

# The SEER

Salem Lutheran Church

October 2023

## Call Committee Update for the Congregation August & September 2023

**Members of Salem's Call Committee:** Bruce Ackerson, Pat Darlington, Kevin Gerfen, Stephen Haseley, Aspen Lenning, Paula Long, and Maria Moccia-Wolff.

**Initial Meeting:** Salem Lutheran's Call Committee held its inaugural meeting on 23 August. In addition to the members of the call committee, also present were Bishop Becca Middeke-Conlin of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod office, Salem Council President Pam Talley, and immediate-past Council President Judy Lewis.

### Input from Bishop Becca:

Nationally, there are more call committees seeking Lutheran pastors than there are pastors available. The committee was counseled to be patient and not to expect Salem's position to be filled quickly. Getting the right candidate/the right "fit" for Salem is more important than taking the first available candidate.

The Synod provides a specific program, a "Call Process Handbook," that outlines the steps in the call process (developing an in-depth Ministry Site Profile or MSP, initial interviews of candidates identified by the bishop, face-to-face interviews, candidate selection, etc.).

While committee members take the process seriously and look forward to its success, our primary focus must be on recommending the right person for Salem to call as its next pastor.

**Ministry Site Profile (MSP):** The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is a highly structured information-gathering process that poses a significant number of questions regarding who we are at Salem, Salem's vision for its mission, what Salem needs from its leadership, etc. Many of those questions can be answered only by seeking input from the congregation (at the appropriate time).

**September 2023 Meeting:** On 13 September 2023, the Call Committee held an initial organizational meeting involving Call Committee members only. We reviewed the tasks ahead and made initial assignments of duties and responsibilities.

The members of the Call Committee are honored to have been called to serve Salem in this critically important endeavor and look forward to moving the process forward.



Oct 1 - ELW, setting 1  
Oct 8 - Service of the Word  
Oct 15 - ELW, Setting 1  
3rd Sunday Food Offering  
Oct 22- Service of the Word  
Oct 29- Reformation  
5th Sunday Offering  
Oktoberfest Pot-luck

**Sunday services** can be found on our Facebook Page (Salem Lutheran Church at 9:30am. It will remain up at that site or you can find it later on our YouTube channel:  
Salem ELC Stillwater OK.

**Join us also for  
Friday Morning Bible  
Study, 10am via ZOOM.  
and  
Sunday Morning Adult  
Discussion Class,  
10:50am in person and  
on ZOOM.**

## October is Stewardship Month at Salem

Greetings People of Salem:

You will receive your Stewardship Letter and Pledge Commitment Form during the first week of October. Commitments may be returned to the church in a self-addressed stamped envelope, which is included with your letter. On October 29—*mark your calendars!*—we will rejoice in your gifts with a German potluck luncheon, following the Reformation Sunday service.

As has been communicated to the congregation already, the 2024 Stewardship Pledge time is critical to the future of Salem for three important reasons:

1. Salem's current giving will not support the financial commitment required to call a pastor.
2. To call a first call pastor with no dependents, Salem must increase overall giving by at least \$36,000. (The ELCA compensation package requirements for a first call pastor with no dependents, is around \$82,000.)
3. To achieve the needed giving, each household will need to increase its pledge by 25% over last year's pledge. The Stewardship Team understands while some may not be able to achieve that increase, there may be others who can give more.

Salem has a long and secure history. In the past many members gave sacrificially to build and maintain the congregation. Now it is our turn. Let's move forward in faith and generosity to assure the future of Salem Lutheran Church.

In Christ,

Scott Wolff, treasurer



Dear Salem Faith Family,

Thankful to God for being surrounded so much by your love and kind support while grieving as well as honoring Vijay's love of life and Salem family.

Vijay was very appreciative of your fervent prayers, thoughtfulness and love expressed via e-mails, texts and phone calls during our difficult chapter of our journey.

Words are inadequate to thank everyone who worked so hard for several hours and days in making Vijay's memorial service very special to all of us.

It has been a blessing to be part of Salem faith family.

Thank you all again!

Sincerely,

Catherine Vijayakumar

*We always thank  
GOD for all of you  
and continually  
mention you in  
our prayers.*

I Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

*Thank you, Lisa*

*The Salem Lutheran Church family would like to thank Lisa Murray-Francis for her fifteen years of dedicated service to our congregation.*

*It goes without saying that Lisa is the pulse of all that happens at Salem. Our thoughts and prayers go with Lisa as she continues to take care of our needs.*



*What a wonderful surprise last Wednesday to receive not just cake and a card, but flowers and a gift too!*

*Working at the church has been a blessing and a real learning experience for me. I appreciate you all!*

*Lisa*

The October Book Club selection is The Violin Conspiracy (Brendan Slocum).

The group will meet the final Monday in October at 7pm, by Zoom or in person at Salem. Everyone is welcome to attend.



We need your help with our monthly newsletter. Please send articles/news/photos/ thank you's to the Church office around the Third Monday of each month. Thank you all for your contributions!



The holidays are coming up. I will email everyone a copy of the directory in late November. If you have a new phone, address or email, please let me know so that the information sent out is correct. Any former member is welcome to send their address also and we'll add you to a special section in the middle of the directory. Thank you!

## UNITY

Unity – What does it mean to each of us?

Psalm 133:1 tells us “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”

What we are trying to do here -whether we are talking about RIC, Stewardship, Prayer, calling a Pastor or the Salem family, is all about unity. It is not about me or you. It is about the unity of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and us.

Through this unity we must learn that everyone of us is different and special. To some it may feel like we are weathering a storm right now, but we are on solid ground as each endeavor we are working on has a good foundation and we are moving forward. We are not always going to agree, but we should all try to be open-minded to and embrace change. For without change we cannot move forward.

Unity cannot be achieved without remembering  
1 Corinthians 13:13  
“And now faith, hope and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love”

Pam Talley  
September 15, 2023



At one point we had tools for building repairs, and hand towels for our kitchen. Unfortunately, what we had has either worn out and been thrown away, or borrowed and not yet returned.

\* So, if you have an extra hammer or screwdriver (Phillips and/or flathead) in whatever size, please drop them by the office weekdays or give to Rick and Annette Cowell on Sundays, so we can restock our supply.

\* The hand towels in the kitchen have worn out. We have plenty of the flour sack, dish drying towels. If you have fluffy (like bath towels) kitchen towels you are tired of looking at, the Salem kitchen would appreciate the donation. Hand towels can go into the drawers to the left of the large sink.

\* And finally, we have a “homeless” man that we have been helping for the last couple of years. He now has an apartment not too far from the church. YEAH! BUT, he has nothing ...no seating, tables, dishes, silverware, soap, towels, beds, sheets....so I gave him a blanket (Thank you Sew-ers!) and a pillow and then picked up a few things from resale shops, but of course that doesn't begin to dent the need.

Although it doesn't always happen, our goal is to continue helping him move forward. We want him to feel ownership and pride in his new home, so he takes care of his new items. So if you have used items in good shape, please let me know (email pictures?). We'll check with him and make sure it's something that he needs or wants.

Thank you! Lisa in the office


## Adult Discussion

The Adult Discussion Class is continuing as a joint in-person/zoom meeting at 11:00 AM on Sundays following the post service coffee hour. If you wish to receive the weekly reminder with the Zoom address, contact David Lewis at [david.lewis.oxen@gmail.com](mailto:david.lewis.oxen@gmail.com)

During October the discussions will continue to be based on lectures from “The History of Christian Theology” by Professor Phillip Cary from the Great Courses program with the same title.

The schedule for October's discussions is:

- October 1– “Protestant Disagreements”
- October 8– NO CLASS – Dan Cooper – “Oaks Indian Mission & Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services”
- October 15– “Anabaptists and the Radical Reformation”
- October 22– “Anglicans and Puritans”
- October 29- NO CLASS –Reformation/Oktobefest Potluck



# Have a Blessed Day!



## Birthdays

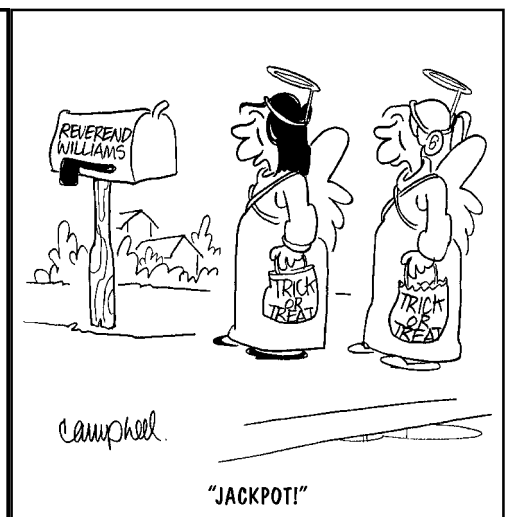
- 1 Rick Cowell
- 3 Kelsey Haseley
- 5 Kevin Gerfen
- 6 Cindy Pennie
- 8 Laurie Eastman
- 12 Catherine Vijayakumar
- 15 Jeremy Hennessey
- 17 John Franzmann
- 21 Martha Gipson
- 22 Mary Jo Lanier
- 23 Brandon Hubbard
- 25 Gloria Sandvold
- 26 Caitlin Gipson
- 27 Ninda Lovell
- 29 Doy Merkel
- 30 Darlene Gaither  
Evelyn Lovell
- 31 Ruth Ann Haedt

## Anniversary

- 24 Teri & Roger Sahs

### An invitation!

Kaylee Mullins, the activity director for Primrose Retirement Community, emailed in hopes of having kids there to trick-or-treat with the residents from 5-6:30pm on Halloween! They have been stocking up on candy and are ready for all the fresh, yet scary, faces.





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

## **MINISTRY STAFF**

Interim Minister ~ Dawn Enderwood  
Director of Music ~ Krystal Hennessey  
Choir Director ~ Elizabeth Albright  
Office Coordinator ~ Lisa Murray-Francis  
Parish Nurse ~ Cindy Pennie  
Media Specialists ~ Olen & Olie Weaver ,  
Jeremy Hennessey  
Peer Minister ~ Aspen Lenning

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

**Hours:** Monday -Thursday 8-1pm, Friday 8-11am

**Telephone numbers:** 405-372-3074, 372-0879

(Please leave a message)

**Email Address:** salemelc@sbcglobal.net

**Church Website:** [salemstillwaterok.org](http://salemstillwaterok.org)

### **Your Work is Appreciated!**

On God's work. Our Hands Sunday, some of us spent most of the first hour at Our Daily Bread counting out small flyers to go into the weekend food backpacks of Stillwater elementary school children. ODB then distributed the backpacks to the schools and the children took them home for their parents/caretakers to read. I happened to see Rachel Conley, Director, last week and she said the following Saturday they had the most Saturday shoppers they had ever had (I can't remember the numbers). The only thing they can figure out that was different was the flyers went out. Rachel is so appreciative of our relationship and thanked me for the work we accomplished. Thanks, Salem!

Another job that many worked on that day was checking plastic bags to make sure they were clean, no big holes and straightened so they can efficiently be put in the cloth bags made by the Sew-ers, that was Matthew Schmidt's Eagle Scout project. I love that someone has started a basket for clean, straightened bags. I was doing that at home with my own bags, but wasn't sure how I'd get them delivered. Again, God's Work. Our Hands!

I know there were many other jobs being done that day. Thank you to everyone for their contribution. It was a blessing for ODB, for the members of Salem and the community we serve.



*Judy Lewis*