

9:00 am Worship Service

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* #196

Advent Candle Lighting Wayne Langhuber

Hymn *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* #204

Prayers for the People & Lord's Prayer Trevor Enck

Salem Singers *Christmas Communion Song* -S.N. Callaway

Impact of Your Generosity

Offering Prayer

*Doxology #95

*Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1&4)* #230

Scripture Luke 2:1-7 Denny Enck

Sermon The Manger Miracle

Hymn of Preparation *Away in the Manger (v. 1)* #217

Holy Communion

*Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* #240

Blessing

Choral Blessing *The Peace of Jesus* Guatemalan Melody

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	Karen Beck
Ed Lull	Shannon Gornick	
Harry Sparks & Family	Shannon Rose	Mark Blankenship

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.

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:

If you could live without sleep, what would you do with all the extra time?

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.



"Peace is our gift to each other."
~ Elie Wiesel

Christmas Angel Tree ~ Tags available today!

Please choose a tag off the Christmas tree beside the Welcome Center. Gifts are due back no later than Sunday, December 14th. Thank you for your generosity! If you purchase a gift card please write the amount on the card if no receipt.



Sock Collection for Clay Street Missions ~ Thank you, Salem!



The Ages and Stages Sunday School Class would like to thank everyone for collecting socks for Clay Street Missions in Lancaster City. God has blessed each of us as we are helping the homeless. Total socks collected for the month of November – **352 pairs!** Great job!

Salem Children's Christmas Party

December 14th ~ 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

We will be watching the movie, "The Star", having snacks and making crafts. Join us for the festive fun & friendship.



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.



Wrestling with Grace Celebration ~ Today at 10:15 am

The Wrestling with Grace Sunday School class invites you to our annual all-ages Sunday School time. We will have a time of fellowship, food and fun following the church service in Fellowship Hall. Come celebrate the Advent Season with us!

A huge Salem thank you! We are sad to report that after serving over 2 years as Salem's Choral Director, Pat Myers is stepping away from leading our choir. She will be with us through the end of December. We wish Pat and Lamar well as we have been blessed to have them serve in the music ministry at Salem UMC.

Chocolate Advent Calendars Available ~ Please take one and share one. They are located across from the mailboxes.

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.

Save the Date!

(Check out the Friday Friendly for details.)

- December 14 – Children’s Christmas Celebration (11:30am-2:30pm)
- December 21 – Corsair Blue Jazz Christmas Concert (3:00pm)
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service (7:00pm)
- December 28 – Youth’s Christmas Celebration (12:30pm – 2:30pm)

This Week at Salem

Today, December 7

- 9:00 am – Worship service
- 10:15 am – Sunday School
- 10:15 am – Wrestling with Grace Celebration (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, December 9

- 1:30 pm – Communion at Pleasant View
- 6:30 pm – Endowment Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 10

- 6:15 pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm – Salem Singers Rehearsal

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 “The Manger Miracle”

Read the following a few times:

Luke 2:1-7; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7; 2 Cor 8:9

Reflect on the following:

Saint Ignatius of Loyola created a simple 5-Step daily Examen prayer. In the Examen, we review our recent past to find God and God’s blessings in daily life. We also look back to find moments in the day when things didn’t go so well—when we were hurt by something that happened to us, or when we sinned or made a mistake. We give praise and thanksgiving for the blessed moments. We ask forgiveness and healing for the difficult and painful moments. Having reflected on this past day, we then turn to the day yet to come and ask God to show us the potential challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. We try to anticipate which moments might go one way or the other for us: toward God’s plan or away from it. We ask for insight into what graces we might need to live this next day well: patience, wisdom, fortitude, self-knowledge, peace, optimism. We ask God for that grace, and we trust that he wants us to succeed in our day even more than we do.

1. **Give thanksgiving.** I begin by giving God thanks for all the things I’m grateful for today. I allow my mind to wander as I reflect on the ways God has blessed me on this particular day. I allow big things and small things to arise—everything from the gift of my faith, to the gift of my marriage, to the easy commute to work today.
2. **Ask for the Spirit.** Next, I want to look at the moments in my day when I did not act so well. However, before doing so, I ask God to fill me with his Spirit so that the Spirit can lead me through this difficult soul-searching. Otherwise, I’m liable to hide in denial, wallow in self-pity, or seethe in self-loathing.
3. **Review and recognize failures.** I look back at my day and ask the Lord to point out to me the moments when I have failed in big ways or small. I take a sobering look at the mistakes I’ve made this day.
4. **Ask for forgiveness and healing.** If I have sinned, I ask God to forgive me and set me straight again. If I have made a mistake, I ask for healing of any harm that might have been done. I ask for help to get over it and move on. I also ask for wisdom to discern how I might better handle such tricky moments in the future.
5. **Pray about the next day.** I ask God to show me how tomorrow might go. I imagine the things I’ll be doing, the people I’ll see, and the decisions I’ll be mulling over. I ask for help with any moments I foresee that might be difficult. I especially ask for help in moments when I might be tempted to fail in the way I did today.

Salem

United Methodist Church
December 7, 2025

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



- Frank Rittenhouse, Organist
- Pat Myers, Choir Director
- Terri Briskie, Accompanist
- Doug Winters, Bell Director

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Church Secretary in Office: Wednesdays 4pm – 8pm