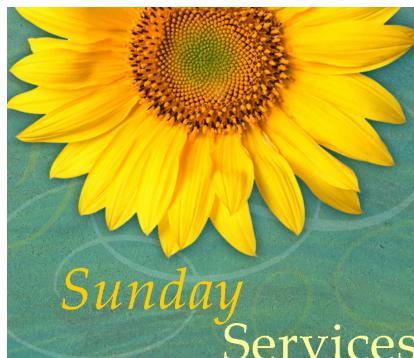


The SEER

Salem Lutheran Church

August 2023



August 6- Now the Feast

Adult Discussion Class

August 13- Now the Feast

Rally Day & Picnic Potluck

August 20- Now the Feast

3rd Sunday Food Offering

August 27 - Now the Feast

Coffee hour follows the service.

The Adult Discussion Class begins at 10:50. Everyone is welcome to participate on-line or in-person.

Hello Coffee Drinkers and Everyone Else,

Here are some things you might not know about coffee, and especially Coffee at Salem.

+ We use Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee which is ranked as the 9th best coffee in the U.S.

+ According to a Harvard study, drinking 2–5 cups a day—is linked to a **lower likelihood** of type 2 diabetes, heart

disease, liver and endometrial cancers, Parkinson's disease, and depression. It's even possible that people who drink coffee can reduce their risk of early death. *Maybe this is the reason Lutherans live so long.*

+ Martin Luther did not drink coffee because coffee was not imported to Europe until about 100 years after his death. *To follow Luther's tradition, should we begin serving beer instead of coffee after church?*

I have been serving coffee for about ten years because Judy Lewis asked me. I come in early every Sunday, because I know having a cup of coffee ready when people come into the church, is about the best welcome we can offer. I love to do this for the people of Salem.

One more thing: How does Moses make his coffee? * Think about it.

Your coffee-making friend, Mary Jo Lanier

*HeBrews it.

Each month, a Council Member will be featured in the SEER.



an All-Church Ministry!

Everyone at Salem is involved in Campus Ministry, merely by providing a faith family and worship environment for OSU students.

It's especially important in August and early September to **watch for visiting students (and parents) in worship** and make a point to welcome and invite them to Coffee Hour, as well as our Thursday evening Campus Ministry Dinner.

We also need people to sign up to prepare meals. Our first meal is Thursday, August 31st at 6pm. **A new project from our current Campus Ministry participants is to welcome the students moving into the Prime Place Apts.** On Tuesday, Aug. 1 we will be handing out lemonade, water, cookies and flyers to those using our parking lot. Sign-up to help in the Parish Hall.

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I conclude my time together with you as your Bishop, I am filled with thanks and gratitude for the life and ministry we have shared with one another. My greatest blessings have been in the times I have spent with the congregations and ministries of our Synod. I am thankful for the ministries you do in the communities you serve, and for your participation in the ministry we do together as the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

More specifically, I want to thank you for all the ways you have blessed me these past weeks with gifts, cards, remembrances and in conversations, texts and emails. The farewell during Assembly was amazing and I am grateful for the kind words that were shared. (I was warned it would be a roast... but it wasn't. I'm grateful for that too!)

Many have asked what is next for me and Terrie. While I am stepping away from my ministry as bishop, I am not retiring from active service. I have accepted a call to serve as interim campus chaplain at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ starting August 1. This will be a one to two year interim in a ministry that is jointly sponsored by the ELCA and the Episcopal Church. Our intent is to sell our house in Tulsa, put our things in storage, upgrade our RV to one we can live in and head for Arizona at the end of July. I also plan to continue writing and also teaching when the opportunity presents itself.

I will be doing this work outside our synod and, after July 1, and for the foreseeable future, I will not be accepting any invitations to preach, teach or visit any of our AR-OK congregations or ministries. However, I will continue to pray for your ministries, for Pastor Becca Middeke-Conlin as she assumes the office of Bishop, and for this synod I truly love.

The Peace of Christ be with you always,

Bishop Mike

Building Bridges: Inclusive Love

By: Bishop Mike Girlinghouse

The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. --Romans 14:18-19

[Jesus said,] "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." --John 13:34

As I come down to my final weeks as the Bishop of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, I've had several people ask me what I feel was my "greatest accomplishment" during my twelve years in this office. That's an impossible question to answer. But I can name some of the positive things we've done together that I have been blessed to be a part of. One of those things is the work we have done on racial justice in the synod. Our racial justice group was started by our first Director of Evangelical Mission, Pastor Jean DeVoll-Donaldson not long after I began my ministry as Bishop. Our "Building Bridges" group has primarily done educational activities in an effort to help our mostly white church understand and come to terms with the reality of white privilege, systemic racism and the role we all play in it.

Because, if we don't recognize it, we can't begin to do anything about it. Doing this work is about loving our neighbor. It is about creating places of genuine welcome and hospitality for all people. Especially for those who are different than ourselves.

At our Assembly this year we voted to become a "Reconciling in Christ" synod and passed a Welcome Statement declaring our intent to be a place of hospitality and inclusion for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and others who are marginalized in our world. We still have a long, long way to go to make that inclusion a reality, to address inequities and to create communities of faith that look more like the wonderfully diverse place I expect the Kingdom of Heaven will be.

Paul talks about not judging one another because of our dietary pieties. I think that can be expanded to all those things which might cause us to judge and exclude one another. He teaches that what binds us is not what we eat or don't eat, but how we serve the Christ. How we serve our Lord who teaches us to love with the same all-encompassing love with which he loves us. I pray that we all live more and more into that Way of being with one another! With the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, I believe we can.

Excerpts of note from Hannah DiPasquale

By the end of July, Michael and I will move from Mobile, Alabama to... Las Cruces, New Mexico! Earlier this year, he was offered a position at New Mexico State University as a tenure-track assistant professor. We accepted, trusting that God would provide opportunities for me to serve. But as God does, the Spirit nudged and soon an ELCA congregation was put on my radar who was searching for their next pastor.



I look forward to beginning my 'official' ministry with Peace, but first, I need to get ordained! My service of ordination will be held at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Fort Collins, Colorado, on Sunday, August 20th. Then on Saturday, August 26th, I will be installed as the pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces!

Most of you probably realize how this truly feels like a full-circle moment for us... as Michael and I first met in El Paso, even got married near the TX-NM border, and some of the most impactful experiences occurred while I was a Border Servant Corps volunteer and on staff at Peace Lutheran Church in El Paso.

We truly have met the most amazing people every stop along our way. We are sad to be leaving a beloved place once again, while we are also very excited for the opportunities on the horizon.

Much love to each of you, Hannah

Save the Date!

Please save Sunday, September 10th after our coffee/snack hour as we celebrate God's Work, Our Hands Day at Our Daily Bread.



Everyone is welcome to join in!!

If you have a yellow God's Work t-shirt, feel free to wear it to church and then on to ODB to serve. If you would like one, there's a Large and XL in Salem's library or there's an order form in the Parish Hall.

We will be taking peanut butter, please leave donations in one of the boxes under the south coat rack.



Book



Club

The next Book Club meeting is Monday, Aug. 28 at 7pm.

The book is Lessons before Dying, by Ernest Gaines.

The meetings will be in-person here at the church as well as on ZOOM.

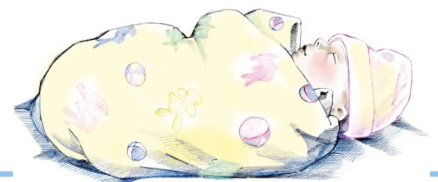
All are welcome- you don't have to finish the book!

Contact Priscilla Gerfen for more info- priscilla@gerfen.com

July's Fifth Sunday offering is going to the Berega Child Center in Tanzania.

This is a very special place, offering care to newborns whose mothers died in childbirth. It also provides housing and training for a family member of each infant. When the child is able to return to the family, a familiar person will be returning also, easing the transition to the new home.

Donations are always welcome! Thank you for your kindness.



Salem Lutheran Choir will have rehearsals on Sept. 6th, 20th, and continuing (hopefully) weekly through the fall. All are welcome! We will start singing during the service when we are ready, but definitely before Advent. Fall Kickoff Party TBA. For more information email our Choir Director, Elizabeth at (elizabeth.albright@langston.edu) or Krystal (tkennessey@suddenlink.net)



RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC)

Friday 8/04 & 8/18 from 11:30-1pm.

We usually chip-in and have pizza in the Salem Parish Hall.

Great meetings. All are welcome.

For more info contact Pat Darlington 405-880-3703 or patriciadarlington@gmail.com

It's Back-to-School time, and for Salem, that means that we gather items to fill Lutheran World Relief School Kits, for distribution to children around the world (including some areas in the US). Simple cloth drawstring backpacks get filled with the tools of a school child. We know from reports globally that these backpacks are cherished by school children because they provide the means to fully participate in learning activities.

Here at Salem, we collect the following items:

Spiral-bound, 70-sheet "college ruled" notebooks

16- and 24-count crayons

Unsharpened #2 pencils

Blue or black ballpoint pens (NOT gel)

2 1/2" erasers

Small plastic pencil sharpeners

Blunt (child "safety") scissors

30-centimeter ruler

These items are being collected during the month of August at a table in the hallway outside the Nursery. Shopping lists are available there. If you don't want to shop, you can make a donation -- just write a check to Salem and put "school kits" in the memo line. If you sew and would be able to make some backpacks, please pick up instructions and pre-cut fabric at the collection table.

This annual service project is truly a participation "sport" at Salem -- opportunities for everyone to provide supplies, and make and assemble the kits. For more info, contact Priscilla Gerfen (405-612-7731 or priscilla@gerfen.com).





August BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Belinda & Ray Hammergren
- 13 Annette & Rick Cowell
- 14 Cindy & Mark Pennie
- 17 Scott & Maria Wolff
- 30 Elaine & Bruce Ackerson

- 12 Olie Weaver
Andrew Gipson
- 15 Jan Anderson
- 16 Jason Bash
- 20 Eric Ebersole
- 22 Sharon Schonthaler
Michelle Hubbard
- 23 Lynn Lester
- 28 Annette Cowell
- 30 Jacque Jones



ANNIVERSARIES

I don't want to miss anyone's birthday or anniversary. If you would like to be included, and currently aren't please let me know. Thanks! Lisa



The new coffee maker is up and running. It's very similar in the way it worked on the old machine. You do the usual with filling the coffee filter, turn on the burner, and hit the start switch. Something new- The green light tells you if the water is hot enough to make another pot.

Please do not move the coffee maker. Someone long ago installed a copper sleeve that comes out of the back of the machine. If it gets crimped, you'll have water everywhere. Thanks to Rick and Annette Cowell for picking and delivering the new one!

Weekday Parking during the School Year

(this is a repeat from last year if you want to skip it :)

Please contact the church office, if you would like to have a weekday parking pass to regularly use the church's back lot. There's no charge for members or Campus Ministry students, but you will need a parking pass. Forms can be found on our web page (<http://salemosu.org/>) Please bring it by during office hours.

The form and parking pass isn't needed for occasional, parking- Sew-ers, meditation, visitors to the church office.....

All other temporary parkers can call the office (leave a message) and let us know what you drive, where you are parked and for how long &/OR place a booklet/bulletin/note in your front window.

Feel free to share with friends/students that parking is available for \$100 for a full school year.





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



MINISTRY STAFF

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
Campus Ministry- 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

ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS

The Adult Discussions Class is studying lectures from Great Courses
“The History of Christian Theology” by Phillip Cary.

August 6 – Lecture 16 – “Scholastic Theology”
August 13 – Fellowship Summer Brunch – **No Class**
August 20 – Lecture 17 – “The Sacraments”
August 27 – Lecture 18 – “Souls after Death”
September 3 – Lecture 19 – “Luther and Protestant Theology”
September 10 – “God’s Work Our Hands” – **No Class**
September 17 - Lecture 20 – “Calvin and Reformed Theology”
September 24 – Lecture 21 – “Protestants on Predestination”



The Class will continue **as an in person and Zoom class at 10:50 AM on Sunday mornings** following in-person worship and Sunday coffee hour . If you wish to participate on-line, please contact David Lewis or Terry Gipson.

***Come join the class for fellowship and discussions
of the principles that are the foundation of our faith.***