



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

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Permit No. 229

Albert Lea MN 56007-2488

Non-Profit Organization

The Builder

July 2018

Salem Lutheran Church, ELCA

VOL. 11, No. 6

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:

Tuesday & Wednesday

8:30 am—1:00 pm

2:00 pm—4:30 pm

In This Issue:

Pastor's Corner

Upcoming Events

July at Salem

Simplicity of Prayer

Salem Over Sixty (SOS) Picnic



Potluck Picnic on Thursday, July 19, 2018—11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Pioneer Park.

Bring a dish to pass and your own beverage. Plates, silverware and napkins will be furnished. If questions, call Mary Lahs at 377-2298 or Deb Beighley 383-2690.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Salem sponsored an American Red Cross Blood Drive on May 30th & 31st. 27 units were donated of which some were Salem members: Val Nicolaus, Pauline Hall, Tim Allison, Beth

Spande, Cindy Van Reese. Bruce Ness, Les Anderson, Joni Burns-Duenes. You gave a gift of life for someone in need. Thank you.

Our next drive is August 15-17. I will need 8 volunteers each day to help. Thank you for your services.

Marianne DePope

WELCA Guest Nights

(see details on bulletin board near elevator)

- Wednesday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Emmons Lutheran in Emmons. Program is Tina Haroldson from Amboy.

- Tuesday, August 14th at 6:00 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran and the program will be Joyce Abernathy. A salad supper will be served.

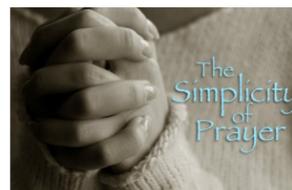
THE BUILDER

The Simplicity of Prayer

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Mark 1:14 - 15

You began your earthly ministry admonishing me to repent of my sins and misdeeds, Lord. And, as you gave me the word to repent, you gave me the gift of your words in the gospel! Your love enfolds me as I listen to your words and try to live by them. Praise to you, Lord!





As many of you know, we are struggling here at Salem to meet our expenses. The executive committee and the council has been working and praying on this for the last several weeks.

At our most recent council meeting in June, we made the hard decision to reduce staffing hours. This is not something we wanted to do. Our two main expense items are the building and staffing. This is true for most (if not all) churches. With the new addition, comes added expenses. Even though the construction is fully paid for, we still have expenses for heat, AC, elevator inspections, and many other building needs. There really isn't much we can cut from our building expenses.

This left us with staffing. Vicki has been a dedicated employee for over 33 years and her knowledge of Salem and its history is invaluable. Ray is also a dedicated employee who makes our building spic 'n' span every week. These reductions are not personal. They are not about anything that either one has done or not done. It is simply about money and the best use of our financial stewardship.

We know these changes are hard. Reduced office hours will mean the church is not open as much. Gone are the days when we could leave churches unlocked 24/7. And after our recent break-in, this is even more apparent.

We love having people stop by the office to visit, and we still encourage you to do so! But please note, there will be times during the week when the office is not open. If you need assistance and someone isn't here, please call Pastor Erica.

With the reduced hours, we will be looking to more volunteers to help. Groups may have to do their own set-up, take out their garbage, etc. The amount of extra work done by the office will also be affected. It may take us a few weeks to figure out how all of this will work. We ask that you be patient with the staff as we adjust to this new schedule.

Salem has so much to offer our church family and the greater Albert Lea Community. I pray that we can all work together to overcome these hurdles before us. I am so thankful that God placed me here and I am looking forward to many years together at Salem!

Pastor Erica

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Worship Coffee 10:30 Stewardship Comm. Mtg.	2	3 9:30 Staff Mtg.	4 Closed	5	6 6:30 Men's Bible Study	7
8 9:00 Worship Coffee	9	10 9:00 Sew 'N Tell 9:30 Staff	11 1:00 WELCA Shut-in Visitors	12	13 6:30 Men's Bible Study	14
15 9:00 Worship Coffee 2:00 Play & Supper	16 5:30 Worship Service	17 6:30 Council	18 9:30 Staff	19 11:30-2:30 SOS Picnic at Pioneer Park	20 6:30 Men's Bible Study	21
22 9:00 Worship Coffee	23	24 9:00 Sew 'N Tell	25 9:30 Staff	26	27 6:30 Men's Bible Study	28
29 9:00 Worship Coffee	30	31				



God's Work. Our Hands.
Opportunities through Thrivent

Directing Thrivent Choice Dollars

It's always been an important goal of Thrivent and their members to give back and strengthen communities. The Choice Dollar program gives eligible members an opportunity to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year. Eligible members can choose to direct their Choice dollars to nonprofit organizations such as Salem Lutheran Church. While the 2018 deadline has passed, members can donate again in 2019.

You may have noticed several people wearing aqua "Live Generously" t-shirts at our Ice Cream Social. One of our members used their **Thrivent Action Team** to purchase all the supplies for the social. Each Thrivent member has 2 Action Teams available each year. Each Action Team approved project is given \$250 seed money to do a project. Couple who are each members have \$500 (or a total of \$1000) seed money possible to help people and make an impact.

If you are a Thrivent member and willing to use your action teams to help Salem, please talk to Pastor Erica or Lois Anderson.

Let's Talk Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent Action Teams make it easy for you to bring people together to make a positive change in your community! When you see a need, apply to lead a volunteer team—and bam! Once your idea is approved, a Thrivent Action Kit is delivered to your door. It's packed with everything you need to help make your project a success. It even includes \$250 in seed money to help get your project started.

This passion-powered program is brought to you by Thrivent Financial because we believe that being wise with money and living generously go hand in hand.

Visit Thrivent.com/actionteam

Click "Apply now" and have your User ID and password handy.

Watch your doorstep for your Thrivent Action Kit.

Lead your project.

Come back and share your story of success with us!

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister:

- July 1: Donna Werner
- July 8:
- July 15: Marianne DePope
- July 22: Kathy Paul
- July 29: Mary Gulbrandson

Ushers:

Flowers

- July 1: Woody & Valta Hestness
- July 8: Gene & Sharon Weckwerth
- July 15: Larry & Cindy Enderson
- July 22: Anderson/Reichl family
- July 29: Lyle & Ruth Boelter

THE ART OF GIVING

Stewardship in our church setting is about giving of one's time, effort, talents and resources. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary has twenty or so definitions of the word "give"! What the definitions have in common is that they are about the transfer of goods, time, effort, opinion, dollars and many other things. Lately, because of the situation in which we find ourselves as a congregation, we have been focusing upon the financial giving - the dollars.

In two Temple Talks, our President Jim Gulbrandson has spoken about the urgency of our shortfall. He reported to you that the Church Council, at the June meeting, voted to make some significant changes in the hours that our church office will be open. The changes start in July and continue until the end of the year. Then, they will be evaluated. If you have questions, concerns, or just want to gather or share information, please talk with Pastor Erica, Jim, or any member of the Church Council. Your interest will be welcomed.

There are so many ways that we can give to our church and by doing so, give to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Have you hosted a coffee hour? Have you been an usher? Have you helped at special events such as the Ice Cream Social or the rummage sale? Have you baked cookies for an event at church? Do you ever visit with someone who is a member, but is unable to participate in church activities because of health issues? Have you supplied altar flowers? Have you helped with Sew and Tell? Have you served on a committee? Have you asked a friend to come to a church service or a church event with you?

Look into your heart. What things can you give to help our church grow?

Kathy Paul,
Stewardship Chair



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

Financial Corner

May Income: \$8,939.00
 Transfer from Schwab: \$5,695.28
 May Expenses: \$15,526.40
 May Income vs. Expense: -\$892.12

2018 Income: \$50,036.56
 2018 From Schwab: \$21,695.28
 2018 Expenses: \$73,833.03
 2018 Income vs. Expense: -\$2,101.19

June Noisy Offering: \$62.69
 2018 Total: \$542.04

June Quiet Offering: \$137.53
 2018 Total: \$748.80



Monday Night Worship
 Join us at 5:30 pm on
 July 16, 2018
 August 20, 2018
 September 17, 2018
 For a service of Evening Prayer with Holy Communion.



THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



AN INTERVIEW WITH DIANNA PARKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GOOD EARTH VILLAGE

WHEN DID YOU FIRST FEEL THE SPIRIT OF GOD NUDGING YOU TO EXPLORE A VOCATIONAL TRANSITION INTO LEADERSHIP AT GOOD EARTH VILLAGE?

I had been working full-time on a master's degree and had just begun networking for new opportunities to apply my degree in nonprofit management. One day I sat up in bed and before my feet hit the floor I prayed, "Okay, Lord, I feel ready to go back to work." My phone rang and it was someone inviting me to consider the interim director position. Within two weeks of being here I asked our board chair if I could apply for the full-time position.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I love seeing how God works in people's lives and I love being part of a ministry that holds promise for the future of the church. Research is starting to quantify the role that outdoor ministry can play in strengthening the church through more religious kids and developing Christian leaders. We are scratching the surface of what I believe is possible when outdoor ministry works closely with congregational partners.

WHAT DO YOU MOST WANT THE PEOPLE OF OUR SYNOD TO KNOW ABOUT GOOD EARTH VILLAGE?

That we are here and ready to serve! Good Earth Village is poised at this time to launch into full partnership mode with our congregations and faith formation for all ages. We can program events and retreats for groups, or be a place where God's presence is so profoundly felt. We have hosted church council groups, confirmation retreats, family camps, team-building sessions, leadership retreats, weddings, and more in addition to the programs that we plan and offer. Our 508 acres and comfortable meeting spaces can serve as the perfect backdrop for diving deeply into what it means to gather in Christian community.

What INSPIRES YOU ABOUT THE CAMPERS?

Their openness inspires me greatly. Our summer staff are the most authentic and compassionate and enthusiastic people I have the blessing to know. They create an atmosphere where campers feel safe and nurtured, and they are wide open to receive God's love and peace. It gives me hope for the future of our planet. The promise is right there, alive and well, inside these young people.

WHAT MIGHT PEOPLE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT GOOD EARTH VILLAGE?

Two things: 1) That we are busy all year. Truly, it never slows down. Fall can be just as busy as summer. And over the winter we still host folks while we are hiring summer staff, writing curriculum, raising funding, promoting camp, and caring for our site. Planning summer camp takes all year to do, and we offer other programs and serve guests the whole time. It's exciting and we are growing and reaching into how to better serve all of the time. 2) We are celebrating our 50th anniversary next year. Time truly flies. We are going to spend all of 2019 celebrating our roots and looking into the next 50 years.

IF A PERSON IN THE CONGREGATION WANTS TO SUPPORT GOOD EARTH VILLAGE'S MISSION, HOW COULD THEY GET INVOLVED?

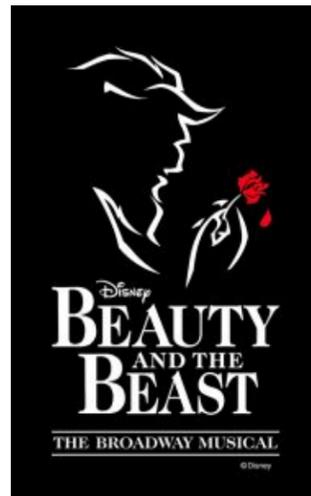
We can always use volunteers around our site and in the office. Gardening, landscaping, and upkeep are needs that we would be hard-pressed to fulfill with just our year-round staffing. Our budget requires us to raise significant funds each year to support 49% of the requirements to keep everything going, and it is still not enough to maintain the site. If congregations wanted to adopt a part of camp to fund, like new shingles or siding or a water heater, we have lists of costs and needs. The most important thing to remember is that just one week of camp has been proven to yield a child that is 3X more religious in five years as a child that does not go to camp. Providing camp is a big job that requires a lot of resources, but it is absolutely worth for the benefit provided to families, communities, congregations, and the rest of our society. It takes a village, and we help facilitate a vital part of it. We are very grateful for every minute and dollar shared with the ministry of Good Earth Village.

Backpack Program

Starting this fall, Salem will be partnering with First Presbyterian Church to provide food for children on weekends who often go hungry. This is a program that many of the churches in Albert Lea are working on. We will be working with Lakeview Elementary. We will be collecting special offerings to help support this program throughout the school year.



Let's go to the theater!



On Sunday, July 15, several of us will be attending the ACT performance of Beauty and the Beast. Following the performance, we will be going as a group to Wedgecove Cove. All are welcome to join us, even if you don't attend the play. Please sign up in the Gathering Space by July 12.

Valley Fair Family Fun!

Trinity Lutheran Church has invited us to join them on a trip to Valley Fair on **Wednesday, August 15.**

The cost is \$25 per person.

Leaving from Trinity at 8:00 AM

Back in Albert Lea by 7:00 PM or earlier!

Lunch is extra and on your own OR bring a sack lunch and you can eat outside the park in the picnic area.

Kids 11 years & younger MUST come with an adult!

Sign up in the gathering space by Friday, August 10.



July Birthdays

July 1: Linda Kaderabek
July 3: Wade Kolling/Emma Reichl
July 5: Adam Kirsch
July 6: Clarence Ayers
July 7: Samuel Kirsch/Deb Stolarcek
July 12: Kyler Mangskau/Tyler Osmundson
July 13: Madisen Ruggles
July 14: Bob Cotton/Nick Grangruth/
Dani Olson
July 19: Kermit Iverson/Bev Neve
July 20: Kamri Reichl
July 22: Lindsey Anderson/Judy Dilling/
Jim Gulbrandson/Drake Sternhagen
July 23: Ruth Boelter/Peggy Osmundson
July 24: Velma Bonnerup
July 25: Colin Ulve
July 26: Tamra Redig
July 27: Lois Anderson/Tiffany Johnson
Michele Reim/Mary Stevens
July 28: Bonnie Edwards-Buchanan/
Michael Luhring
July 30: Deborah Schmidt
July 31: Debra Pirsig

Let us pray....

Please pray for the following: Clara Satre, Bev Sunde, Roger Hanna, Dean Beighley, Holly Krekula, Shirley Eustis, Richard Neve, Anita Sunde, Sara Dowd, Art Anderson..



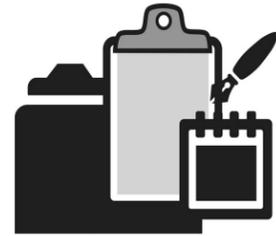
Thank
YOU

Thank you to all that attended the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 24th. It was a good time for both young and old. Good fellowship event and also raised some funds for the computer needed in the Finance Office.
A special thank you to the workers that helped set-up and clean up. Fun time at Salem!

FUN at VBS



Happy
Birthday!



Church Council

Unofficial Council Hi-Lites (June 19, 2018)

- The secretary's report was adopted
- The treasurer's report was adopted. We have taken all we can from the Schwab account. In order to use more money, we would need congregational approval.
- Pastor Erica reported on the recent break-in. The basement window behind the shed was used to access the building. All three offices were broken into. Only a couple of minor things were taken, including some change and a DVD Player. Pastor Erica's laptop was destroyed during the break-in. An insurance claim is being filed and these items will be replaced. Our deductible is \$1000. We will do a special collection to raise this money. Repairs and replacements will exceed the deductible.
- Because of the break-in and probable connections, the office will no longer be handing out gift cards.
- Pastor Erica, Vicki, and Christie went to a presentation on the Backpack Program Grace Lutheran Church has started. Salem will be participating in this. The Backpack program allows elementary students who don't have enough food to eat on weekends. This project will fall under the Church in Society/Mission team.
- The council approved the reduction in staffing.
- A snow blower has been donated to us from Scott and Pam Jacobsen.
- A new upright freezer was purchased for the kitchen, with money coming from the Rummage Sale and a memorial gift from Linda Christian.
- Thank you to Linda, Pam, and Scott for their donations!

2018 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