

SALEM CONNECTION

May 2021



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May 30th is Trinity Sunday. Dr. Rolf Jacobson from Luther Seminary shares a tongue-in-cheek description of this doctrine that confuses all of us, in his book “Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms.”

“If not the mother of all Christian crazy talking points, this one’s at least in the top three. In theological circles, the doctrine of the Trinity is like the 1975 World Series or the 1957 Chevrolet Bel-Air Hardtop – a classic and the embodiment of truth. As with baseball’s perfect moments or collectible automobiles, controversies arise, passions

heat up, and devotees never tire of discussing the mystery of the Trinity.

But how do you sum up the Trinity, God’s being three persons in one God? Legend has St. Patrick using a shamrock to demonstrate how three distinct leaves comprise a single plant. Others have borrowed the triune images of light, heat, and sun; or even ice, steam, and water. Our personal favorite is onions, celery, and green bell pepper – the Holy Trinity of Cajun cooking, without which soups and sauces risk unforgivably heretical blandness.

Trinitarian theology is descriptive crazy talk; it is describing who God is in God’s personal essence. Like most theological descriptions, neither the word Trinity itself nor the full doctrine of the Trinity occurs in the Bible, but both the word and the doctrine seek to describe accurately the God who is revealed in the Bible. Theology is always playing a catch-up game – trying to catch up to the reality of who God is. Doctrine doesn’t make God triune; God is triune. Our language runs to catch up.

For the first Christians, who had learned from Jesus the Son how to follow God the Father and who had experienced the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, referring to God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit came naturally. The New Testament is full of Trinitarian affirmations, such as the following:

*“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”
- II Corinthians 13:13*

*“So (Jesus Christ) came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.”
- Ephesians 2:17-18*

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
-Matthew 28:19*

After a little time passed, however, people started to want a clearer description of how Jesus “fit in” with the Father and the Spirit. Were the three the same or different? Were all three God? You see what’s happening here: human beings playing catch-up to/with God. Looks like a job for THEOLOGY.

These catch-up playing theologians worked to understand what the scriptures as a whole say about God, to understand mind-blowing passages such as this bomb that Jesus dropped on his mates: “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30. Or this one: Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

Eventually, it was agreed that God is Trinity: three persons in one God; three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in one Being (God).”¹

We certainly can’t understand the Trinity, but thank God our Lord has been revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

- Pastor Mike

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¹ Rolf Jacobson, “*Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms*,” ©2008 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, pp 175-176



GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY IS MAY 16TH. Salem’s 8 graduating seniors in the class of 2021 will receive a blanket and a blessing as they take the next steps on their journeys. Don’t miss this opportunity to honor and bless Salem’s young people. Thank you to Laura Hann for making the blankets!



Our Graduates: Madilyn Bodle, Elle Chileen, Anna Coughlin, Noelle Jones, Nate Kewatt, Josef Slepica, Alex Schmidt, Breanna Stirewalt, Raymond Vabin, Connor Zender. CONGRATULATIONS to all of you!

CONFIRMATION CLASS POT-LUCK PICNIC is Wed. May 5th from 6:30-8PM. Students, mentors, family and congregation members are invited to help us celebrate a great year together!

PENTECOST IS SUNDAY, MAY 23RD. Wear red to worship to help us celebrate the outpouring of the Spirit and the birthday of the Christian Church!

CHURCH RECORD UPDATE

Received First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, 2021

**Peter Bartels
Ryley Bartels
Hunter Brix**

Funeral

Robert Peterson
Funeral: April 24, 2021



MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Christine Myers, Delylah Voller
3	Jeanne Stangel
4	David Steinke
5	Nancy Schmidt
6	Jim Rude
11	Ken Schultz
13	Jason Holmvig, Rick Johnson
15	Kevin Stensrud
16	Elaine Dahlquist
17	Joey Serfling, Bruce Swanson
18	Dorinne Cole, Kathy Schultz, Jean Shermock
20	Elizabeth Gavin
22	Ashley Meyer, Glenn Suess
25	Annette Larson
27	Tim Coughlin
28	Wendy Christenson
30	Glen Knutson, Peter MacKay, Donna Sanderson
31	Raye Cragun, Nancy Johnson

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1	Gene & Barb Abelson (1954)
7	Chuck & Char Hausker (1988)
8	Les & Shirley Taylor (1955)
10	Richard & Lynn Leino (1975)
16	Glenn Suess & Ruth Helgesen (1992)
17	Dick & Lois Hicks (1975)
20	Greg & Jena Reed (1994)
25	DeMar & Arlys Wanstrom (1962)
28	Terry & Judy Fields (1960)
29	Claude & Renee Gilmer (1998)



*Thank you from your Call Committee!
On behalf of the Call Committee, thank you for all of your questions and*

overwhelming support as you voted to give us a new direction at the April 11th congregational meeting!

Here's what's next: Two Ministry Site Profiles (one MSP for the Deacon and the other for the Associate Pastor) will be presented to the Church Council for their approval. The MSPs will then be presented to our Bishop for approval. Once Bishop Odgren approves them, they will be posted to the ELCA website for potential candidates to view. I'll provide additional updates as more information becomes available.

Thank you again for your prayers and support as we move forward.

Peace to all,

Chuck Lubowitz, Call Committee Chair

I would like to thank Salem Church for the beautiful Easter lily and to Elsa for delivering it.

Betty Lavan

The lily I got from you is blooming all petals. It is a ravishing beauty and smells so nice. Thanks again.

Shelby Olson

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flower. I will enjoy it very much and think of all of you every time I look at it. Thanks again and Happy Easter to all of you.

Love, Arlene Stromberg

Thank you for remembering me at Easter with such a beautiful Easter lily.

Love, Shirley Harker

I love the Easter lily! Thank you so much!

Mina Nystrom

I received the most beautiful bouquet of flowers in the office as a thank you from the council and congregation. It is my pleasure to be here in the office once again for a brief time. Sincere thanks.

Debbi Carlson



The Salem Piecemakers donated this lovely quilt to The Northeastern Minnesota (NEMN) Synod Quilt Auction, along with many others in the Synod.

The NEMN quilt team is a part of our synod's Hunger, Justice and Rural Life Team and their goal is to raise awareness and financial support to fight against the root causes of hunger, injustice and poverty. ALL of the money raised during the auction is donated for that purpose to the ELCA Hunger Appeal. Bidding will take place April 29, 2021 9:00 am - May 02, 2021 6:00 pm

You may view the quilts and bid on them at:
<https://e.givesmart.com/events/kDg/i/>



Bu\$iness

Salem Lutheran Church Operating Fund Financial Results 01/01/2021 - 03/31/2021

	Adopted Annual Budget	Jan – Mar Actual 2021	Jan - Mar Prior Year 2020
Income	\$462,159.00	\$93,859.57	\$90,289.75
Expense	\$453,459.14	\$93,463.85	\$103,713.03
Net	\$8,699.86	\$395.72	\$ 13,453.04

Overview of Mortgage & Building Fund Salem Lutheran Church March 2021

Mortgage

Original Mortgage Amount	\$2,379,965.00
Principal Balance	\$1,162,552.71
Monthly Mortgage Payment (Principal & Interest)	\$ 10,844.00
Additional Principal Payment	\$ 4,564.00

Building Fund

Beginning Balance 01/01/21	\$209,390.13
Income 01/01/21 – 03/31/2021	
Pledges Received	\$29,946.95
Gifts	\$2,235.00
Interest	\$198.02
Paycheck Protection Program	\$22,500.00
Expense 01/01/21 – 03/31/2021	
Mortgage Payment	(\$32,532.00)
Additional Principal	(\$13,692.00)
Ending Balance 03/31/21	\$218,046.10

(The ending building balance is what we have in savings accounts dedicated to the building fund - \$83,000 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 Ruth Blum at the church office. Any questions can be directed to either Council Treasurer Terry Tichenor or Financial Manager Ruth Blum.



Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School 2021! VBS will be happening at Salem during the week of July 19-23rd. As of now, we plan to hold an in-person program at Salem following all safety recommendations from the CDC and MDH. Please understand that these plans could change at any time depending on COVID restrictions. We intend to be fully prepared to shift to a virtual, at-home VBS if need be. Information about when and how to register will be in the June connection, as well as the e-news and the Salem website. As always, we are only able to create the magic that is VBS with the dedicated volunteers that pull it all together!! If you are interested in volunteering this year in any capacity please contact Marlene Prill (218-330-1731) or Whitney Fischer (218-839-3807).

****Please understand that there may be a need to cap registrations, so do not hesitate to register. Additionally, we will not be taking Monday morning walk-in registrations like we have in the past.****

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Cupcakes for Camps fundraiser benefitting Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries! You may have heard that we sold out of cupcakes Wednesday afternoon. We did! You may have heard that we sold out again on Thursday. We did! Over 40 dozen cupcakes were baked, decorated and sold. Together, we raised \$1400 for VLM. Special thanks to Kathi, Sherri, and Noreen for baking cupcakes, to the staff and volunteers at The Mustard Seed for hosting and collecting spare change for VLM as the cause of the month, and to our own Social Ministry for a generous financial contribution!



There is still time to get signed up for summer camp at Camp Hiawatha or Camp Vermilion. Brochures and information are available in the narthex. Camperships forms are available as well.

Lil' Free Pantry

Take what you need, leave what you can. It's free! It's for anyone!

The Lil' Free Pantry is stocked regularly. Now that the freezing weather is behind us, we are again stocking canned and jarred goods. If you have something you would like to contribute, please leave it in the pantry or in the youth room at church. Please do not leave perishable goods in the pantry. Any youth interested in helping stock the pantry, please contact Alex, 218-851-1569.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HONDURAS

In 2003, Salem Lutheran joined the NE MN Synod on a mission trip to continue to reestablish the country of Honduras following the devastation of Hurricane Mitch a couple of years earlier. This was an important trip as previous trips had been simply disaster relief, but this trip marked the beginning of moving forward in their future. During this trip we met a group of wonderful people and began what is now an almost two-decade friendship. Each of these individuals brought gifts to our mission trips that enabled us to grow in our faith, keep us safe, well fed, and healthy. Each of their contributions have changed our lives in amazing ways.

Through the years the Salem missions supported Gabe Colindres with a college degree, Denny and Jessica with a new prosthesis, Emerson having open heart surgery and Ruben with the start of a Habitat for Humanity home in Telanga to mention a few. Salem has built churches, schools, homes, camps, training centers and provided diapers, clothes, and love to many children through the years at Kids Ark Camp. Due to COVID-19 there is no mission travel and we have canceled several trips. The pandemic is more severe in developing countries, particularly Central America.

One of our most dedicated Honduran partners is Bayron Reyes. He has lost his mom, grandmother and aunt to Covid in the past months. They live in a small house with 9 people. He is separated from his son and daughter who are living with his mother-in-law. Since we are not able to travel and want to continue our mission work in Honduras, we have connected with Habitat por Humanidad in Tegucigalpa and are planning on building Bayron and his family a home this summer. As important as a home is to us in the United States, in Honduras it will change lives for generations. Our goal is to raise between \$20,000 and \$25,000. This will purchase land and build a safe, block home that will last for years and survive insects, earthquakes and hurricanes. Salem Outreach has a fund set up for "Honduras Habitat" and we are seeking support to meet our goal. We are off to a great start and the more we can collect, the more we can do for the Reyes family. Please prayerfully consider a gift and please hold up the Reyes family and this project in your prayers.

Don Hales, Director of Outreach, Salem Lutheran Church

Greg Meyer, Former Deacon, Salem Lutheran Church

May 6, 2021 is the 70th year of celebrating National Day of Prayer. The theme this year is "LORD pour out your LOVE, LIFE, and LIBERTY" from 2Corinthians 3:17 - "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." If you would like to join Christians around the world on May 6th, the prayer is included below.



Lord, we look up and see the billions of stars
You created, and we praise You. We look
around and see the billions of people You
created in Your image; uniquely, fearfully,
wonderfully, and we thank You. Wrap us in Your
Spirit and unite us in Your family, Lord.

Thank You for loving us first. In Your love for the
whole world, You sent Your Son to save us.

Jesus, in You alone we have abundant and
everlasting life. Thank you for teaching and
leading us to love and live, fruitful, and faithful.
In Your life, death, resurrection, and ascension
You are our Lord, our love, our life, and our
liberty. You came to "bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives and
freedom to prisoners." You have freed us from
the penalty and shame of our sin; free to live
life as You designed and Your destiny
for our Nation.

Spirit search us, convict us, as we repent for
our sin and the sins of America. Please cleanse,
fill, and send us. We rejoice, knowing that Your
forgiveness makes us acceptable and effective
vessels for Your love, life and liberty in our
family, church, education, workplace, military,
government, art, entertainment, and media.

We pray that America will be united in love to
serve You with all our hearts, all our ways, and
all of our days. Unite us to pray, love; to live and
walk by the Spirit. Conform and transform us
as we pray and proclaim, "Now the Lord is the
Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is liberty."

We pray this is the name of Jesus, Amen.

Kathy Branzell *President, National Day of Prayer Task Force*

Books on prayer and the newly received books are on display in the Salem Library on the desk.

Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes from March 25, 2021

MSC = The motion was seconded and carried

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

Present: Pastor Mike Briggs, Jeff Mitchell, Jena Reed, Terry Tichenor, Renee Voller, Al Schiffler, Peggy Blistain, Paul Tesdahl

Absent: Tracy Perpich

Also Present: Teddy Skattum for the bell tower proposal
Chuck Lubowitz for the Call Directive revision

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Special Reports

- Teddy Skattum presented her bell tower proposal. No finalized plans yet.

Action: Pastor will set up a Zoom meeting with Jeff Crook to get questions answered.

- Chuck Lubowitz requested permission to update the call directive to include an associate pastor and a deacon, to take on the social ministry. This will require a congregational meeting to approve. The meeting will take place on April 11, 2021.

Action: Chuck will make a verbal announcement the next two Sundays regarding the meeting.

Action: Jeff and Pastor will work on a letter to the congregation.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes of the Feb, 2021 Council meeting. MSC.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Terry Tichenor reviewed financial reports with the Council.

Motion: Approve the February, 2021 Financial Reports. MSC.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Mike reviewed the past month's ministry highlights.
- Pastor led study on *The Post-Quarantine Church*, chapter two.

Action: All read chapter three of *The Post-Quarantine Church*

Committee Reports

- Capital Appeal: Paul briefed on the latest information regarding the mortgage.

Unfinished Business

- Telecare: Mark briefed that the congregation liked this ministry and would like it to continue. Need to identify someone to lead this.
- Time and Talent form – it is time to send out another Time and Talent form to the congregation.

Action: Jeff will finalize the form.

- OGB Clarification – Don Hales asked if the OGB could add a seat so he could have a seat either now

or when he resigned as Director of Outreach. He was advised an additional seat on the OGB would require a vote by the Congregation. He was also advised a permanent church employee cannot be on the Church Council or OGB due to a conflict of interest.

New Business

- Discussion was held regarding conducting the Council meeting in person. The next Council meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall.
- Dawn Huffman's resignation. Her last day will be April 6th.

Motion: To accept Dawn's resignation, and give her a gift card for her work. MSC

- Replacement for Dawn: Kathy Sharp, Meriellen Pisarek and Debbie Carlson worked on this last time.

Action: Pastor will check with them to post the vacancy again.

Discussion

- Discussion was held and was agreed to opening the church office 5 days/week. Will need to find someone to fill in for Dawn after April 6th.
- Discussion was held regarding starting coffee time again. Coffee time will be held April 11th before the congregational meeting.
- Discussion was held regarding the need for two services for Easter. The two services will be held, at 8:15am and 9:30am.
- Discussion was held regarding records retention.

Action: Jeff and Pastor will look at the records to ensure they are up to date.

- Summerfest – still looking for a focal point.

Action: Al will talk with Don regarding possible candidates.

Items tabled for future discussions

- Building and Grounds Proposal – changing the parking lot lights to LED at a cost of \$3,427.
- Strategic Planning Offsite

S.O.S.

- Discussion regarding keeping the congregation informed of what is designated for special offerings. Need to ensure this is communicated.

Announcements

- Mark Carlson, Di Hein and Ken Stebbins are working on constitution updates.
- New sign is looking good!!!
- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 22, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Meeting Adjourned

- Pastor closed with prayer.

Prepared by: Jena Reed



We are pleased to announce the return of SUMMERFEST after a year off due to the Pandemic. We are blessed to have two volunteer co-chairs, Steve Pauly and Al Schiffler. There will be a planning meeting in the fellowship hall on May 6th at 9:30am. This is open to everyone who would like to help organize this exciting event. If you have items to donate for the silent auction please contact Steve. Thanks in advance for making this a fun event!

Steve Pauly

stevepauly46bc@yahoo.com

612.845.3300

Al Schiffler

cit_barb@yahoo.com

218.232.5621

A shared experience



What comes to mind when you hear the word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of fire and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that's just as key: Jesus' disciples "were all together in one place." Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn't miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church.

The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus' first followers hadn't been assembled on Pentecost, they would've missed the outpouring of God's power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God's blessings, promises and joy?

MAY 2021

Salem Lutheran Church of Deerwood

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8am—Noon Spring Clean-up
2 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship	3	4 9:00 AM Piecemakers 5:00 PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting	5 6:30—8:00 PM Confirmation Picnic	6 9:00 AM Summerfest Meeting	7 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	8 8:30 AM Serpent Lake Association Board Mtg
9 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship 	10	11 9:00 AM Piecemakers 7:00 PM Faith Formation Team Mtg	12 1:00 PM Outreach Governing Board Meeting	13 12:30 PM Grief Support Group	14 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	15 9am—3pm Garage Sale at Salem WEST
16 9:00 AM Worship and High School Graduates Recognition 10:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship 1:30 PM Salem Hosts Care Center Worship	17	18 9:00 AM Piecemakers 5:30 PM Executive Team Meeting	19	20 11:00 AM Salem's turn for Meals on Wheels Delivery 6:00 PM Lions Meeting	21 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	22
23 9:00 AM Worship (Pentecost, wear red!) 10:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship	24	25 9:00 AM Piecemakers	26	27 6:00 PM Council Meeting in fellowship hall	28 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	29
30 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship						

