

# SALEM SPIRIT



*Our Vision:*

*To be a congregation of disciples proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all.*

*Our Mission:*

*To Glorify God in all that we do, reflecting His love to our community and the world.*

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## CHRISTMAS CANTATA "CANDLES & CAROLS"

*On Sunday, December 21st, the combined choirs of Salem Lutheran Church - the Senior Choir, the Early Risers, and the Contemporary Worship Team - are pleased to present this year's Christmas Cantata "Candles & Carols."*

*"Candles & Carols" celebrates the lighting of the 4 advent candles and ends with the lighting of the Christ candle to lead us into the celebration of Christmas. It also features congregational participation and singing - so we hope you will join us for this very special musical experience, presented at both the 8:00 am and 10:30 am services.*



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SALEM LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 A.M.  
9:15 A.M.  
10:30 A.M.

BIBLE SCHOOL

9:15 A.M.

DECEMBER, 2008

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Wayne Schmidt  
Asst. Pastor Jefferson Cox  
Organist/Senior Director of Choirs  
Jim Kuzman  
CW Team Leader Sara Petefish  
Secretary Linda Magnuson  
Grounds Keeper .RonVasak

Beloved of Christ,

*"Come and worship, come and worship.*

*Worship Christ, the new-born king."*

*Carol: "Angels, from the Realm of Glory"*

Worship. As we read St. Luke's marvelous accounting of the Nativity of Christ worship was the initial response of both angel and shepherd.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,\* praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,' and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Son of God in natal quiet takes on humanity. Emmanuel-God with us. The wonder of it all! Though it is two thousand years later, is there any better response to the Incarnation of Christ than to "join in praising God" by worshipping him at his birth?

This Christmas Eve we will be offering FIVE opportunities to "come and worship Christ." As in previous years, traditional Candelight-Communion Services will be offered at 4:30 pm, 8:30 pm and 10:30 pm. And again this year, Kermit the Frog will be visiting us during our "Family Service" worship offering at 6:30 pm. This Christmas Eve we are adding to our schedule a 2:30 pm worship offering. This is yet another wonderful opportunity for our congregation to bring "the good news of great joy" to even more people.

But, why not a midnight service rather than one in the mid-afternoon? Excellent question? Upon examining the recorded attendance for our Christmas Eve services - a trend appears. People are choosing to worship earlier on Christmas Eve rather than later. In 1993, 303 worshippers attended the 10:30 service and 169 worshippers attended the 6:30 service. In 1999, those figures were reversed. On that Christmas Eve, 306 worshippers attended 6:30 service and 163 worshippers attended the 10:30 service, Interesting!

If you take the total attendance figure for each of the last five Christmas Eves, the percentage of those who are choosing to worship at the **late service** has **decreased** and those choosing to **worship earlier** on Christmas Eve has **increased**. Again, interesting. Last year 137 worshippers attended the 4:30 pm service, while 131 worshippers attended the 10:30 pm service. The 10:30 pm service is still an important worship offering, but it is not the mainstay of our Christmas Eve worship services. The 6:30 pm "Family Service," with its emphasis on children, became such in 1995.

So, who is going to attend the 2:30 pm service? Excellent question! Perhaps--those who want to worship on Christmas Eve but don't like to drive at night. Perhaps--those who will be having supper at a relatives's home on Christmas Eve and want to worship before they have to leave. Perhaps--out-of-town quests to our area will find this time convenient. Perhaps--those that have to work on the night of Christmas Eve.

The fact of the matter is--I don't know who this service may attract. I do know that in 2003, we added a 4:30 pm offering and people came to worship the new-born king. In 1995 we added an 8:30 pm worship offering and people came to worship the "Messiah". And in 1990 we added a 6:30 pm offering and people came to worship the "Christ". Also, I do know that we are called as a church and commissioned as a congregation to "proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all."

It was our joy last year to have 733 worshippers attend one of our four Christmas Eve services. If offered yet a fifth opportunity perhaps even more might "worship" on Christmas Eve at Salem Lutheran Church. But more importantly -- perhaps they who do "worship" will "come" into a saving relationship with Jesus and personally "proclaim" him as their Lord and King.

Jesus' Joy be yours,

*Pastor Schmidt*



## MT QUARTERLY OUTCOME STATUS REPORT

### 3rd Quarter

#### OUTCOMES for 2008

##### I. DISCIPLESHIP

**I. A. Increase the number of pledging units to at least 100.**

**ACTIONS TAKEN:** The initial response to our 2008 Investment in Mission was the highest on record; 74 giving units returned pledges.

**CURRENT STATUS:** An additional 20 pledges have been received.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** We have reached 94% of our goal. No new pledges in the third quarter.

**I. B. Involve at least 20 members in the work of the church committees who have not previously participated.**

**ACTION TAKEN:** The monthly standing committee reports have been formatted to include a listing for number of members involved for the first time. This is the tool we are using to track the progress of this outcome.

**CURRENT STATUS:** During the 3rd quarter of 2008 we had 6 members participate in church committee work who have not previously participated; 2 with Property, 2 with Worship and Music and 2 with Learning. That brings our total for the year to 18.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** We have reached 90% of our goal.

**I. C. Increase the attendance in Sunday morning learning activities by 10% (both youth and adult).**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Efforts continue in providing quality Christian Education for both our children and adults.

**CURRENT STATUS:** The 3rd quarter of 2008 (5 Sundays) has averaged 30 children per Sunday. Adult learning classes have not resumed to date.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** Statistically, our average attendance for children in Sunday School continues to decrease, while the Adult average has remained constant.. Attention needs to be given to addressing these trends.

**I. D. Develop and deliver a course of study on Discipleship to at least 15 members.**

**ACTION TAKEN:** A course of study entitled "A Closer Walk" began in September. 11 members along with Pastor Schmidt are participating.

**CURRENT STATUS:** This course will run through the beginning of 2009.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** The group has met in September and will have the opportunity to meet in smaller groups throughout the course. We have reached 73% of our goal.

**I. E. Involve at least 200 confirmed members in pledging to read the New Testament over the course of the year.**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Concerted efforts were made at collecting signatures in pledging to read the New Testament throughout the first quarter. In addition, the Lenten Series along with the post-Easter mid-week dinner and Bible reading have focused on the importance that reading the Bible plays in our lives. Our Summer Sermon Series "Bible Blueprints" is studying various themes that appear throughout scriptures and their relevance to our lives today.

**CURRENT STATUS:** During the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2008 we have collected 100 signatures. No additional signatures have been collected.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** We have reached 50% of our goal. However, in looking at this from a different perspective, there has been considerable activity in other areas. From "Delving into the Bible" during our Lenten Series, the "Bible Blueprints" during Summer Fest and the Bible study on the book of Revelations this Fall; considerable attention has been given to increasing our attention to and knowledge of God's word.

**II. ASSIMILATION**

**II. A. Increase our active membership rolls by at least 5% over 2007.**

**ACTION TAKEN:** During the 3rd quarter of 2008 we received 1 new member through Baptism and 2 new members through transfer or Affirmation of Faith for a total of 3.

**CURRENT STATUS:** This represents an increase of 29 new members during the year to date for an increase of 5.95%.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** We have reached our goal.

**II. B. Increase average Sunday attendance by 5% over the 2007 average.**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Our average worship attendance for the 3rd quarter of 2008 was 183.

**CURRENT STATUS:** The average attendance for the first 9 months of 2008 was 216.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** The average attendance for the first 9 months of 2008 compared with the first 9 months of 2007 is up 5%.

**II. C. Contact at least 20 members who have been removed or are about to be removed from the active roles.**

**ACTION TAKEN:** The Congregational Care Committee is taking the lead for this Outcome. The committee has met and is formalizing those steps which are taken when members become inactive.

**CURRENT STATUS:** A list has been generated of members who need to be contacted. This list will be reviewed and members contacted. An outline of specific steps to be taken when members drift away from Salem has been completed and will be shared with the pastors for their input.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** We have reached 50% of our goal.

**II. D. Provide at least two publicized Sundays for members to invite friends to church.**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Two dates have been selected; Sunday, September 7 and Wednesday evening during Advent, December 3.

**CURRENT STATUS:** Invite a Friend to Church was held in conjunction with Rally Day on Sunday, August 24 complete with an Ice Cream Social!

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** We have reached 50% of our goal.

**II. E. At least monthly, announce at all services that members should introduce themselves to at least 2 visitors and 2 members of Salem they don't know.**

**ACTION TAKEN:** To date, no action has been taken on this outcome.

**CURRENT STATUS:** Unknown.

**PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL:** None.

### **III. SERVICE**

**III. A. Provide at least two new mission service projects in 2008.**

**ACTION TAKEN:** In conjunction with the Mission Team, the Service Committee is evaluating and developing several ideas for mission service projects.

