

The SEER

Salem Lutheran Church

September 2022



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4 Setting 1

11 Now the Feast

No Sunday School
God's Work, Our Hands
at Our Daily Bread

18 Now the Feast

25 Service of the Word

Sunday Morning Adult
Discussion

Sept. 4, 18 & 25
11:15am on Zoom

Contact Pr. Sally
(pastorsally@sbcglobal.net)

for more info on Zoom
meetings.

Friday Morning Bible
Study
at 10am via Zoom.
Newcomers welcome.



Service Ministry News & Updates!

Over the past 4 years, Salem has provided support for immigrant children in Stillwater Public Schools' English-as-a-second-language (ESL) program: backpacks/school supplies as well as winter hats/mittens/scarves. This year, we will collect items to help these children improve their reading skills, in a project we're calling The Reading Buddy Collection.

Reading aloud can be a daunting (and sometimes terrifying) task for children, and research shows that it is much easier for a child to read to an animal. Salem's own Dave Lewis and his poodle Parker have participated in such programs.. The next best thing to a real dog is a stuffed animal – a reading buddy. So, Salem will provide small stuffed animals and books to these kids. Here's what we will collect:

*Small, new stuffed animals –

no bigger than 12 inches, that can be cuddled by a child

*New books for the children to keep and share with their families

1) Books needed are "board" books (like Little Golden Books),

2) Picture books,

3) A few "chapter" books – the kind written for 12-and-under (including age-appropriate "graphic" novels/comic books).

The ESL teachers host a family event for the children and families in November. At that time, children will "adopt" a stuffed animal and one or more books. Sure would be fun to be a fly-on-the-wall at this event!

Our collection table will be in the hallway outside the nursery in coming weeks, and there will be some examples of books and buddies. So, keep an eye out for books and toys to purchase. The toy and the book don't have to "match" – i.e. a book about a puppy and a stuffed dog. The books don't even have to have animal characters.

If you have questions, please ask Annette Cowell, Salem's liaison with the ESL faculty, or Priscilla Gerfen, Service Ministry Chairman.

In my childhood church we children often sang a hymn that I loved:

*Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,
Things I would ask him to tell me if he were here.
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.*

Jesus knew the power of a story – witness the number that were recalled and handed on to the gospel writers! We don't know the Aramaic word he used for them, but apparently the best Greek word for it is 'parabola', or in English, 'parable.'

The Greeks loved smashing two words together to form one. 'Parabola' is made from 'para' – meaning 'alongside', like in 'parallel', and 'bola' – meaning 'to throw'.

So a parable is not just a story with a moral to it, it is a story to throw alongside life, one that reveals a dynamic of the Kingdom of God. An easy example would be 'throwing' the parable of the Good Samaritan alongside your life when you see someone in need. It propels you toward mercy. Or, perhaps it brings you up short when you are making an assumption about the character of an enemy.

In the month of September our gospel readings are stories of Jesus telling stories:

Sept 3 Building a tower, waging a war,

Sept 11 Losing a sheep, losing a coin,

Sept 18 A shrewd manager putting one over on his boss

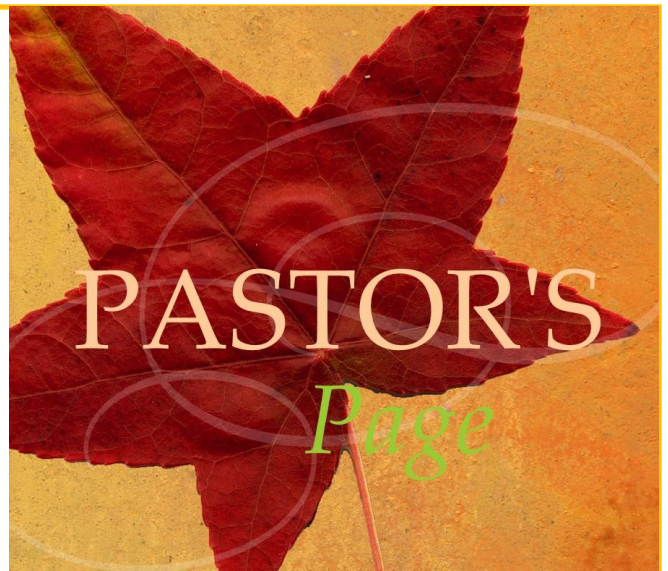
Sept 25 A wealthy man learning the hard way not to ignore a neighbor in need.

Join us for worship and let these stories roll alongside life.

How will these stories nudge us, move us, call us into account, comfort us and reveal the kingdom?

*Scenes by the wayside, tales of...a sheep!
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.*

Pastor Sally



New members are always welcome at Book Club. The meeting is the last Monday of each month on our Zoom link. September's book is The Chicken Sisters. Contact Priscilla Gerfen at 405-624-6235 for more information. (October's book is The French Braid. The library has a copy if you want to put yourself on the wait list for it.)

Both of the church's parking lots will be blocked off at 5 pm the Friday before a Saturday OSU home football game. SLY can use your help if you are available to park on Saturday.

Attention CRAFTERS/SEWERS: The Bake Sale & Craft Market is coming up the first Saturday

From Your President

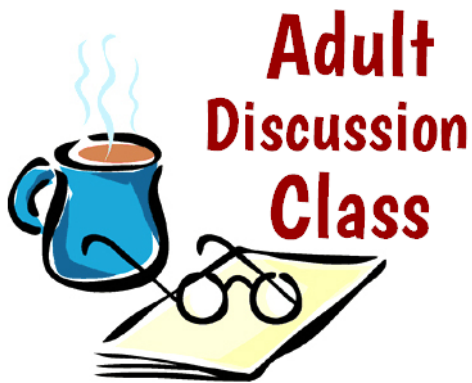
Seems August went by fast, but I guess I think that every month. Today (Monday) we enjoyed some needed rain with some lightning and thunder and the temperature dropped for a while. The Stillwater kids are back in school as are the OSU students and the traffic has increased. I actually always find it exciting, and know to allow for everything to take a little longer. The food pantry was empty so Nate and Teri refilled it Sunday. What a blessing that we can help out someone hungry.

As we know Covid interrupted many activities that have been on the back burner. This month the Cemetery Board met again and want to Thank Staci Hearp for her many years as Chair and her faithful service! Kevin Oltmanns was elected Chair and Pam Talley as Secretary with Anita Friedemann and Jesse Prater active members. Annette Cowell, Scott Wolff and I also attended the meeting and the board is off to a good start.

The Service Ministry gathered school supplies for children around the world and it was exciting to see the supplies meet the goals for this project. Salem members, you are so kind and so generous. Thank you! I am also so aware of the opportunities we have to support our ministries. The Bake and Quilt sale and Alternative Market in December, Fifth Sundays, Our Daily Bread, especially on the 3rd Sunday of the month, the Butterfly Garden, the Food Pantry, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, the Atrium, the AR-OK Synod, Souper Day of Caring that our youth organize on Super Bowl Sunday continue because of your support. Also you stay faithful to your pledged commitment to Salem that allows us to pay our bills and staff. We have so much to be grateful for!

September 11th is God's Work, Our Hands Sunday and the peanut butter is filling the baskets and will be a welcome gift when we volunteer at Our Daily Bread that day. After the Worship Service we will have refreshments and then gather at Our Daily Bread (701 E 12th Street) to help with any jobs they have waiting for us. You are welcome to join us between 11 and 11:15am, even if you are not in person at worship.

Take care, stay well. Hugs, Judy



Adult Discussion Class

During September the class will continue with "Biblical Wisdom Literature" based on lectures by Professor Joseph Koterski. The discussions will focus on the Wisdom of Solomon from the Old Testament.

The topics for September's discussions will include:

- September 4th – "The Wisdom of Solomon on Divine Justice"
- September 11th – "God's Work, Our Hands" – No Class
- September 18th – "The Wisdom of Solomon on Death"
- September 25th – "The Wisdom of Solomon on Prayer."

The Class will continue as a Zoom meeting at 11:15 on Sunday mornings following in-person worship at 9:30 AM. This change in time allows people to participate following choir practice and give others more time to get home following coffee after the Service. If you wish to participate, contact Pastor and she will put you on E-Mail list for the Class.

Help Wanted!

Our cleaning person has taken a new full time position in his field of study, so we are looking for someone or a company to clean each week.

If you or a member of your family is looking for part-time work or know of a cleaning company, please let Annette or Rick Cowell, Judy Lewis or Lisa (office) know.

A list of work is available. Must be physically able to set up and breakdown tables and chairs in the Parish Hall.

Would need to work 5-7 hours anytime Monday &/or Tuesday and then the final 5-7 hours Friday &/or Saturday.



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
Peer Minister- Aspen Lenning

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8am - 1 pm
Friday mornings 8 am - 11am
Telephone numbers: 405-372-3074, 372-0879
(telephone answered only during office hours)

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net
Church Website: SalemOSU.org



Our Usher Volunteer List has been depleted since Covid, moves, etc. and we have a great need for new volunteers! It's a wonderful way to serve in ministry, once each month, as you attend on Sunday.

If you are interested, can sub in temporarily, or would like to find out more, please contact Susan Prater at smprater4@gmail.com or 405.780.0190.

A Call for Dreamers and Schemers:

Help us to re-launch outreach ministries this fall

Both of these ministries already have some core team planners, but for Salem to 'own' the outreach vision, we need more. You need not commit to attending, just to visioning and planning. Contact Pastor Sally for more information or to sign on.

Altar in the Garden – An outdoor worship experience (the OSU Botanical Garden) designed to be family friendly, but welcoming participants of all ages. Our hope is to reach out to people who want faith formation but are currently unchurched, but it also can simply be an alternative devotional worship for church members as well. (We are currently looking at a late September into October for a four week session). Do you especially know God's presence in the natural world? This planning group might be a place for you.

Sunday Evening – A half hour devotional service at 5:00 pm. We hope that students or young adults in the community might find this a good time to gather—but again, whomever is drawn to it would be welcome. We have two excellent musicians (acoustic guitar and flute) to accompany songs, we share scripture and a message or invite discussion, and a provide time for candlelit prayer. If you want to see our outreach to students increase, this planning group might be a place for you.