

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2023



SUNDAYS

9:30 Service

Come join in person OR
You can find our services on
Salem Facebook Page, live:
"Salem Lutheran Church"
Salem YouTube channel:
"Salem ELC Stillwater OK"

Adult Discussion Class is at 11:15am.

Contact Lisa in the office
if you aren't receiving the Zoom link.

Offering of Letters will stand in for Adult Discussion on March 26.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

6pm for our Soup Supper and 7pm for our Service

If you would like a copy of the Holden Evening Prayer service to sing/worship along from home, contact the office to have one mailed or emailed.

Our **Lenten Offering** is for ELCA World Hunger -- please write 'Lent' on the memo line of your check.

For a copy of the **Daily Devotions (which include Lent)**, contact the office to have one mailed or you can pick one up from a bowl in the main hallway, under the wreath.

The schedule for March Sundays.

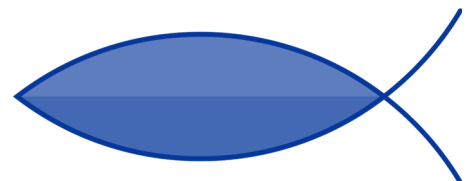
March 5 - Pastor Dawn will preside. Pastor Becca will provide the sermon.

Meet Pastor Dawn during coffee hour.

March 12 - Pastor Dawn will preside.

March 19 - Pastor Dawn will preside.

March 26 - Pastor Dawn will preside and
Steve Haseley will preach.



GREETINGS FROM PR. DAWN

Greetings Members and Friends of Salem!

I look forward to beginning our work together on March 1.

People are often curious about what an intentional interim pastor does. There are three points we will cover:

- +We will rejoice in Salem's long and faithful mission.
- +We will identify challenges ahead of us, seek to understand them, and determine the way forward.
- +After considering the first two points, we will move forward, free to envision the next chapter in Salem's life.

This is an organic process and can be frustrating at times. It is always hard to let go of a beloved pastor and face the uncertainty of the future. My role is to journey with you through this time of grief and uncertainty. We will be faithful in worship, mission, and fellowship. A few things might seem different, yet through the transition we will still be Salem.

As a part-time interim pastor, my hours will be limited. I will be in the office at Salem most Wednesdays between 10-2, on Tuesday afternoons on days the Council meets, and of course on Sundays. I will preach two Sundays each month, and will preside, offering holy communion, every Sunday. Cindy Pennie will continue with her pastoral care ministry to the people of Salem.

My door is open, and I hope you will drop by and say hello. I will be available via text, email, and phone. The office has my contact information.

In Christ,

Pastor Dawn



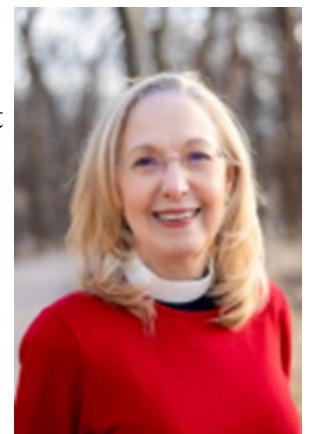
A BRIEF BIO FROM PR. DAWN

In December 2019, I retired from Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Edmond after serving there 18 years. Since then, I have served as interim vicar of St. John's Episcopal Church in OKC (10 months) and interim rector of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Norman (18 months).

I grew up on the prairies of Kansas, where my father was a rancher. I attended the University of Kansas, receiving a BS in Journalism and then received a Master of Arts Communication Theory from Wichita State University. For many years I taught communication classes at Wichita State University and Friends University in Wichita, KS, and while in seminary at I taught at Concordia University in Austin, TX. I attended seminary at the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest in conjunction with the Episcopal Seminary in the Southwest. After moving to Edmond, I completed the Doctor of Ministry from Phillips Theological Seminary, and a specialization in interim ministry from Luther Seminary.

My volunteer activities include the Oaks Indian Mission (recently went off the board), Oaks OK; the Dialogue Institute Advisory Board, OKC; A-OK Leadership Team, LGBTQIA+ spiritual advisor and Daughters of the King spiritual advisor, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, OKC. In June, I will complete my presenter training for Centering Prayer with Contemplative Outreach of Connecticut.

My family consists of three adult children. Quinn is a teacher in Kansas and is open for call with the UCC. Rachel, who lives in Edmond, is the vice president of a regional account management for a medical asset consulting firm. Anne is a licensed professional counselor in Edmond. Daisy, the goldendoodle, rounds out the family.



Council News- From Your President

February has been a month of changes. First, Pastor Sally wasn't here to lead us in worship, pray and guide us. But thanks to her guidance the last 16 years we have been able to be church as we know it. And we continue to pray for Pastor Sally as she adjusts to her life in retirement. As most of us that are retired know, you love not having a work schedule and you miss it. It's hard to be very involved and then no involvement.

Thanks and appreciation to all of you who have worked hard this month and taken on extra duties to keep us moving along as we make the transition. One of the first issues we had to figure out was who was going to be responsible for opening the doors and making sure all the lights were on? And it moved on from there. And a big THANKS to everyone who has worshipped with us on Sunday and shared the fellowship we all love. Salem is going to be okay.



WE ARE HIS HOUSE.

HEBREWS 3:6

On March 1st we will welcome Intentional Interim Reverend Doctor Dawn Enderwood or as we will call her Pastor Dawn. I know she is looking forward to serving Salem for a year, if necessary, and is going to help us move forward. Welcome in advance Pastor Dawn!

On Saturday, March 4th from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Salem is hosting a Synod Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Workshop. The synod will be voting on becoming an RIC Synod at Synod Assembly. Everyone is invited to the workshop to learn more about what this means as a synod and as a congregation. Please let Pat Darlington or me know if you are planning to attend as we will be serving lunch.

As council met this month we were reminded of the items we cut out of the budget this year. Luckily we have funds so we can continue to fund them, but we have to remember they have been cut from our budget. I am going to list, in no order of importance, those things that we have cut and if you are in a position to contribute to something you are passionate about, just write on your check where you would like it to go. Pastor's Discretionary fund (and we will continue to have a discretionary fund), Media staff, Parish Nurse, the Atrium, the Butterfly Garden, funeral meals, the Little Pantry, the coffee fund, the Cemetery. Some of these ministries have never been a budgeted item, but have counted on donations and are very low or out of funds. Salem is a very generous congregation and many thanks to all of you who have pledged and fulfilled your pledge every month.

There is one constitutional item that I feel important for each of us to know. I'm not sure if it applies to anyone, but I would hate for it come to vote and have anyone notified they were not eligible. I have only included the information about voting. This is a long standing article of the constitution. It does include confirmed youth.

***C8.02.** Members shall be classified as follows:

c. **Voting members** are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular or special meeting of the congregation.

Stay safe and be well. Hugs, Judy

(Editor's note: If anyone wants to read the Constitution or Bylaws, copies are available in the office, Monday thru Thursday from 8am-1pm. They can also be e-mailed to you.)

from the **Bishop's**



REPORT

My last year serving as bishop is disappearing in a blink! Wasn't it just Thanksgiving? The Synod Office has been a busy place as we prepare for the transition that lies just ahead and continue to do the work of planning programs and working with the various teams and task forces that make up our Synod Ministry. In addition to the planning going on to prepare for the Synod Assembly and Bishop's election, May 5-7 in Tulsa, here are some of the other things we're doing:

Caring for Disciples and Congregations

We currently have nine of our forty-five congregations in some form of transition. Three are actively in the call process, and three others will soon begin call processes to call new pastors.

Equipping and Encouraging Leaders

Engaging the Local Community and World

As a synod, our Reconciling in Christ (RIC) work and the ongoing work of the Building Bridges team have been priorities for our life together.

Developing and Managing Resources for Ministry

Finally, people often ask me what I'm going to do when I "retire." While I am retiring from the office of bishop, I am not retiring from active ministry. God's not done with me yet! I am currently in conversations with a ministry that will allow me to get back to doing some of the things I was passionate about prior to becoming bishop. I'll know more and be able to say more in the months ahead.

From Bishop Mike's Daily Devotion

Why I Fast

Readings: Numbers 33, 1 Timothy 5, Mark 2, Psalm 4

I always "give something up" for Lent. I've been doing that as long as I can remember. My Lenten fast is not an attempt to break bad habits, or to punish myself in some way. It is a spiritual practice that both helps me think about what Jesus gave up for me, and which teaches me again about gratitude. As Jesus says in 2:17, he came to call, not the righteous, but sinners. People like me. Letting go of something, even for a time, reminds me of that. Letting go also helps me see the many blessings God has given me in life. It has been said that you don't always fully appreciate something until it is gone. For me, breaking the fast on Easter is a joyful moment of gratitude and thanksgiving. That reminds me of my need to cultivate that attitude every day. The Lenten fast is not a part of everyone's piety. It doesn't need to be. Others do other things to mark the forty days. What is important for us as God's people is taking that Lenten time to reflect on the gift of God's grace and mercy and our need for both.



Reconciling in Christ Workshops "Welcome Work"

The RIC team will be hosting workshops throughout the synod to help congregations learn to be more welcoming to the LGBTQIA+ community and find out why this work is important.

To attend this workshop at Salem Lutheran Church on Mar 04, 9:30am – 3:00pm let Pat Darlington or Judy Lewis know as we will be serving lunch OR you can sign-up at: <https://www.aokelca.org/event-details/reconciling-in-christ-welcome-work-workshops-7>



Our new **Coffee hour list** has been posted by the kitchen pass-thru.



Just a reminder that **Sunday, March 12 will be the Spring-forward time change.**

April's SEER articles are needed Wednesday, March 22. Volunteer lists are needed by Monday, March 27. Please e-mail your information to the office at salemelc@sbcglobal.net

If you are receiving the **SEER by mail**, please turn in your \$12 per year mail fee. You can put your check in the collection, marked SEER mail, or mail it to the office.

The **Easter Breakfast sign-up** is posted on the bulletin board. Palm Sunday and Holy Week is just a month away!



A Prayer for Lent

O Lord and Master of my life,
Spare me from the spirit of apathy and meddling,
Of idle chatter and love of power.
Instead, grant to me, Your servant,
The spirit of integrity and humility,
Of patience and love.
Yes, O Lord and God,
Grant me the grace to be aware of my sins
And not to judge others,
For You are blessed,
Now and forever. Amen

ADULT DISCUSSION The Adult Discussion Class is a zoom meeting at 11:15am following Sunday's in-person worship and coffee hour.

Terry Gipson is Zoom Engineer and Discussion Leader. **If you wish to receive the weekly reminder with the Zoom link, contact him at (terry.gipson@gmail.com).** Join us for thoughtful discussions on the foundations of our faith. Thank you Terry!

During March the discussions will continue on the video lectures from "The History of Christian Theology" by Professor Phillip Cary provided by the Great Courses company. The schedule for March's discussions is:

March 5th "Varieties of Early Christianity"
March 12th "The Emergence of Christian Doctrine"
March 19th "Christian Reading"
March 26th Letters for Bread for the World – No Class



BIRTHDAYS

2	Judy Lewis
4	Pat Roark
7	Anna Long
9	Olen Weaver
15	Lela Merkel Jeff Tipling
17	Everett Johnson Denzil Carney
22	Logan Hearp
24	Noah Knapp
27	Kelley Knapp

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Stacie & Brandon Hearp
11	Jason Lavery & Susanne Weinberger
24	Jeanette & Everett Johnson

It's still winter ... but spring is near. It's Lent ... but we're pointed toward Easter. Keep us hopeful, Lord.

"God doesn't just give us grace; he gives us Jesus, the Lord of grace." - Joni Eareckson Tada

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." - John Wooden

"To experience genuine human love, to be part of a community of love is to experience the presence of God." - John J. McNeill

After some time away from the church, author Donald E. Miller returned to the fold.

He writes: "One thing that brought me back ... was asking simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?"

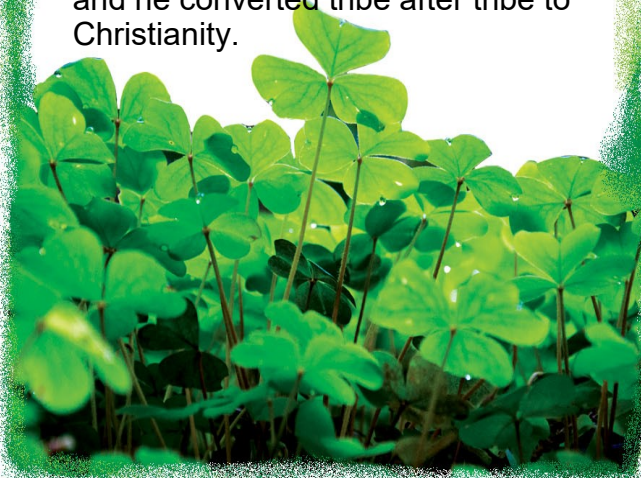
Miller concludes: "There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities."



SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH

- Pr. Dawn Enderwood joins us, 3/1
- World Day of Prayer, 3/3
- RIC Synod Workshop, Salem, 3/4
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, 3/12
- St Patrick's Day, 3/17
- First day of Spring, 3/20
- Offering of Letters, 3/26

Though St. Patrick's Day has become a secular "holiday," March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn't very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. "The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes" in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.





In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus

Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)

In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables. Which of the following is not one of them?

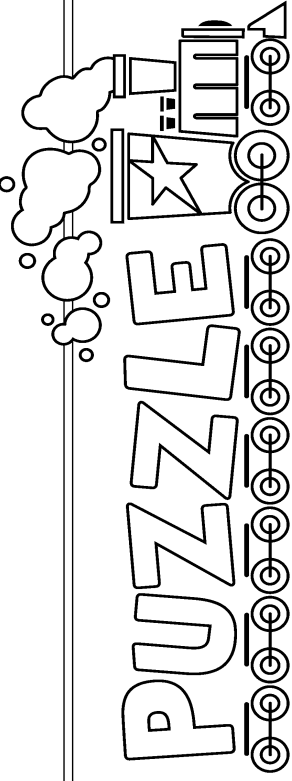
- A. The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- B. The Parable of the Lost Son
- C. The Parable of the Lost Pearl
- D. The Parable of the Lost Coin

Answer: C (See Luke 15:1-32.)

After Jesus healed 10 men at one time, how many returned to thank him? What had been their ailment?

- A. five; blindness
- B. all 10; deafness
- C. one; possession by demons
- D. one; leprosy

Answer: D (See Luke 17:11-19.)



A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.


Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete *Isaiah 61:11, NIV*.

 plants grow here

 to coil and jump
(also a season of the year)

 to expand and get bigger

 seeds are planted in this

 when watered, these make plants

 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____
come up and a _____ causes
_____ to _____, so the

Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise _____ up before all nations.

ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Lighthearted blessings

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.

I wear it when I dust

Some churchgoers chatted about their customized T-shirts from a service project, sharing compliments they'd received while wearing them in public. One chimed in, saying, "I wear mine when I dust." Two nearby staff members raised their eyebrows, likely thinking it wasn't really the outreach strategy they had in mind.

Jesus gave us all a "service project" via the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Tasks include telling people about Jesus, baptizing and teaching his commands. In a way, we all received a Great Commission T-shirt at our baptism. When do you wear yours? And how are your projects going? Whether you're serving in the community or at home remember Who you represent!

—Julie Lee

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring





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

MINISTRY STAFF

Interim Pastor ~ Dawn Enderwood
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: Monday thru Thursday 8am-1pm
Friday- 9 - 11am

Telephone numbers: 405-372-3074,
372-0879 (please leave a message!)

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net

Your letters and emails do make a difference. In 2022 ten Salem households were among the 300,000 contacts generated by Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. Did it matter? You be the judge.

In September the Bipartisan Global Malnutrition Bill passed requiring coordination among the various governmental entities providing aid, putting more money into food supports and less into administration.

On December 15th Congress passed the second Global Food Security Reauthorization Act. The initial Global Food Security Acts successfully raised 23.4 million people world-wide above the poverty line and funded more than 1,000 agricultural innovations.

On December 21st Congress updated and expanded summer nutrition programs for our school children through the Omnibus.

This year we turn our attention to domestic hunger issues which are covered in the Reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS!! Please join us on Sunday, March 26 for the Offering of Letters and watch for more details.

Tricia Auberle, Service Ministry, Focus on Hunger

