

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2023

From
the
Pastor



Am I a *Voting* Member of Salem?

Within the next year Salem members will vote to call a new pastor, and in June members will vote for new Council Members.

Voting membership in churches is not always clear. Sometimes we feel we belong to a congregation even though we have not actively joined the congregation. Sometimes, in the past we were a *voting* member but have not worshiped at Salem for several years. In these cases, feel free to consider yourselves members. Most of your friends at Salem do, and, as we say, "All are welcome."

However, to be considered a *voting* member, according to the ELCA and Salem Constitution, there are clear policies.

***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 meetings of the congregation.

(Persons who have been confirmed in other congregations are counted as confirmed.)

I'm sure all who worship at Salem want to have a voice in the future of the congregation. If confirmation is a question, I will be holding confirmation classes this summer. If you have not contributed or communed in the past year, please make an effort to do so. If you are unable to attend worship in person, our Parish Nurse Cindy Pennie will bring communion and receive your gift.

If you have questions, you may consult congregation president Judy Lewis (judylewis1616@gmail.com) or Pastor Dawn (revdawnok@gmail.com).

In Christ,

Pastor Dawn

Beginning in May, Pastor Dawn will be in the office on Tuesdays.
If you would like to meet with her, feel free to contact her via email at
revdawnok@gmail.com *or text at 405 361- 2265.*

From Your President

April started with a crew working outside on the Butterfly Garden and grounds and a crew cleaning the Nave including polishing the pews. The atrium was included in the cleaning. Thanks to all of you! It is appreciated. Then we moved on to Palm Sunday with our palms to wave, Holy Week and again Saturday with our SLY youth cleaning the youth room, decorating the Easter Cross and filling the easter eggs for the hunt. Plus, another crew setting up the Fellowship for the brunch following the Sunday service. Again thanks to our youth, their families and all that helped.

Easter Sunday began with a membership lead service at the cemetery. At 9:30 we gathered together to enjoy the choir, have the baptism of Lilly, meet the bunny and hear the exciting words that Christ is Risen, Alleluia! and then share a delicious Easter Brunch and good fellowship. Even had an Easter egg hunt with Jesslyn. Salem is so blessed to have members willing to make all this happen and Pastor Dawn to share the good news!

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) ministry will meet on May 12 and 26 from 11:30-1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and join us as we continue to understand what it means to welcome and accept everyone.

May will be busy with graduations, Mother's Day and end of school. Vacations are being planned!

Mark your calendars for the June 11th Semi-Annual Congregational meeting at 10:45 or as soon as everyone has gotten their coffee. 3 people will be leaving council and we will need at least 3 more to join. Consider seriously where your leadership skills are needed. Plan to attend, read ministry reports, meet the new council, and know of the plans for Salem.

As I have pointed out before we have unsung heroes/heroines in our church. I want to give a big shout out to graduate student Aspen Lenning. Aspen is a faithful attendee bringing friends as their schedule allows. Aspen can quite often be found in the kitchen doing or helping with coffee hour, or working where needed and contributing goodies. She helped with the bake sale while learning how to make Lefse with Dorothy Johnson. When Pastor Sally retired Aspen agreed to be in charge of Campus Ministry and she and other members of Campus Ministry were willing to share a message in April. Aspen will receive her Master's degree in May, but lucky for us will stay in Stillwater.

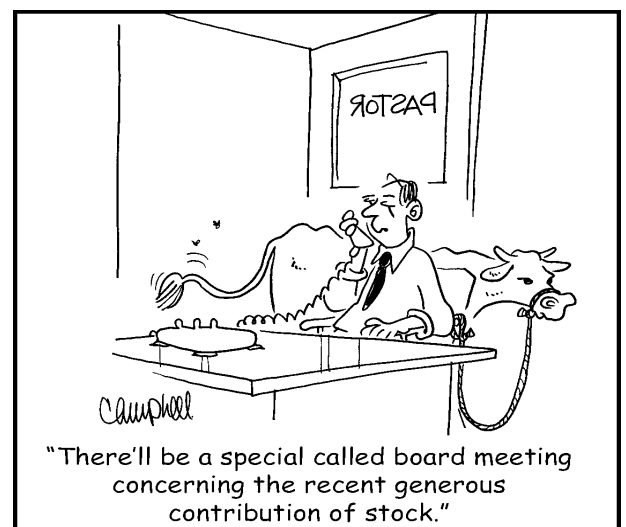
Thanks, Aspen for all the ways you make Salem a better place!

Blessings and hugs to all of you. *Judy*

Just a reminder-

The church does have a policy on donated items. Before you bring anything bigger than a bread box, please contact a Council member or Pastor to discuss your donation. (Items that have been requested by one of the ministries, don't count of course.) If you both feel it's an appropriate donation, please get a copy of the donation form from that member or the office and turn it in to be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

Thank you for your help on this.





Help Wanted

"...Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task..." Acts 6:3

In the past year I've spoken with more than one pastor, deacon or lay leader who has bemoaned the fact that finding volunteers is becoming harder and harder. Congregations have trouble filling everything from council positions to worship leaders. More than one overwhelmed pastor has lamented, "they expect me to do everything..."

The apostles too were feeling overwhelmed by the tasks required to tend a rapidly growing church. They were being distracted from their primary work of proclaiming the Good News. So, they brought the community together to get help sharing the workload. Moses too, you might remember, selected elders to help him manage the people after they left Egypt.

Ministry has never been a solo act. It has always been a group project. It has always been the responsibility of the whole community, not just the leader. When everyone in the community of faith shares the tasks it frees everyone to share the faith, and the congregation's ministry grows.

What Does LGBTQIA Mean? And What Does the Bible Say?

Pastor Dawn will explore some biblical passages some Christians find troubling as Salem moves forward toward becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation.



Throughout Christian history preachers have misused scripture against the vulnerable and unwanted. This practice continues today. We have heard scripture preached against justice and inclusion for so long that many have begun to see those misrepresentations as truth.

For three Sunday mornings in June, we will dig into the history and context of a few of the troubling scripture and how they reveal the love of God in Christ.

The study group will gather at 10:50 after church on June 4, 18, and 25. After worship, greet members and guests, get a cup of coffee, and join Pastor Dawn.

Please send Pastor Dawn an email or text (revdawnok@gmail.com, 405-361-2265) to sign up for the class. Materials will be emailed each Friday before class.

To join in any of our on-line activities contact the office or~

- * Adult Discussion Class- Sundays at 10:45am (In person also)
Contact Terry Gipson
- * Group Chat- Tuesdays, 11am. Contact Cindy Pennie
- * Bible Study- Fridays 10am. Contact Priscilla Gerfen
- * For a video of each Sunday's service contact Lisa in the office.



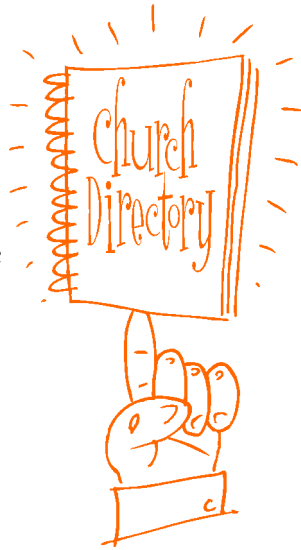
Looking for a Congregational Directory?

Judy let me know that members had been looking for membership directories. You can generally find a few in the library.

That table is full of good stuff that you are welcome to take home.

Traditionally, there's been informational items on the table in the North, Elm Street entry. Please feel free to take a directory from that table. If we are ever out of directories, please let me know and I'll restock.

Thanks! Lisa, Office Coordinator



Annual Meeting and Reports

Salem's Semi- Annual Meeting is going to be June 11 after the 9:30 service.

The **Congregation's Annual Report** is being prepared. Ministry chair articles, giving a roundup of 2022 activities and 2023 goals, should be sent to the office by Monday, May 22.

Thanks for all the help!

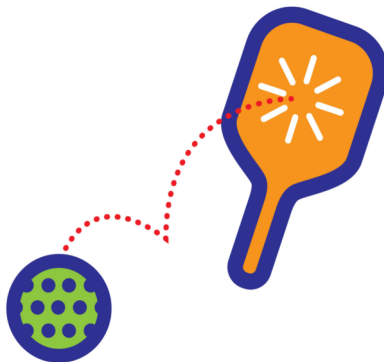


Time change! The Adult Discussion Class has begun to meet as a joint in-person and Zoom meeting at 10:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The class is currently studying *History of Christian Theology* by Phillip Cary . Everyone is welcome to participate!

Adult Discussion

Special Olympics Oklahoma would love to have Salem members help with this year's Summer Games, May 17-19.

Please check <https://www.sook.org/summer-games-volunteer-registration/#1507310176058-45fc8d77-66a1> for volunteer opportunity dates and times.



Or let Anne League, Volunteer Manager, know if you're available to help or have questions - 918-221-5101 or anne@sook.org



Third Sunday Offering, May 19





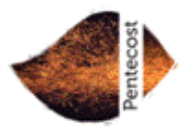

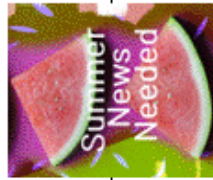
Please leave food/bag/ egg carton offering in the baskets under the coat rack in the south hall.

Contributions that allow **Our Daily Bread** to order from the food bank, should be left in the offering with 3rd Sunday offering memo'd on the check or envelope.

Items for our **Little Red Pantry** can be left on the shelves in the North, Elm Street entry.

MAY 2023

"It is now May . . . It is the month wherein Nature hath her fill of mirth, and the senses are filled with delights. I conclude, it is from the Heavens a grace, and to Earth a gladness."
 ~ Nicholas Breton

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Sundays of Easter, 9:30am Adult Discussion Class- in person and on Zoom 10:45am</i>	2 OSU Dead Week ----->	3 On-line Chat 11am	4 9am Sew-ers	5 Campus Ministry 6pm	6 Zoom Bible Study 10am Synod Assem bly----->	
7 <i>Setting 4, Pr. Dawn Tricia Aubertie gives the Message</i> 10:45 College & High School Graduation Celebration	8  OSU Finals Week ----->	9 On-line Chat 11am Council Meeting 5:30	10 9am Sew-ers	11 Final Spring  Dinner 6pm	12 Zoom Bible Study 10am RIC 11:30am-1pm	13
14 ELW Setting 4 <i>Pr. Dawn gives the Message</i> 	15	16 On-line Chat 11am	17 9am Sew-ers Articles - Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting needed	18	19  On Zoom at 10am	20
21 Setting 4 Message Steve Haseley 3rd Sunday Food Offering	22	23 On-line Chat 11am	24 9am Sew-ers Articles - Newsletter	25	26 Zoom Bible Study 10am RIC 11:30am-1pm	27
28 Setting 4 Pr. Dawn gives the Message 	29 	30 On-line Chat 11am Volunteer List's needed for the Newsletter	31  9am Sew-ers			

may

Birthdays

- 5 Jeanette Johnson
- 8 Katie Kershaw
- 9 Emily Headrick
- 12 Barbara Bliss
- 15 Mike Kershaw & Evan Reitan
- 23 Dorothy Johnson
- 29 Susan Prater
- 30 Larry Redburn
- 31 JuDean Howerton

Anniversaries

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

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or listed incorrectly, please let the Church office know at 372-3074 or Salemelc@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!



BEING*GOOD*SPORTS

When gestures of sportsmanship go viral, they often feature young athletes. In 2022, a Little League baseball player who took a pitch to the head later hugged the distraught opposing pitcher. Evangelist Ken Weliever says pro athletes, politicians, media personalities and everyday Americans should follow that example rather than focusing on revenge.

“Relationships have been ruptured, marriages dissolved and families torn apart due to a harsh response to hurts instead of a spirit of forgiveness and an attitude of reconciliation.”

Christians may sometimes feel tempted to seek payback, but Jesus calls us to live differently. “We need to be reminded that we are to be a transformed people, not conformed to the attitudes and actions of this world (Romans 12:1-2),” says Weliever. “To be light in a world of darkness. And to be the pure, preserving salt in a society that’s become corrupted and impure (Matthew 5:13-16).”

Thank You, Volunteers!

MAY 2023	MAY 5 5TH EASTER ELW, SETTING 4	MAY 12 6TH EASTER ELW, SETTING 4	MAY 19 7TH EASTER ELW, SETTING 4	MAY 26 PENTECOST ELW, SETTING 4
ASSISTING MINISTER/ LECTORS	Priscilla Gerfen	Keith Schmidt	Susan Prater	Lynn Lester
USHERS	Pat Darlington	Dorothy Johnson	Marvin Shiever	Jess and Susan Prater
GREETER				
ALTAR GUILD	Maria Wolff	Elaine Ackerson and Mary Jo Lanier	Shelley Schmidt	Priscilla Gerfen and Dorothy Johnson
COFFEE HOUR	OSU & SH Graduation Reception Teri Sahs & Stacie	Mother's Day Aspen Lenning	The Bartels	
ALTAR FLOWERS	The Sahs			Pentecost Tricia Auberle
COUNTERS	Priscilla Gerfen & Michelle Ratzlaff	Priscilla Gerfen & Michelle Ratzlaff	Cindy Haseley & Keith Schmidt	Michelle Ratzlaff & Terry Gipson (count Monday)
CAMPUS MINISTRY	Thursday, May 4 Pizza at Pam Talley's	Thursday, May 11 Potluck?	Out for Summer	*****



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

Church Website: salemstillwaterok.org

SLY

Our *grateful* thanks to SLY for cleaning the Youth Space! They worked for two weekends in sorting and sweeping, and most importantly, they sorted through a dozen pieces of unwanted and unneeded used furniture.

With the debris, they filled Salem's recycle bins twice and the trash bins three times. The furniture was donated to Adult and Teen Challenge. The items that could not be donated—a full truck load—were taken to the trash location on Perkins Road.

Again, kudos to our kids (and parents)!

In the future, if you are thinking about donating furniture, pictures, rugs, TVs, or other home goods to the youth, please contact the pastor about the items you would like to donate. The pastor will discuss the need with the youth, and a member of SLY will then get back with you, and will, in fact, help you with the heavy lifting.

Thanks, Salem, for your continued support of SLY. Our youth contribute to the church through their faith, enthusiasm, and good works. In turn, we support them in their journey as maturing Christians.

God's peace, *Pastor Dawn*

