



Salem Lutheran Church

We are all God's children reflecting His love

May, 2023

Pastor

Mary Fiel
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Secretary

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Financial Secretary

Cathy Koolmo
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COUNCIL MEMBERS

President-*Suzanne Hulett*
Fellowship

Vice Pres - *Keith Engstrom*
Stewardship

Secretary - *Beverly Ramey*
Fellowship

Discipleship - *Wanda Johnson*

Education & Youth - *Wendy Linder*

Property - *David Lundin*
Jesse Johnson

Youth - *Brenna Johnson*

Worship & Music - *Donovan Erickson*

Non-Council Member
Roseanna Kollman-Council
Treasurer

Greetings!

This month's newsletter article will be a bit different from others that I've written in the past. Usually I tend to write about new sermon series or other topics related to the ministries of Salem and Siloa. But this month I want to address a topic that I have heard in congregation conversations in recent months. Therefore this message will be more about theology than ministry, and I pray you have an open mind about what I share. By no means am I requiring you to share this same theology as me, but I don't doubt that it will lead to some possible discernment on the topic.

It is no secret that we have a number of families in our congregations dealing with some really horrible news and situations recently. Whether that is directly in their immediate family or extended family members or friends. I will admit that Good Friday felt especially heavy for me this year knowing what was laying heavily on the hearts of my parishioners. While discussing the heartbreaking news we have been receiving lately, many people have been discussing God's role, or lack thereof, in these situations.

For whatever reason, our contemporary American theology has decided that "everything happens for a reason" and God is in control of it all - good and bad. And I think that is where some of these conversations are stemming from. However, I would argue that while God IS sovereign, what God orchestrates and allows is meaningful, significant, and purposeful. Or in simple terms, I personally believe that God ONLY produces life and love. Anything that is not life and love is not of God.

So if it's not of God, where does it come from? (We always want someone or something to blame, right?) I would argue that anything that is not life and love is of the devil and a result of our sinful world. I refuse to believe that our loving and gracious God is a God of disease, racism, terror, and the like. Some of these things are a result of our God-given free will, where we find ourselves with consequences that are based on our actions. But random diseases, for example, are not in God's plan.

Here's where I need you to come along the theological ride with me - the devil works REALLY hard day in and day out to try and get us to become skeptical of our God. When we discuss "God's motives" in relation to the terrible things that happen in our world, the devil is using us to plant skepticism in the minds of those around us (and even our own minds!). How many people have you heard of that give up on their faith during really difficult times? Seems like the devil won that one.

What would happen if during these conversations with family, friends, and neighbors, instead of spiraling into the dread of the negative, we look to where we can find the life and love that God offers and wants for our world. Instead of letting the devil win the conversation, "look for the helpers" as Mr. Rogers would say. Look for the ways that WE can be the love and life that our faith hinges on.

Sometimes bad things just happen, there doesn't have to be a lesson to learn from it, or a purpose to it. God is not testing you. God wants love and life for you. How can you be inspired in this season of resurrection to focus your mind and conversations on love and life as well? I know this may be difficult - many of you have spent many decades of your life with a certain theology and this is rubbing up against that. We also have many news outlets on all sides of the spectrum that want to promote the negative because that is what gets people worked up and ratings soar.

Instead of being dragged down in the abyss with the devil, be inspired to channel God's life and love in the world. God offers us a priceless gift of eternal life with God, and that should be our focus in the end. The devil works hard to keep us distracted from that resurrection hope. Let's use this growing season ahead of us as a season of growth for ourselves and our communities. How different can life be when the focus is on love and life!

Pr Mary

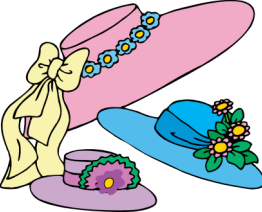
Let's Talk!

We lift up in prayer:



We hold up Bucky Erickson in special prayers this month.

We also hold the families of Amanda Johnson and Wade Engblom up in prayer as their families grieve their loss.



Calling all ladies of the church!

Please wear your hats to church on Mothers' Day!!

We can't wait to see your creativity.

The last day of SPARK Kids Wednesdays will be on May 17th. See you this summer for Vacation Bible School and this fall for Spark Kids Wednesdays (age 3-Grade 6). Have a great summer!!



Finance Information

Monthly Budgeted	Month	Giving	Monthly Difference	Year to Date
\$8,663	January	\$12,803	+ \$4,140	+ \$4,140
\$8,663	February	\$ 7,523	- \$1,140	- \$3,000
\$8,663	March	\$ 7,564	- \$1,099	+ \$1,901

COMMENTS:
UPCOMING LARGE EXPENSES:
First half annual church insurance

Worship MINISTRY

DATE	GREETERS & USHERS	LAY READER	COMMUNION ASST	ALTAR GUILD
May 7	Larry Lindquist	Sharon Erickson	Wendy Linder	Alaina Norby
May 14	Lyle & Pam Erickson	Keith Engstrom	Wendy Linder	Shirley Illg
May 21	Lyle & Pam Erickson	Cindy Johnson	Wendy Linder	Annie Johnson
May 28	Roseanna Kollman	Ken Erickson	Wendy Linder	Alaina Norby

5th Sunday of Easter

May 7th, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Acts 7:55-60 | Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 | 1 Peter 2:2-10 | John 14:1-14

Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick...especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

6th Sunday of Easter

May 14th, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Acts 17:22-31 | Psalm 66:8-20 | 1 Peter 3:13-22 | John 14:15-21

Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving...especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

7th Sunday of Easter

May 21st, 2023

Prayer of the Day

O God of glory, you Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Acts 1:6-14 | Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 | 1 Peter 4:12-14: 5:6-11 | John 17:1-11

Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, draw us to you and unite us with the plant and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As your Spirit is hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness...especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

Pentecost Sunday

May 28th, 2023

Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Acts 2:1-21 | Psalm 104:24-34, 35b | 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 | John 20:19-23

Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Passionate God, you sent your Spirit through the gifts of fire, wind, and word. As you equipped the disciples for their work, equip us to bring the good news to all those who long for you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restoring God, wind and flame bring life and destruction throughout the world. We pray for those who work with wind energy, for migratory birds, for protection for lands facing destructive fire, for forestry managers and firefighters. Renew the face of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ever-present God, your spirit embraces all. Send your spirit of understanding to immigrants, refugees, and any experiencing language barriers. Bless the work of translators, ESL teachers, ambassadors, and international peace organizations. Safely guide those fleeing war and danger. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you anoint us with your spirit. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers and they care for those in need. We pray for all who seek your comfort...especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous God, you impart a variety of gifts. Set aflame the desire to learn from one another, especially those who differ from us. Make your presence known through missionaries, peace workers, and through the outreach ministries of our synod and community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Life-giving God, we give thanks for those who have died to new life in you. As we observe Memorial Day, we remember those who died in military service. Comfort all who mourn, and usher in a world where war is no more. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

May, 2023


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 Finance Secretary — Cathy Koolmo Email — slcdalbo@gmail.com

Pastor Mary Fiel
 Call or text 507.525.3909
 Email: maryfiel@gmail.com
 Office hours by appointment



We are God's Children reflecting His love

Salem Lutheran Church 4638 381st Ave NW Dalbo, MN 55017 763.689.1687

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Worship	2 8:30 Ladies' Breakfast at The Every Day Cafe w/ Siloa	3 8:00 AM Men in Mission Breakfast/Bible Study at Park Café w/ Siloa 6:15 SPARK Kids@ Salem 6:30 PM Confirmation	4 Noon Luncheon@ First Baptist Church National Day of Prayer	5 10:00 AM Memorial set-up	6 One Pitch Softball Tournament alternate date begins at 8AM	
7 9:00 Worship	8 8:30 Bobbin Feeders	9 8:00 AM Men in Mission Breakfast/Bible Study at Park Café 6:00 PM Council	10 11	12 10:00 AM Memorial set-up	13 2:00 PM Marilyn Soderquist Memorial	
14 MOTHERS' DAY 9:00 Worship Fellowship Hall Reserved 12:00-6:00 PM	15 16	17 8:00 AM Men in Mission Breakfast/Bible Study at Park Café w/ Siloa 6:15 SPARK Kids@ Salem	18	19 10 AM Visitation 11 AM Wade Engblom Memorial	20	
21 9:00 Worship	22 23 8:30 Bobbin Feeders	24 8:00 AM Men in Mission Breakfast/Bible Study at Park Café w/ Siloa	25	26	27	
28 9:00 Worship	29 8:00 AM Memorial Day Remembrance of our Veterans 	30 31 8:00 AM Men in Mission Breakfast/Bible Study at Park Café w/ Siloa 6:30 Youth Group				

**Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes - Unapproved
April 12, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Suzanne Hulett called the meeting to order @ 6:00 pm

II. OPENING PRAYER

Suzanne led the council in an opening prayer.

III. ROLL CALL

The following persons were present: Executive Committee – Suzanne Hulett, Keith Engstrom, and Beverly Ramey. Council Members - Pastor Mary Fiel, Keith Engstrom, Wendy Linder, David Lundin, Wanda Johnson, Don Erickson, and Roseanna Kollman **. Jesse and Brenna were absent.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

SECRETARY REPORT

- i. Secretary’s report was passed out. Motion to accept the report as written by David and second by Don. Minutes approved.

TREASURE/FINANCIAL REPORT

- ii. Motion to accept the Treasure/Financial Report as written. Motion by Keith and second by Wendy. Financial report approved.
- iii. Shalom Financial report – Pastor Mary hasn’t received any requests this month.

PASTOR REPORT

- iv. 8 Sunday worship services, 9 Lenten Services
- v. 0 baptism, 0 weddings, 0 funerals/memorials
- vi. 6 Pastoral visits

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Monitor recycling

- i. Monitor will be turned in at the spring cleanup day for Dalbo Township
2023 Congregation/Pastor Priorities – we will review monthly
“Meet & Greet” (Joint Council Meeting) – Tuesday March 28, 6 pm at Siloa
Motion to accept minutes by Don and second by Wendy

VI. NEW BUSINESS

PASTOR REIMBURSEMENTS

- i. Mileage – \$66.85
- ii. Expenses – \$146.59

Motion by Bev to approve and Wanda seconded. Motion approved.

Officers Meeting – March 26th

- i. All staff evaluations to be completed in the fall to coincide with the next year’s budget process.
- ii. Review of signers on all financial accounts will be conducted with recommendations to full council.

June Semi-Annual Meeting – June 25th.

- I. 2 council positions open – Wanda concludes 2nd term plus 1 year. Suzanne concludes 1st term.
- II. Re-elect one 2022 council position for a 3 year term – David.
- III. Looking for a replacement for Wanda.

April Responsibilities: Wendy Linder

COMMITTEE / TASKFORCE :

COMMITTEES

Discipleship & Mission - Wanda Johnson

Education & Youth - Wendy Linder & Brenna Johnson

- Confirmation Dinner – Pastor Mary will check with our single confirm and family.

Fellowship – Suzanne and Beverly

- Fish Fry/alternative congregation event. Justin, Don and Larry will tri-chair and have a meeting to discuss.
- Mother's Day Flowers – Ladies wear hats – Motion made by Bev and second by David to allow up to \$50 for flowers for May 14th.
- Father's Day – discussion on ideas. Will make a decision in May.
- 150th Anniversary Celebration 2024
 - Sharon and Ken Erickson are co-chairs
 - Committee presented to Council for approval. Motion to approve by Wendy and second by David. Motion passed.

Property – David Lundin & Jesse Johnson

- Discussion on extra money for plowing. An extra \$200 motion by Keith and second by Wanda to reimburse Fred Swanson for the season.
- A tracking sheet for the furnaces has been created. Each furnace is numbered and maintenance and filters will be entered on sheet.

Stewardship - Keith Engstrom

- Discussion to put financial numbers in the monthly newsletter

Worship & Music - Don Erickson

- Memorial Day Worship will be 8 am at the cemetery. Hospitality group is Bonnie and Kim Hansen
- CCL License – Motion by David second by Bev to pay the license fee of \$131.67 Motion passed.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor Mary ended with a closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Beverly, second by David, motion passed
Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 28-29 Synod Assembly
 April 30th 10:30 am Healing service / Joint Worship at Siloa
 May 2 1:30 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting
 May 7 Confirmation Sunday
 May 10 6 pm Church Council Meeting
 May 14 Mother's Day
 May 21 Rogation Sunday
 May 28 Pentecost
 May 29 Memorial Day Worship 8 am at Cemetery
 June 4th **Worship Time changes to 10:30 am**

Respectfully Submitted,
 Beverly Ramey
 Council Secretary

We are all God's children reflecting His Love

** non-council member but council treasurer



We're on the Web!

See us at: www.salemutherandalbo.com
Facebook: Salem Lutheran Church Dalbo

Set office hours:

Wendy, Church Secretary

Wednesdays from 4pm—6pm

Doors may be locked, simply call or knock and she will unlock the door for you.

If you need access to church outside of these hours, please call 763.286.6845.

Pastor Mary can meet with you via appointment. Please call her at 507.525.3909



Remember, June 4th our
worship service will change
to 10:30 AM!

