

Salem's Good News Letter

October 2020



Dear Siblings in Christ,

We have been together for just a little over a year now and it has been a strange one. Having to move church online in accordance with state and synod guidelines back in March interrupted the relationship and trust building we were doing. It is hard to get to know one another via text or phone. I have missed the opportunity to have coffee with more of you or to host additional cottage meetings or even to have a chance to talk with you after church at things like our annual picnic.

If you aren't part of one of our Bible Study groups or serving on one of our mission teams or council, I probably don't know you as well as I would like. You may also feel like you don't know me, which I imagine is not the kind of relationship you would like to have with your pastor. And I would like a chance to fix that. Over the next couple of months, we will have a couple of things as a congregation that will give us an opportunity to see one another outside of Sunday worship. We will be doing a Pet Blessing Service at Bruce and Nicole Ericksen's on Friday, October 23rd (see announcement in this newsletter). We will also once again be having our silent auction and congregational thanksgiving meal on Nov. 22nd following worship. It will be so good to get to do things we have enjoyed in the past with our siblings in Christ. It will feel maybe a little more like "normal" which is something we all desperately long for.

But having those events alone won't give us enough time to make up for the many months we were forced to spend apart. So, over the next 6-8 weeks, I will be trying to contact as many of you as I can to try to find a time to share a cup of coffee or a lunch or even just conversation. I truly want to get to know you and learn about your faith and what is important to you. I want to know why you are at Salem and what your hopes and dreams are for our future ministry together.

I feel the Holy Spirit has brought us together at this time and in this place for a purpose. We need one another to discern that purpose and engage in the ministry we are being called to. God has good and exciting things in store for us, things that build upon the solid legacy of faith that has guided this church since its founding.

I have been working with council these past few months to learn about your strengths, gifts, and challenges. You have so much to offer one another, this community, and the ELCA as a whole. I have seen this over the last year, and I look forward to seeing and understanding more of it as we meet together.

In Christ,

Pastor Kim

Message from
Pastor Kim
Front

Important things
To remember
Pages 2-3

Confirmation Faith State-
ments
Pages 4-8

Council Minutes
Pages 9-10

Calendar
Page 11

Ministry Assistants,
Birthdays, Anniversaries
Page 13

Leadership at Salem
Back



ONLINE DIRECTORY

It is time to update our church directory. We are moving to an online directory that will allow you to upload your own picture and edit/add information if needed. An email with instructions on uploading your family photo has been sent out, if you have not received this email please send an email to salempoca@gmail.com with your families correct email address so this can be added to the directory so an email can be sent to you with the instructions.

If you do not have access to a computer or internet to upload your own picture, we will be taking pictures once we are back together again and Katie will upload them for you. Once we have the directory completed, you will be able to request a printed copy if you do not have access to it online.

Mary, Martha and Moscato Bible Study will meet as one group going forward. The schedule is as follows: Chapter 4 on October 11th, Chapter 5 on October 25th, and Chapter 6 on November 8th. We will meet at 7:00pm those nights at the church.

Confirmation

Confirmation for our 9th grade youth will be on Sunday, October 25th during worship.

Please Welcome Katie Uthof as our new church Secretary. She will be in the office Monday—Thursday from 8:00am to 1:00pm



Scheduled Meetings

October 4th—Youth Group @ 7:00

October 11th—Council Meeting after church

October 11th—Mary, Martha and Moscato Bible Study @ 7:00

October 14th—Worship and Music @ 4:45

October 25-Mary, Martha and Moscato Bible Study @ 7:00

**Communion Dates
For October**

**October 4th
October 18th**

Pet Blessing Service

Join us on Friday, October 23rd at 6:30pm at the home of Bruce and Nicole Ericksen. (Let the church know if you need their address) Bring your pet or a picture of your pet, so they can be blessed. A social time to follow.



**Bible Text Studies are held each week on
Thursdays at 9:30 AM.
Everyone is welcome to attend.**

Youth Group

Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, October 4th at 7:00pm for pizza and devotions. We will also meet on Saturday, October 31 at 6:00pm to go reverse trick or treating and bring Halloween happiness to some of our members. All high school students (and their friends) are encouraged to attend.

Confirmation Faith Statements

Confirmation Students (current ninth graders) will be confirmed on Sunday, October 25th during worship. They will be sharing their faith statements with the congregation this month and they are included below in the newsletter.

Miguel Balvantin

What is your favorite Bible verse and why did you choose this verse?

My favorite verse is Colossians 3:17. *"And whatever you do, whether in word, or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

I picked this verse because it reminds me that I have many gifts that have come from God, and I need to be sure to appreciate them at all times. It is also a reminder that he has given each of us the ability to achieve great things, and we need to share that knowledge with others so they can give thanks too.

Who is Jesus Christ for you?

Jesus Christ to me is someone who gave his life for our sins. He lived a life for us to follow, creating pathways for us. He was full of strength and power in difficult situations. He was also a guy who could do anything to make things right.

The motto of the Lutheran church is "God's work, our hands" How do you intend to do God's work in your life now and in the future?

I will continue to do God's work by continuing to attend church. I will also continue to pray and keep an open conversation with Him. I also look forward to taking part in youth group activities to help spread God's work to our community. As I get older, I will look for opportunities to make my faith stronger.

Describe a time in your life when your faith in God provided strength, comfort, or hope.

A time in my life when God provided strength, comfort, and hope was when my great grandma passed away last year. She had been bravely fighting cancer for a long time, but she was always smiling and always positive. I loved sitting with her and my great grandpa as they shared stories of their past, and we all made new memories. It was hard not having the chance to say goodbye to her before she passed, but with the help of my family and knowing how strong her faith was, I was comforted that she was finally free of the pain she had been experiencing in the end.

Andrew Brinkman

What is your favorite Bible verse and why did you choose this verse?

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

It means that Jesus is a friend and he gave his life for us.

Who is Jesus Christ for you?

He is my Lord and Savior. He is a good friend in times of need. He helps us and guides us. He was sent here to help. We should pay our respects in prayer.

The motto of the Lutheran church is "God's work, our hands" How do you intend to do God's work in your life now and in the future?

God created us and it is our duty to keep our faith going on now and in the future. He gave us his only Son for our sins. We show his work by volunteering and

helping people out. I help out by going to Wednesday services and joining in prayer. When I get older, I want to be on the church council.

Describe a time in your life when your faith in God provided strength, comfort, or hope.

God provided strength, comfort, and hope when my grandpa passed away. He helped me through prayer and our family coming together. The amount of people that came to help us in the church family and good friends was amazing. We had a good time celebrating his life and telling jokes about things he did when he was young.

Abigail Fernau

What is your favorite Bible verse and why did you choose this verse?

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."
Deuteronomy 31:6

I chose this verse because it makes me feel empowered and uplifted. This also is the verse my brother, Zach, got confirmed with and I look up to him.

Who is Jesus Christ for you?

Jesus Christ for me is someone I can rely on. I know that Jesus can comfort me in any hard situation and reminds me that I can get out of the situation. Jesus also gives me the strength to overcome anything I think I can't do. He helps me push myself to be the best version of myself I can be.

The motto of the Lutheran church is "God's work, our hands" How do you intend to do God's work in your life now and in the future?

I intend on doing God's work in my life by always doing what is right. I will also use God's work by not always doing what benefits me but what benefits the world and the people around me. In the future I will always focus on the needs of my family and keeping them healthy.

Describe a time in your life when your faith in God provided strength, comfort, or hope.

A time in my life when my faith provided strength, comfort, and hope was when my great grandpa passed away. It provided me strength knowing I will move past this hard time. It provided me comfort knowing what a wonderful life he wanted us to have and the life that he had. It provided me hope knowing he's in a better place.

Evan Hamilton

What is your favorite Bible verse and why did you choose this verse?

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

I chose it because it tells us God will plan our future so that we don't have to worry about it.

Who is Jesus Christ for you?

He is my Lord and savior. He died for me and will always be with me. He gives me strength when I'm weak and comfort when I'm sad. He will always help me no matter what I have done.

The motto of the Lutheran church is "God's work, our hands." How do you intend to do God's work in your life now and in the future?

Help younger people know and learn more about him in church. And teach people

about all the good things he does and everything we have and everything in this world. I will help in the church and continue to help with the church.

Describe a time in your life when your faith in God provided strength, comfort, or hope.

When I moved to Ponca. I was nervous because I was the new kid but God helped me get over the fear and I made friends and felt like I belonged. The first time the teacher asked us to introduce ourselves I was nervous. But God provided me with comfort and strength and I wasn't nervous for the rest of the day.

Grace Hansen

What is your favorite Bible verse and why did you choose this verse?

Psalm 35:9 Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord and delight in his salvation.

I chose this because it shows that God has made my world great.

Who is Jesus Christ for you?

Jesus Christ is a very important person in my life. He leads me to the right choices.

He sets an example of what is right and wrong. He also is my Lord and Savior.

The motto of the Lutheran church is "God's work, our hands" How do you intend to do God's work in your life now and in the future?

Right now, God works in my life by giving me ways to live. He also helps me to choose the right paths. In the future he will continue to guide me to the right way of life. He will be with me all through life.

Describe a time in your life when your faith in God provided strength, comfort, or hope.

When my Grandma Hansen passed away God provided me and my family with strength to get us through a very rough time.

Alix Hughes

What is your favorite Bible verse and why did you choose this verse?

"Faith can move mountains" Matthew 17:20.

I chose this verse because I believe that faith and hope can do a lot.

Who is Jesus Christ for you?

Jesus Christ to me was a Savior who did the most selfless actions to help others. Jesus to me was a man who believed in God so much that he taught others to believe too. He taught me about God. He helped me believe in God.

The motto of the Lutheran church is "God's work, our hands" How do you intend to do God's work in your life now and in the future?

I intend to do God's work by forgiving everyone I can. In the future I hope I have helped many people be the best they can be. I hope I have taught others about God.

Describe a time in your life when your faith in God provided strength, comfort, or hope.

Both my aunt and uncle were diagnosed with cancer. Me and my whole family prayed and hope that they would beat it. We had faith in them and in God. Not too long ago they were cleared.

Dalton Lamprecht

What is your favorite Bible verse and why did you choose this verse?

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

I chose this verse because it really makes me feel like God is protecting me at all times and is making sure that I will have a safe future with him guiding me through it. Makes me feel comfortable.

Who is Jesus Christ for you?

Jesus Christ to me is a brave and passionate man of God. When God sent him to this earth to die for our sins, he was brave and tried to spread God's word as much as he could. He is also one of the most important people in the church if not the most important. Everything revolves around him in our church services.

The motto of the Lutheran church is "God's work, our hands" How do you intend to do God's work in your life now and in the future?

I intend to do God's work every day or at least try to. I plan to help people when I need to and when I have to. God's work is spreading God's faith and personality. I will try to spread the Lutheran faith to people who want to go to a good church.

Describe a time in your life when your faith in God provided strength, comfort, or hope.

God provided me strength, comfort, and hope when my grandpa was in the hospital and when he eventually passed. I could tell that God was with us and our family during that tough time. He gave our family hope and when he passed he gave us pure love. We may not of seen it but we felt it.

Isabella Mellick

What is your favorite Bible verse and why did you choose this verse?

The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:14

I chose this verse because to me it means that even in our roughest of times God is with us and will comfort us.

Who is Jesus Christ for you?

Jesus Christ is someone everyone respects, but I do more than just respect him. I think that he's the one source that I say is beside me and I can talk to him. I think he's more than someone we praise. He is not just mine but everyone's Lord.

The motto of the Lutheran church is "God's work, our hands" How do you intend to do God's work in your life now and in the future?

I intend to do God's work by going out to places that had a natural disaster. As I get older, I will go out of my way to help others in need of help. For now, I will stick with helping my friends and family but also other people. I hope that while I do this, people will see what I do and do the same to help others.

Describe a time in your life when your faith in God provided strength, comfort, or hope.

One time my faith in God provided me the strength to comfort my friend after losing her dog. This was hard for her because she grew up with her dog. In another time, I had to have confidence that my brother would okay after getting hurt. I also comforted my grandma that he would be ok.

Cody Rohan

What is your favorite Bible verse and why did you choose this verse?

"Observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go." (1st Kings 2:3)

I chose it because I would give whatever God requires and I will always stay obedient to him.

Who is Jesus Christ for you?

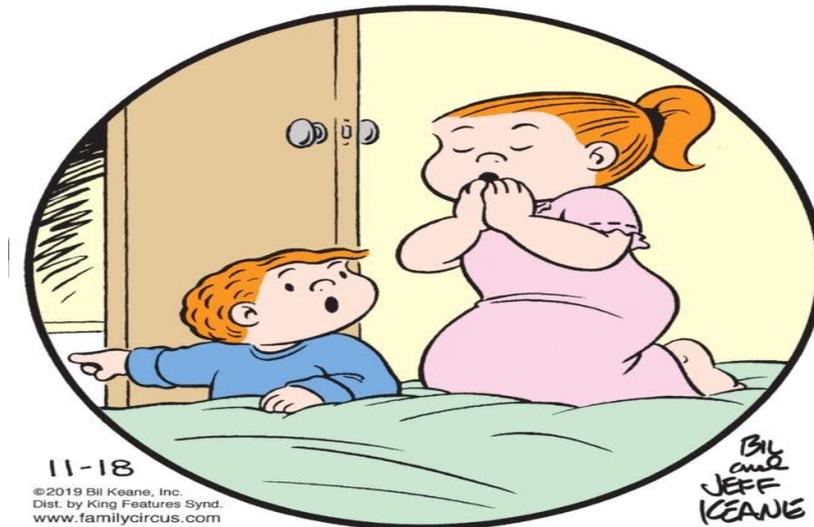
Jesus Christ to me is our savior. I think this because he freed us from sin. Jesus to me is the person who helps us through things. I think this because he's helped me and everyone else in the world.

The motto of the ELCA is "God's Work, Our Hands." How do you intend to do God's work in your life now and in the future?

I intend to do God's work in my life by helping people whenever they need it. Like I will help older people move around easier. I will also give my money to people who need it most. I will also tell people about God and all he's done for us.

Describe a time in your life when your faith in God provided strength, comfort and/or hope.

One day me and most of my family went to go visit my great grandma, because she was getting very sick. The same night she died and that made me sad. But God helped me and I wasn't as sad because I realized she lived to be 101, and she is now in heaven with God and Jesus.



"No, Dolly, our father art downstairs watching football."

Staying socially distant from church worship services and other activities? You can still be part of them by connecting over Zoom using the below links. For Bible Studies, meetings, and other activities, just let Pastor Kim know ahead of time, and we will Zoom you in. No need to let us know ahead of time to join for worship via Zoom. We are continuing to work to improve sound and video for our Zoom sessions, so things may look or sound a little different from week to week.

Zoom Information:

For worship:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/642910874?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/642910874?pwd=UE9nL05MaGpUUW9HQW5jbmFXT0YwQT09)

[pwd=UE9nL05MaGpUUW9HQW5jbmFXT0YwQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/642910874?pwd=UE9nL05MaGpUUW9HQW5jbmFXT0YwQT09)

Meeting ID: 642 910 874

Passcode: 227756

COUNCIL MINUTES—Submitted by Jan Schempp

Salem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

September 13, 2020

Salem council met following worship service on September 13th, 2020. Those in attendance included Bruce Ericksen, Andrea Stewart, Brian Burrell, Cheri Albrecht, Jan Schempp, Bonnie Ferry, Pat Stingley, Doug Bauman and Pastor Kimberly Belken. Also present was treasurer Joli Gehring.

Brian called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. Pastor Kim led devotions with "Dwelling in the Word" followed by prayer. Bruce made the motion, seconded by Cheri to approve the minutes of the August meeting. MC. Joli gave the treasurer's report. Jan made the motion to approve the report, seconded by Andrea. MC. Correspondence included a thank you card from Nathan Bauman for the graduation blanket and key chain he received from Salem,

Old Business:

Discussion followed re: COVID related worship changes. Bruce made the motion to have the pews moved back into the sanctuary (leaving a few in the fellowship hall for those who wish to social distance), return to having bulletin hand outs and resume singing during worship service. Motion was seconded by Cheri. MC. These changes will occur within the course of the next couple of weeks.

SWOT strategic planning sheets given to council members need to be returned to Pastor as soon as possible.

New Business:

Bank account changes were also discussed.

New secretary and Pastor Kim will be added as check signers and Amy will be removed as a check signer on youth and Sunday School accounts.

Discussion followed re: Thanksgiving dinner and the E-team Silent Auction. Bruce made the motion that we have our Salem Thanksgiving dinner on November 22nd (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) and that the E-Team use the gift cards we have to purchase items for the baskets for the Silent Auction. Andrea seconded the motion. MC.

Council also decided not to have the Confirmation Tea this year due to scheduling issues. We hope to resume having the Confirmation Tea this next year.

Pastor's report:

Text study on Thursday mornings will begin studying the book of Revelation together beginning in October.

Mary, Martha and Moscato study of the book of Romans will resume on September 27th. There may be another book study to address racial issues specifically in the ELCA.

Study of "By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism" will begin on Monday evenings in January and February.

Pastor Kim, Michelle Rinas and Julie Sydow will be interviewing candidates for the secretary position this next week.

October 11th will be new member Sunday.

Pastor has received her acceptance letter for the doctoral program that she applied to. She will begin as a part-time student in January.

To date Pastor Kim has used 0/4 vacation Sundays and she would like to convert 3 of those vacation Sundays to regular vacation days. Motion made by Cheri, seconded by Pat to convert those vacation Sundays to regular vacation days. MC.

Ministry Team Reports:

Evangelism team met via Zoom this past Tuesday, September 9th. Discussed that we still want to do the Silent Auction but that the shopping for the basket items will be done online as much as possible. Would like to have the baskets on display/ out for bids for 3 weeks instead of just 2 weeks. Discussed giving gift certificates (or vouchers) for the food item baskets.

E-Team will do the water/Gatorade drive for firefighters during October, but rather than preparing a meal for them for their November meeting, the E-Team will order pizzas. Several members agreed to make desserts to go with the pizza.

Property: Doug reported that the sprinkler system has been installed and the seeding and fertilizing will be done within the next 1-2 weeks. Doug will check into having the trees and bushes trimmed as well.

Youth Group: Leaders will meet Wednesday to plan some activities.

W/ELCA: received the Thrivent Action card for purchasing the LWR backpack bags for the school kit project. Donations for the school supplies are welcomed/needed.

Next Meeting: Council will meet following worship service on Sunday, October 11th.

Motion for adjournment was made by Bruce, seconded by Cheri. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Schempp, Council Secretary

Oct 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				8am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bible Text 7:30pm - E-Team		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9am - Sunday 10:30am - Worship 7pm - Youth Group	Pastor Off 8am - Office Hours	8am - Office Hours 10am - Cluster	8am - Office Hours 6pm - Confirmation	8am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bible Text		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9am - Sunday 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Council 7pm - Mary, Martha	Pastor Off 8am - Office Hours	8am - Office Hours 10am - Cluster	8am - Office Hours 4:45pm - Worship 6pm - Confirmation	8am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bible Text		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9am - Sunday 10:30am - Worship	Pastor Off 8am - Office Hours	8am - Office Hours 10am - Cluster	8am - Office Hours 6pm - Confirmation	8am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bible Text		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9am - Sunday 10:30am - Worship 7pm - Mary, Martha	Pastor Off 8am - Office Hours	8am - Office Hours 10am - Cluster	8am - Office Hours 6pm - Confirmation	8am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bible Text		6pm - Youth Group

Council Person of the Month: Kaden Fields

Communion Assistants: Kaden Fields and Cheri Albrecht

Communion Set up: Lindsay Burrell, Mishelle Fields & Sandra Rahn

Communion Date: October 4th and 18th

Ushers/Greeters: Barry Krusemark, Bob Anderson, Karen Rush & Duane & Patti Boyle

Reader: Please email salemponca@gmail.com if your unable to read

4th —Lisa Balvantin

11th—Jane Armstrong

18th—Amy Evans

25th—Cindy Anderson

Acolyte:

4th—Nolan Schweers & Zain Stark

11th—Addison Stewart & Emma Uthof

18th—Jace Wahls & Jaeden Hughes

25th—Mia Krusemark & Brailyn Hogan

Power Point:

4th—Caden Mercial

11th—BrieAnn Mellick

18th—Zain Stark

25th—Trevin Scoggan

Happy Anniversary



Happy Birthday to these Salem Friends!

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 3 Amy Crosgrave | 14 Dick Schweers | 24 Tate Taylor | 8 Dan & Jamie Schweers |
| 4 Barry Krusemark | 15 MacKenzie Boyle | 25 Sam Curry | 12 Keith & Michelle Karlberg |
| 6 Kathy Thompson | 16 Broderick Hogan | 29 Darrel Heald | 27 Darrell & Cheryl Roland |
| 7 Andrea Wahls | 19 Sherrill Halsey | 29 Sheryl Persinger | |
| 8 Les Albrecht | 20 Denise Peterson | 29 Judy Peterson | |
| 8 Julie Sydow | 23 Pastor Kim | 30 Jamie Schweers | |
| 10 Patti Boyle | 24 Gracie Voss | 31 Kayla Stark | |

Leadership at Salem

Pastor Kimberly Belken

Church Office 402.755.2728

Cell Phone: 402-312-4822

Council Members

Brian Burrell—Pres	402-755-2160	Pat Stingley	402-632-4462
Bruce Ericksen—Vice	402-770-3932	Andrea Stewart	402-372-7208
Jan Schempp—Sec	402-755-2777	Keith Karlberg	402-518-0860
Kaden Fields	402-632-4030	Julie Sydow	402-432-9925
Wyatt Mellick	402-638-1818	Bonnie Ferry	402-755-2332
Doug Bauman	402-755-2895	Cheri Albrecht	402-632-4645

Office: Katie Uthof 712-454-9757

Treasurer : Joli Gehring 712-898-4475

Organist: Diane Smith 402-755-4285

Pianist:

Mutual Ministry: Bob Anderson 402-632-4567

Sunday School—Michelle Rinas 402-755-2697
Saumbra Hall 402-355-2270

Altar Guild

Custodian

W/ELCA

Finance Sec.

Memorials

Cemetery

Connie Brinkmann 402-755-2628

Nancy Wimmer 402-404-0096

Jan Schempp 402-755-2777

Katie Uthof 712-454-9757

Saumbra Hall 402-355-2270

Brad Hrouda 402-615-4644

WEBSITE: salemlutheranponca.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Office: salemponca@gmail.com

Pastor: pastorsalemponca@gmail.com