

Salem Covenant Church—making disciples who make a difference.

Salem SCENE

Summer
Issue
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June | July | August 2016

Summer Worship Schedule starts May 29

9:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship

10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship

connect · grow · go

Making Disciples Who Make a Difference

by Pastor Mark Pattie

We could have titled the coming year's vision theme, "Salem Covenant Church: Come and Die" but that seemed like it might be a bit off-putting. Of course, the one we chose ought to make us think twice, too. The path to making the difference Jesus envisions is a costly one:

Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:24

Giving ourselves up, giving ourselves completely to God and God's call in our lives is the route to fruitfulness. "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it," Jesus declares in Luke 9:23-24. It is the same challenge and invitation he offers today. Do you want to bear fruit? Do you want to live as a faithful, fruit-bearing disciple? Give yourself fully to Jesus and to his call. By God's grace, it will make all the difference in you and through you in the world.

Jesus makes it very clear that the path of following him begins with dying to ourselves. Remarkable, isn't it, that we so often miss that first step right there at the very beginning of our Christian walk? It is the first step, the necessary first step, not only on the first day of our life in Christ, but every day thereafter. No wonder those of us in the Church so often look like the world around us, our faith making little difference in how we live our lives. We've bought into the idea that we can be "born again" without having to die first.

Maybe that is what Nicodemus, the one Jesus talked to about being born again in John 3, was really struggling with. Maybe, as he came to visit Jesus that night, his hope was to connect with Jesus under the radar, under the cloak of darkness, and receive from Jesus whatever it was he had to offer without the risk of losing anything in the process, without being ridiculed, chastised, or thrown out by his peers. Maybe that is where we get off track, too, in our pursuit of growing and living as the people God is calling us to be.

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. As Salem's Senior Pastor, I've got no interest in filling our church with grains of wheat that just sit around as happy little single grains without producing the kind of fruit God knows we are capable of producing. Thousands upon thousands of seeds filling our church pews is not our goal. We don't need a church full of seeds, even "good seeds" as one friend suggested, but a church full of dead seeds, grains of wheat trusting God enough to give ourselves fully to his call, dying to ourselves, denying ourselves, taking up our cross daily, and following Jesus.

Imagine the difference this could make, the difference it will make in our lives and world through the power of the God who brings new life out of death itself. This is our great mission in the coming year, to be disciples who make the difference God is calling us to make—in our homes, schools, workplaces, playgrounds, neighborhoods, and world. The hymn we often sing resounds in my mind, "I Surrender All" and I find myself excited as I consider what God has yet in store as we live the hymn out. I look forward to the year ahead as we give ourselves more fully than ever to Jesus and his call.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." Ephesians 3:20-21

Outdoor Baptism Service Mark Your Calendars! Sunday, June 12

It's that time of year again, where we bring in the big pool and gather for a powerful experience of following Jesus into the waters of Baptism. Once a year, Salem does an immersion baptism service on the East Lawn. It's a time of hearing stories and seeing the sacrament of Baptism as a full body experience.

If you would like to be baptized this year, please contact Pastor Jonna (jfantz@salem-covenant.church) or call the Church Office. Children and adults are encouraged to step into these sacred waters.

There will be a Baptism Class following each service on Sunday, May 15 to prepare you for the service. If you cannot make the May 15 date, talk to Pastor Jonna about rescheduling.

Don't miss this delightful day to cheer on others in their commitment to Christ or to be baptized and cheered on by other followers of Jesus. It's an exciting day.



A Taste of Salem Sunday, May 22 12:15 p.m. in the Lounge

If you are visiting or have recently started attending Salem, we would love to have you join us for a lunch and great conversation. The Pastoral Staff will share Salem's vision, values, and what's going on this season. There will also be time for us to answer your questions. Children are welcome! Please RSVP to the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Salem 101 Wednesdays, June 1, 8, and 15 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the Lounge

What does the 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 kinds of questions, Salem 101 is the place for you. Join us as we explore Salem'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 prerequisite for membership, but it is a great opportunity for anyone looking to connect more deeply at Salem.

If you have questions about the class and membership, please contact Pastor Jonna (jfantz@salem-covenant.church or 651-633-9615).

SALEM CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Town Hall Budget Meeting
Tuesday, July 12

Salem Annual Meeting
Tuesday, July 19

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YOUTH MINISTRY page 7

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Children and Family Ministry

Alice Johnson

Children and Family/Executive Pastor
ajohnson@salem-covenant.church

Katie Gehrz

Children's Director

kgehrz@salem-covenant.church

Coming in June!

submitted by Hannah Jacobson

We are excited to start rolling out a new electronic check-in system for all Children and Family Ministry programming!



KidCheck is a secure children's check-in system that will enhance our security and simplify the check-in process. We are asking you to help us create a smooth transition as we embrace a more secure check-in.

What do we need from you? SIGN-UP!

1. Visit <https://go.kidcheck.com> or download the KidCheck app on an iOS or Android device
2. Select the link to create a free KidCheck account
3. Fill in the requested fields, and agree to the terms of use.

Adding Children and Guardians

* If you are a volunteer/employee only, and have no children to add, you may skip these steps

1. Locate the "Kids" tab. Select the link to add a new child, and input your child's information and upload photos. Select the save button when you are done.
2. Locate the "Guardians" tab. This is where you will input additional guardians whom you would like to be able to pick up the children you've listed. Add their information and upload photos.
3. Remember to click save when you are done.

Connecting, Growing, Going!



Stories from Salem's AWANA Program

submitted by Katie Gehrz

Connecting Children with God through His Word

One component of AWANA is a large group Bible lesson time. One night, the leader wanted the children to feel like they were a part of the story, so she asked the children listening to the story to imagine that they were in a house with Jesus. As several small group leaders carried a child across the room on a cot, the story-teller explained that some friends had brought a paralyzed man to see Jesus and be healed. The children watched as the boy laid still on the cot as the leaders carried him through the room. The exercise in imagination and acting helped the children experience what it may have been like to be in the house with Jesus as He healed the paralyzed man.

Growing in your Relationship with Christ

One Wednesday evening as I was preparing for AWANA, I had a mom stop me in the hallway. In an excited voice, she told me how her young son had declared just that morning that he wanted Jesus to be his Lord and Savior. She told me how they dropped all of their plans and prayed together. Out of a white mailing label, the mother creatively fashioned a sticker for her child that proclaimed, "I invited Jesus into my heart!" He shared the joy of knowing Christ as his Savior with all the leaders and children in his club.

Going and Spreading the Gospel

In an effort to run off some extra energy and enjoy a beautiful day, I decided to take my children out for a walk around a local lake. Rather than donning their shoes, both kids proudly held their Cubbie ribbons and told me that they wanted to wear them to the park. So, I pinned the ribbons on their shirts and went to the park. Halfway around the lake, a 70-year-old couple paused on the path and asked the kids about their ribbons. "We got them in Cubbies! God loves us and sent His Son. 1 John 4:10!" the kids exclaimed. The couple smiled and told me how wonderful it was that the kids were memorizing Scripture, and how those words would be written on their hearts for many days to come.

Parenting in Community

submitted by Melissa Smith

... he gently leads those that have young. Isaiah 40:11b

Our family has attended Salem for three years. I remember Joanna kindly reaching out to my husband and me, making an invitation to us several times, to join the parenting class, Parenting with Spirit, she facilitated. In my heart, I was reluctant. We'd just had our fourth baby and I was trying to keep things simple. I wasn't sure that I needed to add more parenting information to our parenting philosophies. This is not to say that we had arrived. But being a gatherer of knowledge, I was weary of adding information that would only make things more confusing and that I would not have time to truly digest.

Of course, the topics of study change every few weeks or months. And, I was lured in by one of those new topics. Parenting with Spirit is about enhancing our parenting. But it is a side note. The greatest gain from participating in this group is the community you'll gain as you parent your kids. I have really loved getting to know the parents at Salem. I have loved the honesty of which our struggles are shared. Parenting certainly involves our emotions. And yes, it has been confessed that some of our parents struggle with slamming doors in their house.

As Christian parents, we know so much how we want it to look, how it should look, that we can be out of touch with what reality may look like or even disappointed in our family's reality or struggles. Parenting in community keeps me on level ground, giving me many reminders that God is faithful in meeting us where we are at. I can entrust him with "our reality." And, He is just a prayer away when I haven't the foggiest notion of how to correct or connect to my child, or my emotion has stolen my desire. Parenting in community teaches me grace for whatever my family's path to holiness may look like.

The fact of the matter is that most of us have never been parents before. And if we have, each child is different. We all are babies at parenting and finding our way. **Parenting with Spirit allows us to find our way in community** (with added wisdom) and with encouragement. It is a safe place to share our road blocks, disappointments, and successes in our parenting. Do you currently need to be a parent to attend or visit the group? No. We have been blessed by older wiser folks that come and listen, share their wisdom, and encourage us in God's love.

Salem's Sport Ministry

A growing ministry at Salem is its sports and recreation ministry serving Salem's youngest members—kids! From preschool to grade 4, Salem offers year-round sport and recreation activities that not only develops participants' physical abilities but their understanding and application of God's Word. Take Movement Mondays' curriculum for example: with Proverbs 20:11 as its guiding verse, each session is scripted to learn and move like children of the Bible who were known for their actions. Like young David, we learned to have courage and to sling (throw) stones at a giant; like young King Josiah we learned how to tear down idols (cardboard boxes) and repair the temple (bounce house). Being that kids are kinesthetic learners, this approach to Bible learning is not only fun but leads to greater long-term memory.

Shelli Streeper, Salem's Children and Family Activity Director, started this program at Salem two years ago with a weekly summer sports program. It has now grown to include a 24-week preschool movement program called Movement Mondays that currently has 25 participants and a bi-weekly gymnastics program called Tumbling Thursdays that buses 13 participants to Gleason's Gymnastics for a private instruction and play time. Salem hopes to expand their offerings this fall to include a family fitness program as well as a sports league.

Shelli's passion for sports ministry started a few years ago when after a decade of sports coaching and program directing she felt unsettled in her approach to coaching and unsatisfied with the competitive culture she was in. 1 Timothy 4:8 says, "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." God used this verse to set the course toward a path of sport ministry where Shelli could use her passion and sports platform to teach others about Him. In all her sport endeavors, she aims to "engage, develop, and lead" athletes to their next level in sports and faith. She is overjoyed with the response at Salem and excited to see how God will continue to use this ministry.



Camp—A Lifelong Adventure

submitted by Katie Gehrz

Bible Camp has been a part of my life since I was very young. One time every summer, my dad would take our family to camp the week that the youth from our church attended Bible Camp. We stayed in the retreat center with other pastors and families who had come for the week. The camp counselors found ways for us children to engage in camp activities even though we were too young to be actual campers. I remember singing songs by the campfire, worshiping in the chapel, watching all-camp games, and thinking “I want to be a part of this!”

Then, it became my turn to attend Bible Camp with my own friends. I remember getting assigned to the cabin that was the farthest away from the main camp. We had to walk on a bridge over the river and then through a swampy area to get to our cabin. Even though I wished I was still up at the retreat center several times during that week, I recall embracing the adventure—digging deeper into the Scriptures with my camp counselor and experiencing God in the simple, yet complex environment of the nature around me.

In college, a group of teenagers and adults with a variety of carpentry and electrical skills set off for the foothills of Tennessee. We camped in tents (something I had never done before) at night and during the day we completed home repairs for two families. I remember feeling tired and stretched physically past what I thought I could do. Despite the fatigue, I recall thinking this is who God has called me to be—someone who will serve others.

Finally, in this season of my life, I find myself returning to the camp scene. Instead of being a camper, I find myself encouraging children and families to seek out their own camping experiences as places like Covenant Pines Bible Camp. I am also excited to be serving on a team overseeing the summer day-camp opportunities Salem has to offer this summer. The theme verse for the summer is *Mark 12:30, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”* I am excited for the opportunities for children to experience God in new ways, make new or deeper commitments to Christ, and have a little fun along the way. My prayer for each camper is that in some way each child will experience God or to be able to see how God is at work in their lives.

For more information on Covenant Pines Bible Camp and Salem’s day-camps, check out the Children and Family Ministry brochure in the kiosk or online (link on Salem's homepage).

GO! VBS GO! Play GO! Act GO! Create GO! Worship GO! Camp

Covenant Pines is more than just a summer camp for students!



Covenant Pines Bible Camp is a wonderful place where people of all ages come to rest, meet, play and worship. With a number of lodging facilities and meeting spaces, Covenant Pines Bible Camp continues to serve a diverse number of retreat groups including: youth retreats, church retreats, adult retreats, marriage enrichment retreats, church board retreats, church leader retreats, home school groups and much more.

Beyond our facilities and activities, the dining room and kitchen staff will meet you with great meals and hospitality. Come to encounter God, embrace people, and experience nature. If you would like to bring a group and rent out Covenant Pines, please contact the Guest Services Director, Angie Sampson.

Visit our Lodging page for housing information and pricing. Visit the Silver Beach website for information about renting one of our family cabins. More details available online: covenantpines.org/rentals/lodging/.

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.



Youth Ministry

Ben Pease

Youth and Ministry Deployment Pastor
bpease@salem-covenant.church



Amistad Covenant Church



Salem Senior High Youth Headed to Ecuador!



Students and leaders receiving training from Dale Lusk, Executive Director of Covenant Merge Ministries.



Students and leaders were able to experience an authentic Ecuadorian meal as part of the training day.

This July, 28 Salem students and 10 adult leaders are heading to Guayaquil, Ecuador, to partner in ministry with Amistad Covenant Church. Our team will be teaching English conversation classes and leading chapel services at a Christian school, and partnering with the church in neighborhood outreach programs. In three neighborhoods around the church, we'll be leading children's programs and family outreach events. We'll also be getting to know the youth and adults from the church and experience Ecuadorian culture, as we stay in host homes for the week, participate in several church meetings and activities, and tour the city (Ecuador's largest) and the surrounding area.

Please pray for our team as we prepare for this mission trip. We had a great training meeting focusing on serving well in a cross-cultural context (the photo shows our Ecuadorian lunch). Pray that God would help us go with the right motives and attitude, and that we would be a genuine blessing to the church and community there. Pray for successful fundraising, and please be praying July 19-27 while we are in Ecuador, that we would not miss out on any way that God wants us to give, grow, learn or receive. Thank you!

Please contact Sue Pederson, Youth Ministry Assistant, (spederson@salem-covenant.church) to be added to the weekly youth email list for both students and parents.

Adult Ministry

Jonna Fantz

Outreach and Community Life Pastor

jfantz@salem-covenant.church



A year ago, I was laid-off from my dream job; the one that I thought I would work at until retirement. I was frustrated and mad at God. I thought I knew what I was doing for Him.

Thankfully, I was able to get a full-time job which happens to be in a totally different field of work. In all my 37 years of working, I have never worked for a secular company. It has been a great journey. Many great stories have happened, but one really sticks out. I became manager of one of this company's cemeteries. During one of my first days in this position, while driving an employee around the cemetery, he turned to me and said, "Mr. Dave, my friends and I from my church have been praying that a Christian come to this position. You are the answer to our prayer." I replied, "It took me getting laid off at what I thought was my dream job to end up here."

I still do not know totally why God wants me there but I do know one thing. I was an answer to prayer for some believers. God works in mysterious ways. **HOW EXCITING IS THAT!**

—submitted by Dave Halstengard

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@salem-covenant.church) or in writing at the Welcome Center.



7 Days of Prayer

The theme of this year's prayer week was The Stations of the Cross. As one entered the prayer room, your eyes went immediately to the center of the room. There stood a seven-foot tall cross, which had to look as rugged as the cross that Christ carried to his

death. The beauty of that cross alone focused one in for the hour of prayer. There was an opportunity to write down your sins and see the paper dissolve in water. Truly, as Scripture says, "your sins were washed away." As you circled the room, you had a chance to pray for world situations. Then followed a time where you could pray for the staff as well as all the ministries of Salem. Pictures allowed you to visualize your prayer for the entire team at Salem. At the end, you had a chance to have communion—just you and God. It was a moving experience.

In the far corner of the room, you could write and leave your prayer requests. Following this, was a piano where you could sing songs with the theme of the cross included from the hymnals. But you were always brought back to the center of the room and the cross. Here people knelt to pray, or stood as the Holy Spirit touched many lives at the foot of the cross. Many people from the congregation were touched by their experience in the prayer room.

Here are some of their comments.

"I could have stayed longer. This was a privilege—thank you. There was nothing to distract only that which drew me closer to the cross of Jesus."

"This was a powerful time a meaningful experience."

"Lift high the cross—so amazed and thankful for our God and Savior and his plan of salvation that comes together at the cross."

"When I did my hour for Stations of the Cross, even though I couldn't be in the room it was a very powerful time. And that was mainly because of the healing station. As I followed the instructions and asked God to show me what it was that needed healing, to my great shock I thought of something I had believed was over and done, something that happened to me nearly fifty years ago. As I went through the cleansing process as instructed, I found myself just sobbing, and the hidden pain and resentment dropped off me. So I thank God, and I thank Salem for this incredible healing experience."

77 people from the church had a special hour with God. The Holy Spirit was there. The Prayer Ministry Team invites you to join in next year as we again journey with Christ in a sweet hour of prayer.

Sr. Fellowship Ministry

Contact: Edna Harelstad (612-789-3685)

The 2015-2016 season ends on May 20! This will be a Salad Potluck Lunch, followed with a musical program presented by Men of Praise. This is a very talented group of men singing praises and entertaining people; we are sure you will enjoy them. We trust you will come and join us for this finale!

We wish to thank all of you who have attended these gatherings the last nine months and look forward to rejoining you and newcomers in September. In the meantime, we will again be gathering for breakfast at DD's Café in New Brighton at 9:00 a.m. the third Wednesday of June, July, and August. Please come join us for food, fun, and fellowship.

We hope to **CONNECT** with you,
so we can **GROW** and **GO** again this coming fall season.
God bless each of you!

60 is the New 20

There is a lot of conversation going on in our nation about the huge demographic change that is happening. The fastest growing demographic is people over 60, and what that age looks like is going through a redefinition—maybe more of a revolution. Retirement is not a biblical concept and did not enter human history until the Industrial Revolution.

There are some myths to bust about turning 60:

- Older people are perceived as not growing any more or learning anything.
NOT TRUE: The brain never loses its ability to build synaptic connections, so learning continues your whole life.
- Older people are seen as less effective workers.
NOT TRUE: The ability to focus increases, knowledge increases, and ability to offer wisdom and institutional knowledge increases in older workers.
- People in the retirement age want to have a leisurely life that focuses on pleasure.
NOT TRUE: Happiness at all ages is directly correlated to meaning and purpose.

Salem, in its desire to help people experience vitality and deeper life at every age, has formed a committee to look at this wonderful season of life and shape ministry and our church culture in ways that affirm, challenge, and reach out to people in this demographic.

Watch for upcoming events. If you have ideas or want to engage in a conversation talk to any team members: Sue Poston, Tom Johnson, Pat Johnson, Marcy Grant, Bob Grant, Emily Gatto, Beth Hamilton, Joann Heryla, Jim Anderson, Kim Bloom, and Randy Swanson.



Connecting Ministries offered an opportunity for people to connect outside of church, and 82 people signed up for dinners in Salem homes. Ten dinners were hosted across a couple of weeks at the end of February. People new to Salem jumped in along with many who are long timers in the community.

Some of the comments we heard following the evenings were:

"We conversed the whole evening and everyone participated. We ended the evening looking forward to seeing each other in church."

"We had a very enjoyable evening. Conversation flowed. We found common ground and new friends."

"Everyone participated in the conversation and we got to know one another and ended up sharing a lot of stories. The next morning at church I ran into three people who had been at our dinner and visited—wouldn't have known them before, so it felt good to keep connecting."

The larger Salem becomes, the more important connecting beyond the walls of the church becomes. We are so grateful for all who participated and for all who hosted.

Back by popular demand, connect with Salem friends old and new around the dinner table July 29-August 7. Watch for details this summer in the bulletin and on the website!

Missions and Service

Ben Pease

Youth and Ministry Deployment Pastor
bpease@salem-covenant.church

Rummage Sale for Manna Market

Share with God's people who are in need.
Romans 12:13 (NIV)

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*
Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)



Summer is almost here and October and MEA week seem a long way off, but it is not too early to start thinking about the Annual Rummage Sale that week which is sponsored by our Mission Ministry Team.

Think about it as you clean the basement, attic, or garage. Plan to store good, usable items that you no longer need or want, until the week of the sale. Think about what you will make to donate to the bake sale. Last year, the bake sale alone took in over \$500!

This year, all proceeds from the sales will go to the Manna Market operating out of Fridley Covenant Church.

Here are some facts to think about this ministry:

- Manna Market was started in 2011 to serve people in Fridley, Spring Lake Park, Columbia Heights, and Hilltop. It is funded by individual donations and an occasional grant.
- It is a 100% volunteer program, with about 60 people serving every Tuesday.
- Expenses to run the market include \$200 each week to purchase food from Second Harvest, contributions to the church for utilities, and to purchase supplies to maintain the program.
- 8,000-10,000 pounds of items from Second Harvest, Target, and Cub Foods are sorted each week to be given to 150-165 families, each receiving 40-50 pounds of food.
- A light supper for the guests is also served.

Current needs include a storage shed (\$2,000, if built by volunteers) and a canopy (\$500-1,000) to provide shelter for the food and the people who load the boxes into the cars for the guests as they leave.

Let us prayerfully consider what we can give in the fall in the form of rummage sale or bake sale items, or a monetary donation.

Rummage Sale questions can be directed to Judy Sonstegard (612-788-9072) and Manna Market questions to Jan Hasman (763-439-8595).





Solar panels are used to provide light at the clinics. The community and the technicians raise the panel together!

Congo Clinic Initiative

The Evangelical Covenant Church celebrates that all 108 of the Congo Clinics now have sponsors.

- 113 churches
- 7 foundations
- 31 families
- 1 hospital

have agreed to sponsor the clinics and hospital over the next 5 years.

Salem partnered with the two Covenant churches in Rochester, Minnesota to sponsor one of the clinics. The commitment of the sponsors is to provide \$10,000 per year for 5 years. The funds will provide solar energy, equipment, and supplies.

Look for more details on the Salem Missions bulletin board which will have project updates from the Paul Carlson Partnership which coordinates the project. You can also visit, www.paulcarlson.org/cci-updates/, for more details and to view many pictures showing the development of the clinics.

Service Opportunities

A quick look at our Service Ministry bulletin board reveals many examples of how we link people to meaningful service in the area. Feed My Starving Children, the First Covenant Church (Mpls) Homeless Shelter, the Fridley Manna Market, and various initiatives through the local Social Concerns Network all see active involvement by folks from the Salem community. The Service Ministry Team can help you find a place to put your talents and gifts to work nearby, alongside ministry partners who know the area and are in it for the long haul.



KICY broadcasts from Nome, Alaska and is owned by Arctic Broadcasting Association, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit, affiliated corporation of the Evangelical Covenant Church. KICY serves native Alaskan villages throughout the Seward Peninsula, Yukon and Kuskokwim Deltas, and the Russian regions of Chukotka, Kamchatka and Siberia. Most of their annual operating budget comes from churches and individual donations. Their staff is comprised of full-time and part-time volunteers. Since they first signed on, Easter Sunday, April 17, 1960, KICY has continued to broadcast the good news of Jesus Christ throughout Western Alaska and the Russian Far East. They have increased their power to 50,000 watts, 24 hours a day which allows KICY AM 850 the opportunity to send the Gospel into some places where other forms of media are not readily available.

At the Salem's recent missions brunch, many were surprised to hear that Salem has supported KICY through our General Fund for many years. At the brunch in March, we raised \$1,541 to support KICY in addition to our annual support through the General Fund.

At KICY, they have been broadcasting into Russia since 1960. Today, KICY is the only commercial radio station in the United States licensed by the FCC to broadcast into another country in their language. When the people of western Alaska are sleeping from 11:00 p.m.-4:00 a.m., it's evening in Chukotka, our nearest Russian neighbors. It is then, that KICY turns all 50,000 watts westward into this often cold and dark part of the world.

Our broadcasts are hosted by Russian Programmer, Luda Kinok, a native of the Chukotkan village of Sereniki. She brings current news, weather, and music to the program, along with a Russian version of the popular program "CareForce," where Russian pastors from the area pray over the radio.

Care Ministry

Jim Anderson, Visitation Pastor
janderson@salem-covenant.church

Kathy Welte, Faith Community Nurse
kwelte@salem-covenant.church

Thank you!

To the wonderful people who volunteer to be Caring Friends for members of the congregation. They make a real difference in the lives of the people they serve. There are always opportunities for new volunteers. If you feel called in this way, please contact Natalie Norman, Kris Beilby, or Kathy Welte for more information.

To the 28 people who gave blood at the blood drive on February 18. We exceeded our goal and had fun doing it. Thank you also to the youth who volunteered in various ways to organize and support the drive.

Considering Wholeness

For we are all God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

This Wholeness Wheel was created by a committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1997. It is a great reminder that for true spiritual well-being we need to pay attention to all aspects of our life for well-being:

- Social
- Emotional
- Physical
- Financial
- Vocational
- Intellectual

This season of rebirth and growth is a great time to take an inventory to see if you need more balance in any of these areas to be able to truly serve the Lord with gladness. This link provides a short description of thoughts and actions to support well-being in each category: http://www.wheatridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Wholeness_Wheel_2011.pdf

It's fun to set a goal to make a small change toward well-being. Use these three steps to set a specific plan for the week to reach your goal.

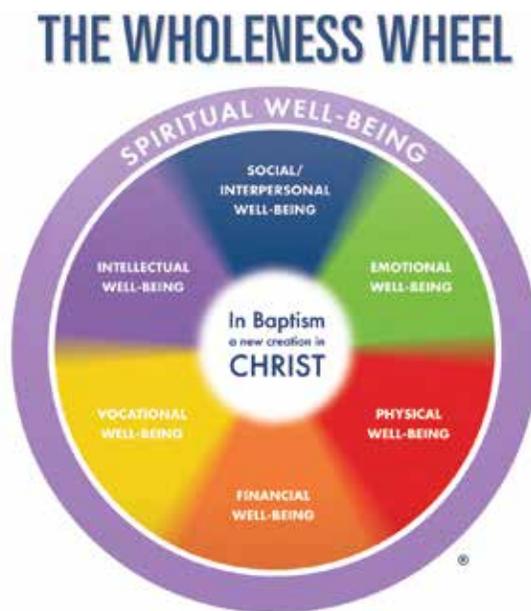
1. Pick something you want to do that you feel you can accomplish.
2. Write it down, being sure to answer the questions about: how much, when you will do it, and how often.
3. Share the results with someone to help keep yourself accountable and motivated.

For example: I will walk for at least 20 minutes five times this week. Or, I will practice piano for at least 25 minutes five times this week. See how it goes and take it from there. You will be pleasantly surprised at how effective this simple process is!

New Health Ministry Team

Salem has a new Health Ministry Team chaired by Elaine Green. The Team will provide direction and develop health and wellness programs for the congregation. Members of the team are: Fran Decker, Ginger Hao, Beth Nemec, Isaac Bjorklund, and Andrea Holsten. The results of the recent congregational Health and Wellness Needs Assessment will help guide program development.

Please let Elaine Green or Kathy Welte know if you have suggestions or ideas for the Team to consider.



Note: Portico Benefit Services' wholeness wheel emblem is trademarks of Portico Benefit Services (U.S. Patent and Trademark). Certificate of registration numbers: 4,637,292; 4,637,298; 4,637,293; 4,636,828; 4,677,811; 4,769,984.

THANK YOU

Dear Salem Family,

Our family has been privileged to share in 101 years of Lil's life. "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:37
Thank you for remembering Lilly with flowers at her memorial and at the service at Salem on Sunday morning.

Peace, Pastor Jim Anderson and family

Many thanks to my Salem family for the cards and phone calls, for Pastor Mark's visit, and for all the prayer support offered during and following my surgery. It is comforting to receive such blessings from such a supportive community.

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Philippians 1:3

With much affection, Jane Polley

I'm so grateful for my Salem family who prayed and expressed their concern for my daughter-in-law, Renee Smith, through her chemo treatment for cancer. A huge thank you from me and her family that knows what it is like to be surrounded with the love of God during a very trying time. She is currently in remission and will have ongoing monitoring of her blood counts. She is feeling better than she has in months.

Linda Smith

Thank you for sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive. It was great working with y'all today! Both the donors and volunteers were fun to work with! It is when we come together like this that we can make a difference.

Thanks! ARC Staff

Thank you to those that gave support, listened, and prayed for me and my family, while my Dad was in hospice care, and after his death Jan. 3, 2016. I feel blessed that many of my Salem family were thinking of us, and continue to check on me as I'm traveling this journey. Blessings and thanks to you all.

Thanks, Ellyn Erickson

Thank you, dear friends at Salem Covenant Church, for the Christmas gift. We used it for a weekend with our three kids in Puebla, a city about three hours from our home. We had a wonderful time together as a family. Many thanks for helping make it possible! We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Grace and peace, Tom and Janice Kelly (Covenant Missionaries in Mexico)

I appreciated the visit with Linda Smith, the time she spent with me sharing life experiences and our faith and the beautiful poinsettia plant which brought me great joy. As I recover from cancer, I appreciate so much the thoughts and prayers of the people of Salem.

Barbara Carlson

Thank you for your kindness in giving me the beautiful poinsettia. It really brightened my "Christmas apartment." I have been a part of Salem for ninety-three years—and counting!

Thank you again, Marillyn Goolsbee

Thank you all for the beautiful poinsettia plant I received at Christmas. You would not believe how beautiful it still is. God's blessing to all. Thank you again.

Love, Bea Anderson-Welch

We at Living Hope Ministries would like to say thank you for Salem's generous gift of Cub gift cards for families in need in Northeast Minneapolis. We were able to mail them to each of the families involved in our programs with a hand-written note. Many of these families really needed that extra gift and encouragement over the holidays and are grateful. It means a lot to us to have the opportunity to be a venue of God's provision to them—made possible because God has made you a channel of His grace toward us! "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:13).

Kelli Moen (Living Hope Ministries)

Finance Updates

Nichelle Kaul, Business Administrator
nkaul@salem-covenant.church

Marcy Toensing, Business Administrator
mtoensing@salem-covenant.church

Janell Davalos, Cash Receipts Clerk
jdavalos@salem-covenant.church

Thank you to all who participated in Stewardship Commitment Sunday! It was encouraging to see so many members of our congregation engaged in providing for Salem through your financial gifts and commitments. Our ministries and congregation continues to grow and we rely on your stewardship to make Salem the vibrant church that it is.

Planning Your Giving

Automatic/Electronic Giving Options

As you plan for the summer months ahead, remember that Salem has several ways to make electronic financial gifts. You may set up recurring contributions on a monthly or regular basis, even if you are away on vacation or busy with summer schedules. Many Salem attenders enjoy the convenience of knowing their contributions have been made to Salem and they don't have to worry about mailing in a check or forgetting their giving envelope on a Sunday morning.

Salem has the following options available to you:

1. Online Giving through the Covenant Giving Website portal that allows you to make one-time or recurring contributions using a Credit Card or ECheck. You can find the "Donate Now" button on the Salem website, under the "Give/Serve" heading. This secure giving site is administered by the Evangelical Covenant Church.
2. Automatic Contribution Plan that allows you to make contributions through a preauthorized withdrawal from your checking or savings account on a monthly or semi-monthly basis (5th or 20th of the month). All Salem needs is a signed authorization form and a voided check. You can find the form on Salem's website, under the "Give/Serve" heading.

Charitable Grants

Salem is now participating in the Thrivent Choice program, allowing Thrivent members to direct Choice Dollars to Salem. Thrivent is a financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously and allows members have a voice in where funding goes through Thrivent Choice. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members can recommend Salem to receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you are an eligible Thrivent member, please consider Salem when directing Choice Dollars.

There are many other Charitable Grant programs available (Covenant Trust, Schwab, Fidelity, InFaith Community Foundation, etc.). These programs work with individuals and families to set up Charitable Funds, and then donor-advised grants are made to Salem and other charitable organizations.

If you have questions about any of these giving options, please contact Nichelle Kaul.

Salem's Fiscal Year End is June 30, 2016

Your financial contributions to Salem are making a difference in our congregation and community. With Salem's fiscal year end fast approaching, your continued financial support is appreciated. Thank you for your faithful giving to Salem.

Salem Preschool

Pam Carlson, Director
pam@salemcovpreschool.com | 651-633-0158
salemcovpreschool.com



May is the “grand finale” of our school year at Preschool. We have been learning our numbers and letters, practicing our social skills, observing God’s miracles in nature and in our lives and now we are ready to celebrate the coming of new life all around us. It’s spring! As we look out our Preschool windows, we see the bare garden soaking up sunshine and growing a few weeds. What is it waiting for? It wants our preschoolers to dig and plant, water and weed, and change it into a fresh produce buffet to be harvested in late summer and fall. That’s a happy task for us. We will be starting our warm weather plants indoors so we can protect them from the cool evenings. Other seeds will go directly into the ground. Our Summer Session students, as well as some of our Preschool families, will take care of the garden in the summer months. Our goal is a bountiful vegetable harvest we can share with Ralph Reeder Food Shelf and cheerful flower bouquets for many in our congregation.



With the warm weather comes an opportunity to get outside and learn about our community. We look forward to our May visits from the New Brighton Police Department, the New Brighton Fire Department, and Julie Philbrook, safety educator from Hennepin County Medical Center. Their words of wisdom keep us safe and we love to see their trucks and equipment!

This time of year we don’t always stay around home. For excitement, our three-year-old classes will be riding a school bus to Como Park where they will visit the animals, the rain forest, and the conservatory. Our older children will be spending a day at Silverwood Park in St. Anthony, enjoying their beautiful facilities and their great programs for preschool children. We are lucky to have such a wonderful park system so close to Salem!



The fun doesn’t stop at the end of the school year. Our third annual **Summer Session** will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from June 7 through July 14. We want to keep the learning going throughout the summer months with gardening, sports, science, camping, and just plain summer fun. God has so much for us to learn and so many new friends to meet. We are so thankful for the perfect learning environment we have at Salem. For summer fun, the garden space, large backyard for activities, and neighboring park and nature area are just what we need to learn and grow. When the rains water our garden we are thankful to have our spacious classrooms and church gym to house our activities! We look forward to a great summer season.



salem
COVENANT CHURCH

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The Staff and Leadership Team would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all who have shared their time, talents, and treasure this past church program year. We thank you for giving to the Lord and the Salem congregation. Together, we have seen people of all ages connect, grow, and go forward into life, experiencing the transforming gift of God's peace and the joy of partnering together to help make His peace the experience of all.

Sanctuary
Bulletin
Musicians
Helper |
Team
Drivers |
Volunteer
Welcome

Cleaner |
Stuffer |
Nursery
Ministry
Leaders |
Phone
Center

Volunteer | Landscaping | Sound and Video Techs | Offering Counters | Youth Fundraiser Workers | Coffee House Snack Providers | Cookie Providers | Funeral Luncheons | Scripture Readers | AWANA Leaders | Sunday School Teachers | Youth Helper | Greeter | MOPPETS Helper | Children's Worship Teacher | Coffee Server | Usher | Preschool Worship Teacher | Office Volunteer | Sanctuary Cleaner | Bulletin Stuffer | Musicians | Nursery Helper | Ministry Team Leaders | Drivers | Phone Volunteer | Welcome Center Volunteer | Landscaping | Sound and Video Techs | Offering Counters | Youth Fundraiser Workers | Coffee House Snack Providers | Cookie Providers | Funeral Luncheons | Scripture Readers

For more details about the ministries at Salem:

- pick up a ministry brochure from kiosk in the Narthex.
- visit Salem's website at www.salem-covenant.church
- contact the staff listed with each ministry.
- sign up for our email updates by clicking on the link on the website's home page.

Looking for other 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, salem-covenant.church, and click on "Give/Serve."