

PARLA BELL NEWSLETTER

Salem Lutheran Church | Home of the Holy Hootenanners | Mahtowa, MN

*Energetic Christian community of all ages called to love, accept, and grow through Discipleship
Our vision at Salem Lutheran is to be a stable foundation and vibrant hub for disciples new and old.*

Weekly Activities at Salem

Worship - Sunday 9:30am, Coffee and treats following worship

Sunday

- Sunday School (PreK-6th grade): 10:15-11:15am at Salem's Hall

Wednesday

- Men's Club: 9-10am Coffee, 10-11am Bible Study at Salem Church
- Lenten Soup Suppers 6-7pm and Worship, 7pm*at Elim and Salem
- Sr. High Youth Group (8th-12th grade): 6:30-7pm at Salem Church

Monday

- AA - Alcoholics Anonymous: 6pm at Salem Church. The only requirement is the desire to quit drinking. (This group functions independent of Salem Church but meets in the building)

Thoughts from Pastor Beth:

March 1 starts the season of Lent. Lent lasts for 40 days, for 6 weeks. Within the 40 days of lent, we do not count the Sundays! This is because during our season of Lent, our focus is in preparation for the coming resurrection of Jesus, and because it hasn't happened yet this year, our focus is on getting ready to hear the story of the resurrection again with new ears. But on Sundays at worship, we still celebrate the resurrection.

The history behind celebrations like Mardi Gras, Carnival, and Fat Tuesday is connected to Lent. Lent was historically a time when people were not allowed to have parties, eat extravagant food, do things for pleasure and fun, and yes, including sex. So Mardi Gras and Carnival were the huge parties and celebrations in the days leading up to Lent. The people threw huge parties and ate lots of food (like Fat Tuesday pancakes) to get it all out of their system before Lent started and they couldn't do any of those things until after Easter. Each country or region would have different types of celebrations and different traditions for their pre-lent celebrations. Right now, the most famous celebration in the USA is Mardi Gras in New Orleans. The most famous in the world is probably Carnival in Brazil. Fun fact: the longest Carnival is 5 weeks long in Uruguay! If you're curious what Uruguay does for Carnival, ask Pastor Beth, she lived there for a year and went to the Carnival events. (Its not just 5 weeks of partying! Its a cultural celebration with a type of choral music called Murga and a couple parades with drumming called Candombe, both unique to Uruguay)

We continue in some ways this historic tradition of remembering Lent. During Lent, we focus on turning away from (repenting) the ways that we have sinned or fallen short of what God wants for us, and on connecting with God in new or deeper ways in our daily lives. For some people, the challenge of giving something up during Lent helps them do this, for others they choose to add things to their lives like serving more or donating more to a worthy cause. We have a specific Lenten devotional that you can pick up at church to add daily scripture reading and reflections to your faith practice at home. Whatever you choose to do this

Budget Update

2017 Salem General Budget: \$101,247

Monthly Average Needed to meet our budget: \$8437

January: \$7779

February(est.): \$5915

God gives us the goal to give 10% of what we earn for the worship of our God. This can be a great challenge when we balance our income with all the demands on our money. If you're not tithing 10% try to challenge yourself to give a little more than you did before.

"Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Then you may turn it into money. With the money secure in hand, go to the place that the Lord your God will choose." (Deut. 14:22-29)

Dates for your Calendar

- March 1 - Ash Wednesday,
- March 7 - 5:30pm Soul Sisters Bible Study, 6:30 Business Meeting
- March 13 - 6:30p Council Meeting
- March 14 - Kettle River Pastors' Conference Meeting at Salem 9:30a-12:30p
- March 17 - Polka Dancing and Corned Beef Meal
- March 22 - Laura Anderson, guest speaker at Men's Club
- April 4 - 5:30pm Soul Sisters Bible Study, 6:30 Business Meeting

Lent, may God bless you in your faith journey and reflection these 40 days as we prepare to hear one again with new ears the story of Jesus' unconditional love and forgiveness for us in the story of the Easter Resurrection.

-Peace and Blessings, Pastor Beth

How Salem Makes a Difference in my Life

This article is part of a series that shares peoples' stories from around the life of our congregation. To share your story, email it to Pastor Beth for next month's newsletter.

- From Our Youth -

Kendra Jurek (Elementary School) - "We learn about God on Sunday together."

Ella Heaton (Elementary School) - "I learn more about God and worship. It is an opportunity to meet new friends."

Confirmation Student - "It made church more fun and more funny. My old church was like 5 hrs and was boring. Salem is also a lot smaller and I like being in smaller crowds."

Parker Schleret (7th grade) - "Salem helps make me who I am. Without Salem, I am just 1 of 7 billion people in this overpopulated world. Salem is the direct connection with God. Salem is like the snapchat to heaven. You send a snap to God and he replies."

Confirmation Student - "Well my mom didn't grow up going to church but my dad did. Now I go to church, so I think I will go to church for the rest of my life. My brother doesn't like church, but he still goes to church anyway. I will continue to go to church."

Confirmation Student - "It helps me know what my faith means."

Confirmation Student - "It takes 2 hours out of my Wednesday night to learn about the best man ever called God."

Confirmation Student - "Helps me learn whats right. Helps learn about God."

Confirmation Student - "Salem makes a difference in my life by giving me a place to connect with God."

Confirmation Student - "Salem teaches me the ways of God and what is right. Salem allows me to be connected with God and helps me through problems. Salem always seems to have a sermon that explains what happen to me this week and shows me how to handle it"

Confirmation Student - "It gives me a way to get in touch with God thats close/nearby. It also give me a way to sing with my friend in the Jr Hoots & I get to see my friends & make new

Salem's Sunday School Schedule

10:15am(approx.)-**11:15am**

- March 5th
- March 12th
- March 19th
- March 26th

- April 2nd
- April 9th
- April 16th - No Sunday School (Easter Sunday)
- April 23rd
- April 30th

- May 7th
- May 14th
- May 21st - Last Day of Sunday School

If you have any questions, feedback or would like to help please let me know.
 Angie Korpela - 389-0325 (home), 218-565-1773 cell, angiekorpela@yahoo.com

Snow Shoveling

Still recruiting members for Salem's Super Sweet Sidewalk & Snow Shoveling Squad! Sign up at church, or at this link:
signupgenius.com/go/4090448a5ad2da3fa7-salems

Marilyn Estrem

Moved to a new room. Her address is; 5401 69th Avenue N, Room 215, Brooklyn Center MN 55126

friends. Great treats. Travel with Hoots. Tell the story of my church & God!"

Audrey Langhorst (7th grade) - "Salem makes a difference in my life by helping me connect with God in a place with friends and family. Salem helped start the Hoots. I met one of my best friends @ Salem."

Amri Gilbertson (7th grade) - "Get to see my friends. Get to sing & play music. Very close to friends. Get treats. Get close to everybody. Share the story of God with everyone! Be in plays. Travel with Hoots. Jr. Hoots ♥"

Luke Myhre (9th grade) - "Gave me religion, hope, friends, and joy."

Sam Goodwin (10th grade) - "Salem has opened up myself to new experiences with things I don't commonly do. It also has made me much more religious than before. I find myself also being more positive in everyday life despite any challenges I face. I may not go to church here but Salem has definitely changed my life for the better."

Laec Lekander (10th grade) - "Salem gave me something to do and think about, and more importantly, something that is productive and benefits the community. I don't know where I would be with out Salem."

Soul Sisters - March Meeting

Our March meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7th beginning with a Bible Study at 5:30 followed by the regular meeting at 6:30. Remember there is no Potluck. Treats will be provided. Hope to see you then!

Prayer Chain

Requests can be submitted to Pr. Beth via email, phone, in person, or anonymously through leaving a note in Pr. Beth's mailbox. If you are not on email, contact Pr Beth to receive prayers another way. The Prayer Chain is a wonderful way that we can keep each other in prayer.



Bookstore

Augsburg Fortress Press and Spark Publishing have an opportunity for a Bookstore to be at Salem! Look for a table of books during the month of March! Books will be available to look at and order your own copy with free shipping from Augsburg Fortress. Books for children through adults. Sample books will be added to our church's library.

March Madness: Food Shelf Donation Request!

Needed now: Peanut Butter, Rice and Oatmeal. March Madness is coming soon - matching funds are available for any money donated to the food shelf in the month of March. Last year during March, Salem collected 200 pounds of food. Lets try to beat ourselves and collect 300 pounds of food in March 2017! Volunteers are also needed during the daytime on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to unload delivery trucks. Talk to Joanne Bislow for details.

Council Update

Elected at the most recent council meeting, for the coming year our president is Caleb Anderson and vice president is Jeff Gilbertson. Council will meet the 2nd Monday of each month in 2017.

Laura Anderson: Guest Speaker

On Wednesday, March 22 from a little before 10am to 11am, Laura Anderson (youth director at Zion in Cloquet) will be our guest speaker at Men's Club. Coffee hour from 9am-ish - 10am beforehand. Come to hear Laura share about her time living and serving in Jerusalem and the West Bank, in a town called Beit Jala (just outside of Bethlehem) and the things she learned about life in the Middle East, Israel and Palestine, and about the Muslim faith.

Pastoral Care and Visits

Reminder that Pastor Beth is available for pastoral care and visits: if you are sick, in the hospital, in jail, or otherwise just need a listening ear. If you wish to talk with her or have her visit you, let Pr. Beth know. If you don't tell her, she won't know! Don't assume that Pr Beth will just find out or guess that you want to visit. You can contact her in case of emergency by calling. Otherwise, you can contact her via text message, phone call, or email and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Lent Midweek Worship Schedule!

6pm Soup Supper, 7pm Worship in Sanctuary

Lent is 40 days that we spend in reflection and repentance to prepare for the remembrance and celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection during Holy Week and Easter. These midweek services offer time to slow down and spend some reflective time with God.

Theme: GOD'S ABUNDANCE

March 1 - at Home Ash Wednesday

March 8 - at Salem, Mahtowa - Theme: "I am Enough"

Offering for: LSS Duluth Center for Changing Lives

March 15 - at Elim, Blackhoof - Theme: Food and Water

Offering for: Moose Lake Food Shelf

March 22 - at Salem, Mahtowa - Theme: Spiritual Gifts & Talents

Offering for: NE MN Synod Rostered Leader Debt Relief

March 29 - at Elim, Blackhoof - Theme: Creation and Resources

Offering for: Lutheran

Disaster Relief

April 5 - at Salem, Mahtowa -

Theme: Giving Thanks

Offering for: Welcome

Home Project, Carlton County

April 12 - Holy Week, No

Wednesday class or worship.

April 16 - Easter Sunday



**IT'S GREAT TO BE ALIVE IN
GOD'S GREAT NORTHWOODS!
Camp Vermillion**

Summer Bible Camp is coming soon! Check out the summer camp programming at <http://www.vlmcamps.org/summer-schedule>

Bible Camp is one of *the best* faith experiences that you can give your child for their faith. Bible camp offers all the fun of running around outdoors and playing games while also praising God with Holy Play and worship experiences that are exciting, engaging and high energy.

Early Bird Deadline is Coming! Sign-up online or postmark your summer camp registration by Saturday, April 1st to save money on your summer plans!

**All weeklong programs -
Save \$50**

Venturers - Save \$15

**Discoverers/Discoverer
Overnight - Save \$5**

Financial

Assistance: Everyone is welcome at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion regardless of ability to pay. VLM and many congregations have financial assistance available. If you feel you could benefit from such assistance, contact your pastor and/or the VLM office for more information.

www.VLMcamps.org •
vlm@VLMcamps.org •
800-331-5148 •
218-666-5465

Camp Vermilion, 2555
Vermilion Camp Road, Cook,

Read the entire Bible in 15 minutes!

This link will get you to The Holy Bible Abridged Beyond the Point of Usefulness. A VERY short and entertaining summary of each of the books of the Bible. <https://innerdrive.blob.core.windows.net/images/SMBCminiBible.pdf>

Patty's Day Polka!

Save the date for some Irish food and polka dancing! In the evening of March 17th at Salem's Hall!

Patty's Day Polka Party
Friday 3/17, 5pm - 8:30pm
Salem's Mahtowa Hall

Featuring:
Chmielewski Funtime Band
Corned Beef Dinner
Dancing (Non-dancers welcome)

Meal and music: \$10
Music only: \$5

www.salemmahtowa.org

Miss church and want to hear the sermon?

Pastor Beth has been recording most weeks and uploading them. Follow this link to click on the button at the bottom of the page. salemmahtowa.weebly.com/worship

Camp Vermilion

Summer Camp is right around the corner! We need your help getting our camps ready.

Camp Hiawatha Family Overnight - Friday, May 5th

Camp Hiawatha Work Day - Saturday, May 6th

Camp Vermilion Family Overnight - Friday, May 19th

Camp Vermilion Work Day - Saturday, May 20th

Volunteers and families are invited to stay overnight the Friday before each Work Day. Join us for dinner and a campfire before the next day's work. An RSVP is required.

8:00 - 9:30am - Registration with rolls and coffee available

8:30 - 12:30 - The work happens! 12:30 - Lunch

1:30 - The work continues for as long as people are able to stay.

Women of the ELCA Spring Gatherings

Kettle River Conference - Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 9am - 12pm at Our Savior's Lutheran, Cloquet. Child care available.

Romans Bible Study

Beginning March 19 from 6:30-7:30pm we will have a Bible Study on the book of Romans. The Bible study will run from mid-March to mid-May. Come even if every week doesn't work for you! Aimed at adults, anyone and everyone welcome.

Care of Creation Summit: NE-MN Synod

A Watershed Moment: Reformation for the Next 500 Years

March 25, 2017 9:30 am-2:30 pm at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Hosted by Leadership Team of the Northeastern Synod/ELCA EcoFaith Network

A "watershed moment" is defined as a critical turning point in time that marks an important, often historical change. A moment in time when nothing after it will ever be the same! The phrase is derived from the hydrologic term "watershed," which is a boundary—or turning point—that causes waters to flow in different directions; a crucial divide. As a society we are at a critical turning point—a watershed moment—to protect the water on which all aspects of our lives depend. As Christians, we have a stewardship responsibility to protect and improve our waters and insure their use for future generations. The waters within the Northeast Synod/ELCA are generally of high quality. How can we as Christian stewards protect the future quality of our waters? As Christians we can learn from our watershed—the water, the ground, the wildlife, the people—that which is in need of restoration and how our story is interwoven with God's to work toward a right relationship between all living things and the natural resources they depend on. Come and learn more about the state of our waters and how Lutheran congregations can be effective watershed disciples.

Saturday, March 25, 2017 AGENDA

9:00 Registration/Coffee; 9:30 Welcome: Pastor John Hanson, EcoFaith Leadership Team (Suomi Area Lutheran)

9:45 A Watershed Moment: Reformation for the next 500 Years - Pastor David Carlson, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Duluth

10:00 Watershed Discipleship: A Panel Discussion Everyone Lives in Watershed: We Are All Connected to Water - Paula West, Communications Coordinator, EcoFaith Network (Lutheran Church of Cross, Nisswa) What's the Quality of our Waters - Kevin Stroom, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (French River Lutheran, French River) Threats to Our Watersheds - Todd Holman, The Nature Conservancy (Lord of Life Lutheran, Baxter) 11:45 Lunch with roundtable discussion

12:15 Lutheran Congregations in Action Caring for Our Watersheds - Emilie Bouvier, Congregational Organizer for EcoJustice, Minneapolis Area Synod

12:45 Taking Bold Actions to Protect Our Waters - Tammy Walhof, Lutheran Advocacy 1:15 As We Depart: How Can NE MN Synod Congregations Respond? Next Steps?

1:45 Worship: Honoring the Waters of Creation - Led by Pastor Kristin Foster, Messiah Lutheran, Mt. Iron; 2:30 Adjourn

Cost: \$10 free will offering; collected at the door. Register Online at: <https://nemnecofaith2017.eventbrite.com> Questions: call Paula West at 218-838-5010 or email ecofaith@nemnsynod.org

Wondering about the Jesus art on the altar?

- Taken from the Annual Report from 1976 -

History of Altar Carving at Salem

Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Goodell-Barnum, Mn. - in 1955

The sculptor was Otto G. Dallmann, then of St. Cloud, Mn. He was born on Aug. 17, 1907, the son of Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Dallmann, of Sanborn Minn. He attended public schools in Lester Prairie, Minn., St. Cloud, and Bertha, Minn. He also attended school in Morden, Manitoba. He attended the Minneapolis Institute School of Art - and was a private student for two years of a sculptor by the name of Mr. Wells. He attended Beaux Art Institute School of Design in New York City, and while there worked with one or more famous artists in New York City. He graduated from St. Cloud State Teachers College.

He taught rural school in Minnesota - St. Cloud and Wadena area - and during this time much was spent in teaching and supervising art. He lectured on sculpture in several states - Minnesota, Dakotas, Wisconsin, Ohio, and possibly others.

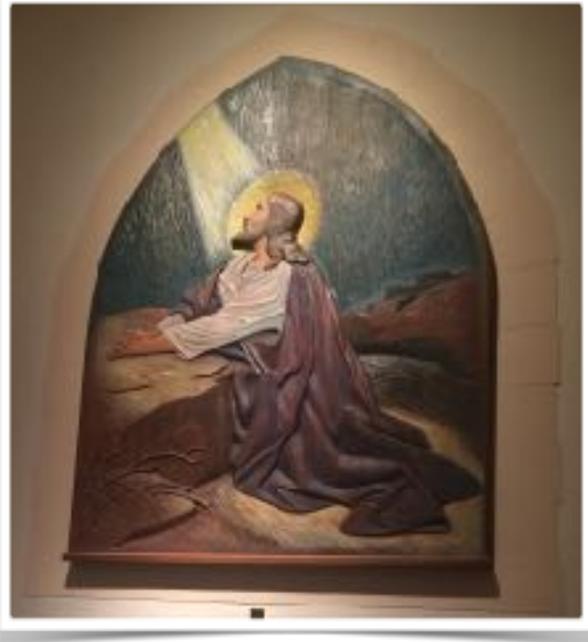
He sculptured many portraits - among them Haile Selassie, Clare Booth Luce, two popes and many creations of non-portrait sculptures, both religious and secular.

He has been living for about a decade at R.R. 2, Clearwater, but has recently sold his home there. Currently he and his wife are living at the home of their daughter in Arden Hills, Mn., waiting until a lease they gave someone to rent their new home at Buffalo, Mn., expires in June, 1977.

This information was acquired in Nov. 1976 from his sister Martha Dallmann, who then lived at 210 Third St., South, in St. Cloud, Mn. - 56301.

At this writing, Mrs. Earl W. Carlson (Virginia) of Mahtowa, Mn., volunteered her services to the cleaning and refinishing of this piece of art, after not having anything done to it these 21 years. It was removed from the wall on Nov. 7, 1976, and with many tedious hours during the following week, she restored it to remarkable beauty, and it was returned to its wall on the Altar on Nov. 12, 1976.

By Evelyne L. Wilson, Mahtowa, Minnesota, 11-24-76



- From the Stearns History Museum -

“Renowned sculptor Otto Dallmann was born in Sanborn, Minnesota in 1907. In 1929, Dallmann began training at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and two years later he moved to New York to study with Joseph Kiselewski. After two years in New York, Dallmann returned to St. Cloud and studied at the St. Cloud Teacher’s College. Dallmann worked as a sculptor and teacher until 1964, when he retired from teaching to focus on art. Otto Dallmann continued sculpting well into his 90s, and passed away in 2006 at the age of 99. Included in his many works are busts of Pope Pius XII and Pope Paul VI, a granite sculpture of Christ for Peace United Church of Christ, and a 23 feet tall wooden totem pole for Nisswa’s Main Street. This Myron Hall photo, believed to be taken in the 1950s, shows Otto Dallmann working on a wood carving of St. Francis.”

Ruby's Pantry FOOD DISTRIBUTION

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST THROUGH FOOD Bring your own boxes or baskets for food!

www.rubyspantry.org

Saturday, March 11, 2017 8:30 - 10:00 A.M. (Unless food is gone before 10:00 A.M.)

Evangelical Covenant Church 700 5th Street Moose Lake, MN 55767

*You receive an abundance of grocery items.

***Everyone who gets hungry qualifies!**

*This is not a government funded program.

*\$20 cash donation

*Registration begins at 7:00 A.M.

Youth Group schedule:

*YTD (Yet To be Determined) in March Grocery bagging at Market Place Foods in Moose Lake

March 1 - Ash Wednesday Service and Soup at Salem (sit together in the balcony)

March 3 to 5- Cardia Dea Retreat at Big Sandy Camp in McGregor

March 8 - Bishop Presentation soup dinner at 5:30/ service at 6:30 ? at Bethesda in Carlton

March 15 - Soup dinner 6, youth group meeting 6:30-7 and Lenten Worship at Elim, Blackhoof

March 22 - Soup dinner 6, youth group meeting 6:30-7 and Lenten Worship at Salem (sit in balcony)

March 29 - Soup dinner 6, youth group meeting 6:30-7 and Lenten Worship at Elim, Blackhoof

April 5 - Soup dinner 6, youth group meeting 6:30-7 and Lenten Worship at Salem (sit in balcony)

April 12 - Holy Week, No Wednesday class or worship. (Holy Week)

April 15 - Egging Fundraiser meet at Salem (details to come)

April 16 - Easter Breakfast at Elim, Blackhoof (details to come- in the past 6:30 am)

April 16 - Easter Service 9:30 at Salem (sit in balcony)

April 19 - AGAPE* Concert at Hope Lutheran in Moose Lake 6:30-7:30/7:45ish (an email with details will come closer to the date)

April 26 -

*YTD in Volleyball court install on a Saturday

May 3 - NO MEETING- optional Confirmation Project Presentations and Pot-Luck meal at Salem

May 10 - Youth group meeting 6:30- 8 at Salem

May 12 - set up for youth garage sale fundraiser

May 13 - Mahtowa Area Garage Sales Youth Fundraiser

May 17 - Year End Party at Lekander's

*local mission trip/community service summer week or weekend date YTD

June 10- Spring Fever Day parade float

June 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11- Movies in the Park

Any questions, feel free to email or call or text Donna Lekander 218-565-8137



A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Tom Aitken of the NE MN Synod



Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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 218/724-4424 www.nemnsynod.org Fax: 218/724-4393

A Pastoral Letter

February 1, 2017

Dear Pastors, Deacons, and members of congregations in this Synod,

At a breakfast table in the home of one of our congregation's family members, a mother texted me this week to tell me about how her family discussed the recent orders to close down immigration and refugee resettlement in this country. They read Scripture and discussed what it means to follow Jesus. They used this Bible passage for their conversation around the table: "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as you native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God." **Leviticus 19: 33-34**

I speak to you as your Bishop in strong, encouraging, and gospel terms. Jesus Christ, crucified and raised for the life of the whole world, has claimed you. Be bold in following him. Fear, racism, degradation of others, half-truths and hate are disseminated today with increasing fervor. The number of suffering refugees seeking help today is greater than ever before. What's needed is the good news of God's *love*, as shown to us in Jesus: **Matthew 25:35-40** "...For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Jesus knew, didn't he, the ancient words from Zechariah, "Do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another."

- Zechariah 7:10

In times like we are experiencing today Christians do what we are always called to do;

- +Hear the gospel and proclaim it in word and deed
- +Love our neighbor (as defined by our Lord, this means anyone who needs our help)
- +Welcome the stranger, give them food and drink, clothing and shelter
- +Be courageous, stand up against oppression and injustice, Christ lives in you!
- +Take care of the widow and orphan, stranger and alien
- +Bear witness to the incredible depth of God's love for all people - no exceptions!

Our church, I'm proud to say, along with scores of other Denominations and hundreds of congregations in this country have welcomed refugees fleeing from bloodshed, war, rape, the separation of families, the fear of death and impossible living conditions for years. Today more than five million Syrian refugees alone are fleeing death and persecution. 51% are children. 65 million people are displaced worldwide. In our ELCA Social Message on Immigration (<http://www.elca.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Message>) we read, "We in the ELCA minister with the most vulnerable of the newcomers through congregations and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service" (google LIRS) We work ecumenically. Our ministry resettles refugees who have lost everything, assists unaccompanied children, offers pastoral care, and aids persons with citizenship. Learn about the USA rigorous refugee screening process here: <http://tinyurl.com/hux8fe3>. LIRS provides foster care and related child welfare services, facilitates family reunification and advocates on policy issues affecting unaccompanied children, just as our AMPARO program does, which we enthusiastically endorsed as a church in August, 2016. (<http://tinyurl.com/glx4hys>) Jesus said; "Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself." **(Matthew 22:37-40)** Luther got it. His great legacy is all about the gospel that transforms us and then sets us free to serve our neighbor.

Martin Luther: "The gospel sets us free to serve our neighbor. We are to be Christ to our neighbor since we have been granted life and salvation. God has given me in Christ all the riches of righteousness and salvation without any merit on my part, out of pure, free mercy, so that from now on I need nothing except faith which believes that this is true.....I will therefore give myself as a Christ to my neighbor, just as Christ offered himself to me. I will do nothing in this life except what I see is necessary, profitable, and salutary to my neighbor, since through faith I have an abundance of all good things in Christ. Behold from faith thus flow forth love and joy in the Lord, and from love a joyful, willing and free mind that serves one's neighbor willingly and takes no account of gratitude or ingratitude, of praise or blame, of gain or loss. For believers do not serve that they may put others under obligations..... "

- Treatise on "The Freedom of a Christian" (1520) LW 31, 367

I commend to you, two Bible study resources from Luther Seminary and LSS: 1) "My Neighbor is Muslim" 2) "And Who is my Neighbor?" These are downloadable on the LSS Website and our synod Website. If you would like to know who your elected representatives are and voice your concern about US executive actions on refugees, go to <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

You belong to Jesus. That's your ultimate status. Jesus doesn't simply ask you to follow him, he empowers you to do it. And you are not alone. The writer of Hebrews says, "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." **-Hebrews 12:1-2**

You are precious to God and to God's work in the world. Step faithfully into it!



+Bishop Thomas M. Aitken

WOMEN OF THE ELCA KETTLE RIVER CONFERENCE SPRING GATHERING

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Our Saviors, Cloquet (9:30 a.m. ending with lunch at noon)

CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE !

THEME: The Lord Your God is With You

Zephania 3:17 - The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

**Please join us for a day of fellowship, fun, lunch,
singing, worship, displays and a bit of business!**

Registration 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. with coffee and treats. Suggested fee of \$10 covers all Conference and Gathering expenses including lunch.

*Morning coffee and treats – St. Peter, Canyon

*Registration and name tags – Salem, Mahtowa

Silent auction and "buy-it-now" items are requested – think about "theme" baskets, craft items, jams & jellies.... proceeds are earmarked to encourage and assist women who attend the 2017 Triennial Gathering, and scholarship help for an attendee at our Summer Gathering/Convention.

Programming will include: Service of Holy Communion, break out discussion session and storyteller Gloria Anderson-Hegge.

In-Kind Gift Donations :

Carlton Youth Shelter -

1. Greatest Need: -Underwear: Both girls and boys, all sizes

-Miscellaneous: Toys, shampoo, combs, brushes and conditioners

2. Everything to run a household: -Laundry soap, laundry softener, dish soap, additional cleaning supplies and -miscellaneous

Offering Focus: ½ to Churchwide, ½ to reliable energy for Phebe hospital in Liberia.

Final day for collecting 2017 pennies earmarked for LSS Carlton County Youth Shelter. 2018 pennies will go to Adult and Youth Teen Challenge, Duluth.

Directions: Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 615-12th Street, Cloquet MN, 55720. Telephone 218-879-1535. Directions: Going North on I-35 take the Cloquet Exit [Hwy 33], continue on Hwy 33 to second stoplight, turn right [Doddridge Ave]; Continue to the stop sign [about 5-6 blocks]. Our Saviors is directly on your left. Turn left and go a little way; take another left into the parking lot.

Contact information for Salem

2702 1st Street, Mahtowa, MN 55707

salemmahtowa@gmail.com

www.salemmahtowa.org

www.holyhoots.org

Pastor Beth Pottratz – pastorbeth16@gmail.com (218) 380-7013 (call or text both numbers)

Church Council: Caleb Anderson (President) Jeff Gilbertson (VP) Donita Korpela (Secretary)
Brent Speldrich Dave Eller Zach Langhorst Marie Nyblom

Parish Nurse: Joanne Bislow (218) 428-7696

Custodian: Chuck Porter (218) 260-7553

Church Secretary: Pat Butcher (218) 341-2147, mncharley@aol.com

Organist: Jean Hendrickson (218) 485-8946

Luke Lekander, Seminary Student

To Rent Salem's Mahtowa Hall - contact Brent Speldrich (218) 839-2760

To schedule the Holy Hootenanners - contact Caleb Anderson (218) 393-7677

Articles and announcements for the Parla Bell Newsletter due by the 25th of the previous month.

Announcements for the Weekly Announcements due by noon on Monday for that week.

From: Salem Lutheran Church

2702 - 1st Street

Mahtowa, MN 55707