



# Salem Lutheran Church

*Blessed*

is the family who delights in the **Word** of the **Lord**, and meditates on it day and night.

The family will be like a tree planted by streams of water, **yielding fruit** in its season.

*Psalms 1*

August 2020



# Pastor's Page

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First off, I apologize if this sounds like rambling, this comes from my thoughts.

We are now almost 5 months into this Pandemic in Wisconsin, this has been a hard five months for all of us in our own unique ways. For my June newsletter article, I reflected on 10 years of ministry and I believe I stated this has been the hardest year of my 10 years of ministry. It is the hardest year because of all the stumbling blocks and temptations the devil has thrown at the Christian Church. Notice I did not say Salem or even the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I said the Christian Church. I have observed the church react to the difficulties facing our nation and world – whether this be the current Pandemic or the hostility that happened after the death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer.

The Church has reacted in many and various ways, some good (opening drive thru food banks during Covid and the protests in various cities, opening doors for Blood Drives), some bad, and some downright sinful (spreading hate and fear). I became reacquainted with something that I knew existed in the church over these last 5 months. It is a virus that spreads quickly. The virus is sin and when sin is around we sin against

each other and the devil uses sin to divide. This virus is in each one of us and in every individual congregation, so there for it is here at Salem. There is division based on our thoughts. There are some of you who think that everything going on in the country and world (Covid and the Black Lives Matter resurgence) right now is a big hoax that will be settled on November 4.



There are others of you that are filled with fear over both situations. Then there are many of us who fall in the middle: those of us that are cautious in large groups and are maintaining our distance, wearing our masks and so forth out of care for our neighbor, while others are not coming out due to Covid concerns for themselves and others. Are any of these thoughts by themselves truly sinful? I do not believe they are. When they become sinful is when you do not have respect for the other...whether that is with race or public health concerns or anything else that we may disagree on. They become sinful when you disrespect others and think that they are somehow less of a person or even when you think of only yourself.

The biggest fear of mine so far in 2020 has been that Salem will become divided. I am starting to see cracks. Pray that the Triune God will heal those cracks through our love for one another. We are a family, and yes sometimes families have disagreements and divisions. I want us the people of God here at Salem, the Body of

Christ here at Salem to come to the point where we can have differing viewpoints yet continue to show love to our neighbor, to continue to work together for the common cause of spreading Christ's love.

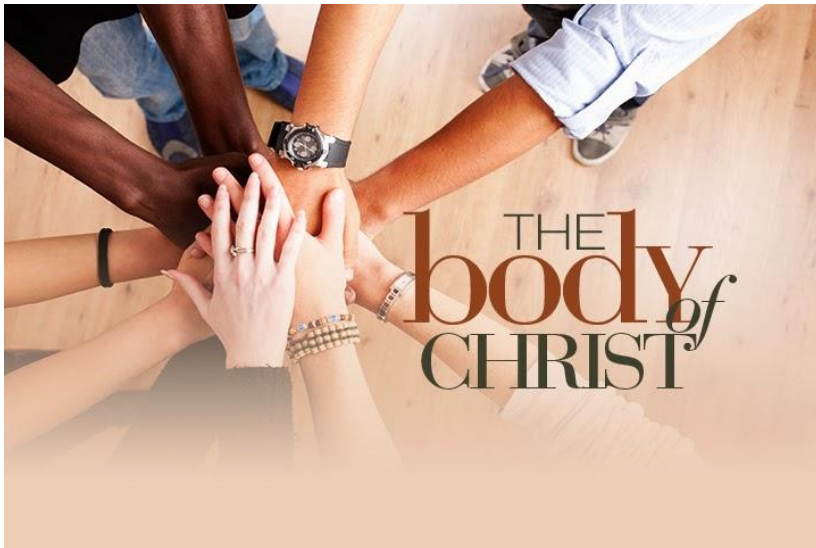
Here is what St. Paul says to the church in Corinth, a church that had its own problem, a church that had its own troubles and divisions. I am including the rather long text in my article this month so that you can read it over and over again and pray about it, use these following Words from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians to inform how you live your lives:

*<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

*<sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.*

*<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> **that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.** <sup>26</sup> **If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.***

*<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*



St. Paul urges us that there may be no division among the body of Christ, but that the members may have the same care for one another. You showed me that care last May when we suffered the miscarriage. My family and I we suffered, and you suffered along side of us. Now when other people are suffering, I do not see the universal suffering together. We are the Body of Christ; we need to live like we are the Body of Christ.

I want you, the body of Christ here at Salem to be seen by the community of Barron as ones that are united. Will we be united in political beliefs or even in our thoughts on whether wearing a

mask should be required or not? No, I do not expect you to. What I do expect of you is that we can put those differences aside and show how much we love each other.

There are some in the congregation that are hurt and some that are suffering because there are those that want to rush in and "get back to normal" and I do know that there are those who would be "hurt and suffer" because we "aren't back to normal". We are in troubling times and I plead with you the people of Salem...to

be the people of PEACE, to live together in peace, to be slow to judge, to be slow to post troubling thoughts on social media, to be slow to speak when you are frustrated, but be quick to forgive! When we can sit down and talk and forgive and respect the other person, we can be the people of peace and we will be united, there will not be a division in the body of Christ.

I also want to remind you that it really is nothing that we can do in and of ourselves to maintain unity, but unity flows through the head of the Body which is Christ. Christ Jesus achieved our unity in the Body when he died and was raised to life. Christ Jesus brought you into this body on the day you were baptized. You are the Body of Christ.

I want you all to know that I love all of you very much. Salem is a place that my family and I call home. We love Salem. As your pastor I am doing my best to navigate these uncertain and troubling times with you. Please keep me in your prayers, sometimes I feel weak and inadequate, I need all your prayers as I seek to lead you with God's Holy Word!

In Christ's Service,

*Pastor Nielsen*

## **Council Meeting of July 14, 2020**

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

Present: President John Steele, Vice-president Chris Severt, Pastor Nielsen, Treasurer Stan Koenig, Elder Tim Dennis, Trustee Tom Lipke, all appearing in person with Secretary Kelly Cornelius appearing via phone.

Absent: Board of Ed Maryann Thompson

Secretary's Report: Secretary Kelly Cornelius read the Council Meeting minutes of June 9, 2020. A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tim Dennis to accept the minutes as read and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Stan Koenig reported the June, 2020 Financial Summary as follows: General Fund balance as of June 1, 2020, in the amount of \$1,589.99 (In the hole). General Fund income of \$11,172.15 and expenses at \$12,804.64. Balance as of June 30, 2020 of \$3,222.48 (in the hole). Missions: \$475.00. Building Fund: \$185.00 Checking account at Sterling Bank is at \$39,887.09, and savings account at \$14,192.33. It should be noted that the playground is now paid in full. An amount of \$2,205 has been given for the video upgrade. A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tim Dennis to accept the Treasurer's Report and motion carried.

Elders' Report: We have 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 Sunday. Pastor will put out an e-mail informing the congregation, as well as calling members who have been attending the 10:30 a.m. services. We need a substitute organist to help out when necessary. One may be hard to find but we need to start looking. Pastor said he stopped Zoom Bible studies after the church reopened. He plans on starting Mens' Tuesday Bible study in August, and a Thursday Bible study in September. Confirmation questioning will be on a Wednesday evening in August, with the date yet to be determined. Confirmation will be on September 20, 2020. A second service may be necessary that day to maintain social distancing. Pastor will offer family communion on Sundays from 10:15 a.m., to noon for members who prefer this method. Pastor has completed his doctoral classes and is on to the next phase of the program. He will need a better computer for his doctoral work.

Trustee's Report: Trustee Tom Lipke reported the church is being sanitized thoroughly after services due to the pandemic. The video for the playground has been paid for. Tom informed the Council of the fact that the altar guild room windows are in need of replacement and the work should be completed before winter. The quote he reported to Council came at a cost of approximately \$1,800 but thought it could end up costing a bit less. Tom will be checking with another company to see if he could get a lower quote on the windows. The work would be accomplished by Salem members. It was decided to put this project cost on the Needs List, hoping the monies would come sooner rather than later so the project could be completed this fall. Tom further reported a lot of work has been done down in the creek bottom area with tree work and clean up. A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Stan Koenig to accept the Trustee's Report and motion carried.

Board of Ed: Pastor reported, in Maryann Thompson's absence, the Board of Ed needs some financial direction as it relates to the Daycare/Preschool which will require Congregational approval. Maryann Thompson learned that there will be no citywide garage sale this year. There has been discussion about having Salem's this winter along with the BACC sale. No definite decisions made yet regarding the church picnic scheduled for August 7, 2020.

#### Pastor's Report:

Pastor advised he has finished his Dr. Of Ministry class and is now working on his final assignment. Pastor advised Council of the July 14, 2020, update from the Barron County Public Health Department as it relates to Covid-19. Confirmation questioning will be held in August and Confirmation is scheduled for September 20, 2020. In August, Pastor plans to resume seeing shut-ins/outside visits. A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Chris Severt to accept Pastor's Report and motion carried.

Brought up was the need to make some updates to the Constitution for voting purposes for the upcoming Congregational Voter's Meeting. The Daycare/Preschool Committee needs Congregational approval to move financially forward. After some discussion on how that meeting would take place during the Covid-19 situation, a motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tim Dennis to hold a Congregational Voter's Meeting on August 30, 2020, right after the church service. Only those personally in attendance would be allowed to vote. Motion carried. Agenda items will be prepared for this meeting.

Talked about how Sunday School might look like this fall. A drive-through pancake supper is planned for September 28, 2020. A camera has been installed at a cost of \$1,730. Regarding Pastor's need of a new computer, Eagle Services of Rice Lake will be contacted for a price quote. The new playground will be installed in Anderson Park in the City of Barron this month. The city has asked churches to provide lunch to their crew of approximately 20 people. The city has asked for Salem's members to provide lunch for them on July 28, 2020, which would most likely include individually wrapped sandwiches, chips and a piece of fruit.

A motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Tom Lipke to adjourn and motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes by Kelly Cornelius

## Prayer Requests for:

### **Those that celebrate:**

PJ and Catherine (Queiser) Clandenning at the birth of Faith, born 7-6.  
Pastor and Emily Nielsen at the birth of Naomi, born 7-8 and upon her baptism.

**Those who Mourn:** The Family of Kenneth Miller

### **Those in the nursing home:**

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

### **Those Shut-in at home:**

Char, Gail and Roxann, Joan, Joyce, Wilma

### **Those with ongoing health issues:**

Agnes, Bonnie, Harrison, Ken, Marlene, Wyatt

### **Those who lead our nation:**

Donald Trump, Mike Pence, Tony Evers, Ron Fladten

### **Those who serve in our military:**

Ryan Graf and Ethan Kobernick

## Men's Club meeting July 7, 2020

- Tom called the meeting to order
- Pastor lead us in devotions
- Secretary report was read from last meeting March 3rd by Don
- Treasure report was given by Ken
- New Business: Decided to have our pancake supper again this year Sept 28/2020. It will be drive up and carry out only. Menu is: Buttermilk or Potato pancakes, Apple sauce, Sausage, syrup and white milk. Free will Donations Only
- other New Business: Pastor plans on starting Men's Bible Study in August starting at 7 am.
- Motion by Jim to adjourn Seconded by Pete.



Minutes by Don Duncan , Sec  
We closed with the Lord's Prayer



**August 2:** Grant Stabenow

**August 5:** Judy Church & Jeff Kolba

**August 8:** Cathy Davis, Eli Bisonette, & Isaac Duncan

**August 9:** Isaac Mickelson

**August 10:** Janee Anderson, Charlotte Hermann, & Cindy Wright

**August 13:** Kassandra Rivard

**August 16:** Jeanne Perala

**August 17:** Mark Dennis & Shyanne Hammann

**August 18:** Matthew Thompson

**August 19:** Jeremy Millerman

**August 20:** Kathy Mueller

**August 21:** Jeanette Garrett, Shirley Hehl, & Carol Shearer

**August 24:** Kelly Mueller & Hunter Mueller

**August 25:** Wilma Fink

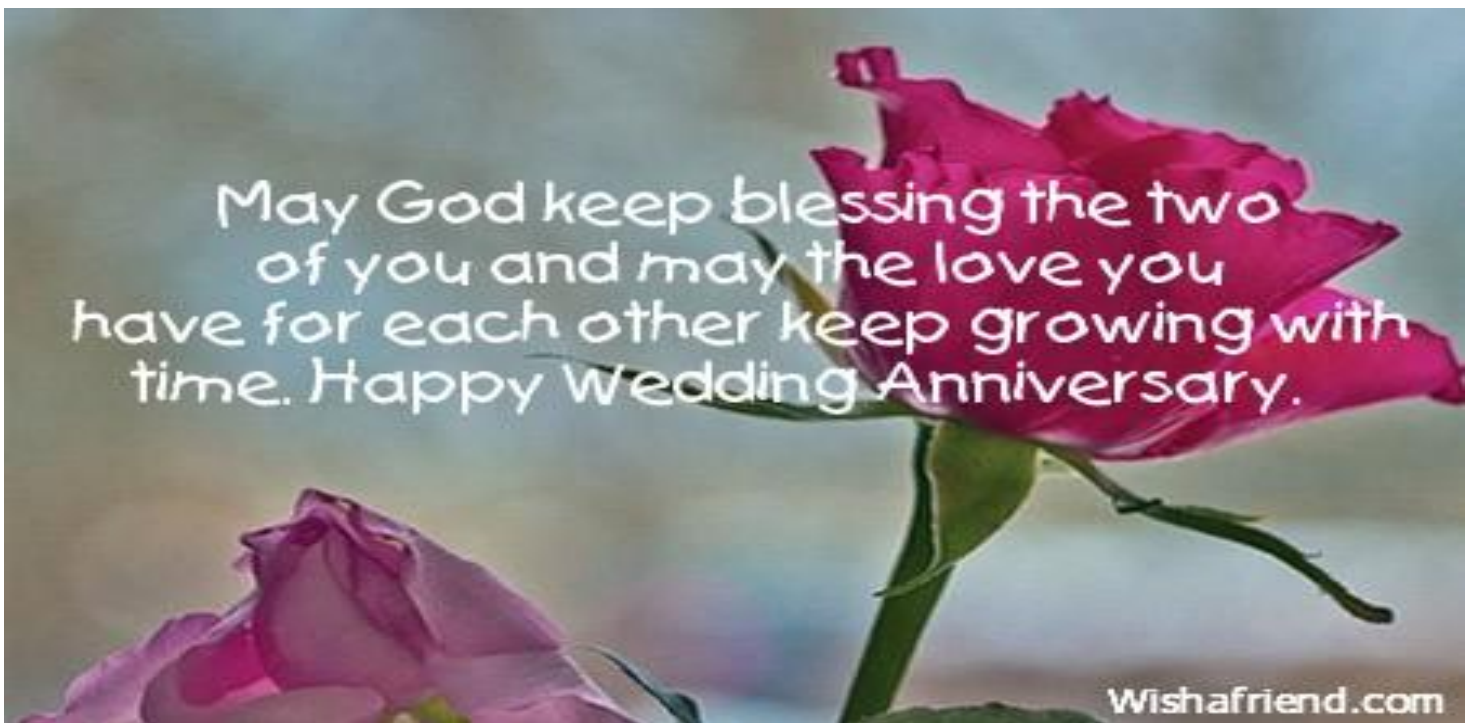
**August 28:** Chris Mueller

**August 29:** Ike Bisonette

**August 30:** Randy Church, Rick Church, & Jeff McGowan







AUGUST 6: RANDY & SUE CHURCH

AUGUST 8: DEAN & KIM HANSON & ESTEN & BERNIE PEDERSEN

AUGUST 14: EARL & AMEE STARCK

AUGUST 15: BRAD & CAROL KUCHERA

AUGUST 19: DWAYNE & DENISE STABENOW & NATHAN & ALICIA KIRKMAN

AUGUST 23: PASTOR & KATHY MUELLER

AUGUST 27: JOHN & EMILY STEELE

AUGUST 30: CHRISTOPHER & JOLENE SEVERT

### 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)**

**Altar Guild room window - \$1800**

**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.**

**Faith Alive Bibles \$26/book**

**Additional Hymnals \$27/book**

**Baptism Frames \$4/frame**

**Convex Mirror \$50 - \$200**

**Music Stands \$50 - \$200**



# How to Contact Us

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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: [salemmos@chibardun.net](mailto:salemmos@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>

## August Ushers

**James Thalacker**  
Henry Kaehler  
Esten Pederson  
Pastor Ron Mueller  
Harrison Fields



## July/August Leaders

**Harrison and Shirley 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	715-296-7279
Gail & Roxie Espeseth	715-637-3949
Harrison & Shirley Fields	715-859-6194
Henry & Judy Kaehler	715-859-6386
Joyce Kolba	715-651-3359
Brian Miller	715-357-3916
Kevin & Tammie Miller	715-637-3055
Karen Smith	Unlisted
Richard & Marlene Snyder	715-637-9292
Dwayne and Dennis Stabenow	715-837-1857
Mary Ann Wheeler	715-205-1158
Linda Mullikin	715-637-5888



**August Altar Guild: Barb Maas**

## August Elders



2 – Tim Dennis  
9 – Josh Millerman  
16 – Stan Koenig  
23 – Trevor Duncan  
30 – Paul Millerman

## Coffee Schedule

2 – Harrison & Shirley Fields  
9 – Open for Volunteer  
16 – Open for Volunteer  
23 – Open for Volunteer  
30 – Open for Volunteer



# August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>Green</b> 9:00 am Communion Worship	3 7:00 pm Elders	4 7 am Bible Class 7:00 pm Men's Club	5 7:00 pm BOE	6	7 Congregational PICNIC 	8
9 <b>Green</b> 9:00 am Worship	10	11 7 am Bible Class 7:00 pm Council	12 7pm : Confirmation Questioning	13	14	15
16 <b>Green</b> 9:00 am Communion Worship	17	18 7 am Bible Class	19	20	21	22
23 <b>Green</b> 9:00 am Worship	24	25 7 am Bible Class	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 am Worship 10:15 Congregational Informative and Voters Meeting 	31					

# Join us for VBS @ Home! Take your children through the many "Encounters" of life

- Day 1 Forgiveness**
- Day 2-Grace**
- Day 3-Trust**
- Day 4- Love**
- Day 5- Resurrection**

Post your craft, song, or lesson on Facebook and be entered in for our DAILY PRIZE GIVEAWAYS!! Don't feel comfortable with Facebook- email the church @ [salemmos@chibardun.net](mailto:salemmos@chibardun.net)

**VBS**



Find materials at [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com) or check out our Facebook page for the daily VBS Update. There are also packets available at church if you would like a printed copy!

**August 3-  
August 7**  
**Bible Lesson,  
Craft, Skits,  
Activities, and  
Music**

<https://www.facebook.com/SalemEvangelicalLutheranChurchAndPreschool/>



**Salem's**

# Annual Picnic

**GRILLED CHICKEN      BEANS  
CHEESY POTATOES      DESSERT**

**Dine In  
Or Take  
Out**



**REUNITE WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS**

**AUGUST 7TH 2020 • BEGINS AT 4:30 PM**

Please sign up for the church picnic this year. We will be social distancing and offer to-go or delivery meals. You can call or sign up online. And remember if you are sick or have been around anyone who is sick, please stay home. If it rains it will still be available, but will be to-go only.

**SIGN UP ONLINE [WWW.SALEMBARRON.COM](http://WWW.SALEMBARRON.COM) OR CALL 715-537-3011**