



Salem Lutheran Church

11 West Bernard Street
West St. Paul, MN 55118-1409
SalemLuth.org

Fall/Winter 2023



2023 SLC PLEDGE DRIVE

Details on pg. 5



Grounded in Scripture, we seek to Nurture the Faith and to Proclaim Christ's Love in Word and Deed to each other and our neighbors near and far.



STAY CONNECTED!

Everyone is invited all the great things happening at Salem! Be sure to check your e-mail on Wednesdays for the weekly announcements. Questions? Feel free to call the church office at (651) 457-6661 or send an e-mail to secretary@salemluth.org.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Worship - 9:30 am (In person & via livestream)

Faith Formation Family Sunday - 10:40 am Every Fourth Sunday in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday Bible Study - Every Tuesday at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room

Faith Formation at St. Stephen's - Wednesdays at 5:30 pm
(*Third Wednesdays at Salem for Activity Night*)

Elizabeth Circle - Second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room

Men's Renewal Group - Every other Friday at 8:00 am (*Gallaghers, West. St. Paul*)

Jubilee Ringers - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Chancel Choir - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month at 7:15 pm in the Choir Room

Learner Bells - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary

Centering Prayer - Every other Saturday at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room

To stay current on all events/programs at Salem, please visit the church calendar at: www.salemluth.org/calendar-2

A Message from Pastor Aaron:

Siblings in Christ,

Are you ready for a revival? To be completely honest I had NO plans to write that question till my hands typed it, and yet I feel as if it's the question I need to run with... hard to say no to the Holy Spirit when they show up with a question.

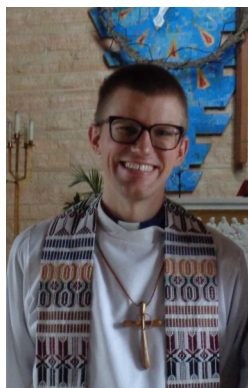
I must admit, I tend to be more pragmatic and skeptical of revivalist movements, making me even more surprised that this is the way this newsletter is going to go. So, let's explore together, shall we?

Revivalism within the history of Christianity brings to my mind the Great Awakening movement accompanied by the puritanical preachings of George Whitefield, the great camp meetings with day long prayer and worship services, or the Billy Graham crusades of the 1950s. Which, for all their pros and cons, are not really my cup of tea (I prefer coffee anyway).

So, what would a revival look like at Salem Lutheran Church in West St. Paul? New members, revitalized youth program, new energy around projects and events, a better sense of mission, a greater feeling of community, a stronger relationship with God?

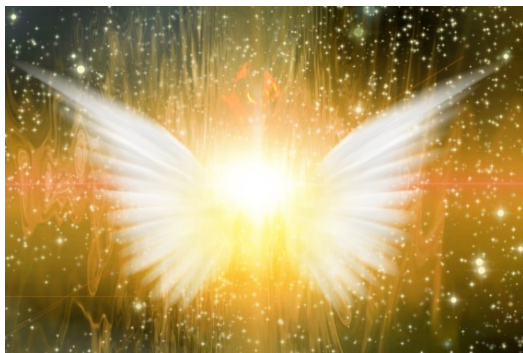
How about all the above? The good news is, I don't think we need the fire and brimstone preaching of Rev. Whitefield or the stadium filled altar calls of Billy Graham to accomplish these things. We need God, and God is already here.

In the last half of 2023, we have so many wonderful opportunities embrace the gifts that God has given us here. Starting in October we have our four-week SLC Pledge Drive. We are going to have fun and pay respectful homage to the well-trod pledge drives of PBS and NPR, yet at the heart of this endeavor we are going to be celebrating all that is made possible through the financial support of so many members in this community. We are ripe for a revival because of the support and steady offering this congregation receives year in and year out and for that I am incredibly grateful.



Cont'd from pg. 3

It's no surprise the history of revivalism stems in large part from the Protestant branch of Christianity. At the end of October, as we recognize the Reformation, we celebrate the freedom we have in Christ to try new things, embracing God's grace and diving headfirst into the call to love our neighbors; warts and all. This embrace of a God who makes all things new, invites us to try without fear new ministry and projects, and release with thanksgiving traditions and works that no longer serve the needs of the community. I am excited for another year of Sunday Faith Formation, Bell Choirs, Chancel Choir, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving Pie Social, Advent Festivities, and Christmas Eve, but I'm also open to the unknown event or activity that God may drive us to in these next few months. How will the Gospel reach the hearts and minds of our community and our neighbors of West St. Paul this Fall and early Winter? Who will surprise us with their company? How will the church change from now to the start of 2024?



That's the joy of a revival! The unexpected whirlwind that the Spirit catches us in and how we may take flight to ventures unknown!

Much like this newsletter which started with a question I never expected to write, I am incredibly energized by the potential that is present here and I pray you are too. God's up to something and I am eager for us to find out what that is!

In Grace,
Rev. Aaron Holmgren



SLC PLEDGE DRIVE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Thanks to sustaining members, SLC continues to nurture the faith and spread the word of God. We couldn't do this work without you! Come join us this October to hear all the amazing things SLC accomplished this year and how you can support the ministry in 2024.

YOU'RE INVITED TO USE OUR NEW LABYRINTH THIS FALL!



Don't forget to stop by our campus and take a few quiet moments to enjoy our labyrinth. Scan this code for more information!



Dedication Ceremony - Sunday, September 17, 2023

From the Council President:

Salem Friends,

We have had an incredible busy Summer. Salem has been active within the congregation, within the local community, and globally. The Summer VBS was a huge success. Thanks to all who worked on this effort. We had a good turn-out for National Night Out with lot of involvement by Salem folks. The dedication of our new labyrinth came about through the commitment and efforts of many people. Special thanks to Elaine Hause for envisioning this project and shepherding it through. Community members are already using the labyrinth.

The River Heights Chorale, Klondike Kate's, and Dakota Square Dancers are back at Salem and the Choir and Handbell Choirs are back rehearsing. Salem is alive with the sound of music!

A major highlight of the summer was our Mission Trip to Magome, Tanzania. Fifteen people went on this Mission Trip – 11 of them were Salem folks. We spent a lot of time with our companion congregation in Magome and our sponsored students. Because of Salem members' generosity we were able to bring many gifts, a computer, school supplies, medical supplies, blankets, quilts, caps, jerseys/shorts, and more, not only to the Magome church and preaching points but also to the Magome primary school, the Magome clinic, the Huruma Orphanage, and several secondary schools in the area. Pastor Agripa and the Magome congregations extended their thanks and appreciation to us at a moving farewell ceremony.

Especially gratifying was the way Salem's teenagers and young adults interacted (and played and sang) with the kids and adults of every site we visited. They showed the love of God to all they met. What a special blessing it was to have them with us on our Mission trip to Magome.

We recently packed 48 care bags for persons experiencing homeless at "God's Work, Our Hand". What a testament to Salem's engagement in the community. To help distribute these bags, you can pick up a care bag or two in the office and hand them out to anyone you may see in need of help.

Cont'd from pg. 6

Other events included an evening sing-along around bonfires, gatherings and excursions of the O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Lutherans at Salem) and the start of a 5-part Saturday morning Old Testament Bible Study led by Pastor Aaron (details on pg. 18).

Under the leadership of Bekah Elling we have developed an “Abuse Prevention Policy and Program” to help protect our kids and young people as well as vulnerable adults. This comprehensive policy and program was recently adopted by the Council.

The council has also approved a recommendation to congregations by the Synod Assemble to revise congregational Constitutions to make them more diverse, equitable and inclusive. The congregation will vote on these changes at the Annual Meeting.

Coming up are a Trunk or Treat , a “Beer, Burgers, and Hymns” night at Gallagher’s, and Advent season activities! (details on pgs. 15-17)

As we move enthusiastically ahead into the Fall toward Advent, we rejoice in a sound financial status, a terrific and professional staff and an energized congregation. God has been good to us.

Let us rejoice in the Lord.

Jack Schlukebier, Council President



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday



O.W.L.S. at Como Park Conservatory



Magome Mission Trip Group

FAITH FORMATION - 3RD WEDNESDAYS - ACTIVITY NIGHT AT SALEM

The Faith Formation Activity Night (3rd Wednesday of the month) is held at Salem from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We gather for a light meal, singing and a fun activity that people of all ages can participate in. **We are still in need of volunteers to prep and serve the meals for the months of November and December.** Carol Olson has volunteered to do the clean-up part for both of these months. There is a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex. Thank you for supporting this ministry and being a welcoming presence for Salem families and youth!



YOU'RE INVITED TO FAITH FORMATION FAMILY SUNDAYS!

Everyone is invited to FAITH FORMATION FAMILY SUNDAYS on the fourth Sunday of the month at 10:40 am in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have music, Bible stories, snacks and crafts for kids!

This intergenerational experience will bring our young in age and young at heart together to build up our church and each other. Please spread the word and invite your family, friends & neighbors! Coffee hour will be served downstairs on these Sundays.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH



From the Parish Nurse, Debbie Lee:

“AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE”

There are many people who skip their preventative visits and only see a doctor when they are sick. However, we could alleviate some of the strain on our health care system by taking advantage of an annual physical, yearly flu and COVID-19 shots, blood pressure screenings, mammograms, not to mention the dreaded colonoscopy.

Some screenings such as dental health, mental health, memory and depression screenings are an important part of preventative medicine as well. Knowing your family history and health risks may help decide which health screenings are a priority for you as many diseases have a genetic component, such as heart disease, diabetes, breast and colon cancer.

Finally, things we may not consider as preventative medicine are home safety, medication management, stress management, diet and exercise since these affect our physical health.

Keep the focus on WELLNESS, not ILLNESS.



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT SALEM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023 - FELLOWSHIP HALL
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in the Red Cross Blood Drive at Salem on Wednesday, November 29 from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Your donation helps to SAVE LIVES! A registration link will be available soon!



I am a Child of God. I know it.
I live it. I love it.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Becky Johnson | 22 | Robert Gore |
| 5 | Laura Johannsen | 22 | Lauren French |
| 5 | Marlene Kostohryz | 26 | Jennifer Frayne |
| 5 | Karen Weiss | 26 | Theodore Horner |
| 6 | Louise Nesdahl | 29 | Christopher Gaines |
| 7 | Patrick Lehmann | 31 | Quinn Davies |
| 10 | James Lee | | |
| 10 | Clayton Miller | | |
| 12 | Carl Lipke | | |
| 12 | Kathryn Wyatt | | |
| 13 | Andrew French | | |
| 15 | James Clemens | | |
| 15 | Helen Johnson | | |
| 16 | Navaeh Van Horn | | |
| 18 | Paul Bollinger | | |
| 18 | Jordan Frayne | | |
| 19 | Jamie Hernandez | | |
| 20 | Matthew Ledford | | |
| 21 | Justin Fenton | | |

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Peter Johannsen and Kathryn Twedt-Johannsen
- 6 Deborah and Todd Yilek
- 15 Philip and Cynthia Barker
- 18 Mark and Jeannie Schmidt
- 22 Clayton Miller and Shirley Peterson
- 22 Diane & Peter Hueller
- 27 Pam and Scott Taulman
- 28 Raymond and Diana Thron
- 30 Annie and Jim Brennan



happy anniversary



I am a Child of God. I know it.
I live it. I love it.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Shirley Peterson
- 3 Sandi DeHate
- 5 Scott Reed
- 5 Jack Schlukebier
- 7 Cynthia Barker
- 9 Nancy Schmidt
- 10 Julie Shade
- 11 Michelle Rodriguez
- 11 Lon Johnson
- 13 Lulu Cannon
- 18 Samuel Wareham
- 19 Reinhold P. Markgraf
- 22 Alyssa Boldt
- 25 Cori Giles
- 30 Kay Tellekson

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Marvin and Carol Johnson
- 17 Steve and Christine Zanmiller
- 24 Chris and Kathi Schouviller
- 27 Milton and Louise Nesdahl

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Warren and Sandra Zenk
- 28 Leanne and Scott Schmiesing



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Raymond Boldt | 18 Vern Sunday |
| 2 Wren Frayne | 18 Vickie French |
| 4 Charles Markgraf | 18 Sherry Skarsten |
| 4 Raymond Moody | 20 Paul Johannsen |
| 4 Abbe Holmgren | 21 Donald Nelson |
| 5 Deanna Steckman | 26 Kyle Atkinson |
| 7 Philip Barker | 27 Constance Williams |
| 10 Isla Frayne | |
| 11 Aaron Tholey | |
| 13 Pamela Karas-Johnson | |
| 14 Arlene Lindberg | |
| 16 Vicki Ledford | |
| 16 Cameron Fenton | |
| 16 Judith Schlukebier | |
| 16 Kenneth Urquhart | |
| 17 Marvin Johnson | |



NOVEMBER ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE!

The O.W.L.S. will be sponsoring an Arts & Crafts fundraiser on Sunday, November 12 at 11:00 am. It's not too late to participate! Crafts have varied from woodworking to quilting to acrylic paintings.

We invite you to share your passion with the community and help raise funds for a worthy cause at the same time!

(The fundraiser cause will be determined at the October O.W.L.S. meeting, look for details on the announcements page of the website)

TAKE A TRIP TO MAGOME WITHOUT LEAVING THE FELLOWSHIP HALL! *(details on pg. 13)*





O.W.L.S. (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS AT SALEM) OCTOBER - DECEMBER EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to join the O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Lutherans at Salem)! The group typically meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm for a different activity each month (some dates will vary depending on the activity, date changes are posted on the website).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17 - 1:00 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL MAGOME SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION



You're invited to come and enjoy a beautiful slideshow presentation from this summer's Magome Mission Trip. Trip members will also share stories about the trip.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 - ARTS & CRAFT FAIR 11:00 AM FELLOWSHIP HALL

Salem members and friends will be selling arts & crafts. Please contact Janet Sell if you would like to participate! (details on pg. 12)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 - HOLIDAY PARTY - 1:00 PM

All OWLS are invited to a holiday party at Janet Sell's home on Tuesday, December 12 at 1:00 pm. Please bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share and a white elephant gift to exchange.

**DISCOVER
YOUR
CHURCH**



LEARN MORE ABOUT SALEM AND CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER!

Have you wondered about ways to be involved in Salem's programming, what goes on behind the scenes, or perhaps a potential membership? Come and participate in an informational meeting, learn more and get answers to your questions!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023
10:45 AM - FIRESIDE ROOM**

Hope to see you there,
Diane Hueller (Membership)

ELIZABETH CIRCLE



The Elizabeth Circle meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 in the Fireside Room. Also, through the work of the circle at funeral lunches and donations collected each month, we were able to donate \$300.00 to God's Work, Our Hands. Circle is open to anyone wanting another place to study the word of God in a small setting. We use the magazine called Gather to get our studies. Everyone is invited to join the group!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PACKING EVENT

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023
4:30 PM - 6:15 PM**

Salem has 15 volunteer spots reserved for Friday, October 20 from 4:30 pm - 6:15 pm at the Eagan location. (990 Lone Oak Rd., #136, Eagan, MN., 55121) There will be a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex. **You must sign-up by Thursday, October 12.** Please help us to fill all 15 spots! If you are not able to stand, there are sit-down jobs available too!





BEER, BURGERS & HYMNS!
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM - GALLAGHER'S

Everyone is invited to the second “Beer, Burgers and Hymns” event on Monday, October 30 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Gallagher’s in West St. Paul (888 Ohio St.). Bring your family and friends and enjoy an evening of great food and drink, fellowship and hymn singing! We hope to see you there!



NEIGHBORSINC. DUCK RACES
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 – 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Everyone is invited to participate in the Neighborsinc. Duck Races on Saturday, October 7 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Proceeds support the essential needs programs and services at Neighborsinc. This year’s grand prize is a night on the town valued at \$500! We’ve had Salem members win some pretty cool prizes in the past so we encourage you to give it a try!



 neighborsinc.
**HERE DURING
TIMES OF NEED**

**NEIGHBORSINC. FOOD DRIVE
IN NOVEMBER**

Salem will be hosting a food drive for Neighborsinc. during the month of November. A barrel for donations will be available in the Narthex along with a list of most needed items and brown paper bags. Monetary donations are also welcome! Thank you for your support!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Be sure to watch your email in October for information about ordering Christmas Poinsettias. The plants are used to decorate the chancel area on Christmas Eve and are also donated to our homebound members. The cost is typically around \$10.00 per plant.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS AT SALEM!

The holidays are right around the corner and everyone is invited to celebrate at Salem!

TRUNK-OR-TREAT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM



This year's Trunk-or-Treat event will take place in the parking lot on Saturday, October 28 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Everyone is invited to decorate their car and load up the trunk with goodies for kids and families in the neighborhood. Please contact the church office by phone or email by October 20 if you would like to participate. Please spread the word to your family and friends...we can't wait to see all the cute costumes!



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023 - 7:00 PM

We will have a Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The service will also be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person. We will have a pie social in the Fellowship Hall after the service. We will need your baked or store-bought pies! Please drop them off in the kitchen on either Tuesday, November 21 or Wednesday, November 22 before the Worship Service. Thank you!



NEIGHBORSINC.
ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Salem will be participating in the Neighborsinc. Adopt-A-Family program. We will have a "Giving Tree" in the

Narthex with instructions about how to prepare your gift in December. More details to come.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS TEA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Plans for the Advent season, a Christmas Tea event and Christmas Program are being discussed...be sure to check your weekly emails and Sunday morning announcements for more details coming soon!



A WINTER SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING

LONGEST NIGHT/BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023 - 7:00 PM

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service may provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. On this darkest day of the year, we come with all our feelings seeking the return of light and hope.



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 - 9:30 AM

We will be having a Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship Service at the regular 9:30 am worship time.
All are invited!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 - 4:30 PM

This year's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on Sunday, December 24th at 4:30 pm. Please plan to attend this wonderful music-filled service with friends and family members in an evening of celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!





OLD TESTAMENT 5-PART STUDY
SATURDAYS: SEPTEMBER 23, 30
AND OCTOBER 7, 14, 21
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

Everyone is invited to this 5-part study led by Pastor Aaron. Light refreshments will be available.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JUMP INTO LEARNING!

If you missed the first two September sessions, you can reach out to the office and get the links to the Zoom recordings so you can get caught up to speed before attending the October sessions! We hope to see you there!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023 - 9:30 AM

Salem will be celebrating All Saints Sunday on Sunday, November 5. We will be remembering all members who passed into God's glory during the last year. We will have candles available in the Narthex that you can light in memory of your loved one during the Worship Service. Please contact the office if you would like a candle available for your loved one (s).



DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE GREAT PROGRAMS!

Lyngblomsten is offering a wide variety of great programs throughout the rest of the year. Event details, links to flyers and registration are available on the announcements page of the website or use the links below:

[**A MATTER OF BALANCE – A FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAM FLYER**](#)

[**LIVING WELL WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS FLYER**](#)

[**CREATIVE SPACE: SHARING OUR STORIES FLYER**](#)

(A creative opportunity for Persons Living with Memory Loss)

[**POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS FLYER**](#)

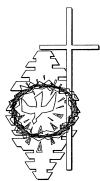


A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS AS WE HEAD INTO 2024!

Many people are needed to keep the
Worship Services and Ministry
Programs happening at Salem!

The St. Paul Area Synod is leading a
Spiritual Gifts Retreat on
**Saturday, November 4 from
9:00 am - 4:00 pm.** The cost is \$30.00.

Salem is able to sponsor up to 5 attendees! If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office by **Monday, October 23!**



Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

11 West Bernard Street, West St. Paul, MN 55118-1409

(651) 457-6661 • FAX: (651) 457-6693

E-mail: secretary@salemluth.org • Website: salemluth.org

✝ NEED PRAYER ✝

Louise Nesdahl.....651-280-9678

Diane Hueller.....651-451-0307

Church Office651-457-6661

If you or a member of your family are in need of prayer and would like us to pray for you, please call the prayer chain coordinator or the church office and we will place you on the prayer chain. *All calls are kept confidential.*

Ministers: All Members of Salem

Pastor.....Rev. Aaron Holmgren
Choir Director.....Carl Lipke
Handbell Director.....Keith Irwin
Organist.....Judy Belland
Parish Nurse.....Debbie Lee
Admin. Secretary.....Michelle Rodriguez



O.W.L.S.

(OLDER WISER LUTHERANS AT SALEM)

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

11:00 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

(Details on pg. 12)

The *Salem Newsletter* is a publication of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are located on Bernard Street, three blocks west of Robert Street between Humboldt and Hall. ***Deadline for the Winter/Spring newsletter is noon, Monday, December 4th.*** Please submit articles typed or printed clearly, by mail or email, including your name and phone number.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Details on pg. 9

