



Salem Lutheran Church

We are all God's children reflecting His love

April, 2024

Pastor

Mary Fiel
prmaryfiel@gmail.com
507.525.3909

Secretary

Wendy Dawn Bengtson
Salemlutheranchurchdalbo@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Cathy Koolmo
slcdalbo@gmail.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President - Suzanne Hulett
Fellowship & Discipleship

Vice Pres - Keith Engstrom
Stewardship

Secretary - Beverly Ramey
Fellowship & Discipleship

Treasurer - Kristy Johnson
Appointed until 2024 election

Education & Youth - Wendy Linder

Property - David Lundin
Jesse Johnson

Worship & Music - Donovan Erickson

Youth - Brenna Johnson

Greetings!

It's hard to believe I'm writing a newsletter article for April that is talking about the Easter SEASON and not specifically Easter Sunday. Throughout the next two months we will be in the season of Easter, a season that focuses on what happened after the resurrection. And it fits so well with our next sermon series "Living in a Postresurrection World." Humanity has been living in this postresurrection world for generations, but it's always a good idea to revisit what it means to have faith in the resurrected Christ.

One of the central messages of the Christian faith that is most often overlooked is that Christ is present in and through all things, which means that everything is sacred and every moment is holy. From Easter to Pentecost, we will explore the good news that Christ is risen—not just physically from the grave some two thousand years ago but in every aspect of our lives and world—and how to live in awe of the mundane moments of our ordinary lives. This series begins with focusing on the resurrection of Jesus, a single person, and leads us to Pentecost, where we understand the way in which the entire faith community and indeed the world is resurrected in the Spirit of Christ.

When we speak about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, in a way we're speaking about three different expressions of Jesus. There is obviously much for us to learn from the living Jesus, the dying Jesus impacts the whole cosmos, and the resurrected Jesus has even more to share with humanity about how we are to continue his message and impact into our world today.

In seminary we discussed quite often about the fact that we're in what scholars call the Postmodern Era and how that affects the church. Add post-Covid onto that title as well and we live in the Trinity of our society in a sense. Humanity has been in the postresurrection world for thousands of years, postmodern for just a few generations, and of course post-Covid for less than 5 years. And along that timeline the church has had to morph and change to meet the needs of society at that time. Let us dig in together during worship to hear how the Spirit is calling us to live into this "Post-Trinity" age.

One of the opportunities you have as a member of the Minneapolis Area Synod is to be a part of the process of electing our next synodical bishop. While Bob Anderson and Beverly Ramey are two of the official voting members at synod assembly this spring, you are welcome to attend one of the candidate forums being held around the cities and see what sort of candidates we have for the position - and you can share your thoughts with your congregational voting members!

The one closest to us will be held Sunday, April 7th from 2:00pm-4:30pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (19001 Jackson St NE, East Bethel, MN). There will also be a Zoom forum held on Tuesday, April 16th from 7:00pm-8:30pm. The Spirit is still active in our world and churches today, and this is one opportunity for us to experience it first hand through the Bishop's Election Process. I hope you can join me that afternoon in East Bethel to see which leaders the Spirit is working through right now!

Pr Mary

Let's Talk!

We lift up in prayer:



WE HOLD UP JAIMON DURHAM, RILEY HANSON-NELSON (GREAT-NIECE OF SUZANNE AND ROXANNE) VICKY ELWOOD (WANDA ANDERSON'S DAUGHTER), JASON ALFERNESS, PAM PETERSON, AND LISA GARDNER IN SPECIAL PRAYERS.

Youth Ministry night is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of most months.



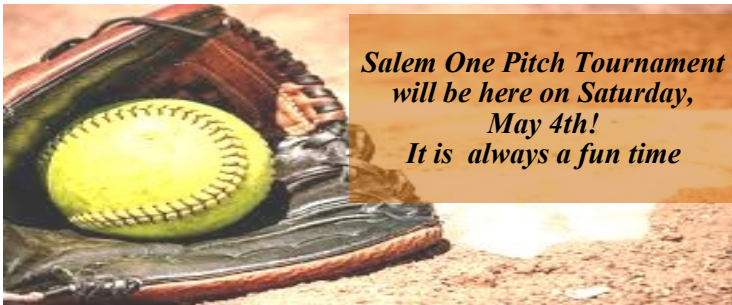
All kids ages 3-Grade 6
6:15-7:30 PM



Join us at Cambridge Theater, Wednesday April 24th @ 6:00 PM for the viewing of "**Unsung Hero.**"

Based on a remarkable true story, "**Unsung Hero**" follows David Smallbone as he moves his family from Down Under to the States, searching for a brighter future after his successful music company collapses. With nothing more than their seven children, suitcases, and their love of music, David (for KING + COUNTRY's Joel Smallbone) and his pregnant wife Helen (Daisy Betts) set out to rebuild their lives.

Helen's faith stands against all odds and inspires her husband and children to hold onto theirs. With their own dreams on hold, David and Helen begin to realize the musical prowess in their children, who would go on to become two of the most successful acts in Inspirational Music history: five-time GRAMMY Award®-winning artists for KING + COUNTRY and Rebecca St. James.



Salem One Pitch Tournament
will be here on Saturday,
May 4th!
It is always a fun time



Long Lake Lutheran Church WELCA
Spring Luncheon, Saturday, April 27th at
2:00 PM. Cost \$12/person. **RSVP with
Pastor Mary by April 20th.** Pastor Mary
is the speaker!

Menu includes Chicken breast w/rice
pilaf and mixed vegetables with ice
cream and sugar wafers for dessert.

Worship MINISTRY

DATE	GREETERS & USHERS	LAY READER	COMMUNION ASST	ALTAR GUILD
April 7		Brenna Johnson	Jesse Johnson	Annie Johnson
April 14		DeeDee Johnson	Jesse Johnson	Shirley Illg
April 21		Beverly Ramey	Jesse Johnson	Alaina Norby
April 28		Jesse Johnson	Jesse Johnson	Annie Johnson

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 7th, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 4:32-35 | Psalm 133 | 1 John 1:1-2:2 | John 20:19-31

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

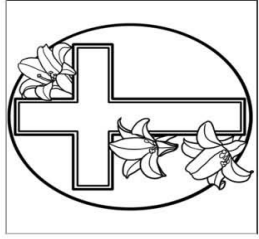
Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain...especially... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love, through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. Amen.



3rd Sunday of Easter

April 14th, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Acts 3:12-19 | Psalm 4 | 1 John 3:1-7 | Luke 24:36b-48

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

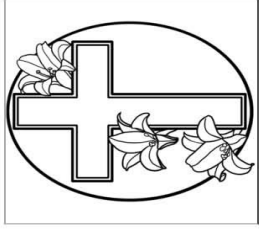
O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty...especially... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love, through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. Amen.



4th Sunday of Easter

April 21st, 2024

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Acts 4:5-12 | Psalm 23 | 1 John 3:16-24 | John 10:11-18

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

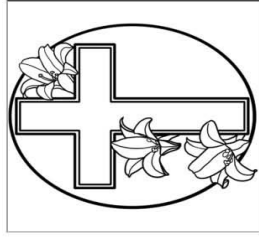
Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable...especially... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love, through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. Amen.



5th Sunday of Easter

April 28th, 2024

Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 8:26-40 | Psalm 22:25-31 | 1 John 4:7-21 | John 15:1-8

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

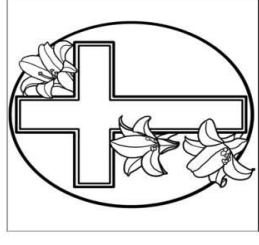
For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering...especially... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another; for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love, through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. Amen.





Last year the Stewardship Committee took steps to try and help members focus on their financial contributions to the church and beyond. After discussing the results from our listening sessions held in February, the committee has decided to highlight the ministry areas of our congregation for folks to not only become more informed about what happens around Salem, but also to see if there are ways that they can use their time and talents to impact those ministries. Over the next six months in the newsletter we will highlight a ministry focus you can get more involved in if you have the time and talents to do so.

The committee thought it would make the most sense to start with the Worship & Music Committee since that is where the most amount of visible ministry is happening at this time. While there isn't an official "committee" in place right now, Donovan Erickson is the council representative over this ministry area.

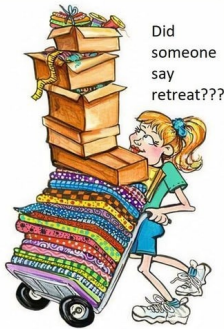
Altar Guild, a sub-committee within the area, helps weekly to make sure that the paraments and banners match the season as well as set up for weekly communion. Annie Johnson is the current leader of that group and she can help answer questions for those interested in adding their time to the group.

As you probably know, we currently have two part-time musicians who help lead worship throughout the month, and a few substitute musicians for special services and emergency music needs. There have been requests for more special music performances or other types of music during worship, and W&M leadership is open to that opportunity. It would be helpful to have a volunteer in charge of arranging those performances/worship opportunities - so if that is something you may have gifts for, please talk to Pr. Mary or Donovan.

Some other ways you can assist with worship would be to volunteer to usher and/or read during worship. Many of you are already great at welcoming folks to church on a Sunday - why not do it on an "official" level? Reading scripture during worship can be seen as a nerve-wracking thing, but it's worth giving it a try at least once. It's not something that has to be perfect, there is grace for mistakes, and we'd love to have more people to call up and schedule.

When people think about church they think about worship. Stewardship Committee would love for you to think about how you could add your gifts to worship here at Salem!

Plan to come and receive more information about our next Bishop nominees.



Siloa Lutheran Church invites you to a craft retreat at Siloa Fellowship Hall

April 5, 9am-10pm

April 6, 9am-4pm

Cost: \$5, treats to share

RSVP via Siloa Facebook Event page or by contacting Wendy Dawn 763.286.6845 in order for us to plan appropriately. We look forward to you joining us! There is a limit of 16 people.

St. Basil Soup

Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons of oil of your choice
- 1 large onion sliced
- 1/2 lb mushrooms, sliced
- 2 celery stalks, sliced
- 3 2 carrots, sliced
- 4 2 quarts of water
- 5 2 bouillon cubes of your choice
- 6 Salt and pepper to taste
- 7 Chopped parsley
- 8 (I've been know to add white beans as well.)



Directions:

1. Wash and slice the veggies
2. 2. Pour oil into soup pot. Add the veggies and sauté for 2-3 minutes, stirring constantly
3. 3. Add the water and bouillon cubes. Cook the soup slowly in a covered pot over low heat for 30 minutes. Add salt and pepper and chopped parsley. Simmer the soup for ten minutes and serve hot.

This recipe was submitted by Bob Hulteen, Director of Communications and Public Voice, MAS on behalf of Nick Tangen, Director of Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices, MAS

SAUSAGE TORTELLINI Soup

- 1 lb Italian sausage
- 2 cans diced tomatoes
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 8oz cream cheese
- 20oz cheese tortellini
- 3 cups fresh spinach










This recipe was submitted by Wendy Dawn. She adds half and half and chicken broth as needed.

If you were at Lent on March 6 at Siloa this is one of the soups offered.

Send in your recipes



The Bencke Family in Japan



March 2024: 103 番



Transition..... transition!

Hopefully you read that title with the famous melody from Fiddler on the Roof, "Tradition!" in your mind! Yes, it is the season of graduations and entrance ceremonies. As my older daughter recently remarked, "Japanese people sure love their ceremonies!" Along with the ceremonies often come traditions. Some of the traditions are well-documented, and other traditions continue despite the original reasoning being lost to the sands of time.

One cute example of a more recent Japanese tradition is that of giving KitKat candy bars to students who are taking their entrance exams. Japan has a phenomenal range of KitKat flavors, and I think that instead of trying to explain this in words, I'll share a video that explodes with the colors and vitality of the humble KitKat (and why it has become a tradition at entrance exam time).

<https://fb.watch/qB6cQ736zV/>

Traditions are usually thought of as helping people or groups to marking time. Annual events or seasons occur and we pause to reflect on the growth that has occurred in between. It might be just as plausible to think of traditions as marking transitions. We never really experience the traditions in the same way every time. Because of growth, loss, maturation, new vantage points, experiences, or just the inevitable circumstance of aging, a holiday tradition or birthday tradition never feels exactly the same from year to year. My Lenten journey has been different every year, even though the number of days has remained the same and it has always culminated with Easter. We are ever evolving. Transitioning.

When Lutheran missionary Martha Akard established the girls' high school here in Kumamoto in 1926 (98 years ago), I don't know that she could've ever imagined that one day, almost a century later, that these grounds would also be

the educational home of a nursery school, a kindergarten, a junior high, a senior high, a college, and a graduate school. When Patrick and I came in 2006 (80 years after Martha Akard established the school), we never would've imagined that in our lifetime we would see the establishment of an international school in Kumamoto or an elementary school *on our campus*! Both of those things are being realized this coming school year, which starts on April 1, 2024. Today, we held the dedication ceremony for the building in which the Kyushu Lutheran International Primary School will be housed. We welcomed new teachers and staff members from South Africa, the Philippines, Scotland, China, and elsewhere in Japan to Kumamoto. These folks have committed to bringing our Lutheran mission to a new generation of children in Kumamoto, and for that, we can praise God.



Still under construction and renovation, this is a front view of what will be the Kyushu Lutheran International Primary School. It is expected that grades 1-6 will each have about 20 students in each class. Students will represent a variety of cultural and citizen backgrounds, including Taiwan, France, Japan, the U.S., and others.



In this picture, Uchimura-sensei—a longtime faithful servant in the Japanese Lutheran Church (left)—and President Matsumoto (right) ceremoniously add the last few scoops of dirt to the newly planted olive tree outside of the elementary school. The school motto will be the same as it is for the other Lutheran schools on the campus, which is 「感恩奉仕」 or Gratitude and Service.

Please join us in prayer in these coming weeks that the Lord will guide the hearts and minds of teachers and staff as they build this new educational and spiritual community.

April, 2024

Secretary — Wendy Bengtson Email — salemlutheranchurchdalbo@gmail.com
 Finance Secretary — Cathy Koolmo Email — slcdalbo@gmail.com

Pastor Mary Fiel
 Call or text 507.525.3909
 Email: primaryfiel@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	2	3 8:00 AM Men in Mission Breakfast at Park Café 6:15 SPARKS (ages 3- Gr 6)	4 8:00 AM Men in Mission Breakfast at Park Café	5	6
7 10:30 AM Worship	8	9 8:30 Ladies Breakfast w/ Siloa at	10 8:00 AM Men in Mission Breakfast at Park Café 6pm Council	11	12	13
14 10:30 AM Worship	15	16 8:30 Bobbin Feeders @ Salem w/Siloa 7:00 PM Council	17 8:00 AM Men in Mis- sion Breakfast at Park Café 6:15 SPARKS (ages 3- Gr 6)	18	19	20 Ruby's Pantry-New Hope Church, Isanti, 9:00-11:00 Registra- tion @ 7:30
21 10:30 AM Worship	22	23	24 8:00 AM Men in Mission Breakfast at Park Café 6:00 PM "Unsung Hero" movie at Cambridge Theater—ALL AGES WELCOME	25	26	27 2:00 PM Ladies Spring Luncheon @ Long Lake Lutheran Church, \$12, RSVP by 4/20/2024
28 10:30 AM Worship	29	30 8:30 Bobbin Feeders @ Salem w/Siloa				

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



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

ANNUAL MEETING
SAMI

Sunday, June 23rd after worship we will be holding our Semi-Annual Meeting.

Please prayerfully consider serving Salem by becoming a member of the Salem Council.