

# SALEM CONNECTION

July 2021



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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Salem Lutheran Church**

**July 19—23, 2021 ~ 9:00 a.m.—Noon**

**For children age 3 through grade 6**

**REGISTER BY JULY 11!!**



*“But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had taken.” - Luke 5:8-9*

*“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”*

*- John 20:21-23*

Peter’s encounter with divine mercy stuns him. When Jesus urges him to throw out his nets again, Peter can barely pull them in, loaded down as they are with fish. He looks at Jesus with sudden recognition: “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” The encounter with divine mercy is too much for him. But Jesus reels him in using language a fisherman would understand. “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” It was an invitation and a promise to spread the stunning mercy he had experienced even further.

When Jesus appeared to Peter and the disciples on Easter evening their first reaction was fear. God’s mercy was once again too much for them. Jesus relieved their fears with his traditional greeting; “Shalom,” “peace be with you.” With those words Jesus gave the disciples what they needed most, but could not ask for: mercy. Then he entrusted them with a ministry of mercy: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (John 20:23).

As the disciples moved out into the world their experience of forgiveness shaped their ministries of mercy. Every encounter with a sinner seeking forgiveness reminds them of Jesus’ stunning mercy towards them. Every absolution they give repeats the words that freed their own guilty consciences: “Peace be with you.” The disciples become forgiven forgivers.

So also we are forgiven forgivers. We confess our brokenness and receive the forgiveness we need to hear each week. Then we’re sent out to spread God’s mercy to a hurting world that is yearning for it. God bless your ministry of mercy wherever our Lord sends you!

- Pastor Mike

# Capital Appeal Update

Why do we need a Capital Appeal to make our mortgage payments?

The principal and interest payment on our debt is as inescapable as a home mortgage. The building project that was completed was well worth the effort. We now have a beautiful facility that supports many ministries which change and enrich the faith lives of Salem members, our community, and our guests. Reducing and eventually eliminating our debt will free up funding for ministries, outreach and future projects.

The returns of the 2021 Capital Appeal Survey only represents about one quarter of the congregation. In order to conduct a successful capital campaign, we need participation from a larger portion of our Salem family. We appreciate all of the returns that we did receive and volunteers willing to help. At this point we need some very specific assistance and leadership in the following areas:

- Join the Capital Appeal Team
- Write information for the Connection and E-news
- Write Bulletin announcements for Sunday mornings
- Editing and proof-reading
- Power Point presentations
- Photographers willing to compile photo collages
- Writers of daily devotions for the next Capital Appeal Campaign
- Writing a Campaign Prayer to be used over the next three years

If you would be willing to help with any of these tasks or have questions about volunteer opportunities, please contact any member of the Capital Appeal Team to discuss ways to participate using your talents for this important step in our congregational journey.

Pastor Mike Briggs	218-534-3309
Lynn Hansen	218-851-8326
Myron Midthun	218-232-1979
Karla Peterson	218-838-5137
Ken Stebbins	218-839-4549
Paul Tesdahl	218-851-6646

The Capital Appeal Team needs your response by July 11, 2021. Our congregation has done an amazing job so far of paying down our mortgage. We do not want to lose this momentum.

Thank you for your consideration.

## CHURCH RECORD UPDATE

### *Baptisms*

**Brecken Allen Syrstad**, son of Bryan and Megan (Felthous) Syrstad  
Sponsors: Anna Felthous and Randy Syrstad  
Baptized: June 13, 2021

### *New Members Received*

**Nathan (Nate) & Jayme VanRisseghem**  
Received into Membership: June 6, 2021  
**Jerry & Ruth Lerom**  
Received into Membership: June 11, 2021



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bob 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
- 18 Kim Coughlin
- 22 Cindy Foote
- 23 Barb Abelson
- 24 Gwendolyn Voller
- 26 Renee Voller
- 27 Taylor Bordwell, Marinell Holst
- 29 Sherri Godfrey, Kari Henningson

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Al & Barb Schiffler (1972)
- 10 Randy & Cindy Sykes (1976)
- 13 Larry & Marinell Holst (1974)
- 27 Tom & Nancy Reek (1985)
- 28 Ernie & Mary Erickson (1963)
- 28 Paul & Pam Magnuson (1987)

## READERS

- July 4 Glenn Suess
- July 11 Myron Midthun
- July 18 Chuck Lubowitz
- July 25 Carol Brezina

## USHERS

- 7/4 Ed & Sherri Godfrey, John & Margo Wojciak
- 7/11 Mark Boike, Randy Holmwig, Herb & Barb Schoon
- 7/18 Terry Fields, Clark & Joyce Marshall
- 7/25 Nory & Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson

## For Kids...

# Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.

Th\_r\_for\_.

\_s G\_d's ch\_s\_n p\_\_pl\_.

h\_ly \_\_nd d\_\_rly l\_v\_d, cl\_th\_\_

y\_\_rs lv\_s w\_th c\_\_mp\_ss\_\_n,

k\_ndn\_ss, h\_m\_l\_ty, g\_ntl\_n\_ss

\_\_nd p\_t\_\_nc. B\_\_r w\_th

\_\_ch\_\_th\_r\_\_nd f\_rg\_v\_\_n\_\_

\_\_n\_\_th\_r\_\_f\_\_ny\_\_f\_y\_\_h\_s\_\_

gr\_\_v\_\_nc\_\_g\_\_nst s\_m\_\_n.

F\_rg\_v\_\_s th\_\_L\_\_rd f\_rg\_v\_\_y\_\_.

C\_\_l\_\_ss\_\_ns 3:12-13, N\_V

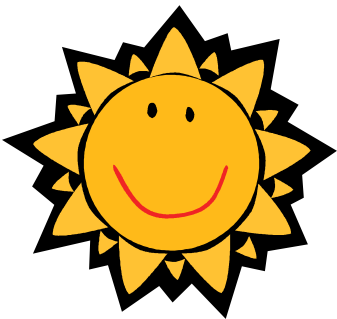
Answer: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:12-13, NIV

## Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls us Through! Vacation Bible School July 19-23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00-Noon

Vacation Bible School coordinators are looking for volunteers who are able to help with preparation and setup for VBS. This is a great opportunity to get involved even if you are unable to participate during the week of VBS. There are many simple projects like making name tags, as well as more involved setup of the VBS “set” in the sanctuary. All are welcome and any help you can give is much appreciated!



**VBS Workshops** are July 13, 9:00 a.m. until noon (light lunch provided) AND Thursday, July 15, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. (pizza provided). Contact Marlene Prill, 218-330-1731 or Whitney Fisher, 218-839-3807 to volunteer, or if you need more information.



## SALEM'S SUMMERFEST EXTRAVAGANZA

Is coming up Friday, August 13 and Saturday, August 14, 2021

There will be many opportunities for members and friends of Salem to get involved in this **fun and valuable** fundraiser! Sign-up sheets will be posted after July 4<sup>th</sup> in the narthex (lobby) at church. There will also be lists of specific food items that are needed.

There will also be a \$\$\$ donation box in the narthex. The donations will be used to buy food and other supplies associated with Summerfest. The box will be clearly marked. You may also drop off checks or cash for Summerfest when the church office is open, Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm.

We are in **NEED** of Silent Auction donations such as autos, boats, etc. If you would like us to come and pick things up, we are willing to do that! OR – drop off donations at Salem WEST and be sure to tell them it is for the Summerfest Auction! **You may bring donations to church and we will help you unload them ON JULY 11.** Contact information for Salem's Summerfest Coordinators:

Steve Pauly, 612-845-3300  
Al Schiffler, 218-232-5621



**Salem Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2021**

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

MSC = The motion was seconded and carried.

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

**Also Present:** Raye Cragun, Cassie Poppe

## **Order**

## **Opening Prayer by Pastor Mike**

## **Approval of Minutes**

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

## **Daycare Proposal**

- A daycare is needed in this area. Cassie Poppe and Raye Cragun discussed the steps to make this happen. First step is a fire inspection, which will determine the maximum number of kids. The church will need to review the insurance policy. Once the fire inspection is completed, Cassie and Raye will draft a proposal for the Church.

## **Treasurer's Report**

- Treasurer Terry Tichenor reviewed financial reports with the Council.

**Motion:** Approve the April, 2021 Financial Reports. MSC.

## **Pastor's Report**

- Pastor Mike reviewed the past month's ministry highlights. The PPPP (Post Pandemic Pancake Party) will be June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Pastor led study on *The Post-Quarantine Church*, chapter four.

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

## **Committee Reports**

- None.

## **Unfinished Business**

- Capital Appeal: Paul provided an update on the Capital Appeal process.

**Motion:** Move \$5K from the Church funds to the building fund. MSC.

- Call Committee: Jeff provided an update from the Call Committee.
- Time and Talent form: About 65 forms have been returned.
- Bell Tower: Permit has been submitted. Hope to have it approved within 30 days. Need to keep the congregation informed as this progresses.
- Church schedule: Masks will now be optional, per CDC guidance, and recommended for those unvaccinated. Communion will continue as is for the time being, as we have a lot of the prepackaged cups.

- Summerfest: We need to coordinate with Kathi and Sherri to use the kitchen for preparation of the food. No permit is needed since we have one for the church.

### New Business

- Strategic Planning: Do this in stages. Exec team – Council – select congregation members– congregation. Jeff provided a framework for the planning.
- Facilities:
  - With a new storage device for the computers, more security is needed in the closet that stores computer connections and storage.  
**Motion:** Install a cipher lock on the closet used for the computer storage/connections. MSC.
  - When the office manager is the only one in the building, the door should be locked for safety.  
**Motion:** Install a buzzer on the front door for the office manager to buzz people in, so the door may remain locked when necessary. MSC.
- Prayer Cloud: Adding a Prayer Cloud to our website would allow people to leave a prayer request, and have others pray for them.  
**Motion:** Have Meriellen install the Prayer Cloud on the website. MSC  
**Action:** Jena will get in touch with Meriellen.
- Personnel Items:
  - We need to create a compensation range for each church employee position. We'll look at having the Compensation Working Group and Executive Teamwork on this.
  - Discussed the resignation of Peggy Blistain.  
**Motion:** Accept Peggy's resignation with regret. MSC.
  - Due to the funding for the Director of Outreach ending 30 June, options were discussed.

### Discussions

- Constitution: Constitution review is in progress.

### S.O.S.

- None.

### Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on June 24, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

### Meeting Adjourned

- Prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Prepared by: Jena Reed




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Salem Lutheran Church Memorial Committee has awarded \$500.00 scholarships to the following high school graduates: *Anna Coughlin* will be attending the University of Utah; *Elle Chileen* will be attending Lake Superior College in the fall; *Noelle Jones* will be attending the University of MN, Duluth; *Alex Schmidt* will be attending South Dakota School of Mines; *Connor Zender* will be attending Bemidji State University.

## STAFF

Pastor  
Office Manager  
Financial Manager  
Facilities Coordinator  
Praise Team Coordinators  
Pianist/Organist  
Salem Ringers Director  
Director of Outreach  
Mustard Seed Manager  
Mustard Seed Asst Manager  
Mustard Seed Asst Manager  
Salem WEST Manager

Michael Briggs      [pastor@salemwd.org](mailto:pastor@salemwd.org)  
Deborah Carlson    [office@salemwd.org](mailto:office@salemwd.org)  
Ruth Blum            [finance@salemwd.org](mailto:finance@salemwd.org)  
Glen Helm            [facilities@salemwd.org](mailto:facilities@salemwd.org)  
Becky Klingelhofer, Noreen Steinbrecher  
Becky Klingelhofer  
Kevin Edstrom  
Don Hales            [outreach@salemwd.org](mailto:outreach@salemwd.org)  
Jacob Walker        [mustardseed@salemwd.org](mailto:mustardseed@salemwd.org)  
Bev Kunz  
Debbie Olson  
Tanya Smith

## COUNCIL

Jeff Mitchell, president      218-260-8140  
Paul Tesdahl, vice-president    218-546-5036  
Jena Reed, secretary          218-670-0499  
Terry Tichenor, treasurer      781-223-0258  
Pastor Mike Briggs              715-410-5404  
Mark Carlson                    218-851-7236  
Tracy Perpich                    218-838-7008  
Al Schiffler                      218-527-0086  
Renee Voller                      763-242-6382

