

# Salem Lutheran Church



Blessed is   
the nation  
whose God  
is the LORD.

*Psalm 33:12*

## July 2019

## Pastor's Page



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pres. Thomas Whitmore, serving as President of the United States in the movie *Independence Day*, towards the end of the movie says,

“Good morning. In less than an hour, aircraft from here will join others from around the world. And you will be launching the largest aerial battle in the history of mankind. "Mankind." That word should have new meaning for all of us today. We can't be consumed by our petty differences anymore. We will be united in our common interests. Perhaps it's fate that today is the Fourth of July, and you will once again be fighting for our freedom... Not from tyranny, oppression, or persecution... but from annihilation. We are fighting for our right to live. To exist. And should we win the day, the Fourth of July will no longer be known as an American holiday, but as the day the world declared in one voice: "We will not go quietly into the night! We will not vanish without a fight!" We're going to live on! We're going to survive! Today we celebrate our Independence Day!”

The Fourth of July is known to Americans as our Independence Day, specifically our Independence from England. Our forefathers came to this country and fought for our right to be free for many reasons with one being religious freedom – to be free to worship without fear. We still do have that freedom. I pray that we will have that freedom, as long as, America is a country that isn't powered by a tyrant.

As one thinks about the great freedoms that we have in this country, freedoms that are indeed a great gift from God. As I think back to *Independence Day*, and yes, it is movie where the world powers are joining forces to stop an alien invasion, these words have stood out to me. There really is something theological here. As people, mankind, we have an enemy who wants to annihilate us. We have an enemy that wants to overpower us. Now, we can't go and fight this enemy with aircraft. We can't fly into the center of it to destroy it. In fact, this enemy, is the one the prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. This enemy is in fact the devil.

Your enemy, the devil, wants to put you in bondage, he wants you to see you not just oppressed or persecuted, he wants to see you annihilated, in fact he wants to see the Church of God annihilated. The thing is we are fighting a battle, we fight it every day, but we are fighting a battle where the victory has already been won for us. Even St. Paul writes to the Churches of Galatia...

<sup>1</sup>*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

<sup>13</sup>*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

Christ won the victory for you on the Cross and the empty tomb. He defeated sin, death, and the devil for you. Yes, the devil, wants to destroy the Church of God, but he will never be able to do it that is God's promise. Even with that promise we cannot go down without a fight, we cannot stand back without sharing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. We cannot stand back without serving one another in love. We all know that the Christian Church is being persecuted, oppressed, and even portions of our society would like us to go quietly into the night, without standing up for our freedoms and more importantly for our freedoms that we have in Christ. It is time to take a stand, it is time to become more active in sharing the Good News of Jesus with our friends and family, with our neighbors, with our communities that we live in. It's time to join with Pres. Whitmore and say, "We will not go quietly into the night! We will not vanish without a fight!" It's time dear Saint to be bold as we live out our lives in Christian freedom, both with our actions and voices.

Yes, on July 4 we celebrate our nation's independence, but each day, we celebrate our independence from the devil. Christ has won that victory for us! When you are celebrating with the midsummer holiday around the grill and fireworks, remember where your true freedom lies!

In faithful service,

*Pastor Michael Nielsen*

### **Council Meeting of June 4, 2019**

President Paul Millerman called the meeting to order and Pastor Nielsen led us in prayer.

Present: President Paul Millerman, Pastor Nielsen, Treasurer Stan Koenig, Elder Tim Dennis, Board of Ed Maryann Thompson, Trustee Tom Lipke and Secretary Kelly Cornelius

Absent: Vice-president Chris Severt

Secretary's Report: Secretary Kelly Cornelius read the Council Meeting minutes of May 14, 2019. A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Tom Lipke to accept the minutes as read and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: No report

Elder's Report: Regarding the speaker system, the Council approved additional equipment (microphone, speakers, volume control, shut off switch) and it has been ordered. Archiving of worship services not yet working. Big screen television (65") has been purchased for \$949. Pastor Buechner will conduct the service on June 23, 2019, while Pastor Nielsen is on vacation. Pastor Buechner will also conduct the service on July 21st, and Scott Peterson will conduct the service on July 28th. Jake Wamphler may stop by on July 21st, or 28th, to say hello and thank you. There was an informational meeting regarding the playground on June 2nd. There will be a Voter's Meeting on June 23, 2019, to approve extra money for the playground. Pastor covered the Daycare Committee's findings to date, mostly concerning several options for structural changes to the church building that would have to be done. A meeting concerning staffing needs will be in August. Because all full-time church employees at daycare would have to be offered the same benefits (i.e. health insurance) as Pastor Nielsen, options other than family health insurance for the Pastor may have to be considered during open

enrollment. In May, Pastor had 17 shut-ins visits and one office visit. Average attendance for May was 106.5. We studied "Pastors and Elders" workbook.

Pastor's Report: In addition to the information provided to the Elders, Pastor advised the status of his Doctor of Ministry, vacation dates and dates he will be at Camp Luther. Updated Council on Bible studies, the new member class recently completed and he is working on the upcoming Catechism class for this fall. Pastor advised he was elected Vice-president of the BACA.

Trustee's Report: Trustee Tom Lipke advised approximately 100 gallons of water was removed from the basement of the parsonage due to the massive amount of rain received in a short period of time recently. An outside plugin repaired. Tom plans on cleaning the Sunday School floors this summer.

Board of Ed: Still in need of a Sunday School Director and Music Director. YFM will be assisting with the VBS brunch Sunday. Salem will pay 50 percent of the cost for kids interested in attending Camp Luther. (Twenty five percent coming from Youth Account and 25 percent coming from Missions Account). A playground meeting was held Sunday with design layouts and costs for same. A Voter's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 23, 2019, for the approval of funds so that both Phase One and Phase Two can be completed at the same time. In discussions with our playground Rep., money needs to be sent to the company on June 24, 2019, and, therefore, the Trust Fund needs approval by Council for release of those funds. As it relates to daycare, Pastor and others met with the architect and discussed several options as well as the ministry side of this endeavor. The Committee is also working on financing and staffing costs. The Committee meets Sunday. The Northwest District will attend the August meeting and staff and business plans will be discussed. A Congregational Meeting will be held on August 18, 2019, for an update on the findings with question and answer to follow.

Stan Koenig said Brian Haines received a \$200 check for his updates to our sound system. All is now working well. The new T.V. and stand are here at a cost of \$949.00.

A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Maryann Thompson to authorize the Trust Fund to release \$35,000 for playground costs and motion carried.

Council discussed the repair work needed on our parking lot. Tom Lipke will get in touch with Dave Hanson from the City of Barron to see what his thoughts would be in the best way to proceed. The audit has been completed by Cindy Mickelson of the church books and all is fine. Cindy advised she did not wish payment for the audit.

The next Council Meeting will be on July 9, 2019.

A motion was made by Tim Dennis, seconded by Tom Lipke to adjourn and motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes by Secretary Kelly Cornelius

### **Prayer Requests for:**

**Arivd, Bonnie, Clementine, Dale, Don, Elsie, Gene, Lois, Louise, Loretta, Sandy, Salem's home bound, Wyatt, Jayme & family.**

## **Needs List:**

**Catechisms \$13/book**

**Study Bibles \$40/book**

**Certificate Frames \$4/frame**

**Furniture for family room**

**Lamp for organ \$250 - \$400**

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

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

**Additional Hymnals \$27/book**

**Baptism Frames \$4/frame**

**Air Conditioning**

**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.**

### **Playground Committee meeting of 6-2-2019**

Present: Pastor Nielsen, Mary Oscarson, Trevor Duncan, Marilyn Amundson, Will Schuettpelz, and Chris Severt.

Absent: Terry Kirkman, Tom Lipke, and Chris Mueller

Opening devotion continued from Congregational informative meeting.

Trevor told that Paul & Josh Millerman will be able to excavate for the sidewalk and ramp with their skid steer and dump trailer. The ramp has to have a 1 X 12 slope. We have to go up 6 inches so it needs to be 6 feet long and have a 5 X 5 foot platform at the end of the ramp. This is ADA requirements.

Will informed that all we need the building permit for the fence and sidewalk. Terry will get the permit and will give an estimated cost of \$2500. Terry will be moving 3 of the landscape grasses and the two other bushes he feels will not survive the move and that it is OK. If anyone wants them they can have them. Will is going to check on the forklift.

**Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7 am to Noon is scheduled for a work day to move the rocks and brick. Workers should bring shovels, rakes, and wheel barrels.**

Due to the majority consensus of the congregation to complete both phase 1 and phase 2 at the same time, our breaking ground and building of the playground may be delayed. Pastor and Mary will be contacting Doug to see what his schedule will allow. We are hopeful for ground breaking to be August 2<sup>nd</sup>. A congregational voter's meeting is being held on **Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to vote to have more funds available to do the whole playground.**

Church council will need to approve the transfer of the Trust Fund money to pay for the playground.

The color of the playground was narrowed down to the blue or the dark green slide one. It will need to be decided which one at the next meeting.

Pastor informed the group that signs with donors name on them are available, if they want them, through Gerber Leisure Products.

**June – Determine final design and color.**

**July – Build Playground?**

**August – Build Playground?**

## **August 2<sup>nd</sup> - Dedication of playground during Salem Annual Picnic.**

Ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting set for Sunday, July 7, at 11:15 am.

Will made a motion to adjourn the meeting and 2nd by Chris, all approved.

### **Voter's Meeting of June 23, 2019**

President Paul Millerman called the meeting to order and Pastor Buechner led us in prayer.

Chris Severt updated members present of the Congregational Informational meeting from a couple of weeks ago regarding Phase One and Two of the playground plans and costs. After discussing same, a motion was made by Chris Severt, seconded by Jim Thalacker approving of borrowing from ourselves, the church, up to \$8,000 from our account at Sterling Bank and motion carried. A paper ballot was then taken with the result of the vote of 28 yes (in favor) and 7 no (against). Plans are to continue with fundraisers as well as donations to pay ourselves, the church, back for the withdrawal of said funds.

A motion was made by Stan Koenig, seconded by Chris Severt to adjourn and motion carried.

Minutes by Secretary Kelly Cornelius.

### **Hello youth group group families,**

We have an exciting event coming up on **Wednesday July 10th!** Please mark your calendars for **5:30 pm** to show Hunter Gillett some Salem Love and Support. Hunter has been sharing his story with schools, churches, and other organizations. Come hear how Hunter overcame his injuries, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We will be having a cookout with everything provided at 5:30 pm. Hunter will start his presentation at 6:15 pm. After his presentation we will conclude the night with s'mores and a small group discussion with Pastor around the fire pit.

This event is for all youth going into 5th grade and or older, and their family and friends. If your family has children under 5th grade there will be childcare available during the event. Please let me know if you need childcare.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Josh and Jen Millerman

If you're not familiar with Hunter's story here's a little background.

*In May of 2017 Hunter Gillett and his friend Owen Knutson were taking a typical plane ride that ended in tragedy. Two witnesses reported hearing a "pop" noise from the engine, a noise they characterized as a backfire. One witness said the engine "was at a lower rpm as the plane flew over him." After the "pop" was heard, the airplane "descended below the tree line and the witnesses heard the crash." The airplane was pulled from the river and showed sustained substantial damage in the crash, with no evidence of fire or explosion in the wreckage. The two-seat, single-engine plane crashed into the Red Cedar River and the 17-year-old pilot, Owen Knutson, died at the scene. His passenger, 18-year-old Hunter Gillett, sustained serious injuries but is expected to recover.*



**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 & Karen Vanam

**July 26:** Tiffany Starck



**JULY 1: SCOTT & CATHY DAVIS**

**JULY 2: DEAN & CAROLY DAWSON**

**JULY 6: TOM & DEBBIE LIPKE**

**JULY 10: SHAWN & CONNIE DENNIS**

**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](mailto:rev.mike.nielsen@gmail.com)

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Paul Millerman (715) 234-4410

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)

### July Greeters

7 – Aaron Mickelson Family

14 – Karen Varnam

21 – Fred Riebe Family

28 – Bernie & Joann Jaeger

### July/August Leaders

**Harrison & Shirly Fields**                      **715-859-6194**

**Leonard and Elsie Splett**                      **715-637-3721**

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 Stabenow                715-837-1857

Mary Ann Wheeler                              715-205-1158

Linda Milikin                                      715-637-5888



### July Ushers

**Aaron Mickelson**

Brady Mickelson

Zachary Mickelson

Fred Riebe

### July Elders

7 – Millerman

14 – Anderson

21 – Dennis & Koenig

28 – Duncan



**July Altar Guild: Kelly Cornelius**



### Coffee Schedule

7 – Pastor & Emily

14 – Carol Schear & Lucille Wood


21 – Open

28 – Open





# July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 pm Elders	2 11 am Bible Class 7 pm Men's Club	3	4  4th of July	5	6
7 <b>Green</b> 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:30 Bible Class 11:15 Playground Committee Meeting	8	9 11 am Bible Class 7:00pm Council	10 5:30pm: Youth Event with Hunter Gillett	11	12	13
14 <b>Green</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:30 Bible Class 11:15 BOE Meeting	15	16 11 am Bible Class	17	18 Pastor Gone	19 Pastor Gone	20 Pastor Gone
21 <b>Green</b> Pastor Gone 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:30 Bible Class	22 Pastor Gone	23 Pastor Gone	24 Pastor Gone	25 Pastor Gone	26 Pastor Gone	27 Pastor Gone
28 <b>Green</b> Pastor Gone 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Coffee/Snacks 10:30 Bible Class	29 Pastor Gone	30	31			