

**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**

## Greetings on Behalf of the Salem Council Members

The Council has had a number of issues to work on these past months.

- **Constitution Update:** Thanks to Dave Leitzman, Pastor Tim and John Schiel the constitution has been updated and reviewed and approved by the Council. The changes reflect required updates from the Synod as well as incorporating Bylaws and continuing resolutions in the body of the Constitution. It has been sent to the Synod for review and they may send us suggestions for further change. It will then be brought to the Salem Congregation for vote at the Annual Meeting.
- **Open positions:** Sanctuary and Praise Team Directors, Property Manager; Music Director and Children, Youth and Family. Job descriptions have been reviewed by Personnel Committee and updates provided by pastors. There have been interviews for Choir directors and Property Manager.
- **Wednesday night meals.** Discussed options as we seek individuals to help with leading this ministry. With pandemic in place, bag lunches may be an option. The ministry is important and is a great time for fellowship with all ages.
- **Strategic Planning continues:** We have set goals to increase communication, improve technology, review and potentially change Mission and Vision, continue to share with our neighbors. You may have seen some changes such as the addition of Friday emails to members and invites to neighbors to events such as the successful Ice Cream Social.
- **Cottage meetings** have started and good information and fun times have been had. If you have not signed up for a meeting, I encourage you to consider it. This is an opportunity for fellowship, to get to know Pastor Kirsten, and to share what you feel is a good direction for Salem to go. Fits right in with what do we want as a Vision and Mission for Salem.
- **Growing Young Book Study:** The last session reviewing Chapter 8 will be Sunday, September 26, 9:30am, in the Great Hall. We will discuss what things we have learned from the book and how it may benefit Salem. If you have not read the book, I encourage you to do so. Helping Salem Grow Young will take support and help from everyone. The book focuses on 6 concepts: 1) Unlock Keychain Leadership; 2) Emphasize Today's Young people; 3) Take Message of Jesus Seriously; 4) Fuel a warm community; 5) Prioritize Young People and families everywhere; 6) Be the Best Neighbors.

Mathew 22:37 is referenced in this book as an important basis: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it, Love your neighbor as yourself.*

During this time of COVID, drought, hurricanes, war and many things in people's lives that are changing and hard, it is important to remember these commandments and pray for each other and the world.

Blessings to all.

Kathy St. Martin, Salem Council President

[kmstmart@charter.net](mailto:kmstmart@charter.net)

## 20 Years Later: A 9/11 Remembrance

On the morning of 9/11 twenty years ago, I was at my first parish in rural WI. I had finished my morning devotion when the “Lord’s housekeeper” burst into my office and said, “A plane hit the World Trade Center in New York!” I was incredulous and said something to the effect “What idiot couldn’t see the World Trade Center?” It never crossed my mind that there would be an attack with planes in the air. I never thought I would see the Pentagon hit by an airborne plane nor one that would go down in Pennsylvania heading towards the Capital.

It was a morning I will always remember, much like *The Challenger* exploding while we watched from school. Or when President Kennedy was shot in Dallas. I remember being on the Saint Cloud State campus when the bombing in Iraq started the first Gulf War. It was eerily quiet. The National Guard unit I was attached to from Austin, MN began calling people for possible activation. “Volunteers” is what they called it. My older brother, serving in the Marines, was already in the Middle East. I wasn’t sure my mother’s heart could handle the phone conversation we had from my dorm room.

After that morning, (9/11), I began to consider if I could serve as a Chaplain. I had completely gotten out of the military years before as my weekends often required my attention elsewhere...yet two years later I was direct commissioned as an officer and Chaplain in United States Army Reserve. I served nine more years with units in the Midwest along with their families. I served one year in Iraq, attached to a unit from Pennsylvania I did not know. It was a great, meaningful, and diverse ministry.

**20 years ago** our country was attacked and thousands lost their lives. Thousands more have served our nation in relation to that morning. The final count of wounded or dead must wait until we leave Afghanistan 20 years later.

As for myself, I have thoughts at times about Iraq and Afghanistan. “Was this worth the cost?” I ask. It is a very ‘veteran’ thing to do I am told...to worry about things far above my ‘pay grade’. Iraq and Afghanistan have not flourished since we left. It saddens me. “What were we doing there?” comes back to me often.

My anxiety about the danger our military is facing has gone up over these weeks. It is one of the most dangerous jobs in the world to be at a checkpoint where a person can show up with a suicide vest...to ‘pat’ down another so they do not get through to the plane taking off. It must be done though. The military must serve with danger around because others could not leave otherwise. They serve at the higher level, with life on-the-line, so our citizens and others fly in planes heading home.

**20 years ago**, our country was attacked. 20 years later, our military and others are still serving our nation. I am proud of them. They are our fellow citizens and more. They are heroes because they serve to protect life and our country's hopes for the future. I pray for them. I pray for wisdom, protection, and strength.

I remember those who have died in tragedy. I remember those who have died since that dark morning. I remember going to families of those who died. I remember the wounded. I remember the civilians all around trying to live in an unsafe world. I remember children living in a war-torn land. I remember God’s promise ‘*to never leave or forsake us.*’ I remember *‘faith, hope, and love. These three remain, but the greatest of these is love.’*

**20 years later**, I stood on the highest spot in Minnesota...next to my nephew who now serves in the Navy. We had a moment of silence for those who died **20 years ago**.

*We remembered...*

God’s blessings to you,  
Pastor Timothy W. Routh

## **Hello Salem! Welcome to Fall 2021.**

Our life is still not as we wish it to be, but things are getting better. I am excited to share our Fall plans for Youth & Family Ministries at Salem. We are determined to gather safely in person to form the faith of our youth, children and to support parents, aunties, uncles and grandparents in forming faith at home, in your car and anyplace you are together. *If we are inside, please wear a mask!*

First, let me welcome and thank our two new ministry teams: Youth Ministry and Children & Family Ministry. These two teams of Salem folks are planning, praying and partying our way into the 2021-2022 program year. They care deeply about forming faith for kids of all ages, and want to partner with YOU to raise up the next generation of disciples.

**Youth Team:** Lily Rogholt, Megan Rogholt, Phil Rogholt, Katie Stoeckel, Micah Stoeckel, Becky Williams, Teri Zastrow

**Children & Family Team:** Juliet Bambrink, Emily Fischer, Micah Stoeckel, Julie Stoeckel, Steven Roenfeldt  
*Please join me in thanking each of them for stepping up to re-form ministry to Children, Youth & Families!*

### **All Generations**

Adult & Family Forums are coming this fall! Once per month YOU are invited to participate in hands-on forming the faith of our children. Come to practice activities for faith building in our congregation or your home with your grandchildren, children, nieces, nephews, neighbors or godchildren. *Save the Dates!*

September 19  
October 17  
November 21

December 19  
January 16  
February 20

March 20  
April 17  
May 15

### **Children**

Salem's Kids will begin with Rally Day on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Invite all families nearby! Join us to get a taste of the learning we will do this year. Salem's Kids are looking for Authentic, Affirming, Available (AAA) Adults to build faith in the classroom with teachers and students - no prep, just AAA presence. Contact one of our team members to get involved or sign up in the Gathering Area.

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation will kick off with the 7th-12th grade Fall Retreat Sept 17-19th. Wednesday night classes will start September 22nd, bringing learning, monthly serving, and mentoring. If you have an idea for a service project in the neighborhood, please contact Pastor Kirsten. If you are not getting email communication from me for confirmation and would like to, please register here:

<https://salemstcloud.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/9c687b94-8100-4b1a-81da-b234e20442e1>

### **Youth**

High School Youth Group will say goodbye to summer and hello fall with a Pizza Kick Off Sept 8th 6:30-7:30pm in churchyard for 9th-12th graders. Fall Retreat is scheduled for Sept 17-19th for 7th-12th grades - and it will be a blast. Youth Group will officially start on Sept 22nd. Looking forward to hanging out soon!

*Youth Ministry Dates:* Sept 8 - Pizza Kick Off in Churchyard; Sept 17-19 Fall Retreat; Sept 22 HS Youth Group starts

### **Pride Walk**

On Sept 15th myself and some youth leaders will be attending the St. Cloud Pride walk. It starts at the Great River Regional Library with sign making at 5:30pm, walking from 6:30-7:30. Everyone, young and old, are invited to join us.

Peace in Christ to you! - Pastor Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt

## Children's & Family Ministry: You're Part of the Family

Salem's revitalized Children's & Family Ministry is kicking into high gear in September!

### September 12: Rally Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks

All kids in grades preK-6 are invited to bring their backpacks for a special blessing during each worship service. Sunday school kicks off September 12 at 9:30am. Join us upstairs to learn the story of creation through worship, snacks, crafts and more!

**All kids are welcome to Salem's Kids.** If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbor kids or other children who want to grow in their faith, bring them along. Registration will be available onsite.

### NEW Adult & Family Forum for the Entire Salem Family

Join our kids, youth, families, singles, seniors and others for a monthly interactive event for all generations! Once a month, the new Adult & Family Forum will meet in the Great Hall for an event designed to help everyone grow together and strengthen our faith as a community. Everyone is welcome! Mark your calendars: 2021 Adult & Family Forums will take place September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 19.

### Faith Guides Are Needed

Of course, none of this can happen without you! We are looking for faith guides who want to help make Jesus known through our kids. What does it take to be a Faith Guide? The most important qualification is willingness to be a Triple-A Adult: ▪ Affirming ▪ Authentic ▪ Available.

Faith Guides do not plan lessons or need teaching expertise. These adults will be alongside the kids learning Bible stories and doing activities designed to grow everyone's faith.

**If you are willing to be a Faith Guide, sign up in the Gathering Area for one or more weeks.** Fall is coming. High School Youth Group will say goodbye to summer and hello fall with a Pizza Kick Off Sept 8th 6:30-7:30pm in churchyard for 9th-12th graders.

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### Update on Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Thanks to all who have brought in school supplies for the kits, sewn backpacks and donated money to buy supplies! We have been diligent at finding supplies at the lowest available cost and gotten many items in bulk.



Since it was unlikely that a big pack-up day would work out again this year, the kits have been packed as supplies have come in.

Already 380 kits have been delivered to the LWR warehouse in south St. Paul. Another 150 kits are packed and ready to go. We are awaiting more bags to pack up the rest of the supplies. LWR does a wonderful job of spreading hope and love around the world. Every contribution makes this possible. A big thank you to all, and to the Salem Foundation for its generous support! -- Pam Lundholm; Jackie Lutterman; Joyce Wilson

## Update from our supported missionaries in Slovakia

Preparing for school in Bratislava, Slovakia with Central Europe Teachers, August brought New Teacher Orientation. Three new teachers spent eight days (re)learning the basics of teaching and living within a Slovak context. Highlights included a language class that rotated locations around Old Town for practical outside instruction, lessons taught to actual students, negative covid tests, meetings with our school and church partners, and a final blessing and commissioning (pictured in photo).



Here's what's coming next for Central Europe Teachers: • The first day of school with students was Sept. 2; • At the beginning of the school year, students and teachers will be required to wear masks, vaccinated or not, and covid tests are recommended but not required upon return; • Vaccination is slow despite supply. Vaccine hesitancy is keeping rates below 45%; • Pope Francis will spend four days in Slovakia. Please pray over one or all of these upcoming events.

Thank you for hosting us in August and for your ongoing prayers and support - Naomi and Nick.

\* Naomi and Nick (Lundholm) Sveholm are currently serving with the ELCA Central European Teachers Mission, an outreach of the ELCA.

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## Lutheran World Relief Quilt Project

**What:** Assembling and tying together the top, bottom and fill, which have been prepared to make a quilt.

**When:** Beginning Wednesday, Sept.15, and continuing every Wednesday for 6 weeks.

**Time:** 9:30am -12:00 noon and 1:00-3:30pm.

Come for the morning, afternoon, or the day. Come for the time(s) you can and the length of time which works for you.

For those who choose to stay for the day, you may want to bring a bag lunch for the noon break. There also is a Bible study from 12-1 pm on the texts for the coming Sunday, which you might attend while eating lunch.

Please consider serving in this project if you are available. No experience is needed, and it is good to have newcomers as well as those who have been involved in the past.

Usually we have 8-12 people tying, but the numbers vary as well as those tying. It is an enjoyable and productive experience. Not sure, come and see, no commitment needed.

Benefits are serving and fellowship, knowing you were a part of making a quilt for our brothers and sisters in need all over the world. The LWR warehouse is in great need of quilts due to churches not able to provide them during the pandemic.

Questions or concerns call Joan West 253-9620.

## Feeling lonely? Call a friend!

According to a recent study conducted in the midst of the Covid pandemic, and published in the *JAMA Psychiatry*, reaching for the phone to connect with loved ones is a good idea.

Housebound adults receiving Meals on Wheels services were recipients of brief calls from young callers for 4 weeks. "At the beginning and end of the study, participants were assessed on measures such as loneliness, anxiety and depression. Those who received the calls experienced improvements in all three areas as compared with those who were not called, and their anxiety was found to be significantly decreased." (Mayo Clinic Health Letter, Sept 1, 2021)

Salem's Caring Ministry Team, and many of you, have reached out, through the phone, to connect with others in our Salem community. Your calls and connections are appreciated and perhaps more beneficial than you ever realized. Turns out it's good for our mental health and over-all wellbeing.

Thank you for your calls and effort to stay connected with those feeling alone. And if YOU are feeling alone, reach for the phone and call a friend!

You can also reach out to me at [deb@salemstcloud.org](mailto:deb@salemstcloud.org) or call the church office 320-251-1625 and leave me a message.

-- Deb Anderson, Caring Ministry Coordinator

### Fall Gathering Great River Conference of the Women of the ELCA

When: Saturday, October 2  
8:30am to 1:00pm

Where: Salem Lutheran Church  
90 Riverside Drive SE  
St. Cloud

Speaker: Rev. Mandy France on  
"Love Thy Neighbor."

Registration is at 8:30am. The event also includes music, business meeting, gift bag drawings and lunch.

## Church Council Building Use Guidelines

At the August 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the following guidelines were approved for inside building use, other than worship: Groups meeting in the building will be determined by the case rates per 100k population on a 7-day average. Website resource for those stats for our counties and school districts: [https://jwolfson.shinyapps.io/school\\_openings/](https://jwolfson.shinyapps.io/school_openings/)

Case Rate guidelines for groups larger than defined room capacities (See below).

- Cases over 100/100k - outside gatherings (use tent and heaters)
  - 50-100 cases/100k - indoor masks required, small groups (10 or less) only
  - 30-50 cases/100k - indoor masks required, large group ok
  - 0-30 cases/100k - indoor masks optional
- Virtual is Last Resort for Children & Youth Events.  
Room capacities: Sanctuary – 81; Great Hall – 48; Youth Room - 10 or 15; Large Classrooms – 10; Small Classrooms/Library/Conference – 5.

## Rolling Bandages

The bandage making group will meet on Thursdays this year. We plan to begin September 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

Glenn Street has made several new winding devices for us so we will need more "winders" and hope more women and men will join us in this project. We will also need more white, mostly cotton, bed sheets. Garage sales and thrift stores are often good sources for these.

We look forward to again providing hundreds even thousands of bandages for Globe Health Ministries where they are badly needed in foreign clinics and hospitals, mostly in Africa.

## Church Staff

**Pastor Tim Routh** [pastortim@salemstcloud.org](mailto:pastortim@salemstcloud.org)

**Pastor Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt**

[pastorkirsten@salemstcloud.org](mailto:pastorkirsten@salemstcloud.org)

**Viv Kloskin** Admin Assistant [viv@salemstcloud.org](mailto:viv@salemstcloud.org)

**Deb Anderson** Caring Ministry Coordinator

[deb@salemstcloud.org](mailto:deb@salemstcloud.org)

**Lori Potter** Handbell Choirs

**Kris Shover** Finance Clerk [finance@salemstcloud.org](mailto:finance@salemstcloud.org)

**Warren Cotch** Property Manager [warren@salemstcloud.org](mailto:warren@salemstcloud.org)

**Dr. Charles Echols** Principal Organist

**Mark Froland** Organist

**Patty Jensen** Accompanist

## Summertime Adventures – Luther Crest Camps: Family & Kids; Leadership Quest; Cottage Meetings



## Ice Cream Social



The rain, that we prayed for, came forth to nourish the earth on Tuesday morning, August 24.



By early evening, the sky cleared and the Salem family and Eastside Neighborhood gathered on the westside lawn.

There was plenty of ice cream and special treats for all. Good conversations happened all around the tables assembled there.



On Sunday, August 29, more ice cream was scooped up into cones for parishioners of both services. Thank you to hosts of the Ice Cream Social, ABA55 (Awesome Beyond Age 55).

**\*\* Leader Covenant that was council approved to share with the whole congregation our expectations.**

## **Leader Safety Covenant**

For Salem Lutheran's Student & Family Ministry

*Council Approved August 2021*

### **Our Vision:**

That our leaders would be people who:

- Want to share God's love and grace with youth and their families.
- Understand that the security and safety of the youth is of utmost importance.
- Value youth gifts and leadership and see them as vital to the church!
- Help build an encouraging atmosphere.
- Are growing spiritually outside of youth activities!
  - Leaders are people who are following Jesus actively in their lives. Including engaging the 7 Marks of Discipleship: Read scripture, Pray, Worship, Tithe, Serve at Salem, Serve beyond Salem, and Witness to Jesus.
- Take ownership in the program. We all have unique gifts and dreams to share and help make the youth program as good as it can be, and we want each leader to have that freedom and to use their creativity to enhance and promote the children, family & youth ministry.
- Value teamwork and each individual leader on the team. This includes supporting each other "behind the scenes."

### **Boundaries and Expectations:**

- Leaders will be leaders 1<sup>st</sup> and friends 2<sup>nd</sup>. The leadership and friend boundary is an important one, and we want to make sure that we are leaders 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We want our leaders to live a Christian lifestyle outside of church events as well, underage drinking, drug use, or other unlawful activity is unacceptable for leaders. Addictions are expected to be managed in a healthy manner before being an active leader.
- The primary focus for each leader is on youth who identify as the same gender, especially for one on ones.
- Do not transport a youth without parental permission, and preferably in groups. If a one on one ride occurs, call the youth's parent or another leader and talk during the ride.
- Whenever possible, gather in more public and visible spaces.
- Touch gets complicated. Please use handshakes, high-fives, fist bumps, elbow bumps. For hugs, side-hugs are always best. No shoulder rubs.
- Personal body needs to help a small child:
  - Preference is to bring youth to a parent/guardian
  - In the case that the guardian is unavailable, the Leader will let another (unrelated) adult know when and where they are and what they are doing to care for the child before it happens.
- Never be isolated one on one with a youth out of the view of others with only the above exception and in circumstances where that is the only viable option to care for the child.

- If a youth shares that they have been or are being abused, or other things where their life or well being could be threatened, we will act on two duties:
  - 1) to report to the authorities and
  - 2) to share it with the pastor immediately.
  - Also, do not communicate that you will keep a secret or not pass on important information, even if it means that the youth will not share with you.
- No dating a youth. (Particularly important for leaders close in age to our students).
- Any personal information you learn about a youth from them or another leader is to be held in confidence. “Confidential” is defined as: leaders will know what they need to know when they need to know it. Non-leaders do not need to know information about youth, unless it is a mandatory reporting requirement or they are the parent of a youth.
  - Parent Leaders are expected to keep confidential information confidential, even with your own children or spouse.
- Conversations will be appropriate for the level/age of the youth, not the adult.

### **Technology and Social Media**

- Be appropriate in all of your online postings (Facebook, Twitter etc). Remember that you are ALWAYS modeling for the youth, what you say and do matters! Think before you post. Refrain from sarcasm, criticism, or other easily misinterpreted comments.
- If youth initiate contact on social media or online platforms, you may connect with them at your discretion. Remember that there are no temporary or confidential posts online, and all contact should be public, encouraging and straightforward. Do not connect with youth on any games, platforms or apps that delete, encrypt or do not audit/track messaging.
- Do not use any platform or app that would delete or encrypt messages.
  - Snapchat (or other similar apps/platforms where there can be no record of what is said or seen) with youth. The danger is too high.
- Be careful when texting with youth. Don’t text past 9:00pm, don’t text often, be appropriate in what you text about etc.. If you have a smartphone use an app like “SMS Backup+” or Google Voice to record your conversations to email (both to protect you and to protect the youth). Use common sense!

### **Requirements to be considered for being a youth leader:**

- Complete a short application.
- Active in the life of this or another congregation for at least 6 months prior to your application.
- There needs to be at least 2 years in age separation between a leader and a youth (ie. young adults need to be at least 2 years out of high school before helping out in Sr High, but can be a Jr High leader and guide right out of high school)
- Leaders are required to watch and respond to a video on child sexual abuse.

I agree to these standards, boundaries, and expectations, and I agree to be held accountable to them.

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Name

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Date

## New for You at Our Salem Library

We continue to add new titles for both adults and children. Our library is available during the week Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm, and on Sundays. Come visit us!

Two new titles are:

### Adult Books:

Growing Young by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder and Brad Griffen. This book is being discussed on Sundays. September 26<sup>th</sup> is the last session. Our copy is available for check out. It is on the shelf behind our library desk.

One reviewer of this book has written, “What is irresistible about Growing Young is that it’s not primarily about age – it’s about hope. In story after story, the authors demonstrate how prioritizing the young is a church-changing strategy.”

### Children’s Book:

Madeline Finn and the Library Dog by Lisa Papp. Madeline doesn’t like to read anything! And she certainly does not like to read about school. When her mom takes her to the public library there is something special waiting for her. She can read to a big white dog named Bonnie. Read this to learn how Bonnie helps Madeline read. And how Bonnie helps Madeline read aloud too!

