

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2022



Our Sunday services are at Salem at 9:30am.

To watch on Facebook go to

[Salem Lutheran Church](#)

or

anytime on YouTube

[Salem ELC Stillwater](#)

[OK](#)

Sunday Morning's Adult Discussion- 11am Zoom class

Friday Morning Bible Study at 10am via ZOOM.

Newcomers welcome. Pre-reading not required!

Contact Pr. Sally (pastorsally@sbcglobal.net) to be included in the weekly service notice or Zoom links.



Kelsey Haseley will be graduating from OSU with her Masters Degree in School Counseling on May 6th! She plans to obtain employment as a school counselor.

Congratulations Kelsey!

From our Campus Ministry group, Catherine Bose is graduating OSU with a BS in Math. She plans to help on the family farm while she considers her opportunities.

Best Wishes Catherine!

Katarina Lavery is graduating from Stillwater High School this spring. She is planning to go to Emory University.

Congratulations Katarina!

If there is a graduate in your family who attends Salem, please send us a note (salemelc@sbcglobal.net) with information on the degree pictures, any future plans. and anything else you'd like to share.



Beginning the week of May 2nd, the office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-noon.

Feel free to leave a message at 372-3074 or SalemELC@sbcglobal.net during other hours.



From the Pastor

Many of you are aware that in our gospel readings for 2022 we are in the year of 'Luke'. It's a three year cycle –Matthew, Mark, Luke, Matthew, Mark, Luke – so where does John get some air time? Well, for example...the month of May, this year! We have a 'month of Sundays plus one' (there are five), all in the gospel of John. So get ready for a deep dive into John's world of the resurrection.

Ironically, however, only the first of the five Sundays is a post-resurrection passage. What's going on?

You might recall that John's gospel begins like a poem – *In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God*. This sense of mystery continues throughout the gospel, suggesting that God works not only in our day-to-day lives but on a deeper plane as well, reaching backwards and forwards in time. 'Eternal life' in the gospel of John is not just something in the future, but something that also begins now, through Christ. The Kingdom of God is 'already' and 'not yet' here.

I know, it can mess with your head, but it's a good kind of a mess. On days when 'daily life' is overwhelming or even despairing, it's good to know that a powerful, loving, subterranean river of life runs under us –it was, and is, and is to come—and that it will carry us into forever.

So get ready for some mystery that reveals and revels in resurrection truths that can strengthen us for daily life. As Jesus says in the gospel reading for the last Sunday of Easter (also the last Sunday in May): *"I made your name known to them, Father, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."* Alleluia!

Pastor Sally



Easter morning with a full church (almost 100) has me still smiling and giving thanks. Pictures show several gathered at the cemetery for an early service as it got brighter even though the sun forgot to shine. At 9:30 am it was exciting to see so many families together and several visitors. There were even children to hunt for the eggs that were hiding. Many thanks to our SLY kids and their families for setting up and organizing a delicious Easter Breakfast. Much work goes into Holy Week and Easter so a BIG shout of thanks to the Altar Guild for preparing the Altar and Nave for each service, to Krystal, Elizabeth, Michelle, Kevin for absolutely beautiful music, to Pastor Sally for coordinating all the activities and sharing God's word as we journey through Christ's last days and rejoicing at the resurrection. Lecturers, greeters, ushers, and counters are appreciated as they accept those responsibilities.



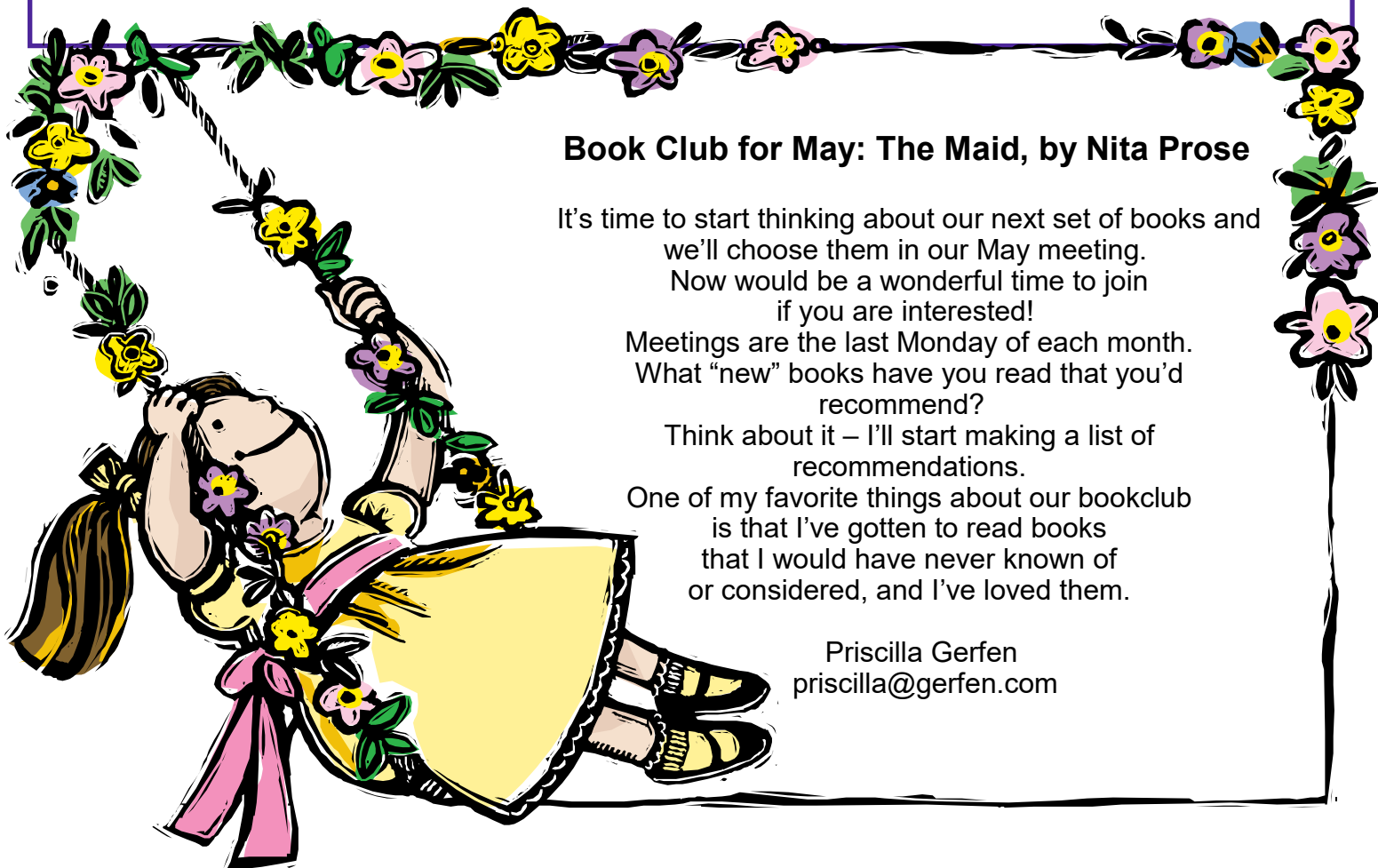
From Your President

Pastor Sally, Pam Talley and Kevin Gerfen are the voting members to Synod Assembly April 29-May 1. Keep them in your prayers as they represent Salem, hear Synod news and are refreshed by God's word and speakers sharing thoughts to inspire.

May will be another busy month as OSU, the Stillwater Public Schools and Meridian Technology celebrate graduation and everyone starts making plans for summer. Altar in the Garden will be offered in June.

Thanks to all of you that have faithfully honored your pledges that allow the bills to be paid. At our December Semi-Annual meeting Scott Wolff suggested if each pledge could add \$25 per month we would be making our budget. Appreciate everyone who has remembered this suggestion.

Stay safe, be well and hope to see you soon! Hugs, *Judy Lewis*



Book Club for May: *The Maid*, by Nita Prose

It's time to start thinking about our next set of books and we'll choose them in our May meeting.

Now would be a wonderful time to join if you are interested!

Meetings are the last Monday of each month. What "new" books have you read that you'd recommend?

Think about it – I'll start making a list of recommendations.

One of my favorite things about our bookclub is that I've gotten to read books that I would have never known of or considered, and I've loved them.

Priscilla Gerfen
priscilla@gerfen.com

PUZZLE

Spring has sprung!

God created all the seasons, and each brings unique visuals that remind us of him.

Directions: Unscramble each phrase to complete Song of Solomon 2:12, NIV. Use the pictures as hints.

earth on appear the Flowers

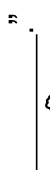
“ _____ ;

_____ singing come the of has season
the _____

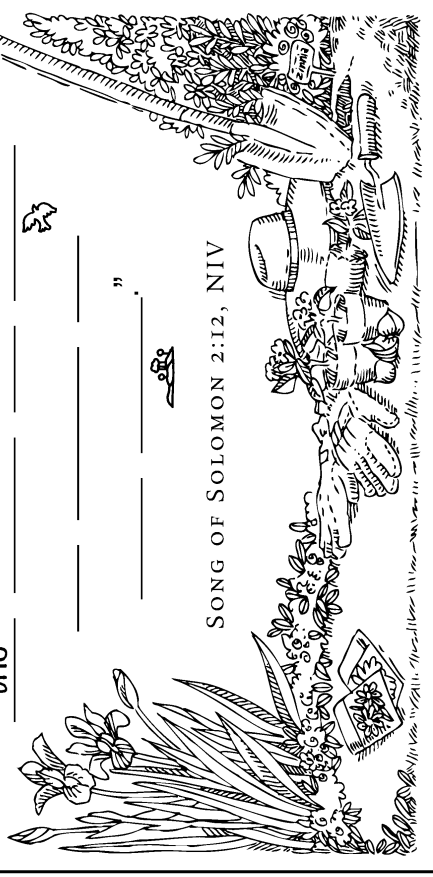
_____ ,

heard the land our in is of cooing doves

the _____



SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NIV



Answers: “Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”



Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at the Salem Cemetery Campus Ministry Luau, Final Spring dinner at Salem



MAY



Anniversaries!

- 16 Lori & Kevin Oltmanns
- 23 Tricia & David Auberle
- 24 Chris & Kay Headrick
- 28 Mike & Lucy Kershaw

Birthdays!

- | | | |
|----|------------------|---|
| 5 | Jeanette Johnson | If your birthday
or anniversary
is missing, or
incorrect,
PLEASE let Lisa
in the Church
office know-
372-3074. |
| 8 | Katie Kershaw | |
| 9 | Emily Headrick | |
| 12 | Barbara Bliss | |
| 15 | Mike Kershaw | |
| | Evan Reitan | |
| 23 | Dorothy Johnson | |
| 29 | Susan Prater | |
| 30 | Larry Redburn | |



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



Good news -- Payne County is still rated 'green' for low risk of Covid transmission. However, it is still among us! Parish Nurse Cindy Pennie shares the latest guidelines for keeping everyone healthy and safe.

COVID-19 is still present in our community. Here are some reminders for all of us.

If you were exposed to Covid 19 and are NOT up to date on your vaccinations:

- Quarantine for at least 5 days (stay home, wear a well-fitting mask if around others)
- Get tested at least 5 days after exposure
- Take precautions until day 10 (wear a well-fitting mask when around others)

If you were exposed to Covid 19 and ARE UP TO DATE on vaccinations:

- No quarantine
- Get tested at least 5 days after exposure
- Take precautions until day 10 (wear a well-fitting mask when around others)

If you were exposed to Covid 19 and had confirmed Covid 19 within the past 90 days:

- No quarantine
- Take precautions until day 10 (wear a well-fitting mask when around others)

Even if you have had Covid in the past, vaccinations offer the best protection against serious illness, hospitalization or death. See CDC.gov for more information. Feel free to call or text if you have specific questions. Cindy Pennie, 269-9019



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
Media Specialists ~ Olie Weaver, Olen
Weaver & Jeremy Hennessey

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday -Thursday 8-1pm,
Friday 8-11am
Telephone number: 405-372-3074
(please leave a message)
Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net
Church Website: salemstillwaterok.org

ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS

During May the Adult Discussions Class will continue "Biblical Wisdom Literature" based on lectures from The Great Courses by Professor Joseph Koterski. The discussions will start with a continuation of "Qoheleth" from the book of Ecclesiastes.

The topics for May's discussions will be:

- *May 1st – "Qoheleth – Skepticism about Easy Answers"
- *May 8th– "Qoheleth – Keeping Faith during Confusion"
- *May 15th– "Interlude – Wisdom Palms for Uncertainty"
- *May 22nd– "Sirach – A Traditional Approach to Wisdom"
- *May 29 – "Sirach on the Cultivation of Wisdom"

The Class is a Zoom meeting at 11:00 AM on Sunday mornings following in-person worship at 9:30 AM. The address for the Zoom meetings can be found in the Sunday Service E-Mail or contact Pastor to be put on the E-Mail list for the Class.

Join us for thoughtful discussions on the Biblical foundations of our faith.



Thank you to our Youth (and parents) for the wonderful Easter Brunch, decorations and community service project!

There is a Panera Run for our youth, Sunday, May 15 at 10:30 am. Please meet in the kitchen and everyone will walk over to Panera together.