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# Salem SCENE

Summer  
Issue  
Vol. 30  
No. 3

## 5TH STREET SUMMER Be Strong and Courageous Joshua 19

Shine! Vacation Bible School June 22-26, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
entering Kindergarten through Grade 5

Sports Academy Monday mornings, June 29-August 3  
ages 4-10

Drama Camp July 13-16, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
entering Grades 2-5

Summer Camps at Covenant Pines Bible Camp for all ages!

More details on page 4 and 5!

## World of Jesus Class

Mondays in June

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## SALEM 101

Tuesdays in May

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Salem Covenant Church  
June | July | August 2015

# And the Survey says . . .

by Pastor Mark Pattie

The surveys are in and the news is encouraging. In late February, everyone involved at Salem was invited to complete a brief questionnaire. The response was tremendous. Our consultant, Alan Forsman, who works with churches and businesses across the country, stated that if 30% of those regularly attending on Sunday mornings filled out the survey it would have validity and be representative of our congregation. We came closer to 40%. Our thanks to all who completed the survey.

Some initial data:

- A little over a third of those filling out surveys have begun attending Salem within the past seven years. This ratio between those relatively new and those who've been here for a long time is a solid indicator good health—a healthy balance of both stability and new life.
- The majority of those who have begun attending Salem in the past three years are in the 30- to 50-year-old category, many with children, indicating our efforts to reach this demographic group is bearing fruit.
- Of those who have begun attending Salem in the past three years, a virtually equal number attend Traditional Worship as attend Contemporary Worship. This is great affirmation of our ongoing commitment to providing both styles of worship.

Another encouraging word is that close to 70% of those responding have invited at least one other person to Salem in the past year. Further, quite a few people told us after taking the survey that the question, itself, led them to make inviting people a higher priority. And, as every study on the subject confirms, personal invitations to family members, friends, and neighbors are by far the most effective means of outreach.

Our AWANA children are a great example of this, as I've heard many times over. There are numerous stories of children inviting friends to attend on Wednesday nights and then those friends getting so excited that they invite their parents, who then start attending, too.

There is a cumulative effect to invitations and to simply talking, without being pushy, about our faith, our church, and our life in Christ. Some research indicates that it takes seven invitations, or seven times of seeing or hearing about a church, before a person will decide to check the church out. Again, I'm not suggesting that we should be

pushy—the good Lord knows that would turn me off—but if we believe we have a good thing going and that encouraging those we care about to know and grow in God's love is critically important, then following our children's example of sharing what we are excited about and inviting others to join in is an idea whose time has come.

Spring and summer are often times when people's schedules change and even slow down a bit. That may well mean that some will head out of town and up to the lake for a time, but it also may mean that some will be more willing and able to try something new, even a church, some weekend. Maybe you can suggest grabbing brunch or lunch together afterward. Much of what our Strategic Planning Task Force has heard indicates that many feel Salem is one of the best-kept secrets in town. Well, the time is here to let the secret out. Let's share God's blessing with joy!

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I believe as Christians we can all agree that time spent in prayer with our precious Lord is oh so fulfilling! The closer we walk with Him the more we find ourselves praying to Him throughout our day. It becomes more of a continuing conversation with a very dear friend, or in my case a crying out of woes, sounding something like this, “Lord I need you, Lord I can’t do this without you, Lord give me strength, Lord I’m lost without You....”

And please do not misunderstand me; I truly believe our Lord does want to hear from us both in our joy and our agony. He wants our honesty and He desires that personal connection with us. He is, after all, our Father and we his children. But with that said, I do find that much of my prayer time can be focused on my personal needs and desires. I forget to consider what He is asking of me, His disciple; “Father, what would You have me do, where would You have me go, who would You have me serve?” Prayer really is a two-way conversation, but one of us has to listen to hear what the other is saying.

Over the last few years, I have had the great privilege of participating in the 7 *Days of Prayer* event that is offered at Salem each year. It is very difficult to put into words what an incredible gift this experience has been for me! Spending one hour alone with God in the Chapel truly does renew one’s soul.

## My heart breaks for what breaks His.

When you first enter the Chapel, you are asked to prepare your heart for prayer by releasing any sin or burden you may be carrying with you. For me, this has been a key component in readying my soul for my prayer hour. There is just me, my God, and silence as I cry out to Him freely and honestly without fear or judgment. I ask for forgiveness and I am answered. For me, it is like having my soul, my heart, and my eyes washed clean. My sin truly is as far away as the east is from the west. Now my heart is truly ready to pray and

oh it is so full! I can love my neighbor, my church, my leaders, and the broken world around me. “My heart breaks for what breaks His.” (*Hosanna* by Brooke Fraser) It is as if I hear each prayer whispered in my ear and the love is so overwhelming. At the same time, my heart rejoices for all the people that serve Him—the pastors, the missionaries, those that feed and clothe His people, and those that serve Him even to the point of death! The prayers just tumble from my lips as I am filled with the Holy Spirit. As each prayer request comes to me, I feel it with such fervor, with such a burning desire for each and every need to be heard and answered. For all God’s people to be victorious! And I am so filled with joy and thankfulness that I, His simple servant, could be used in such a way! When the hour is finished (and it goes by so quickly), my heart is full! I want to do this every week and I want everyone to have a chance to experience it. It truly is a gift!

Thank you to all the beautiful people who prepare the Chapel every year and get everyone signed up to pray. What a blessing you all are to Salem Covenant Church!

—Janell O’Brien

## When Salem Prays

Were you one of the seventy people of all ages who joined in *The Journey: 7 Days of Prayer*, held February 22 to March 1?

In this week-long event, Salem’s tenth since 2005, participants had the opportunity to pray for their selected hour in an environment specially prepared to facilitate prayer. Many who took advantage of that opportunity found rich blessings there:

- “The time went very fast and was fully engaged. It was a great delight to focus for 60 full minutes. Thank you for preparing this.”
- “Life is hard. I’m thankful for a place to let go, cleanse, rest, praise, and adore. Thank you, Jesus, for loving me.”
- “It is rare to find this quiet in everyday life. So grateful for this time to slow down and converse with Jesus.”
- (From a young participant) “It was a fun time. Awesome!”

The Prayer Ministry Team plans to continue to offer opportunities for you to go deeper in prayer, and get closer to God. Join us on the journey. Thank you for praying.

—Kathy Sammartano

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@salemcov.org](mailto:hbrumbaugh@salemcov.org)) or in writing at the Welcome Center. We want to hear from you!

# Children's Ministry

Alice Johnson

Children and Family/Executive Pastor

ajohnson@salemcov.org



## Vacation Bible School

In my kids' closet, there is a shelf filled with dusty ribbons and

broken trophies. Kids desire recognition and awards, and let's face it, so do adults! But so much of what we desire is not eternal. The Bible tells us of eternal rewards that will never fade or break. This summer, we are excited to be using the Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum: *Shine!* by Go Fish. *Shine!* explores what it means to shine for Jesus—giving God the glory in all we do. Each day is devoted to a Bible story that points to an eternal reward in heaven: the crowns of victory, life, rejoicing, glory, and righteousness.

Our theme for VBS is the Olympics, with each classroom representing a different country in which Salem supports missionaries. For example, the first grade class will be learning about the country of Mexico and the Salem-supported missionaries that work there. Children will discover that those who follow Jesus are called to train like Olympic athletes—diligently and wisely. But unlike Olympic athletes, the rewards we are working toward are eternal.

Vacation Bible School typically draws over 100 kids from Salem and the community. Ways you can help:

- **Volunteer!** There are many volunteer opportunities we need filled in order for us to run a fantastic program. If you feel lead to volunteer, please pray about where God wants you to volunteer and sign up online or at the bulletin board behind the Welcome Center.
- **Pray!** Please pray for the kids coming to VBS that they may know Jesus and grow in Him.

## Interviews with Sunday School Leaders

We asked a some of our Sunday School leaders to share their thoughts on teaching Sunday School—Janice Zdrzil teaches third grade, Dawn Pederson teaches first grade, and Chris and Katie Gehrz teach fourth grade.



### How long have you been teaching Sunday School?

**Dawn:** This is my first year! Ever.

**Janice:** Eleven years.

**Chris and Katie:** We have been teaching 4th grade Sunday School at Salem for almost 3 years.

### What made you decide to teach?

**Dawn:** I was reluctant to teach. I guess I decided to do it because I didn't have a good reason not to. I questioned if I had the knowledge or experience to teach, but in the end I decided I loved God and kids and wanted them to know about him.

**Janice:** I like kids, and I like being able to teach the Bible to children. It's fun for me to teach Bible stories that may be new to kids. When kids show surprise and wonder during the lesson, that's really exciting for me.

**Chris and Katie:** To be honest, we found out there was a need for a 4th grade Sunday School teacher team, and we agreed to teach!

### Have there been surprises or rewards along the way?

**Dawn:** I have learned so much. And, seeing the kids having moments of understanding and faith. It reminds me that I need to come to God's kingdom like a child, which is what we were admonished to do. Teaching Sunday School is not like teaching Social Studies to first graders. You are teaching them God's Holy Word! What could be more important than that!

**Janice:** I am surprised by the good questions, the depth of their understanding, and the desire for a greater understanding by the kids. It has been rewarding to present the gospel to kids. This has helped me think through the gospel message and how I speak about it to adults.

**Chris and Katie:** It's a joy to see nine- and ten-year olds coming into their own, starting to ask big questions about God, the world, and themselves, and to experience those aha moments as their faith starts to become their own. We have the chance to be a blessing in their life, but they bless us much more richly.

### For Chris and Katie we also asked, why did you decide to teach together?

Well... Katie volunteered before asking Chris if he wanted to teach! Teaching together has provided us with opportunities during the week to discuss Scripture passages. It is also chance for us both to pause during our busy week, work together, and use our creativity to teach 4th graders!

### What brings you back?

**Janice:** The kids and the relationships!

**Chris and Katie:** It's a way of fulfilling that promise we make as a congregation every time a child is baptized or dedicated: to help parents to nurture their children as followers of Jesus Christ. And each class, each student is so different! Finally, it's an opportunity to get to know other people. Salem is a big church—teaching Sunday School is a terrific way to get connected.

# AWANA Clubs

Thanks to all of our AWANA clubbers for a great year! We had more than 120 children involved with an average of 98 children attending each week. This is 25% more clubbers than we had in the program last year. Hundreds of Bible verses were learned, Bible stories shared, projects completed, games played, and items purchased at the AWANA store.

We also want to thank the 28 adult volunteers who served with our children this year. These leaders encouraged the children in Scripture memory, helped them understand what they were memorizing, and prayed for and with them. We were blessed by the investment of this wonderful team of leaders.

The theme verse for AWANA is 2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." We pray that the verses the children have learned will continue to shape them so that they are equipped for all that God has planned for them.

## Awards Program 2015

### Sparky Award Recipients



Luke O'Rourke



John Pease



Sarah Rood

### Excellence Award Recipient



Ava O'Rourke



**AWANA Clubs 2015-2016**  
 Registration for next year will begin on August 1.  
 AWANA starts: Wednesday, September 16

# Family Ministry

Alice Johnson  
 Children and Family/Executive Pastor  
 ajohnson@salemcov.org

## Family Fun Summer Events



About every six weeks, Children and Family Ministries give families the opportunity to serve, or just have fun with other families at Salem with special events. This year, we have served at the First Covenant Homeless Shelter, made gingerbread houses together, and played games together, just to name a few. Families who have been able to participate have enjoyed getting to know other families at Salem, and have enjoyed the time with their family serving and having fun.

**Summer Kick Off!**  
 Wednesday, June 3  
 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the start of summer! Food, entertainment, and play. Fun for the entire family!



**Water Extravaganza**  
 Wednesday, August 12  
 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Slip 'n' slides, water balloons, and blasters. Games, treats, and lots of water fun! What more could a hot summer day ask for?!

# Youth Ministry

Ben Pease

Youth and Ministry Deployment Pastor

bpease@salemcov.org



## Empty Stomachs Here = A Better Life There

Over the Easter weekend, nine Salem Middle School students went without food during our 30-Hour Famine to raise both dollars and awareness to address global hunger issues. Our students raised over \$1,000 to support World Vision's global community development efforts and partnerships with churches and ministries.

Students broke into two teams for some friendly competition as they learned about the challenges and opportunities of life in Ethiopia. Games simulating real-world challenges in health care, education, agriculture, and water supply brought the point home, and a packing session at Feed My Starving Children allowed the team yet another opportunity to make a dent in global hunger. THANK YOU to all who sponsored our students!

P.S. On Easter Sunday, Corinne Pease had dinner with a man who, it turns out, had worked for World Vision in Ethiopia for four years!



## A Huge CHIC Auction THANK YOU!

Salem Youth Ministries would like to thank ALL of you who made our recent CHIC Auction such a huge success! The parent team knocked it out of the park with the design and execution of a super fun event, generous donors within Salem and beyond made the auction a destination, and the hugely supportive crowd that turned out resulted in receipts of over \$14,000! This is a HUGE boost to our CHIC budget, and we are so grateful for your enthusiastic, generous support. Please continue to pray for our students and leaders heading to Tennessee this July. Thank you!

On behalf of the 40 CHIC students and their parents, we would like to thank our Salem family for your support shown by your gifts of time, talents, creativity and generous giving and bidding at the CHIC auction. We would also like to thank Sarah Jane's Bakery, Premier Lighting, James Steele Construction, Walter's Recycling, and Quarve Contracting, Inc. for generous cash donations and Brian Weber, Imagine IT and a generous anonymous donor for our raffle items. We made over \$14,700! Your generosity is such an encouragement to us.

Sincerely,  
CHIC Auction Parent Committee



## Senior High Students on the MOVE

In April, a team of Salem Senior High students joined forces with hundreds of fellow students from across the Northwest Conference at Minnehaha Academy for worship, service, and challenging teaching, during the annual MOVE (Mission Outreach Venture Experience) urban mission weekend.



After being challenged to consider *"Now What?"* in next steps of living out their faith in Jesus Christ, students deployed in teams across the Twin Cities to partner with local ministries. Our team was assigned to Living Hope Ministries in Northeast Minneapolis, where we were blessed to continue our church's ongoing partnership with Living Hope by clearing out demolition debris from their newly acquired building.

Back at Minnehaha, youth groups brainstormed service ministries they could begin back home, and our team developed a project with exciting possibilities. Stay tuned!

## World of Jesus Class

with Pastor Jonna

Mondays, June 1, 8, and 15

6:30-8:00 p.m.

It has been my experience as a pastor that people often struggle to understand how powerful and radical Jesus' teachings are. They can seem familiar and ordinary. When you place the teachings of Jesus into the World of Jesus, it is explosive. Jesus' teachings are always radical and life changing, and seeing them in their context helps ignite them in our own lives.

For three nights, we will study Jesus interaction with politics, social settings, and the religion of his day. This class is designed as a creative and eye-opening experience that will start your summer with a spiritual boost. Don't miss this deep dive into Jesus' life and times.

### *SMALL GROUPS—The occasional spark. The intentional fire.*

I've been wondering this lately: *what good is a group?* Kris and I lead a small group that regularly meets together to read ancient texts. At the moment, we're slowly going through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. It's riveting stuff.

There comes a time in the life of every small group where people start to bow out. Life gets in the way. Work, sickness, commitments interfere, and gradually the small group is, well, really small. Only a few show. Even so—with only one or two showing up—some magical spark can happen in the course of an ordinary conversation. We talked about the pointed words Jesus had to say about lust and adultery—old terms we don't hear much in our culture—experiences so common they seem to be just expected parts of everyday life. In the course of hashing through those words, we talked about seeing people as objects. And suddenly I was making connections with philosophers Emmanuel Levinas and Martin Buber and realizing I am also in need of reforming bad thought habits.

These conversational sparks happen at work too. Yesterday I was lamenting to myself the ways in which large corporations dampen the enthusiasm of otherwise bright, motivated people. In the middle of that thought a client returned a call that we had cut short the day before. He had been thinking through our conversation and had five or six things to add. This client—from a very large corporation—had found a way to take personal ownership of the process and our discussion had a sort of breathless excitement to it.

### *This is rare. And cool.*

Our seemingly ordinary conversation had unearthed some live wire. And a group of us were doing our best to act on it.

*So, all this to say that groups can do things individuals cannot.  
And sometimes a group conversation can create something brand new.*

—written by Kirk Livingston

## Adult Ministry

Jonna Fantz

Outreach and Community Life Pastor

[jfantz@salemcov.org](mailto:jfantz@salemcov.org)

### Men's Ministry

Contact: Dan Gatto

([djesgatto@mac.com](mailto:djesgatto@mac.com) or 612-750-7294)

Men's Ministry seeks to provide a forum for men to grow in faith in Jesus Christ above all else, by uniting together individually and corporately, through prayer, Bible study, outreach, and service to the church, the community, and the world.

We invite you to join us at our next event!

#### Men's BBQ

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.

with Ken Larson (CEO at Slumberland)

*Why Mission, Vision, and Values  
for Family, Work, and Self?*





**Thank you** to everyone who helped in some way to make the Women Ministries Sunday a success. The recipient of our focus this year was Covenant Pines Camp. \$759 was given which will be used for upkeep and improvements at the camp. Thank you to everyone who donated money to deep our camp a safe and inviting place to worship surrounded by the beauty of nature.

—Judy Sonstegard  
Women Ministries Team Leader

**Thank you for the ministry!**



Salem has been blessed by a wonderful and hardworking Women Ministries for a long time. As the current board steps down from their leadership, we are full of gratitude for the care of the women at Salem. Judy Sonstegard, Nan Lundquist, Kim Bloom, Jeanette Anderson, and Sandra Pederson are all excited about other ways they can serve at Salem.

While Salem’s Women Ministries restructures, the Fellowship Groups will continue to function under the care of Pastor Jonna Fantz.

It has been a good race. We thank God for faithful servants like this team!

## Senior Fellowship

Contact: Edna Harelstad (612-789-3685)

We are now at the part of our season where we will be closing down for the summer months. Our last event this spring will be Friday, May 15, which will be a Potluck Salad Lunch (please bring a salad of your choice to share). The program to follow will be the First Four Quartet, from the First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights, singing the good old Southern Gospel songs, as well as other hymns.

This summer we will again meet at DD’s Cafe in New Brighton for breakfast and fellowship on Wednesdays, June 17, July 15, and August 19, at 9:00 a.m. Please come and join us! We would love to visit with you and enjoy your presence at these events.

We thank all of you who are supporting this ministry and hoping that many more of you will come and see for yourselves just how much fun we have. God Bless Each of You!!!!



**Eat, Move,  
and Live Well**  
Designed for adults age 60+

Classes will be held at Salem Covenant Church  
WEDNESDAYS, June 3-August 26  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 for individual/\$50 for two if registering with a friend or family member. Financial assistance is also available up to 100% of the remaining cost of the program.

Provides all you need to make healthy lifestyle choices that will improve your life! Expect to...

- Enjoy a supportive environment where you will work together in a small group (8-14 people) with the guidance of a Nationally Certified Personal Trainer or YMCA Lifestyle Coach
- Be educated and empowered to make small lifestyle changes that over time will have big impacts on your future health and well-being.
- Dive into weekly topics to help you and your peers live for a STRONGER tomorrow.

Limited spaces available. Flyers explaining the program and registration forms are located at:

- The kiosk in the Narthex at Salem Covenant Church.
- Salem’s website (salemcov.org).
- Emma B. Howe YMCA or contact the YMCA to have a registration form mailed to you.

Contact Beth Anderson, Salem’s Faith Community Nurse, with any questions.



# Health Ministry

Beth Anderson, R.N.  
Faith Community Nurse  
banderson@salemcov.org

## Stepping On a falls prevention class

Falls are not a normal part of aging, yet one out of every three adults age 65 and older falls every year, and most have significant health and lifestyle consequences as a result.

*Stepping On*, a falls prevention program, will help participants identify why they fall, as well as the different ways to prevent falls, such as strength and balance exercises, home safety check suggestions, and a medication review. Participants will also be introduced to a display of falls prevention products.

The workshop is for people who have fallen, as well as for people who fear falling. Participants will leave with more strength, achieve better balance, and experience a feeling of confidence and independence as a result of performing various exercises and sharing personal falls experiences as a group.

The program was developed by Dr. Lindy Clemson of Sydney, Australia, to help older adults learn ways to prevent falls. It was brought to the United States by Dr. Jane Mahoney, executive director of the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and other partners. The research has found that people who complete the workshop have a 31 percent reduced rate of falls.

Led by health care professionals, the workshop is appropriate for independent, older adults with a history of falls, at risk of falls, or who have a fear of falls.

Why should I be concerned about falling?

- More than one-third of adults 65 or over fall each year.
- Among older adults, falls are the leading cause of injury, hospital admissions for trauma, and death.
- 35% of people who fall become less active.

The *Stepping On* class meets for two hours a week for seven weeks. This workshop is only \$10, interactive, and open to the public.

### Class Details

Location: Unity Hospital education building  
620 Osborne Road NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Dates: June 15–July 27 or September 14–October 26  
(All workshops meet on Mondays)

Time: 10:00 a.m.–noon

Cost: \$10/participant

Sign up today! Limited Spaces available.

For more information or to register for one of the workshops, please contact Unity Hospital (763-236-3646 or [wellness.allinahealth.org/events/40308](http://wellness.allinahealth.org/events/40308)).

### How may we help you:

- If you have a health concern or would like spiritual support during your illness or hospitalization, please call the Church Office and request that a member of the Pastoral Staff or the Faith Community Nurse follow up with you.
- Due to changes in the Federal laws, health institutions are prohibited from notifying faith communities without your written consent. It is often easier if you or your family notify us. This allows the pastors and/or Faith Community Nurse to come alongside you to offer prayer and support during a difficult time or rejoice with you and give thanks to God.
- Also, please know that your privacy will be respected. Your pastors or Faith Community Nurse can visit and no one else needs to know.



## A Financial Life in Order

Wills, Trusts and Money Management

### Is your financial life in order?

You're invited to an informal presentation and discussion about financial and estate planning basics such as:

- Wills and Probate
- Revocable Trusts
- Power of Attorney
- Documents
- Financial Planning
- Investing

No matter what life stage you are in, this information will be valuable.

## Wednesday, May 20

11:15 a.m.

(following Bible Study and includes light lunch)

7:00 p.m.

(includes special focus on Social Security planning)

Salem Covenant Church  
2655 Fifth Street NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112

This event is for educational purposes only. There is no cost or obligation to you.



Presented by  
Steve Allison, ChFC  
Covenant Trust Company  
877.768.1766  
sallison@covenanttrust.com

## Stewardship Update

Salem Covenant Church has a newly formed Stewardship Team whose members are: Heidi Carlson, Bruce Dreon, Ron Johnson, Nichelle Kaul, and Chuck Ullery. Salem is a strong and vibrant church and we are excited to work with the pastoral staff and the congregation in this vital area of church ministry.

Stewardship encompasses many aspects of being a follower of Christ and a member of a church community. As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of our time, resources, physical body, and most importantly the grace which we have freely received. As a Stewardship Team, we are looking forward to providing opportunities and recognizing the many ways in which our church members utilize their time, talent, and treasure. We will be planning initiatives throughout the year to help guide and encourage your financial stewardship, including a financial seminar to be held on Wednesday, May 20 (see side column for details).

The Stewardship Team has been formed at a critical time. It is our responsibility as the Stewardship Team to let you know that we find ourselves in a budget crunch. As of this writing, offerings are \$50,000 behind where we had hoped to be at this point of the year and, with the end of our fiscal year approaching in June, it is time for action!

Every year, there is a careful planning process, using input from the congregation, pastors, and ministry teams, which plans church projects expenditures, keeping in mind our mission as a congregation to *Dram, Develop and Deploy Disciples Devoted to Jesus Christ*, and keeping in mind our projected available resources, both in volunteer time and financial support. It is therefore crucial to our planning and commitment to mission, that we have a realistic idea of how much financial support we as a congregation will provide to back up that mission. And the best indicator of that is how well we do this year.

The Stewardship Team wants to turn this shortfall into an opportunity for our congregation's members by encouraging each of us to consider taking the following steps:

1. make sure your current offerings and faith commitments are up to date,
2. consider increasing your weekly or monthly offering by even a small amount,
3. make a one-time donation to help balance this year's budget.

If every one of our 984 members would make even a small extra effort to help close our budget gap in the next two months, we may even surpass our goal, and be even more energized for a new year of pursuing our mission of service.

**Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,  
serve one another  
with whatever gift each of you has received.**

**1 Peter 4:10**



# Ministry Deployment

Ben Pease  
Youth and Ministry Deployment Pastor  
bpease@salemcov.org

**Dan Lundgren**, son of Larry and Donna Lundgren, grew up at Salem. In June he will begin serving in China for the next two years. Teaching English is the platform he will have to build relationships with University students, who are spiritually curious to hear the Good News proclaimed. Please pray for this exciting opportunity he is currently preparing for as he partners with Language Institute China ([utp.elic.org](http://utp.elic.org)).

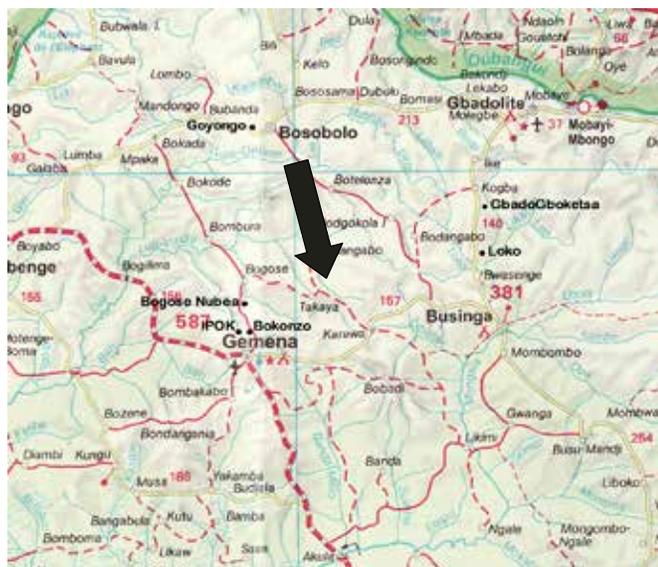
Feel free to contact Dan to hear more about this opportunity (651-341-7556 or [dan.lundgren@elic.org](mailto:dan.lundgren@elic.org)).

Salem is providing some financial support for Dan. If you wish to make a financial contribution to the additional substantial amount of support that he is required to raise, refer to his giving page, [www.lic.org/support/dan.lundgren](http://www.lic.org/support/dan.lundgren).

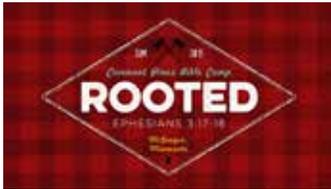
Missionaries Dennis and Heather Choates whom Salem has supported retired on December 31, 2014. The Choates served in Southeast Asia.



Salem has begun to support **Kristi Byford** in place of the Choates. Kristie serves in Thailand. The photo above shows her with students We look forward to meeting her at some future date.



Salem has been assigned the **Boyawaza Clinic** in the Congo as part of the Congo clinic Initiative. This is one of the 108 clinics which Covenant Churches have been asked to support. Rochester Covenant and Salem Road Covenant Rochester are joining Salem with support for the Boyawaza Clinic. See the poster by the Missions bulletin board for more information and pictures.



## Summer Youth Camps

Kids Kamp (entering grades 2-3)  
June 29–July 1

Pathfinders (entering grades 3-4)  
June 12-14

Trailblazers (entering grades 4-6)  
Open Session: Jun 15-20  
Group 1: July 6-11  
Group 2: July 20-25

Junior High (entering grades 7-9)  
Open Session: Jun 15-20  
Group 1: July 13-18  
Group 2: July 27-August 1

Senior High (entering grades 9-12)  
Senior High 1: June 22-27  
Senior High 2: August 3-8

Day Camp (entering grades 1-6)  
McGregor: June 8-11

Leadership In Training (entering grades 10-12)  
Open Session: June 15-20,  
LIT 1 Week 1: July 6-11, or July 13-18  
LIT 2 Week 1: July 20-25, or July 27-August 1

SWEAT Team (entering grades 9-12)  
SWEAT 1: June 15-20  
SWEAT 2: June 22-27  
SWEAT 3: June 6-11  
SWEAT 4: July 13-18  
SWEAT 5: July 20-25  
SWEAT 6: July 27–August 1  
SWEAT 7: August 3-8  
Super SWEAT: June 29–July 4

## Family Camps

Memorial Day Work and Worship Weekend: May 22-25  
July Family Camp: July 2-5  
August Family Camp: August 13-16

## Retreats

Homeschool Retreat: September 14-16  
Women’s Retreat: September 25-27  
Retired Adults Retreat: September 29-October 1  
Junior High MEA: October 14-16  
Senior High MEA: October 16-18  
Quilter’s Retreat: November 5-8  
Men’s Retreat: November 20-21  
Christmas SWEATers Retreat: December 11-13



# The Impact of Covenant Pines

by Sarmita Peterson

The summer of 1955 was the first time campers (ages 12-14, for just two weeks) attended Covenant Pines near McGregor, Minnesota. I was there as a 12-year-old. My life-long commitment to Jesus Christ was confirmed that week.

Five years later (1960) I was on staff. That summer I met Cal Peterson, who came up to help out one week. I was on staff in 1961 and 1962, as well.

Cal and I were married in 1965. Our commitment to and involvement with Covenant Pines grew in many ways. I have been a speaker at camp, served on the camp board, and helped out as Cal has volunteered his carpentry skills at Covenant Pines for decades to God’s glory.

All five of our children have been involved at camp. Our oldest daughter was on staff five summers. We will continue to volunteer at camp as long as God gives us strength. It is sacred ground, lives are changed for eternity, and God’s voice can be heard away from the noise of the world.



Would you like to know more about Covenant Pines Bible Camp?  
Contact Sarmita, Salem’s Camp Representative  
(612-600-4250)

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

Brochures are available at Salem and on Covenant Pines’ website, [coveantpines.org](http://coveantpines.org).





## Salem Preschool is offering a Preschool Summer Program again this year!

Last year was so much fun we want to do it all again this summer! Classes run from June 9 through July 16, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:00 until 11:30 a.m. Children 3-4-5 years old will be gardening, playing games, learning about nature, practicing bike safety, working on kindergarten readiness skills and celebrating our country's birthday the week of the Fourth of July.

Our Preschool Garden was planted in May by the students in our school year program. Our summer students will water, weed, and nurture the plants. Some of our flowers and produce will be ready to harvest by mid-July and we want to share them with our community. Produce will be taken to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf to help those in need. Our flowers will be used at church or to brighten the day of any one who comes our way!

We are excited to be a part of the busy summer program at Salem by offering young children a chance to participate in quality activities that help them grow socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively and spiritually.



To see what we are doing on a weekly basis, visit our web site, [salemcovpreschool.com](http://salemcovpreschool.com) and click on the Facebook icon.

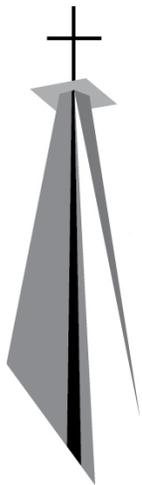
We are also registering students for our school year program. For more information or to register, contact Pam Carlson at [pam@salemcovpreschool.com](mailto:pam@salemcovpreschool.com).

# SALEM 101

Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, and 26  
from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Ready to learn more about Salem? Join us for these four nights and explore the theology, history, vision, and ministries of Salem. Salem 101 is a good place to meet other Salem attendees and learn more about church membership. Have fun and connect more deeply to the Salem community.

If you are in need of childcare, please let us know that. Please contact Pastor Jonna to register ([jfantz@salemcov.org](mailto:jfantz@salemcov.org)).



## SALEM CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Town Hall Budget Meeting  
Tuesday, July 7, 7:00 p.m.

Salem Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, July 14, 7:00 p.m.



## Immersion Baptism Sunday Sunday, June 14

Once a year, Salem celebrates the full body experience of baptism. Mark your calendars for this lovely event. Adults, teens, and children who have made the decision to follow Jesus are all welcome to be baptized.

### Requirements:

1. You will need to attend the Baptism Cass held Sunday, May 31 at 10:00 a.m. This half hour class in the Hermandslie Lounge will orient you to baptism and give you a couple of practical tips for the experience.
2. If you would like to be baptized or have questions, please contact Pastor Jonna ([jfantz@salemcov.org](mailto:jfantz@salemcov.org))

All are invited to attend this service. The experience of immersion baptism is powerful to witness. Invite family and friends and celebrate together these public declarations of following Jesus.



# THANK YOU



Dear Rev. Pattie and all my sisters and brothers at Salem Covenant Church,

On behalf of the Northwest Conference executive board, staff, and delegates to the 2015 NWC Annual Meeting, I want to thank you for your incredible hospitality and graciousness these past few days. All of your hard work was evident to everyone in attendance.

Beyond your efforts in hosting, your musicians and worship leaders did a phenomenal job at focusing our times of worship on the Lord Jesus Christ. It was such an encouragement to me, personally, to know that you would do things to the best of your abilities. You did not disappoint in any aspect of the meetings.

You are such a blessing to the NWC, not just because of hosting this particular weekend, but because of your sustained ministry in our midst.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Mark R. Stromberg  
NWC Superintendent



Thank you, Salem family for your prayer support, cards, calls, and visits from Pastor Jim and other friends. My back surgery recovery is on schedule.  
Audree Gordon

Thank you so much for your Christmas gift to our family! This was the first time in a few years where we had no family or friends visiting us over Christmas or New Year's, so we decided to take a family vacation to the beach to rest, play, and enjoy God's creations. Our favorite part was releasing baby sea turtles into the ocean! It was such a refreshing and fun time and your gift helped make it possible.

¡Muchas gracias!  
Erika, Nils, Matias, and Lucas Clauson

Thank you, Salem! Thank you, Salem family and friends, who have been so supportive of us since Bob's stroke at the end of October. The prayers, many cards, phone calls, and flowers have been wonderful "spirit-lifters" these last few months. Thank you to Pastor Mark and Pastor Jim for your encouraging visits. They all helped so much in his recovery.

Bob and June Anderson



Thank you to Deb Garvey for serving as Salem Handbell Ensemble Director for the past 7 years. Deb has been a wonderful member of the Music Staff and brought a high level of expertise to our handbell ministry. She was also very diligent in keeping our handbell equipment maintained. Deb has decided to retire from the Salem Handbell Ensemble Director position as of this Spring. Salem

appreciates the many years of service and dedication that Deb brought to the handbell ministry.

Because of Deb's retirement, Salem will be looking for a new Salem Handbell Ensemble Director to begin in August. If you know of someone who may be interested, please refer them to the job posting on Salem's website or contact Nichelle Kaul, Business Administrator.

Thank you, Salem Covenant Church. We can't thank you enough for the gorgeous reception and the amazing generosity of cards and gifts. So many people came to the beautiful ceremony. We are overwhelmed and humbled by your kindness. We love our church family, and feel so loved, too.

Thanks again!!  
Scott and Jonna



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## SUMMER WORSHIP

Sundays, May 24–September 6

9:00 a.m. Traditional Service  
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Children’s Worship (age 2–grade 3) during both services.  
Fellowship Time between services (beverages and a treat).

For more details about the ministries at Salem and to learn about upcoming events:

- visit Salem’s website at [www.salemcov.org](http://www.salemcov.org)
- reference Salem’s weekly Sunday bulletin (also available online)
- contact the staff listed with each ministry
- pick up a ministry brochure from the kiosk in the Narthex

Looking for ways to volunteer at Salem?

- pick up a list of volunteer opportunities and sign up at the bulletin board behind the Welcome Center.
- visit Salem’s website, [salemcov.org](http://salemcov.org), and click on “Volunteer.”