

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2023



SUNDAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

July 2- Service of the Word
July 9 - Now the Feast
July 16 - Now the Feast
July 23 - Now the Feast
July 30 - Service of the Word

August 6- Now the Feast
August 13- Now the Feast
August 20- Now the Feast
August 27- Now the Feast



From Pastor Dawn:

Free to be Compassionate

If you would ask the Desert Fathers why solitude gives birth to compassion, they would say, "Because it makes us die to our neighbor." At first this answer seems quite disturbing to a modern mind. But when we give it a closer look we can see that in order to be of service to others we have to die to them; that is, we have to give up measuring our meaning and value with the yardstick of others. To die to our neighbors means to stop judging them, to stop evaluating them, and thus to become free to be compassionate. Compassion can never coexist with judgment because judgment creates the distance, the distinction, that prevents us from really being with the other.

A group of Salem members have been meeting since 2022 to learn more about what it means to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation; especially in light of our Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod vote to become RIC.

RIC might sound vague...it's really about being a congregation that welcomes ALL persons-not just saying it or making pretty posters-but by being honestly and genuinely open. And ALL means exactly that—particularly the persons who have been discriminated against and marginalized in our culture, e.g. LGBTQIA++, handicapped, neurodivergent, or, just "different."

During our meetings we have realized we each have a lot to learn and new ways to grow in openness and welcome; it has been a good stretch! We meet from 11:30-1pm on alternate Fridays at Salem. Our next meeting is Friday, July 7th. If you are interested in joining us in this journey, or would like more information, please contact patriciadarlington@gmail.com

LIFE Adult Day Center has been selected to receive a \$15,000 challenge grant. In order to receive it they must fundraise an equal amount. One of the ways they plan to do this is to have an Artisan Free Fair in August 5 from 10-2 at 411 W Mathews. Come and enjoy the activities. Contributions are welcome.

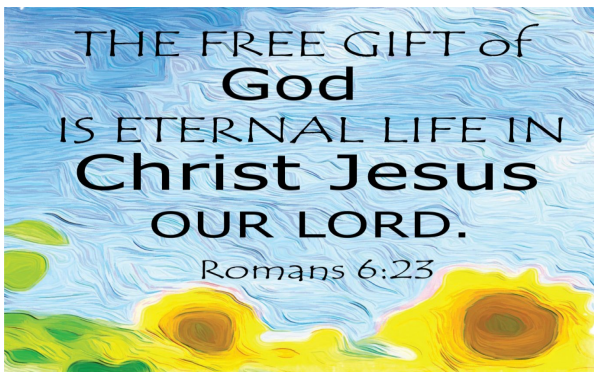
A female college student is coming from Sweden to do a 1 month teaching practicum at the High School. Ashley Haseley asks if anyone would be interested in being a **host family September/October**. Questions? Interested? Contact Ashley at 744-9558 or Ashley.haseley@okstate.edu



For years we have had a Staples charge account. The company recently decided to cancel all their business accounts. We will still have a no-tax number and will get some rebates on purchases, but no credit card. If you need anything from there, you are welcome to pick up a no-tax card and bring in your receipt for a refund.

Scott Wolff's mother, Barbara Wolff (a Salem member), died last weekend. Her funeral was June 29. Condolences can be sent to the Wolff family at:

408 E Amethyst Ln
Stillwater, OK 74075



Salem family,

Teri's mother, Betty Stolle Schwarten, passed away Saturday evening after a short battle with cancer. Betty was a faithful servant of the Lord as she loved her family, church, Wakefield NE community, and her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She will be greatly missed by all of those who knew and loved her. Her song is over, but the melody lives on. On behalf of our Sahs household, thank you for all your thoughts and prayers at this time. It is appreciated more than you know. Roger, Teri, Nick, and Nate Sahs

Thank You, Salem!

On May 14, 2023, Hannah DiPasquale (member of Salem from 2015-2018) graduated with a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa



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Thank you, Salem, for all your support! I am so grateful that Salem was a step along this journey. Your impact in our lives and in my pastoral formation will last long throughout my ministry.

I have been called to serve as the pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Michael also received a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor at NMSU. We will move at the end of July!



Special Salem Church Council Meeting - June 11, 2023

Present: Pastor Dawn Enderwood, Elaine Ackerson, Barbara Bliss, Michelle Ratzlaff, Scott Wolff

Absent: Pam Talley, Mary Jo Lanier

Agenda:

1. Elect Church Council Officers

By unanimous consent:

Pam Talley, President

Elaine Ackerson, Vice President

Barbara Bliss, Secretary

2. Select day and time for Council Meetings 2023-2024

Beginning July, 2023, Council will meet on the second Tuesday of each month

Next Council Meeting is July 11 at 6pm.



WE ARE HIS HOUSE.

HEBREWS 3:6

From our new Council President

Greetings.

It is an honor to be greeting you as the newly elected president of our Church Council. Just in case you don't know me, a little history. My husband and I became members of Salem Lutheran Church in 2019. We moved to Stillwater from just east of Lubbock, Texas where we retired from cotton farming and cattle ranching. I became a Lutheran in 1972 after my marriage to a life long Lutheran. We were active members of a very small rural Lutheran Church. While there, I served on the Church Council off and on for forty plus years, holding the office of secretary and later treasurer. After much prayer and reflection, I agreed to accept the position of president of the Salem Lutheran Church Council. I will prayerfully dedicate myself to the duties of this position on the Church Council.

As you know, we are facing a time of change. We, as your Church Council, will work hard to lead our congregation through these changing times. My request to you, is that you will continue to pray for me as your president, the entire Church Council, Pastor Dawn, the soon to be announced Call Committee, and our congregation. I leave you with the words of Jesus, "For mortals its is impossible, but for God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26.

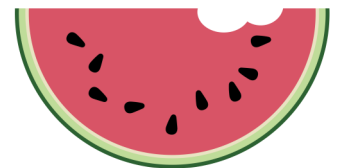
God's Blessings,
Pam Talley

Potluck following the service on June 9th. The theme is Salads & Desserts. There will be another one in August- Menu to come. Please sign up in the Parish Hall, on the bulletin board to the right of the old Kitchen door.

Pr Dawn will be gone 4th of July week. If you need assistance, please contact Pam Talley or Cindy Pennie or leave a message with the office.

The July Bookclub submission is Midnight at the Blackbird Café by Heather Webber. The meetings will be in-person here at the church as well as on ZOOM. All are welcome the last Monday of the month at 7pm. Contact Priscilla Gerfen for more info- priscilla@gerfen.com

Summer



News



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

MINISTRY STAFF

Interim Pastor ~ Dr. 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 -Thursday 8-1pm,
Friday 8-11am
Telephone number: 405-372-3074
(please leave a message)
Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net
Church Website: saalemstillwaterok.org



- 2 Catherine & Moses Vijayakumar
- 3 Jess & Susan Prater
- 8 David & Judy Lewis
- 16 Kevin & Priscilla Gerfen
- 18 Jan & Scott Anderson
- 22 Denzil & Lisa Carney
- 31 Laurie & Ken Eastman

- 2 Ray Hammergren
Eric Reitan
Gwen Tipling
- 3 Wolfgang Mauritz
Stacie Hearp
- 10 Lucy Kershaw
- 12 Michael Oltmanns
- 13 Chelsey Johnson
- 21 Matthew Schmidt
- 22 Keith Wolfe
- 27 Lois Belden