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Salem SCENE

Fall Issue
Vol. 30
No. 4



World Vision Experience

Follow Jesus into the Margins
September 24-27



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Hope Sunday

September 27

Kickoff Week

Sunday, September 13
New Worship Schedule Starts

Wednesday, September 16
Ministries for all ages!
schedules on the back



Salem Covenant Church
September | October | November 2015

Forward Through the Winds of Change

by Pastor Mark Pattie

I recently had a dream in which a certain famous/infamous (depending on your point of view) businessman was interviewing people for a job running a new company. The first person in line talked about the five companies he had started, enthusiastically articulating his passion, experience, and skill. When asked, though, what had happened to those companies, he began mumbling something about how each had faltered and failed for circumstances beyond his control. I woke without learning whether he got the job, but it seemed his application had faltered and failed much like those companies.

Getting an organization such as a business or church started is difficult. Keeping it healthy and vibrant through the years is, as well. In both cases, a key is to know your mission and to keep focusing your attention on accomplishing it. This is where many organizations get into trouble. They lose sight of their purpose and lose their way. When companies or churches begin to think the important thing is perpetuating the institution or, worse yet, simply doing the things they've always done, they forsake their driving, creative, life-infusing impulse. When you lose your sense of mission, sooner or later you lose everything else, too.

Salem's mission is defined as "Drawing, Developing, and Deploying Disciples Devoted to Jesus Christ." Everything we do is aimed toward that. We don't make coffee just to make coffee, greet people just to greet people, teach classes just to teach classes, or do anything that isn't ultimately directed toward this purpose. We seek to make disciples: more and more disciples of Jesus, who are more and more equipped to live as his disciples, and more and more engaged in doing so. This is why we exist. And to make sure we pursue this goal to the best of our ability, we regularly review how well the things we are doing serve our mission and consider what changes, if any, we can make to serve it better.

This past year, we entered into a particularly robust review and strategic planning process. Our Leadership Team set up a Strategic Planning Task Force consisting of Karla Walker, serving as chair, and seven other members, Will O'Brien, Janell Giesler, David Erickson, Siv Dobrovlny, Chris Gehrz, Pastor Alice Johnson, and myself. In addition to reviewing Salem's mission, values, history, and most recent strategic planning initiatives and results, the team did surveys and interviews to assess the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and general circumstances we face both internally and externally.

Fortunately, the process affirmed that Salem is moving forward with vitality in many ways leading us to believe we should build on our forward movement rather than change direction in major ways. The feedback from both within and beyond our congregation suggests that we keep building on our core strengths, attributes our Leadership Team calls Strategic Pillars:

- Vibrant worship and music ministries that overflow into all of life.
- Christian formation that equips people of all ages to live and serve as faithful, fruitful followers of Jesus Christ.
- Fostering grace-filled, grace-extending relationships that are nurtured within and extended outward from a Christ-centered, intergenerational community.

In particular, the recommendations being developed by the Strategic Planning Task Force will focus on:

- Continuing to strengthen Children, Youth, and Family Ministries,
- Further developing our Older Adult/Senior Ministries,
- Fostering relationships among those involved at Salem especially across intergenerational lines,
- Reaching out beyond our doors to serve and to welcome in our neighbors.

*Trusting in God's
grace, great as our
past has been, I can't
wait to see what God
has yet in store.*

Change and challenge are ever-present in our world, maybe more so than ever. Striving to be healthy as individuals and as a church requires faith, flexibility, courage, resolve, and a readiness to learn and adapt. It also requires an ongoing, undergirding sense of purpose to provide the ballast, direction, and motivation to persevere amidst the winds and the waves of change that inevitably come.

I am so grateful to be a part of Salem Covenant Church, a congregation that has been focused on and faithful to our God-given mission for 127 years. As we look to the year and years ahead, may God keep our hearts united in love and in our common commitment to venturing forward to fulfill the mission entrusted to us. Trusting in God's grace, great as our past has been, I can't wait to see what God has yet in store.

SALEM 101

Sundays, November 1, 8, 15, and 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**What does Salem Covenant Church believe?
Where is the church going?
What is important to Salem?**

If you have been at Salem long enough to begin to wonder about these kind of questions, then *Salem 101* is the place for you. Join us as we explore the church's beliefs, the denomination we are part of, our history, and the vision for the future. This is also a chance to get to know other new folks to Salem and get to know the pastors a little better. This class is a pre-requisite for membership, but it is a great opportunity for anyone looking to connect more deeply at Salem. Please contact Pastor Jonna if you have questions (jfantz@salemcov.org).



Step out of your world and into some of the world's hardest places



September 24-27 in the East Parking Lot at Salem

Jesus calls us to bring hope to the suffering. To bear the burdens of the vulnerable. Come see how you can change the world by following Jesus into the margins. The Experience transports you into the lives of the forgotten and oppressed. Through powerful and challenging images and stories, you'll experience life through the eyes of people enduring unimaginable adversity.

During the 20 minute journey, you will witness despair and hope in a brothel in Southeast Asia, see how God is working in the midst of the Syria refugee crisis, and join Christ in the midst of extreme poverty in Africa. You'll be inspired and transformed as you hear what Jesus hears, see what He sees, and come to understand that you are serving Jesus Himself as you come alongside those in midst of today's greatest needs.

The Experience is not limited to Salem, so please spread the word and invite friends and neighbors. Please note that parental discretion is advised.

After viewing the Experience, you will have an opportunity to sponsor a child, either through Covenant Kids Congo, a joint project between the Evangelical Covenant Church and World Vision, or a child from another country that World Vision supports.

Reserve your spot today!
<http://bit.ly/SalemCCExperience>
Sign up to volunteer!
<http://bit.ly/WorldVisionVolunteerSalemCC>



Sermon Series: *What is Good?*

In our society, morality is personal. What is good or evil for you is different from what is good or evil for me. Public moral debate generally devolves into invectives and protests. This loss of an agreed on sense of what is good has eroded our connections to each other and created a lot of confusion about right and wrong. Into this confusion and isolation comes Micah 6:8. This one verse clearly defines for all time what is good. It is surprisingly simple and profoundly transformative. Come explore from a God's-eye-view what is good.

September 13
Do Justice

September 20
Love Kindness

September 27
Walk Humbly

Children's and Family Ministry

Alice Johnson

Children and Family/Executive Pastor

ajohnson@salemcov.org



On Wednesday, September 16, we begin our third year of AWANA. After having more than 100 children participate last year, we are really excited to see what will happen this fall as children and leaders come together to learn God's Word. The evening's activities include: Bible study, Scripture memory, games and small group experiences. Periodically during the year children are involved in fun activity nights and service projects. We are thankful for the opportunity to partner with parents in raising their children to know, love and serve Christ.

AWANA meets from 6:45-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and is available for children from age 3 through grade 5.

Children are divided into three groups:

Cubbies	Ages 3-5
Sparks	Kindergarten-Grade 2
Truth and Training	Grade 3-5

There is a registration fee of \$25/child to help offset the cost of books, uniform, and awards. If you register by August 15, there is a \$5/child discount. If you have more questions or find that the registration fee would prevent your child's participation, please contact Pastor Alice Johnson. You may register online or in the Church Office.

Please be praying with us for a great year of learning and growing as we study God's Word.

Register online using the link on Salem's website or using the form available in the kiosk at Salem.



Vacation Bible School: By the Numbers

- 5 days devoted to teaching Bible stories, memory verses, and serving and growing in Christ
- 7 countries where Salem supports missionaries were taught about in classrooms and Missions Station
- 35 youth volunteered
- Over 40 adults volunteered
- 154 children attended
- \$1502.35 was raised for solar panels for the Congo Clinics initiative
- Millions of specks of glitter were used
- Countless hours were spent planning, prepping, decorating, and praying for the week

But much more important than numbers.....

- Children formed new friendships with others and connected with youth and adult leaders.
- Several adults and youth volunteered at VBS for the first time.
- Children participated in raising money for the Congo, and developed a deeper understanding of a variety of mission opportunities.
- And most excitingly, children grew in their relationship with the Lord, some dedicating their lives to Christ for the first time.

Numbers can be an exciting and encouraging, but somethings are not quantifiable and known only by God. It is possible that VBS sparked an interest and desire among volunteers and attenders that may lead to further missionary work, deeper relationships, and spreading the Good News. We may never fully know the impact that Salem had on the lives of children and families this summer, but we pray for God's provision and further guidance in their lives. Please continue to pray for all the children who participated in VBS that they can continue to grow in Christ and reach others for Him!

Parenting with Spirit

Peek in the Lounge any Sunday morning and you will find a fun group of people who come together to learn from and encourage each other as parents. Salem's parenting ministry serves parents of children from birth through teens, equipping them to nurture their child's faith and provide positive family dynamics. Entering into its fourth year, we have journeyed through a wide array of topics that has included faith-based parenting strategies, promoting positive sports environments, science and faith, mindfulness in regulating emotions, Love and Logic parenting, spiritual disciplines, kids and media, and preparing your child for communion. Beyond Sunday mornings, parents frequently join together for social activities and to serve the church and community with their families. We are excited for another year of growing together as a community and we invite you to arrange your Sunday mornings to connect and learn with us. Stop by anytime or contact Joanna Klein (joannaklein22@gmail.com) for more information.

Summer Camps: The Reviews are in!

This summer, 34 second-fifth grade children participated in a week-long **Drama Camp** led by Anne-Britt Mulberry. The children learned some of the basic tools of acting, as well as other components of stage productions like blocking, sets, props, and costumes. They also participated in acting games and practiced their skits for the Drama Camp Showcase. At the Showcase, children presented three skits based on stories from the Old Testament, and three based on Jesus' parables.

Some highlights and things that were learned at Drama Camp:

My favorite part was practicing my lines with my small group. I learned that even if I make a mistake, no one was going to laugh at me. And I really liked the Mirror, Mirror game. —Katie

I really liked the play. All of it. I also really liked the game Popsico and reading through the parts. I learned stage directions and other acting things like facing out. —Annika

I learned more about the parable of the Good Samaritan. I loved to perform! —Esme

Putting on costumes and acting in the Jonah skit was my favorite. I made some new friends. —Jeremy

The children were able to engage with the Word of God in a unique, hands-on way which enriched their knowledge of the Bible. Five wonderful student helpers—Seth Dobrovlny, Greta Elmer, Grace Hill, Clara Pederson, and Corinne Pease—helped direct the children and create elements for the showcase. Kris Livingston helped in organizing and creating costumes, and gave a presentation to the kids about the importance of costumes in drama.

At the showcase, some children were very nervous about performing for an audience, but before the performance the cast prayed for strength and courage from God, and the ability to shine for Him as they presented His Word. When the evening was through, children were excited and proud that they were able to remember their lines and act out stories from the Bible. We are already looking forward to next summer's Drama Camp at Salem!



For the past six Mondays, 60+ budding athletes attended Salem's **Sports Academy** program to learn the skills and game formats of various sports and, most importantly, to learn about God's Word and how it applies to sports and life. Our guiding verse for the summer was Joshua 1:9. Each week, we focused on various portions of this verse and found examples of this in the Bible and in the sports world. As we worked through our season playbook, we learned from Bible characters like Samson (strength), David (courage), Shadrach, Meschach, Abednego (do not be afraid), and Jonah (discouraged), and sports professionals like Nik Wallenda (tight rope walker), Bethany Hamilton (surfer), Eric Liddell (Olympic runner), and Louis Zamperini (Olympic runner and POW). Children were engaged in these stories and learned practical ways to apply faith to sports.

Thank you, Shelli Streeper and Next Level Sports for a great Sports Academy!

Youth Ministry

Ben Pease

Youth and Ministry Deployment Pastor

bpease@salemcov.org

After years of planning, prayer, and preparation, a team of 39 students and 14 adult counselors and volunteer staff headed to Knoxville, Tennessee for a week at our denomination's triennial youth conference. The CHIC theme SHIFT invited students to make a shift in their worldview, commitment to Christ, and view of the Holy Scriptures. In addition to powerful speakers, engaging worship, interesting and thought-provoking morning base camp sessions, students found time for rafting, hiking, cave tours, swimming, and other activities on and off campus. Our students got to meet peers from across the United States and Canada while having plenty of time to connect, bond, and process in their counselor-led small groups and as a youth group. God was powerfully at work at CHIC and in individual students' lives. Please pray for our students, their commitments, and for God's continued movement in their lives as they re-enter the school-year rhythm this fall.

THANK YOU for your prayer and financial support in successfully sending our team to CHIC!



Welcome Class of 2019!



This May, Salem confirmed a large, active class of 8th graders, who have now made the move up to Senior High ministry. This class is invested and involved! From the get-go, they have been inviting friends, diving into Bible studies, and adding their ample energy to all we've done over the summer. Especially exciting and encouraging has been their willingness to serve at Salem, as they represented a significant portion of the VBS team and also participated in leading Salem's Drama Camp.

It is clear that God is at work in this incoming freshman class, and we're excited to see how God's plans continue to unfold for them!

Coming this Fall: Orange!

Salem Youth Ministries is joining hundreds of churches across the nation in uniting students and families around the powerful, proven Orange curriculum for both middle school and senior high students. The Youth Ministry Team was drawn to this particular program because of its emphases on relevant,

engaging sessions for students, and ongoing connection points with both students and parents throughout the week. If you have children entering grades 6-12 this fall, be sure to check out our Wednesday night ministries. Contact youth ministry assistant Sue Pederson (spederson@salemcov.org) to be kept up to date on all things youth ministry at Salem!



SMALL GROUPS

The Rhythms of Jesus

submitted by Pastor Jonna Fantz

As the summer comes to a close and the structure and demands of fall schedules reassert themselves, it is time for us to decide what we will choose to be involved in this next season and what we will not be involved in. Our culture offers us a myriad of options that we could choose to give our time and energy to. There are new television series to watch; classes to take; new work out routines; subscriberships to orchestras, choirs, and theatres; work projects; and of course church. With dozens of good things to occupy our fall calendars, how do we choose what is best for us and our families?

Jesus chose certain rhythms in his life that bore amazing fruit for him. Jesus did NOT choose to do all the good that there was to do. He settled on a few things that kept his life connected to God and to other people. There are a few that are obvious like prayer, worship with others, and studying the Scripture. Then there are some that we might not think about. I jokingly tell my husband that travel was critical to Jesus' calling and life. And he kindly reminds me that stays in nice hotels were not. All joking aside, one of the rhythms that Jesus never let go of was gathering with a small group to process faith and life. No matter what happened or how bad that group was on any given meeting, Jesus never let go of the practice of committed time to a committed circle of people. Even on the night before he died, you find Jesus with his small group preparing for what was coming next.

I want to encourage you this fall to consider entering into THIS vital rhythm of Jesus. There will be several small groups that meet throughout the week on different days all gathering to pursue a deeper and more effective faith life. A brochure with all the group options will be published on September 13. Please take the time now to make space in your calendar and discover this powerful rhythm of community as you follow Jesus into all that he has for you this fall.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, September 20-October 18, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Exploring Sacred Space in Architecture, Painting and Theology led by Wayne Roosa

There is a long tradition of "Sacred Space" in all religions. From the Prehistoric paintings in Caves through the history of cathedrals, chapels and churches, humans have found ways to articulate certain spaces to express their spiritual experience and beliefs. In these spaces we encounter, celebrate and worship. These architectural design reflect what we believe and how we communicate and experience those beliefs. This class will explore great works of Christian architecture from the Early Church through the present day.

Adult Ministry

Jonna Fantz
Outreach and Community Life Pastor
jfantz@salemcov.org

MEN'S MINISTRY

Honing Steel Men's Bible Study *Topical Studies from Biblical Principles*

Contact: Dan Gatto

(djesgatto@mac.com or 612-750-7294)

Introduction Meeting

Thursday, August 27 at 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Monthly Meetings

First Thursday of the Month
starting Thursday, October 1, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

All men are invited to join us for a monthly Bible study. The format for our studies will include:

7:00-7:30	Introduction of the subject for the evening
7:30-8:15	Small group discussion on the topical questions
8:15-8:30	Prayer time.

The study information will be sent in advance via email. If you have not given us your email or don't have one, please check with the church office for a copy. We will then gather monthly, starting October 1, to explore *The Measure of a Man* by Gene A. Getz.

*As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.*

Proverbs 27:17

Large Group Bible Study Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

Gather together for a time of prayer for our community and a deep dive into scripture this fall. Our focus this fall is a spotlight on Jesus, exploring his teachings and the impact of his life in two study series. Join us for all or part of the fall.

we are because I AM September 16-November 4

Throughout the book of John, Jesus helps to define himself and his ministry through a series of "I am" statements. These statements become powerful language to describe the world-changing nature of Jesus, and what happens when he enters the human story... especially our personal story. Join us for these transformational teachings that can reshape your faith and life. Teacher: Jonna Fantz

Through the Glass Dimly: Blurred Images of a Future Messiah November 11-December 16

We will look at the first chapter of Luke as well as various supporting Old Testament texts as we consider the coming of the Christ. This will be an inductive Bible study where we will approach the texts as if we were living at the time of John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah and others in the Jewish community awaiting the promised Messiah although uncertain of exactly what that might mean. Teacher: Stephen Pitts



The Prayer Ministry Team wants to hear your stories of how God has Answered Prayer in your life. Answers to prayer are vital to every one of us. Sharing of miracles, big and small, is an encouragement to our congregation and a testament to God's love for us. Submit your stories to Heather Brumbaugh (hbrumbaugh@saalemcov.org) or in writing at the Welcome Center. We want to hear from you!

Fellowship Ministry

Contact: Edna Harelstad (612-789-3685)

Explore Salem's Fellowship Ministry Friday, September 18 at 12:00 p.m.

A Pasta/Meatball Lunch will be held in the Fellowship Hall.
Sign up at the table in the Narthex on Sunday mornings.

Entertainment: The Benson Family Singers.

These entertainers are a family music group from Faribault, MN, specializing in tight, acapella harmonies and play a variety of instruments. They have performed at many venues throughout the Midwest and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through their music, humor and message. A free will offering will be taken to defray the cost of the day!



We will meet the third Friday of the month.
Mark your calendars for Fridays, October 16, November 20,
and December 18 for our future gatherings.

Rummage Sale October 15 and 16

Good usable items (no large furniture or electronics, please) can be brought to the gym beginning Sunday, October 11, after 12:00 and all day Monday and up to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Proceeds from the sale will go to P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transportation). This all volunteer organization builds three-wheeled hand cranked wheel chairs which are sent to Third World countries for people who have no legs or cannot walk. Last year, this IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization started in 1995, built and shipped 6000 wheelchairs to third World non-governmental agencies who placed them where they are most needed and train and monitor the people in their use.

This is our opportunity not only to raise money for such a worthy cause, but to also help needy people who in the past years were especially grateful for the items they were able to purchase for a small amount.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

A Time for Everything

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

The Women Ministries board has decided that it is time for a change in the way Women Ministries functions at Salem. It is time for new leadership and new ideas. We who have served these past years thank everyone who contributed in some way to this ministry. We could not have accomplished all we have without our support.

Financial support has been crucial in planning and implementing donations to various causes, programs, and support for local and national Women Ministries boards and fundraisers.

In 2014, \$10,000 was given to the new kitchen fund. This spring, the undesignated balance remaining in the Women Ministries account was given to the Salem Benevolence Fund (for use by Salem members only), Covenant Pines Family Camp scholarships, youth and children's programs, and to the Kitchen Coordinator for needed items. An amount was also designated to be used as a "start up" for a new organization of ministries for women.

We, the outgoing Women Ministries board, thank you for your past support and hope that you look forward to new and exciting ways for women to serve here at Salem and beyond. We ask you to pray for Pastor Jonna as she considers ways for this to be accomplished.

Judy Sonstegard
Sandra Pederson
Jeanette Anderson

Nan Lunquist
Kim Bloom

Knitters and Crocheters

Contact: Kris Beilby (651-636-3574)

Do you like to knit or crochet? How about using your skills for knitting in service to others in need?

The Salem Knitting and Crocheting Ministry makes prayer shawls for members of the congregation who need to feel God's presence and His people's love and prayers. We make baby blankets for mothers who have nothing for their new babies. Each fall, we also donate many hats and scarves to the CEAP coat drive.

The group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join us if you can for work and fellowship, or if you are unable to meet with us, any projects you complete at home will be gratefully received. We have some yarn on hand and will accept donations of washable knitting worsted weight yarn of amounts of at least one skein per color and type. Thank you!!

Covenant Pines Women's Retreat September 25-27

Register now at www.covenantpines.org. Forms and information about other retreats are also available at the kiosk in the Narthex.

Salem member Christi Pease will be the featured speaker sharing about the theme *Rooted* based on Ephesians 3:16-19.



This retreat is designed by women and for women. Come to strengthen your relationship with God and to connect with others while you refocus and spend a weekend in peace. There is something special about Covenant Pines that allows a deep connection with God that is often difficult to find in the routine of normal life. Come join us and experience the love of Christ!

Some of the activities to expect over the weekend include:

- Meaningful messages that will challenge and encourage your journey with Christ
- Powerful worship
- An 80s theme party on Saturday night.
- The Giant Swing and Climbing Tower/Zipline
- Afternoon Tea. Complete with scones and decadent desserts. Bring your favorite tea cup!
- Pinterest inspired crafts
- Silent Auction
- Massages
- Special Interest Seminars

Would you like to know more about
Covenant Pines Bible Camp?

Contact Sarmita Peterson,
Salem's Camp Representative
(612-600-4250) or scan the code.



Submit your own story and pictures of your experience at Covenant Pines for an upcoming Salem Scene to Heather Brumbaugh (hbrumbaugh@salemcov.org).

Ministry Deployment

Ben Pease

Youth and Ministry Deployment Pastor

bpease@salemcov.org



*There are service opportunities for children, youth, families, and all ages.
Watch the bulletin and emails for these opportunities this year!*

Salem Covenant Church is committed to serving people beyond our doors. We recognize that the call to follow Christ includes a call to serve others in his name, and to demonstrate Christ's love in tangible ways.

The **Service Ministry Team** is committed to engaging Salem's family in meaningful ministry connections with local and regional partners. When we engage with these partners in mutual service, not only do we make an impact in the Twin Cities and beyond, but we also discover opportunities to grow in our gifts and skills in service, to grow in our understanding of God's work in the region, and to grow in the joy of serving beyond ourselves.

Stay tuned for information about opportunities to serve by following the weekly bulletin and website, and by stopping by the Service Ministry Team bulletin board near the elevator (upper level). With opportunities ranging from packing food at Feed My Starving Children, to serving meals at the First Covenant Church Homeless Shelter, to helping shoppers at Fridley's Manna Market (and much more), you're bound to find an opportunity that works for you. *Thank you* for your partnership!

My Volunteer Story

submitted by Jane Polley

Bel Air School

One of Salem's many community outreach opportunities is to be a volunteer at Bel Air Elementary School for the students' hearing and vision tests in the fall. For the past three years, I have assisted with the hearing portion of the exams. These tests are critical because of the impact poor hearing has on the students' learning experience. To make the testing comfortable for the volunteers, the staff reviews with us how the monitors work and they also do testing in the same room so they will be available to answer any questions or concerns. Even the students themselves are eager to participate. The satisfaction of volunteering at Bel Air comes from knowing I am making a difference by helping the staff complete mandated testing. They are always gracious and appreciative of our presence. And it is especially fun to be amongst all those youngsters!



Ushering at Salem

When I usher at Salem I feel as if I am a hostess, welcoming the first-visit guest as well as the longtime member into the sanctuary where they are coming to have a meaningful worship experience. I try to make them feel comfortable and it has helped by knowing their names, faces, and families and where they prefer to sit. It has always been a privilege to prepare the sanctuary and gather in the people for this hour of blessing.

Our Czech Republic Story

Greetings from your short term mission team who just completed our mission to the Czech Republic. We had a wonderful trip! The Brethren Church in Trhové Sviny could not have been more kind, generous, gracious, or accommodating. They showed true Christian love and hospitality to the ten of us that went and taught English Camp—commonly referred to as e-camp by the students.

Our students ages ranged from approximately 12-80. We divided them into three separate levels—beginning, intermediate, and advanced. The beginning class required a translator as did most of our activities. Each day, we had English class, Bible reading, an afternoon activity (American/Czech holidays, Olympics, crafts/board games, scavenger hunts, hiking), and an evening activity (bonfire, skit/talent show, Jeopardy). We also had a graduation and were invited to students' homes at the end of the week. The afternoon activities allowed a lot of 1:1 time for students to interact with teachers, speak English, ask questions, and have fun! Forty-three students attended camp this year and we had a record number of teachers—ten (five Salem members—Kathy Anderson, Dave and Beth Hamilton, Beth Nemeč and our leader, Mark Nygaard).

There were many, many positive experiences. A few of us were able to personally connect with students and talk more about our faith and what we believe. I had to dig very deep in my Christian education and am so thankful for the wonderful teachers I have had throughout my life at Salem. I referenced things taught to me by my former confirmation teachers and Sunday school teachers—thanks to Pastor Wiberg and Jack Musikov to name just a few! I was also able to draw from the catechism questions we study in Salem's third year confirmation class. We were asked a wide range of questions: How did Noah get all of the animals on the ark? Why did God make the Israelites suffer? Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart? How do you pray—do you always have to close your eyes? What is heaven like? And, the most important: How do you become a Christian?

The last Sunday we were there, we led the worship service at the Brethren Church. We provided music and sang songs in English and Czech (traditional and contemporary), explained our Vacation Bible School program at Salem, and how the Salem children learned about the Czech Republic, led prayer, and Mark's sermon reflected on the verses we had studied and discussed in e-camp that week. We had seven students come to the service—a few who had never been to church before. We are praying that some of them continue to participate and attend the Brethren Church in the future.

Our entire team wants to sincerely thank you. Thank you for supporting us with: your prayers; your financial gifts, all of the administrative details, the mission team's guidance and leadership, and for Salem's ongoing commitment to serve and believe in missions.

submitted by Beth Nemeč
on behalf of: Mark, Kathy, Dave, Beth, Delora, Don,
Andy, McKenzie and Jon



TRUNK or Treat

Friday, October 30

Salem would like to take advantage of our visibility on Silver Lake Road and great parking lot. We will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat Party the night before Halloween to invite all our folks and our neighborhood to stop in for a fun-filled night with their children and a positive experience with our church. More information will be in the bulletin and on the website this fall!

What is Trunk-or-Treat?

A bunch of cars are parked with their trunks open. Trunks are decorated and have games or giveaways. People bring their children and can walk around the parking lot with their kids for a safe, family-friendly night of costumes and candy. The church will provide hospitality, encouraging people to stay for food and music. There will be prizes for best decorated trunks!



How can we participate?

1. Save the date so you are able to come on Friday night for the fun and take your kids for a first run in their costumes.
2. Sign up to bring your car and decorate it for the night. Choose a fun theme or just add lights to the trunk. You can be in costume. You need one person to be at the trunk to hand out candy or give-aways or lead a game. Be creative and have fun. Don't forget about the prizes!!
3. Donate candy or other items for the Trunkers to give-away.
4. Come and offer to help with food, music, clean-up, or greeting as we make the night a fun and welcoming experience for everyone who visits.

Celebrating 20 years!

Salem Covenant Church Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, November 7, 2015

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2015 marks the Salem Arts & Crafts Fair 20th anniversary! Every year this event has gotten better and better and our attendance has been tremendous. This event is so unique in so many ways. Where else can you get a jump on your Christmas shopping, grab a bite to eat and visit with old and new friends? You won't want to miss this year's Arts & Crafts Fair as it is shaping up to be our best event yet. In addition to all the wonderful shopping we will again have the Salem Café and Bake Sale.

Our Salem members and friends have helped make this event a huge success. This event has really helped our Salem Youth Group over these many years, as all space rental, bake sale, and concession profits support their programs.





Fall is a time of new beginnings at Preschool as it is for all of the programs at Salem. We look forward to meeting our new students and catching up with with returning ones. Growth in spiritual, emotional, physical, and academic areas is encouraged through our curriculum and the Christian example the children see around them. We begin this year learning about our five senses and how God equipped our bodies to learn about our world. As we see, touch, smell, taste, and hear our environment we discover that we are not all alike. That is part of God's plan. But, we are alike in many ways. We are all God's children and He loves us all. Therefore, we learn to love one another.

In October, we harvest much of our Preschool Garden. It has been a very good growing year, as of this writing. We plan to share our bounty with the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf! This is also apple harvesting time. Our older students will visit an apple orchard to see how these delicious fruits are grown, picked and marketed. All of our students can learn about growing apples. We will enjoy eating and cooking with apples before our unit is done. Our food theme returns in November as we thank God for our food and the many blessings we receive from him.

The fall is sprinkled with fun holidays and we are not shy about celebrating them. Halloween is anticipated long in advance. We celebrate the fun by carving pumpkins, wearing costumes and playing games. This year our Halloween "mascot" is the spider. We'll focus on the good things about this interesting bug, even though we use him as a scary decoration. We hardly have our costumes put away before it is Thanksgiving. It encourages us to stop and reflect on the blessings God has given us. It is a reminder that we are not the source of happiness and love but rather God is.

In November, the four-year-old classes present an evening program which is a medley of the best songs, music activities, and finger plays we have learned so far in the year. All are invited. Watch for the dates in the bulletin and on our website.



To see what we are doing on a weekly basis,
visit our web site,
saalemcovpreschool.com,
and click on the Facebook icon.

For more information or to register,
contact Pam Carlson at pam@saalemcovpreschool.com.



Love . . . always protects

submitted by Beth Anderson

In *Grace for the Moment* by Max Lucado, he reflects on what Paul might have been thinking when he wrote "Love...always protects." in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Lucado speculates that Paul might have been thinking of a coat. According to Lucado, one scholar explains that in this passage, protect conveys, "the idea of covering with a cloak of love." Lucado asks: remember when you received one? You were nervous about the test, but the teacher stayed late to help you. You were far from home and afraid, but your mother phoned to comfort you. You were innocent and accused, so your friend stood to defend you. Covered with encouragement. Covered with tender-hearted care. Covered with protection. Covered with the cloak of love...A Love Worth Giving.



As I reflected on this devotion my mind drifted to prayer shawls, which have been made for centuries. I thought about how they too cover a person with cloak of love. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, hug, and shelter. Those who receive shawls are uplifted and affirmed. Whether knit, crocheted, quilted, or woven prayer shawls, combine a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice. Upon completion, a final blessing by the pastoral staff is offered before the shawl is sent on its way.

Shawls can be used when a person needs comfort after experiencing a loss, a time of stress, or recovering from a serious illness.

Is a tangible reminder that others are lifting us up in prayer beneficial?

Two years ago, I fell and broke my hip. Surgery and rehab went beautiful and I returned home. Two days later, I experienced excruciating pain that was only relieved by lying down. The pain was unrelenting for over three weeks. During this time, many visitors helped out and prayed with and for me. A hand-made wooden cross was among the many things people brought during this time. Although the pain continued, I could feel the power of their prayers. Their prayers gave me the strength and ability to travel through this experience without turning in on myself with self pity or blame. The wooden cross served as a tangible reminder of the prayers that were made on my behalf. This tangible reminder of their prayers made me feel as if I was given wings to fly above my troubles. —Kathy S., Member of Salem

Is a prayer shawl like being covered by a cloak of love?

I usually have a smile on my face and a joke on the tip of my tongue. However, this winter I went through a rough patch and spent a month in the hospital. Although I've been hospitalized before, the length of this hospitalization and the ups and downs it involved was disheartening. I began to wonder if I would ever get better. During my hospitalization, I was given a prayer shawl. Throughout my hospitalization, I kept my prayer shawl over my shoulders or used it like a blanket. It provided a physical reminder of the prayers that were being offered to God on my behalf by my church family. I found comfort in knowing it was knit for me and that the person who made the shawl prayed for me as she knit. When I wrapped myself in my prayer shawl during hospitalization, I felt secure and comforted. I felt the warmth of God's love in my heart and the strength of my faith in him working together to heal my body. I thank God for providing a physical reminder of his love and comfort in the form of a prayer shawl during this difficult time. —Donald A., Member of Salem

If you are interested in participating in the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Salem, please see page 9 for more details about our Knitting and Crocheters.

Capital Campaign Update

Several projects have been completed over the past few months including the following:

- New bus for transportation needs
- Lighting upgrade in the Sanctuary
- Technology upgrades in Hermundslie Lounge and Narthex

More projects are in process including website re-design and the replacement of pew cushions and tile floor in the Sanctuary. Thank you for your support of Salem's Capital Campaign!



Geeks are Great!

The early 21st century has been declared the Age of the Geek. People with the ability to work with computers and other technology are playing a vital role in the progress and growth of our society. Contemporary Worship is experiencing in some fresh ways a new need for a fully developed tech team. We have a new sound board that is user-friendly, and a worship band that has amazing talent in need of someone to help get that sound out to the congregation. We have new demands for PowerPoint and video help as this worship service leans deeper and deeper into using more visual language to share the gospel with the next generation.

So this is an ALL CALL. If you have some comfort with technology and would be willing to offer your skills once every month or once every couple of months, we would love to invite you onto the Salem Tech Team. To learn more about the opportunities and the needs please let Norm Blagman, our Contemporary Worship Leader know that you are interested in learning more. You can catch him after service or send an email to: nblagman@salemcov.org. And thanks to all the GEEKS who will help make our worship GREAT!



Many thanks to all who provided help, encouragement and especially prayers during my recent medical difficulties. You have blessed my life so much and I treasure you. — Kathy Sammartano



On March 23, 2015, Dr. Gordon Howell was named a Minnesota Teachers National Association Foundation Fellow for distinguished service to the music teaching profession. This was given at the national Music Convention in Las Vegas.

Save the Dates

GriefShare

Handling the pain of losing someone that you love is never easy for anyone. To help you through this difficult time and the feelings that accompany the loss of a loved one, we are offering a 13-week support group at Salem Covenant Church this fall. Additional details will be available at a later date.

Flu Vaccine Clinic

Sunday, October 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon at Salem. Watch the weekly bulletin for more details.

Bel Air Elementary School Vision and Hearing Screening

October 27, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
October 28, 8:00 a.m. to noon

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with vision and hearing screening at Bel Air Elementary School this fall, please contact the Church Office or sign up on the bulletin board behind the Welcome Center. Thank you for prayerfully considering this service opportunity.

Fall Choir

Would you like to serve in a vital part of worship? The Sanctuary Choir is open to anyone high school age or above and no audition is necessary. We rehearse Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and sing most Sundays September through May at both Traditional Services. Participation in every rehearsal and all services is not mandatory but singing brings such joy that it is hard not to! Contact Jon Veenker (jveenker@salemcov.org), Director, with any questions.

Welcome, Lynn!

We are excited to announce that Lynn Miller will be Salem's Handbell Ensemble Director. Lynn brings extensive handbell experience and enthusiasm to the position. Lynn has served as Salem's Beginning Handbell Director for the past 2 years, and will be adding the Handbell Ensemble group this Fall.



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Kicking Off the Fall September 13

It's that time of year where we celebrate the change of seasons and experience the joy of seeing all the abundant gifts that God has given us for the months ahead. On September 13, Salem will launch its new worship schedule—8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m. The choir will be back, the worship band rocking, and a fresh sermon series will launch. Ministries will be firing up and there will be brochures chock full of information and opportunities to pursue. Make sure you invite a friend or a neighbor and come to this fun-filled launch as we head into all that Jesus has for us in the Fall of 2015!

You will not want to miss these events on Kickoff Sunday!

- pig roast
- powerful worship
- photo booth
- new friends
- inflatables
- great food
- music



Sunday Schedule

beginning September 13

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
 - Sunday School (Children/Youth)
 - Confirmation
 - Sunday School (Adult) *
 - Parent Discussion Group *
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 - Preschool Worship
 - Children's Worship
 - Sunday School (Adult) *

* begins September 20

Wednesday Schedule

beginning September 16

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Bells of Glory Rehearsal
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner
- 5:45 p.m. Joy Singers Rehearsal
- Praise Singers Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. God's Children Sing
- 6:30 p.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 6:45 p.m. AWANA Clubs
 - Middle School Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Salem Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 8:10 p.m. Doxology Rehearsal