

The Builder

May 2019

Salem Lutheran Church, ELCA

VOL. 13, No. 5

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
May at Salem

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 15th: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, May 16: 1-7 p.m.

If you are available to work a 3 hour shift in either registration or the Canteen please call Marianne DePeppe at 373-2117.

Eight volunteers are needed each day.



Monday Night Worship

We will again gather on the third Monday of every month for a reflective service of readings and hymns.

May 20, 2019

5:30 pm



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Spring has finally arrived. (We'll just ignore the snow that is falling outside my window). Planting has begun. Flowers and trees are blooming. There are signs of new life all around us.

Easter is all about new life. The women came to the tomb early that morning expecting to find death. They came to prepare the body of our Lord and Savior for his final resting place.

Yet, when they arrived, they were astonished and perplexed. For Jesus was no longer in the tomb! He is risen! At first, the women didn't know what to make of this. How could someone who was dead be alive now? What is going on?

They run to tell the others what they had seen and heard. Of course, the men didn't believe them. "These women are crazy. What are they rambling on about now?"

It wasn't until they went and saw with their own eyes that they believed.

Some things must be seen to be believed, yet Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed."

To believe something without proof is hard. We all want those black and white answers. Life would be so much easier if things were clear and easy. But that isn't how life works. Life is hard. It drags us down at times. It fills us with fear and dread. The bombings in Sri Lanka. The death of a child. The diagnosis of cancer. All these can make us question our beliefs.

But Jesus welcomes your questions. He welcomes your doubts. He doesn't turn you away. When Thomas wanted to see his hands and side, Jesus didn't shun him. He didn't dismiss his feelings. He embraced Thomas' doubts, but also pushes him to think a bit deeper. For that is what faith is all about. Faith is believing in things we cannot see.

Pastor Erica

*Welcome
Nathanial, Amanda,
and Eleanor Dilling!*



*Congratulations to
Seth & Diane Henry
on the birth of
Malcom Richard Henry*



Financial Corner

March Income: \$ 13,722.25

March Expenses: \$ 13,289.40

March Income vs. Expense: \$ 432.85

2019 Income: \$ 41,257.25

2019 From Schwab: \$ 13,000.00

2019 Other Transfers:

2019 Expenses: \$ 40,703.83

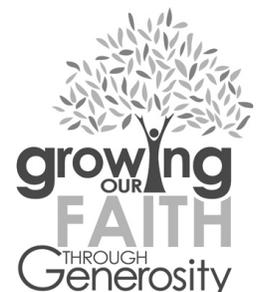
2019 Income vs. Expense: \$ 553.42

April Noisy Offering: \$ 145.30 (Lutheran Disaster Response)

2019 total: \$ 284.44

April Quiet Offering: \$ 103.51

2019 total: \$ 361.35



Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

Rylan Citurs

Dane Duenes

Elliott Flatten

Alexis Rothmeier



Winter Splash!

Great Wolf Lodge

Sunday, May 19

Leaving after worship,
returning by 6pm

Cost: \$25 per person

Sign up in the Gathering Space.



DISCERNMENT CONVERSATIONS

The Committee on the Election of a Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod invites the people of the synod to participate in the upcoming discernment conversations. These will be spaces to get to know the seven nominees for synod bishop. The format of each gathering will be unique. Specific details about each discernment event as well as information about the nominees is at <http://semnsynod.org/callingourbishop2019>.

COME TO ONE OR ALL EVENTS!

MONDAY, MAY 13, 6:30PM-8:30PM
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN WASECA

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 6:30PM-8:30PM
UNITED REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ZUMBROTA

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 6:30PM-8:30PM
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN STEWARTVILLE

**This event will be streamed online.*

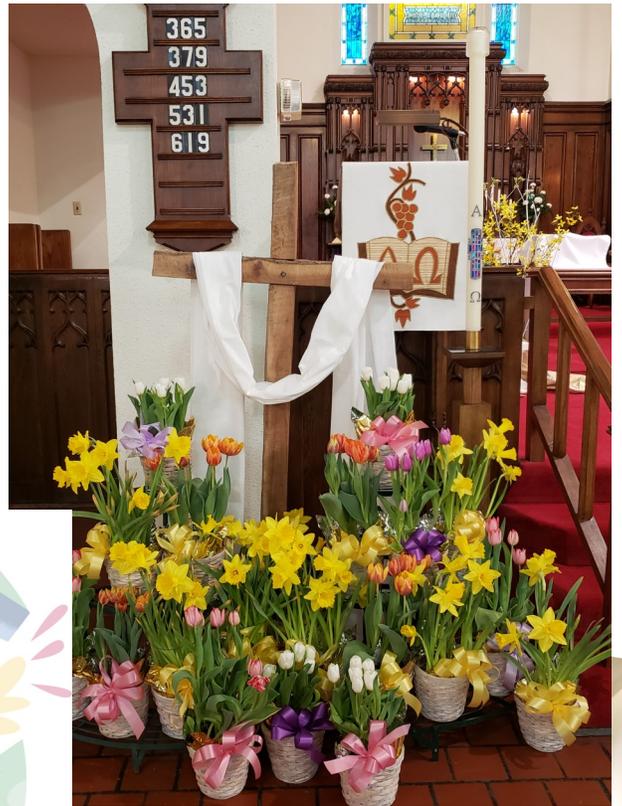
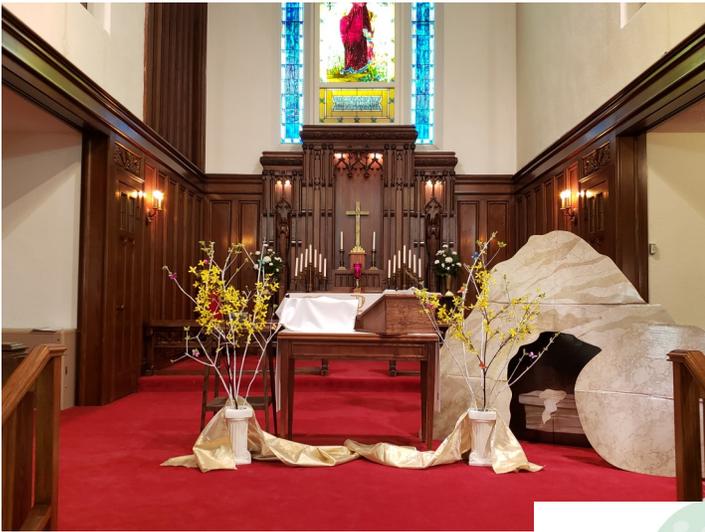
Save the Date

VBS

June 17—20, 2019



Happy Easter!



Worship Assistants

May 5: Beth Spande

May 12: Kathy Paul

May 19:

May 26:

Ushers

May 5: Aaron Reisdorfer, Tom Eustis

May 12: Larry T. Lahs

May 19:

May 26:

Greeters:

May 5: Lindsay & Aaron Reisdorfer family

May 12: Christie & Stuart Ness family

May 19:

May 26:

Flowers

May 5: Rosslyn Cameron

May 12: Roxanne Rajewsky

May 19: Roger & Clarice Bakken

May 26: Patti Miller

We will have geraniums for Pentecost Sunday.
Watch the Sunday bulletin for details.

Coffee Hour

Margaret Haupt/ Salem Circle



May Noisy Offering

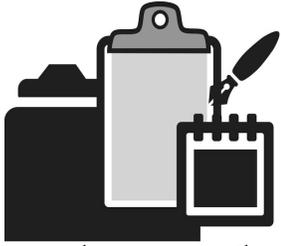
Southeastern Synod Assembly

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod invests in ministry partners who provide hands-on connections with youth and young adults as they walk through critical times of their lives. These young people, nurtured in faith through **Good Earth Village** and our two **campus ministries in Winona and Mankato**, experience the love of God in their lives and take action in sharing that love within congregations and into communities. As some of these leaders hear a call to rostered ministry, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod partners with Luther Seminary to provide them the tools needed to become spiritual and resilient leaders.

*This year's assembly offering, through **Leading Together**, will support **Good Earth Village, Luther Seminary and our two campus ministries***



"Let's give 'em a good start with some holy water!"



Church Council

Unofficial Council Hi-Lites (April 17, 2019)

Patti Cotton was approved as secretary until the annual meeting.

- Meeting called to order and Jim Gulbrandson gave the devotions.
- The Secretary’s Report and Treasurer’s Reports were adopted.
- Pr. Erica requested a Thrivent grant for Stewardship books.
- Building & Grounds: Paul Dilling reported on spring cleaning around church.

- Church in Society: Shrove Tuesday supper brought in \$324.
- Outreach: Blood Drive scheduled for May 15 & May 16. We have 4 graduates and Marianne DePope will get cards and Sew ‘N Tell had quilts.
- Worship & Music: Palm Sunday brunch profited just over \$300.
- Stewardship: Committee is reading book on peoples change in giving. Recruiting volunteers for JAM.
- Joni Burns-Duenes has resigned as Council Secretary.
- Kathy Paul has requested an update to employee handbook.
- Jim Gulbrandson reported from Rich Murray that the Salem Mission Endowment Fund is doing fine.

Church Council Members:

President: Jim Gulbrandson

Vice President: Troy Waldemar

Secretary: Patti Cotton

Treasurer: Jose Duenes

Worship & Music: Shari Budach

Budget/Finance: Mary Gulbrandson

Church in Society/Missions: Donna Werner

Outreach: Marianne DePope

Education: Vacant

Youth: Vacant

Building & Grounds: Paul Dilling

Stewardship: Kathy Paul

Memorials

Given in memory of Art Anderson to roof repairs and Salem Altar Guild.



May

BIRTHDAYS

May 2: Patti Cotton
May 3: Beverly Wessels
May 4: Lynden Matthies
May 7: Hunter Reisdorfer
May 12: Scott Jacobsen
May 13: Lauren Rhodes
May 19: Tom Eustis
May 22: Sue Micklick
May 23: Sue Sherman
May 24: Hailey Deming, Aeron Mangskau
May 28: Anita Sande
May 31: Les Anderson, Kurt Cheever,
Aspen Heilman

Let us pray...

Please pray for the following:

Shirley Eustis

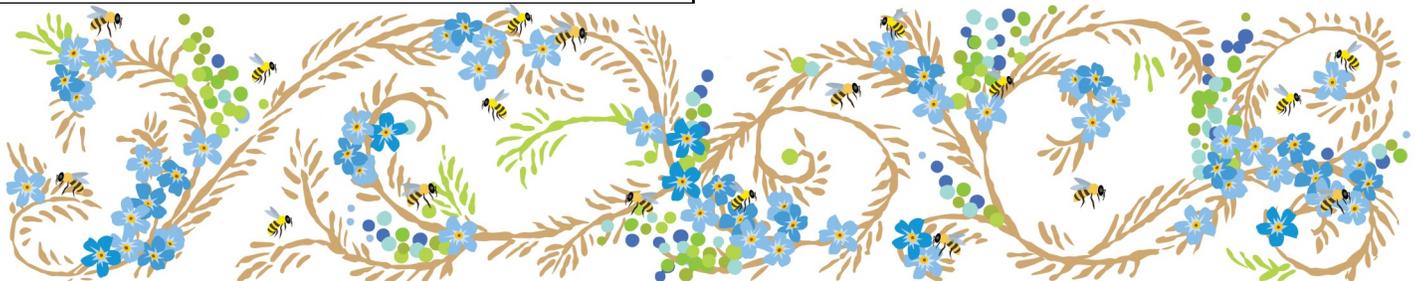
Anita Sande

Emil Malakowsky

Sharon Rol

Mary Stevens

*The family of Kenneth Adams (brother
-in-law of Woody & Valta Hestness).*







THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



“What is God Up To?” by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

What is to be done? Our congregations are growing older and smaller. At least 40 percent of our congregations have an average weekly worship attendance of 50 or less. ELCA membership decreases by 70,000 people a year, or roughly the loss of a synod per year. Clergy retirements outnumber new candidates for ministry. Financial pressures and building maintenance create stress. There is a dearth of people in their 20s and 30s in our pews. How do we change this? How do we reverse the trends?

These are anxious questions that come from anxious people across this church. We aren't the only ones asking them—just about every mainline denomination, including the non-Latino population of the Roman Catholic Church, is in the same boat. Even some megachurches are showing signs of plateau or decline. And this is not exclusive to the Christian community. I once attended a national conference of Muslims where one workshop was titled “Un-Mosqued to Mosqued: How to Get the Young Muslim Back to the Masjid.” Some now see the decline of the church in general, and the ELCA in particular, as inevitable. The response can be to turn our churches into bunkers with our congregations sheltering within the walls or to try every new program that breathlessly promises to attract people to our congregations. Neither is an effective or faithful long-term strategy.

I think we are asking the wrong questions. The questions we are asking have to do about us: “What can we do?” They express loss and grief and fear—loss and grief for what we were and fear about what we will become. Not only do these questions not lead to productive answers, they also don't point to hope. It's as if the church's one foundation rests on us and our efforts.

I think we need to ask: “What is God up to?” It's clear to me that we are living in a time of transition, especially for the Western church. I don't know how long this transition will last nor do I have a clear vision of what the church is becoming.

I think we are asking the wrong questions. I think we need to ask: “What is God up to?” The good news is that you and I don't have to have a clear vision because God does. “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:18-19). These words of hope were spoken to the Jews who were stuck in exile. They had lost their land, their temple and their king—the pillars of their identity. Likewise, the church has lost social status and relevance in 21st-century American culture.

For Israel and the church this would be a hopeless situation, except that God is faithful. When the Lord admonished, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old,” this wasn't a command to forget God's past saving work, but to believe that God was still acting. This is true for us today. When we stop asking what we can do to fix the church and start asking what God is up to, we open ourselves up to the life-giving promise of God's future.

Then we are also open to more questions: How is the Spirit reshaping the church? How will Christ use us as Christ's living body in the world? If we want to attract people to our congregations to rebuild a memory, God will not bless our efforts. But if we—grabbed by the Spirit in baptism, changed by the word, intimately and lovingly connected to Jesus and each other in communion, and set free by grace to serve the neighbor—invite all people into true life, then we shall become part of the answer. This takes attention and devotion. Worship, prayer, Scripture study, generosity and service—not in order to save the church, but in response to the new life God has given us in Christ.

May 2019

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Staff 3:30 JAM (Salem) 5:30 JAM End of Year Potluck (Salem) 6:30 Conf. At Ascension	2	3 6:30 Men's Bible Study	4
5 9:00 Worship Coffee	6 1:30 Tai Ji	7 10:00 WELCA Board 5:00 Worship & Music	8 10:00 Staff 1:00 WELCA Visits 6:30 Confirmation (Salem)	9	10 6:0 Men's Bible Study	11
12 9:00 Worship Coffee 10:30 Stewardship Comm. Mtg.	13 10:30 WELCA Bible Study Leaders 1:30 Tai Chi	14 9:00 Sew' N Tell	15 9-3 Bloodmobile 10:00 Staff 11:30 Mary Mag./Lydia at Wedgewood 6:00 Sarah Circle	16 1-7 Bloodmobile	17 6:30 Men's Bible Study	18
19 9:00 Worship Coffee (Leaving after Worship for Great Wolf Lodge) (waterpark)	20 1:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Monday Night Worship	21 1:30 Margaret Haupt/Salem Circle 6:30 Church Council	22 10:00 Staff	23	24 6:30 Men's Bible Study	25
26 9:00 Worship Coffee	27 Closed	28 9:00 Sew 'N Tell	29 10:00 Staff	30	31 6:30 Men's Bible Study Synod Assembly	Synod Assembly



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

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Albert Lea MN 56007-2488

Non-Profit Organization

The Builder ~ May 2019

THE SIMPLICITY OF PRAYER

Owe no one anything, except to love another, for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not cover" and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13: 8-10

Dear Lord, you have taught me how to love through your acts, teachings, and most of all through your sacrificing of your life for me! You have made the ultimate gift of love to all of us and I am so grateful to you. Thank you for your constant love. Amen.