

NEWSLETTER

THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

JUNE 2020



WELCOME!

GET IN TOUCH

Church Address: 115 N Washington Ave,

Albert Lea MN 56007

Phone: 507.373.2184

Fax: 507.377.8990

Website: saalem.lutheran.org

Worship: Sunday 9:00 am

STAFF

Pastor Erica Cunningham

Cell: 563.505.6417 | Home: 507.320.1950

Email: pastorerica1517@gmail.com

Secretary: Vicki Reichl

Email: secretary@saalem.lutheran.org

Cell: 507.402.1775

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

[WORSHIP UPDATE](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

[JUNE AT SALEM](#)

Worship during COVID 19

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.

We have now added a call in option for worship! Each week you can call 507-201-8421 every week to hear a brief meditation, readings, and prayers!

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: 563.505.6417 (also texting)

Pastor Erica Home: 507.320.1950 (also texting)

Pastor Erica email: pastorerica1517@gmail.com

You can also find Pastor Erica on Facebook, Snapchat (reverica1517), Instagram (pastorerica1517), and Twitter (@pastorerica1)

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

Salem Lutheran Church is a Christ-Centered Community, building relationships, growing in faith, and serving others.

Beloved People of God, Salem Lutheran Members and Friends:

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our risen savior. I am writing to give you an update on our congregation's plans for worship and other activities this summer.

Your congregational council has had several long and thoughtful conversations on this subject. I am grateful for their diligence and faithfulness as we seek to meet both the spiritual and health needs of our congregation. I could not ask for better partners in leading our congregation through a pandemic.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, "All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other."

Paul was advising the believers in Corinth that while they could eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols, they should not if it would create problems for their fellow believers. Meaning, what we may do is not necessarily the same as what we should do. Bishop Hassanally has also said, "If it's not safe for one, it is not safe for all." During this time, we must put the needs of our neighbors over our own personal needs.

With guidance from the ELCA churchwide offices, Southeastern Minnesota Synod, Minnesota Dept. of Public Health, and national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ***we will continue to worship from home.*** The congregational council and I will closely monitor the status in Minnesota and Freeborn County to inform our decisions for when we can meet in person.

In June, I will begin making house calls for any who want a visit; I'll bring a lawn chair to sit outside and speak on the phone to you from inside your home, or you may join me outdoors in your own lawn chair from 10' away. ***If you desire a visit, please contact me or the church office.***

Our church building will also continue to be closed for groups and meetings. Our guidelines recommend suspending close contact and shared indoor gatherings until both 1) new infections decline for 14 consecutive days and 2) widespread testing is available. For the sake of our congregation and community health, we choose to proceed cautiously back to our building.

Please contact me or a Council member with any questions.

[Please read page 8 for more information on the future plans for worship](#)

Pastor Erica

Unofficial Council Hi-Lites—May 19, 2020

- Meeting was called to order, via Zoom.
- Secretary's Report and Treasurer's report were accepted.
- Pastor Erica reported that she did not know when we could gather again and she will email council protocol for future worship at the church. Online services going well.
- Larry Lahs reported having an estimate from Joseph Company for repair of window in organ loft. Eileen wants organ pipes taken down to protect them from dust as work proceeds.
- Church in Society : Donna Werner reported all the product has been distributed and program is on hold.
- Troy Waldemar reported he is hoping to install Little Free Pantry soon
- Jim Gulbrandson suggested June Noisy offering go to the Food Shelf.
- Funds for Paycheck Protection have been received.

Building Fund as of **5/31/2020**

Total Income: \$21,345.20

Expenses:

- Joseph Co ~ \$121,892.00
- Engineer (Short, Elliot, Hendrickson) ~ \$6,003.02
- Thompson Electric ~ \$5,983.63
- Slowinski Flooring ~ \$2,883.00
- Reim Roofing ~ \$545.68
- Water Softener ~ \$1,199.85

Total Expense: \$138,507.18

Schwab Endowment Fund:
\$117,000.00

Virtual Coffee Hour

*Wednesday
10:00 am*



Join us every Wednesday at 10am on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour!

If you need help connecting to Zoom, please contact Pastor Erica!



FINANCIAL CORNER

APRIL INCOME

\$15,369.34

APRIL EXPENSES

\$13,023.43

APRIL INCOME VS. EXPENSES

\$2,345.91

2020 INCOME:

\$ 54,829.26

2020 FROM SCHWAB:

\$

2020 OTHER TRANSFERS:

NOISY OFFERING:

2020 TOTAL:

\$164.19

QUIET OFFERING:

2020 TOTAL:

\$ 357.98



2020 June Thank Offering Ecumenical Food Shelf

O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...

Matthew 25:34-35

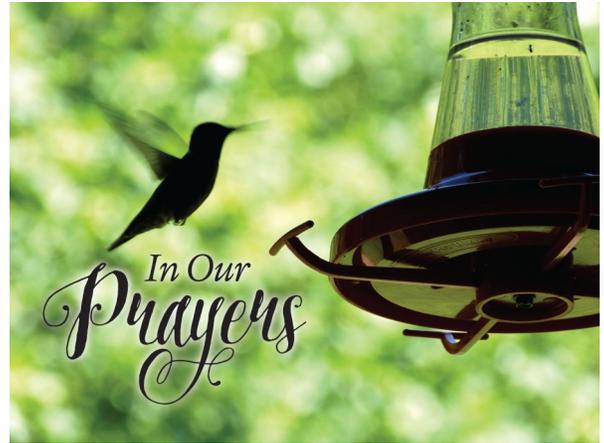
More than thirty years ago, the Ecumenical Food Pantry was established at the First Presbyterian Church. The pantry has moved around a bit due to increased inventory, and is now located in the Christian Education wing of the church. The pantry is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9-11:45 a.m. It is staffed by members of First Presbyterian Church and other area churches. There are 35 dedicated volunteers working in the Food Pantry. Contributions to the Food Pantry come from area churches, the Boy Scout Food Drive, the Postal carriers food drive and the Big Freeze food drive. The food is purchased from Channel One.

Prayer: Dear Lord, you are so loving and generous. You provide the resources to make our lives comfortable. Please give us the strength and dedication to give to others as you have given unto us. Thank You, Lord God.



JUNE Birthdays

- June 1** Grace Christenson
- June 2** Andrea Rhodes
- June 4** Susan Heilman
- June 5** Derek Sternhagen
- June 8** Travis Johnson
- June 9** Shellby Ewing
- June 10** Braylan Petersen
- June 11** Robert Nicolaus
- June 14** Elaine Manges
Leland Dilling
- June 16** Beth Edwards
- June 17** Vicki Reichl
- June 18** Kathleen Reim
Derek Rothmeier
- June 21** Kathy DePope
- June 22** Roger Bakken
Olene Eckart
- June 23** Travis Shaunce
Anne Sternhagen
- June 28** Pat Gjersvik
Isabella Gilderhus



LET US PRAY...

- Darleen Zimmerman
- Duane Wessels*
- Mary Thompson*

The family and friends of Kenneth Dulas (brother of Joann Iverson).

JUNE Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| June 6 | Jim & Carol Wendel | 67 years |
| June 9 | John & Elizabeth Anderson | 11 years |
| | Gregg & Jennifer Ewing | 13 years |
| June 12 | Mark & Marcia Gayken | 33 years |
| | John & Audree Wagner | 67 years |
| June 13 | Randy & Deb Kolling | 39 years |
| June 14 | Paul & Judy Dilling | 51 years |
| June 15 | Troy & Holli Waldemar | 29 years |
| June 17 | Mike & Kim Luhring | 20 years |
| June 18 | Woody & Val Hestness | 70 years |
| June 21 | Chris & Lauren Reichl | 6 years |
| June 22 | Steve & Linda Bendickson | 18 years |
| June 23 | Leland & Sharon Dilling | 58 years |
| June 25 | Casey & Vanessa Arnold | 4 years |
| June 28 | | |

When will we be able to return to worship?

This is the question on everyone's mind. Unfortunately, we just don't know. The complete answer is "we will return to worship when the CDC, public health, the council, and Pastor Erica determine it is safe."

I am sure you have seen the stories where a congregation came together for worship and soon everyone was sick. We do not want that to be Salem. So, for now, we will continue to do worship at home.

When we are able to return to in-person worship, it will look and feel vastly different from anything we've ever experienced. Some of the necessary changes include

- Minimum of 6 feet between households
- No Greeters
- No mingling
- People will come in one door, go straight to their pew, and exit a different door when worship is over
- No books, papers, pens, etc in the pews
- No singing
- No communion
- No coffee hour
- No corporate speaking (Creed, Lord's prayer, etc)
- Masks will be required.
- No Air Conditioning or fans

This is a hard list to read. At this time, we can only make assumptions. This is one of the reasons the worship and music committee and council have approved no in-person worship until further notice. The building will also remain closed to all groups and meetings.

Thank you all for your support and patience during this trying time. Please stay safe and healthy.

"We isolate now, so when we gather again, no one is missing"



Ads will be placed here. No content may go here.
Please remove before uploading to LPi Express.



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

"Change Service Requested"

Postage Paid
Permit No. 229
Albert Lea MN 56007-
2488
Non-Profit Organization

THE BUILDER | JUNE 2020

THE SIMPLICITY OF PRAYER

Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee.

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 26:4-5

Lord, you are my rock, you are always there for me, in good times and in trying times. These have been difficult times for all of your children, but you will be there for us. I trust in you completely. I thank you Lord for your unfailing love. Amen.

