

Salem Lutheran Church

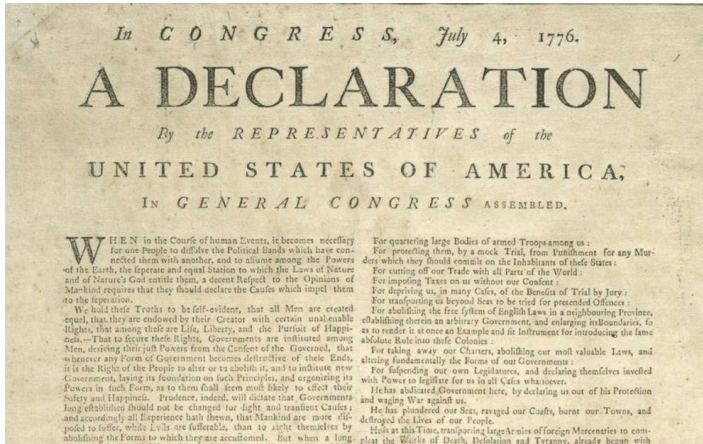


Blessed is 
the nation
whose God
is the LORD.

Psalm 33:12

July 2020

Pastor's Page



In July, our minds move towards the Dog Days of Summer. We think about our Independence Day Celebrations, whether they be with family and friends or at home. Maybe you typically go to the lake or to the local fireworks show. This year Independence Day will be different. The meaning of the day will not be different, it is the day we still celebrate our freedoms in America.

July 4, 1776 was the day that the Declaration of Independence was signed. It is the day that the United States of America was free from England's Control. Over the last almost 250 years we have enjoyed many freedoms in our country. We take those freedoms for granted. One of

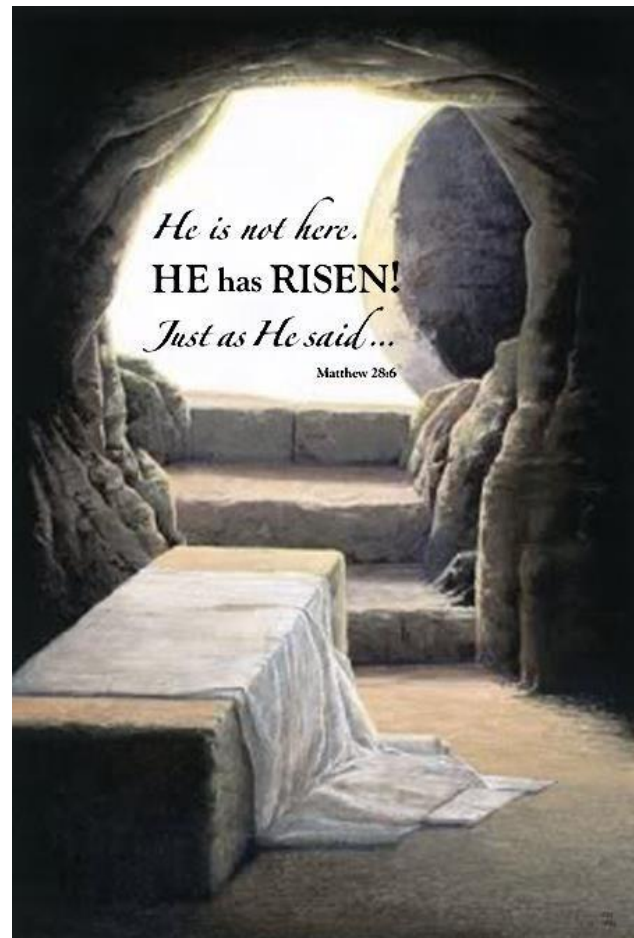
the biggest freedoms for us as Christians is the freedom to practice our faith. This has been a blessing for the Church in America since the founding of our nation. We can give God thanks for our founding fathers for securing this freedom for us.

As we think about our independence from England almost 250 years ago, that is not our only freedom that we have. Actually, it is not even the most important freedom we have. The most important freedom that we have is not a political freedom, it's not a freedom given to us by our government that could quickly be taken away with the swipe of a pen or a decision by the courts. The most important freedom that we have was won for us on a Dark Friday afternoon. It wasn't won for us by gun fire or the explosion of bombs, no this freedom was won for us by three nails, by a crown of thorns, by a warrior that looked more like the victim. This freedom that I am alluding to you is the freedom from sin, death, and the devil. Jesus Christ is the warrior, when He died on Calvary's Holy Mountain he freed you from sin. When He rose on the third day, He provided you with freedom from death and the devil. Through that holy weekend when our true eternal freedoms were won, He defeated every enemy by looking more like a victim as he hung there naked dying on a tree.

When Christ rose from the dead, there was an announcement that was made. It was not made in a government hall or a court room, it was made in the empty tomb. It was not made by men, this announcement came straight from the heavens, "He's not here, he's risen just as he said." This is a great announcement of freedom.

As we think about our freedoms this month of July, I want you to not really focus on our freedoms as Americans, but focus on your freedom the evil tyrant of the Devil, focus on freedoms that matter for eternity, not just for the few years we live on this earth.

Now onto a more personal note to all of you. I want to thank you for the support over the last 3-4 months. It has not been easy for any of us. We have all had our struggles, no matter what our thoughts are regarding Covid-19. I really want to thank all of you who sent me a card for my Ordination Anniversary, I wanted to celebrate with you more in person on my decade in ministry, but thank you for the kind words, the gifts, and most importantly the prayers. The prayers mean more to me than anything. I love all of you so very much and I can't wait till Covid-



19 is under control or even more so behind us and we can go back to normal and we can celebrate more fully together without fear! Until that day we continue in this temporary normal.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Nielsen

Council Meeting of June 9, 2020

President John Steele called the meeting to order and Pastor Nielsen led us in prayer.

Present in person: President John Steele, Vice-president Chris Severt, Pastor Nielsen, Treasurer Stan Koenig, Elder Tim Dennis, Board of Ed Maryann Thompson, Trustee Tom Lipke and via telephone Secretary Kelly Cornelius.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Kelly Cornelius read the Council Meeting minutes of May, 12, 2020. A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Chris Severt to accept the minutes as read and motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Stan Koenig reported the May, 2020, Financial Summary as follows: General Fund balance as of May 1, 2020, in the amount of \$2,919.32 (in the hole). General Fund income of \$10,821.53 and expenses of \$9,492.20 for a balance as of May 30, 2020, of \$1,589.99 (in the hole). Checking account at Sterling Bank is at \$40,141.28 and savings account at \$14,193.52. LCEF Fund: \$20,871.36 Missions: \$715.00 Building Fund: \$340.00 The amount due and owing to the playground account is now \$557.95. Further, \$1,335,00 has been given toward the video upgrade cost. A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tim Dennis to accept the Treasurer's Report and motion carried.

Elders Report: It was noted that the internet signal was good two Sundays ago, not so good last Sunday. We will have disinfectant, sanitizers, and masks on hand. We are working on getting sprayers. Pastor has been having Sunday Bible classes on Zoom. We have lawn mowing volunteers for the summer. We have been receiving donations to improve the internet signal. The Confirmands are ready for questioning. How this will be done has not been decided. Pastor will talk with parents about how Confirmation will take place. How and when do we reopen the church for Sunday worship? Pastor made his recommendations, and after discussion, the following was agreed upon: A) The church will reopen for services on Sunday, June 14, 2020. There will be two services, 8:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. Pastor will send out a letter which will explain the "new normal". Members will be asked to sign up for the service they plan to attend. Members may be asked when they plan to start attending services again. Sick people should stay home. B) The church will be deep cleaned, including the carpet, before June 14th. A date is yet to be set. The church will be sprayed with disinfectant between first and second services, but probably not after the second service. Hymnals, pencils, communion cards and pew cushions will be removed. Windows and doors will be open and fans operating for optimal ventilation. C) Attendance will be taken. Only every other pew will be used and pews used in the first service will not be used during the second service. Social distancing must be maintained by different family groups using the same pew, preferably one family group per pew. Bulletins will be on the pews or at a table and should be taken home. Offering plates will be in the back of the church, and in the front during communion. Mask wearing is recommended but not mandatory. Masks will be available. Children will remain in the pews for the Children's Message. D) For communion, two tables will be set up in front of the rail. One table will have the wafers, the other table the wine in disposable individual cups. Members will come up one pew at a time and take the wafer and wine, and after communing will return to their pew. It is realized that things may need to be "finetuned" over time. A motion was made by Tom Lipke, seconded by Stan Koenig to accept the

Elders' Report and motion carried.

Trustee's Report: Tom Lipke reported to Council that Salem's shelter has no electricity and, therefore, is not functional in that respect should needs require use of the shelter. Tom received a quote of \$3,000 from a local electrical company to get the job done which would include burrowing under pavement and installing the wiring and such. After discussion, it was decided to table this project for now. Due to recent heavy rain, there was water in the basement of the parsonage. Among other things, ground work was done, sloping the soil away from the foundation on the west side. Tom reported he had four people to assist in cleaning the carpets at the church. It was a lot of work with few people taking on the project but it is done. Sanitizing stations, sprays and sprayers as well as gloves have been ordered. A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tim Dennis to accept the Trustee's Report and motion carried.

Board of Ed: Maryann Thompson reported YFM extended the fishing contest to July 5, 2020. YFM is hosting a root beer float treat after services on July 12th , serving people as they drive up to receive them, eliminating serving them inside as in the past. A donation bucket will be available. Pastor has cards from Thrivent which will be sent out to shut-ins and those in nursing facilities. Planning a church picnic for August 7, 2020. Chicken will be served along with a number of side dishes. A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Chris Severt to accept the Board of Ed report and motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor advised he will have a stay at home vacation this year. Pastor is taking online classes. Camp Luther continues to struggle and could use some financial support. Pastor continues to offer Bible study via Zoom. Advised of the eighth graders and their Confirmation questioning and Confirmation day that are yet to be scheduled. Pastor reported of a new member class. The Synod is currently working on the Constitution as it relates to having virtual Congregational Meetings. The Barron Area Clergy Association met a couple of weeks ago. Pastor reported the internet has been upgraded. A motion was made by Tom Lipke, seconded by Chris Severt to accept the Pastor's Report and motion carried .

Discussion was had on how future Congregational Voter's Meetings would look like. The new video camera comes at a cost of \$2,100. It was decided not to purchase it until monies came in to cover the cost. Salem's playground, currently closed, will once again be opened for use. Having a garage sale during the city wide garage sale was discussed. Maryann will see what the status of that is with the city and how that would look like. The survey that was provided to members resulted in the following 19 responses received so far: close to half of the members said they will personally return to church services and close to half of the members said they will not return to church at this time.

A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tim Dennis to adjourn and motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes by Secretary Cornelius.

Needs List:

Catechisms \$13/book

Study Bibles \$40/book

Certificate Frames \$4/frame

Air Conditioning

Lamp for organ \$250 - \$400

Church Computers - \$600 per computer (replacing 1 every 2 years)

Faith Alive Bibles \$26/book

Additional Hymnals \$27/book

Baptism Frames \$4/frame

Convex Mirror \$50 - \$200

Music Stands \$50 - \$200

Playground Balance as of the end of April: \$687.95 is needed to pay this off!

Please see the church office before ordering/purchasing any of these items. Any amount of money can be donated toward an item on the needs list.

Prayer Requests for:

**Agens, Bonnie, Caroly, Char, Don, Elsie, Etta, Frances, Gail & Roxann,
Gene, Harrison, Joan, Joyce, Ken, Ken, Lenard, Lois, Louise, Marlene, Vi,
Wilma, Wyatt, Salem's home bound,**



July 1: Sue Church & Logan Severt

July 3: Jennifer Millerman

July 4: Tom Lipke & Mary Oscarson

July 7: Anne Fagerlin

July 8: Debbie Lipke, Tyler Schultz, & Garrett Steele

July 9: Payten Severt

July 14: Joan Church & James Starck

July 15: Carol Kuchera

July 19: Mary Ann Thompson

July 21: Fred Riebe

July 23: Jamey Dennis & Aaron Mickelson

July 26: Tiffany Starck



JULY 1: SCOTT & CATHY DAVIS

JULY 2: DEAN & CAROLY DAWSON

JULY 6: TOM & DEBBIE LIPKE

JULY 13 : HENRY & JUDITH KAEHLER

JULY 27: GAIL & ROXANN ESPESETH

How to Contact Us

Pastor Michael Nielsen – (218) 280-0999

Pastor's Email – rev.mike.nielsen@gmail.com

Office – (715) 537-3011

John Steele – (715) 769-3133

Preschool – (715) 537-3011 ext.14

Mary Ann Wheeler, Parish Musician – (715) 205-1158

Church Service Phone –1 (888) 505-1870

Church Email: salemмос@chibardun.net

Salem's New Web Page Is: <https://www.salembarron.com/>

Click on enter the following link and follow the prompts to support Salem.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6137330>

July Greeters

5 – Hanson Family

12 – Paul & Sue Millerman

19 – Fred Riebe Family

26 – Bernie & Joann Jaeger

July/August Leaders

Harrison & Shirly Fields 715-859-6194

Marilynn Amundsen 715-637-8777

Bonnie Brown 715-234-7959

Don & Mona Duncan 715-637-5915

Nathan & Brianne Duncan 715-642-1638

Trevor & Sarah Duncan 715-458-1328

Gail & Roxie Espeseth 715-637-3949

Henry & Judy Kaehler 715-859-6386

Joyce Kolba 715-234-3994

Brian Miller 715-357-3916

Kevin & Tammie Miller 715-637-3055

Karen Smith Unlisted

Richard & Marlene Snyder 715-637-9292

Dwayne and Dennis Stabeno 715-837-1857

Mary Ann Wheeler 715-205-1158

Linda Milikin 715-637-5888

July Ushers

Dean Hanson

Ryley Hanson

Ryan Hanson

Fred Riebe

July Elders

5 –Tim Dennis

12 – Josh Millerman

19 – Stan Koenig

26 – Trevor Duncan

July Altar Guild: Darlene McGiffin

Coffee Schedule

5 –



12 –

19 –

26 –



July 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  |
| 5 Green 8:30 am Communion Worship 10:30 am Communion Worship Fishing Contest Ends!!  | 6 7:00 pm Elders | 7 6:30 YFM 7 pm Men's Club | 8 6:30pm BOE | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Green 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship Grab and go Root Beer Floats severed after services! | 13 | 14 7:00pm Council | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Green 8:30 am Communion Worship 10:30 am Communion Worship | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Green 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |





A worm popped out of a fishes mouth during cleaning so he fished with it and got a bass.

