

# The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2021

Our on-line service continues at 9:30am on Facebook at [Salem Lutheran Church](#) or anytime on YouTube [Salem ELC Stillwater OK](#)

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion is at 11am on Zoom

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

Contact Pr. Sally ([pastorsally@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorsally@sbcglobal.net)) for more info on Zoom meetings.



**SUNDAY SERVICE**  
9:30am

**Face Masks required if Unvaccinated.**  
**Vaccinated -optional**  
**Nursery open to parents**



**Card**  
**MINISTRY**

Did you know that Salem has a card ministry?

Margaret & Larry Redburn are our faithful card-senders.

If you have unused greeting cards (birthday, sympathy, get well, etc) to contribute to this ministry, collection baskets have been placed on the coffee table in the Lounge and on the info table in the North Narthex.



During July, the Adult Discussion class will continue on with the "Beginnings of Judaism" based on lectures by Professor Isaiah M. Gafni from Great Courses.

The topics include:

July 4 - "Out of the Caves – Discovery at Qumran"  
July 11- "The End of Days – The Messianic Eschatology"  
July 18 - "Other Lands, Other Jews – The Diaspora"  
July 25 - "Judaism in the Hellenistic World"

The Adult Discussion Class is a Zoom meeting at 11am following the 9:30 service. The address for the Zoom meetings is in the e-mail or contact Pr. Sally for more info.

Join us for thoughtful discussions to improve our understanding of the roots of our faith. No pre-study required. Newcomers always welcome!

## From the Pastor:

Summer has officially begun, and yet that means that the days are getting shorter. It always seems a bit off to me – the hottest days are yet to come, but the sun is less in the sky. We are now closer to the Christmas to come than to the one before.

The same strangeness happens in December. Winter begins on December 21<sup>st</sup> and every day after, the days are getting longer. The coldest weather is yet to come, but the sun is more and more in the sky.

It seems to me that life, and our life of faith, can feel like that too. We may be feeling confident in our trust, maybe even reciting this poem by Robert Browning:

The year's at the spring	And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;	The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;	The snail's on the thorn:
God's in his heaven—	All's right with the world!

But we know the reality that sorrow and pain also run underneath, that night and winter approach, and that when the rose is gone, the thorn remains.

In the waxing and waning of life, as Christians we can take comfort that the witness of scripture begins and ends in light: “Let there be light!” God declares in Genesis Chapter 1. And at the end of the Book of Revelation, the angel declares that in the new heaven and the new earth, “there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”

Let the days lengthen or shorten. The Light is always with us.

*Pastor Sally*

## Important and New

We are looking to form two small teams to dream about two ministries this fall— one a restart and one totally new:

A re-launch of our Sunday Evening service which began just shortly before the pandemic hit. This is for all ages but focused on young adults. It includes acoustic music, scripture, a message and candlelit prayer. This team will help to define the tasks needing to be done, the themes of the messages. Some may choose to share leadership of worship, but this is not required.

Grow in God's Garden – an outreach ministry to families with young(ish) children. We will plan a Sunday morning faith-formation for families to happen in an ‘outdoor classroom’ beginning in the fall. The frequency is to be determined, but it will likely not occur every Sunday. The group will meet in an ‘outdoor classroom; at the Stillwater Botanical Gardens, learning Bible stories by acting them out, exploring the wonders of God's creation, singing songs, making friends in the faith. We hope to serve families who want faith formation but do not currently have a faith community. “Being a part of these “dream teams’ is a start-up commitment; we hope that participants from the ministries will be excited to step up and help them thrive as they continue.

Contact Pastor Sally ([pastorsally@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorsally@sbcglobal.net)) for more information or to indicate your interest.



## FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT



As often said in Oklahoma, if you don't like the weather wait a minute. Well it was more than a minute, but Sunday, June 20 we were in the high 90's, today the 70's and tomorrow predicted to be back in the 80's and soon the 90's will be back.

Sunday we took one more step forward. The Covid-19 Task force met on Friday and decided for people fully vaccinated masks could be optional. Masks are recommended for those unvaccinated, those with an immune-compromised condition or those just more comfortable wearing one. Continued Thanks to the Task Force for wrestling with these issues. Resuming coffee hour will probably be the next consideration. Much thought goes into each new step forward as all members and visitors are considered. Thanks to all of you able to attend our Semi-Annual meeting on June 13. Many thanks to Steve Haseley for 3 years of faithful service to council. Council members, Carl Beier, Pastor Sally, Kevin Gerfen, Mary Jo Lanier, Paula Long, Jared Smith, Diane Tipling, Scott Wolff and I welcome new members Moses Vijayakumar and Elaine Ackerson.

It's with excitement that we move forward with opportunities for Salem. With help from Olen Weaver, we have acquired some equipment and will be developing a plan for live-streaming our Sunday service. Live-streaming will enable members and visitors to attend church from their home or while away. We know with our recorded services people have joined in from different states and countries. What a great way to share God's love for all of us.

Other opportunities include restarting the Sunday Evening Service, and a Sunday morning Outdoor Classroom for Salem and community families. Also, we have another young man planning a project for his Eagle Scout project. If you are interested in working on a committee and mentoring a young man, please let Pastor Sally or myself know. A great opportunity to make a difference.

The dedication of the Butterfly Garden and Designated Monarch Waystation was June 27. The Covid shutdown prevented all of us participating in the preparation and planting, but this is Salem's garden and I hope you take time to enjoy its beauty and rest on one of the benches available. All gifts to help with the maintenance will be appreciated.

Stay well and stay cool as temperatures go back up. Hugs.

 *Judy Lewis*

Fall is around the corner, and by mid-July, stores will begin to advertise sales on school items. Salem will, of course, be collecting items for backpacks for kids (both internationally thru Lutheran World Relief, and for Stillwater's own international kids). If you see a good sale, consider buying early! Items needed Include:

70-page college ruled spiral notebooks  
rulers with both inches and centimeters  
crayons (16 or 24 size)  
pencil sharpeners  
blunt kids' scissors  
unsharpened #2 pencils  
non-gel ballpoint pens  
2.5 inch erasers  
backpacks  
trapper keepers



S  
C K  
H I  
O T  
O S  
L

A collection point and display will be set up in the hallway by the nursery in mid-July. The backpacks and "trapper keepers" will be needed for the Stillwater kids, . If you're not a shopper and want to help out, cash is always appreciated – just mark your check to Salem as "school kits" .

# July



*Birthdays & Anniversaries*

## **Anniversaries**

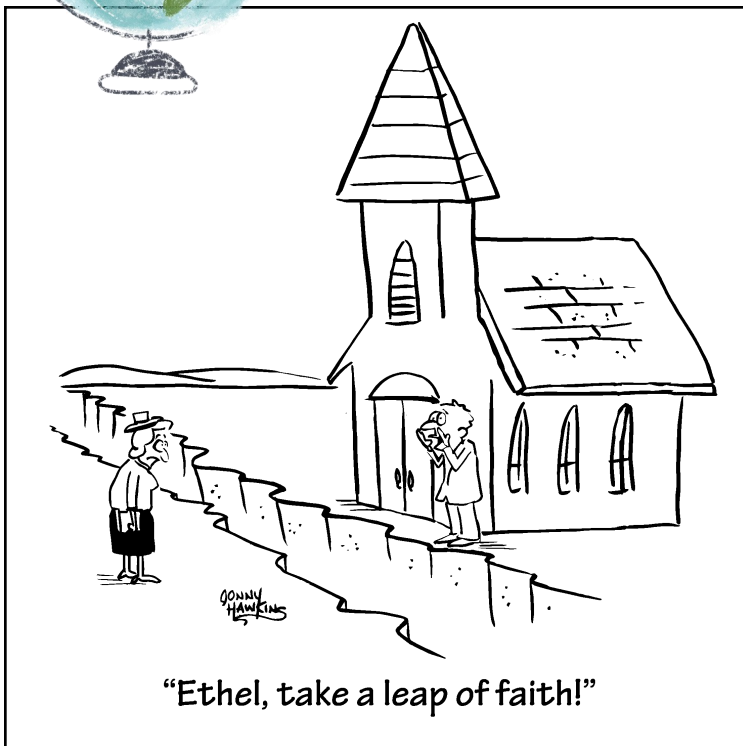
- 2 Catherine & Moses Vijayakumar
- 3 Jess & Susan Prater
- 8 David & Judy Lewis
- 16 Kevin & Priscilla Gerfen
- 18 Jan & Scott Anderson
- 22 Denzil & Lisa Carney

## **Birthdays**

- 2 Ray Hammergren  
Eric Reitan  
Gwen Tipling
- 3 Wolfgang Mauritz  
Stacie Hearp
- 10 Lucy Kershaw
- 12 Michael Oltmanns
- 13 Chelsey Johnson
- 21 Matthew Schmidt
- 22 Keith Wolfe
- 27 Lois Belden



Thanks to all who contributed to our May Fifth Sunday offering, for COVID relief in India (thru Lutheran World Relief). We collected \$1587, and because LWR has matching money available right now, your impact is doubled. Well done, good and faithful servants.



"Ethel, take a leap of faith!"

## **Salem's Christmas Sale is coming back!!!**

It will be on December 4, so if you're a Christmas-in-July crafter, now's the time to consider making items for the sale.

We will also be ordering fair trade items to sell, so stay tuned for more news in September.



# Volunteer Schedule

2021	For July 4 ELW, Setting 3	For July 11 ELW, Setting 3	For July 18 ELW, Setting 3	For July 25 ELW, Setting 3
Assisting Minister On-line In-person	Marvin Shiever Susan Prater	Rick Cowell Rick Cowell	Kevin Gerfen Kevin Gerfen	Mark Pennie Mark Pennie
Cantor	Elizabeth Albright	Elizabeth Albright	Elizabeth Albright	Elizabeth Albright
Ushers 9:30	Catherine & Moses Vijayakumar	Rick & Carol Beier	David & Judy Lewis	Cindy & Stephen Haseley
Greeter 10:45	The Lewises	The Gerfens	The Cowells	
Altar Guild 9:30	Priscilla Gerfen	Elaine Ackerson & Dorothy Johnson	Mary Jo Lanier	Maria Wolff
Sound Tech 9:30	Rick Beier	Terry Gipson	Moses Vijayakumar	Rick Beier
Counters	Carol Beier & Michelle Hoerning	Lori Oltmanns & Keith Schmidt	Carol Beier & Priscilla Gerfen	Cindy Pennie & Michelle Hoerning

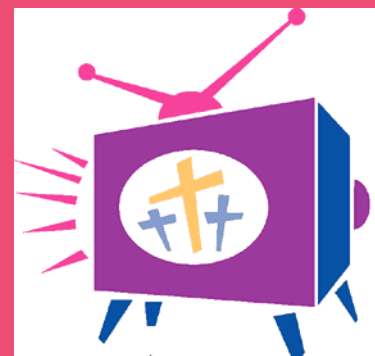
Children in Church,  
Shared by David Lewis

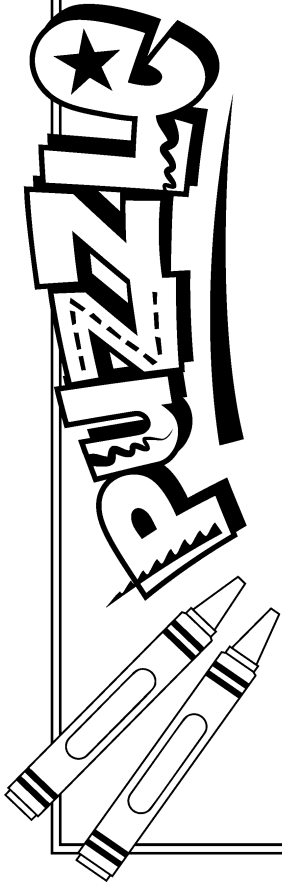
Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, So she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The Flight to Egypt ," was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"  
"Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!"

As part of our celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, Salem purchased a DVD study set of "History of the Christianity in the Reformation" by Brad S. Gregory." Since that time, **we've lost or misplaced the DVDs and course guidebook.**

**If you know where the set is, please put a note or the course materials in the Adult Education mail box or return to the office.**





# "INDEPENDENCE" DAY!

Always live "in dependence" on God.

Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.

A =	E =	I =	O =	U =
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

k \_ \_ p my \_ y \_

\_ l w \_ y s \_ n th \_ L \_ RD.

W \_ th h \_ m \_ t my

r \_ ght h \_ nd,

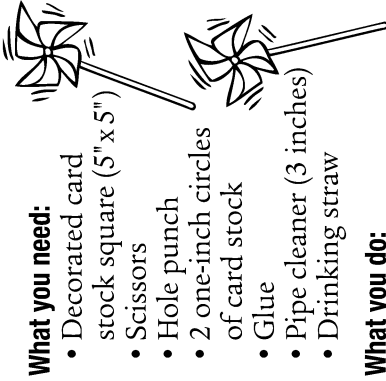
w \_ ll n \_ t b \_ sh \_ k \_ n.

Ps \_ lm 16:8, N \_ V

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV

# PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4<sup>th</sup> craft.



### What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw

### What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!

Jesus urged his disciples, "Come away ... and rest a while" (Mark 6:31).

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible." ~Corrie ten Boom



"That the birds of worry and care fly over your head, this you cannot change, but that they build nests in your hair, this you can prevent."  
~Chinese proverb

The paradox of faith is that when we conform our lives to Christ, then we gain our true freedom. And its fruit is profound and lasting happiness.  
~Vincent Nichols

"A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone."  
~Martin Luther

In *Keep a Quiet Heart*, Christian missionary Elisabeth Elliot ponders the faith implications of fretting about days to come. "Today is mine; tomorrow is none of my business," she writes. "If I peer anxiously into the fog of the future, I will strain my spiritual eyes so that I will not see clearly what is required of me now."  
And what's the alternative? Instead of dwelling on times to come, which we can't change anyway, Elliot recommends: "Leave it all in the hands that were wounded for you."



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church (ELCA)  
101 S. Duck St.  
Stillwater OK 74074

**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 ~ Jared Smith, Luke Ratke  
Media Specialists ~ Olen Weaver &  
Jeremy Hennessey

**CHURCH OFFICE**

**Hours:** Monday 8-Noon, Tuesday-Thursday  
8-1pm, Friday 8-11am  
**Telephone numbers:** 405-372-3074, 372-0879  
(Please leave a message)  
**Email Address:** salemelc@sbcglobal.net  
**Church Website:** [saalemstillwaterok.org](http://saalemstillwaterok.org)



*Kind hearts are the gardens.  
Kind thoughts are the roots.  
Kind words are the flowers.  
Kind deeds are the fruits.  
Take care of your garden  
and keep out the weeds.  
Fill it with sunshine,  
kind words and kind deeds.  
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



**BOOK CLUB**

JULY - The Book of Longings, Sue Monk Kidd  
AUGUST – The Daughters of Erietown,  
Connie Schultz

Since we are now meeting in members' homes,  
we ask that participants be  
fully vaccinated.  
For more information, please  
contact Priscilla at [priscilla@gerfen.com](mailto:priscilla@gerfen.com)