

Our Mission
Is
Making
Jesus
Known!



Marks of
Discipleship

I will strive
to...

Read
scripture
daily

Pray daily

Worship
weekly

Serve in
ministry at
Salem

Serve in
outreach
beyond
Salem

Tithe (10%)
of my
financial
resources

Lead others
To Jesus

The Salem Window

August/September 2020

Vol. 343

A Prayer and Thoughts About Reopening and Fall From Pastor Tim Routh

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to us, your children, an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us by your loving might, and permit us once more to enjoy health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

- 1) Thank you to everyone who has attempted to rejoin us for worship on Sundays in person or via other media. Bless your piety as you walk with God!
- 2) This fall we will be working to expand our connection to you via other media platforms. Look for Tom Speckhard, Director of Music and Worship, to invite you to join in "Singing Live" with him. Look for invitations to join in online and in person Bible Studies and Adult Forum education opportunities.
- 3) Please pray for our call committee as they are actively interviewing candidates in August, some more than once.
- 4) Both Jodi Johnson, (Children's Ministry Coordinator), and Peter Erickson (Confirmation and Youth Ministry Director) have updates about our plans for the fall. Please contact them directly at jodi@saalemstcloud.org and pete@saalemstcloud.org with questions not covered in the newsletter.
- 5) Our doors are opening to all ministry groups and some outside groups as we speak. Please work with the staff about a Safety Plan for your ministry or event beforehand. Masks are required under "Stay Safe MN" guidelines.



The Salem family welcomed Axel Judson Schwantes on his baptism July 19th. Family members are parents Nik and Lindsay, brother Drake, and sisters Greta and Stella with Pastor Tim.

A Word from the Pastor:

Renewal in a Strange Season - a Devotion

Isaiah 40:31

*but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.*

Greetings to all!

I have chosen this text because I know it is well known to many of you. It has been turned into cards, gifts, and carries hope. A good word in a difficult time.

Isaiah 40, which this text is a small verse of, carries other words including “*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term and her penalty is paid...*”

Another, “*A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God...’*”

Perhaps another way to speak is to imply that key verses we love are often found in the middle of a biblical story. In this case the early verses imply the coming of our God back to the people of God. The penalty has been paid.

The difficult times will give way to a vision of God which is unique, holy, and beautiful. Something I am hopeful for as this season continues.

Here are the verses before the ones on top:

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted; but...*

How beautifully do these verses couple together! (Is. 40:28-31) May they encourage you as we go through this season.

God be with you,

Pastor Timothy W. Routh
Salem Lutheran

Salem Council Greeting

Greetings everyone!

In the past couple of years we were able to have a Semi-Annual Meeting. That was the plan for this year as well, however, all of our lives and ways of doing things have changed. This year, Council Members and staff have completed summaries of Committee Work. Some have more than others to report as there have not been a lot of meetings.

It has been an interesting 6 months or so. Pastor Tim and Tom and other staff have done a great job of having services on the radio and music and some updates via Facebook. Opening up the building for services has gone well. Thanks to the various volunteers who have helped with ushering, signing people in, Pastor Tim, Tom and Chris Ann for being worship leaders and any others I may have missed. I have heard that the services look different, I am sure it is hard not to sing, no hugging or shaking hands, and limited socializing. I listen on the radio and the service always sounds good. Whenever you are comfortable with attending please do.

As a Council we are excited about the progress the Call Committee is making on seeking a second Pastor. This position will be a great addition to the staff and Council and will be involved in Faith Formation across all ages. It may not be too long before we will call a Congregational Meeting to vote on a making a Call. In the meantime we are deciding the best format to have such a meeting. More to come on that!

If you have not been to church lately, and are in the area, stop in and check out the new Coffee Bar and Welcome Center. Thanks to Marc Sanderson's Company for the donation of cabinetry and a lot of work. Thanks to the many volunteers as well, it is very nice.

Fall is right around the corner and plans are being made for whatever activities we can do at church with safe measures in place, and some as virtual offerings.

Council will be looking at budgets for next year soon. We have been fortunate to have a healthy budget during this time of COVID. Thank you for continuing your support. We look forward to working more on our East Side Story with our neighbors and look to God for guidance as we determine how that is done.

Your thoughts, questions, and ideas are always welcome. Please don't hesitate to share with myself or any of the Council Members.

Take Care Everyone. Pray for more understanding of this virus, a vaccine that will help and remember to care for your neighbor. Our Public Health Department continues to state the importance of Using a Mask when in Public; Washing your Hands frequently, Social Distancing, and Keeping your hands out of your face.

God's Blessings

Kathy St Martin Salem Council President

Visioning the LWR School Kit project for such times as these:

Lutheran World Relief needs all things more than ever now. (They even have a new 75,000-face mask challenge.) We are excited to be able to continue the School Kit project. We are visioning this anew to accommodate the safeguards many people have wisely adopted, such as limited and less frequent shopping. One way we are doing this is to order at the very lowest



cost found, many of the supplies in bulk. For those not wanting to shop and still wishing to participate, a monetary donation is very welcome and will be put toward the careful bulk purchasing. If you would like your donation to be used in this way, please clearly designate it for LWR School Kits.

For those of you who still shop and are comfortable doing it, we have set up a table inside near Door A at Salem for items to be dropped off. This will mean less people in the office area and more space for handling supplies. They will be picked up from there about once a week and held for a few days in limbo before being further handled. We will update the graph at Salem every week or two until we have enough of all items for 500 kits.

So far, we have been able to get 500 rulers and enough good-quality pens for 460 kits at very low prices, as well as over 500 scissors. We are also able to buy good erasers and adequate-quality sharpeners very reasonably online. Even the 70-page/25¢ notebooks have reached the 2000 count needed for 500 school kits thanks to bulk shopping and donations! Amazing.

We will need more backpacks, either sewn or purchased from LWR-suggested online vendors. The LWR website (www.lwr.org) has a list of some vendors that have provided acceptable backpacks. If anyone wants to sew backpacks, please do that by following the LWR pattern on their website or picking up the pattern from the donation table by Door A. If you would rather not put the cords in, we will happily add cords to the bags as they come in.

We, also, need people willing to deliver to the LWR Warehouse in South St. Paul. Boxes of completed kits will be left at Salem possibly in the nursery or near the donation table so they can be easily picked up for those going to the Cities and familiar with the warehouse location. Warehouse procedure for Covid-19 requires that you off-load the boxes onto a trolley yourself without help from employees there. It is always suggested to call the warehouse at 651 457-9009 beforehand to make sure it's open.

We are very grateful for all of you who so faithfully support this project year after year, and for the Salem Foundation that is so generous in its support of the School Kit project and many other efforts! You are truly making it happen. Love and well-being circle the world as we all share with one another. Thank you!

The graph as it looks now toward the end of August (for those at home who can't see it):

Rulers: 504 (all needed); Unsharpened Pencils: 441 sets (5/kit); Ballpoint pens: 460 sets (5/kit); 2-1/4" Erasers: 500+; Sharpeners: 492; Child's blunt scissors: 500+; 24-pack Crayons: 411; 70-page notebooks: 502 sets (4/kit); Backpacks: 296

Salem Community Meal Funds Redirected to Meet Needs of People Experiencing Homelessness

Right now, many people in our Central Minnesota Community are experiencing homelessness. They may be living in cars, parking ramps, garages, in the woods, under bridges or in the best scenarios sleeping in a hotel-based shelter or on a friend's couch.

Most indoor community meals options have been suspended during Covid19, indoor spaces such as the St Cloud Public Library are closed, public drinking fountains at Lake George were turned off until recently, and health restrictions limit access to the *Shower the People* mobile shower truck.

The Salem Community Meal team is thinking creatively about how to “be church” during this time of unprecedented need.

Since mid-June Salem has partnered with *Homeless Helping Homeless* and *Neighbors to Friends* non-profits and other volunteer organizations to support the frontline needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Seven days a week at 2-3 pm, a take-away meal is distributed near the Lake George Boathouse (meal items are prepackaged and offered from the trunks of volunteers).

Salem has committed to provide the **Saturday** sandwich meal with Community Meal funds (Thank you Pastor Tim for your full support!).

In the past few weeks, Salem volunteers have also provided essential donations such as clean clothing for men, women, and children, toiletries, sleeping bags, backpacks, bug spray, new socks & underwear, etc.

Wendy Shaler has spent hundreds of hours making sleeping mats from plastic grocery bags (fun fact: Wendy just completed her 50th mat!). It's incredible the difference sleeping on a soft mat (vs. concrete) can make to a person's ability to function the next day.



Wendy Shaler with Sleeping Mats

How can you help?

- 1) Continued item donations and Saturday meal volunteers are needed. See the list above. Also needed are tents, warm clothing, and coats for fall and winter (greatest need is for men's items all sizes). Items may be dropped off at Lake George on Saturdays between 1:45 and 3 pm (Volunteer cars will be in the parking area near the Boathouse).
- 2) Cash or online donations are always welcome. These can be sent to Salem or made directly to *Homeless helping Homeless* (<https://homelesshelpinghomeless.org>).
- 3) Call City Hall to voice your concerns about supporting people who are homeless and preventing homelessness in Central Minnesota (Mayor Kleis: 320-255-7201; dave.kleis@ci.stcloud.mn.us).
- 4) Contact Susie Seldeen (320-260-6946 skseldeen2@hotmail.com), Wendy Shaler (320-293-3877 wsshaler@charter.net), or Janet Tilstra (320-493-3413) with any questions or to volunteer. Thank you! Go in peace and serve the Lord!

From Tom Speckhard, Director of Music and Worship

Hello Salem Family. I would like to thank so many of you for your kind words of encouragement in this difficult time. I have missed you all very much during this pandemic time, but it has been a blessing to know we are still communicating in wonderful new ways during this strange time. As is the case in times like these, we are learning so much and trying new things all the time.

As we move into the fall, we will continue to offer the 8:30am and 10:30am services to the public. We do so practicing social distancing and require individuals to wear mask. There will still be a cantor for the 8:30am service and a music worship leader for the 10:30am service.

We do still ask that rather than singing along, you pray the words in your heart or speak the words aloud as the text is sung. I know this will be difficult for many and a relief for some. I hope we can use this experience to begin to empathize with so many people who have suffered much greater loss. God always has lessons for us during times of change.

I am so thankful for the musicians that have helped us continue to use music to open our hearts to prayer and inspire us to action. I especially thank our accompanist/soloists Charles Echols, Mark Froland, and Patty Jensen. Their skills as musicians and ability to remain flexible have been essential to continue God's message through music at Salem. I personally am uplifted by their spirits each week. I also owe my gratitude to the soloists here at Salem over the summer: Michael Zellgert, Chris Ann Johnson, and Laura Dahl. Their talents and kindness have done so much to help us enter into a devotional mind set.

Unfortunately, Sanctuary Choir and Praise Team will not be rehearsing or participating in open worship for the fall. Please know that as soon as it becomes safe to do so we will return to our normal schedules. Praise Team will continue to small group distance recording of songs to be shared on Salem's Facebook page.

We are also looking for soloist especially string instruments to participate in services for this fall. Lori Potter is looking into small group Bell Choir pieces to share during services as well.

As with all things in this strange new time things may (and even most likely) need to change as we progress. I ask for your prayers of support as we meet the challenges of this year. I am looking forward to the day when the musicians and congregation of Salem join together in expressing God's infinite love through music. I pray for strength of spirit and peace of mind as well as for our safety until we gather freely again.

From Jane Leitzman who collected and delivered many donations to Holy Trinity:

In the succinct words of Bishop Jon, "we are church together." And of course the mantra of our synod, "we can do together what we cannot do alone."

So many thanks for our efforts to be church together with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Together we have sent several full carloads of much needed supplies Trinity's effort. And what an impressive effort they are putting forth! If you have felt the added impact provided by driving through the area, or just seen the pictures, you know what a long-term effort is ahead. I will no doubt be calling on you again, but for now, so many thanks for your much appreciated donations.



From Deb Anderson, Caring Ministry Coordinator

Hi Salem Friends! How are you doing in these days of Covid-19? I hope you are managing okay. I also hope you are reaching out to others if you are feeling lonely or if you think someone else could use a friendly phone call from you. We are all in this together, so let's help each other.

It sounds like most of the Salem Congregation is avoiding the virus, and I'm most grateful to all of you who are being careful, faithfully wearing your face masks and social distancing in public places. This caution has allowed us to gather for worship, and it has been good to see many of you in church. Thankfully we still have 8:30 worship on the radio.

Although we are staying close to home, the Salem Caring Ministry is still active. We are calling on people, sending cards, and trying to reach out and encourage those who are ill, recovering from illness, experiencing grief or feeling lonely and in need of a call. Please let us know if you would like someone to call you. Pastor Tim and a couple of our Caring Ministry Team may be available to bring Communion to you if you request it.

The Salem Prayer Chain is active (urgent prayers) and the Prayer Keepers are still praying each week. Feel free to leave a prayer request on the Salem website (using either the *Prayer* tab or *Connect* tab). You can also contact me via email, Pastor Tim or Viv at the church office 252-1625. Be sure to let the church office know if you are hospitalized or in need of spiritual care. We may not be able to visit in person but we will do our best to contact you whatever way we can.

Our ELCA women have sewn lovely pocket bags to hang over the front of a walker. If you are in need of one of these "walker bags" let me know and I will see that you get one. The Prayer Shawl group has a nice supply of Prayer Shawls to share with someone you think would benefit from this gift. The group is also accepting shawls others may be making during this stay at home time. To donate a shawl, bring it to the church office in a bag with "Prayer Shawl Ministry" on it. Shawls can also be picked up at the church office.

Be careful, stay safe, and let us know how you are doing. May the Holy Spirit give you peace.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12

God Bless you with hope for better days ahead.
Deb Anderson, Caring Ministry Coordinator
deb@salemstcloud.org; 320-253-7953

2020 Mid-year Finance Committee Report

The Salem Finance Committee consists of the following members: Stefan Freeman, Larry Logeman, Julie Johnson, Wayne Anderson, Justin Hauer, Jan Hallan, Pastor Tim Routh, Finance Clerk and Steve Behrenbrinker. The purpose of the committee is to review the monthly financials and propose an annual budget. The committee continues to review monthly financials and will be working on the 2021 budget this fall.-- Steve Behrenbrinker, Treasurer

2020 Mid-year Salem Foundation Report

The Salem Foundation consists of the following members: Karen Fuglie, Kevin Johnson, Walt Erickson, Janet Tilstra, Anthony Farag, James Ringwald, April Leeb and Steve Behrenbrinker. The Foundation has investments at Bremer Bank and also has a number of Savings Bonds that become due over time. The Foundation has funded 41 benevolences globally, locally and within Salem in the amount of \$63,700 in 2020. The Foundation has presented scholarships to Salem Youth again this year and published a brochure describing the purpose of the Foundation. This year the Foundation also created an Emergency Grant process for those in need due to the current health crisis. Applications are on the Salem website.

2020 Mid-year Stewardship Committee Report

The Salem Stewardship Committee consists of Stefan Freeman, Pastor Tim Routh and Steve Behrenbrinker. The purpose of the committee is to promote the financial well-being of Salem Church. Due to the current health crisis the committee has decided not to have any fund-raising campaigns until possibly this fall. Fortunately, Salem is in a good financial situation and extensive fund-raising is not necessary at this time. The committee appreciates that our members have continued to be generous to Salem so we can continue to do God's work. -- Steve Behrenbrinker, Treasurer

To Salem Caring Ministry Team:

Thank you for your healing prayers, your cards, messages, texts and flowers while I was sick and in treatment. I felt your prayers and support every day!! It wrapped around me in god's love like a cozy blanket and kept me safe. I was sustained! (I would encourage anyone who is in need of prayer and support to contact the Caring Ministry team for a visit or a call.)
In Christ, Carol Eickhoff

Orongo Widows and Orphans (OWIDOP)

Through the efforts of Pamm Minden and Audrey Taatjes, the Salem congregation and the Salem Foundation have helped support the Orongo Widows and Orphans (OWIDOP) project in Kenya for about 5 years.

OWIDOP has had a particularly challenging time in the past few months. There were torrential rains in March. Typically the area small rivers and streams flow into Lake Victoria. The rains were so intense that the rivers and streams flooded backwards as Lake Victoria overflowed. Many people in this area live in homes made of packed and dried mud. These homes crumbled and disintegrated in the floods. Orongo Widows and Orphans took in many displaced families. They used our donations to help purchase net that was sewn into bags which were then planted with vegetables as the gardens were flooded.



OWIDOP is now under a Covid shutdown. Children are not in school until January. They have shelter, but there are no jobs or day labor opportunities. Food is difficult to obtain. The OWIDOP youth (young people no longer attending school) are trying to establish a tiny grocery store with low cost basic foods for their neighbors. Donations are needed to help with the start-up of this small business. If you are interested in making a small donation to help the flooded families or to help with the start-up grocery, please make your donation to Salem Lutheran. Be certain to note on your check that these are funds for ORONGO flood or ORONGO youth. Thank you for your consideration.

Pamm Minden and Audrey Taatjes

Update from Sveholms in Bratislava, Slovakia:

It's the beginning of August, and we're waiting to hear whether the lyceum where we work will be opened for in-person teaching in September, or whether we will continue teaching online.

We are also waiting for the final word on whether it will be possible for any new U.S. teachers to come to Slovakia through the ELCA's Central Europe Teachers program this year, although it looks increasingly unlikely.

Despite this uncertainty, the situation in Slovakia is good at the moment.

The lockdown here had substantially reduced the daily number of new cases of COVID-19 by the end of April. That statistic remained very low throughout May and June.

European borders started to reopen at the beginning of July. Daily new cases increased then, but have remained relatively steady since, usually around 15-30 (in a country of 5.5 million).

Teaching online was a big adjustment. Starting in March everyone, from the Ministry of Education down to the teachers, had to improvise and adjust to the new situation. Nobody knew what to do or what to expect.

I teach the preparation course for seniors' school-leaving exams, and we had to continue teaching them without knowing what form the exams would take, or if they would happen at all.

In the end the exams were cancelled, but it was a stressful situation for everyone.

This summer has allowed both the government and our school administration more time to make contingency plans, so - whether we are teaching online again in September, or back in the classroom - things will go more smoothly.

We are praying for everyone back in the U.S., and for a speedy resolution to the pandemic.

We are grateful for your prayers and support as well. Thank you!

-- Nick Sveholm

2020 Mid-year Treasurer's Report

Overall, at mid-year 2020 Salem is doing well considering the current health crisis. Our total income is only down 2.5% from 2019 and our expenses are lower due to not being staffed.

This Spring we transitioned the Finance Clerk from Tammy Sturm to Kris Shovan from Robert Haff and Associates and she has learned our system quickly. Electronic giving by members has a very positive affect on our financial situation. The following is a summary of our current financial status. Thanks to all for your prayers and generosity.

Total 2020 Budget: \$609,600 Total 2019 Budget: \$607,100.00

General Checking Account Fund balance as of January 1, 2020: \$153,024.69

General Checking Account Fund balance as of June 30, 2020: \$275,874.32 (including PPP)

Dedicated Checking Account Fund balance as of January 1, 2020: \$97,662.09

Dedicated Checking Account Fund balance as of June 30, 2020: \$198,604.29

Other Assets:

Bremer Certificate of Deposit: \$25,000; Opened 7-12-2019; Matured: 5-12-2020; \$25,417.81 deposited into Dedicated Account May 12, 2020.

Other Debt: CCE Bulb Project: \$10,331.90; Monthly Payment: \$194.95 Dedicated Account Special Assessments Balance: \$105,560.76; First Payment May 15, 2021 Payroll Protection Plan (PPP): \$57,400 deposited in General Account on May 12, 2020; Balance June 30, 2020: \$13,498.74.

Income:

Total 2020 Annual Income: \$292,106.50; Total 2019 Annual Income: \$299,484.73 a 2.5% decrease.

Expenses:

Total 2020 Annual Expenses: \$190,737.67; Total 2019 Annual Expenses: \$256,737.32 a 25.7% decrease.

Other:

We cashed a \$50,000 Bremer CD on March 20, 2020 and also received \$835.62 of accumulated interest. We paid \$32,974.20 of the total special assessment of \$139,534.96 on April 7, 2020 leaving a balance of \$106,560.76 to be paid over 20 years. First year payment is \$11,512.66 due half in May and half in October 2021.

Submitted by Stephen Behrenbrinker, Treasurer

2020 Mid-year Personnel Committee Report

The Salem Personnel Committee consists of Pastor Tim Routh, Emily Fischer and Steve Behrenbrinker. The committee assisted in the hiring of the Kris Shoven, Finance Clerk and Warren Cotch, Property Manager. The Committee also worked on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which is the document provided to the Synod to assist us in calling clergy. We continue to review job descriptions when the positions become open. We are also reviewing the current vacation and sick leave policies and are working on developing a Paid Time Off (PTO) policy for staff.

Submitted by Steve Behrenbrinker, Member

Thank you for your recent gift of 2,945 bandages and 11 sheets given on July 22 to Global Health Ministries. Your gifts make it possible to ship vital medical supplies and equipment, offer timely grants, and educate leaders to help the hands that heal in 13 under-resourced countries.
– Global Health Ministries

**** Thank you to Bonnie Skillrud for delivering the bandages and sheets to the Minneapolis Warehouse.**

You are invited to join us for Sunday worship at 8:30am on radio station WMIN 1010 AM or 101.1 FM. ** Live streaming at www.uptown1010.com

Property Committee Report

Over the past late spring and summer, a lot has happened regarding the church property.

- A new face has been added to our church staff – Warren Cotch is the new Property Manager. Warren comes with a lot of experience and is getting familiar with his position quickly. Welcome Warren when you see him.
- Many of the floors have been stripped and waxed and carpets have been cleaned.
- The kitchen has all new wall panels thanks to Kevin Johnson and his crew. The kitchen looks so much nicer. Thanks Kevin. The kitchen has also been cleaned top to bottom and organized thanks to the kitchen committee.
- The north parking lot has been patched and repaired.
- Roof leaks have been repaired.
- An effort is underway to organize the storage areas around the church.



As part of the continuing work on the East Side Story, one of the things you will notice when you enter the Gathering Area is the addition of a new Welcome Center. The Welcome Center is designed to greet everyone entering through the main church entrance with an information and brochure center, computer monitors for registering for events (more to come on that) and 3 message center monitors.

Also, a new coffee area has been added next to the Welcome Center with a mini kitchen, and new commercial quick brew coffee pots and a commercial dishwasher. This will make our social time between services much easier and more functional.

A huge thank you to Marc Sanderson and Wilke Sanderson Company for their donation of all of the cabinets and counter tops for the Welcome Center and Coffee Center. We also would like to thank the many talented church volunteers that made the construction project possible. Please thank them when you see them. They are; Glenn Street, Tom Olson, Wayne Anderson, Denny Douma, Steve Behrenbrinker, Kevin Johnson, Warren Cotch and Dayton Herbranson.

Property Committee – Tim Backes, Dayton Herbranson, Kevin Johnson & Todd Theisen



New Salem Welcome Center



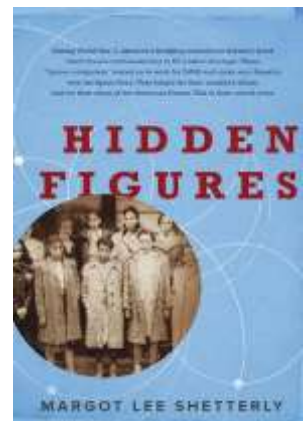
New Kitchen/Coffee Center

Salem's Tuesday Noon Book Club

Although Salem's Tuesday Noon Book Club last met on March 10, we have optimistically produced a book list for 2020-2021.

When it becomes safe for those with our check list of age/health concerns to meet again, we will do so.

In the meantime, we will continue to read. Upcoming book: September - Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly; October – A Fatal Grace by Louise Penny.



Salem's Kids Fall Update

Hello Families! Please know that you are all deeply missed currently. After much praying, thought and conversations and your feedback...I've decided that Salem's Kids will begin the year virtually.

Every Sunday at 9:30am there will be a recorded (and sometimes live) Simply Loved worship and praise for all children, PreK-6th grade.

We will also have a once a month Take Out Church box for families to take home and engage in devotions, activities, prayer and fun together.

I will begin going live and posting recorded storytime again during the week! These will be available on Wednesday evenings.

Finally, we will slowly begin to build in socially distanced family events to bring us together.

We are certainly in a different time, but God's love never changes! I look forward to sharing how we are all Simply Loved with all of you this fall.

Walking In His Grace,
Jodi Johnson, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Salem Confirmation (7th and 8th Graders): We are excited to return to confirmation this fall with a hybrid model. Here's what it looks like each month: Week 1: Zoom Lesson; Week 2: Small Group Lesson at church (social distant with masks); Week 3: At home conversation (with content provided); Week 4: Spaced Service Opportunity at Church (TBA).

The content this year will focus on the catechism (10 commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord Prayer and Sacraments). We will begin with confirmation instruction the first week of October 7th. Each week confirmation will meet from 6:30-7:30PM. A formal email will come out in the next week with a full calendar for the program year.

9th Grade Rite of Confirmation- SAVE THE DATE (October 25th): The plan for this fall is, as tradition, to hold the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, October 25th. This worship will happen OUTSIDE of the Sunday morning worship service during the afternoon. Pete Erickson and Pastor Tim will be sending out communication to families with next steps, some to-do's and the process for gathering.

Pete Erickson, Interim - Youth and Family Ministry

Birthdays August - October

Kelly Radi	8/2	Pat Behrenbrinker	9/5	David Dalland	10/1
Drew Burling	8/3	Ethan Brott	9/5	Brittany Skaalerud	10/1
Christine Inkster	8/3	Ethan Stoeckel	9/5	Payge Dubuque	10/2
Jerrold Nelson	8/3	Kathryn Stoeckel	9/5	Rebecca Loehr	10/2
Eric Olson	8/3	Greta Schwantes	9/6	Elizabeth Rosa	10/2
Kaia Ringwald	8/3	Chandler Schaefer	9/7	Joyce Helling	10/3
Peter Doroff	8/4	Jerry Wellik	9/7	Shaiana Routon	10/4
M. Zimmerman	8/4	Chase Adamek-Lyon	9/8	Elsie McCann	10/5
Sophie Fischer	8/6	Jim Carr	9/8	Dave Borron	10/6
Karley Backes	8/7	Gage Zastrow	9/8	Jacob Doroff	10/7
Diane Yeager	8/7	Caitlin Gerdes	9/9	Amanda Farag	10/7
Lila Asmus	8/10	Cheryl Lauer	9/9	Carol Hallan	10/8
David Myres	8/12	Lainey Sheetz	9/9	Jacob Belling	10/9
Tim Tingblad	8/12	Dennis Munson	9/10	Henrik Schlagel	10/9
Kyle Johnson	8/13	Logan Peterka	9/10	Abigail Tingblad	10/9
Karla Myres	8/13	Emma Kobernusz	9/12	Wendy Meierhofer	10/10
Lanette Wise	8/13	Katherine O'Brien	9/12	Mason Midas	10/10
Memphis Adamek-Lyon	8/15	Nils Wilson	9/12	Theodore Russell	10/10
Marcus Edwards	8/15	Daniel Lutterman	9/13	Sarah White	10/10
John Lee	8/15	Roberta Schiel	9/13	Gretta Gerdes	10/11
Doug Miller	8/15	Marilyn Anderson	9/15	Deb Peterson	10/11
Virginia Mezera	8/17	Suzie Keller	9/15	Susan Seldeen	10/11
Randy Skinner	8/17	Peyton Tingblad	9/15	Ellen Heneghan	10/13
Millie Teders	8/17	Grayson Peterka	9/16	Dwight Jaeger	10/13
Alyssa Williams	8/17	Brett Edwards	9/18	Gary Kawlewski	10/13
Todd Theisen	8/18	Brad Kothman	9/18	Ellen Chovan	10/14
Bill Zwiener	8/18	Lisa Miller	9/18	Jake Haley	10/14
Kim Ahmann	8/19	Sue White	9/18	Jeff Hauge	10/15
Dayton Herbranson	8/20	Dennis Bengtson	9/19	Jackie Lutterman	10/15
Taylor Gessner	8/21	Deb Kawlewski	9/19	Casey Wolford	10/15
Stefan Freeman	8/22	Joel Shobe	9/19	Rachel Freeman	10/16
Mill Logeman	8/22	Chad Koenig	9/20	Marisa Farag	10/17
Dennis McCann	8/22	Aaron Meierhofer	9/20	Helen O'Rourke	10/19
Janet Schirmers	8/22	John Sandy	9/20	Kathleen Wellik	10/19
Evonne Schmidtbauer	8/22	Joanne Kris	9/21	Preston Whitaker	10/19
Kaesha Madden	8/23	Angie Olson	9/21	Kendra Barhorst	10/20
Stan Severson	8/23	Kathy St. Martin	9/21	Grant Zastrow	10/20
Harvey Cederholm	8/24	Kevin Myres	9/22	Chris Thompson	10/21
Nick Johnston	8/24	Nicholas Asplund	9/23	Susan Bengtson	10/22
Linda Tenneson	8/24	Zachary Asplund	9/23	Roger Jensen	10/22
Jodi Carr	8/25	Abby Schuft	9/23	Jody Koenig	10/23
Daniel Karpinski	8/25	Eva Stoeckel	9/23	Chase Litzau	10/23
Carolyn Tobiasen	8/25	Kurt Stunek	9/23	Tammy Kothman	10/24
Eric Berge	8/26	Anne Kelleher	9/24	David Tilstra	10/24
Nicole Kockler	8/26	Leslie Henson	9/25	Nicholas Zasoski	10/24
Christine Kroschel	8/26	John Nelson	9/25	Sara Martin	10/25
Karen Sandy	8/30	Allison Skinner	9/26	Jerry Kenning	10/26
Elaine Stenman	8/30	Jill Wahman	9/26	Ashley Lardy	10/26
Jennifer Stoeckel	8/30	Eli Ringwald	9/27	Kelli Nyquist	10/26
Carmen Koester	8/31	Teri Zastrow	9/27	Grayson Sanderson	10/26
Brian Martin	8/31	Samantha Asplund	9/28	Robin Woidyla-Wood	10/26
Macie McCann	8/31	Mark Henson	9/28	Andrew Zellert	10/26
Beverly Hoyer	9/1	Brenda Kockler	9/28	Christian Edwards	10/27
Andrew Theisen	9/1	Mona Muller	9/28	Melanie Hoffman	10/27
Sandra Rau	9/2	Lyle Schmidtbauer	9/28	Joe Rosa	10/28
Kathy Wheelock	9/2	Lauren Miller	9/29	Mavis Mulcahy	10/29
Lana Brott	9/3	Ione Pearson	9/29	Mary Linn	10/30
Michael Peterka	9/3	Nathan Schuft	9/29	Linda Carr	10/31
Cynthia Ryg	9/3	Drake Schwantes	9/30	Tylee Rudolph	10/31

Thank you for all the cards and well wishes during retirement.

It gives me time to enjoy this wonderful world.

Thank you again, I really appreciate your thoughts and have enjoyed working with all of you and for the church.

Now I can do what I want when I want and if I want!!!!

Earl Kothman, retired Salem Property Manager

Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Pastor Tim Routh

Interim Youth & Family Ministry

Pete Erickson

Administrative Assistant

Viv Kloskin

Caring Ministry Coordinator

Deb Anderson

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Jodi Johnson

Director of Music & Worship

Tom Speckhard

Handbell Choirs

Lori Potter

Finance Clerk

Kris Shover

Property Manager

Warren Cotch

Custodian

Eddy Setterholm