

9:00 am Worship Service

Prelude		
Welcome and Announcements		
*Call to Worship		
*Hymn	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High (v.1&2)</i>	#238
Advent Candle Lighting		Kelly Parker & Lisa Palmquist
Hymn	<i>Emmanuel, Emmanuel</i>	#204
Prayers for the People & Lord's Prayer		
Salem Singers	<i>Sing Gloria</i>	-K.K. Davis
Impact of Your Generosity		
Offering Prayer		
*Doxology		#95
*Hymn	<i>Go, Tell it on the Mountain</i>	#251
Scripture	Luke 1:26-38	Denny Enck
Sermon	Saying Yes to God	
*Hymn	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	#220
Blessing		
Choral Blessing	<i>Christmas Benediction</i>	
Postlude		

*Please stand if you are able.

Our Salem Church Family Prayer List

Samantha Enck	Jim Yoder	John Weaver
Tammy Buffington	Rick Stief	Virginia Moore
Renee Troutman	Harry Cassel Family & Friends	
Mark Blankenship	Shannon Gornick	Riley Arment
Ed Lull	Gerri Messman	Audrina Lutchkus

An assisted listening system is available from a smartphone application to help people to hear the service better. Download the WaveCAST Audio Receiver app and log in to the SalemGuest Wi-Fi – the password is MINISTRY. If you need assistance, please go to the sound booth.

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may”

~ John Wesley

Welcome!

We hope our time together is a source of hope and peace.

Nursery Care is provided during worship for infants to age 4.

Prayer Requests can be written on the cards located in the lobby. Place your request in the prayer quilt near the sanctuary entrance.

Friendship Pads are in the pews. Please take the time to fill them out and pass them down the row. The information you provide helps us with attendance and to follow up with guests.

Sunday School at 10:15 am

Children (K – 4th grades) – Room 204

Youth (5th - 12th grades) – Room 403

Wrestling with Grace (Adult Class) – Room 406

(Join us to go deeper reflecting on the sermon.)

Ages and Stages (Adult Class) – Room 404

Children’s Chapel - The 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, Pre-K through 4th Grade children can attend Children’s Chapel after the Children’s Time during the morning service.

Coffee Time – Join us after the service in Fellowship Hall.

Offering Collection Boxes – If you would like to make a gift to support the mission and ministry of Salem, please place your gift in one of the offering boxes on the back walls of the Sanctuary. Offering envelopes are available in the pews for your convenience.

E-Giving Use the QR code to make a one-time gift or to set up recurring giving. Salem’s e-giving provider is Nucleus Giving. If you want to support with a special offering, just make a note on the memo line.



Building Community One Question at a Time

A good conversation comes down to being a good listener. Listen carefully and ask follow-up questions: Try asking:

What do you think the best invention was? Why?

Share the question. Have fun while getting to know others a little better.

Electronic Newsletter Sign Up!

Each Friday we distribute an electronic newsletter called Friday Friendly. Please use this QR code to sign up or notify the Office Manager to be included.



Corsair Blue Jazz Christmas Concert ~ Today at 3:00 pm

Join us in the Narthex before the concert for fellowship, coffee and cookies at 2:00pm. Enjoy the talents of the Corsair Jazz Band while listening to Christmas music. Our very own Kelly Parker is their bass player.



Salem Youth’s Christmas Party

December 28th ~ 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Join us for games, food and a gift exchange. Grades 5th to 12th are Invited! Plan on bringing a \$5-\$10 gift for a fun exchange.



Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

All donations are kept and distributed right here in the Manheim School District Area. You can ring bells at Longeneckers True Value or Hilltop Acres Farm Market. Sign up at the Welcome Center.



December Special Offering ~ Church World Service Blankets



Blanketing the world in love is easy when people of faith unite through the CWS Blankets and Kits ministry. \$10 provides a CWS Blanket to someone in need. \$25 provides a CWS Blanket and CWS Hygiene Kit, offering warmth and essential supplies.

Thank you to Salem UMC from 2 special ladies.

~ Thank you for the special gift from Sunday School with all the useful items. I appreciate it very much. I had a wonderful birthday (99)! Blessings to all. ~Mabel L. Graham

~ Thank you so much to the Salem church members and friends for my big bag of Christmas goodies. You were very generous and what a nice assortment of gifts. God’s Blessings to all! ~ Toy Miller



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service ~

December 24th at 7:00pm

Come celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior. On the night before Christmas, may you experience the delight of being together. Come celebrate with us.



A Wonderful Time was had at the Children's Christmas Celebration
 Thank you to Natalie Abram for throwing a great birthday party for Jesus with yummy food, crafts, movie and popcorn.



Save the Date!

(Check out the Friday Friendly for details.)

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service (7:00pm)

December 28 – Youth's Christmas Celebration (12:30pm – 2:30pm)

January 2 – First Friday Youth Hangout (6:30pm-8:30pm)

This Week at Salem

Today, December 21

9:00 am – Worship service

10:15 am – Sunday School

11:30 am – 2:30 pm – Children's Christmas Celebration

Wednesday, December 24

7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our entire worship service, including the Children's Message, is live-streamed and recorded. By entering the sanctuary or allowing your child to participate, you consent to being filmed. Those wishing to avoid the camera may sit in back half of the Sanctuary. Salem United Methodist Church of Manheim is not responsible for any unauthorized use of recordings by outside parties.

Church Contact Information

John Laughlin, ext 3 pastorjohn@salemmanheim.org
 Church Secretary, ext 2 ... officemanager@salemmanheim.org
 Keith Mitchell, ext 4.....businessmanager@salemmanheim.org
 Ext 8 Financial Assistance
 Ext. 7.....Salem Handyman Service
 Natalie Abram children@salemmanheim.org
 Alysa Merkey.....youth@salemmanheim.org

Going Deeper in "Saying Yes to God"

Read the following a few times:

Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 6:8; 1 Sam 3:10; Prov 3:5-6

Reflect on the following:

1. What's the biggest decision you've had to make this year?
2. Have you ever said yes to something that scared you at first?
3. Gabriel calls Mary "favored." What do you think it means to be favored by God? Do you ever feel like God notices you?
4. Mary asks, "How can this be?" What kinds of questions do you ask God when life doesn't make sense?
5. Saying yes to God could have cost Mary friendships, reputation, and safety. What do teens today risk when they try to follow God?
6. Who are the people Mary would have had to trust after saying yes (Joseph, family, community)? Who do you trust when your faith feels hard?
7. Mary doesn't get all the details—just a promise that God will be with her. Why is waiting and not knowing so hard?
8. What does "Here am I" sound like in a life today—at school, at home, online, or with friends?
9. When have you felt God nudging you to do the right thing even when it was uncomfortable?
10. What does this passage teach us about God's initiative and human response working together?
11. Joseph's obedience appears later in Matthew's Gospel. How do you imagine Joseph also had to say "yes" to God in this story?

Spiritual Challenges:

1. **The Listening Challenge** - Set aside 10 minutes each day this week to sit in silence and pray, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Write down any nudges, scriptures, or insights you receive—without judging or rushing them.
2. **The Trust Step Challenge** - Identify one area of your life where God may be inviting you to trust rather than control. Take one small, concrete step of obedience—making a call, offering forgiveness, volunteering, or letting go of fear.



December 21, 2025

Rev. Dr. John A. Laughlin, Sr., Pastor



Frank Rittenhouse, Organist
 Pat Myers, Choir Director
 Terri Briskie, Accompanist

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Church Secretary in Office: Wednesdays 4pm – 8pm