

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.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to everyone who contributed to this year's Christmas cantata. The singers of the Early Risers Choir, Contemporary Worship Team, and Senior Choir gave not only of their talent but of their time at rehearsals and practices in an already busy holiday season, for which I am grateful. Special 'thank you's' to our acolytes, narrators, and multi-media volunteers whose presence added immeasurably to the experience...to Pastor Schmidt and Pastor Cox for their support of our music program...and to Sara Petefish for her creativity and masterful direction.

*Sincerely,
Jim Kuzman*



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.

JANUARY, 2009

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 .Ron Vasak

Dear Members and Friends of Salem Lutheran Church,

A new year brings new possibilities! As our congregation looks back on 2008 and forward to this new year, we are blessed to have a fantastic document to guide us in work together, our Strategic Plan. This year's Strategic Plan is both streamlined and expanded. Instead of 15 or so goals as we had last year, this year's plan has only 10, so it's streamlined. They are as follows.

Under Discipleship we have these three; 1.) We receive 100% of our budgeted income for 2009; 2.) one hundred Salem members make a commitment to impact other at their workplace, school, and/or community through acts of Christian compassion or witness; and 3.) one hundred confirmed members are enrolled in a home devotional program.

Under Assimilation we have these two: 1.) average Sunday attendance is increased by 5% over the 2008 average; and 2.) three new fellowship experiences are provided this year that provide opportunities for building relationships within the congregation.

Under Service we have three: 1.) one new mission service project is initiated in 2009; 2.) one new special emphasis offering is collected; and 3.) one new community event is held that will impact the needs or recognize the services of the local area.

But instead of only 3 critical targets (Discipleship, Assimilation, and Service), we've added a fourth, Heart, which is defined as "To provide all the resources necessary to meet the vision for the ministry of the Gospel by Salem Lutheran Church. This includes faith, hope, love, courage, compassion, and the commitment of time, talents, and treasures by the people of God." Our critical targets for Heart are these two: 1.) a specific action plan for facility improvement is in place with a timeline for completion; 2.) quarterly updates as provided regarding progress, anticipated commitments and cost, and opportunities for congregational involvement.

I hope that these plans are both pleasing to God and inspiring to us as a congregation, so that our growth in discipleship, assimilation, service and heart can continue as we increase our ability to impact our community and world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Keep you eyes out for future notices about these opportunities.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jeff*

From your Mission Team

Here are some of the highlights from the December Mission Team Meeting

* *The 2009 Strategic Plan for Salem was approved for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting Part I on Sunday, December 14.*

* *Contributions of over \$4,000 were received in response to the needs of those affected by the hurricanes in Texas as well as Haiti. \$2,000 had been sent to aid the victims in Haiti. Those who pledged money should make every effort to fulfill that pledge prior to the end of 2008.*

* *Thanks were expressed to those Mission Team members whose terms have expired and those who are not returning: Matt Kurtz, Paul Linnell and Eric Schubert.*

* *Look for the complete minutes of Mission Team meetings on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the bathrooms. Also, don't forget to check our website for a listing of events and activities. (www.salemlec.net).*

*Yours in Discipleship,
Eric Schubert
Mission Team President*

*MISSION TEAM FOR 2009
President.....Scott Fetterhoff
Vice President.... Keith Thompson
Secretary..... Meredith Csobadi
Treasurer..... Bill Rundle*

YEAR END PROPERTY & BUILDING ACTIVITIES

To close out the year the Property & Building Committee hosted four work days; two occurring in November, followed by a third work day on December 13th, and a final leaf clean-up party on December 23rd.

In November the large piles of accumulated landscape debris were ground-up and used for mulch around the campus. Also accomplished in November was the clean-up of the large curbed planter at the west end of the building turning it into a manageable landscape garden. The December 13th work day was interior focused involving the repair of wall and ceiling finishes. Three of the noted work days included removing those ever present fall leaves from the parking lot.

Thank you for the volunteer efforts of Dick Ericson, Bill Rundle, Sean Rundle, Scott Fetterhoff, Jeff Scott, Ivan Carrasquillo, and Ray Lien. A special thank you to Bill Rundle for renting the chipper.



Dr. Phillips Elementary named Debra Greene its support person of the year. Ms. Greene has worked at DPES for three years and works with second and fifth grade teachers and students. She also assists students in the lunch room and dismisses students every day.

LISTENING FOR GOD RESUMES JANUARY 7

We had a good beginning with our short story series "Listening for God" before Thanksgiving. We hope all those who participated will join us again along with lots of new folks. Confirmation parents get a special invitation. Please consider taking this opportunity for your own growth in faith while your children are growing theirs.

We will be reading a series of short stories by contemporary authors and discussing how their faith is evidenced in their work and what we take from their work for our growth. We ask that participants read the story in preparation for the class. Tom Johnson and Eleanor Mecklenburg will take turns leading the discussions. Either of them or one of the pastor's can provide you with a copy of the short story of the week. We will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. (Please note that dinner will not be provided.)

SALEM SMALL GROUP BRIDGE PLAYERS

If you enjoy playing bridge once a month or so with some fun Salem people, please join us for our Friday January 30, 2009 at 7:00 pm get together at the home of Jo and Don Nelson. Please call Jo or Don at 407-351-4388 as early as possible so they can work for multiples of 4 people and give you directions. All are welcome.

"PEACE IN THE VALLEY"

With one foot in jazz, rhythm and blues and the other in the church, Thomas Dorsey bridged spiritual and blues music. Dubbed the "father of gospel music," he is said to have coined the term for the genre once known as hymns or spirituals.

The son of a traveling preacher and a church organist, Dorsey left his church and was first known as "Georgia Tom" and "Barrelhouse Tom" for his barrelhouse blues piano playing in speakeasies and after-hours parties.

Dorsey returned to his faith, writing his first spiritual songs in the early '20s. But he continued to straddle the secular and the sacred. Many churches rejected his unique style, and the financial pull of blues was strong. "I've been thrown out of some of the best churches in America," he once said.

His life took a sudden turn when in August 1932, Dorsey's wife died during childbirth, and his son passed soon after. Turning to his piano in his grief, he wrote perhaps his best-known song. "Take my Hand, Precious Lord."

Six years later, Dorsey teamed with an aspiring and dynamic singer named Mahalia Jackson, and it is with her in mind that he penned the classic "Peace in the Valley." The song is said to have been inspired by the old slave song, "We Shall Walk Through the Valley of Peace."

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
REVENUE/EXPENSE SUMMARY

JANUARY 1, 2008 -
NOVEMBER 30, 2008

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>2007</i>
<i>Total Giving</i>	205,127	304,141	283,766
<i>Expenses</i>	319,130	327,481	309,753
<i>Net Income</i>	(24,003)	(23,340)	(25,987)
<i>(Loss)</i>			

Total Giving for the year is under Budget by \$9,000 but over last year by \$11,400. Total Expenses for the year are under budget by \$8,300 but over last year by \$9,400; Our Net loss for the year is over Budget by \$700 but under last year by \$2,000.

Please remember that our Budget has an \$18,000 short fall. This shortfall plus the additional \$700 loss through November MUST be made up before the end of the year! We do not have funds in Contingency. To those that have so generously contributed to our Bridging the Gap letter, THANK YOU!

UN-HANGING THE GREENS

On Monday, January 5 at 9:30 please stop by the church and give us a hand un-dressing the tree and removing it, un-hanging the wreaths and packing them for storage and un-doing all we did to decorate the church for Advent/Christmas. It's a quick job if there are plenty of hands to help.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
FOR JANUARY

We are in session five of "The Hidden Hand of God." This month we will study in depth the familiar story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and their trial by fire and also the less familiar story of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. These stories are in Daniel chapters 3 and 4. The lesson is found in the January/February issue of Lutheran Woman Today magazine. Also, you can request a copy from the church office. We suggest (but not require) that you read through the lesson in preparation.

We will gather Monday, January 19th at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. We would love it if you would come and share in the good fellowship, the uplifting discussion and the joy of growing your faith with your friends.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
STARTING JANUARY 4

This is the year in the three year lectionary that we concentrate on the Gospel of Mark so it is appropriate that we spend some time studying Mark in depth. Several themes dominate Mark, the shortest and oldest of the gospels, including who Jesus is, what the Kingdom of God is and what does it mean to be a disciple. Plan to join us beginning January 4th at 9:15 in the Fellowship hall. Eleanor Mecklenburg will be the discussion leader

