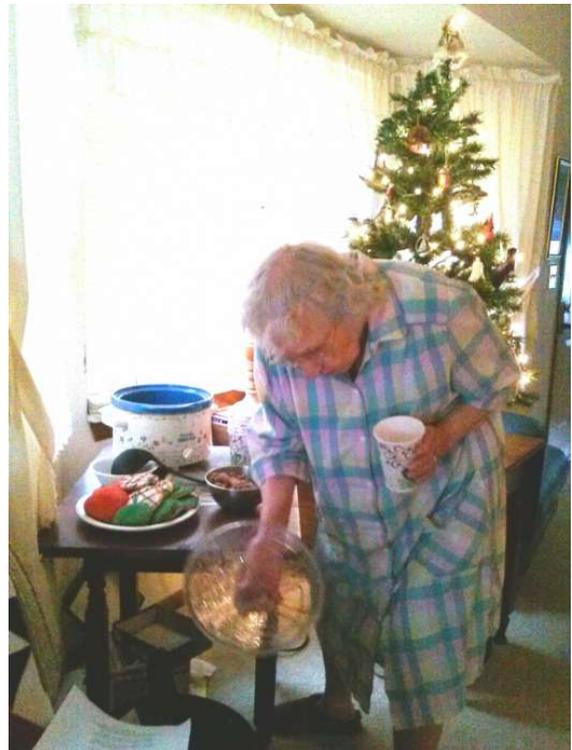
Dear Friends,

In this Season of Epiphany people frequently reflect back on the holy days and holidays remembering them with fondness, and, perhaps, comparing them with years past.

For the past two years I have taken our youth caroling when I take Christmas Communion to our folks who are not able to be with us on Sunday mornings. I am not sure who enjoys it more. The youth talked about each home we visited last year and what they remembered about each person. The homebound folks wanted to know who would be coming and what they remember about each youth.

One never knows when one of these experiences becomes a deep-rooted memory. The night before we visited, Madge told her son, Doug, we would be coming the next day. Doug reminded Madge of his fond memories of caroling. Doug remembered going from home to home, being invited in and the refreshments served. The next morning Doug showed up at his parents' home with refreshments for the youth. He filled a table with hot cider, roasted nuts, cookies and candy—just like when he was a boy.

The youth sat on the floor circled about Madge's feet as she told about the Salem of several decades ago and the activities her children enjoyed at Salem. She told them about Doug and why he wanted to give them an experience that was so important to him.



Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

2

What memories are our children and grandchildren going to have of Church and God? Are there going to be ones that will be triggered by a casual comment? We need to provide as many opportunities and experiences as possible. If we do not, there are far too many other things out there that will seep in instead.

Peace,

Pastor Bonnie

PS A big thanks to Doug, Madge and Ed!

President's Page

Thrivent Awards Matching Grant to Salem

The Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation has awarded Salem a *Matthew 25: Neighbors in Need* Challenge Grant for 2014. For each dollar received by March 31, 2014, in support of Salem's ESL classes, Thrivent Foundation will give us \$0.50. In order to fully fund Salem's 2014 ESL budget, our goal for this fundraising project is to raise \$2,668.00 by March 31. All money raised through this matching grant will go to pay the expense of our certified ESL class supervisor, Amadou Sy. In addition to our Clothing Bank, the ESL classes are the most influential part of our current Outreach Ministry to our community. Using the Matthew 25 Challenge Grant to help pay for the expense of running these classes will help us avoid dipping into savings to pay for this or other budgeted ministry items. When you give to this special fund drive, please write "for Matthew 25 Grant" on your check or offering envelope.

Our goal in establishing these classes nearly a year ago, is to teach our students English so that they may get a job or get a better-paying job. This past year we have had students from more than a dozen countries spread over Central America, South America, Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Orient. The Pike Township schools have discontinued adult ESL classes, so our classes fill a significant need. These classes are provided free of charge to our students so that there will be no reason not to attend our classes where they practice speaking, reading, and writing English under the direction of our volunteer instructors, most of whom are Salem members.

Continued on next page.

In Matthew, Chapter 25, Jesus said, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." And when he was asked 'when did we do this,' he replied, "Truly I tell you, when you did it to one of the least of these . . . you did it to me." Salem has always been a welcoming and friendly church. The same friendliness that made Rosemary and I, and Rosemary's parents, feel welcome when we joined Salem more than 30 years ago is still here. We're now passing that welcome on to strangers from foreign countries who've made long and sometimes perilous journeys to reach this country where they hope to make a better life. Many times I've seen our ESL students struggle with a word or phrase after working a long, hard day for meager pay and think, 'How do they have the energy to absorb this?' Giving them deserved praise and seeing their smiles when they get it right makes the struggle worthwhile.

My wife, Rosemary, wanted to start ESL classes at Salem some time ago, and now, finally, because of Pastor Bonnie's desire to connect with the diverse, immigrant community in Pike Township, we have made a successful start in 2013. Please help us keep these classes going by making a donation to the Salem 2014 Matthew 25 Grant, and help us reach our matching fund goal of \$2,668.00!

I would also like to remind you that Energizing Indiana, a non-profit corporation like Salem, is providing free home energy assessments. For every assessment performed, they will donate \$25.00 to Salem. Once an appointment has been made, a person will come to your home or condo at your convenience, and evaluate your energy usage. They will look at, for example, your thermostat, appliances, furnace and water heater, and inspect your attic and the exterior of your home. After the assessment is done, you will receive a printed evaluation and some free gifts: CFL energy-saving bulbs and water-saving faucet aerators and showerheads, all of which they will install, if you desire, free of charge.

One Salem member remarked to me that she was not able to use compact fluorescent bulbs in her three-way lamps at home. Three-way CFL bulbs, now available in most hardware stores, are not part of the free energy-saving kit you will receive for having the energy assessment done, but, in addition to the six free 13-watt bulbs (equivalent to a 60-watt incandescent bulb) provided, you will also receive two 18-watt bulbs (equivalent to a 75-watt incandescent bulb) and one 23-watt bulb (equivalent to a 100-watt incandescent bulb), for those fixtures where you need more illumination. The greatest advantage about CFL bulbs in general, I think, is the fact that they last five years or longer in normal usage. This is in addition to the savings in kilowatt-hours of electricity used, which means lower utility bills!

Continued on next page.

The gentleman who came to do our energy assessment was very pleasant, and it was nice to hear him confirm some of the energy-saving modifications we have made in our home. If you are interested in saving some money and being a good steward of the planet that God has provided, please have an energy audit done and for doing it, provide a \$25.00 donation to Salem from Energizing Indiana.

I want to thank those families who have already had an energy assessment done. We have received at least one \$25.00 donation from Energizing Indiana, and we expect to receive more, so please help Salem by scheduling an energy assessment of your home. We have postage-paid, appointment-request cards available for your use in scheduling a free energy assessment, so please call or e-mail the church office.

Charles Rader

Charles Rader
Council President

New Life in a New Year

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:19; NRSV)



The Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) church is the Indiana-Kentucky Synod's global companion in Indonesia. Four of us from this mission territory visited the church and our companion district, Sumatera Timur, in early December. While there I learned that in some HKBP families

New Year's traditions are more important than Christmas, partly because they focus on forgiveness. When I asked her about this, HKBP Deaconess Lamria Sinaga said this is true for her family and graciously described for me what her family does to ring in the New Year:



Bishop William O. Gafkjen

Continued on next page.

My family gathers together at midnight. We have short worship that includes singing, Bible readings, and an offering. The offering goes to the church to thank God who delivers us again to a new year and a new day. After the worship, my father asks us to share honestly our experiences of the old year and our hopes for the New Year. We begin with the youngest and move toward the oldest in the family. We sometimes cry, because our sharing is about how we have hurt each other by what we've said and done in the past year. We ask forgiveness of one another and offer forgiveness to each other. After we have finished sharing our confession and our forgiveness, the oldest in my family offers prayer. Then we share hugs and handshakes and eat together. After awhile we go to my grandfather's house and do the same thing, usually finishing early in the morning. My father says that a heart full of being forgiven and forgiving others will bring us through the new year full of joy and happiness and makes it possible, even when we find trouble and difficulty in the future, to encourage one another.

Creating a list of New Year's resolutions intended to improve our lives is good. Popping corks and exchanging kisses to welcome the New Year is fun. Standing on the threshold between the past and the future and honestly confessing how we have hurt each other and seeking and offering forgiveness is essential. It's the ring on which the keys to God's kingdom hang.

After all, how can we move forward into newness when we are still bound to the hurts, sins, and brokenness of the past? How can we walk into to God's future together when festering resentments and aching hearts keep us apart?

The primary words for "forgiveness" and "forgive" in New Testament Greek are forms of *áphesis* and *aphíēmi* [e.g. Matt:14-15; 18:35]. The common root of these words means to let go, to free or be set free. To forgive and be forgiven, then, is to set others free, to be set free ourselves. God does the forgiving, of course. In forgiving and being forgiven we experience the freeing, life-giving power of that gracious gift in our lives. In the act of forgiveness we become means of God's grace for others and we ourselves are set free to welcome the new future that God offers.

Now that the lists of resolutions have been inked and the corks have been popped, these early days of 2014 provide time for us – as individuals and families and as congregations – to follow the example of our sisters and brothers of the HKBP. Can we trust God's grace and be honest with ourselves and with one another about the ways we are still in bondage to the sins, resentments, and hurts of the past and offer to one another the freedom of forgiveness, today and throughout this emerging New Year.

+ Bishop Bill Gafkjen

CHIMES

Published monthly

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

4700 W. 72nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46268
(317) 291-5004

Worship Schedule:
Sunday School 9:00 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

pastor@salemELCA.com
Twitter: @salemELCA

office@SalemELCA.com
www.salemELCA.com



Happy Birthday!

Jan 20

Joseph Chibvongodze

Jan 22

Tom Alexander

Jan 24

Ernestine Allen

Jan 27

Fred Freeman

Feb 13

Charlene Chibvongodze

Feb 19

Bart Richardson

Feb 26

Angela Agresti

Feb 26

Rhunell Gruender

Feb 26

Rosanne Iles

Annual Meeting Set for February 23rd

The 2014 Annual Meeting of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, February 23rd, 2014, in Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A pitch-in lunch will precede this meeting, so please bring a dish to share. The meat, beverage, and table service will be provided.

Items of business on the agenda for the meeting include the presentation of the 2013 Annual Reports, the presentation of the Harry Bowden Service Award, and the election of representatives to the 2014 Synod Assembly, which will be held on June 5 – 7 in Indianapolis. The 2014 Nominating Committee will also be elected, and there will be a time for open discussion, where you may ask questions or discuss concerns about Salem or its ministries.

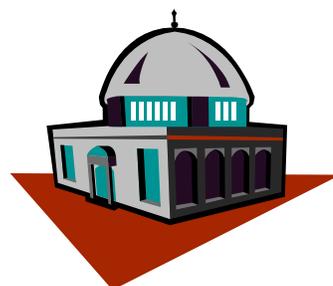
Voting Members will receive by mail a written notice, and notice will also be announced in church on February 9th and 16th. Everyone is invited to attend, but only Voting Members will be able to vote. If you are uncertain about your status as a Voting Member, please contact the church office.

Salem Ministry Teams

Christian Education Ministry Team

Sunday School

The ELCA has been in Lutheran-Muslim Dialogue for several decades. The I-K Synod also promotes this relationship. An October email filtered down from Church-wide encouraging churches to become more involved in Lutheran-Muslim dialogue and relationships. Salem is one of the few churches involved and working with the Muslim sector through our ESL program. During Sunday School classes we are looking at Islam's various sects in order to better understand the religious beliefs of our friends.



The hymn *People, Look East* is the inspiration for Sunday School during Epiphany Season. The people of the Middle East have been entwined with religious history from the earliest oral traditions to Salem's current ESL (English as a Second Language) program. We are looking at the Semitic Religions (Judaism, Islam, and Christianity), how they evolved and are connected.

As part of this, Dr. Edward Curtis, IV will join us for Worship on January 26. His sermon will be "A Christian's Journey with Islam." After worship he will have a time of Questions and answers when people are invited to share questions and thoughts about our neighbors. Read more about Dr. Curtis below.



Dr. Edward E. Curtis, IV

Baptized Roman Catholic and confirmed Presbyterian, Edward Curtis is today a leading expert on Islam in America. He is Millennium Chair of the Liberal Arts and Professor of Religious Studies at IUPUI. Curtis is author or editor of seven books, including *Muslim in America: A Short History*, named one of the 100 best books of 2009 by *Publishers Weekly*.

Continued on next page.

Youth

Winter Retreat

The winter Youth Event (February 28-March 1) is an overnight service project for middle schoolers and parents. This is a 24 hour servant event opportunity called ***Hands and Feet***.

The theme verse for the event is Galatians 5:13, *For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.* The goal of the retreat is to connect youth with their peers through service projects that teach the simple things they can do to share God's love with one another.

The event will be filled with games, music, breakout sessions, service projects and Worship. The retreat will be at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Closing Worship is at 2:30 the following afternoon. Registration deadline is January 26. Please see Pr. Bonnie for registration forms.

Outreach Ministry Team

Clothing Bank

We continue to receive new items for the clothing bank. We need someone to sort through the new items and place them in the correct section. Fortunately we are receiving more children's clothing, but we can always use more. Please see Pastor Bonnie if you can help with sorting.

The Clothing Bank is open Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Sundays 12:00-1:00 p.m. Other times are available by appointment.

Diaper Drive

West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod is the domestic companion synod for the I-K mission territory? People in this synod were adversely affected in many ways by the recent shutdown of drinking water to the area.

The consequences of the chemical spill/water disaster in southern West Virginia may go on for weeks/months after the water is flowing again. For example, workers at restaurants closed by the water disaster do not make minimum wage and depend on tips to make up the difference. Right now some people cannot afford to purchase baby diapers.

Continued on next page.

Community Lutheran Partners will be holding a diaper drive. Visit www.clp-online.org and click on “donate” or mail donations to PO Box 3054, Wheeling, WV 26003. The diapers will be distributed to food pantries in the affected areas.

Old Fashion Days

Pastor Bonnie visited College Park Elementary for Old Fashion Days. Pastor Bonnie told the second graders about doing laundry in 1836. The children would have to go down to the banks of Little Eagle Creek for buckets of water and carry the heavy buckets back to their cabin. Once home, mother would heat water over the fire and then use the scrub board to scrub clothes clean. It was a fun experiment, however, everyone agreed that is is a lot easier living in 2013.



Game Night on February 15

The Fellowship Hall will be warm and toasty as Salem Game Night resumes on the Ides of February. Please join us for food and fellowship. Wii bowling is usually available. Bring your favorite game, a snack or just yourself. The food begins at 5:45 p.m.



Anniversary Cake

Salem celebrated 40 years of fellowship and community service of the Salem Fellowship Hall. After Worship, we cut the cake and looked at the original building plans and budget from 1973.

Advent & Christmas

Ringin' for the Salvation Army in the cold fall weather: Fred Freeman, Rosanne Iles, Joe Chibvongodze and Burt Hall. Thank you to ALL who rang!



Pastor Wade Apel lead our Worship on the Second Sunday of Advent. His wife, Pastor Heather Apel and daughter also joined us on December 8.

Right: Thank you to Rhunell for helping provide the Moravian Love Feast on December 15.
Below: the refreezing of our snow



melt iced up our steps. The ramp door offered safe entrance.

Advent & Christmas

11



It's A Wrap Party

Eunice Kahuri, Nancy Alexander and Stephanie Kahuri help wrap the gifts for our Giving Tree families. Meanwhile, Laura Morgan is stringing the lights in the sanctuary. THANKS to all who helped on December 22.



Left: Celebrating the birth of our Savior with a traditional *Lessons & Carols* service on Sunday, December 29. Special thanks to all who served on the Worship teams of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship. Thank you also to those who contributed to our Poinsettias.

Photographer: Devoe Slisher

Worship Serving Schedule

	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	USHERS	GREETERS
Jan 26	Barbara Agresti	Charlene Chibvongodze	Joseph Chibvongodze	Pete Bush Don Gregg	Bel Hedlund Tatenda K.
Feb 2	Laura Morgan	Payton Karanja	Richard Budach	Susan Kunze Nina Agbota	Stephanie & Eunice K.
Feb 9	Keith Kunze	Chris Shepler	Gbefa Agbota	Fred Freeman Burt Hall	Christie V. Ennet K.
Feb 16	Barbara Agresti	Stephanie Kahuri	Christine Chibvongodze	Joseph C. Fred Freeman	Laura M. Constance K.
Feb 23	Laura Morgan	Gino Agresti	Charlene Chibvongodze	Don Gregg Pete Bush	Bel Hedlund Dixie R.



FEBRUARY 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Kevin Patty	27 Fred Freeman <i>Happy Birthday!</i>	28 Tom Alexander	29 Dena Slisher	30 Char Johnson	31 Kyle Daehler	1 Jan Budach
2 Ellen & Russell Schlaak	3 Madge and Ed Hightshue	4 Sherman & Margie King	5 Geraldene Sterrett	6 Ernestine Allen	7 Rita Cole	8 Treva Marks
9 Harry Bowden	10 Mary Lou Etchison	11 Nina Agbota	12 Gbefa Agbota	13 Charlene Chibvongodze <i>Happy Birthday!</i>	14 Barbara Agresti	15 Gino Agresti
16 Connie Alexander	17 Nancy Alexander	18 Jeff Barraclough	19 Bart Richardson <i>Happy Birthday!</i>	20 Ismay Broomes	21 Richard Budach	22 Pete Bush
23 Joseph Chibvongodze	24 Naphy Chibvongodze	25 Christine Chibvongodze	26 Angela Agresti Rhunell G. Rosanne Iles <i>Happy Birthday!</i>	27 Chenai Chibvongodze	28 Loraine Cox	

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Dr. Curtis, Guest Preacher</p>	<p>27 Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe; Helpers of the Apostles</p>	<p>28 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall Thomas Aquinas, Teacher, 1274</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1 Brigid (Bride), Abbess 523</p>
<p>2 The Presentation of Our Lord 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Brown Bag Youth Sermon</p>	<p>3 Ansgar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Mission- ary to Denmark and Sweden, 865</p>	<p>4 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall Cornelius, the Centurion</p>	<p>5 Paul Miki and His Companions, Martyrs of Japan, 1597</p>	<p>6 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Council Meeting 12:30 p.m. Indianapolis Conference Annual Meeting @ 2:00 p Cross & Crown Lutheran</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>14 Cyril, Monk, 865; Methodius, Bishop, 885; Missionaries to the Slavs</p>	<p>15 5:45 pm Salem Game Night Bring a snack or dish to share.</p>
<p>16 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall Martin Luther, Renewer of the Church, 1546</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 10:30 Worship Dinner & Annual Congregational Meeting follows the service.</p>	<p>24 St. Matthias, Apostle</p>	<p>25 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>28 Youth Overnight Retreat</p>	<p>February 23: Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, 156</p>