

# The Builder

February 2019

*Salem Lutheran Church, ELCA*

**VOL. 12, No. 1**

**Worship:** Sunday 9:00 am

**Church Address:**

115 N Washington Ave  
Albert Lea MN 56007

**Phone:** 507.373.2184

**Fax:** 507.377.8990

**Website:** salemalbertlea.org

**Staff**

**Pastor Erica Cunningham**

**Cell:** 563.505.6417

**Home:** 507.320.1950

**Email:** pastorerica1517@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Vicki Reichl

**Email:** secretary@salemalbertlea.org

**Cell:** 507.402.1775

**Organist:** Eileen Nelson Ness

**Custodian:** Ray Smith

**Office Hours:**

Monday—Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**In This Issue:**

Pastor's Corner

Upcoming Events

February at Salem

## New Office Hours

At the November Council Meeting, the council established new Office Hours.

Beginning February 1, the Office will be open

**Monday—Thursday**

**9:00 am—12:30 pm**



**Tuesday, March 4**

**2nd Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Proceeds will benefit the Food for Backpacks Program.



*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*

"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

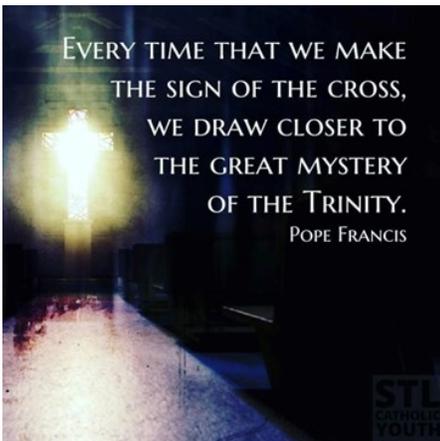
foreheads.

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*

## Election Results

### **President (3 year term)**

Jim Gulbrandson

### **Treasurer (3 year term)**

Jose Duenes

### **Synod Assembly:**

Craig Nelson, Eileen Nelson Ness

### **BERC Assembly:**

Bruce Ness, Eileen Ness, Frank Gjersvik,  
Pat Gjersvik, Larry Lahs, Mary Lahs

### **Good Earth Village:**

Les Anderson, Lois Anderson

### **St. John's Meeting Representative:**

Marianne DePope

### **Nominating Committee:**

Larry Lahs, Christie Ness

## **Highlights from Annual Meeting**

- 2018 Minutes of Annual Meeting were approved. Approval of all committee reports.
- 2019 budget was approved.
- 2019 Mission Committee recommendations were approved.
- 2019 ballot of council members, representatives and committee members was approved.
- Pastor Jay Dahlvang was nominated for the position of Bishop of SEMN Synod. He was contacted and declined.
- Still in need of a Youth representative and an Education representative on the Church Council. If interested please contact Pr. Erica or Jim Gulbrandson.

## **Financial Corner**

**December Income:** \$15,890.90

**December Expenses:** \$12,779.49

**December Income vs. Expense:** \$3,111.41

**2018 Income:** \$138,107.77

**2018 From Schwab:** \$21,695.28

**2018 Other Transfers:** \$4,500

**2018 Expenses:** \$163,703.79

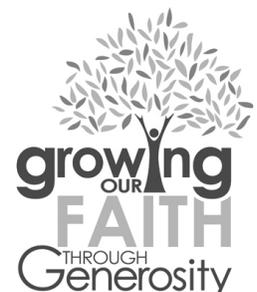
**2018 Income vs. Expense:** \$599.26

**January Noisy Offering:** \$ 59.71

**2019 total:** \$59.71

**January Quiet Offering:** \$110.41

**2019 total:** \$ 110.41



## **Welcome to Carrie Salemme**

*Carrie is our newest member, from Seattle , WA. She has family in north Iowa, Mason City and Austin. She has a son and daughter also.*

*Carrie works from her home for a company called "Sanmar." Her home is a call center for a clothing factory in Africa that is associated with Wells Fargo and has built many schools and large projects.*

*Carrie and her best friend Ruth moved to Albert Lea Labor Day weekend. She said she and her friend Ruth said "two old ladies with 4 cats and a dog traveled to Albert Lea and bought a house together."*

*Presently, Carrie is helping Ruth who has a broken leg. Carrie is glad to be near family.*

*She already volunteers to help with the children of Salem at JAM classes.*

*When asked if she had any hobbies she quickly stated "Photography".*

*Welcome to our ambitious new member of Salem. We feel blessed you have joined us!*



## *Ash Wednesday Worship*

*With Holy  
Communion and  
Imposition of  
Ashes*

*11:00 a.m*

*6:00 p.m*

*Remember you are  
dust and to dust you  
shall return*

## Thank You

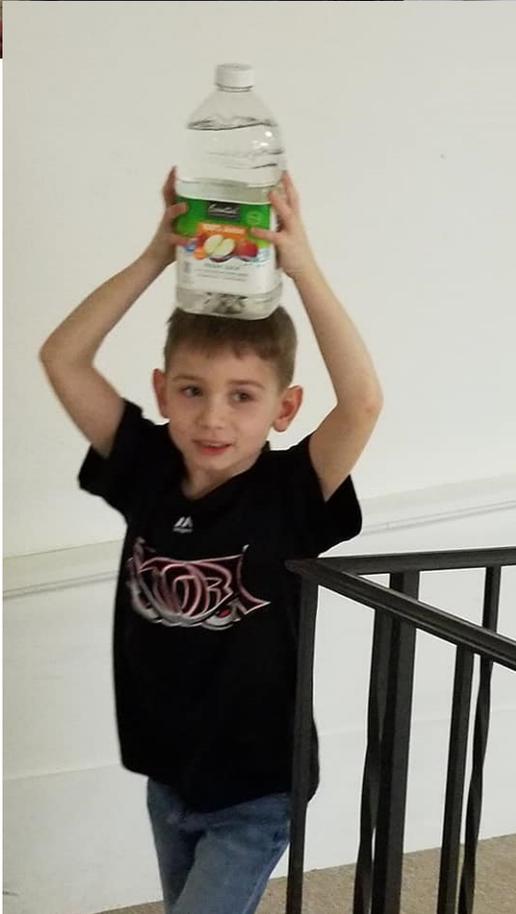
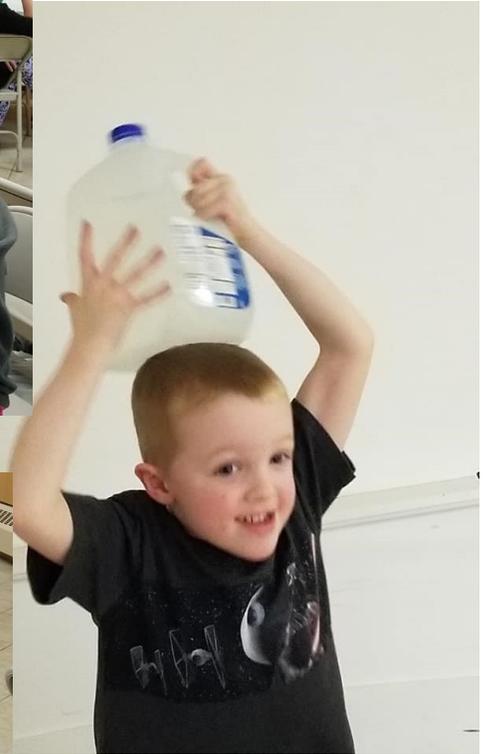
Thank you to Deb's Salem family for all your support! Thank you for flowers, food donated, and for your thoughts and Prayers!

Thank you also to Pastor Erica for the beautiful service!

Thank you,

Family of Deb Beighley

*Thank You!*



*Learning about the Woman at the Well*

## Worship Assistants

### Assisting Minister:

Feb 3: Kathy Paul

Feb. 10:

Feb 17:

Feb 23: Mary Gulbrandson

### Ushers:

Feb 3:

Feb 10:

Feb 17:

Feb 23: Scott & Pam Jacobsen

### Greeters

Feb 3: Pauline Hall

Feb 10: Scott & Pam Jacobsen

Feb 17: Audrey Johannsen

Feb 23: Aaron & Lindsay Reisdorfer Family

### Coffee Hour

Margaret Haupt/Salem Circle

### Flowers (\$25 per Sunday)

Feb 3: Craig & Mary Nelson

Feb 10: open

Feb 17: open

Feb 23: open

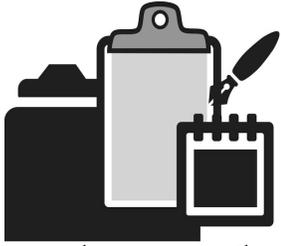


## February Noisy Offering

Noisy Offering in February will be matched by Grace Lutheran of Waseca to be given to Lutheran Social Services.



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."



# Church Council

## Unofficial Council Hi-Lites (January 15, 2019)

- The Treasurer report was adopted.
- Donna Werner will get volunteers for Shrove Tuesday. Proceeds will go to the Backpack Program. Volunteers for Backpack Program were recognized and Salem received a plaque. The Salvation Army Christmas gift tree went well.
- Christie Ness reported that JAM would be at Salem for the remainder of the year.
- Kathy Paul reported that 54 pledges were received from Salem members totaling \$105,000 commitment.
- A thank you was given to Christie Ness for her years of service on the council.

### Church Council Members:

President: Jim Gulbrandson

Secretary: Joni Burns Duenes

Worship & Music: Shari Budach

Church in Society/Missions: Donna Werner

Education: Christie Ness

Building & Grounds: Paul Dilling

Vice President: Troy Waldemar

Treasurer: Jose Duenes

Budget/Finance: Mary Gulbrandson

Outreach: Marianne DePoppe

Youth: Vacant

Stewardship: Kathy Paul



Feb 1: Alice Jacobson  
Feb 3: Gladys Heys  
Feb 5: Mary Lahs  
Feb 6: Shirley Eustis  
Feb 13: Caroline Neale, John Wagner  
Feb 15: Linda Larson, Ayden Woodside  
Feb 19: Emmitt Matthies, Troy Waldemar  
Feb 21: Paul Thompson  
Feb 23: Rosslyn Cameron  
Feb 28: Ken Delano, Samantha Reim

## *Let us pray....*

*Please pray for the following:*

*Clara Satre*

*Shirley Eustis*

*Anita Sande*

*Art Anderson*

*Emil Malakowsky*

*Those who mourn: Family and friends of Debbie Beighley; James Eckert (nephew of Woody & Valta Hestness), Jay Johnsrud (son of Eva Johnsrud), John Eustis Jr. (father of Thomas Eustis), and Sharon Astrup Scott.*







# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



An Interview with Rev. Heather Hammond of Crossroads Campus Ministry, Mankato

***What does “leadership development” look like in campus ministry in Mankato?***

I’ve long believed everyone is leading, all the time. That is because even our smallest words and actions influence those around us. We may lead well or poorly, intentionally or accidentally, but we are leading none the less. For all of us leadership development includes discerning our ever-developing callings. We spend a good deal of time talking about vocation and serving God in the world. Members of the Student Board are discovering their power to shape the direction and spirit of the community. For example, they recently decided that the small apartments in our building should once again be rented to students who are active leaders in the Christ-centered ministry of Crossroads. They will be helping to select the tenants who will be core members of the Crossroads Leadership team beginning in the Fall of 2019. On the Board of Directors we are focusing on becoming a hands-on redevelopment team.

***What do your students teach you about God/church/relationship?***

How I wish each of our congregations could see the genuineness and warmth with which student leaders welcome newcomers to Wednesday evening worship. Their easy-going acceptance of others—no questions asked—is a beautiful example of Jesus’ gracious acceptance. And within the Crossroads community, these people care about each other and keep in touch. They help me see why evangelism naturally grows out of simple hospitality.

***As a synod, we’re committed to following Jesus into a changing world. What might the changing landscape of campus ministry teach the rest of the church about what it means to follow Jesus into a changing world?***

One of the things I am most aware of is how the public understanding of Christianity is often not a positive or life-giving one. Members of the University community often come to enjoy our \$1 Lunches. Several have been puzzled about the difference between what they experience at Crossroads and what they have heard or experienced of evangelical Christianity. A group of Environmental Learning students were surprised to discover that we don’t see science and faith as opposites, but rather two different ways of knowing. Then there was the Saudi student who asked me, point blank, about why we would host a free community Thanksgiving feast. “Isn’t that just for families?” He asked. What a great opportunity to talk about the family of God, where all have a place!

***What would surprise the people of the synod about campus ministry in Mankato?***

One thing is surely is our food ministry. My predecessor and her colleagues began the Campus Cupboard, a food shelf for students. We’ve learned that around 40% of Minnesota State University – Mankato students suffer food-insecurity. More than one student has come back to tell us that the bag of groceries they get to choose each week is what got them through some very lean months. Another thing that might surprise readers is to know that Crossroads is the last remaining progressive, inclusive, campus ministry serving MSU. The others tend to teach the literal inerrancy of scripture; others turn away students who are not from a particular faith tradition, and still others place shame-based conditions on who truly belongs. At Crossroads we know we are called to welcome every person of good will, no exceptions. day at this pivotal time in their lives.

# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 Men's Bible Stuy	2
3 9:00 Worship Coffee 10:30 Worship & Music Mtg.	4	5 10:00 WELCA	6 10:00 Staff Mtg.  <u>At Salem</u> 3:30 JAM 6:30 Conf.	7	8 6:0 Men's Bible Study	9
10 9:00Worship Coffee  2:00 BERC Conference Meeting	11  10:30 WELCA Study Leaders	12 9:00 Sew 'N Tell  6:00 Stewardship Meeting	13 10:00 Staff  <u>At Salem</u> 3:30 JAM 6:30 Conf.	14	15 6:30 Men's Bible Study	16
17 9:00 Worship Coffee	18	19 1:30 Marg. Haupt Salem Circle  6:30 Council	20 9:00 Mary Mag. Lydia 10:00 Staff <u>At Salem</u> 3:30 JAM 6:30 Conf.	21  6:00 Sarah Circle	22 6:30 Men's Bible Study	23
24 9:00 Worship Coffee	25	26 9:00 Sew 'N Tell	27  <u>At Salem</u> 3:30 JAM 6:30 Conf.	8		



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

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# The Builder ~ February 2019

## THE SIMPLICITY OF PRAYER

I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Do not forsake me, O Lord! O My God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

Psalm 38:8, 21-22

Dear Lord, you know what is in my heart. You know that I regret the many times I have sinned against you. Please help me, Lord, to resist temptation, to be a kinder and gentler person. Praise to you, Lord God!