

SALEM CONNECTION

October 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

"Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."

John 12:3

"For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints."

II Corinthians 8:3-4

We come to worship each Sunday to honor God and to make a difference.
Our offering is a way for us to do both.

First, offering is an act of worship and thanksgiving to God.

We take some of what God has generously given us,

Some of what we have toiled to produce,

And we give it back to God

And by doing so we recognize that everything we are and everything we have comes by our Lord's generous hand.

Second, offering is a way to make a difference

In the lives of kids who are just starting their faith journeys

In the lives of neighbors who cry out in need

In the lives of families struggling to live faithfully

In the lives of people who long to hear a word from God in their suffering.

Today I want to publicly thank you for honoring God and for making a difference with your offering. Even a pandemic could not keep you from living out your faith through your generosity!

Secondly, I'd like to ask you to continue honoring God and making a difference. In early October all Salem members will receive a combined Capital Appeal and Fall Stewardship packet. It contains two estimate-of-giving cards. One is for Salem's annual budget, our 2021 mission plan. The other is a one-year extension of Salem's Capital Appeal that pays the mortgage. Please prayerfully consider how you might contribute to both in 2021.

Thank you for your commitment to Salem's mission to "**Welcome** people to Jesus Christ, **Equip** people with a faith that works in their lives, and **Send** people out in Jesus' name." Along with the Apostle Paul I thank you and pray that

"You will be blessed in every way, and you will be able to keep on being generous... What you are doing is much more than a service that supplies God's people with what they need. It is something that will make many others thank God." II Cor. 9:11-12

- Pastor Mike



PRAYER CONCERNS: *Lavonn Reeves, Justin Fort, Teppi Bundy, Steve Holmwig, Don Thulin, John Lemcool, Cookie & Terry Knopik, Joyce Benike, Mary Jo Berven, Becky Guimont, Jeff & Heidi Mitchell, Bonnie & Mark Recucki, Larry Holst, Marlys Keefe, Arlene Welnicke.*

If you have names that you would like added to, or removed from, the prayer concerns, please email office@salemwd.org or pastor@salemwd.org



LIL' FREE PANTRY at Salem!

The Lil' Free Pantry will be stocked with free food items for anyone who wants or needs it. Any non-perishable and non-expired donations are appreciated and can be left within the pantry, so take what you need and if you have a little something extra, you can donate for someone else. **The Lil' Free Pantry will be located outside the youth door entrance of the church.** Donations can also be dropped off at church and left in the

youth room. Salem youth will be managing this project. Please contact Alex Schmidt at gingflow15@gmail.com or text at 218-851-1569 if you are interested.

From the Salem Library: We have missed displaying books, changing bulletin boards, and writing news articles for you. Now that the church is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30 AM to noon and 12:30 to 4:00 PM, we want to welcome you back to the Salem Library to check out items.

1. Remember that masks are required in the church building.
2. Please use hand sanitizer before handling books or any library materials.
3. Please write your first and last names on the checkout cards and place them in the front of the gold box.
- 4. When returning items, please place them in the blue return basket. This is important so that we can put them in a cabinet for the prescribed quarantine period before returning them to shelves for others to check out.**

TeenTober is a new, nationwide celebration hosted by libraries every October. It aims to celebrate teens and the innovative ways teens learn new skills and fuel their passions in and outside the library. This year with many sports and school activities cancelled, we invite you to check out games, DVDs, and books from the Salem Library.

National Friends of Libraries Week is October 18-24, 2020. Our Salem Library has been blessed to receive money from family and friends of a Library Team member to purchase some new books. We would welcome your requests and suggestions. There will be a box and paper for your requests on the desk in the library.



Colossians 3:12-16

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you,

so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Joshua Voller
- 2 Shirley Huxford, Tracy Perpich, Jon Ross & Richard Stirewalt
- 3 Richard Leino
- 4 Abigail Reed & Dean Sylvester
- 5 Kristin Schmidt
- 6 Pauline Pflipsen & Meriellen Pisarek
- 7 Connie Swanson
- 8 Oliver Wanstrom
- 11 Lynn Hansen
- 12 Mary Huntley, Brad Johnson & Shirley Midthun
- 14 Kristen Davis & Josef Slepica
- 15 Steve Holmvig
- 16 Wilmina Nystrom
- 20 Steve Thomas
- 21 Eleanor Pettersen
- 22 Gary Guida
- 28 Jeannette Danger & Barbara Schoon
- 29 Marlee Zender
- 31 Marlys Keefe

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Tim & Kim Coughlin (1999)
- 7 Ron & Laura Martin (2009)
- 10 Tim & Nancy Herberg (1970)
- 12 Bruce & Connie Lou Swanson (1991)
- 14 Pete & Laura Newton (2006)
- Dean & Pat Sylvester (1967)
- 15 Myron & Shirley Midthun (1966)
- 18 Mark & Diane Boike (1980)
- Cecil & Barbara Schmidt (1958)
- 20 Kristin Davis (1990)
- 31 Gene & JoAnn Cordie (1964)

Congratulations everyone!!!

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, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Ruth's email: finance@salemdwd.org



SALEM'S WORSHIP IS 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.



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.

thank you!

Thank you to the Nitty Gritty Sabbath Keepers, the band of 8-10 hardy volunteers who have provided technical expertise, music leadership, parking lot direction, distributed bulletins and communion, moved furniture and equipment, and all the other tasks that have made worship possible these last 6 months during Covid. Now that a routine has been established, the team is looking for additional volunteers to carry us into fall and whatever is ahead. Please call Pastor Mike or Kevin Edstrom if you would like to serve.



SALEM'S PARKING LOT WORSHIP will be held each Sunday, unless there is bad weather. **BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR TO PARKING LOT WORSHIP!**

Services start at 9:00 a.m. Households will be able to sit together (socially distanced from other households). There's plenty of room and a speaker system in front of the nearest cars for those who'd like to be outdoors. Those who want to worship in their car will park and tune in to 100.9 FM as normal. Offering will be received and Communion served by gloved and masked volunteers as vehicles exit the parking lot.

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.
- The entire worship service will be included in the bulletin.
- Tune your car radio to 100.9 to listen to the service.
- The church doors will remain locked.
- If it is raining at 8 a.m. or after, Parking Lot Worship will be cancelled. We will still be streaming on Facebook and posted on YouTube.

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@salemdwd.org) Pastor Mike to receive a Zoom invitation.

Salem's Call Committee for an Associate Pastor is assembled and beginning their work. They will review Salem's Ministry Site Profile and do practice interviews. Currently there are few, if any, candidates available, but when candidates arise they will quickly proceed with interviews. The Call Committee voting members are: Whitney (Cragun) Fisher, Chuck Lubowitz, Ron Ogard, Jeff Mitchell, Don Hales, and Meriellen Pisarek. Pastor Mike will serve on the committee as a non-voting member. Please keep the Call Committee, potential candidates, and Salem's ministries in your prayers.

The Safety team meets every other week to review current synod guidelines and Crow Wing County Covid 19 data. **At this time, we are recommending that we consider inside worship when there has been a decline in the weekly percentage rate of new positive cases per 10,000 people in Crow Wing County, over the period of three weeks AND the percent of new positive cases must be under 1% of those tested.** Crow Wing county data is available on the MN Department of Health website weekly covid report at the following link:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/index.html#wmapcz1>

- Current data through August 1 shows that Crow Wing County's % of positive covid tests completed the week of 7-26 to 8-1 increased to 5-6.99% (last week was 3-4.99%)
- **Weekly case rate per 10000 people is also up to 4-7.99.** The previous 3 weeks this had been stable at 2-3.99.
- 49 of 87 total counties in MN have a LOWER positive case rate than Crow Wing. (2 week running average used by schools to determine school status)
- The data shows that new Crow Wing County case rates have continued to increase weekly. Therefore, the safety team is recommending that we continue with outdoor and livestreaming worship until it is safer to gather indoors.



New Bishop elected

The Northeast MN Synod Assembly on September 5th. The 320 delegates met online for the first time ever. They heard reports, passed a budget, and elected Rev. Amy Odgren to serve as bishop. **Thank you to Jerry & Shirley Huxford for serving as Salem's delegates.** To see more about the Northeast MN Synod Assembly, you may visit the website: <http://www.nemnsynod.org/synopsis-and-results.html>

Duluth, Minnesota — The Rev. Amy Odgren has been elected bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). She succeeds Bishop Thomas Aitken who was elected bishop in 2008 and is retiring after serving two six-year terms. The election was held in an online virtual synod assembly on August 28 and 29. Bishop-elect Odgren was elected on the fifth ballot with 167 votes. The Rev. Dr. David Carlson, pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Duluth,

received 140 votes on that ballot. More than 300 voting members of the synod participated in the online assembly and election. Due to the pandemic, the assembly was postponed from May.

Bishop-elect Odgren currently serves as Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. Prior to that she served as Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, and as pastor of ELCA congregations in Wisconsin. Ordained in 2001, she is a graduate of Warburg Theological Seminary, one of seven ELCA seminaries, and she completed a B.A. in education and psychology at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota. She has served on the Board of Directors and Presidential Search Committees at Wartburg Theological Seminary, as well as a volunteer and leader of numerous congregation- and community-based organizations. Concerning her role as bishop, Bishop-elect Odgren said "I see our principal challenge as engaging this culture as evangelists who share the gospel of Jesus in ways that will make a difference in the world. I think a bishop needs to listen extensively, pray often, and be bold to move the vision of the kingdom forward. And through this all, I trust in God's resurrecting grace that keeps working and setting us free to love and serve."

The new bishop takes office on November 1. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preside at an installation to be held on October 17.

Trunks for Treats



The current COVID restrictions make *Trunks for Treats* unsafe. We would like to invite the community to the CREATIVE PUMPKIN PATCH DISPLAY on October 31 from 4-6 PM at Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood. Wear your costumes, bring your decorated pumpkins to display, and stroll along the wall on the north side of the church (across from the Dollar General) to see the pumpkins.

– Faith Formation Team

Worship and Music Committee Minutes

September 8, 2020 (via Zoom)

Present: Kevin Edstrom, Becky Klingelhofer, Noreen Steinbrecher, Meriellen Pisarek, Cathy Aykens, Pastor Mike Briggs

Discussion Topics:

1. Parking Lot Services – going well, getting covers for the microphones. Issues: wind noise, temperature changes, volume of speakers.
2. Reopening Church – Possibly September 20th. We will need people to take temperatures as people enter; 1-2 ushers to guide people and hand out communion cups; song leader/soloist. Offerings will be placed in a basket as they enter and leave. We will ask Mike Shermock if he can install a plexiglass shield on the pulpit and lectern for the Pastor, scripture reader and song leader to stand behind.
3. We will start thinking about Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Lent plans and discuss in October.
4. Song leader Schedule: Sept. 13 – Kevin; Sept 20 – Noreen; Sept. 27 – Cathy; Oct. 4 – Kevin; Oct. 11 – Noreen; Oct. 18 – Cathy. Cathy will take temperatures to start with and train others.
5. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer
6. Next meeting is October 6, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
August 27, 2020

Present: Pastor Mike Briggs, Paul Tesdahl, Jeff Mitchell, Mark Carlson, Joel Huntley, Tracy Perpich, Peggy Blistain, Terry Tichenor

Absent: Jena Reed

Opening Prayer

Congregation Reports:

- Chuck Lubowitz presented proposed changes on behalf of the Outreach Governing Board. Discussion was held regarding the Outreach Board's proposed changes and desire to make more decisions without Council approval and have more independence.
 - The matter was tabled until next meeting. The Outreach Governing Board is going to send the Council an updated report using the "track changes" feature.
 - The Council also requested specific examples be presented as to when the Council had failed to provide the Outreach Board with the funds or respond quick enough.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made and carried to approve the July, 2020 Council meeting minutes.

Pastor's Report

- Short discussion was held regarding the August report.

Committee Reports

- Treasure Report
 - A motion was made and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.
 - Discussion was held regarding the 2021 budget process.
- IT Committee
 - A motion was made and carried to adopt the IT Policy presented.
- Capital Appeal
 - Discussion was held regarding getting pledge cards out and whether to do it separately or not. The matter was tabled for the September meeting.

Unfinished Business

- Discussion was held regarding the Church Office Hours. A motion was made and carried to re-open the office hours to the public on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00-4:00 starting on Monday, August 31, 2020.
- Motion was made and carried to approve the purchasing of a sanitizing sprayer and sanitizer.
- Short discussion was held regarding Glen Helm staying at 14 hours/week and having Dawn work 35 hours/week.

New Business

- Discussion was held regarding re-opening the Church to allow groups of 10 or less to meet. Several members supported re-opening to small groups as a step forward towards re-opening of the church. Discussion was held regarding the sanitation issues and that the Safety Committee proposals should be followed.
 - A motion was made and carried to allow groups of 10 or less to meet in the Fellowship Hall within the church facility as long as social distancing is maintained and masks are being worn.
- A motion was made and carried to approve the bid and additional labor needed for the LED sign.
- Discussion was held on holding a remote Call Committee meeting. The matter was tabled for the September meeting.
- Discussion was held regarding the status of the litigation and additional funding.
 - A motion was made and carried to move an additional \$5,000 for future legal expenses from line 2910 of the operational reserves to line 2380 in the general fund from the budget.
- An alternate secretary was requested for times when the current secretary either loses service or has to leave meetings. No action was taken.
- Short discussion was held regarding the open choir director position and replacement options. No action was taken.
- Discussion was held regarding Don Hales wanting to obtain a position as a voting member of the Outreach Governing Board. The Council did not approve this request as he is currently an employee.
- Discussion was held regarding the nominating committee and the open positions.
- Discussion was held regarding the re-opening of Salem and allowing in-person worship.
 - Arguments were heard for re-opening for in-person worship which included: people are seeking services from other churches, Salem is the only one not open currently in our area, and we need to re-open before it is too late.

- Arguments were heard against re-opening and included: the health and safety of the congregation, the CDC numbers – specifically for our area, and a desire to adhere to the Safety Team proposals.
- Action was not taken at this time. It was agreed upon that the Safety Team would submit to the Council a proposal as to how we would re-open with a goal of allowing in-person worship by September 21, 2020.
- A special meeting will be held by the Council on September 11, 2020, to review the Safety Team proposals and decide how to proceed.

S.O.S.

Announcements

- The City of Deerwood is holding a meeting regarding the zoning change.

Meeting Adjourned

- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on September 24, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. via zoom.
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Prepared by: Tracy Perpich



As the summer of 2020 comes to a close, it is time to start planning your BWCAW trip for next summer.

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry has been leading BWCAW trips for over 60 years providing positive, meaningful, faith-filled and life changing experiences for youth groups, school groups, families and people of all ages. We would love to talk to you about joining us next summer and customizing a trip for your group's needs.

Attached is our soon-to-be released 2021 brochure with current pricing (unchanged from 2019). For those of you who have used us in the past, there are a couple new

things to take note of:

- 1) In this era of Covid-19 we will be refunding any deposits (or holding them for the following summer) for any cancellations before May 1st. Our current COVID action plans for the summer of 2021 include spacing out groups on site for meals and housing, limiting our program numbers to 50% of 2019's capacity, and increased training and cleaning protocols for guides.
- 2) Our early bird discount has been extended to Dec. 31, 2020. If you make a trip deposit of \$500 before 12/31/2020, we will discount that total trip cost by \$500.

With our current Covid-19 plans of reduced capacity, our weekly trip capacity will be 3-4 groups/week. This will allow us to spread groups around Camp Vermilion for housing and meal service. **BOTTOM LINE-** Capacity is limited so if you are looking for a particular week, your deposit and reservation needs to be in early.

Feel free to reach out with any questions- there is nothing more exciting than talking about BWCAW trips.

Fliers are available in the Brown Mail Box by the front entrance

Brett Amundson

Program Director-Camp Vermilion

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

2555 Vermilion Camp Road

Cook, MN 55723

cell - [218-780-2696](tel:218-780-2696)

VLM main office - [218-666-5465](tel:218-666-5465)

www.vlmcamps.org



What is the Capital Appeal One-year Extension?

The Capital Appeal provides funds to pay the mortgage on the church building. Our current 3-year Capital Appeal, **Stepping Forward in Faith**, will end on November 30, 2020. We have reached and surpassed our goal of \$435,361 for this three-year campaign.

With uncertainty caused by the pandemic, Salem's Church Council (upon the recommendation of Salem's capital appeal team) approved a one-year extension of this current campaign.

Our goal for this one-year extension is \$184,896 to be able to continue our monthly payments at the current rate. In 2009, the building project's total cost was \$2.4 million. Due to the generosity of Salem's members, our mortgage balance has been reduced to \$1.25 million! If we continue to make monthly payments of \$15,408 at the current 3.875% interest rate, we will pay off our mortgage in 2028! This is so exciting! Just imagine the amazing outreach and mission projects that our congregation will be able to do when we no longer have a monthly mortgage payment.

I was baptized in the first Salem Lutheran Church building. There is a painting of that church in the narthex above the organ. My grandparents worked on the rock wall in the second Salem sanctuary. They were so proud of that new building. I grew up in the second Salem building and watched as additions were needed for the growing programs and mission. I remember when Sunday School was in the fellowship hall with black board dividers. Then the education wing and family room were added. The third addition housed the offices, library, and youth rooms downstairs. Now I have the privilege of worshiping in this building with new technology and sound systems. It is amazing for those of us who have been attending Salem for a long time to see how far we have come. We take our mission to **Welcome** people to Jesus Christ, **Equip** people with a faith that works in their lives, and **Send** people into the world in Jesus' name seriously.

This year we are having the stewardship pledges at the same time as the capital campaign extension. This allows us to prayerfully consider how we can best support our operating budget and pay down the mortgage. There will be two different pledge cards to complete.

If your financial situation is uncertain right now, consider making donations when you are able. Memorials for loved ones could be designated to the Building Fund. You might want to make a special contribution to Salem in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or special milestone in the life of a loved one. Tithing your tax refunds, rebates, or other windfalls are a way to put God's good gifts to use.

I have been a member of the Capital Appeal Team since we began planning the current building. I also served on the Salem Memorial Committee and on the Salem Church Council for many years. I am always so awed by the generosity of our members and our community. I know that again this year our congregation will continue to share our **first fruits** and work toward tithing the blessings that God showers on us.

-Lynn Hansen, a member of the Capital Appeal Team

LED Sign Update

After some delay with the process of getting a city permit for installing our new Salem LED sign, and also needing to move our existing sign because of buried fiber optic cable that is running next the existing sign base, we are again on course with Albrecht Sign Company. Our new LED sign will be installed before the end of year.

Thanks To All of You

If you have something you would like to add to the Salem Connection,

please contact Dawn Huffman at: 218-534-3309 or by emailing: office@salemdwd.org

All submissions for the Salem Connection are due by no later than the 20th of each month.

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		
Salem Ringers Director	Kevin Edstrom	
Praise Team Director	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
Joel Huntley	218-546-9774
Jena Reed	218-670-0499
Paul Tesdahl	218-546-5036