

NEWSLETTER

THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

MAY 2024



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 10:00 am

STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Mark Boorsma
mboorsma@aol.com
507-377-2459
Secretary: Vicki Reichl
Email: secretary@salemalbertlea.org
Cell: 507.402.1775
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

UPCOMING EVENTS MAY AT SALEM

Women of Salem

Bible Study—Thursday, May 16 at Salem at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. led by Pr. Mark Boorsma.

We are also invited by our Ascension friends to join in on their Bible Chapter Book Club. This meets via Zoom each Sunday at 11:30 a.m. You can attend two ways:

Gather Bible Study (second Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Same number as Book Club.

-by computer with the Zoom app
<https://zoom.us/j/6751859971>

or by phone
(meeting ID



312-626-6799
6751859971##).

Upcoming

May 8: 5:15 p.m. Endowment Committee Meeting

May 12: Honor our High School Graduates;

May 21: 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Deployment

Zoe Keeney is deployed to Kuwait. Please keep Zoe in your prayers.



From the Pastor:

“Elvis has left the building.”

This catchphrase would be announced to conclude Elvis Presley concerts and disperse frenzied crowds hoping that the King of Rock and Roll would reappear for an encore. A loose translation might be, “No, really; it’s over; go home!”

I worry sometimes that we too often suppose that “**Jesus** has left the building.”

Day Forty of every Eastertide is the Ascension of Our Lord, and as we say in the creeds: *He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

It can become tempting to imagine that Jesus has jetpacked into the great beyond, out of sight and out of mind. It leads us to imagine Jesus as primarily . . . well, GONE. At best, this leaves us pining for an **absent** Christ, due to return again in some distant future. At worst, it leaves us with an Easter all too much like Groundhog Day (Jesus pops out of the tomb, sees his shadow, but that’s about it until next year when he will do the same again).

Serving a congregation **named** Ascension has given me reasons to think quite a bit about how that elevation of Jesus informs faith and imagination. For starters, the Ascension of Jesus asserts not his absence, but his new and improved eternal **presence**.

Permit me an analogy. Let’s say you have a dear friend who is elected Governor. She would move ‘up’ to Saint Paul, but she also now has farther-reaching influence and capacity to do you good, even here.

That’s actually what we believe about the Ascension of Jesus — he is now elevated as ‘right-hand man’ in the Holy Trinity, strategically positioned to put in a good word for you, now and forever. Which he does, and will continue to do, world without end, Amen. Jesus **IS** in the building!

– Pastor Mark Boorsma



FINANCIAL CORNER

MARCH INCOME

\$ 18,325.00

MARCH EXPENSES

\$ 9,603.04

2024 INCOME:

\$ 33,010.84

2024 FROM SCHWAB:

\$

2024 OTHER INCOME:

\$

NOISY OFFERING:

ROOF FUND: \$2,257.25

LITTLE FREE PANTRY: \$ 121

MEMORIALS TO ROOF: \$60

In 2024, Good Earth Village is going to have a nurse for each week of summer camp. Looking for qualified nurses to volunteer a week at summer camp. If interested send an e-mail to nate@goodearthvillage.org for more information. A small stipend is included (with room and board).

Flowers for May

May 5—Audrey Johannsen

May 12—Johnsrud

May 19-geraniums

May 25—Jack & Donna Werner

Unofficial Council Hi-Lites—April 16, 2024

-Vice President Larry Lahs called the meeting to order.
-Devotions were given by Pastor Boorsma using “Dwelling in the Word.”

-Secretary’s Report & Treasurer’s Reports were approved.
-Pastor Boorsma reported that the Lenten series was well received and had good attendance. He also reported there will be a funeral on Saturday.

Committee Reports:

-Budget & Finance: Kim Luhring presented reports and all were accepted.

-Building & Grounds: Paul Dilling reported he had been working on landscaping around the church. He had installed solar lights by the front and back doors donated by Bruce Ness. Happy to see donations coming in for the roof fund.

-Church in Society: Kathy Woodside reported that it is hard to keep the Little Free Pantry full. Used regularly.

-Worship & Music: Deb Stolarcek reported hymns are picked thru June.

-Education: Shari Budach reported that our graduates will be honored on Sunday, May 12th. Learning opportunity on May 5th at 1:00 p.m. on Christian Nationalism.

Old Business:

-The revised Salem Constitution was presented to the congregation for review on April 14th. If no new issues are found it will be sent to the synod for review.

New Business:

-Noisy Offering for May will go to the Little Free Pantry.

-Pastor Boorsma and Kathy Paul will represent Salem at the SE MN Synod Assembly. It was motioned, seconded and passed to give a \$300 offering at the synod assembly.

-\$250 to the coffee fund from Thrivent Choice funds on motion, seconded and passed.

- Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting May 21st at 6:30.

Thank You

Leland Dilling's family would like to thank our Salem family for your prayers and thoughts these past few months and days. Thank you Pr. Borsma for your visits and wonderful funeral message for him. Thanks also to all the workers and makers of cakes for his funeral luncheon, you are much appreciated.

Those personal visits to our home during his last days were precious.

Thank you, Sharon and family

Honoring Our Graduates

On Sunday, May 12 we will honor our high school graduates—Derrek Laite & Emily Heilman. Reception hosted by the Friday Morning Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. and in the Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Please come and greet them!

Pentecost Sunday, May 19th

If you would like to share geraniums with Salem on Pentecost Sunday the cost is \$6. Please fill out the form below and include payment to Salem Altar Guild

_____ of gernaiums

Name: _____

____ will pick up

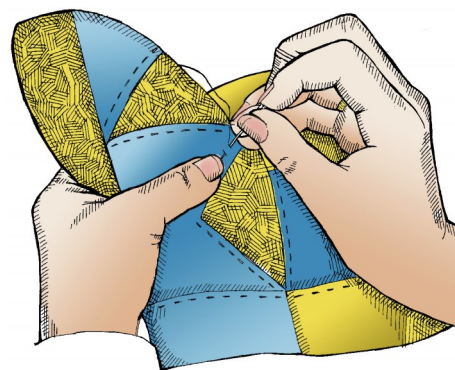
____ will not pick up

Pentecost
SUNDAY

Sew 'n' Tell

May 14

May 28



QUILTING GROUP

Friday Morning Bible Study

May 3

May 10

May 17

May 24

May 31

Gather at 6:30 a.m. and have a cup of coffee, talk and share some scripture. All are welcome!



Salem Temple Talk – April 7, 2024

Good Morning!

It is hard to believe that we have already celebrated Easter. Time has a way of passing quickly. At the recent stewardship committee meeting, we discussed how time passes fast in relation to the needs of our beautiful Salem Church. One of the needs we will have within the next four years, is to replace the shingles on our Church building. The Stewardship Committee recognizes it is necessary to prepare ourselves that the cost could be \$100,000 depending on the type of materials used! At this time it is difficult to get an accurate estimate, since contractors are unable to predict what their costs may be this far in advance.

So, how do we prepare ourselves to meet this cost. At our last annual meeting, those in attendance voted to start a roof fund. With this in mind, Roof Fund envelopes have been placed near the offering plate and noisy offering bucket and other places within the church. The Stewardship Committee recommended to the Church Council to set a goal of raising \$25,000 during 2024 for the Roof Fund. This would be approximately 25% of the anticipated cost. The Church Council approved this goal. The Church Council also approved the April Noisy Offering to go to the Roof Fund. The quieter type of donations will also be welcome. I am happy to report that the present balance in the Roof Fund is \$517.50. Information reporting our progress will be in the Builder and Sunday Bulletins.

Last fall Pledge Cards were received for contributions to the Salem general fund of approximately \$85,000. We are thankful for your prayerfully thought commitments. This a similar amount to the 2023 Commitments. 2023 General Fund Contributions were \$118,842. Salem is grateful for all the gifts that exceeded the pledges. We also hope that it is understood that if General Fund gifts are not received in excess of the general fund commitments, we will be unable to pay all our bills.

During 2024, can we ask ourselves to donate 5%, 10%, 15%, or even 20% to the Roof Fund over what we planned to give in our Regular Giving? All of this for continuing to have a dry place to worship.

If you have any questions about the fund, please ask a member of the Stewardship Committee or a member of the Church Council.

Thank you.



MAY
Birthdays & Anniversaries

- May 1 Glen Holty
- May 2 Patti Cotton
- May 3 Beverly Wessels
- May 7 Jade Burns, Hunter Reisdorfer
- May 9 Karla Kelly
- May 11 Carol Wendel
- May 12 Scott Jacobsen
- May 13 Ken Laite, Lauren Rhodes
- May 14 Jennifer Ewing
- May 19 Tom Eustis
- May 23 Sue Sherman
- May 24 Aeron Mangskau
- May 31 Les Anderson, Kurt Cheever

- May 18: Aaron & Lindsay Reisdorfer 12 years
- May 25: Jack & Donna Werner 55 years
- May 26: Gene & Sharon Weckwerth 45 years



LET US PRAY...
*Larry Enderson
 Woody Hestness
 Shirley Eustis
 Dean Beighley
 Tom Eustis
 Marianne DePope
 Mary Paul
 Kermit Iverson
 Roger Holty
 Harold Holty
 Roger Hanna
 Cynthia Nelson*

*Our prayers are with the family and
 friends of Leland Dilling.*



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

"Change Service Requested"

THE BUILDER MAY, 2024

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

