

† SALEM CONNECTION †

February 2019

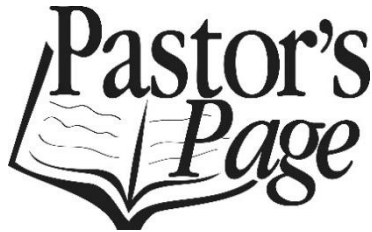
Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444

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"I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

- 1st Article, Apostles Creed

I was at a gathering one day – I can't remember for what – and one of the leaders remarked, "Life is competition." It was said nonchalantly, as if it were obviously true, and all around the table nodded in agreement.

But the remark bothered me. "Life is competition?" Is that true? I suppose it's an extension of Darwin's "survival of the fittest" ideas. We live in a world of limited resources. Only the strongest and smartest survive in the competition for those limited resources. It's kind of a materialist version of "salvation by works."

But is competition really the essence of life? I didn't think so, but what alternative would I insert in the "Life is..." blank? An answer came to me one night. I woke up in a cold sweat and said, "Life is gift." That is not to say that there is not competition in life – of course there's competition, but competition is not the essence of life. The essence of life is gift. Does that work?

Psalm 8, often attributed to David, overflows with the wonder of giftedness. The psalmist prays a prayer of praise, *"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you've set in their courses, what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?"* For David, a clever warrior and fierce competitor, life was still gift. And the only appropriate way to respond to such a gift is with awe and praise.

Martin Luther, also no stranger to competition, came to a similar confession. In his meaning to the 1st article of the creed he describes what it means to be a creature with a God who is Father and creator of heaven and earth:

"I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil. All this he does out of Fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely ought to thank, praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true."

Giftedness. Mercy. All for an undeserving person like me. That's pretty counter cultural stuff in a competitive, bootstraps world where the claim is "Nobody ever gave me anything. I worked for everything I got." The Creed allows you and me to relax, not take ourselves so seriously. Life is a gift. Everything that really matters is simply given to you and me – for free! - by our generous Lord and creator. It is not just the gift that is given to us, but the Giver too. Thanks be to God!

- Pastor Mike



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ethan Kunz
- 3 Kay Bendorf, Brent Fields
- 5 Jasmine Siliznoff, Linda Stebbins
- 8 Curt Bordwell, Ernie Erickson
- 9 Edyn Meyers
- 11 Kerri Sanderson
- 12 Nancy Meyer
- 13 Dee Dee Frahm, Joey Stromberg
- 14 Nory Hunze, Jan Rude
- 16 Paul Erickson
- 19 Kyle Bartels
- 21 Jerry Sanderson
- 22 Hunter Brix, Claire Pelant, Eldon, Reeves
- 25 David Olson
- 26 Doris Carlson, Dale Klungness, Wayne Kohnen, Lee Midthun

USHERS

- 2/3 Renee Gilmer, Ken Schultz, Glenn Suess
- 2/10 Dean & Pat Sylvester, Ernie & Mary Erickson
- 2/17 David Anderson, Lisa Slepica, Jay & Sue Stromberg
- 2/24 Pat & Laura Guimont, Roger & Marlene Prill

READERS

- 2/3 Gary Guida
- 2/10 Glenn Suess
- 2/17 Jasmine Siliznoff
- 2/24 Laura Guimont

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 2/3 Gary & Becky Guida, Diane Meyer
- 2/10 Doris Carlson, Glenn Suess, Shirley Taylor
- 2/17 Polly Pflapsen, Roger & Marlene Prill
- 2/24 Peggy Blistain, Kyle Skeim, Shelly Skeim



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 23	118
Christmas Eve	357
December 30	96
January 6	142
January 13	138
January 20	108

FUNERAL

Paul Olson

TRANSFER OUT

Ben Anderson

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rick & Sue Johnson (1969)
- 11 Kyle & Devan Bartels (2006)
- 20 Dan & Shirley Goodwin (1960)
- 22 Joel & Mary Huntley (1964)
- 26 Jon & Shirley Ross (1998)
- 28 Mike & Jami Bodle (1998)
- 28 Archie & Deanna Olson (1959)



The Salem Church office is open Monday—Thursday each week from 7am-4pm (closed for lunch 12-1pm). The office will be closed on Fridays and the church will be locked unless there is a scheduled activity. There is an automated phone system if you wish to leave a message. If there is a need for pastoral care on a Friday, call Pastor Mike at 715-410-5404.

FEBRUARY EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 February 7th 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 – Meeting to cut tshirts on Wednesday, February 13th at 9am.

SARAH CIRCLE – February 14th, 9:30 a.m.

KOFFEE KLATCH at Heartwood, Friday, February 8th 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.

LESSONS FOR LIFE – Studying *A Case for Christ* Tuesday, January 15—February 19 at 6:00 p.m.

TEAM/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship & Music – Tues, Feb 5, 5:30 p.m.

Faith Formation – Tues, Feb 12

Executive – Thursday, Feb 14, 6:00 p.m.

Library – Tuesday, Feb 19, 3:00 p.m.

Outreach Gov Board – Wed, Feb 20, 1pm

Council – Thursday, Feb 21, 6:00 p.m.

Welcome – Tuesday, Feb 26, 5:30 p.m.

2019 MEN'S RETREAT

Well, 2019 is here and we all have new calendars. This is the time for penciling in the dates of the 2019 men's retreat to keep those days open for this annual event. Days are getting longer and soft water will be here before you know it.

This year's Salem Men's Retreat will take place July 15th through July 18. Our good friends at Kec's Kove on beautiful Lake Kabetogama will host our group once again. Their hospitality has been unequalled for the past number of years and that keeps us coming back for more. If you have never gone to our retreat at Kab, you will be in for a great treat. Our evening bible discussions have been very casual and usually led by our pastor. I, for one, am inspired and blessed with new insights and inspirations after each trip.

As in the past, we encourage members to invite non Salem-ites to attend. The "Send" part of our Welcome, Equip and Send motto is evidenced when we take our faith into the community and promote the word to others.

So, mark your calendars with the dates July 15-18 filled in for Men's Retreat. Registration forms will soon be available on line (for our snowbirds) and at the kiosk in the Narthex. Soft water is just around the corner. Until then, sweet dreams of walleye, northern, bass and perhaps a monster sturgeon bending your rods and stretching your six pound test lines. \$50.00 will reserve your place on this much anticipated event.

If you are at all curious about this much anticipated time of fellowship and fishing, talk to any of our past retreat participants. They will be happy to share their experience.

Salem's Retreat Committee



THANKS
from the
HEART

SPECIAL THANKS I wish to thank everyone for all of the prayers and well-wishes that I received during my treatments. The good news is that my treatments are now done and I just have to wait for the results which won't happen until August. Thanks again!

*God's Peace!
Don Hales*

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. Am sure we have done nothing to deserve it, but we surely appreciate your thoughtfulness. Wishing you a blessed 2019.

John & Mary Widmar

Thank you, Friends at Salem, for the lovely plant—it's doing very well and I'm enjoying it. Thanks for thinking of me.

Arlene Stromberg

To our dear friends at Salem Lutheran Church, We thank you again for remembering us with a beautiful plant, one that we receive on holidays. Our poinsettia looks lovely in our home! We are so grateful for the love and thoughtfulness shown to us throughout the year! We also thank the Kids Club for the beautiful Christmas card. Love and Happy Holidays to all our Salem friends.

Shirley & Dan Goodwin

We want to thank our Salem family for all of the prayers and concerns and Salem Outreach for the beautiful poinsettia which we are still enjoying!

*Gratefully,
Louie & Maridee Smilich*

Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia! I have enjoyed it all through the holidays and it is still bright and beautiful!

Mina Nystrom

My sincere thanks for all the cards, visits, thoughts and prayers concerning my recent surgery. You are an amazing church family. My recovery continues. I am getting a little stronger all the time!

Myrt Bollenbacher

You guys are amazing. Thank you for having the Christmas party at the Crow Wing County Jail. I had been mostly without a plan for when I got released. You guys gave me that positive step in the direction I needed. You gave me my faith. Thanks.

To the Salem Piecemakers,

Thank you for your generous gift to the Cal Lutheran community. After the tragic events of the past few weeks, these quilts and blankets provide a bit of love and support to our campus community in this time of need. You make visible the body of Christ, which helps us to heal.

Dear Salem,

We thank you very much for the beautiful poinsettia plant at Christmas time. It was and still is living and enjoyed. Many thanks.

Eleanor & George Pettersen

As 2019 begins we would like to leave 2018 behind—a very trying year for both Dave and I! As we move forward we'd like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the many offers of ASSISTANCE, GIFTS OF FOOD, FLOWERS, PRAYERS, FIREWOOD, and so much more! It has been greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for being our church family and friends!

Sandy & David Archibald

Special thanks to the Kids Club and Outreach ministry for the lovely plant I received. I am enjoying it!

Shelby Olson

First: Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers and visits after my accident. That made me feel so special to know I have so many friends. I am improving every day. Slow, but sure. Feeling is returning to my arms and hands.

Second: A big thanks for my Christmas poinsettia. It sure brightened my day. With no transportation as of yet I needed that day brightener! Thank you again. God bless all of you.

Elaine Dahlquist

LIBRARY NEWS

In February we think of Valentine's Day and romance. The American Heart Association wants us to focus on Heart Health. Whichever focus you choose to think about, the Salem Library has books for you. On the fiction shelves, authors June Masters Batcher, Kristin Heitzman, Jan Karon, Janette Oke, and Marian Wells have written many Christian romance novels. These stories transport you to other times and places with delightful characters for relaxing reading.

If you are looking for self-care and wellness information, the non-fiction section 610 through 616 offer books on healthy weight control, emotional health, medicine and more.

If you express your love with food, cookbooks are shelved with 641 call numbers so you can check them out and treat your loved ones to new recipes.

Some of the DVDs on the shelf offer romantic tales for your entertainment.

You may wish to check out games to play with your friends and family.

The next Library Team meeting is February 19 at 3 PM.

Happy Valentine's Day from the Salem Library Team



The Facility Team is excited with the \$11,600.00 that we have raised so far towards our goal of \$30,000.00 for our Electronic LED Sign Project. This sign will let our community know "WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE BELIEVE, AND INVITE THE COMMUNITY." The Facility Team is planning a spring fund raiser, so stay tuned. Think about what we might say on our new sign.

"JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW"

The Facility team

DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

Don Hales outreach@salemdwd.org



Greetings from Honduras!

We have two days to go as I write this article. It looks like we will have between 250 & 300 children come to camp this week. We have also given out approximately half of the "Shoes That Grow", and the other half will be distributed on Tuesday. We spent a half a day repainting the inside of The House of Blessings, where Denny and Yolanda feed 80+ children a day! Your mission team of Noreen, Chuck, Bruce, Cecil, Gary, Carol, Ariana, Lisa, Greg, Diane, Debra and myself have had a wonderful, productive and meaningful time. Looking forward to telling you and showing pictures about our trip to KAI.

God's Peace!

Don

Outreach Governing Board Meeting December 10, 2018

Present was Don Hales, Noreen Steinbrecher, Bev Kunz, Joyce Kohlen, and Sandy Kretlow. Absent was Terry Tichenor and Pastor Mike.

MSC: Motion, Seconded, Carried

Sandy Kretlow opened with a thought about "Time" our most valuable commodity and prayer.

We presented a check to Karl Samp, Brainerd Community Foundation for a total of \$190,121.16. Funds were distributed from the following:

#2839 Social Outreach Building Fund—Balance of Proceeds from selling of home \$99,471.61

#2835 Mustard Seed Fund –Sale of partial land of Mustard Seed Parking lot. \$24,313.25

#2849 Balance of Fire Fund -- \$48,989.23

#2835 Mustard Seed Building Fund Excess of MS Building Fund-- \$17,347.07

We sent the check to Initiative Foundation this past week for \$500,000.00.

We recently received from \$10,000.00 grant E.W. Hallett Trust.

Election of Officers for the coming year is as follows:

Chairman: Noreen Steinbrecher,

Co-Chairman- Joyce Kohlen,

Treasurer-Bev Kunz

Secretary- Sandy Kretlow

Minutes from November meeting was sent out. MSC

Salem West Report:

They are getting ready for Team Challenge and Jail Ministry Christmas parties.

Mustard Seed Report:

We are ahead of schedule in earnings. We thank everyone for all they have done with Taste of Christmas.

Honduras: Motion was made to send \$5000.00 for Kids Ark International to cover the Bible scene which they will do in January. MSC

There will be 11 people going January 14 thru 23 to Honduras.

Scrip orders funds: \$929.11 has been collected for the year.

Motion to move year end balance from MS dedicated funds to #2910 Operating Reserved. MSC

Next meeting will be January 9 at 1:00 pm.

Submitted by Sandy Kretlow, Secretary

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 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 December 19, 2018.

Present: Pastor Mike, Ken Stebbins, Terry Tichenor, Mark Carlson, Meriellen Pisarek, Di Hein, Jake Frahm, Joel Huntley and Jeff Mitchell. Absent: John Wojciak.

Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Mike.

Congregational Input: None

Election of Council Officers:

2019 Council Officers are:	Vice President:	Mark Carlson
	Treasurer:	Terry Tichenor
	Secretary:	Meriellen Pisarek

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the Council meeting on November 15, 2018 was seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for October and November, 2018:

- Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was seconded. Motion carried.
- Ample discussion was held regarding Whitney's suggestion to move money from line item 7420 to dedicated funds line item 2301 for future expenses of the children's education. Motion to move \$1,000.00 from 7420 to dedicated funds line 2301 was seconded. Motion carried.
- Council discussed moving additional funds into the benevolence fund. Motion to move \$5,000.00 from the net income into the 2018 benevolence prior to January 1, 2019 was seconded. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding line item 4005 Envelope Offering- Restricted and where those funds should be distributed. In years past, ½ the funds went to Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry and ½ to the ELCA missionary support. Motion to move the 4005 Envelope Offering-Restricted benevolence ½ to Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry and ½ to the ELCA missionary support was seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Praise & Worship:

- Easter Service: Brad Shermock, a professional trumpet player will be playing on Easter morning. We will pay him \$600.00, of which the Memorial Committee will contribute \$300.00 towards. They are working at obtaining the balance of funds from donations from the congregation.
- Organ Speakers: They are working on the organ speakers and have decided that the speakers can be hung behind the sacristy wall.

Columbarium:

- They are discussing replacing the benches this year.

Outreach:

- Put \$190,121.16 in the Brainerd Community Foundation combining the proceeds from the sale of the gift house, the parking lot sale, extra from the fire fund and extra in the Mustard Seed building fund. \$500,000.00 deposited into the Initiative Foundation from the sale of the gift house.
- Wrote a grant to Hallett for \$10,000.00 and received the grant.
- Officers for the Outreach for 2019 are:
 - Noreen is Chair
 - Joyce is Co-Chair
 - Bev is Treasurer
 - Sandy is Secretary
- December is a busy time for Outreach with all the Christmas Parties, with Teen Challenge, Jail Ministry, Christmas Tree Angels, Poinsettias to the shut-ins.
- 11 people are going to Honduras.

Faith Formation:

- Make & Take: 27 kids total attended. Most of the 27 kids that attended were totally new kids which was really exciting. Thanks to all the volunteers!

- Kid's Club: The kids are often begging for legos, so Whitney is planning a Lego club style lesson which will have the kids build the different parts of the Christmas Story which they can read all together at the end. The winter session of Kids Club will start in February.
- Sunday School: Will be doing some long-term planning in January. Getting teachers lined up and lessons in their hands.
- Prayers Buddies: Up and running and working to plan the event this winter/spring.
- Whitney plans to be done in her position no later than the end of March. She will stay involved with Kids Club until the end of the school year.

Technology:

- Technology met with Deerwood Technologies for the yearly meeting. We will need to be updating all computers to Windows 10 by January, 2020.
- Debbi Carlson will be the staff member on the Technology Committee for 2019, replacing Sandy Beyer.

Appointment of Council Member Committee Liaisons:

Columbarium:	Ken
Faith Formation:	John/Di
Worship & Music:	Mark
Welcome:	Jeff
Outreach:	Terry
Facilities:	Joel
Technology:	Meriellen
Finance:	Di
Memorial:	Jake

Unfinished Business:

- Discussion was held regarding the request of the insurance agent as to whether we wanted to keep the \$5,000.00 medical coverage clause included at no extra charge in Salem's liability insurance. Council decided to keep the medical coverage clause.
- Chanda DeVilliers has accepted the position of Financial Manager.

New Business:

- Pastor Mike's salary designation: Motion that the annual amount of \$80,674.00 payable to Pastor Michael Briggs in 2019 (includes salary, congregation's portion of social security and housing allowance), \$40,000.00 to be designated as "Housing Allowance" with the remainder to be defined as "Cash Salary" as defined by the tax code was seconded. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding the new Outreach account signors. Should be 3 of the following: Outreach chairperson, Outreach treasurer, and Council Treasurer or President. Should not be a staff member. It was agreed that Joyce (Outreach co-chair), Bev (Outreach Treasurer) and Terry Tichenor (Council Treasurer) would be the 3 signors (Noreen is a staff member).
- Discussion was held regarding the new Treasurer, Terry Tichenor, to become signatory on the following Community Foundation funds: American Funds was turned over to church to use; MIF Building Fund and Deposit Box.
- Ample discussion was held regarding the security of the building on Fridays when the Office Manager is not working. Motion that the building is locked on Fridays when the office manager is gone. A sign is to be posted on the door with office hours and phone number of church was seconded. Motion carried.

Suggestions, Observations, and Solutions: 1 received and discussed.

Announcements:

Next council meeting - January 17, 2019
 Teen Challenge - January 20, 2019
 Be thinking about Council retreat dates.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Meriellen Pisarek, Secretary

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	2
3 9:00 AM Worship	4 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	5 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 5:15 PM Worship & Music Committee Mtg 6:00 PM Lessons for Life	6 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:15-5PM Kids Club 5:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM FINK Learning Event	7 1:00 PM Ladies' Nifty Nineties Meeting at Heartwood 6:30 PM Quilting at Heartwood	8 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	9
10 9:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Conference Assembly at Lord of Life in Baxter	11 9:00 AM Unlimited Learning Mtg 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	12 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 6:00 PM Lessons for Life 7:00 PM Faith Formation Team Mtg	13 9:00 AM Diaper Ministry 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:15-5PM Kids Club 5:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM FINK Learning Event	14 9:30 AM Sarah Circle Meeting 5:00 PM Executive Team Meeting	15 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	16
17 9:00 AM Worship	18 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	19 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 3:00 PM Library Team Meeting 6:00 PM Lessons for Life	20 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Outreach Board Meeting 3:15-5PM Kids Club 5:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM FINK Learning Event	21 6:00 PM Council Meeting	22 CONFIRMATION RETREAT 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	23 CONFIRMATION RETREAT
24 9:00 AM Worship	25 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	26 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 5:30 PM Welcome Team Meeting 6:00 PM Lessons for Life/Case for Christ Movie	27 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:15-5PM Kids Club 5:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM FINK Learning Event	28		



SALEM STAFF

Pastor – Michael R. Briggs
Office Manager – Deborah Carlson
Financial Manager – Chanda DeVilliers
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
Director of Outreach – Don Hales
Salem Outreach Facilitator – Dee Dee Frahm
Salem West Manager – Dennis Peterson
Salem West Delivery Leader – Steve Weishalla
Mustard Seed Manager – Deb Selk
Mustard Seed Assistant Manager – Julie Fritz
Mustard Seed Assistant – Joey Serfling

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Wedding Coordinators: Kim Coughlin, Sherri Godfrey
Cradle Roll: Jessica Jones
Altar Care: Barb Schiffler
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, VP 218.851.7236
Jake Frahm 218.772.0202
Diane Hein, President 218.678.2699
Joel Huntley 218.892.0360
Jeff Mitchell 651.260.8140
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