

Salem Lutheran Church



November 2020

Pastor's Page

Dear Saints of God at Salem,

Grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We are moving quickly to the end of 2020! Thank God! I think! As I am starting to reflect on this year that we are currently in, there is one word that continues to come to my mind. The Word is Hope! Our world is in desperate need for hope. We are in desperate need for hope.

“Present hurts and uncertainty over what the future holds create the

constant need for hope. Worldwide poverty, hunger, disease, and human potential to generate terror and destruction create a longing for something better.”¹ These words are so true when it comes to the world's need and our need for hope. The last few words say it all... it creates “a longing for something better.” We have been in a time in history that has not been seen for at least 102 years and we need hope. And yes, our hope is found in something better. Our hope is found in Jesus Christ and him Crucified and Risen.

The Church has this message of hope. It is a message that we are called to share to the world that needs it. The world and even sometimes we will look to earthly people or things for hope. We flippantly throw the word around sometimes. Maybe you have heard it said or you yourself has said it during this election year. I have heard people say, “I hope my candidate wins because...” “There is no hope if a certain candidate wins because...” Dear Saints, our hope is not found in a political candidate.

Our hope is found in the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. Yes, the devil and the world and even our own sinful flesh will try to rob our hope, because our hope is in Jesus. He is the only certain hope.

We open the month of November with All Saints Day where many people once again grieve the loss of loved ones. This year we will remember 8 saints of Salem that died in the past year since last All Saints Day. We also begin by looking at the message of hope, hope in Jesus. It's in times of grief that we look for hope. During those times as Christians we look to Jesus and the promise of life eternal.

As we open the month looking at hope, we will close the month looking at hope. The hope that comes as we begin our Advent Journey to celebrate the birthday of Jesus once again. Throughout the month of November,

¹ McAlister, P. K. (1988). [Hope](#). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 996). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.



the Scripture texts will take our gaze forward, forward to the end of this time period and the beginning of the New Creation, a day that I can truly say, I hope for.

Hope is a remarkable gift that God has given to us, hope that is filled with promise. Hope that is fulfilled in no earthly person, place, or thing...but fulfilled and found in Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Hope that is fulfilled in the Christ, the Immanuel Child, God With Us.

As we move through this month of November, we also find ourselves at the Thanksgiving Table as well, instead of dwelling on the "what could have been's" this year, focus your thoughts on the many good gifts that God continues to give you, including your salvation. Focus on the hope that is yours in Jesus.

There is much to be hopeful for during the remainder of this year, even yes with a Presidential Election that is divisive and the Covid-19 Pandemic still surging around us. There is much to be hopeful for even with death and disease and a long winter coming up. That hope is yes in Jesus and the blessings that He continues to give you every day.

In Christ's Service offering you Hope,

Pastor Nielsen

Congregation Meeting: September 27, 2020

Pastor opened with a prayer

Board Reports:

Treasurer's Report by Stan Koenig:

General Fund Balance 8/1/2020 - -\$3037.94

August Income - \$7,563.15

August Expenses - -\$12,223.98

Net Income for Month - \$4,660.83

General Fund Balance 8/31/2020 - \$7,698.77

Income for this year as of August 31, 2020:

Checking Account: \$36,304.29

Savings Account: \$14,192.32

LCEF - \$21,579.36

Giving is up compared to a year ago:

August 2019 - \$71,657.92 August 2020 - \$73,126.51

Josh Millerman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and seconded by Duffy Anderson

Elders Report by Tim Dennis: December 2019 - Duffy Anderson will be retiring from Board Of Elders
Josh Millerman and Trevor Duncan have accepted appointments to the Board Of Elders. January - David Steel has completed adult pastor's class. It was moved and approved to accept David Steel into membership by profession of faith. February - Jen Millerman will be stepping down from her bookkeeping position. The cost to hire outside services is similar to the bookkeeping salary. A motion was made and approved to try and hire a qualified congregational member as bookkeeper. Failing this we will hire Johnson, Agen & Kupferschmidt & Assoc. to do Salem's bookkeeping. March - Scott Quieser is our new bookkeeper. Jen Millerman will still do

the envelopes. We received a letter from the District Office regarding COVID 19. It stated churches need to have plans regarding gatherings and care for neighbors in the event an outbreak occurs. We can do things like no hand shaking and stay home if you are sick immediately. How best to serve food may need to be addressed. Pastor will hold Sunday Services for phone listeners even if the church is temporarily closed. April - Pastor is going through the church roster and phoning members to touch base and check on everybody. His takes time. I was suggested that each Elder take a portion of the church roster and call once or twice a month in addition to Pastor making calls. This will be tried. May - Online Church services will probably be a permanent thing. We need to upgrade our internet capability. Upgrading would cost between \$130 and \$260 to install proper wiring in the church and the monthly fee would go from \$7.95 to \$14.95. The upgrade would result in the WIFI having consistent power and speed throughout the church. A new camera would cost \$399. It was moved and approved to recommend the upgrade to council. We discussed plans to reopen the church for worship services when allowed. When the state government announces Phase 2, this will allow gatherings of up to 50 people. Concerns include social distancing, health protocols, especially for high risk members, traffic flow and how to conduct Communion. It was felt there should be two Sunday services to keep members less than 50 people. Possibly at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. People will have to sign up for which service they plan to attend. Maybe one service should be for high risk people. Everyone will be encouraged to wear masks. Pew seat cushions will be removed. No hymnals will be used, just disposable bulletins. Social distancing will be maintained during seating by leaving space (6 ft) between family groups in the same pew, and using only every second or third pew. The offering plate will be placed in the back of the church. Ushers will direct people so social distancing can be maintained. No coffee or food will be served, people will exit the church following the service. For communion, Pastor and Elder will wear masks. There will be no common cup and disposable individual cups will be used. There will be no kneeling at the rail and only about 8 people will be allowed at the rail at any one time. The church will need to be cleaned after each service including between Sunday services. Church services will be more normal when Phase 3 is implemented. It is realized that some high risk members may not be attending services for quite some time. Pastor reviewed information from several sources including the University of Minnesota, the Barron County Health Department and the Northern Wisconsin District website on guidance to reopening the church. Pastor has done some measuring and we have to skip two pews for every occupied pew leaving 12 pews we can use. The fellowship and Bible study areas could be used for additional seating if necessary. Bulletins could be placed in the pews so people would know where to sit. With businesses reopening and Memorial Day weekend coming up the number of COVID cases could increase in the next several weeks. It was agreed we should wait and see what happens and if cases remain low a mid-June reopening would be possible. If cases increase we may have to delay further. June – How and when do we open the church for Sunday worship? Pastor made his recommendations and after discussion the following was agreed upon: The church will reopen for services on Sunday June 14. There will be two services at 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. The church will be deep cleaned, including the carpet before June 14. A church will be sprayed with disinfectant between the first and second services. Hymnals, pencils, communion cards and pew cushions will be removed. Windows and doors will be open and fans operating during services for optimum ventilation. July – We have the money for a camera and it is on order. A motion was made and approved to return to a single service at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays starting this next Sunday. Pastor will put out an email informing the congregation as well as calling members who have been attending the 10:30 a.m. service. August – In July Pastor conducted one baptism and one funeral. The nursing homes were closed to visitors. Questioning of confirmands will be Wednesday August 12 at 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Sunday will be September 20th. September – There was a discussion as to whether we should expand to two services with the first service having masks required for high risk members and others who would prefer such a service. The second service would be masks optional. A motion was made and approved that starting on September 20 Salem will have a 7:45 a.m. service with masks required and a 9:15 a.m. service with masks optional. It was moved and approved

to accept Chris and Amber Queiser into membership by profession of faith. We need a new bookkeeper. After discussion it was moved and approved to hire Johnson, Agen and Kupferschmidt & Assoc. do Salem's bookkeeping. We will start using hymnals during services with two sets of hymnals used on alternate weeks. Motion was made to approve the Elder's report by Tom Lipke and seconded by Josh Millerman.

Trustee Report – Tom Lipke: So far keeping up with law mowing. Thank You to the volunteer's who have helped this season. Chris Mueller and family have cleaned up trees and pulled all the weed's around the church. The old wood fence behind the parsonage was taken down. New windows have been replaced in the Alter Guild room and look really nice. Motion was made to accept the Trustee's report by Trevor Duncan and seconded by Josh Millerman.

Board Of Education – Mary Ann Thompson: YFM held the annual Church Picnic in August and served 53 meals between take out and dining at the picnic tables outside. Root Beer floats went over well this fall after church opened up for services on Sundays. YFM plans to hold a Trunk N Treat on Saturday October 31 from 10 a.m. – Noon in the church parking lot. October 28th the youth will be hosting a “Virtual Bingo” starting at 3:30 p.m. Stay tuned for more information Sunday School will begin in person October 4th and YFM will be serving coffee and wrapped snacks after service.

Pastor's Report: Months ago on Reformation Sunday a motion was made and approved to go ahead with a Daycare. Three candidates were interviewed for the Director of Daycare. Then COVID-19 hit and everything was put on hold. Board of Education decided to hold off until the building is ready to have Infants to 6 year old children. Pastor asked Josh Millerman to come forward from the Building Committee and give an update on the building updates that need to be done for a DayCare. The building committee received a bid from Bill Balts construction. Bill has done work in the past for Salem and has done well so we plan to hire Bill Balts construction if approved. Building materials are a concern but they have been locked in. The amount of approximately \$108,000.00. This includes an allowance for flooring, heating and ventilation. Will has more information on the dollar amount. A drawing has been handed out to everyone in attendance – this shows the change to the east wing as you can see on the drawing you each should have received. Will came forward at this time. The building committee was formed last November. Today we are here to decide how to proceed. We have looked at getting a loan thru a bank and have found that the best would be to go thru LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund). The October rate thru LCEF would be 4% and this would be adjusted annually. If we borrow \$100,000 over 20 years from LCEF it would be approximately \$606 per month, over 25 years would be approximately \$528.00 per month. There would also be a \$350 loan fee rolled into the loan. We also looked at the Trust Fund and potentially we would have about \$56,000 available from the Trust Fund if needed. The estimated cost of the building would be between \$130,000 and \$135,000 and this is on the high end. If we approve this we will then form a finance committee to see where the money should come from. Lots of things have changed since COVID but there is still a need for Daycare in the Barron area and just remember our mission statement has not changed. How do we go forward? Can we continue to remodel the building this winter? Bill Balts agreed to do the construction this winter. What questions does anyone have? Would the church have to start making loan payments right away? We do not have that answer from LCEF yet but we assume we would have to start the next month. Scott Queiser stated that if you average the loan out by the week it would be about \$138 per week. We are fulfilling a need following our mission statement and may need to step up a bit. There were no more questions so Will made a motion to borrow up to \$100,000 from LCEF to start the building updates and it was seconded by Tim to have a vote. John Steele asked again if there were more questions as this is a big decision and we want to make sure to answer any questions before voting. Will made a motion to borrow up to \$100,000 from LCEF to proceed with the Daycare and seconded by Tim Dennis to vote on this. Vote yes to proceed or no to not proceed on your piece of paper and someone will come around and pick up your vote. 27 Yes and 4 No so the motion has passed. Pastor closed with comments:

Hopefully this will bring some excitement back into this church. We will look at having a groundbreaking soon and Pastor thanked the building committee members and everyone for being here today. Pastor closed with the Lord's Prayer and we sang the common doxology. Josh Millerman made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Tim Dennis.

Council Meeting of October 13, 2020

President John Steele called the meeting to order and Tim Dennis led us in prayer.

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

Absent: Pastor Nielsen

Secretary's Report: Secretary Kelly Cornelius read the Council Meeting minutes of September 8, 2020. A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Chris Severt to accept the minutes as read and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Stan Koenig reported the September, 2020, Financial Summary as follows: General Fund balance as of September 1, 2020, in the amount of \$7,698.77 (in the hole). General Fund income of \$13,975.33 and expenses at \$11,379.11 for a balance as of September 30, 2020, of \$5,102.55 (in the hole). Missions: \$1,307.00. Building Fund: \$353.00 Sunday School: \$55.00 Checking account balance at Sterling Bank of \$40,368.71 and savings account at \$14,192.32. LCEF Building Fund: \$21,782.36. The General Fund (account 4101) for January to September is at \$64,974.54. A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tom Lipke to accept the Treasurer's Report and motion carried.

Elders' Report: Pastor will start visiting shut-ins when facilities allow visitors. Nursing homes recommend that pastors use a self contained communion cup. Cost is \$50.00 per 100. Pastors Becker and Buechner will be on call while Pastor Nielsen is gone from October 5 - 15 . Sunday Bible study will begin on October 18, 2020. Delegates are needed for the 2021 District Convention . There will be communion during the Reformation Sunday service on October 25, 2020. The camera still needs more elevation during communion. It was decided that on Christmas Eve there will be a 5:30 p.m. service where masks are required, and a 7:00 p.m. service where masks are optional. Also, on Christmas Day, there will be services at 7:45 a.m. (masks required) and 9:15 a.m (masks optional). After discussion, the 2021 Elders Budget was completed. It was moved and approved to accept the 2021 Budget, which includes a three percent cost of living increase for Pastor Nielsen. A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Chris Severt to accept the Elders Report and motion carried.

Trustee's Report: Tom Lipke reported a folding door from downstairs was dismantled and brought upstairs to be used. A deadline will soon be set for the removal of items from the rooms soon to be remodeled. Remodeling is scheduled to begin the first of the year (January, 2021). Tom reported sanitizing continues and will continue for the foreseeable future. A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Chris Severt to accept the Trustee's Report and motion carried.

Pastor's Report: No report as Pastor on vacation.

Board of Ed: Maryann Thompson reported Sunday School going well. Plans under way for a virtual bingo day for Salem. Trunk or Treat is planned for October 31, 2020, in Salem's parking lot. A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Stan Koenig to accept the report and motion carried.

As far as our building project, the bid from Balts was locked in at \$108,000. After discussion a motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Chris Severt to borrow up to \$100,000 from LCEF and the motion carried. Further, an additional \$30,000 could be withdrawn from the Trust Fund's Klein Estate account if or needed.

Discussed the need of forming a Finance Committee for the Daycare/Preschool Project. A note will be put in the bulletin regarding this. Our bookkeeping will be turned over to Johnson, Agen, and Kupferschmidt (not accounts receivable) this week. Jen Millerman will continue recording envelopes/reports and Scott Quieser will continue writing checks. Stan will check with the accounting firm regarding Salem's payroll.

A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tom Lipke to adjourn and motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes by Secretary Kelly Cornelius.



Greetings from Salem Youth Group! It's hard to believe it is November already. The youth group kicked off their year in September and enjoyed a family picnic with a bonfire and games. Youth group also will be hosting a virtual bingo game sometime in November and helped with Trunk or Treat. Fun was had by all that participated. Youth group is focusing on loving our neighbor

this year. We have served at the Benjamin House twice and we plan to do other acts of kindness throughout the year. We have started to use the **PACK** program. This stands for: **Planned Acts of Christian Kindness**. We will be taking our youth into our community and showing the love of Christ to others. This program will bless us through a giving heart. It will encourage us to be in God's Word and Live His Word along with building our faith and helping others build their faith. If you want to know more or get involved yourself please see Josh or Jen Millerman for more details. We would love our Church Family to join in with the Blessings that come from doing PACK. As a reminder; Youth Group is for all kids age 5th grade and up. Bring your friends, neighbors, or family to youth group. Everyone is welcome. We meet the last Sunday of the month from 3:30pm -5:30pm.

*****Change for November** We will meet from 5:30pm-7:30pm due to Hunting!!***

Needs List:

Catechisms \$13/book

Study Bibles \$40/book

Certificate Frames \$4/frame

Air Conditioning

Lamp for organ \$250 - \$400

Faith Alive Bibles \$26/book

Additional Hymnals \$27/book

Baptism Frames \$4/frame

Convex Mirror \$50 - \$200

Music Stands \$50 - \$200

Church Computers - \$600 per computer

(replacing 1 every 2 years)

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.

GIFT FROM THE HEART

The Gift From the Heart committee is looking ahead to this year's Christmas season. We are in the middle of a very unusual year with the covid pandemic that has affected how we gather with others and do business in our communities! We were unable to hold our one and only fundraiser this year, which is our Brat Sale. That was a loss for us knowing what families' needs will be, as great or greater, this year than in years past.



We are planning to have our hearts be virtual this year. Each church will be handling that aspect a little differently so watch for further information from your church! We hope to have virtual hearts available November 22nd. **Gifts would need to be turned in by noon on Saturday December 6th.**

We understand many of you might be hesitant in taking a heart this year because of getting out to do your shopping and or not being comfortable with online shopping. If that is the case, please consider donating monetarily as a way to still support the children of the Barron School District!

As always, we are still looking for waterproof mittens and gloves in children's sizes-adult sizes.

We can't thank you enough because without your support Gift From the Heart would not be able to continue its work!

If you know that you would like a heart before November 22nd we can put your name down and save one for you. We will have a limited number of them this year. You can email or call the church to let me know.

We will be collecting 150 toothbrushes. There will be a box at church to put them in. Also if you are ordering them on line you can have them shipped to the church. Thank you so much for participating with GFH!

You truly do give the children a brighter CHRISTMAS!

God Bless You and Thank You,
Sue Millerman
Gift From the Heart Committee

**ATTENTION
PARENTS**

READ PLEASE



ATTENTION SALEM PARENTS: Please talk with your children regarding the **Children's Worship Program on Sunday, December 13th.** I need to know if they are interested in playing their instrument or any special vocal interests (Solo, duet ect.) I'd like the list of names **EARLY** to make for easier planning and coordinating. Feel free to contact me in person, text or vmail (715)296-0339, or email at jsevert@cameron.k12.wi.us. Thank you. Jolene Severt

**Men's Club Meeting
October 6, 2020**



- President Tom Lipke called the meeting to order.
- Minutes were read by Don Duncan from 9-1-2020
- Treasure report was given by Ken Harbaugh.
- Pancake Supper: Served approximately 156 people. 83 buttermilk orders and 73 potato pancakes were made. Didn't do as good as we hoped for. We did come out ok, not as good as last year.
- We also had some ideas about the Big Buck contest.
- Will talk about that more next month.
- Closed with the Lord's Pray

Prayer Requests for:

Those in the nursing home:

Caroly, Dean, Don, Elsie, Etta, Frances, Leonard, Lois, Louise, Vi

Those Shut-in at home:

Char, Gail, Joan, Joyce, Loretta, Wilma

Those recovering from surgery: Roxanne Espeseth, Mona Duncan, Steve Amdall

Those recovering from an accident: Rusty Weise

Those with ongoing health issues:

Agnes, Bernard, Bonnie, Harrison, Ken, Kim, Marlene, Wyatt, Owen

Those who lead our nation:

Donald Trump, Mike Pence, Tony Evers, Ron Fladten

Those who serve in our military:

Ryan Graf and Ethan Kobernick



November 3: Kayla Dennis

November 5: Ione Kern

November 10: Andy Schuettpelz, Martin Luther, & Drew Elliott

November 14: Loretta Becker

November 16: Paul Millerman & Austin Stabenow

November 18: Jonathon Miller

November 25: Erin Graf (Hammann)

November 27: Mahlon Maas

November 28: Caleb Duncan

November 30: Brielle Hilger



NOVEMBER 4: ROGER AND ANN FAGERLIN

NOVEMBER 16: RUSTY AND MELISSA WEISE

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 – (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>



November Ushers

Randy Forehand

Rick Cornelius

Christopher Mueller

Hunter Mueller

Carl Mueller

Matt Thompson

November/December Leaders

Randy & Sarah Forehand 715-637-1300

Mary Ann Thompson 715-296-8751

Dale & Becky Bryan 715-637-8341

Rick & Judy Church 715-357-6214

James Dennis 715-418-2288

Mark & Amy Dennis 715-458-3306

Sharon Hammann 715-357-3074

Marcia Elliott 715-234-9321

Ken Harbaugh 715-637-3219

Diane Knoepke 715-637-5912

Aaron Mickelson 715-418-0234

Jim & Gwen Metcalf 715-642-0527

Chris & Jolene Severt 715-458-4970

Melissa Weinert 715-418-1222

Christopher & Kelly Mueller 715-418-2311



November Altar Guild: Mary Ann Thompson

November Elders

1 – 7:45 Don Duncan 9:15 Stan Koenig
8 – 7:45 Trevor Duncan 9:15 Josh Millerman
15 – 7:45 Don Duncan 9:15 Tim Dennis
22 – 7:45 Don Duncan 9:15 Josh Millerman
26 – 7:45 Don Duncan 9:15 Paul Millerman
29 – 7:45 Trevor Duncan 9:15 Paul Millerman

Coffee Schedule

4 – YFM
11 – YFM
18 – YFM
25 – YFM



November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 White</p> <p>7:45 (mask required) 9:15 am Communion Worship Coffee/Snacks 10:30 am SS/Bible Class</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 pm Elders</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 am Bible Class 7:00 pm Men's Club</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4-5pm Confirmation 7 pm BOE meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11 am Bible Class</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Green</p> <p>7:45 (mask required) 9:15 am Worship Coffee/Snacks 10:30 am SS/Bible Class</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 am Bible Class 7:00pm Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4-5pm Confirmation 5 pm YFM meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11 am Bible Class</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Green</p> <p>7:45 (mask required) 9:15 am Communion Worship Coffee/Snacks 10:30 am SS/Bible Class</p> <p>Congregational Voters Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 am Bible Class</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4-5pm Confirmation SLCW 7pm YFM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11 am Bible Class</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Green</p> <p>7:45 (mask required) 9:15 am Worship Coffee/Snacks 10:30 am SS/Bible Class</p> 	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 am Bible Class</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>4-5pm Confirmation</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>7:45 am (mask) 9 am Worship</p> 	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p> 
<p>29 Blue</p> <p>7:45 (mask required) 9:15 am Worship Coffee/Snacks 10:30 am SS/Bible Class 5:30 - 7:30 Youth Group</p> 	<p>30</p>					