

# ✠ SALEM CONNECTION ✠

## September 2018

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444  
Pastor: Michael Briggs Phone: 218-534-3309 Email: [office@salemwd.org](mailto:office@salemwd.org) Website: [www.salemwd.org](http://www.salemwd.org)



*"...the foremen ... went out and said to the people, Thus says Pharaoh, "I will not give you straw. Go and get straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least." – Exodus 5:10-11*

*"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy ... on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the alien who is within your gates." – Exodus 20:8, 10b*

As I write this it is the day after Summerfest. It is also the day we said "Thank you and Farewell" to Deacon Greg and Diane. These last weeks I've watched as dozens of people worked tirelessly to make Summerfest a great success, and to create a smooth transition at Salem West and Mustard Seed. They did all that in addition to everything else that they do here and at Salem West and at Mustard Seed every day. Thank you for all you do in Jesus' name here and in our community!

It's Labor Day weekend, a time we thank and honor the people who do all the things that get done every day. We honor those who build our roads and those who take away our trash. We honor those who grow our food to those who bag our groceries. Think of all the laborers who faithfully do their work, and how we all benefit from it!

Our Lord commanded us to celebrate Labor Day every week – to take a day off from our labors and enjoy the good earth that God made. It's kind of funny that our Lord has to command us to do that, but apparently he does. We can get so wrapped up in all the day to day tasks of our lives that we never stop, we never notice and enjoy the gift of each day we have on this planet with the people God has given us. So God says, "If I can create and maintain the whole universe in 6 days and still take a day off every week, so can you. Or do you think you're more essential to the running of the universe than I am?"

I have a plaque in my office that a parishioner gave me. It says, "Good morning! This is God. I will be handling all of your problems today. I will not need your help. So, relax and have a great day!" She thought I was getting a little over-involved, that I needed to know I wasn't that important. She was right.

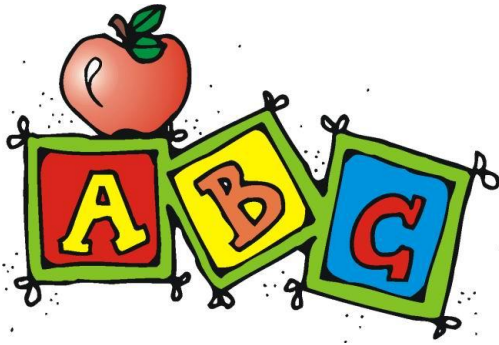
God's command to take a day off began way back when Pharaoh enslaved the people who produced Egypt's goods. When they asked for time off to worship he thought they were just being lazy. He increased their production quotas. You must produce the same quota of bricks, but you have to find your own straw to do it!

It's no coincidence that when those slaves were freed, one of the first laws God gave them was a labor law. "Remember the Sabbath Day... 6 days you shall work, but the 7<sup>th</sup> day is a Sabbath to the Lord..." It's so important that it's number 3, right after having no other gods and honoring God's name!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment was not just for personal practice. It was also for employers. It was a reminder that their ancestors were underpaid and overworked. God says, when you have a chance to be in control, you must treat those who work for you differently.

So, take a day off. Give your workers a day off. You deserve it. They do too. Our Lord will keep the world running in your absence. Enjoy God's good earth

- Pastor Mike



## SEPTEMBER

### USHERS

9/2	8:15	Clark & Joyce Marshall, John & Margo Wojciak
	10:00	Ken Schultz, Glenn Schultz
9/9	8:15	Randy Holmwig, Helen Ryan, Herb & Barb Schoon
	10:00	Ernie & Mary Erickson, Dean & Pat Sylvester
9/16	8:15	Nory & Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson
	10:00	David Anderson, Lisa Slepica, Jay & Sue Stromberg
9/23	8:15	Ron & Sandy Kretlow, Clark & Joyce Marshall
	10:00	Renee Gilmer, Pat & Laura Guimont, Roger & Marlene Prill
9/30	8:15	Joel Huntley, Dale & Vi Klungness, Rad & Tina Royer
	10:00	Nancy Johnson, Cleone McGillivray, Ken Stebbins, Becki Zender

### READERS

Sept 2	8:15	Myron Midthun
	10:00	
Sept 9	8:15	Vi Klungness
	10:00	Nancy Meyer
Sept 16	8:15	John Greene
	10:00	Glenn Suess
Sept 23	8:15	Kim Coughlin
	10:00	Teppi Bundy
Sept 30	8:15	Tina Royer
	10:00	Lisa Slepica

### COMMUNION

9/2	8:15	Myron & Shirley Midthun, John Wojciak
	10:00	Jake & Dee Dee Frahm and family

9/9	8:15	Dale & Vi Klungness, Debbie MacKay
	10:00	John & Raye Cragun, Judi Smith
9/16	8:15	Ron Meyer, Shirley Taylor
	10:00	Glenn Suess, Nancy Johnson
9/23	8:15	Kim Coughlin, Nory & Peggy Hunze
	10:00	Shelly Skeim, Dean & Pat Sylvester
9/30	8:15	Mark Carlson, Jan Danger, Tina Royer
	10:00	Al & Barb Schiffler, Lisa Slepica

### BAPTISM

Theodore Laurence Nichols

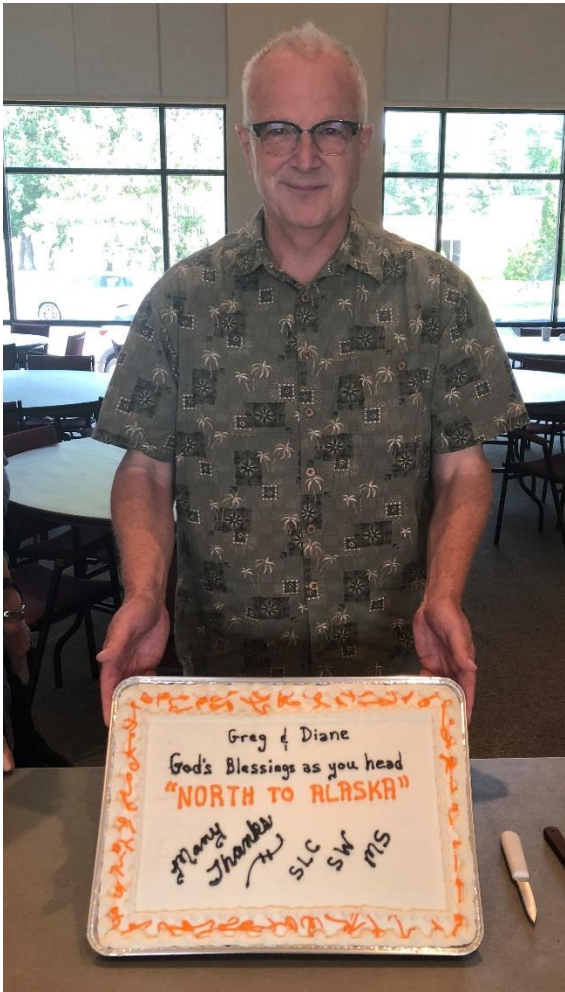
### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Xavia DeCent
4	Cathy Aykens, Terry Fields, Becky Guida, Jodi Stensrud
5	Brandon Kunz
8	Egen Myers
10	Dee Chileen
11	Devan Bartels, Deanna Olson
12	Nate Kewatt
13	Susan Erickson
14	Peggy Blistain, Gary Malek
15	Lee Uglem
17	Jack Gavin
18	Wilbur Radach
19	Walker Jones
23	RaeJean Anderson, Marilyn Holmwig, Myrna Nelson
24	Madilyn Bodle
26	James Call
27	Meg McGuire
28	James Stirewalt

### SEPTEMBER WEDDING

#### ANNIVERSARIES

1	Brian & Julie Chileen (2001)
8	Brian & Meriellen Pisarek (1984)
9	Ed & Sherri Godfrey (1978)
9	Rod & Laurie Ogard (1978)
14	Gary & Becky Guida (1968)
15	Louie & Maridee Smilich (1956)
17	Jake & Dee Dee Frahm (2005)
23	Rick & Brenda Stirewalt (1967)
29	Randy & Lori Holmwig (1979)
30	Marshall & Marcia Anderson (1950)
30	Lee & Ellen Uglem (1978)



FIRST Summerfest for Kitchen Coordinators Kathi Sharp and Sherri Godfrey; LAST Summerfest for Deacon Greg Meyer.

### End of Call for Greg

With gratitude and grief that reflects the love we have for one another and all the good work we did together, we also say, "Until we meet again." While we remain friends, professional ethics demand that Deacon Greg not perform official actions such as weddings or funerals for Salem folks, nor help manage any of the tasks he always managed so skillfully. Nor should we ask him to.

The NEMN Synod has found that it is best for all involved to keep the relationship between the formerly called person and the congregation simple and unambiguous:

*"While Deacon Greg is still a deacon of the Church, his call to serve at Salem, The Mustard Seed, and Salem West has ended.*

*Members of Salem Lutheran Church and the surrounding area are not to ask Deacon Greg for future assistance in any way, i.e. funerals, fund raising, preaching, pastoral care, etc."*

The language may sound a bit "harsh," but a clean break helps the formerly called person move into his/her new position unencumbered with the cares and responsibilities of his/her old position. And it helps the congregation look to their new staff person for leadership. This practice, learned the hard way by many churches and pastors (including me), has always been standard procedure across all 65 synods of the ELCA.

*My Dear Salem Family,  
What a journey! I thank you for your unwavering support of the work God has placed before us. I thank all those who are enjoying eternity with Jesus, for their witness to faith and service. It has been a team effort since day one and I was blessed to be a part of the best team ever.*

*Salem WEST, The Mustard Seed and Social Outreach are in the healthiest position they have ever been. We have a great board leading, incredible staff administering and an army of volunteers second to none.....and God is guiding these ministries.*

*Thank you for your well wishes, hugs and cards. Thank you for giving me the gift of friendship and love. I pray that my coworkers, leaders and volunteers in Soldotna are half as wonderful as all of you. If that is the case, my job will be easy, because that is what you did for me here. Not hard to be a part of a winning team!*

*I suspect we will be pretty emotional through North Dakota.....as much as I would like to see Iowa, I believe it is in the wrong direction ☺. Please pray for our safe journey and new beginnings, as we will be praying for all of you.*

*We do not say goodbye, just until we meet again. Thank you, thank you. God Bless. Greg and Di*

## EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Salem's KEY LIST** is being updated. Please stop by the church office and see Debbi if you have a key.

Thank you!

**PIECEMAKERS** quilt group meets each Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, missions and people in need in our community.

**QUILTING AT HEARTWOOD** – We will meet to make quilts at Heartwood on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**IN STITCHES** meets in the fellowship hall on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. to knit or crochet prayer shawls or other items to be given in times of sickness or grief.

**DIAPER MINISTRY** – You are welcome to come and help cut t-shirts to be made into diapers and other items on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

**SALEM WOMEN'S CIRCLE** will meet on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**KOFFEE KLATCH** at Heartwood, Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Come for devotions and fellowship with Pastor Mike and friends.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- † Wednesdays, 6:30 a.m. in the library
- † Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. in the conference room

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – All men are welcome Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room.

### LEFSE ITEMS NEEDED...

If you have a grill, rolling pin, lefse board, that you no longer use, please consider donating it to Salem. We are especially in need of grills and rolling pins with grooves. Thank you!

Ron & Sandy Kretlow

The new CARE & SHARE BOOKS are printed and in the church mailboxes. Each family unit at Salem is part of a Care & Share Unit and all of those responsibilities are explained in the book. Special thanks to the team responsible for putting this together!

## THANK YOU

*Thanks to all who helped with lefse-making for Summerfest. We had a wonderful team of rollers, fryers and quality control.*

*Ron & Sandy Kretlow*

*Thank you for your awesome gift in the amount of \$1,274.50 to our Skip the Grid project – Current for Curran. Your faithful generosity is making a life-changing difference to the patients, staff and residents at Curran Hospital in Liberia. Your contribution is taking us one step closer to the goal of \$750,000.*

*Mary Jo Mettler*

*NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA*

*Dear Church,*

*Thank you for the blanket, devotional and for the graduation card. I appreciate all the great support from my Salem family.*

*Love, Hannah Schmidt*

*My family and I would like to thank all who sent cards, phone calls and for lifting our family up in prayer during this transition time. Many hugs from Beth Lavan and family.*

*Just wanted to say thanks to whoever donated a sofa and ottoman. It was delivered to my daughter's yesterday and she was very much in need of a new one! What a wonderful program.*

*Salem Lutheran Church has become well known for its Silent Auction during Summerfest. First of all, the Silent Auction was a huge success again due to so many fine people that contributed items. Second, Kristy and I cannot thank enough all the individuals that were so willing to assist in many key ways in order to be ready for 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. It always is such a pleasure to work with each of you!! We truly appreciate your tireless energy which gave the Silent Auction such superior outcomes again this year. We are truly grateful. Thank you.*

*Paul & Kristy Tesdahl*

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ken Stebbins

I didn't get around to writing for the Connection last month since I was returning from the annual SALEM Men's Fishing Retreat the day articles were due. This was my first time going on the retreat and I am certainly glad I made the decision to go. Lake Kabetogama was a fantastically beautiful place to go and a true example of God's wonderful creation. I had never been up along the Minnesota/Canadian border before so everything was new to me, including fishing for walleye. The weather was terrific...a little windy on the first day...with blue skies, warm temps and plenty of sunshine.

Having never caught a walleye in my life, catching one would make the trip a success. And yes, I finally achieved that goal. I caught two actually. Both were within the release slot limit but at least I got to get a photo of the first one.

Besides the fun time fishing, there was beautiful scenery, great fellowship, great food, thoughtful dialog during bible studies, excellent accommodations and in general a great way to get to know many of the guys from our church family.

The retreat will definitely be on the "to do" list for next year.

After returning from the retreat I learned of Deacon Greg's departure and his new opportunities in Alaska. This represents another change for SALEM. The obvious impact on our social outreach programs can't be avoided. However, those programs are well established and have capable people to fill the void until such time a new director for those programs can be identified. Change is always hard, but with all of SALEM working together, those programs can continue to grow and be as well respected and admired as in the past. As Greg has said, he is leaving at a good time....Social Outreach is in an excellent position to move forward and be better than ever.

Let us all thank God for what these efforts have become and pray for continued success and growth.

And now we start planning and moving into fall activities and before long Advent. There will be many activities and opportunities to partake in and help out with around SALEM. We have a wonderful church community here, so stay apprised of what is happening and help out wherever you are able.

God's blessings to all.

## INTERIM DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

Greetings from Outreach!

*"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." II Corinthians 4:1*

That was a fantastic send off for our Deacon last Sunday, not a dry eye anywhere, including mine!

After Greg gave his notice I met with Pastor Mike and Council President Ken to discuss the issues facing the Outreach programs and what we were going to do until a new Director of Outreach was found. In that meeting I volunteered to serve as an interim director and the council has appointed me. I am not looking to replace Greg, only wishing to keep our missions moving forward. I also hope that it will not be a long appointment. There is no one who could possibly fill Greg's shoes including me. What I hope to accomplish is to make the transition to a new Director a smooth one where all of our programs and staff are looked after and continue to grow. I, along with the entire Outreach Committee and staff, will need your prayers and patience as we move forward. We have made a list of all the many things that Greg was involved in and are working to find people who wish to help fill the gap. If you are interested in discussing this please contact me.

We are also looking for two new employees:

- 1) A full time person at Salem West.
- 2) A 24 hour per week person at the Mustard Seed.

If you are interested, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact either Salem West or the Mustard Seed for more information. The position at Salem West would require a good driving record and both positions require being able to lift and carry up to 50 pounds.

Salem West 218.534.4962  
Mustard Seed 218.534.2945

Thanks to our wonderful staff and fantastic volunteers!

Gods Peace!  
Don Hales



## National Youth Gathering 2018 HOUSTON!

After months of preparation, we finally made our way to Houston in the hot sun and high humidity. IT WAS SO WORTH IT! We experienced worship with over 30,000 teens and adults. The excitement and enthusiasm for Christ was contagious. Young people were dancing on the stadium floor, praising and thanking God together. The stage was lit up with a cross and had messages of God's love. We heard speakers tell stories of how with God's grace, their lives were turned around. People who had lives filled with self-doubt, drugs and addiction, self-harm and cutting, anorexia, suicide attempts, who now have lives filled with Christ and want to share their stories. One young girl told us that she wanted the scars in her life to be lighthouses for others on the same path. (Wow!) We learned about God's grace. It's for everyone.

We had a service day at a community center in Houston. We met a woman named Howa, who was from Darfur, Sudan in Africa. She was there to work at the community garden, as she often did. It was HOT. She was dressed in long dark pants, a long sleeved shirt and on top of it she was wrapped in a very long and colorful scarf. She had scars on her face.

There were about 40 of us Lutherans there working beside her. We hand sifted soil from the city compost, creating mulch, top soil and seed starter. We pulled weeds, planted seeds and transplanted vegetables.

Howa came to the U.S. 8 years ago with her children. They were lucky to get out of Darfur. The rest of her family in Africa were killed and she and her family are all that are left. But..... she was so joyful! The smile on her face was so beautiful. She was so excited to have us there working at the garden. She talked about her kids, her home, schools, we showed each other pictures of our kids. Turns out we both have kids graduating from college next year! I was telling her about

why we were all there, dressed in the same neon orange shirts. She looked me in the eye, smiling and nodding her head. She said "I know Jesus." She's earning a certificate in farming at the center so she can teach others to garden. She and her friends invited all of us to their homes for dinner that night. Of course, we couldn't do that (we were on a strict schedule), but out of that invitation, they decided to have their own, **first ever** community dinner at the center for everyone, using produce from the garden. Everyone could bring something to share. (Sounds like a Lutheran potluck supper!)

There are so many more stories to tell. Ask us if you want to hear more!

This is what we learned on our trip:  
We're all different. We're all quirky, weird, loud, quiet, introverted, extroverted, beautiful misfits. We're all square pegs trying to fit into a round hole.

But GOD says we all belong. "God shatters any idea you or I or we have about whether anyone else is included or belongs." (Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber)

When you think you are alone, God's love and grace covers us. Jesus showed us we **all** belong. We are all called to start treating each other that way. Step outside your comfort zone and be a friend to someone in need. They are all around us.

We would like to THANK this congregation for the support we received in love, prayers and fundraising. Super one grocery store in Crosby let us bag groceries for tips, we had a jewelry sale (Thank you Lisa Slepica for donating the proceeds), Gary and Becky Guida donated a beautiful, hand-made piece of furniture that was auctioned off, many people donated to our adopt a mile campaign. Thank you so much for sending us.

Kris, Hannah, Alex, Laura and Michael

## LIBRARY NEWS

September is a great time to check out books from the library. Less daylight and cooler temperatures make curling up in a comfortable spot with a good book so enjoyable.

According to the most recent Time Use Survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the aggregate reading time among Americans has fallen from an average of 23 minutes per person per day in 2004 to 17 minutes per person per day in 2017. The survey data shows declines in leisure reading across all age levels. While reading time decreased, television time increased to an average of 2 hours and 45 minutes.

We can all change this trend. Leisure reading is a great way to improve imagination because one must visualize scenes and characters. Reading comprehension is important to be able to follow directions for appliances, computers, equipment, and safety information. Reading aloud to family members and discussing what was read is a great way to increase communication and express ideas. Books transport us to other time periods, locations, and situations.

The Bible is often called the “Greatest Story Ever Told.” Reading the Bible is an excellent way to improve our understanding of God's Word and to deepen our relationship with Him. The Bible is our instruction book for living as Christians. If you are not currently participating in a Bible Study, autumn is a good time to “get back to school” and learn. The Salem Library has many different translations of the Bible. Try them out and see which one “speaks” to you.

Next Library Team meeting is Tuesday, September 18 at 3PM.



Our Church Council requested that each individual church committee/team come up with a “Salem Membership Growth Plan.” The Facilities Team (responsible for maintenance and repair) decided to take on an LED MESSAGE BOARD SIGN project.

Because there is no view of our parking lot from highway 6/210, the community has no idea how active our congregation is. For that reason we feel that letting our community know who we are, what we do here and what we believe is important.

This type of sign was something we would have like to have included when our church was built, but it was not included at that time because of the cost.

The committee is excited to report that over ONE THIRD of our estimated goal of \$30,000.00 had been reached as of the middle of August.

Thank You!  
Salem Facilities Team

### Updating Security System

Salem is updating security system codes. If you have a key or a security code, please verify with Sandy Beyer, financial manager your code. You can do this either by email [finance@salemldwd.org](mailto:finance@salemldwd.org), phone 218-534-3309 option 4, or stop in the church office. **As of September 15<sup>th</sup> we will be wiping out any codes that have not been verified.** Thank you for your help on this.

# Bu\$iness

## Salem Lutheran Church Operating Fund

### Financial Results for July

	Adopted Annual Budget	July Actual 2018	July Prior Year 2017
Income	\$424,354	\$ 38,960	\$ 36,448
Expense	\$431,636	\$ 31,453	\$ 32,702
Net	(\$ 7,282)	\$ 7,507	\$ 3,746

### Financial Results Jan – July (YTD)

	Adopted Annual Budget	YTD Actual 2018	YTD Prior Year 2017
Income	\$424,354	\$ 246,958	\$271,109
Expense	\$431,636	\$ 236,546	\$248,673
Net	(\$ 7,282)	\$ 10,412	\$ 22,436

## Overview of Mortgage & Building Fund

### Salem Lutheran Church

July 2018

#### Mortgage

Original Mortgage Amount	\$2,379,965.00
Principal Balance	\$1,527,844.08
Monthly Mortgage Payment (Principal & Interest)	\$ 10,844.00
Additional Principal Payment	\$ 4,564.00

#### Building Fund

Beginning Balance 07/01/18	\$246,758.76
<b>Income July 2018</b>	
Gifts	\$ 15,533.00
Interest	\$107.78
Choice Dollars	\$203.00
<b>Expense July 2018</b>	
Mortgage Payment	(\$10,844.00)
Additional Principal	(\$ 4,564.00)
<b>Ending Balance 07/31/18</b>	\$247,194.54

(The ending building balance is what we have in savings accounts dedicated to the building fund. \$80,500 of this is in a special account which is set aside for any unexpected large building expense or need)

Note that complete financials are available by contacting Sandy Beyer at the church office. Any questions can be directed to either Council Treasurer Sherri Godfrey or Financial Manager Sandy Beyer.

# EVERYONE is Welcome to SONGS & SUDS

At the Cuyuna Brewery, Crosby

Sunday, September 23, 5:00-8:00 PM

A family-friendly social gathering sponsored by  
Salem Lutheran Church



There will be snacks, games, song, beer, alcohol-free beverages and a whole lot of FUN!! *Light snacks will be provided.*

*Beverages available to purchase, food for delivery available to purchase.*

## Attention: CARE & SHARE UNIT LEADERS

There will be an informational meeting on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room regarding the new Care & Share booklets that were completed recently.



## FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

Whitney Cragun [youth@salemdwd.org](mailto:youth@salemdwd.org)

How is it September already?! Another Summer in Minnesota is coming to a close and here we are again, trying to hold on to the moments we have left in the sun, on the lake, paddling a canoe--whatever it is that floats your boat this time of the year. After chasing summer all year long on the World Race in 2017, I'm finding out how much I missed Minnesota with its changing seasons, that gives life here a certain special kind of rhythm that some places miss out on. I think summer is one of the hardest to let go of, but also brings with it big and exciting changes!

Like school starting again! School shopping has begun, local sports teams are already playing their first matches and games of the season, and soon the school busses will be running again and town will be buzzing with activities. It is a special time for our kiddos, but also a time of transition and change that can be challenging and just plain hard sometimes. Keep our families in your prayers, young ones and not-so-little kiddos heading off to college and starting new lives and schedules as adults. Teachers and school staff are also gearing up for a year of learning and fun, and surely could use our support and encouragement as well.



We've been having a ton of fun wrapping up summer at our new Kid's Club the last few weeks! The kids enjoyed building and flying gliders, and learning about what makes for good aerodynamics. We have two weeks left of Kid's Club before we'll take a break for the beginning of the school year.



Myself and a handful of our youth and other volunteers had an awesome time face painting at Summerfest while the Silent Auction bidding was happening! If anyone has photos of any kids/grandkids with their faces send them my way! [youth@salemdwd.org](mailto:youth@salemdwd.org). We were so busy we hardly had time to sneak in some meatballs and lefse for a snack! It sure was a hot one!

We will be doing a backpack blessing at both services on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Kids, teachers, and other school staff will be invited to place their backpacks/bookbags on the floor near the altar as they arrive for worship. I am still looking for several families to serve as Greeters at both worship services on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>. Duties include arriving early for worship, being present at one of the entrances to welcome people, smiling, shaking hands or fist bumps are encouraged. Contact me if you and your family are interested in helping out!

**Salem Kid's Club (Formerly Lego Club) Kickoff September 12<sup>th</sup> 3:15-5:00-** Kid's Club will be a continuation of our summer Kid's Club, and will build upon the format of our Lego Club from the past several years. Don't worry, we will still sneak in some Lego building time for all those kids who love it! A big part of the vision for Kid's Club is teaching the kids a new skill or activity each week, the kinds of things they don't learn in school! Along with new skills, we want to send them out the door each week with a take home lesson rooted in scripture, applicable in their everyday lives.

Kid's Club will be an after school program, open to the community, with the option of bussing straight from CRES to Salem, dropping off at the park in Deerwood around 3:15/3:20. Kids will have a healthy snack to begin our time together, learn about our lesson for the week, and participate in an activity/game led by our adult and teenage volunteers. Kid's Club is geared towards grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders, but older kids are welcome to come and help out! There is no cost to participate, but for planning purposes please call or email Whitney at the church office for registration information, or with questions. [youth@salemdwd.org](mailto:youth@salemdwd.org)

**Examples from the Faith Formation team of possible activities to lead:** *crafting/building* (woodworking projects, sewing, knitting, other handmade crafts) *games/hobbies* (card games, board games, cribbage, lawn games, bocce ball, croquet, music/songwriting, etc.) *nature knowledge* (bug hunt, scavenger hunts, tree identification, potting plants, nature crafts) *baking/cooking* (pizza making, muffins, cupcakes, bread, lefse) *...the options are endless!!*

We will be recruiting activity leaders in the coming weeks, as well as volunteers to help with supervision/snack time. Contact Whitney if you are interested or have ideas! Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex.

**START-UP OF SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Starting Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a Sunday School curriculum continuing with the schedule & time we are currently using, having the lesson/activity during the sermon time. Following the Children's Sermon, kids will go with the Sunday School teachers to the classrooms for Sunday School time, and return to their families in the sanctuary after Pastor Mike's sermon is done, before communion is served. We will be doing the Sunday School curriculum during both worship services, hoping to accommodate all families and schedules!

Blessings to all through the transition of changing seasons!!

Whitney Cragun  
Faith Formation Coordinator



## Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2018

*Council Mission Statement: "We exist, with God's help, to provide leadership for the Salem Lutheran Church congregation."*

The regular meeting of the Salem Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on July 19, 2018 at Salem Lutheran Church by President Ken Stebbins.

**Present:** Randy Holmwig, Mark Carlson, Meriellen Pisarek, Pastor Mike Briggs, Kris Schmidt, Terry Tichenor, Ken Stebbins, Di Hein, Sherri Godfrey. **Absent:** John Wojciak

**Opening Prayer** was led by Pastor Mike.

**Congregational Input:** None

**Additions to Agenda:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Motion to approve Council minutes from June 14, 2018 was seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Item 7130 is running about \$20.00 a month higher on the telecommunication. Sandy will look into to determine why.
- Item 8170 continuing education for support staff is over because of the food certification that Kathi Sharp and Sherri Godfrey obtained for their work in the kitchen. They are planning to take that training fee out of the kitchen fund. They will need to take a refresher every 3 years.
- Item 8430 is over budget due to the number of pastoral visits that Pastor Mike has done. Council expressed their thankfulness for these pastoral visits.
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Our missionary, Linda Johnson Seyenkulo, preached and presided at communion on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She also did a presentation on her work in Liberia on July 11<sup>th</sup> at the 40 Club in Aitkin, attended by over 50 people from many congregations.
- Thanks to the liturgists and preachers who led worship in my absence.
- There were 4 funerals this month, two where I presided and two where Deacon Greg presided in my absence.
- 3 youth and 2 adults attended the Synod Journey servant event in Galveston and the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston. 31,000 Lutheran youth and adults attended.
- The Sandals for Honduras and Current for Curran fundraisers did very well. The Honduras team took 200 pairs of sandals to Kid's Ark. We sent over \$1,300.00 to the synod Current for Curran campaign. Pastor Johnson-Seyenkulo has been very involved with the Lutheran Hospital in Curran, Liberia and had many good things to say about their work.
- 6 people were received into membership at Salem on June 17<sup>th</sup>. They are Rick and Carol Blomberg, Ron and Laura Martin and Jeff and Heidi Mitchell. Welcome!

**Staff Reports:**

**Greg Meyer - Deacon:**

- None, in Honduras

**Whitney Cragun - Children & Youth Faith Formation Coordinator:**

- Creative Kids in the Park: So far we have had an incredible turnout with Creative Kids! On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Raye Cragun planned and kicked off the first evening at Music in the Park and she figured we had 15+ kids visit the booth and work on the craft project. On July 12<sup>th</sup> over 30 kids made bird feeders with us!
- Summer Kids Club: We will hopefully be able to do 4 sessions in August and will most likely keep it on Wednesdays to be on the same schedule as Lego Club will be in the fall.
- Confirmation/Youth: Still working on the Boundary Waters Trip.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Columbarium:**
  - Has been meeting informally. They are rotating each week who takes care of the plants.
  - Looking at replacing the benches and wood around the planters to maintenance free material.
- **Outreach:**
  - Discussion was held regarding an offer made on the sale of the donated home. Outreach plans to invest the proceeds into an initiative foundation and remaining funds possibly in a money market account.
  - Obtaining bids to close off Building #2 at Salem West for more weather proof storage.
  - The expansion plans at the Mustard Seed will need to be scaled back because engineers determined we do need frost footings.
  - Big sale at Salem West on Friday and Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Mustard Seed will be doing a rummage sale during Summerfest.
- **Faith Formation:**
  - Ministry experiments discussed:
    - Kid's Club: similar to Lego's over the summer, but not meeting as often. Fishing and geocaching were some of the suggestions; and
    - Having an inter-generational event, that would involve more of the congregation.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- Summerfest: August 10-11<sup>th</sup>. Council Ice Cream Sundae Booth, please sign up.
- Meeting with Renae Shields: Renae will be coming August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting with Social Outreach and August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. will be meeting with Council.
- Salem Lutheran Employee Compensation Working Group: Meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Development of procedures for supervising a registered sex offender within the congregation: After ample discussion, Council approved adding to the Safety Policy the Sex Offender Procedures as required by Grinnell Insurance Company.
- Capital Appeal: Meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:45 p.m. Peggy Blistain will be a new member on the Capital Appeal team.

#### **New Business:**

- Habitat for Humanity property variance: Deerwood Planning and Zoning approved the variance.
- Pastor Mike discussed that he received Greg Meyer's resignation. His last day will be August 12<sup>th</sup>. Greg is taking a position in Alaska.
- Discussion held regarding comp time vs. flex time.
- Fall Worship Schedule: Short discussion regarding the fall worship schedule. It was determined Praise and Worship Committee should be consulted.
- A baby grand piano was donated to the church and is in the fellowship hall.
- Funeral Meals: Sherri Godfrey presented a list of Salem Lutheran Church Funeral Meals. Discussion was held regarding the funeral meal process.

**Suggestions, Observations, and Solutions:** One received.

#### **Announcements:**

- Barbary Coast Dixieland Band Concert and Sunday Worship Service – July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>
- Lakes Area Music Festival Prelude Concert – July 22, 2018
- Summerfest – August 10-11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

#### **Adjournment:**

- Motion to adjourn was seconded. Motion carried.
- The next regular meeting will be held on August 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church.
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Meriellen Pisarek, Secretary

**Salem Lutheran Church  
Special Council Meeting Minutes of August 2, 2018**

*Council Mission Statement: "We exist, with God's help, to provide leadership for the Salem Lutheran Church congregation."*

A special meeting of the Salem Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on August 2, 2018 at Salem Lutheran Church by President Ken Stebbins.

**Present:** Randy Holmwig, Mark Carlson, Meriellen Pisarek, Pastor Mike Briggs, Kris Schmidt, Ken Stebbins, Di Hein, Sherri Godfrey. **Absent:** John Wojciak and Terry Tichenor. **ALSO PRESENT:** Don Hales.

**Opening Prayer** was led by Pastor Mike.

This special meeting was called to discuss two issues:

**First Issue:**

Discussion was held regarding the property which was donated to Outreach. The sale of this property requires a signer at closing. Outreach has recommended signer be Paul Tesdahl. Closing of this property is designated for the beginning of November, 2018.

Motion to appoint Paul Tesdahl along with Salem Council Treasurer, Sherri Godfrey to be the authorized signatories on behalf of Salem Lutheran Church at the closing of the donated property was seconded. Motion carried.

**Second Issue:**

Discussion was held regarding Deerwood True Value Hardware/Brian Vang requesting to purchase property from the Mustard Seed that is not being used. Said property is as shown on a Certificate of Survey by Raymond L. Anderson dated June 25, 1979. Don Hales stated that the Mustard Seed would need an easement over that property to retain access to the Mustard Seed parking lot from Archibald Road. By-Laws were reviewed and by paragraph C12.04.01, no congregational vote is necessary.

Motion to sell the piece of property identified on Certificate of Survey by Raymond L. Anderson, dated June 25, 1979 (said survey attached to these minutes) to Deerwood True Value/Brian Vang for \$25,000.00 with the stipulation that Salem Lutheran Church be allowed to reserve an appurtenant easement to access the Mustard Seed parking lot from Archibald Road was seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was amended to add: The proceeds from this sale should go to the Outreach ministry for the future expansion of the Mustard Seed building. Seconded and amended motion carried.

Special meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Meriellen Pisarek, Secretary

**Salem Lutheran Church  
Special Council Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2018**

*Council Mission Statement: "We exist, with God's help, to provide leadership for the Salem Lutheran Church congregation."*

A special meeting of the Salem Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on August 7, 2018 at Salem Lutheran Church by President Ken Stebbins.

**Present:** Mark Carlson, Meriellen Pisarek, Pastor Mike Briggs, Kris Schmidt, Ken Stebbins, Di Hein, Sherri Godfrey, John Wojciak and Terry Tichenor. **Absent:** Randy Holmwig.

**Opening Prayer** was led by Pastor Mike.

This special meeting was called to discuss the leadership role of Outreach and to act on recommendations from Outreach. Recommendations from Outreach follow:

- 1) Hire a part time person for crew leader for delivery and miscellaneous tasks and replace Mike Serfling at the Mustard Seed when he needs to return to school.
- 2) Contract Greg for \$500.00 per month for grants and consultation.
- 3) Appoint an interim person – Don Hales was suggested to fill this interim appointment.

After ample discussion by the Council regarding the appointment of an interim, and based on the recommendation of Outreach, a motion to retain Don Hales as interim coordination facilitator for Outreach up to and including the transition of a new hire was seconded. Motion carried.

Council then discussed at length the contracting of Greg to complete the current grants until finalized. Based on this discussion and the recommendations of Outreach a motion that Greg Meyer be contracted during the transition period of August 13, 2018 to December 31, 2018 for the purpose of aiding in the transition of Outreach activities of Salem. The activities are limited to completion of grants in progress and consultation as required by the Council of Salem Lutheran Church and leadership of Outreach. The period of performance may be extended by mutual agreement between Salem Lutheran Church Council and Greg Meyer. Compensation will be \$500.00 per month paid by Salem Lutheran Church. Seconded and Motion carried.

The third recommendation by Outreach to hire employees was tabled as Outreach is working on defining what they need.

Discussion was then held regarding the request from Praise and Worship Committee that the spinet piano be placed on the silent auction due to the recent donation of the baby grand piano. Council agreed.

Special meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Meriellen Pisarek, Secretary

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### **Salem Outreach Committee Meeting July 18, 2018**

Present were: Pastor Mike, Don Hales, Bev Kunz, Joyce Kohnen, Noreen Steinbrecher, Greg Meyer, Sandy Kretlow, Absent was Terry Tichenor.

MSC: Motion, Seconded, and Carried

Pastor opened with prayer.

The Initiative Foundation and Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation came back to explain their investment program and to answer any questions that we may have. We accepted the offer on the house. A few items need to be fixed from inspection. Radon testing results has to be addressed.

A motion was made to invest \$500,000.00 to the Initiative Foundation with the balance to Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation for investment when the sale closes. MSC

Secretary Report was sent out to board members. MSC

Financial Report: We went over some of the expenses. MSC

Mustard Seed Report:

Sales are doing great this summer. We hired a H.S. student part-time for 24 hours a week, to help with lifting and climbing a ladder. The addition is still being evaluated.

**Salem West Report:**

A motion was made to enclose half of building 2 not to exceed \$12,000.00.

A rummage sale will be held at SW Friday and Saturday July 21 & 22 from 9 – 4pm. These are surplus items that we can't give to clients and we can't sell them at the MS.

2019 Summerfest: A motion was made for SOC to step back and no longer support the Silent Auction. MSC. It has become an over whelming project. It should go back as a church function. It interferes with our mission. Storage, able bodies, and space are our problems.

Request for money for new sign project at church: No action at this time.

Honduras trip recap: Had a great trip. There were 13 adults and 5 young people that attended. On August 22 the SOC will meet with Renee and Aug 23 she will meet with the council.

Greg announced to the SOC board that he has given his resignation. His last day will be August 12, 2018. He will be taking a job with the Food Bank in Alaska.

Motion was made to recommend the idea for Greg to be on a retainer for \$500.00 per month to assist in transition and grant writing. MSC

Next meeting will be August 2 at 9 a.m. Renae will help lead the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Submitted by Sandy Kretlow, Secretary

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**Salem Outreach Committee Meeting  
August 3, 2018**

Present was Pastor Mike, Joyce Kohlen, Noreen Steinbrecher, Sandy Kretlow, Don Hales, Bev Kunz, and Greg Meyer.

MSC Motion, Seconded and Carried


After spending the morning with Renae Shields, we had a short business meeting. Renae is our consultant.

A motion was made to increase the budget to \$16,582.00 to enclose Building 2 at Salem West. MSC  
Brian Vang approached Don Hales and Greg Meyer to buy part of the Mustard Seed parking lot from us that is closest to the hardware store. We will discuss more on this issue next week's meeting.

Next meeting is August 9, at 1:00 pm.

Submitted by Sandy Kretlow, Secretary

# September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship  <b>10:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship	<b>3</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>4</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Piecemakers  <b>1:00 PM</b> In Stitches <b>5:30 PM</b> Worship & Music Committee Mtg	<b>5</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>5:00 PM</b> Praise Team Rehearsal <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>6:15 PM</b> Confirmation	<b>6</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study  <b>6:00 PM</b> Care & Share Unit Leaders Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Quilting at Heartwood	<b>7</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>8</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Serpent Lake Association Meeting
<b>9</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship / Lesson for Kids  <b>10:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship / Lesson for Kids	<b>10</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Unlimited Learning Meeting  <b>6:00 PM</b> Facilities Team Meeting <b>7:15 PM</b> Salem Ringers Rehearsal	<b>11</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Piecemakers  <b>1:00 PM</b> In Stitches <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Formation Team Mtg  <i>Salem at the Soup Kitchen in Brainerd (Maleks &amp; friends serving)</i>	<b>12</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>9:00 AM</b> Diaper Ministry <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>1:00 PM</b> Salem Outreach Committee Meeting <b>3:15-5:00 PM</b> Kids Club <b>5:00 PM</b> Praise Team Rehearsal <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>9:30 AM</b> Women's Circle Meeting  <b>6:00 PM</b> Executive Team Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship / Lesson for Kids <b>9:15 AM</b> Special Coffee Hour/Cap Appeal Celebration <b>10:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship / Lesson for Kids <b>11:15 AM</b> Confirmation Worship Planning	<b>17</b> <b>7:15 PM</b> Salem Ringers Rehearsal	<b>18</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Piecemakers  <b>1:00 PM</b> In Stitches <b>3:00 PM</b> Library Team Meeting	<b>19</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>3:15-5:00 PM</b> Kids Club <b>5:00 PM</b> Praise Team Rehearsal <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study  <b>6:00 PM</b> Council Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship / Lesson for Kids  <b>10:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship / Lesson for Kids  <b>5:00-8:00 PM</b> Songs & Suds at Cuyuna Brewery	<b>24</b> <b>7:15 PM</b> Salem Ringers Rehearsal	<b>25</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Piecemakers  <b>1:00 PM</b> In Stitches <b>6:00 PM</b> Welcome Team Meeting	<b>26</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting  NO Kids Club <b>5:00 PM</b> Praise Team Rehearsal <b>6:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>28</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship / Lesson for Kids  <b>10:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship / Lesson for Kids						





SALEM STAFF

Pastor – Mike Briggs  
Office Manager – Deborah Carlson  
Financial Manager – Sandra Beyer  
Facilities Coordinator – Glen Helm  
Faith Formation Coordinator – Whitney Cragun  
Organist/Pianist – Becky Klingelhofer  
Choir Director – Scott Ruffing  
Handbell Choir Director – Kevin Edstrom  
Praise Team Directors – Becky Klingelhofer/Noreen Steinbrecher  
Salem Outreach Facilitator – Dee Dee Frahm  
Salem West Manager – Dennis Peterson  
Mustard Seed Manager – Deb Selk  
Mustard Seed Assistant Manager – Julie Fritz

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Wedding Coordinators: Kim Coughlin, Sherri Godfrey  
Cradle Roll: Jessica Jones  
Control Booth & Website: Meriellen Pisarek  
Kitchen Coordinators: Sherri Godfrey, Kathi Sharp

Phone Numbers

Salem Lutheran Church: 218.534.3309  
Salem WEST (giving ministry): 218.534.4962  
Mustard Seed: 218.534.2945

CHURCH COUNCIL

Mark Carlson 218.851.7236  
Sherri Godfrey, Treasurer 218.534.3557  
Diane Hein, VP 218.678.2699  
Randy Holmwig 218.527.0123  
Meriellen Pisarek, Secretary 218.839.3608  
Kris Schmidt 218.772.0121  
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