

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2023



SUNDAY SERVICES 8:30 & 10:45 AM

- Feb. 5- 5th Epiphany, Light of Christ with Bishop Mike!
- Feb. 12 6th Epiphany, Service of the Word with Pat Darlington
- Feb. 19- Transfiguration, Light of Christ with Pr Ethan Hulme
- Feb. 26- First Sunday in Lent, Service of the Word

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
will be February 22 at 7pm
presided over by Bishop Mike.



The Mission of Hope gives assistance by providing supportive housing, comprehensive case management, food, transportation, and life skills training, with a goal of helping homeless people to become self-sufficient. In any given year, over 300 people are helped. The Mission

of Hope is a recipient of Payne County United Way funds annually, which pay for insurance, staff salaries, and supplies.

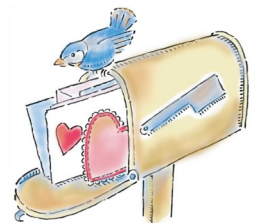
But MoH also depends on donations from the community for supplementing supplies and funding additional costs, such as providing Stillwater's homeless population a warm, safe place to sleep when the weather gets bitterly cold. We know that MoH is preparing to provide just such life-saving help as winter storms are expected late January and February this year, and this is how Salem can help by designating our January 5th Sunday offering to Mission of Hope.

Please feel free to drop your check memo'd MOH in Sunday's offering or mail a check to the office.



Hopefully, you have your 2022 Giving Statement. If you didn't receive it, please contact Michelle Hoerning at salemelc.fs@gmail.com

Directory Update for Carol and Rick Beier
1100 Grand ST, Apt 306
Hoboken, NJ 07030



Pastor's Page

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with you in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3)



On Sunday someone asked me before the service how I was doing. I thought about it for a minute and said, 'Well sometimes I'm in the moment on the task at hand – it feels like *chronos*. or tick-tock time. But then suddenly I'm in *kairos*, or the fullness of time –moments that almost pause time and bring to mind meaning and purpose and wonder. God's time.

- ♦ Walking into the Nave and seeing those amazing flowers that said 'something special is happening today!'
- ♦ Seeing faces of people who had come from our past or from afar, mixed amongst those whom I see every Sunday,
- ♦ "I Love to Tell the Story", a hymn I loved in childhood, long before I knew I would have the privilege to share the gospel as a pastor,
- ♦ Singing certain words from the liturgy—*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord...*
- ♦ Praying the Lord's Prayer together and hearing it echo from meetings, Confirmation, gravesides,
- ♦ Zoom calls, and a giant circle at Semi-annual Meetings
- ♦ Standing one more time in reverence before the small crucifix, which has been my centering piece for sixteen years, and seeing Salem's rich history in it (it is thought to have been brought over from 'the old country' and to have been used in every chancel since the first wooden church on the prairie).
- ♦ Looking at each beautiful face coming down the aisle for Communion, and seeing our whole lives together in Christ flash before my eyes – conversations, baptisms, funerals, confirmations, meetings, marches, prayers, laughter, sorrows shared and pets petted. Blest be the tie that binds!

I know we will miss each other deeply, but I am excited too for what God's future holds. Where will God's Altar in the Garden pop up next? What good questions will Salem's interim pastor (and my friend) Pastor Dawn Enderwood ask? Will the monarchs return to the butterfly garden this year? Will Salem's Reconciling in Christ conversations on welcoming bear fruit worthy Christ? I hope so.

So thank you, each and every one of you, no matter how short or long we have been together. Thank you, amazing staff and lay ministry partners with whom I have worked for the sake of the gospel. Thank you, Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit stirs up *kairos* moments when we least expect them, so keep alert! Which reminds me of the verse from 1st Corinthians that I shared with Church Council this month, and would like to leave with you all.

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.
1 Cor 16:13-14

In the love of Christ and with heartfelt thanks,
Pastor Sally

From Your President

January has been busy. Most of us had to get back to a schedule after the holidays or at least I did. We were still digesting the news that Pastor Sally is retiring February 1st. The Pecan tree was removed before any branches fell and hurt someone or dented a car. We welcomed new members and 2 babies were baptized. And then we had a Celebration and Reception, plus all the regularly scheduled meeting and events. Good job Salem!



One of the first task was to plan something celebrating Pastor Sally's 16 years. After considering a couple of options it was decided to have a Celebration with everyone bringing an appetizer. Thanks to our wonderful planning committee (and I don't dare list everyone for fear I would miss someone, plus many others just jumped in and helped) for the Celebration and Reception.

A perfect event is joining 85 Salem friends and members for an evening of fun. Everyone was marveling at the great tasting appetizers and enjoyed a glass of wine or other beverage at the Celebration Saturday, January 21st. The buzz in the room was music. A highlight was having our most senior member, Violet Macklin, and our three youngest members, Blake Brown, Evelyn and Jesslyn Lovell, all celebrating and we were able to get a picture. Also the first child that Pastor Sally baptized was there, Jacob Ebersole, and another photo op. I am anxious to see the photo of all of us that will be given to Pastor Sally with a frame we all signed. The slideshow brought back many memories. Pastor Sally reviewed highlights of the past 16 years and the choir ended the evening with special music. It was all wonderful and thanks to everyone for making it so fun!

The Reception the next day gave friends of Pastor Sally an opportunity to wish her well at a Cookie Reception. And we were treated to Salem's best! I don't have any idea of how many members and friends came by but it was well attended. Pastor Sally has made a difference in Stillwater and helps others know we are a congregation concerned about Social Justice, our environment, our neighbor students and the hungry.

Pastor Sally, we wish you all the joy and happiness as you start a new chapter in your life. You are loved and always will be. Thank you for loving us for 16 years and 2 months. I know this is hard for you too, so prayers for all of us as we explore the future.

Hugs, Judy and all of Salem



As We Move Forward!

Moving forward is hard and so many questions. Many of you are curious as to what is in our future. First, we will remain a busy and vibrant church. Bishop Mike will be here February 5th and will have a Q & A during coffee hour to answer questions and to explain moving forward. He will also be with us on Ash Wednesday, an important date for Salem. Pastor Ethan Hulme will lead us on February 19th.



I had been in conversation with Bishop Mike and the prospect of an interim pastor seemed impossible. But we moved forward planning Sunday services and have February and March almost planned. Feeling good. Then I remembered a Pastor I had met on zoom through a Synod committee. I figured out she didn't have a church at this time, but really had no idea what she was doing. So I decided to ask her if she was willing to serve as a Supply Pastor and while contacting her by email, decided to boldly ask her if she would consider being a half-time interim with Salem. I've never thought I have been inspired by the Holy Spirit but now I'm wondering. Pastor Dawn Enderwood from Edmond called me the next day and wanted to talk.

At this time a half-time interim contract is being worked out with Pastor Dawn to help us navigate the road till we are ready to offer a call to a new pastor. We need time to come to that point. Ministries will continue with their responsibilities. I think all the zoom programs will continue, Campus Ministry will continue. Some things may change a little, but I have faith we'll be fine.

Pastor Dawn, if all works out, will work 20 hours a week. She will preside at all Sunday services, except 5th Sundays, and will preach 2 Sundays a month. We will provide someone to deliver a message 2 Sundays a month. That is do-able and it will mean we can still have communion every Sunday, which is important to Salem. Pastor Dawn will be here at least one day a week plus Sundays. Her schedule may be flexible the first few months as she gets to know our ministries. She has also told me she will be available by telephone so I will send out her phone number later. Pastor Dawn will start March 1st, so more details later. Keep Salem and Pastor Dawn in your prayers as we move forward.

In the meantime if you have a health question or situation please contact our Parish Nurse, Cindy Pennie, at 405-269-9019 or at salemparishnurse@gmail.com. Or if you have other questions or suggestions you can contact me at 405-747-9116 or judylewis1616@gmail.com.

On Saturday, March 4th Salem will host a Synod Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Workshop from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. All from Salem are invited to attend. This year at Synod Assembly there will be a vote on becoming an RIC synod, so this will be helpful in understanding what that will mean. In addition, Salem has started conversations to explore what it would mean for Salem to also be a truly welcoming congregation. If you have questions or interest in joining in, contact Pat Darlington at patriciadarlington@gmail.com, or myself.

Hugs, Judy

Service Ministry

Salem received a request from Lutheran World Relief to collect items for “Personal Care” kits – and given the weather conditions and poverty around the globe, the need for these is bigger than ever.

Items for a kit include:

- A bath towel
- Two individually wrapped/boxed bath bars
- An adult-sized toothbrush in original wrapping
- One sturdy comb
- One metal nail clippers



There will be a display table in the hallway outside the nursery to see the items needed and so you can pick up a shopping list. If you can't shop, Service would appreciate a donation– just drop a check in the collection plate, made out to Salem with Care Kit in the memo line. Service Ministry members will do the shopping for you. Once you've shopped, drop off your items at the display table. Thanks for your help!

ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS



The Adult Discussion Class will continue following Pastor Sally and John Houck's retirement. Thank you Pastor and John for sharing your wisdom and technical expertise. Terry Gipson has volunteered to be the classes' Zoom Engineer and Discussion Leader. Thank you Terry.

During February we will continue our discussion of “The History of Christian Theology” from The Great Courses by Professor Phillip Cary.

The schedule for February's discussions is:

- ⇒ February 5 – “The Synoptic Gospels”
- ⇒ February 12 – “The Gospel of John”
- ⇒ February 19– “Varieties of Early Christianity”
- ⇒ February 26– “The Emergence of Christian Doctrine”

We meet in a Zoom meeting at 11:15 AM on Sunday mornings following our 9:30am worship.

If you wish to participate contact Lisa and she will put you on the e-mail list.

Join us for thoughtful discussions on the foundations of our faith

OOPS! (THANKFULLY NOT AN OOPS OF OURS)

From a church newsletter:

Special concert:

Join us for an evening of scared music.

7 p.m. on April 8

Why frighten people away from a sacred event?

From a bulletin:

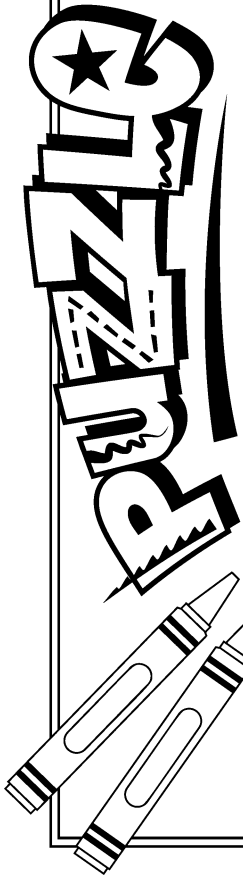
Toddy's Sermon

How to Spend Eternity With Cod

Hymn of the Day

That sounds a bit fishy!

COLORING PAGE



From the heart

We all need people who share godly wisdom with us.

Directions: First, unscramble the bold letters to spell another word for "pal." Write that word in the first empty row. Then move the words under each bold letter to that letter's new column. The result will be Proverbs 27:9, NIV.

D	E	F	I	R	N
F					
to	bring	Perfume	incense	and	joy
Perfume					
of	the	the	and	heart,	pleasantness
the					
advice.	their	a friend	from	springs	heartfelt
A friend					

Answer: FRIEND; Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9, NIV

From Pastor Sally about Communications and Pastoral Care

It is a hard but healthy practice that when a pastor leaves a congregation that communication with members goes silent for at least a year and until a new pastor has been welcomed and established. It gives everyone some space to process changes and loss. Also If you are used to having me 'like' or respond to posts on Facebook, those will 'go silent' as well – although I haven't stopped liking you! Please be assured that I will think of and pray for you often.

If you have pastoral care needs or wish to convey a prayer request, please contact Cindy Pennie at 405 269-9019 or salemparishnurse@gmail.com . She is keeping the prayer list, and also would be happy to pray with you. (Thank God for Parish Nurses, and especially for Cindy!)



Another note from Pastor Sally:

I will not be here in June for the next semi-annual congregational meeting, so I want to take time now to say a heartfelt thank you to Judy Lewis. She has extended and extended her presidency at our request and for the sake of the church she loves so well, and I know we are all deeply grateful (especially me!). Judy will always be my Covid companion, providing strength and a sounding board in uncharted and sometimes turbulent waters. Now she is guiding Salem once again during transitional times.

Thank you, Judy, from the bottom of my heart.

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

