

NEWSLETTER

THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

APRIL 2020



WELCOME!

GET IN TOUCH

Church Address: 115 N Washington Ave,
Albert Lea MN 56007
Phone: 507.373.2184
Fax: 507.377.8990
Website: salemalbertlea.org
Worship: Sunday 9:00 am

STAFF

Pastor Erica Cunningham
Email: pastorerica1517@gmail.com

Secretary: Vicki Reichl
Email: secretary@salemalbertlea.org

Organist: Eileen Nelson Ness
Custodian: Ray Smith

OFFICE HOURS:

Tue - Wed | 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Thu | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ROOF UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH AT SALEM

Worship during COVID 29

Because we are unable to gather in person for worship, we are trying to come up with creative ideas to keep people engaged in worship and the life of Salem.

For those who have email, you will receive **Salem@Home** a modified service that allows you to worship at home. I am also emailing daily devotions. If you are not receiving these emails, please email pastorerica1517@gmail.com and we will add you!

Those who do not have email will be mailed a service each week.

These are challenging times. And we are navigating uncharted waters.

Thank you all for your patience and support during this time!

While the in-person ministry is suspended if you need to contact Pastor Erica, please use any of the following:

Pastor Erica Cell:) Pastor Erica Home:
Pastor Erica email:

You can also find Pastor Erica on
Facebook,
Snapchat
Instagram
and Twitter

You can also connect with Salem's Facebook page and our website!

March 18, 2020

Dear Salem Family

After much prayerful deliberation and upon the recommendation of the President, Governor, and our Bishop, we are suspending all activities and worship services at Salem until further notice. We have no timeline to go by, so please watch carefully for updates.

This is all new territory for us. Worship will look different. For those who have email, you will receive at least two online worship services for you to do at home. These will be sent out on Wednesdays and Saturdays. For those who do not have email, we will be mailing these. If you have not been receiving our emails, please email Pastor Erica so you can be added to our list. The newsletter will still be mailed out. We are looking at other ways for us to remain connected even in isolation.

In addition to the service sent out by Salem, you can also do your own meditation. Listen to hymns. Read Scripture. Pray. We may not be physically gathered together, but we still worship the same God. And we are still all part of Salem's family. Everyday at noon, I invite you to stop wherever you are and join me for a time of prayer. We can all come together and pray as one family.

If you need to contact Pastor Erica, she is available by phone or email. Her contact information is at the end of this letter. Please keep it handy. We will be checking the church voicemail regularly, but it is best to contact Pastor Erica directly.

Our faithful staff will continue to serve, while we plan for congregational needs and maintain the building. Staff may work from home, and we ask you to stay home as well. As much as we love seeing you, it is best to practice social distancing at this time. ***We ask those who have keys to the building to not access it during this time.*** The restricted access to the building will help keep our building clean.

One of the implications of canceling Sunday morning is that our regular offering will not be collected. It's essential to support our church to maintain our responsibilities to our staff and building. We should find ways to be generous even while we're not together. Please mail your offering to the church. You may also use online bill pay through your bank. Knowing that our income will be impacted, we invite those with extra resources to consider making a special gift.

In times of anxiety and crisis, the church finds its true mission to be a beacon of love and peace in the world. Let's commit to praying for one another, for the church and for the world in this time of global pandemic. We know that it is often the most vulnerable that are more deeply affected by crisis.

Reach out to those who may be isolated. Send a card to encourage a neighbor. Pray for your pastors, our musicians, and all staff. Breathe deeply into God's grace to calm your fear. We have hope because Christ is on this journey with us. New doors will be opened, and new possibilities created. Watch for their emergence, even as winter gives way to spring. Life can't be stopped, and Easter always comes!

Pastor Erica Cunningham & the Congregation Council

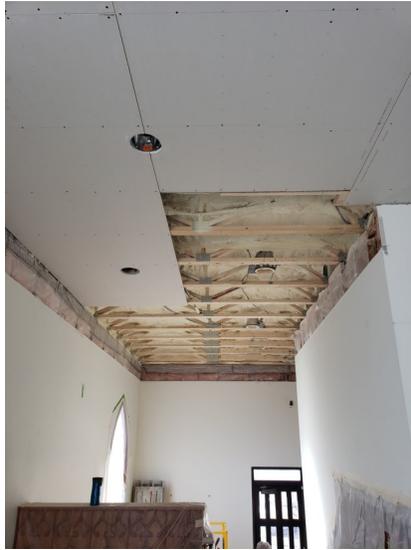
ROOF UPDATES

As of March 20, the drywall is complete!

Painting should begin the week of March 23. We will keep the same color as before. Joseph company will be painting the Gathering Space and Foyer.

We are in the process of choosing new carpeting. By the time we can return to the building we will have a fresh, new space!

The stained glass window and tuckpointing still need to be completed. Larry is working on getting bids for those.



Building Fund as of 3/14/2020

Total Income: \$17,695.00

Total Expense: \$64,384.55

January 2020 income:

•\$245.20 Green Mill Fundraiser

•\$1,479.98 donations

\$57,636

-Engineer (Short, Elliot, Hendrickson)

\$6,003.02

Water Softener

\$1,199.85

First Draw from Schwab

Endowment Fund: \$50,000.00

During the month of February \$4,000 was transferred from Endowment account to meet operating to meet operating expenses.



FINANCIAL CORNER

JANUARY INCOME

\$11,431.00

JANUARY EXPENSES

\$11,010.80

JANUARY INCOME VS. EXPENSES

\$420.20

2020 INCOME:

\$ 11,010.80

2020 FROM SCHWAB:

\$ 0

2020 OTHER TRANSFERS:

FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING:

\$ 64.77 (Food for Backpacks)

2020 TOTAL:

\$164.19

FEBRUARY QUIET OFFERING:

\$ 180.00 (roof fund)

2020 TOTAL:

\$ 357.98



Eye on the Homebound Visitation at Salem

There is something very special at Salem on the second Wednesday of each month! In the afternoon, a group of dedicated volunteers meet at church, pray, then go out to visit the folks who are unable to leave their homes—shut ins. This effort started about twenty years ago when three WELCA members bringing them company, spiritual readings and a tasty home made treat. Currently we have about 6-7 shut-ins and 9 callers. Over the years, there have been about 20 shut-ins. The number of shut-ins varies due to health issues. The visitors go out in pairs. When they visit, they take the reading material and treats so that something is left for the person to enjoy throughout the day. Perhaps the most important and

fulfilling part of the visit is praying the Lord's Prayer together. The person visited derives great joy from praying, and are quick to remind the visitors to pray if they forget to bring it up! They will say, "Aren't we going to pray the Lord's Prayer?"

The shut-ins are so happy when the visitors come, it is truly a joyous service! After they have visited the shut-ins, the visitors return to the church to report on their visits. They also enjoy coffee, treats and spirited conversation with the group! What a fun afternoon! If interested in joining contact Pauline Hall. Your Stewardship Committee invites you to participate in any of the activities that interest you.

Our Salem family has a big heart!





MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Jim Gulbrandson

VICE PRESIDENT

Troy Waldemar

SECRETARY

Patti Cotton

TREASURER:

Bruce Ness

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Shari Budach

BUDGET/FINANCE

Mary Gulbrandson

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Donna Werner

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Larry Lahs

STEWARDSHIP

Kathy Paul

YOUTH

Diane Henry & Linda Kaderabek

EDUCATION

OUTREACH

UNOFFICIAL COUNCIL HI-LITES

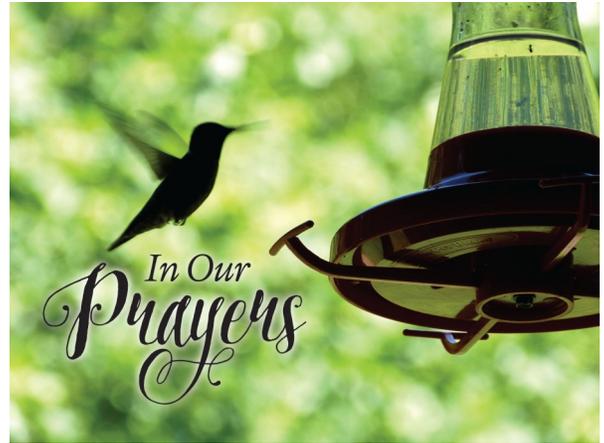
MARCH 17, 2020

- The council met in March to address the COVID 19 pandemic.
- We looked over the letter that would be sent to the congregation and approved it.
- All in person activities and worship are suspended until further notice.
- Pastor Erica is working on ways to engage the congregation through email, facebook, phone calls, texts, etc.
- Each council member has a list of members to reach out to during this time
- We are planning to celebrate Easter the first Sunday we can return.
- The staff will all continue to do their jobs, though they may be working from home.
- Ray will continue to clean and sanitize the building
- We talked about setting up an online giving option. St this time, we do not want to overwhelm our treasurers, but do want to keep this as an option in the future.
- We will be using the Joseph company to paint the gathering space and foyer. It will be painted while.
- Larry is looking at carpet samples
- We prayed the Lord's prayer while maintaining social distance :)



APRIL Birthdays

- April 3 Samantha Heilman
- April 4 Tristyn Ellingson
- April 5 Joe T. Anderson
- April 6 Clarice Bakken, Beau Johnsrud
- April 8 Jamie Kirsch
- April 9 Sidney Anderson, Greg Larson
- April 10 Kim Luhring
- April 12 Pernelope Ewing, Emily Heilman
- April 14 Roselyn Camerson, Jasper Flatten, Donna Werner
- April 17 Donna Dahl, Christie Ness
- April 19 Shirley Noaeill
- April 20 Camilla Henry, Malcolm Henry
- April 21 Jodi Bonnerup, Sharon Dilling
- April 24 Marilyn Bleckeberg, Lyle Boelter
- April 25 Scott Heilman
- April 27 Stacie Laite
- April 28 James Wendel
- April 29 Derrek Laite, Susan Storlie



PRAYER & WORSHIP

LET US PRAY...

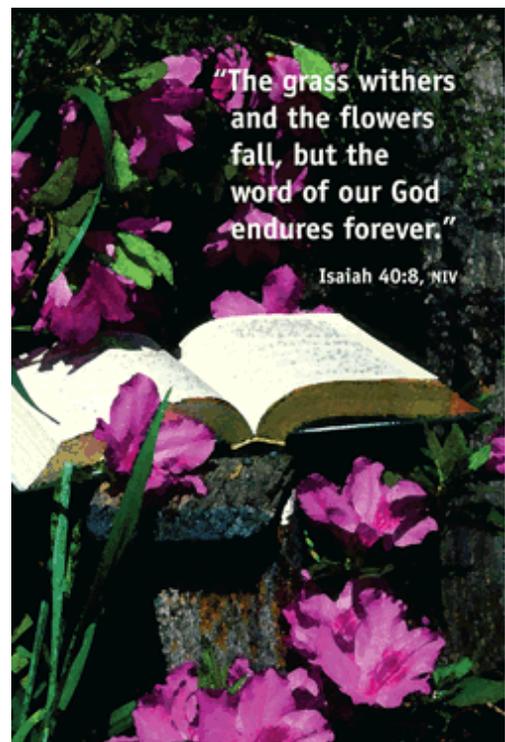
*Sue Micklick,
Andrea Rhodes,
Wendy Schamberg (sister of Ken Delano),
Duane Wessels
Brent Ness*

The family and friends of Clint Sanborn



APRIL Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----------|------------------------|----------|
| April 1 | Roger & Bev Wessels | 45 years |
| April 15 | Tony & Jaclyn Flatten | 20 years |
| April 19 | Cole & Cassie Matthies | 12 years |
| April 28 | Roger & Delores Hanna | 64 years |



Hymnal Handwashing Hits!

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine! (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

How Great Thou Art

Then sings my soul,
My savior, God, to Thee!
How great thou art; how great thou art!
(Repeat)

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know,
For the bible tells me so!
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak but he is strong!
Yes, Jesus loves me! (3x)
The bible tells me so!

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness! (Repeat)
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

In the Garden

And he walks with me & he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known!.



Abide with Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens;
Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Blessed Assurance

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
(Repeat)

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

It is Well With My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot,
Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Here I Am, Lord

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see!

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of Love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

I Know that My Redeemer Lives!

I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak but you are mighty,
hold me with your pow'ful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore!
Feed me now and evermore!

Beloved Children of God in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod,

You are a compassionate and generous people. Thank you for the many ways you faithfully respond to the needs of others. As the staff of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, we give daily thanks for the gift that it is to be church together for the sake of the world.

As followers of Jesus led by the Holy Spirit, we're part of a long history of people who respond to complex times with wisdom, trust and commitment. We are part of a brave family tree. Someday, generations from now, we pray that our descendants will look back at this moment in time and honor our courage, too.

As people of faith, what might it mean to practice generosity in the midst of a pandemic? As a synod team, we acknowledge that the uncertainty of this time may impact your household's capacity to give financially to your congregation. We also know the ministries in our synod will continue and need our continued support. Please know that we are holding all the people of our synod in prayer as we collectively navigate this new reality, and grace and love abound. Monetary giving is one of many ways to practice generosity. Prayer, spiritual practice, and extending care to others in appropriate ways are all important expressions of faithful stewardship. Thank you for the ways you are following Jesus.

For those in our synod for whom ongoing financial generosity is an option, thank you for giving this topic your prayerful consideration. Ministry is continuing through your congregation in spite of the challenges posed by COVID-19. Your church leaders are acting in faithful, innovative ways every day as they discern how best to support the needs of the community and the wider world. Your financial gifts make possible the good work that will continue happening through all three expressions of our denomination (congregations, synods and churchwide) as well as through an abundance of ministry partners. The Gospel is being proclaimed in many and various ways during this pandemic, and your sharing of resources supports that work.

Please identify one of the following means through which you can facilitate continued generosity at any level in your ministry context.

1. Mail a check to your congregation on a consistent basis.
2. Contact your bank to set-up automatic financial giving that comes out of your banking account and is mailed to your congregation on a regular basis.
3. Connect with your church leaders and request that online giving be an option. If it isn't yet, please invite your leaders to reach out to our synod team to accompany them in getting that set-up. If it is already an option, please use your congregation's preferred online giving platform and set-up regular financial giving.

We encourage you to pray about what all forms of generosity might look like in your life in the days, weeks and months ahead. Ask the Spirit for guidance as you make discernments. Be brave and also be exceedingly gentle with yourself and all those whom you meet. Most of us have never navigated anything like this before. As we travel this road, we're all going to do the best we can with the tools and resources we have. Let us be graceful with one another and with all the expressions of our dear church. May the Holy Spirit grant us wisdom and courage to be generous even in uncertainty.

With trust in God's nearness,

Rev. Regina Hassanally

Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

and

Rev. Emily Carson

Assistant to the Bishop & Director for Evangelical Mission

Because our church calendar will probably be empty for April, we are including daily bible readings.

Daily Readings for April

Wednesday, April 1, 2020: Psalm 143; Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41; Matthew 22:23-33

Thursday, April 2, 2020: Psalm 31:9-16; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11

Friday, April 3, 2020: Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30

Saturday, April 4, 2020: Psalm 31:9-16; Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34

Sunday, April 5, 2020: Liturgy of the Palms Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

Sunday, April 5, 2020: Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

Monday, April 6, 2020: Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 7, 2020: Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wednesday, April 8, 2020: Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Thursday, April 9, 2020: Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 10, 2020: Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

Saturday, April 11, 2020: Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66

Sunday, April 12, 2020: Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, April 12, 2020: Easter Evening

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 114; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

Monday, April 13, 2020:

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Colossians 3:5-11

Tuesday, April 14, 2020: Exodus 15:1-18; Colossians 3:12-17

Wednesday, April 15, 2020: Joshua 3:1-17; Matthew 28:1-10

Thursday, April 16, 2020: Psalm 16; Song of Solomon 2:8-15; Colossians 4:2-5

Friday, April 17, 2020: Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Saturday, April 18, 2020: Song of Solomon 8:6-7; John 20:11-20

Sunday, April 19, 2020: Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Monday, April 20, 2020: Psalm 114; Judges 6:36-40; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tuesday, April 21, 2020: Jonah 1:1-17; 1 Corinthians 15:19-28

Wednesday, April 22, 2020: Jonah 2:1-10; Matthew 12:38-42

Thursday, April 23, 2020: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:1-5; 1 Peter 1:8b-12

Friday, April 24, 2020: Isaiah 26:1-4; 1 Peter 1:13-16

Saturday, April 25, 2020: Isaiah 25:6-9; Luke 14:12-14

Sunday, April 26, 2020: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Monday, April 27, 2020: Psalm 134; Genesis 18:1-14; 1 Peter 1:23-25

Tuesday, April 28, 2020: Proverbs 8:32-9:6; 1 Peter 2:1-3

Wednesday, April 29, 2020: Exodus 24:1-11; John 21:1-14

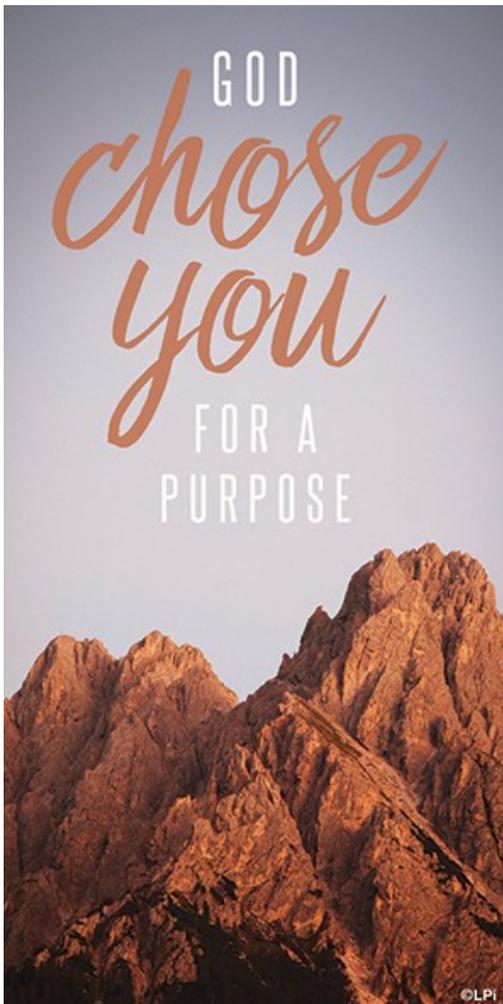
Thursday, April 30, 2020: Psalm 23; Exodus 2:15b-25; 1 Peter 2:9-12



Salem Lutheran Church
115 N Washington Ave
Albert Lea MN 56007-2488

"Change Service Requested"

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THE BUILDER | APRIL 2020

THE SIMPLICITY OF PRAYER

At that time Jesus declared... come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Mt. 11:28-30

Dear Lord Jesus, even as you knew what was going to happen to you, you have comforted me and welcomed me. You ease my heartaches, in spite of your knowledge that you will suffer so much. Your burden is the world, with all of your sin and insensitivity to each other. Yet, you bear the weight with patience and love! Thank you, Lord Jesus!