

THE WEEKLY WHAT

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH'S WEEKLY MEMOS AND MORE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Hello, all! Can you believe we're almost to August? Here are some dates and upcoming events to add to your calendars!

If you're been in the main hallway at all lately, you've probably seen the table display inviting you to take part in our back to school supplies drive! This initiative, led by members of our service committee, seeks to gather school supplies and create drawstring backpacks to put them in to be sent to kids in need through LWF. Help out our service table by donating supplies or money for them to purchase what they need most!

On August 10th, we'll send Jared off for his YAGM year in Hungary, with a blessing during service and some delicious bundt cakes to follow.

As we move towards the kickoff of a new school year, we are also going to celebrate together! On August 17th, bring your backpack, your briefcase, or just yourself, because we are ALL tied to the school year in Stillwater. The rhythm of the whole community is about to change, and so let us mark that shift in worship together to be blessed and sent out to be a blessing to the community as our life together moves into this new season.

Then, September 7th, we'll mark God's Work Our Hands Sunday with our annual service project day at Our Daily Bread. Stay tuned for more details on that and potentially some other options for service projects, but I had a fantastic tour yesterday from Rachael Condley, and she was excited to hear that our tradition of working with them would continue. What a great partner in ministry.

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

REV. BRECK COGSWELL

This is a very busy week for the ELCA as churchwide assembly continues. I've been tuning in as much as possible (though mostly out of synch) and listening to the fabulous speakers, sermons, debates, and the conversation around the election of our new presiding bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry. (Who I personally think is a fantastic choice!)

Bishop Curry leads with lively energy, a focus on truth-telling, and he is one fabulous preacher. I look forward to his witness and leadership as he begins the work of this role.

Also among the most impactful moments were the discussions about the Holy Land, particularly around the genocide in Gaza. In plenary 6, Bishop-Elect Haddad (who I had the absolute honor of meeting and being generously hosted by in 2018 when in Palestine) updated the assembly on the devastating events in his homeland. He also provided a sermon full of audacious hope, which is absolutely worth a watch.

Other meaningful discussion around the complicity of Lutherans in the troubled history of Native Americans, particularly in boarding schools, was had. There was even an educational powwow. Healing and reconciliation. Remarkable.

If you're interested in any of this, check out the ELCA's Youtube channel. The live recordings continue, and the archive from this year's assembly so far is plenteous.

I hope you'll join me and so many others in praying for the work that remains this assembly, that our way forward be the way of Christ.



SOME PHOTOS FROM SATURDAY



**TAKE CARE, SALEM.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER WELL.
-PASTOR BRECK**

