

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2020



Palm/Passion Sunday 9:30am on Facebook

Maundy Thursday 7pm on Facebook

Good Friday 7pm on Facebook

Easter Sunday

7am at the Cemetery (please dress warmly and bring your flashlight, umbrella, chair, as needed)

9:30am on Facebook

11am Communion outside at Salem

Sunday Services

can be found on Facebook at [Salem Lutheran Church](#) if you would like to participate with others at 9:30am. Or anytime after that, you can find it there, or on our YouTube channel: [Salem ELC Stillwater OK](#).



Friday Morning Bible Study at 10am via ZOOM. Newcomers welcome, anytime. Pre-reading not required!

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Class at 10:30am.

Contact Pr. Sally (pastorsally@sbcglobal.net) for information on dialing in or for website info for these Zoom meetings.

SALEM WILL RESUME IN-PERSON WORSHIP THE FIRST SUNDAY IN MAY!

There are many details to be worked out, but here's what we can tell you now:

- We will have one Sunday morning service at 9:30am.
- *We will also still have the same on-line services we have been offering – on Facebook and YouTube – until the 'someday' when we have live-streaming capability.*
- We will have Holy Communion!
However, Nursery, Coffee Hour, and Sunday school will be added as they are appropriate to include.
- The Sunday morning Adult Discussion Class will still meet via Zoom, but at the new time of 11am.
- Safety protocols will conform to CDC recommended guidelines.

More details to come!



From the Pastor

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

...and after a winter like we have just experienced, the news of resurrection and the evidence of new life is especially welcome!

I spoke with a young man recently who had just moved here from Colorado-- in the middle of our winter. He said that he misses mountains -- which is no surprise -- but was dismayed to find such short and ragged trees. "Yes..." I replied, "no mountains. But the ragged trees are not so typical. Between an ice storm and the deep freeze we are all a bit anxious to see what comes back and how it will look. We are hoping...for improvement."

And it has begun! As I write this the bright green of new leaves on the early budding trees and the soft ground cover of speedwell in the woods are softening our stick jungles. Wild plum and pear trees are blooming, and redbuds are ready to burst.

We are lucky to live in the Northern Hemisphere where the Passover (and therefore Easter) celebrations happen in spring-- for more than our woods and our yards are suffering from dead bushes and broken limbs. Our hearts are ragged as well --weary from the pandemic, full of losses in a lost year, hoping for softening, blooming, and improvement.

During the month of April we will be planning for resumption of in-person worship (while also continuing to offer online options). How helpful that we are doing this in the season of Easter! What a perfect time to plan for something new, even if we begin with raggedy sticks. It reminds me of a verse of the Easter hymn, Now the Green Blade Rises by John Crum:

*When our hearts are weary, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again.
Field of our hearts that dead and bare have been--
Love has come again like wheat arising green.*

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

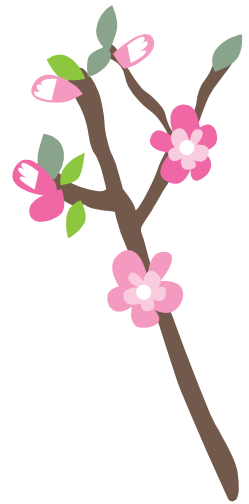
Pastor Sally



Directions to the Cemetery for Easter Sunday:

Starting at 6th (Hwy 51) and Western, take Hwy 51 west until you see the 2nd cemetery sign, ~ 10.7 miles.
(If you get to route 86 going to Perry, you've gone too far.)
Vasser road goes north (right) and there is a house close by.
Just after the house (.25 miles) a dirt road goes off to the right.
Take this road back east .8 miles (crossing a cattle guard) until you get to the cemetery which is on the left.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



As I write this and you are reading it I assume you know that we have a plan to return to church in person. The Covid-19 Task Force has met on a regular basis for nearly a year, looking at data, CDC recommendations, scientists' facts, and other timely reports. There were many discussions on when it would be safe to return to church in person. They were all missing worshipping together, singing, enjoying coffee and fellowship, but felt it was not safe as the pandemic only got worse. As the vaccine started becoming available the task force started guardedly thinking about getting back together. Finally the date of May 2nd was selected, Council met and discussed it and the talk turned to what it will be like.

The news makes me happy and guarded. I think **none of us has liked** wearing a mask, distancing, not going to church in person or seeing each other. We did this because we care so much and knew others were doing the same. An act of love and caring. So as we still act with caution I feel we are all parts of the research and by our actions will add to the information. There are still many unanswered questions like will we need a booster, will the vaccine keep us from the variants, so we move forward with faith.

In May when we gather to worship all conversations need to be outside and I heard one member say we can bring our coffee in a thermos.

Thanks for staying strong and keeping church together. I can hardly wait to see you, when you're comfortable coming back!

Hugs, *Judy Lewis*

The new Salem website address is
salemstillwaterok.org

The old web address will redirect you to our new site temporarily. We hope the site will be inviting and informative for people seeking a church as well as providing information for our members. Of course, we will still rely on emails and the Seer for internal communications. Check it out.

Thanks to Carol Beier for doing the leg work to get his up and running!

Our current **Walmart credit cards** will change to a new company in late April. Because of that, the current cards will no longer work after April 20. If you have need of a card, please see Lisa for a replacement beginning May 1st.

April



Celebrations

Birthdays

- 17 Jeff Jones
Claire Tipling
- 18 Brooklyn Mueller
- 19 Marvin Shiever
- 25 Randi Eldevik
Krystal Hennessey
- 27 Izzie Reitan
- 29 Ty Reitan
- 30 Pam Talley

Anniversaries

- 24 Shelley & Keith Schmidt



We would like to congratulate all of our graduates from high school through PhD.

If you, your son or daughter are a member of Salem and graduating this spring (or last December), please.....

Send us a note (salemelc@sbcglobal.net) with information on the degree and any future plans. Pictures, and anything else you'd like to share are appreciated!

Praying

By Mary Oliver

*It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch*

*a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway*

*Into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.*



If you are interested in getting a copy of Easter Reflections (for the season of Easter), Christ in Our Home (April-June), or a packet of children's projects (need ages of children), please call or email the office and they will be mailed the next day Lisa is in the office.

Our Daily Bread is seeking volunteers for guest intake training:

We are looking for 8-10 volunteers who would be willing to help with checking in guests (which we call "intake") on a computer tablet. We are asking that intake volunteers commit to serving 2-4 hours per month during our distribution sessions (Tues. 2pm-6pm, Thurs. 9am-1pm, 3rd Saturday 9am-12pm). Please know that this role does involve prolonged standing, walking, and being outside interacting with guests in a drive-through setting. If you are interested, please email Katie at volunteer@ourdailybreadstillwater.org.

(Lisa in the office has been doing this for the last 3 months. If you are good with a tablet and like people, this job is for you!)

Gardening

If you garden at home, consider partnering with Our Daily Bread by planting an extra row in your garden and donating the produce harvested from that row to ODB. Join us as we seek to tackle food insecurity.

Newsletter

To receive the monthly newsletter from Our Daily Bread Food & Resource Center, you can email the staff at info@ourdailybreadstillwater.org

Greetings,
Women of the Arkansas Oklahoma Synod,

The WELCA Board invites you to our Synod-wide virtual Spring Gathering on April 17, 8:45 – 11:45am.

We'll be diving into spiritual growth and discipleship through our Bible study, Love-Steadily Growing, led by Susan Humphrey.

Register through the cut and paste link below to receive the zoom information. All are welcome!



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWOhyoG11EzHpHzAPXhygBNnvo9S968rZBHjnUIENaXH_UQ/viewform

Wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you've heard over and over, play "I Wonder" with children and adults alike. Similar to "I Spy," it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren't detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase "I wonder."

For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?
- The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Playing "I Wonder" can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you're eager to gain new insights on the "old, old story ... of Jesus and his love."

—Janna Firestone

Puzzle!

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).

K1 G S2 P H3 F R4 I C5 E Y6 L
 W N M D O U Z A Q T B J

“ H

3 6 4 2

4 2 6 3 4 2

6 3 5 2 4 2

4 1 2 4 2

1 3 4 1 5 3 6 5 4 2

6 3 4 6 1 6 3

1 4 6 4 6 5 5

6 3 6 4 6 3 6

1 4 6 6 2 6 6 4 2

Answer: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.”

A DOSE of HUMOR

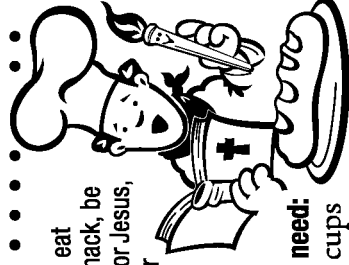
Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

Knock knock. *Who's there?* Hatch. *Hatch who?* God bless you!

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? *Eggs-ercise!*

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? *It might crack up!*

BREAD Painting



When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean artist brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter (optional)

What you do:

1. Decide how many colors you want to use, and set aside one cup for each color.
2. Pour about 1/4 cup of milk into each cup.
3. Add drops of food coloring until you get a bright color.
4. Using a brush, paint a picture or write words (such as a Bible verse) on the slice of bread. Make sure not to get the bread too soaked.
5. When you're finished painting, toast your bread. You can top it with a bit of butter. Enjoy!



“Non-praying, Praying, or Fervently Praying?”

MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor ~ Sally Houck
 Director of Music ~ Krystal Hennessey
 Choir Director ~ Elizabeth Albright
 Office Coordinator ~ Lisa Murray-Francis
 Parish Nurse ~ Cindy Pennie
 Peer Ministers ~ Sydney Ulrich,
 Jared Smith, Luke Ratke
 Media Specialists ~ Olen Weaver &
 Jeremy Hennessey

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9-11am
Telephone numbers: 405-372-3074, 372-0879
 (Please leave a message)
Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net
Church Website: saalemstillwaterok.org



**ADULT
Sunday School**

During April, the Adult Discussion class will continue its discussions on the Beginnings of Judaism based on lectures by Professor Isaiah M. Gafni from a Great Courses course with the same name. The class will not meet on April 4th to allow observance of Easter.

The topics will include:

- April 4th – Easter Sunday – No Class
- April 11th – Lecture 7 – “Translating the Bible – The Septuagint”
- April 18th – Lecture 8 – “Adding to the Bible – The Apocrypha”
- April 25th – Lecture 9 – “Tobit – A New Path to Righteousness”

The Adult Discussion Class will continue as a Zoom meeting at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings through the end of April. The address for the Zoom meetings can be found in Pastor’s Tuesday memos and the Sunday Service E-Mail.

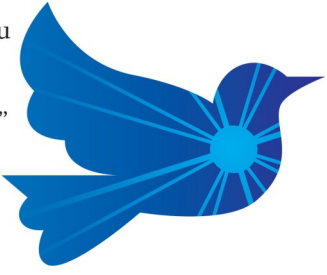
Join us for thoughtful discussions on the “Beginnings of Judaism” to improve our understanding of the roots of our faith.

Bible Quiz

What word can be placed in all four blanks to complete this Bible passage?

“But just as he who called you is _____, so be _____ in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be _____, because I am _____.’”

- A. righteous
- B. holy
- C. loving
- D. merciful




Answer: B (See 1 Peter 1:15-16, NIV.)

Bible Quiz

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

- A. a time to teach, and a time to learn
- B. a time to mourn, and a time to dance
- C. a time to fast, and a time to eat
- D. a time to work, and a time to rest



Answer: B (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.)