



Rev. Dr. Selwyn Q. Bachus
Senior Pastor

Nov. 23, 2020

An Update from the Pastor: New Normal Ministry, Upcoming holiday/church events – Update #6

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord is God. It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting and his truth endureth to all generations.”

– Psalm 100: 1-5

Greetings in the name of He who orders our steps and directs our paths:

This Thursday, we will celebrate one of our beloved national holidays, Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving has a very unique place in the life and history of this country. The earliest instance of a designated moment of reflection and thanksgiving took place in 1621 in what we now call the United States. The pilgrims arrived about a year earlier to experience religious freedoms and establish a land where a king could not dictate their practice of religion. Not familiar with the climate, terrain and diseases of this new land, they suffered great loss of life. Half of the settlers died in that first year. Yet in December 1621, they set aside three days to praise the Lord in the spirit of thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest.

In 1789, President George Washington proclaimed Nov. 26 as a National Day of Thanksgiving unto the Lord. He did this after years of war as the colonies fought to gain their independence from England. After they gained their independence, President Washington set aside the day of Thanksgiving. On another historic occasion President Abraham Lincoln, in spite of the harsh realities of the Civil War, revived the tradition of a National Day of Thanksgiving unto the Lord. Finally, the 1941 Congress decreed the fourth Thursday of each November would be celebrated as a National Day of Thanksgiving.

In the midst of a divided nation as the pandemic rages on, this Thursday, we will stop to tell the Lord “Thank you” in the same way those who came before us did despite being in the midst of loss, famine, war and confusion. As we stop, we will recognize that it is the Lord who has kept us. He continues to guide and strengthen us through these difficult times.

New Normal Ministry update

The New Normal ministry continues to monitor virus case numbers in Douglas County and in the surrounding communities. The most recent 7-day rolling average of new cases per day grew more than 50% from two weeks prior, while the average death toll mounts. In the coming weeks and months, these staggering numbers are expected to worsen and hospitals across our city are overwhelmed. Please keep our first responders and hospital workers in your prayers.

It is important now more than ever that we remain vigilant about wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and frequently washing and sanitizing our hands.

The holiday season can tempt families to hold large gatherings. For your safety and the safety of your family and friends, I want to encourage you to only gather with members of your immediate family. Consider holding virtual gatherings with extended family members and friends to create memories that can sustain you through the next few months.

Health officials have particularly encouraged flu shots this year. Salem, please do your part to keep yourselves healthy this winter season.

Important Events/Dates to Remember – Please Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Food Pantry Drive-through Giveaway - Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. until supplies are gone

Our Deacon's Ministry and Church Ministry Leaders will partner with Thrivent Financial Services and Hy-Vee Foods for a drive-thru Christmas basket giveaway **Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m.** until supplies are gone. Baskets will include a number of food items such as: turkey, cornbread stuffing mix, green beans, corn, jellied cranberry sauce, yams, stuffing mix, rolls, apples and oranges.

The event will take place in our church parking lot, at 3131 Lake Street. We ask that attendees wear masks to protect themselves and others during this event.

Life Development Classes – Register for classes at salembc.org

We want to remind the congregation that Life Development classes continue to be held virtually. You can register for classes through the church website at salembc.org. On the site, select the “Resource” tab, select “Life Development Virtual Classroom Participation” and complete the registration form. Courses available include: Contemporary Bible Study, Adult Bible Study and Tuesday Night Bible Study. Questions can be directed to Sister Marsha Hall at: marsha47hall@gmail.com.

Joyful Noise Update - **Joyful Noise: A Gospel Christmas featuring Salem Baptist Concert Choir**

Some of you may have heard that our annual Joyful Noise celebration is listed on the winter schedule with Omaha Performing Arts. We’re pleased to inform you that we intend to bring you this annual Christmas tradition virtually this year. Our very own Grammy-nominated Salem Baptist Concert Choir will perform a combination of holiday classics and new music.

The performance will air on local television stations and stream live on our church website and other outlets, including O-PA’s website and social media channels. Look for more details about air dates, times and how to access the event in the next few weeks.

Watch Night Services – **Bring in the New Year with your Salem Baptist Church Family**

New Year’s Eve 2020 is just five weeks away. If you’re already considering ways to welcome the New Year, we hope you will join us Thursday, Dec. 31 for a Virtual Watch Night Celebration. Access Salem Baptist Church from the warmth and safety of your home as we praise the Lord for all He has done to bring us through 2020. Mark your calendars, invite family members and friends and worship with us.

Ways to Worship with Us

Please continue to join us in online worship at 9:55 a.m. every Sunday via salembc.org, on Facebook at [Facebook.com/salembcomaha](https://www.facebook.com/salembcomaha), at www.boxcast.com and on YouTube at <https://rb.gy/njzsy9>.

On **Sunday afternoons**, join us for our “**Word for Your Walk**” broadcast, **which airs on the CW at 1:30 p.m.**

We appreciate your continued stewardship and support of the mission at the Salem Baptist Church. Tithes and offering donations can be submitted via the following:

PayPal - visit our website or send to salemadmin@salembc.org

Venmo - Salem Baptist Church Omaha

Cashapp - \$salemchurchomaha

Givelify - Salem Baptist Church

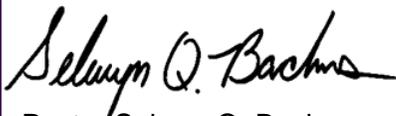
Questions?: (402) 455-1000

You may also mail a check to:

Salem Baptist Church
3131 Lake Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68111

For believers in Jesus Christ, every day is a day of Thanksgiving. May the joy, love and spirit of the holiday season bring you peace, comfort and respite.

Blessings,



Pastor Selwyn Q. Bachus