

Salem Lutheran Church Childcare and Preschool



Blessed is 
the nation
whose God
is the LORD.

Psalm 33:12

July 2022

Pastor's Page

Dear Family of God,

Last month, I wrote on the importance of Baptism being the critical piece in the discipleship process and raising children in the faith. Baptism is a work of God that grants faith. It is in the water and Word of Baptism that a baptized child becomes a priest, one that can go before God on their own. "Priest" as Dr. Norman Nagel says, "are only from the Lord toward the Lord."

In the Old Testament, the priest represented the people before God. The priest was the intermediary between God and His people Israel. Now in the New Testament, "there is only one priest. All other talks of priests is in the secondary sense." That one priest is Jesus Christ. The secondary sense refers to the people whom the Lord calls to himself. Christians are called to be members of the Lord's priesthood through Baptism. The New Testament expands on the role of "secondary priests" especially as it relates to 1 Peter 2:9 where Peter writes: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." This teaching is a major contributing factor to Luther emphasizing the Priesthood of All Believers and its responsibilities before God and one another. Baptized believers have a responsibility before God and before our neighbor. Nagel shares that "we are living sacrifices whose lives are poured out in sacrifice to him where he has put himself to receive the sacrifice of our lives, that is our neighbor in need."¹ Those neighbors include children who need to be taught the Word of God.

Since a Christian parent is also a baptized child of God, he or she is part of the Priesthood of All Believers. This priesthood indicates how God's people can spread the Word of God. For the sake of the work that I did, it relates to how parents can teach the Word of God to their children.

Luther takes this heart as he writes. He was upset that the Word of God was not in the hands of the lay people. He worked hard to correct this and brought the Word of God and teaching tools into their lives. Luther realized that pastors needed tools to give to their people, so he provides simple way in the form of the Small Catechism. In doing so, he focuses on the spiritual leaders of the house – the fathers. At the beginning of each of the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism, he writes, "As the Head of the family Should Teach Them in a Simple Way to His Household." He not only notes the importance of the role parents have in the Small Catechism, but also in the Large, "Therefore, let every father of a family know that it is his duty, by God's order and command, to teach these things to his children, or to have the children learn what they ought to know."²

Since parents are included in the Priesthood of All Believer, they are called to teach their children the faith. They also though need the support and teaching of the church and her leaders as well. Luther emphasizes this. He emphasizes that there is a great partnership here. Now as I am here to be of support, equip, and provide support. One of the tools that I focused on in my work is a book entitled *Visionary Parenting*. I provide a review for this book elsewhere in the newsletter.

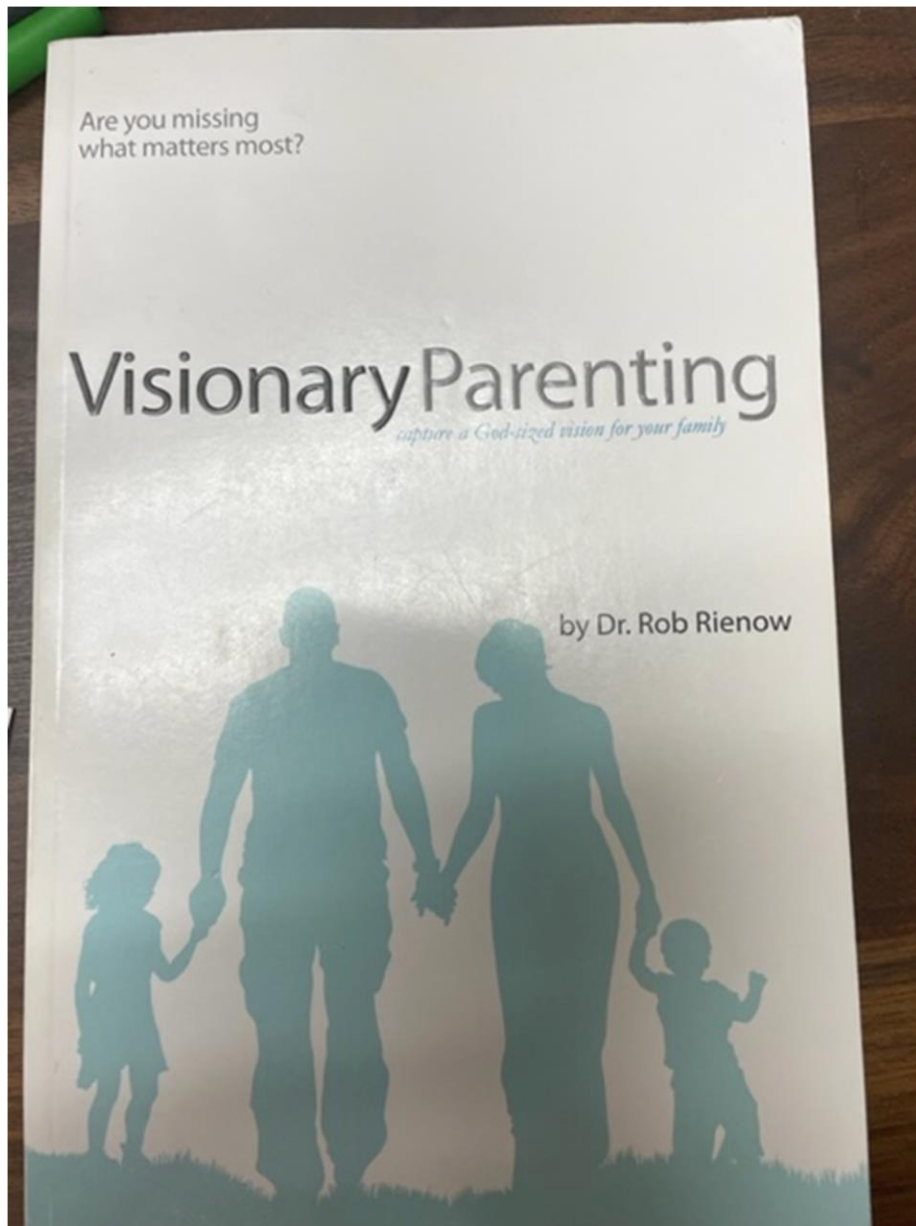
¹ Nagel, "Luther and the Priesthood," 280.

² LC V:87 in McCain, 440.

Next month I'm going to change gears a bit and focus on Law and Gospel. See you in church as you continue to raise and help others raise children in the faith.

In His Service,

Rev. Dr. Michael Nielsen



Rienow, Rob, and Amy Rienow. *Visionary Parenting: Capture a God-Sized Vision for Your Family*. Nashville: Randall House, 2018.

Dr. Rob Rienow and his wife Amy write an excellent book entitled *Visionary Parenting*. Rob writes most of the book himself, while his wife Amy writes a chapter dedicated to the specific vocation of being a mother. As you begin reading this book there are two statements that stand out. "As parents, we have overwhelming power over the hearts of our children (5)." "Our most important parenting mission is to lead our children to salvation by God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ (7)." This is the most important thing that parents have to pass on to their children.

As Rienow guides his readers through what this looks like in the life of a family, he is very clear in stating that instead of families being places where disciples are raised rather they "are recreation centers, activity centers, wealth-building centers, television centers, and anger centers (9)." Rienow provides very practical ways on how to help parents amidst the business of their lives to teach their children the faith and impress on them God's love. One of the many solid points in this book is that children learn through what the parents model so if they see "a godly lifestyle, prayer, and Scriptures woven through your daily routines, your children will observe (38)." He also shares with his readers the importance of the family of calendar and how that can impact your child's faith and your own:

"We are now at the point that if our ten-year old makes the travel soccer team, everything else in life takes a backseat, including church. We make it to church when we can; if it fits the schedule. My point here is not that missing the church is the worst thing in the world. Rather, my concern is that if *every time* sports and church collide on your calendar sports wins, then the schedule you have chosen is teaching your children that you value their bodies more than their souls (40)."

He goes on to share in a tactful and loving way about the notion of the Sabbath for the family calendar and the importance of worship.

Speaking of worship one of the most practical tools and suggestions that he gives his reader is the important of family worship or as I call it: Family Devotion time. And trust me the devil will attack that time and Rienow warns you: "Be prepared to have your kids cry and whine at the exact wrong times (101)." (I would be lying to you if I said that this didn't happen at our house – sometimes I may be the one that wants to cry or whine). The devil will even attempt to use schedules to take you away from your routine of family worship/devotions.

I would encourage every parent, no matter the age of your children, to pick this book up and take the Rienow's words to heart. Scripture and God's Word is what he falls back on. It's an excellent book.

Council Meeting 6/14/2022

Council Members Present: Pastor Michael Nielsen, President John Steele, Head Elder Paul Millerman, Board of Education Chris Severt, Treasurer MaryAnn Thompson, Trustee Tom Lipke, Secretary Sarah Duncan. **Absent:** Josh Millerman

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

Secretary Report: Sarah read the council meeting minutes from 4/12/22. A motion was made by Paul Millerman to accept the minutes and seconded by Chris Severt and motion carried.

Treasurer Report: MaryAnn advised the May 2022 summary as follows: General fund balance as of 05/01/2022: \$66534.72 Income: \$15336.30 Expenses: \$10663.56 Net Income: \$4672.74 General Fund Balance as of 5/31/22: \$71207.46. Current bank accounts: Salem Checking: \$44335.77 Salem Savings: \$17322.94 Daycare Checking: \$17257.62 LCEF: \$28280.33 A motion was made by Tom Lipke to accept the report and seconded by Chris Severt and motion carried.

Elder's Report: Pastor and Stan were absent from most recent elder's meeting. Organist salary was discussed but unfortunately we are not able to give a raise at this time. Discussed attendance – falls short in summer months but all in all still going down. Elders are trying to make a good effort to talk to congregation members and visitors more. No transfers or releases. A motion was made by Tom Lipke to accept the report and seconded by Chris Severt and motion carried.

Trustee's Report: Church yard and flower bed were cleaned up last month. Trees across the creek fell down and had to be cut down. Thanks to the Mueller family for your hard work with the trees!! The main downstairs room at the parsonage needs to be painted. Council approved \$250 to purchase paint and new lighting. Church cleaning went well. Woodchips in playground were renewed. Shampooing carpets after VBS. A motion was made by Chris Severt to accept the report and seconded by Paul Millerman and motion carried.

Board of Education Report: There was no curriculum in the preschool. Jen Millerman got something for this class and the Board over the summer will have curriculum set up for the next year. Director-Interviewed Anna G and we all 3 felt we would hire her as a director. Gave her a contract and offered her the job. She never showed up for her orientation and Jen had a difficult time getting a hold of her. Once she did she didn't have very compelling reasons not to make it and there were multiple red flags. We decided to pull our offer and the Board decided to offer the Director job to Melissa W. She has accepted and will start June 27 th. Currently: Jasmine is in Preschool, and Mariah is in infants for the summer. Danielle is starting part-time (float) until her baby is born, her last day is June 30 th and will start back in August when maternity leave is over. She would like Preschool and Jasmine would be happy to go back to Toddlers. Jaylin L. has been hired part time over the summer. Still need to hire 2 Lead Teaches and multiple assistants to increase growth and take on more kids. There will also be a transition from the summer schedule to the fall. Canceled director phone and have just the cell phone. The Board needs to keep track of the Financial Part and Invoices for the Childcare Center and Preschool. We've been open and we don't know our inputs and outputs. We as the board will always keep the financial info and Invoices. Scott and Mary Ann are working with the invoices. They now have this under control. For the 6 months from November through April we were in the red. \$58,080.86 expenses - \$57,998.14 income = -\$82.72. Income doesn't include grant money received. A motion was made by MaryAnn Thompson to accept the report and seconded by Paul Millerman and motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Bud Bremer started visits with Pastor this week. Vacation July 2-5. Looking for childcare for his children when they go to appointments. President Lueck was re-elected at the district convention. Pastor Tim Shoup is our new First VP. Pastor Preston Paul was elected as the new regional VP. Synod is financially in good shape. Missionaries are increasing across the globe. Lutheran Churches in Africa are growing quickly. Men's bible study: Jeremiah. Thursday Bible study: Basic of Biblical Interpretation. Sunday morning Bible

study: Christians in a woke world. Starting to work on catechism classes. Everyone his witness is available online. Pastor was re-elected as vice chair for the BACA. Angel Tree Christmas program – more to come on this – benefits children with incarcerated parents. A motion was made by Stan Koenig to accept the report and seconded by Paul Millerman and motion carried.

Old Business: NONE

New Business: Barron County Sheriff's department is encouraging churches to do ALICE training again.

A motion was made by Chris Severt and seconded by Paul Millerman to ajourn the meeting.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes by Sarah Duncan

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

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.



July 1: Sue Church & Logan Severt

July 3: Jennifer Millerman

July 4: Tom Lipke & Mary Oscarson

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

July 9: Payten Severt & Anne Fagerlin

July 14: Joan Church & James Starck

July 15: Carol Kuchera

July 16: John Ladwig

July 19: Mary Ann Thompson

July 21: Fred Riebe

July 23: James Dennis & Aaron Mickelson

July 25: Jordan Queiser

July 26: Tiffany Starck



Happy Anniversary

JULY 1: SCOTT & CATHY DAVIS

JULY 6: TOM & DEBBIE LIPKE

JULY 27: GAIL & ROXANN ESPESETH

*Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things*
(Corinthians 13:4-8)

Baptism Birthday

July 22: Logan Severt

July 24: Hannah Millerman

July 29: Wyatt 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 –1 (888) 505-1870

Church Email: 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>

July Greeters

3 – Aaron Mickelson Family

10 –

17 – Fred & Linda Riebe

24 – Joann Jaeger

31 –

July/August Work Group

Marilynn Amundsen 715-637-8777

Don & Mona Duncan 715-637-5915

Nathan & Brianne Duncan 715-642-1638

Trevor & Sarah Duncan 715-458-1328

Gail & Roxie Espeseth 715-637-3949

Bud & Carol Bremer 715-925-2043

John Ladwig 608-640-8463

Brian Miller 715-357-3916

Tammie Miller 715-637-3055

Richard & Marlene Snyder 715-637-9292

Dwayne and Dennis Stabenow 715-837-1857

Mary Ann Wheeler 715-205-1158

Linda Milikin 715-637-5888

July Ushers

Brady Mickelson

Zackary Mickelson

Aaron Mickelson

Fred Riebe

July Elders

3 – Paul Millerman

10 – Josh Millerman

17 – Tim Dennis

24 – Trevor Duncan

31 – Don Duncan

July Altar Guild: Kathy Schuettpelz

Coffee Schedule

3 – Open for Volunteer

10 – Root beer Floats

17 – Open for Volunteer


24 – Open for Volunteer

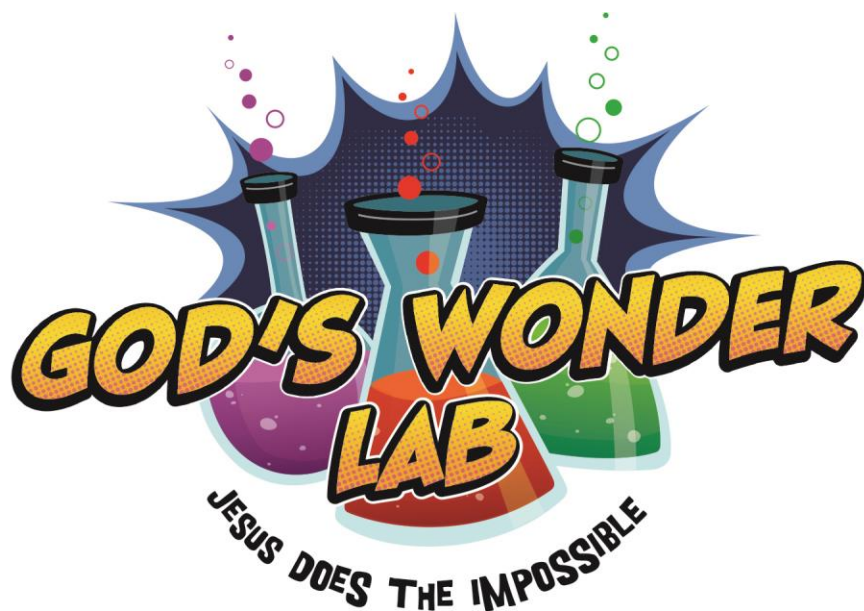
31 – Open for Volunteer





July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				11 am Bible Class	1	2
3 Green 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 Bible Class	4  4th of July	5 7:30 am Bible Class 7:00 pm Elders	6	7 11 am Bible Class	8	9
10 Green 7:30 am BOE Meeting 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 Bible Class High School Sunday School Class Trip to St Croix Falls, Creation Center	11	12 7:30 am Bible Class 7:00pm Council	13	14 11 am Bible Class	15	16
17 Green 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 Bible Class	18	19 7:30 am Bible Class	20	21 11 am Bible Class	22	23
24 Green 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 Bible Class	25	26 7:30 am Bible Class	27	28 11 am Bible Class	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:15 Bible Class						



VBS 2022 - "GOD'S WONDER LAB - Jesus Does the Impossible"

I'd like to give a heartfelt "thank-you" to everyone that had a role in making VBS 2022 another fun event. What a fantastic week with a great group of kids and adults! We had a total of 20 children in attendance.

A wonderful group of ladies provided and served us delicious, family meals each night. We served between 50-55 folks every evening. It was personally rewarding to see families gathered in fellowship, enjoying meals together.

We selected LCMS Ministry of the Armed Forces for our VBS mission this year. We collected \$200 toward this honorable organization.

Below is a list of people and the areas in which they served during VBS Sunday kick-off and VBS week:

Decorating Committee: Paul, Sue, and Matthew Millerman; Laurie Hinrichs; Chris, Logan, Taylor, Maddie & Payten Severt.

Advertising: Pastor Nielsen; Mary Ann Thompson; Sue Millerman

Kitchen/Food Preparation/Serving/Clean-up: Sue Millerman; Deb Lipke; Laurie Hinrichs; Marilyn Otto; Jen Millerman; Mary Ann Thomson; Melissa Weinert; Jen Anderson

Registrations: Melissa Weinert

Photography & Worker Shirts: Melissa Weinert

Craft Leaders: Emily Steele; Maddie & Payten Severt

Activity Leaders: Emily Nielsen & Chris Severt

Bible Story Tellers: Pastor Nielsen & Jen Millerman

Musicians: Laurie & Mikayla Hinrichs

Janitorial/Maintenance: Tom Lipke & Josh Millerman

Group Leaders: Don Duncan; Tom Lipke; Jim Thalacker; Matthew Millerman; Mariah Behnke; Connor Huseh & Cody Anderson

Clean-Up Crew; Tom & Deb Lipke; Don Duncan; Jim Thalacker; Laurie & Mikayla Hinrichs; Mike Solie; John & Emily Steele & family; Paul & Sue Millerman; Connor Huseh; Josh & Jen Millerman & family; Mary Ann Thomson; Pastor Nielsen & friend, Tom; Caden Anderson; Chris & Jolene Severt & family.

Thank you again to each of you. There was a lot of thought, creativity, and willingness to put GOD'S WONDER LAB into action. I am grateful to have such an amazing team of people to work with! Most importantly, we give the utmost honor, glory and thanks to our Lord and Savior. JESUS truly DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE!

God's Blessings,

***Jolene Severt
VBS Director***