

NEWSLETTER

THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

NOV 2020



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 9:00 am

STAFF

Pastor Erica Cunningham
Cell: 563.505.6417 | Home: 507.320.1950
Email: pastorericac1517@gmail.com
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.

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COVID 19 Update

Dear Salem Family:

It is hard to believe it has been over seven months since we were last able to gather in the building. No one expected us to be in quarantine this long. Unfortunately, it looks like the pandemic will still be active for several more weeks.

After much prayerful consideration the council voted unanimously on Tuesday, October 20 to keep the building closed until at least February 2021. If this changes, and we can safely open sooner, we will! I am daily looking at the number of COVID 19 cases in our county and state. Churches have been identified as one of the top places that causes the spread of the virus.

I know this news is hard to digest. This means no Christmas services indoors. And several more weeks of isolation from your church family. This was not an easy decision to make. Our top priority is the health and safety of our members.

While we can't gather in person, we will continue our online and phone services. We will continue drive-thru communion on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays. Worship and Music is working hard at planning some drive thru events that will happen in November and December

Throughout the months of November and December we will be collecting favorite holiday recipes to put into an informal book to share with the congregation.

We are also asking each family to bring in a favorite ornament to decorate our "Salem Family Tree" that will be in the window of the Gathering Space for all to see as they drive by.

Please be on the lookout for more information about these events as well as other happenings.

Thank you all for your generous support during this strange and unexpected time.

TEMPLE TALK - SALEM LUTHERAN - NOVEMBER BUILDER

It is difficult to believe that November is here already! With it comes one of our most revered holidays – Thanksgiving. It seems to be appropriate that at the time when we are being thankful for all of the blessings which we as a nation have been given from our Gracious God, we are considering what we will pledge to our beloved church, Salem, for the year 2021.

What will the year 2021 be like for us at Salem? Will we feel safe to gather and worship on an every Sunday basis next year? Will we be able to visit our shut-ins? Will our committees and groups such as the circles and Men's Bible Study be able to meet together in the church facility? Will we be able to have coffee hour with our church family after worship services? Will the Communion Ministers be able to take the elements out to folks who are unable to attend worship? Well, there is a very long list of "what ifs" and "will we be able to's" that we can ask. But, regardless of the activities which we will be able to resume, we will have the ongoing expenses of our commitment to our church staff, to providing limited services, and to maintaining the church facility.

Please prayerfully consider what you will pledge for the next year. Your pledge will be a promise between God and yourself. With so many uncertainties ahead, it is vital that we keep our Salem Church as a certainty in our lives. We can still call the church if needed and get an answer to our questions. We still have services by electronic or telephone access. The church building is kept clean and sanitary. We receive mailings and the newsletter on a regular basis.

You will receive a mailing explaining how the Commitment Sunday will be done this year. Your pledge card will be enclosed. If you have any questions about the pledging process, please call a member of the Stewardship Committee – Bruce Ness, Jim Gulbrandson, Randy Rugroden, Kathy Paul

Thank you for your loving membership in our Salem family.

Kathy Paul





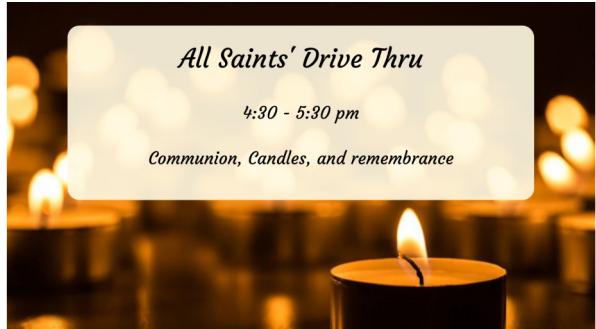
The pantry has been used and appreciated by the community.
Thank you!

Little Free Pantry

We are accepting donations! Some of the items needed:

- Canned goods (fruit, veggie, meat)
- Boxed meals (hamburger helper, mac & cheese, etc)
- Cereal
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Crackers
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Diapers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toilet paper

We are also accepting monetary donations.



All Saints' Drive Thru

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Communion, Candles, and remembrance

Come and remember all those who have died. The members of Salem who died in the last year will be remembered with a special luminary.

If you would like to submit the name(s) of your loved ones who have died, we will also include them on luminaries. Please submit names to Vicki or Pastor Erica by October 31.

Luminaries will be displayed in the courtyard and around the building so you drive around the church and remember those who have died. Communion will also be available during this time.



We aren't able to gather in person this year to share special holiday dishes. But we can still share family favorites with our friends. Do you have a favorite holiday recipe? Grandma's cookies? Aunt Judy's pie? Uncle Ron's snack mix? Submit your recipes to Pastor Erica or Vicki and we will put them together in an informal cookbook to share at Christmas!

We can't eat together this year, but we can all enjoy these special family favorites!

Please Submit recipes by December 15, 2020



Do you have a favorite Christmas ornament? We want to have a "Salem Family Tree" this year. This tree will be in the Gathering Space window for all to see as they drive by! We want to decorate this tree with ornaments from all our families! We may not be physically together this year, but we still come together as one family. Ornaments can be dropped off anytime before Christmas. They will be returned in January.

Thank you!

FINANCIAL CORNER

SEPTEMBER INCOME

\$7,203.41

SEPTEMBER EXPENSES

\$10,277.29

SEPTEMBER INCOME VS.

EXPENSES

\$-3,073.88

2020 INCOME:

\$ 122,457.15

2020 FROM SCHWAB:

\$8,000.00

2020 OTHER INCOME:

\$

NOISY OFFERING:

OCTOBER: \$104.20

2020 TOTAL: \$865.29

QUIET OFFERING 2020 TOTAL:

\$ 357.98

Building Fund as of 6/15/2020

Total Contributions

\$21,685.20

Expenses:

- Joseph Co ~ \$163,707.00
- 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: \$180,322.18

Schwab Endowment Fund draws
\$158,000.00



Unofficial Council Hi-Lites— October 20, 2020

Matt Larson from the SE MN Synod spoke about shared ministry.

Secretary's Report was approved.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Erica reported on death benefit gift to Salem from John & Audree Wagner for \$55,000. Will be waiting until January for more discussion on in person worship. Salem will have heat on for consistency.

Budget & Finance: Mary reviewed financial documents.

Building and Grounds: Larry reported window being repaired now and he will check about the tuck pointing. Ray will be returning to work in November.

Church in Society: Donna was not present.

Worship & Music: Shari had nothing new to report.

Stewardship: Kathy reported on stewardship articles for the Builder and Jim did a talk for the church service. Pledge cards will be mailed out and Commitment Sunday is November 15.

Youth: Diane and Linda reported that the delivery program is going well.

Old Business:

-Larry made a motion for the Noisy Offering for November go to the Salvation Army Food Shelf. Linda seconded. M/C

New Business:

-Bruce made a motion that \$18,000 of the Wagner gift be deposited into the Improvement Fund and the balance into the 9804 Endowment Fund. Larry made the second. M/C

-Next meeting November 17th via Zoom. Shari will read devotions.



- Nov 1 Cassandra Matthies
 Nov 5 Val Nicolaus
 Nov 6 Gloria Hautt
 Nov 10 Christopher Reichl
 Nov 11 Eli Deming
 Nov 12 Dayna Edwards, Zach Edwards
 Nov 14 Tanya Johnson, Owen Stuart
 Nov 15 Marianne DePoppe
 Nov 16 Paul Dilling, Kent Reichl
 Nov 17 Sharon Weckwerth
 Nov 20 Brielle Petersen, Cynthia Schultz
 Nov 21 Erica Cunningham, Jill Van Reese
 Nov 22 Mallory Luhring
 Nov 25 Markus Gilderhus Natalie Oakland
 Nov 26 Richard Manges
 Nov 27 Elliott Flatten
 Nov 28 Reid Nelson
 Nicholas Reichl
 Whitney Reim Jr.



- Nov. 15** Whitney & Kathleen Reim Sr. 57 years
Nov. 30 Frank & Pat Gjersvik 63 years



LET US PRAY...

*Ray Smith
 Cindy Enderson
 Larry Enderson*

*Prayers are with the family and friends of
 Lorraine Dillavou (sister of Frank Gjersvik).*





In October, we delivered kits to 16 children who painted pumpkins. In November we will be learning about giving Thanks! If you would like to sign up your children, please go to our website or contact Pastor Erica!

Dial in for Worship!

Each week call

507-201-8421

to hear a brief reflection, readings, and prayers!



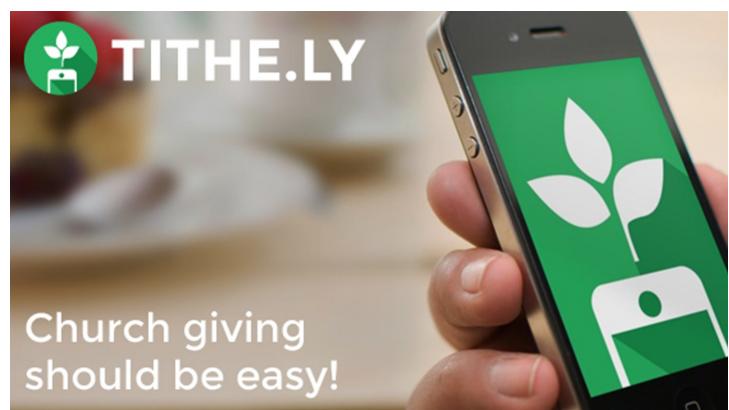
MEMORIALS

*Given to Salem Altar Guild
in memory of
Lorraine Reim*



To give electronically, please download the Tithe.ly app and search for Salem Lutheran Church.

You may also give through our website!
Salemalbertlea.org



Drive-thru Communion

November 1, 2020

November 15, 2020

November 29, 2020

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Communion will be pre-packaged and handed out to go.

All are welcome!



Those who would like communion, but are unable to travel to Salem, may request an outdoor visit with Pastor Erica. Please call her or the church office to schedule a visit!



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

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THE BUILDER | NOVEMBER 2020

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

