



SALEM PEACETALK

2021 Spring issue

FROM THE OFFICE

Though last year was hard, we had Pastors Chris Birky, Gary Hinkle and Bill Rogers keeping us focused on being church and spreading the good news. Jeff Coester joined us in November as our new pastor and he has worked hard to get to know his flock, though this is not easy when he cannot meet them all in person. Each Sunday he leads church on line. The following Monday he continues the lessons on his Facebook page, encouraging us to learn more about our Bible and how God is still speaking to us through it today.

Kristina Bertsch

Church Secretary

Dear Salem Church Family,

We wanted to take this opportunity to write a thank you. Thank you for the help when we moved in. For the continued care and prompt attention to needs of the parsonage itself and for all the well wishes we've been sent.

Thank you so much for all the help we received on move-in day. For those who lifted, carried, climbed stairs to rooms #1, 2, 3, or 4 upstairs 😊, or down to the basement - or wherever! Also, for everything done at the parsonage ahead of time - cleaning, carpets cleaned, video taping rooms #1, 2, 3, and 4 😊 ahead of time, etc. We know a lot more was done in preparation of our arrive than anyone knows. We feel truly blessed to live in such a beautiful house. The yard is beautiful as well!

When we opened the pantry cabinet, the shelves contained many food items! Then the refrigerator had essentials and some fun foods. The freezer as well! There were well over 100 items given for our arrival! (I wrote down almost every item). There was even a meal food kit with the hamburger already browned and frozen! THANK YOU EVERYONE! THEN there were the meals that were delivered!! What a wonderful surprise. We feel very loved.

Thank you also for the offers to come and help us get settled! Unfortunately, COVID became worse and not getting together, for now, has become a norm. Hopefully by spring we can start getting together again! (Also, before then, we'll hopefully be able to get the cars in the garage!!!)

Sincerely,

Mary and Pastor Jeff



Calendar of Events: (may be subject to change)

2/14 Love Sunday, wear red

2/14 council meeting

2/17 Ash Wednesday

Sunday February 14th is Valentine's Day. Since Hallmark and Fannie Mae did not invent, love; and God is LOVE, we will have Love Sunday. We hope you will join us!

Since Lent is about our Spiritual Devotion, Pastor will present a series on The Lord's Prayer on Wednesday Nights at 7:00 p.m.

Dear Peacetalk receivers, would you like to get weekly updates and news by e-mail? Please let the office know salemuccwanatah@frontier.com We need your up-to-date email address. This can help us save time, trees and money on postage. However, if you prefer to continue receiving a paper copy of the Peacetalk, we'll gladly keep you on the mailing list. Also, if you have cancelled your land lines, please let the office know so we can keep our records current.

I have put the Sign-up list for Sunday flowers on the bulletin board across from the office. Since we cannot yet do greeters yet, I have not printed that list. Please, feel free to sign up for flowers to brighten up our church. Or call the office and we will put your name on the list for you. Thank you. Kris, Church Secretary

Church Council

	2020	2021
President:	Rodney Peters (Head Elder)	Rodney Peters (Head Elder)
Vice. Pres.:	David Bagnall (Elder)	Drelah Grieger (Trustee)
Secretary:	Deb Smoker (Elder)	Deb Smoker (Elder)
Financial Secretary:	Drelah Grieger (Trustee)	Jerry Benkie (Elder)
Financial Treasurer:	Ray Charlesworth (Head Trustee)	Ray Charlesworth (Head Trustee)
Memorial:	Donna Cross (Elder)	Donna Cross (Elder)
Cemetery Liason:	Gary Cauley (Trustee)	Gary Cauley (Trustee)

2020 STATISTICS

Baptisms - one

Elijah Allen Smoker July 10, 2020

Confirmation - none

Transfers of Membership - none

New Members – Two

Jeffrey Coester November 15, 2020

Mary Coester November 15, 2020

Deaths of Members and Friends

Terry Werner October 31, 2019

Dee Edgcomb March 14, 2020

Dr. Berming Pan May 7, 2020

Matthew Rosenbaum May 29, 2020

Beverly Ann Guse August 6, 2020

James Tate August 12, 2020

Edward Joseph Falls September 1, 2020

Tim Brown September 10, 2020

Helen Mae Steinke September 24, 2020

Richard J. Gross October 27, 2020

Andrew Batzka November 8, 2020

Bernice Gross November 15, 2020

William H. (Bill) Homan December 6, 2020

Georgette Marie Steinke December 9, 2020

Weddings – two

Melissa Smoker & Jacob McGough July 11, 2020

Madalyn Steinke & Joseph Smoker August 8, 2020

I apologize for any errors, omissions or misspellings in this annual report. Please be assured this was not intentional. If you find an error, please notify the church office.

Thank You to David Bagnall for his years of service on the Board. (He is the one that did the hard work for the new sound system a couple years ago)

The new equipment in the back of the sanctuary is a source of curiosity, but we ask that the video and sound equipment not be touched unless you are training to operate those wonderful tools. If interested, we are looking for people willing to be trained.



Do you have a stash of plastic bags at home? (Walmart, Target, Dollar General etc.) If so, the LaCrosse High School Leo Club needs your help! We are collecting plastic bags to donate to a service project called SLEEP CYCLE, started by Lexie Baker, a high school student from Sullivan, Indiana. These plastic bags will be converted into mattresses that will be donated to homeless shelters around Indiana on a most-needed basis. If you are interested in contributing, drop off locations are LaCrosse High School, Wanatah Public School, LaCrosse Public Library and Wanatah Public Library. Each mattress will take 700 bags, so let's get collecting!

Brotherhood Annual Report

Due to the limitations and effects caused by Covid-19, the brotherhood has been basically inactive since Ash Wednesday of 2020. At this time there is discussion between Brotherhood and the Ladies Fellowship of some type of fellowship with refreshments following or preceding the Ash Wednesday service. Covid rules and social distancing will need to be observed.

A date will soon need to be set to do the outside clean-up of the church yard and parsonage property.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald Benkie

Secretary

SALEM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Our Youth Fellowship activities were affected by the Covid 19 Virus in 2020. We were able to get together on January 26 for an early Valentine's Day Party. We played games, and talked about Youth Sunday. We also had a "Valentine's Day Challenge" with clues based on 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8. Everyone received a treat for participating in the challenge.

On March 1 we met and worked on an "art project" which we've not completed yet, played winter themed games, and talked about many possible activities for the year.

In our effort to share "God's Love" homemade Christmas cards were sent by our youth to Salem's shut-ins. We sincerely "thank" our Church Family for their continuing support of our YF group.

We wish you all health and staying safe during this time,

Rae Manhart & Keri Parks

SALEM ADULT GROUP:

Due to the COVID 19 Virus we were unable to meet during 2020, however we'll continue planning as it becomes possible.

Jim & Rae Manhart

Salem Family,

It has been such an honor, privilege and joy to serve as your interim pastor through this season of crisis and your search for a new leader.

By the time my tenure is up November 8, I will have shared thirty messages with you, either virtually or in person.

You have been so accepting of me and you will never know how this has encouraged me. If I have helped you in your spiritual walk with the Lord, even half as much as you have helped me, then bless the Lord.

You have been so attentive to the sermons and I have appreciated your participation in singing, reading scripture responsively and praying.

A big thank you to Kris Bertsch, Gary and Lisa Cauley, Marlene Mitzner, Rodney Peters and Larry Pierce for answering my many questions and helping me to adjust to the traditions at Salem. And by the way, your traditions have been a blessing to me, because they are honoring to God!

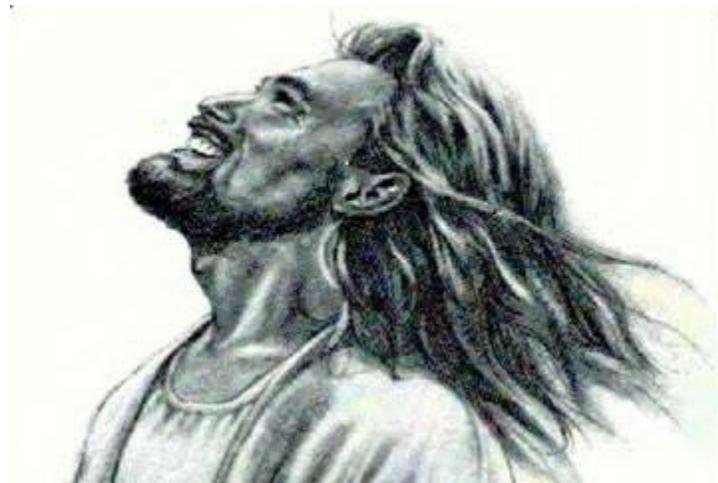
I know that you will love, honor and respect your new, pastoral family. You will work together well to affect your community for Christ.

Thank you for your friendship!

- Pastor Gary

Pastor Jeff would like to make sure you know that even though Covid makes most visits unattractive for people, he is available to you. Unless he is called out for some reason, Pastor keeps office hours from 9:00 to 3:00 Monday and Wednesday through Friday. Usually on Saturday, he is preparing for Sunday in his office. He usually comes early and stays late. He wants you to call when there is a need. Pastor says, "The needs of the church family are not an inconvenience. Those needs are the reason I am here." His cell phone is 815-631-3570. He should be called for important matters and emergencies. His e-mail is ps625@juno.com.

Our Secretary, Kristina Bertsch, is available in the Office Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to noon and Friday afternoons (unfortunately, this time varies as she is coming from her other job). She also desires to serve.



"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Rev. Dan Yearly of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Arizona quoted a five-year-old's version of John 3:16