

SALEM CONNECTION

July 2020



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

Pastor: Mike Briggs

Phone: 218-534-3309

Email: office@salemdwd.org

Website: www.salemdwd.org

From Pastor Mike

I had a dead patch in my lawn so I threw some seed on it early this spring. I must not have been careful with my spreading. Grass came up in the dead patch as planned. It also came up in the mulched landscaping nearby and in the cracks between the paving stones in the sidewalk. I wouldn't be surprised if it doesn't start growing up through the blacktop!

I learned that seeds grow. I'm sure less than half of them survived – judging by my sloppy sowing – but now, two months later, there's grass where there wasn't grass before. I suppose I'll have to pull out the Round Up to stop it from growing in places I didn't want it.

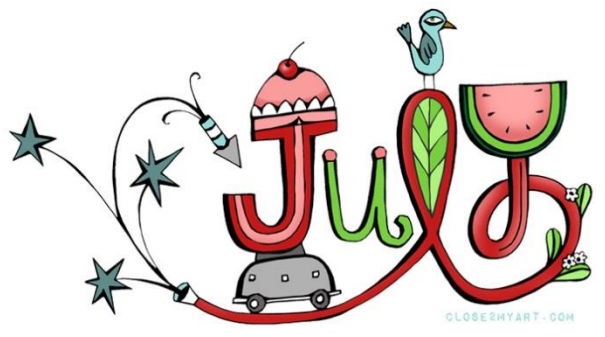
When you're sowing, you never know which particular seeds will grow and thrive. So my strategy has been to sow generously – just to make sure... And in spite of my sloppy sowing and intermittent watering, there is a "harvest." The seeds grow and the lawn is lush and green.

This month we hear several parables about the sloppy and wonderful generosity of God. God is like a sower who throws seed everywhere – on the path, in the rocks, in the weed patch, and in the field. The sower's sloppiness is rewarded with a breathtaking harvest – 30, 60, 100 times what was sown. God is like a farmer who allows wheat and weeds to grow together to avoid damaging the precious wheat before the harvest. The Kingdom of heaven is like a man who found treasure buried in a field. He re-buried it and in joy, sold all he had to buy that field.

God has been so generous with us. The seed of the Word has been planted in us, taken root and grown. It has been nurtured in spite of the weeds growing all around. And the treasure is, there is a harvest coming that is so good you'd gladly sell all you have to be part of it. The Parable of the Sower calls followers of Jesus to be just as generous with others. Sow the seed, the good news of God's grace, generously. You never know which seeds will sprout and grow. The promise is, some will, and the harvest will not only surprise you, it will take your breath away.

Pastor Mike

Pastor Mike will be on vacation July 1-14, 2020. Please contact the Salem office if you are in need of pastoral care.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Robert Cooper
- 2 Ruth Helgesen
- 3 Kevin Stangel
- 4 Pastor Mike
- 5 Lori Holmwig
- 6 Debbi Carlson
- 7 Mary Erickson, Joyce Kohnen
- 9 David Newton
- 12 Tim Foote, John Wojciak
- 13 Maridee Smilich
- 14 Lyle Lobitz
- 15 Audrey Enos, Nathan Myers
- 18 Kim Coughlin, Curt Gordon
- 22 Cindy Foote
- 23 Barb Abelson
- 24 Gwendolyn Voller
- 26 Renee Voller
- 27 Taylor Bordwell
- 29 Sherri Godfrey, Kari Henningson

JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Al & Barb Schiffler (1972)
- 10 Randy & Cindy Sykes (1976)
- 27 Tom & Nancy Reek (1985)
- 28 Ernie & Mary Erickson (1963)

Keep Up With Regular Offerings By Giving Electronically

Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, Salem Lutheran Church relies on your regular contributions. Salem appreciates the efforts of congregation members to make consistent donations throughout the year – especially during this time when the church is closed to worship and other activities. To assist you, the church provides a convenient electronic giving option for setting up regular contributions.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available. Contact Salem’s Financial Manager Ruth Blum by calling the church office, 218-534-3309. Ruth’s office hours are Mondays and Thursdays, 10am—4pm. Ruth’s email: finance@salemdwd.org

Have You Heard??? **The Mustard Seed of Deerwood has re-opened!** They will be open each Wednesday—Saturday from **9:00 AM—4:00 PM.**



SALEM’S WORSHIP WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK AND POSTED ON YOUTUBE every Sunday as long as public worship and church events are cancelled. You can access it on Salem’s website, www.salemdwd.org or on Facebook. Weekly readings, announcements and sermons are mailed weekly to those without internet access.



SALEM'S NEXT PARKING LOT WORSHIP will be held on Sunday, July 19th at 9:00 a.m. Many thanks to the **Nitty Gritty Sabbath Keepers** who lead music and offer the technical support that make our online and parking lot worship possible.

Here are the guidelines for Parking Lot Worship:

- Enter the Salem parking lot on the south side (near the bank). Exit on the north side (near the park).
- A volunteer will hand you a bulletin as you enter the parking lot and someone will direct you where to park.

SOME HAVE ASKED ABOUT OFFERINGS during the weeks public worship is canceled. The best ways to give at this time are either electronically (Simply Giving, Website, through your bank, etc.) or by U.S. Mail. Salem's mailing address is:

Salem Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 100
Deerwood, MN 56444

THANK YOU for your gifts and offerings that will help Salem continue to pay its bills, payroll, mission support, mortgage, etc.

CHURCH RECORD UPDATE

Weddings

MEGAN FELTHOUS & BRYAN SYRSTAD

Married: June 20, 2020 at Red Rider Resort

THE MEN'S BIBLE STUDY is meeting online by Zoom at 8:00 a.m. on Fridays. They're studying the weekly lectionary readings. All are welcome. Call/text (715-410-5404) or email (pastor@salemwd.org) Pastor Mike to receive a Zoom invitation.

IF YOU HAVE ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN THE WEEKLY SALEM NEWS, please email the church office, office@salemwd.org.

- The entire worship service will be included in the bulletin.
- Please stay in your vehicle and keep car windows closed.
- Tune your car radio to 100.9 to listen to the service.
- The church doors will remain locked.
- If it is raining at 8am or after, Parking Lot Worship will be cancelled. We will still be streaming on Facebook and posted on Youtube.



Salem’s council has created a “Smart Team” to study and make recommendations on whether and how we should re-open the church for in-person worship, Christian education and other “normal” activities. They’ll be meeting through July and poring over the data and recommendations of the state of Minnesota, the CDC, the NE-MN Synod, and any other wisdom they can obtain. They’ll bring their proposed recommendations to the July 23rd council meeting. Please keep the Smart Team in your prayers as they work to make sure Salem’s re-opening is timely, safe, and handled well.

DELIVER BOOKS - Salem West is looking for volunteers to deliver books to thrift stores -Goodwill or others-in the twin cities, Duluth or St Cloud. Boxes are inside the south door at Salem West and say donate on them! Take two or a dozen boxes and help us out!

If you are looking for something to do on July 4th, you are welcome to volunteer at SALEM WEST’S RUMMAGE SALE! Or, you can also stop and shop from 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



JULY LED UPDATE

Our committee is excited for everyone to know that a family member of our congregation came forward with a proposal of having an LED electronic message sign installed before winter. The Church Council requested that we must have the total funds raised before a contract with Albrecht Sign Company can be signed.

This member’s proposal is if we can raise an additional \$3,120.00 from our congregation for this designated sign project of \$45,570.00 they would donate the final remaining \$5,000.00.

This would bring us to the grand total needed for contract signing, having the sign built and hopefully installed before the ground freezes.

We are excited that we will be able to tell our community with our LED sign, about who we are, what we believe, and also what time are services are held.

THANK YOU!

Salem LED Sign Committee



LIL' FREE PANTRY is coming to Salem!

Photo is just an example

The Lil' Free Pantry will be a weatherproof cabinet set outside of the youth entrance at Salem Lutheran Church. It will be located at the church so that people associate it with Salem. It will be filled with non-perishable food, provided primarily by donations. Members of church and the surrounding community will be invited to come take food for themselves if they need it, or to leave food inside the cabinet if they have extra. We have applied for \$250 in seed money from Thrivent for an Action Team. The cabinet will be regularly checked and re-stocked by members of the Salem Youth Group throughout the summer and following year. This pantry is intended to serve as a way to alleviate the stress of putting food on the table for families in need.

Alex Schmidt

Dear friends and members of Salem Lutheran Church,

The Covid 19 virus has impacted so many of us, including the church, in so many different ways. Due to some of the necessary changes within Salem, I will not be returning as Office Manager. I am deeply saddened by this, however, I understand that change is a part of life, and sometimes events are out of our control.

I want to say "Thank you" to all of you that I've had the pleasure of getting to know. You have enriched my life with your friendships, love and support through my time at Salem. I know that God has a plan for me as I continue on my walk with Him. I encourage each of you to look closely at the turn of events happening around you, and find the path God has for each of you in this time.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD.

Blessings in Christ,
Tammy Martin

PS. I would count it a blessing if anyone wants to remain in touch. I can be reached at iamtammymartin@gmail.com or 218-866-0468 for calls or texts.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Madison Bordwell was honored during worship on Sunday, June 21st at Salem's parking lot service. Madison is pictured here with her parents, Curt & Krista Bordwell. She graduated from Crosby-Ironton High School. Blankets were once again made and donated by Laura Hann. The blankets are embroidered with the graduate's name and a Bible verse.

We wish you the very best, Madison, in all of your future endeavors! God bless you in your journey.

James Stirewalt also graduated from C-I this spring, but he was not present for the recognition. Congratulations to James too!

SPECIAL THANKS: To the wonderful, supportive, caring, congregation of Salem Lutheran...thank you for all your prayers, cards, calls & support during my recent illness & hospitalization, and since arriving home. I felt your love. It will take awhile, but I'm on "recovery road" now! Yahoo!

***Blessings to each of you.
Kristy & Paul Tesdahl***

Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
May 28, 2020

MSC = The motion was seconded and carried

Present: Peggy Blistain, Pastor Mike Briggs, Mark Carlson, Jake Frahm, Joel Huntley, Jeff Mitchell, Jena Reed, Paul Tesdahl, Terry Tichenor

Absent: Tracy Perpich

Also Present: Don Hales

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- Don Hales gave a presentation on his views, as well as the views of the Outreach Governing Board, that the Council would consider allowing the outreach group to form its own 501C(3) status. Don will put this request in written form for Council consideration.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Motion to accept the minutes of the April 23, 2020 Council meeting as presented. MSC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.
- Current rules on how to apply monies from the Payroll Protection Plan to the budget are still in flux. Any amount that will not be available to the budget will be considered a loan at 1% interest, to be paid back within 2 years.
- The second government loan in the amount of \$10,000 is still being processed. How it can be used, etc., is also being determined.
- Currently, the overall offerings as compared to the 2020 budget are down approximately \$23,000.
- The report was approved. MSC.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Received prior to the meeting.
- One item of considerable discussion was a pre-Covid scheduled wedding in June and how to allow it to go forward. Communication is ongoing with the wedding party to accomplish it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Various reports were received:
- Memorial Committee current financial reports
- Faith Formation – Virtual VBS
- Facilities – lawn issues
- Technology – new computer for the front office
- Outreach – The Mustard Seed is now open

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- LED Sign Committee – working on fundraising
- Motion to accept new Position Description for the Administrative Assistant, MSC.
- The main entry security system bid put on hold for the time being

NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed resolution for delegating powers to the Executive Team to be worked on for the next meeting.
- Request from Salem youth member to open a Little Free Pantry at the church as a service project, details to be worked out.
- Intern – considerable discussion of the pros and cons and our current efforts for an associate pastor. End result is to continue our quest for an associate pastor and not to hire an intern.
- Opening the church: Council feels it prudent to follow the suggestions coming from the synod.
MOTION: Since the church is currently closed, the Church Council will review our options on reopening on a monthly basis. MSC.
- Discussed an email scam received at the church. Council will attempt to put a policy in place concerning cyber security.
- Interview committee for Administrative Assistant is currently going over applications.

SOS (Suggestions, Observations, Solutions)

- There were no SOS forms completed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Memorial Committee Fund restrictions in new 3-ring binder.
- Please recycle old binders.
- Ruth (Financial Manager) and Terry (Treasurer) are putting some monthly bills on auto-pay to save on service charges.
- Safe mail-drop for offerings information will be included in weekly communications.
- Received thank-you from Ruth Blum for gift card.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Mark Carlson (*for Tracy Perpich*)

Outreach Governing Board Meeting May 20,2020 by Zoom

Present were Kim Coughlin, Cathy Aykens, Chuck Lubowitz, Joyce Kohlen, Noreen Steinbrecher, Don Hales, Sandy Kretlow, absent was Pastor Mike and Terry Tichenor

MSC: Motion, Seconded, and Carried

Don Hales opened with devotions.

Minutes for April and the Honduras motion was approval, MSC

Financials: With store being closed we are down \$35,000

Financial of both Foundation have been going up and down under the current conditions.

Script received \$31.66 last month.

Grants: Dee Dee has been working on grants. We have written a grant to United Way for \$15,000. (education \$5000, furniture \$5000, bedding \$5000). Thanks, Dee Dee for all your work on writing the grant. Thanks also to Steve Pauly for detailing all the vehicles and cleaning outside of SW building.

Mustard Seed:

Mustard Seed is reopening tomorrow May 21. We have created a safety plan for the protection of our employees, volunteers, and customers. We reviewed the Mustard Seed Safety Plan. The MS will be the cause of the month to help support our families. Thanks to Mike Shermock for making the shield at the register. We encourage everyone to wear masks and sanitation station throughout the building.

We have cleaned the carpet, did some painting outside. Changed very little in the store this week. Clothing is .50, furniture is 10 % off, electronics 20 % off, 50 % off all décor and kitchen items. How to handle future delivers are being evaluated.

Salem West: We have 1000 tubs of merchandise for MS to sell.

Motion was made to put Tanya as assistant manager at SW not to exceed \$13.00 per hour. MSC

Continue with cross training, Jacob has been working the past month at SW while MS was closed. He has been able to see what goes on at the receiving end of our business.

Summerfest is questionable!!

Garage Sales are temporary on hold.

Future of Outreach

The Governing Board has looked and discussed the future of the Outreach Board. Our choices are as follows:

- 1) Do nothing
- 2) File for 501 c 3
- 3) Governing Board runs things on their own for the next two years as a trial period
- 4) Or dissolve the Out Reach Board

Motion was made for the Outreach Governing Board with complete autonomy for the next two years as a trial for Outreach to stand on its own two feet as a 501 c 3. MSC unanimously passed

Will take this proposal to the Exec. Council on May 26.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting June 17 at 1 PM Fellowship Hall

SALEM STAFF

Pastor	Mike Briggs	pastor@salemdwd.org
Administrative Assistant	Dawn Huffman	office@salemdwd.org
Financial Manager	Ruth Blum	finance@salemdwd.org
Facilities Coordinator	Glen Helm	facilities@salemdwd.org
Choir Director	Kennedy Niska	
Salem Ringers Director	Kevin Edstrom	
Praise Team Directors	Becky Klingelhofer, Noreen Steinbrecher	
Organist/Pianist	Becky Klingelhofer	
Director of Outreach	Don Hales	outreach@salemdwd.org
Salem WEST Manager	Dee Dee Frahm	west@salemdwd.org
Mustard Seed Manager	Jacob Walker	mustardseed@salemdwd.org
Mustard Seed Asst Manager	Bev Kunz	

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor Mike Briggs	715-410-5404
Mark Carlson, president	218-851-7236
Jeff Mitchell, VP	651-260-8140
Tracy Perpich, secretary	218-838-7008
Terry Tichenor, treasurer	781-223-0258
Peggy Blistain	218-851-1208
Jake Frahm	218-772-0202
Joel Huntley	218-892-0360
Jena Reed	218-670-0499
Paul Tesdahl	218-546-5036