



Salem Lutheran Church

115 N Washington Ave
Albert Lea MN 56007-2461

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Albert Lea MN 56007-2488

Non-Profit Organization

The Builder

April 2018

Salem Lutheran Church, ELCA

VOL. 11, No. 4

Worship: Sunday 9:00 am

Church Address:

115 N Washington Ave
Albert Lea MN 56007

Phone: 507.373.2184

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Website: salemalbertlea.org

Staff

Pastor Erica Cunningham

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Secretary: Vicki Reichl

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507.402.1775

Organist: Eileen Nelson Ness

Custodian: Ray Smith

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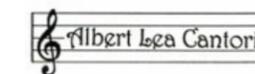


Have you made your appointment yet??

Lifetouch will be here to take pictures April 5 – 8 for our new church directory. Sign up in the Gathering Space, go to salemalbertlea.org or call the church office to reserve your spot!

Albert Lea Cantori Concert

Sunday, April 22 at 3:00 p.m. at United Methodist Church. We have many singers from Salem in Cantori. Come and join us!



Circle Meetings in April

Margaret Haupt/Salem: Tuesday, April 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space
Mary Magdalene/Lydia: Wednesday, April 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the Gathering Space with Marcia Gayken & Deb Beighley as hostess
Sarah: Thursday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space with Sharon Dilling as hostess

THE BUILDER

April 2018



"In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit." These words begin the orders for Confession and Forgiveness in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The rubric that accompanies these words says: "The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism." As this invocation is made, an increasing number of Lutherans trace the sign of the cross over their bodies from forehead to breast, then from shoulder to shoulder; and others trace a small cross on their foreheads.

The sign of the cross, whether traced over the body or on the forehead, is a sign and remembrance of Baptism. It is also a remembrance of the death and resurrection of our Lord: the center of our faith. It is a treasured part of our liturgical heritage as Lutherans, with Martin Luther himself making provisions for using the sign of the cross daily in his Small Catechism.

In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say: "God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen." Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

In the evening, when you go to bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say: "God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen." Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

Other occasions that the sign of the cross are used are as follows:

At the invocation and absolution in orders for confession and forgiveness. For example, in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Confession and Forgiveness, the sign of the cross is made as the minister says, "I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit."

At reading of the Gospel, as the words "A reading from the holy Gospel according to ____" are said, a small cross may be traced with the thumb, first on the forehead, then lips, and finally on the breast.

At conclusion of the Nicene Creed, when the phrase "and the life of the world to come" is said. Making the sign of the cross here is a remembrance that resurrected life is promised to those baptized into Christ.

In Holy Communion, as the "Blessed is He" is sung in the Sanctus, and immediately before or after receiving the elements of bread and wine.

At the benediction when a trinitarian form of benediction (one that includes the words "Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit") is used, and during the final phrase of the Aaronic benediction. (the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace).

Although it is not a requirement of the participants in the Sunday Assembly, the act of making the sign of the cross can aid us in our life of faith. The simple motions help to remind us of Christ's love for us; that through his death on a cross, his resurrection from the grave, and his ascension to the Father, we have been granted forgiveness for our sins and eternal life with him.

While there is no one reason why this practice has been "neglected" in the Lutheran Churches here in the US, it is my belief that the primary reason is one of differentiation; it is "too Catholic." Throughout American Christian history, Protestants tended to refrain from participating in practices that were thought of as being Roman Catholic Church rites. In recent years culture has been more accepting of these practices and so they are finding their way back into the worship life of many different denominations.

Pastor Erica



April 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 9:00 Worship Coffee 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt | 2 Offices closed | 3 | 4 9:30 Staff At Salem 5:15 JAM/ 6:30 Conf. ' | 5 1:00 WELCA Board Meeting | 6 6:30 Men's Bible Study | 7 8:00 WELCA Blue Earth River Conference Assembly |
| CHURCH PICTURES | | | | | | |
| 8 9:00 Worship Coffee CHURCH PICTURES | 9 10:30 WELCA Study Leaders | 10 9:00 Sew 'N Tell | 11 9:30 Staff 11:00 Interiors 1:00 WELCA Visitors 5:15 JAM/Salem 6:30 Conf./Salem | 12 | 13 6:30 Men's Bible Study | 14 |
| 15 9:00 Worship Coffee Builder Articles Due | 16 | 17 1:30 Marg. Haupt Salem Circle 6:30 Church Council | 18 9:30 Staff 9:00 Mary Mag. Lydia Circle 5:15 JAM/Salem 6:30 Conf./Salem | 19 6:00 Sarah Circle | 20 6:30 Men's Bible Study | 21 |
| 22 9:00 Worship Coffee | 23 | 24 9:00 Sew 'N Tell | 25 9:30 Staff 5:15 JAM/Salem Salem 6:30 Conf./Salem | 26 | 27 6:30 Men's Bible Study | 28 |
| 29 9:00 Worship Coffee | 30 | | | | | |

Easter Message from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

It all started with such promise – the angel announcing to Mary that the child she would bear would be called Son of the Most High; the conviction of Mary that this child would be the embodiment of God’s promised justice, that the hungry would be filled with good things and the rich sent away empty; angels announcing his birth; thousands being fed; the sick healed; the dead raised.

And then, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” It was over. The world hadn’t changed. Might still made right. How ridiculously naïve to believe that any reversal of the old order could come about. Hope is for the gullible. Looking at this broken man hanging utterly helpless, naked and broken on a cross, the powers and principalities, earthly and spiritual, death and the devil must have said, “You fool.”

This, as St. Paul reminds us, is the wisdom of the world. And the world can present plenty of hard evidence that it is right: children killing children in horrific school shootings, 60 million displaced people – all of this supported by our rebellion against God, our idolatrous claim that we are in control and the world is ours. In the face of this and all of the suffering others cause and we cause others, we, too, might cry out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

I believe that the beginning of Psalm 22 expresses the anguish of the psalmist and the anguish of our Lord, but there is more going on here. Citing the first words of a text was, in the tradition of the time, a way of identifying an entire passage. The psalm ends this way: “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.” This is the wisdom of God. Jesus’ crucifixion is the death of our death. His innocent suffering has reconciled all of creation to God. He has done it. We stake our lives on this.

This year, Easter falls on April 1. We shall have come through the Lenten desert to the Easter garden. We shall say, “Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!” And we shall confess this and live this in the face of worldly wisdom that is based on death. Life wins. Love wins. And if the world wants to call us April fools, we are glad to claim that title.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

The Simplicity of Prayer

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord,
Praise the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth
and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised! The Lord is
high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!

Psalm 113:1 - 4

Each day, I praise you, Lord, for all that you have given
to me and to all of mankind. You have blessed the world in
abundance. As I look back upon the observance of your
Son’s sacrifice for my sins, I feel the depth of your love
for mankind, for each of us. Indeed, Praise to you!

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister:

April 1: Sharon Dilling
April 8: Jose Duenes
April 15: Donna Werner
April 22: Marianne DePeppe
April 29 Kathy Paul

Ushers:

Linda & Steve Bendickson,
John Bleckeberg, Larry Lahs

Flowers

April 1: Mary & Jim Gulbrandson
April 8: open
April 15: open
April 22: open
April 29: open

March Memorial Gifts

From Ron Eisenbise (undesignated)

From Marilyn Cooper (Altar Guild)

From Betty Rundquist
(Altar Guild)

From Betty Tonding
(Altar Guild)

*In
Loving
Memory*

Financial Corner

February Income: \$8,594.33
Transfer from Schwab: \$8,000
February Expenses: \$15,639.62

2018 Income: \$25,941.33
2018 Expenses: \$26,320.72

March Noisy Offering: \$68.77
2018 Total: \$291.44

March Quiet Offering: \$74.47
2018 Total: \$278.20



Upcoming Events

Monday Night Worship

Join us at 5:30 pm on

May 21, 2018

June 18, 2018

July 16, 2018

August 20, 2018

September 17, 2018

For a service of Evening Prayer with Holy Communion.



Recognition of Graduates

All students graduating from college in 2018 are invited to a special worship service on **Sunday, May 6** where they will be recognized. Graduates are welcome to wear their cap and gowns if they like. We hope that you can join us!

Scholarship applications are also available on Salem's website.



AN INTERVIEW WITH BURTON AND NANCY SVENDSEN, SYNOD ASSEMBLY CO-MANAGERS

Burton and Nancy Svendsen are members of Trinity Fellowship in Rushford. They are serving as the co-managers of this year's 2018 Synod Assembly. The assembly theme is "Celebrating Our Global Congregation." To learn more about assembly, visit <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2018>. The event is being held in a new location this year - the Verizon Center in Mankato.

The Svendsens play key leadership roles in bringing this engaging, life-giving event into reality! The preparations for assembly last all year round. We give great thanks for their willingness to serve in this important way!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SERVING AS THE ASSEMBLY CO-CHAIRS?

2018 will be our fifth assembly as co-managers.

HOW DID YOU FIRST FEEL THE SPIRIT'S NUDGE TO EXPLORE THIS LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY?

We had been on the implementation committee for a couple of years. We knew that the previous manager was retiring. We work well together. We know how to organize. We believe in giving back to the Lord.

WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY?

Being/working with other people of faith. Seeing

a bigger picture of our church. The worship and the music. Being with the people. Being part of the leadership team. Seeing and hearing all the positive things going on in our corner of the world.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO WAS CONSIDERING ATTENDING ASSEMBLY AS A VOTING MEMBER FOR HIS/HER CONGREGATION?

Be open to seeing/hearing the new and different ways God is at work. Be willing to talk to strangers. Yes, the business really has to be done.

WHAT MIGHT SURPRISE THE 121,000 PEOPLE OF OUR SYNOD ABOUT THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES ASPECTS OF ASSEMBLY?

The number of people, from staff, AV, catering, technology, maintenance, presenters, speakers, musicians, who all come together like a well oiled machine to make the magic of a smooth assembly happen.



Nancy and Burton Svendsen are serving as this year's Synod Assembly Co-Managers. This is their fifth year in this role!

April Birthdays

- 1—Kirsten Stotz
- 3—Sam Heilman
- 4—Tristyn Ellingson/Chris Wessels
- 5—Joe Anderson
- 6—Clarice Bakken/Beau Johnsrud/David Ness
- 7—Kathleen Dyrdal/Jean Osmundson
- 8—Jamie Kirsch
- 9—Greg Larson/Lindsay Reim
- 10— Kim Luhring
- 11—Penelope Ewing/Emily Heilman
- 14—Rose Anderson/Donna Werner
- 15— Josh Gulbrandson
- 17— Donna Dahl/Christie Ness
- 19— Russ Heys/Shirley Noaeill
- 20—Camilla Henry
- 21— Jodi Bonnerup/Sharon Dilling
- 22—Lois Matthies
- 24—Marilyn Bleckeberg/Lyle Boelter
- 25—Scott Heilman
- 26—Matt Cheever
- 27— Stacie Laiti
- 28—Rod Jacobson/Jim Wendel
- 29—Derrek Laiti/Susan Storlie
- 30—Elise Austin/Debra Schmidt

Let us pray....

Please pray throughout the week for the following: Rose Holty, Jeanette Ophaug, Pat Hayek, Elaine Manges, Clara Satre, Deb Stolarcek, Larry Sunde, Bev Sunde, Roger Hanna, Dean Beighley, Holly Krekula, Shirley Eustis.

Our continual prayers are offered for peace: We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders, and peoples, especially those who work overseas towards peace: Zach Dilling.



Have you visited Salem's website recently? We have been working hard to update our website. Check it out on your computer, tablet, or smartphone!

SalemAlbertlea.org



Mini Lock-In!!!



Happy Birthday!



Rummage Sale Donations Needed!

Garage Sale leftovers? Done a bit of spring cleaning? For a greener solution, donate your unwanted items to The Rummage Sale! All proceeds will go to building improvements at Salem Lutheran Church

Donations must be in good clean working condition. Some possible donations include

- Furniture & decor
- Antiques/vintage and collectibles
- Household Items
- Kitchen items
- Clothes (baby - adult)
- Toys, puzzles, games
- Books, DVDs, CDs
- Bikes and summer sporting goods
- Craft/homemade items

Unfortunately, we do not have the space to accept everything.

Sorry, we cannot accept TVs, computer equipment, paint or hazardous materials, or large exercise equipment.

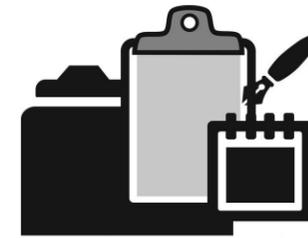
Drop off location: Lower Level Classrooms. Please check in with the church office first.

Pick up is available if you need help transporting items.

Please call the church office (507.373.2184) or send an email to pastor@salemalbertlea.org

Volunteers are needed to help set up, sort the items, run the sale, help customers, and clean up.

All leftover items will be distributed to area charities.



Church Council

February Council Hi-Lites (February 27, 2018)

- New church council members were welcomed..
- Building & Grounds: Paul Dilling reported that he had received three estimates to replace lighting in the balcony. No decisions have been made.
- Church in Society: Annette Petersen will be getting in contact with Donna Werner on her new role.
- Education: Christie Ness highlighted upcoming events.
- Safety Committee: Goal is to put the group together soon.
- Thrivent funds request were reviewed and approved: \$200 each for: coffee fund, library books, Sew 'N Tell, Shrove Tuesday, 2 new vacuums.

March Unofficial Hi-Lites (March 20, 2018)

- Pastor Erica reminded members to sign up for pictures for our new church directory. Salem will be sponsoring a rummage sale in May with proceeds going to special projects to be named.
- Budget and Finance: Accounts reviewed. \$8,000 was transferred from Schwab account to meet expenses.
- Education: Christie Ness reported that JAM will be held thru the first week of May. She is looking for food servers. Easter egg hunt planned for after the service on April 1. There is also for adults. Christie is working with the school regarding scholarship applications. Graduation will be celebrated at Salem on May 6th. Sew 'N Tell is making quilts for the Salem graduates. May 13/Mother's Day is confirmation Sunday for two Salem members. VBS meeting coming up. Plans for VBS for week of June 18th.
- Worship & Music: Committee is asking for first pew on the lectern side to be removed in order to have more room for funerals. Women will be asked to usher at Salem. Summer service dates were set.
- Stewardship: Kathy Paul reported that she has received a yes from one person to join the committee. They are promoting the fact that stewardship is not just about giving money, but giving of time and talents as well.
- Safety Committee: Troy Waldemar reported that there are currently no grants to get an AED machine. He will be reaching out to a colleague who may be interested in teaching CPR to Salem members at a cheaper cost.