

Salem Lutheran Church & Preschool

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Springville, NY 14141

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To love God, to love people & to spread God's word

Winter 2018-19



7 Beautiful Gifts from God: Our New Life In Christ

Revelation 21:5 And he (Jesus) who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Therefore, remember who you are in Christ and then live as the Christian that God has called you to be.

God's promise is true: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) What does this mean? What really happens to us when we believe in Christ and live as God's children?

1. A New Relationship

The first thing that God gives us is a new relationship with Him. Once we were separated from God because of sin – and not just separated, but alienated from Him. The Bible says we were "excluded ... , without hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). The first thing that happens when the Holy Spirit enters your head and your heart is that God gives you a new relationship. He is now your loving heavenly Father, and you are now His child, spiritually reborn into His family.

2. A New Citizenship

The second thing God gives you when the Holy Spirit enters your head and your heart is a new citizenship. You are still a citizen of a particular country – but now you are also a citizen of the kingdom of God . As long as we are on this earth, we possess dual citizenship. On one hand we owe allegiance to our nation and are called to be good citizens. But we are also citizens of the kingdom of God, that invisible kingdom of which Christ is the head. Our supreme loyalty is to Him, and if someone demands we do wrong, "we must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29). His Kingdom reigns across the world through His Church.

3. A New Family

Third, not only does God give us a new relationship with Himself and make us citizens of His kingdom, but He also gives us a new family – the family of God. You aren't just related to God; you are now related to other believers. Everyone who truly believes in Jesus Christ is now your spiritual brother or sister. This is one reason why you are never alone if you know Christ. You are part of God's family, with brothers and sisters in Christ who love you and want to help you, if you will let them.

4. A New Purpose

Fourth, we have a new purpose. Some people are very focused, using all their energies to reach their goals. Others drift through life with little purpose or direction, living for the moment and never thinking about where they are headed. Most people probably live somewhere in between. But they all have this in common: They are

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WEEKEND WORSHIP

Saturdays at 4:00 pm

Sundays at 10:30 am

Sunday School at 9:00 am

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A message from Leadership:

The annual congregational voters meeting was held on Sunday 12/8 with fair attendance. The proposed annual Church operating budget of \$192,540 (2.09% increase) was passed after a report by the Church Business Manager, Bob Senecal. Year to date Church income exceeded expenditures for the first time in many years as the health of our financial situation continues to improve. Just a few months ago, Leadership also adopted an annual preschool budget accompanied by a necessary tuition increase. This was done in close coordination with our Preschool Director, Amy Tillinghast. The many hours that Leadership has put into the financial planning and the generous tithing and donations made by you are keeping Salem financially healthy, praise God!

The congregation also reelected Bill Snyder as President, Sandra Hammond as Financial Secretary, Stephen Golembiewski Jr. and Michael Weber as Elders, and Jacqueline Glenn and Amber Widrig to the Board of Education. A vacated council seat was left open as a few members who have identified interest are considering the position. I want to thank Bob Senecal, Amy Tillinghast, Cathy Ried, Pastor Goodwin, and the Salem Leadership team for their hard work and dedication. I also would like to thank Matt Fanton who is stepping down from the head elder position after two terms in that position. His calm spiritual guidance, dedication to educating the youth in our congregation, and capable ability to lead worship have truly been a blessing.

Our entire Salem family is blessed with a great number of amazing individuals who work hard behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly and help others. During this Christmas season, don't hesitate to take a moment to recognize the many people around us that selflessly volunteer their time and treasures. Have a blessed Christmas!

COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI DINNER HELP NEEDED!!

Contact the church office 592-4893
In order to continue our Spaghetti Dinner ministry this year we need a new leader to step forward. Please prayerfully consider serving Jesus and our community in this way.



OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral of Linda Schneider who entered into eternal rest on October 28th. Her funeral was held at Salem on October 31, Pastor Goodwin officiating.

Marriage of Scott Benkelman and Kelly Sanders, November 29



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Tuesday, December 24th 7:00 pm and 10:30 pm
New Year's Eve Service
Tuesday, December 31st 7:00 pm



Children's Christmas Pageant

Our Sunday School children participated in our Annual Christmas Pageant during services on Sunday, December 15.

Love, INC. Banquet



Salem's Jr. Praise Band (Bill, Andrea, Beth, Megan and Paul Schneider, Sarah & Melissa Powenski, Mary & Jimmy Snyder and Rich Glenn) entertained at the LOVE In The Name of Christ's 3rd HARVEST OF LOVE DINNER on Friday, October 4th at the First United Methodist Church in Springville. A delicious turkey dinner was served followed by a dessert auction of pies, fancy cake, cookie platters, cupcakes and more.

PRESCHOOL NEWS



Trick or Treating at Jennie B. Nursing Home.



Many thanks to our wonderful preschool staff:
Erica Terhune, Heather Hayden, Diane Hayden, April Keyser, Amy Tillinghast, Emily Kazmierczak, Kieri Cullen, Olivia Lippman, Christine Frascella, Tammy Bragg, Karie Knoll

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living only for themselves and their own happiness. But when the Holy Spirit enters our head and or heart, God gives us a new purpose. Now we want to live for Christ and not just ourselves.

5. A New Power

Fifth, one of the Bible's most comforting truths is that God Himself, the Holy Spirit, comes to live within us. This is a miracle! Through the gifts of God, the Word and Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit comes to live within you. He strengthens your faith, confidence, hope, and joy. Jesus promised, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (Acts 1:8). We were not meant to live the Christian life in our own strength. God has provided His Spirit to empower us.

6. A New Destiny

Sixth: The word "conversion" means "change" – and the most radical change of all when God enters our head and our heart is that God gives us a new destiny. Once we were headed for hell; now we are headed for heaven. Once we were bound for eternal separation from God; now we live with Him forever. Once we had no hope of eternal life; now we do. The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death. but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). In the midst of life's problems and heartaches, never forget: This life is temporary. One day all our burdens will be cast aside, and we will be with Christ forever. Before us is a new destiny when we belong to God.

7. A New Journey

God gives us a whole new life: a new relationship, a new citizenship, a new family, a new purpose, a new power, a new destiny. Don't ever take lightly what Jesus Christ did for you on the cross and don't ever take lightly what God gives you as you turn to Him in repentance and faith. In other words, when God enters your head and your heart it is the beginning of a whole new life - a new journey. "We aren't only called to become Christians; we are also called to be Christians." (Billy Graham) The gifts of God are extraordinary; hold onto them and live in them!

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Goodwin

(This article is based on a book written by Billy Graham, The Journey)

MARRIAGE BUILDERS CLASS

Give your Valentine the gift of a thriving marriage in 2020! Join us for Marriage Builders starting Sunday, February 17th.



REFORMATION CELEBRATION!

Update. A special day celebrating Ruth Frank, our oldest member who is 99. Her 100th birthday is in July. A potluck luncheon and birthday cake were celebrated with Ruth.

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A TESTIMONIAL



I was a member at St. Nicodemus Lutheran Church in Marilla where I was baptized, confirmed and was married to Roger Kephart in 1969. Our children were baptized at St. Nicodemus and were raised as Christians.

In 1977 Roger and I moved our family from Marilla to a farm on Pratham Rd in Sardinia. At the time we had two boys, Austin, 6 and Aaron, 1. We had a dairy farm there for a few years then sold some of the land and built a house on Genesee Rd in 1988. Our third son Adam was born in 1986. Throughout the years our family did a lot of camping. For 52 consecutive years I have been attending a family reunion in Pennsylvania on the first Sunday in August. No matter what else was going on we made sure we all went to the reunion and camped. Camping was a big part of our family life together.

In 2003, Roger was diagnosed with cancer. He had a feeding tube and we made numerous trips to Roswell for chemo and radiation treatments throughout the winter months. He passed away December 6, 2004 after 35 years of marriage. In 2006, I became reacquainted with a neighbor, Ron Webber, who had also lost his wife and we enjoyed each others company for eight years until he passed away. In 2011 Ron & I planned a trip south to Sebastian, Florida for the winter months with a truck and camper. We left in November 2011, right from the beginning we had one bad experience after another, the first day out a tire blew, then turning into a restaurant parking lot we were hit by a van. We made it to South Carolina where we had relatives and stayed in a campground for four days. While pulling into the campsite we had another incident with the truck. Eventually we made it to Sebastian, Florida where we stayed for 5 weeks while the camper was fixed.

In a phone conversation with my daughter-in-law, Amber, I stated that when we get safely back from this trip I was going to get back to attending church, she told me my granddaughter Braedyn has been asking to go to church, she was 10 at the time and her brother Daron was 5. So upon returning from Florida, Braedyn, Daron and myself began attending Salem on a regular basis. Braedyn and Daron enrolled in Sunday School that fall and were eventually baptized and confirmed at Salem.

I have been blessed with four grandchildren Braedyn 17, Daron 13, Markenna 12 and Dalton 2 months old who are the joy in my life.

My strong faith has helped me weather the storms during life's hardships. It is a pleasure to be a part of the Salem Church family. I enjoy helping with the various food ministries Salem provides to the community such as the Hot Dog Ministry and the Thanksgiving Dinner. I was able to organize and promote the monthly Spaghetti dinners Salem sponsors in the spring and fall for the past four years. Merry Christmas!

Linda Kephart

[If you are interested in sharing your testimony with us, please call or email the church office](#)