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### **Sunday Worship**

**8:30 a.m.**

(radio broadcast on WMIN  
1010AM)

**10:30 a.m.**

Both services on YouTube  
and salemstcloud.org

**In Christ's Name,  
Welcome!**

## **The Salem Window**

**March/April 2024**

**Vol. 360**

### **Easter + Holy Week**

#### **Easter Worship March 31**

8:30 traditional

10:30 praise

9:30 kids' egg hunt + youth cinnamon  
roll fundraiser

#### **Good Friday March 29**

7 p.m. worship

#### **Maundy Thursday March 28**

7 p.m. worship

**All are welcome!**



## From the Pastor's Desk

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know

Be still

Be.

PSALM 46:10

Be still and know that I am God.

[breathe]

Be still and know that I am

[breathe]

Be still and know

[breathe]

Be still

[breathe]

Be.

Breathe as many times as your body tells you that you need it.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Salem & Friends,

There are so many exciting things happening in the upcoming months. **I want to start by inviting you to just breathe with me. I like to use Psalm 46:10 for this prayer: "Be still and know that I am God."**

Take a deep breath or two and say that line. Then breathe again and drop off a word or two to make a new phrase, like printed above. God's people are a praying people, for this is how we intentionally connect with God and one another in our needs and requests for prayer.

Now to the excitement. We have been blessed by years of musical leadership by Josh Smith and Charles Echols. Now that the time has seemed right for God to lead them elsewhere, we will be discovering what God has in store for us next.



**First, the hiring process.** The Personnel Committee has reviewed the job descriptions for the Lead Organist, Associate Organist and Sanctuary Choir Director and formed a hiring team: Scott Campbell, Emily Zempel (new member of Personnel) along with myself. We have also invited Lori Potter to join us as an ongoing member of the music staff. The 10:30 Worship Leader will be a position we seek to fill in the summer, after we have an opportunity to experiment in April and May and determine what kind of musical skills we need in that staff person. That hiring team is TBD.

### **Second, April and May will be a time of transition for music in worship.**

- At the 8:30 service, we hope to welcome a new organist team among us.
- At the 10:30 service, we will be experimenting with guest musicians and the praise team to see what kind of feel we might want to shape for next fall. For the summer, we are considering the 10:30 service a New Ideas Worship. If you have any ideas you've seen at other churches or want to try at Salem, please let us know!
  - Local worship musician Allison Orgaard will be here April 7.
  - Rachel Kurtz, a very experienced singer-songwriter and worship leader from the Twin Cities, will be with us on April 21, May 5, May 26 and June 2.
  - The other Sundays are yet to be determined, but if you have a local musician you would like to recommend, please send their contact information to one of our worship and music staff, including me.

**Third, starting June 9 we will move to a unified worship service for the summer at 9:30am.** Soon you will see an invitation to give feedback as to how we might blend our two worship styles together for the summer. Your feedback will be very important for the worship and music ministry at Salem. Please be sure to share your thoughts as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly our summer musicians' schedule.

### **Finally, in staffing, we will soon be blessing Deb Anderson on her retirement as our Caring Minister.**

Deb has been holding off on this retirement through several years of transition, and for that we are thankful! That position description will be reviewed by the Personnel Committee and a new hiring team formed appropriate to that ministry.

**Above all, please pray for Salem's wisdom and discernment during these next few months.** As we discern and pray that God sends us the right musicians for our worship ministry, we will also be seeking God's wisdom in discerning the Outpost opportunity. See the separate write-up in this newsletter for the latest on the outpost, and stay tuned for more information and the date for a vote by the congregation.

Prayer shapes our community into what God hopes and dreams for us.

Let us pray... "Be still and Know that I am God."

In God's Grip,  
Pastor Kirsten

## Register Now for Vacation Bible School Summer Fun



A summer kids' event called Scuba VBS will be hosted at Atonement Lutheran Church **June 3-6**. At Scuba, kids explore what it means to have a friendship with God! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out sciency-fun experiments that get imagination bubbling.

- June 3-6
- 9 a.m.-noon
- Current preschool-sixth grade
- With Atonement Lutheran Church – get to know other Christian kids!
- Crafts, games, fun and snacks!

Registration is free through May 15! Click the QR code below to register, or contact the church office for a paper registration form.



**REGISTER NOW!**



But wait! Adults and teens can also participate! If you'd like to help out at VBS, use the QR code below or contact the church office. There are multiple opportunities to help every day, or just a day or two!



**SCAN TO HELP**

## What's Happening at Salem

### Book It to the Library

The Salem library will be having a free will donation book sale for a few weeks starting



April 7. We are the recipient of a bounty of Christian books, some of which we have added to our library, and some

which are waiting to be added to your collection!

The library team is working on digitalizing our collection so that you may access our titles through our website. We are looking forward to completing this project.

We have a new library team—Dalita Meyer, Sue Halsey, and Teresa Reis. They are eagerly awaiting comments, questions, and suggestions from you!

### Join Us for WELCA Events

“An Act of Love”—The Great River Women of the ELCA Conference Gathering will be Saturday April 6 at the Glendorado Church in Princeton. Two programs focus on Guatamala—Lauren Vaske on “Sharing the Dream” and Stoves for Guatamala. Registration forms are at the Welcome Center.

The Southwest WELCA Conference is May 4 in Redwood Falls. The main program is on the Terebinth Refuge. Look for more details in the Welcome Area.

### Spring Is Here! A Clean Church Doesn't Just Appear

Spring cleaning at Salem will be Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m.-noon. Mid-morning refreshments will be served. All are welcome to come for all or part of the morning.



### Celebrate New Members April 28

New Member Sunday will be April 28. Join us to get to know the new faces of Salem!

### Quilted Comfort Available Palm Sunday

Again this year, quilts which were made during the Lenten season will be put on the pews in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday March 24 for a



blessing before being taken to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul.

To help with shipping costs and materials for next year, quilts may be purchased for \$60. Monetary donations may also be given



for shipping and materials. Doughnuts will be served with coffee between services, and donations from this will also go

to the quilt fund. Thanks to all for supporting this project in so many ways.

## **We Can't Do It Without You!**

Salem has many opportunities to share your time and talents! Whether you prefer to volunteer as a group, a family or on your own, we need your help.

The following roles are available immediately.

- Greeting ushers
- Sunday coffee makers
- Sunday coffee clean-up
- Readers

If you can assist with these or any other jobs, please contact the church office.

## **Thank You, Deb**

Deb Anderson is retiring as Caring Ministry Coordinator on April 30. Join us at worship on Sunday, April 28 to wish her farewell and Godspeed.

## **ABA55 Update**

There will be a guided tour of the Stearns County Courthouse on Friday, April 19. We will meet at the main entrance of the Courthouse at 9:45am. Lunch to follow at the Green Mill. Arrangements are being made by Sue and Dan Halsey.

## **What Else Is Happening at Salem? (This is not a full list! Watch the announcements for details!)**



Fare For All



Worship



Craft Retreat



Pub Theology

## Community Outpost Task Force Update

The Community Outpost Task Force and the Congregational Council have been patiently listening for God's voice, listening to you, and waiting and working with the Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation (PSF).

- The PSF is proposing leasing space from Salem for a Minute Clinic and offices for the mental health team from our police department.
- CentraCare and the College of St. Benedict are considering being a part of it by providing low-level health care for east side community.

**The goal for Salem's leadership is to walk together through a time of intentional discernment about these partnership opportunities.**



The council dedicated a portion of their retreat in March to brainstorming ideas for discernment, so you may receive an invitation for you or your group to participate in an activity to discern. Previously, you have been encouraged to share your concerns, questions and excitement with one another and with the task force so that they might get solid information on which we might make a decision.

- You have already begun to see answers to the questions submitted at the February 18 Adult Forum in the weekly Friday emails. Keep your eyes open for them!
- In addition the chalkboard continues to be available in the gathering area or Great Hall for public discussion as well.

**Please keep in mind that we cannot anticipate every question therefore we cannot provide every answer.** We are building a relationship with the PSF, and a key part of this endeavor is a trusting relationship to know that we can problem-solve together.

**In the coming weeks you will have additional opportunities to learn more as we pray for God's hopes for us in this opportunity to become clear. This process will culminate in a congregational vote to decide whether or not to partner with the Public Safety Foundation.**

The space shared to serve the community would be 3,000 square feet of our education wing, about 10% of our building. The council's goal is to hold that vote on a Sunday in May, but a precise timeline will unfold as we discern together what God has in store for us.

Please continue to pray and be in conversation with one another, and especially your leadership on council and the Community Outpost Task Force:

- Jackie Johnson
- Jan Hallan
- Nick Johnston
- Cathy Jenniges
- Joel Shobe
- Pastor Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt