

THE PARLA BELL

Salem Lutheran Church, Mahtowa MN.

March/April 2016



A Message from Luke

Seminary is both challenging and life-giving. This semester I am studying the Lutheran Confessions, the articles of faith that form us Lutherans. You may be familiar with Luther's Catechisms, which are part of these confessional writings. This class is a sort of living history of the Lutheran faith. It helps me to see where we have come from as well as where we are going.

I am also taking a class called Forgiveness: Reconciliation and Healing. Forgiveness is a complicated subject that we find in many different forms throughout the Bible. The most important lesson I have learned thus far is that love and forgiveness are all wrapped up in each other. If you find it hard to forgive, just love. Treat the person you want to forgive lovingly. That is what God has done for us. Despite God's anger, God gave us Jesus: the ultimate act of love.

Blessings,

Luke Lekander

.Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday – March 23 - 7:00 p.m. service at Salem.

Good Friday – March 24 – 7:00 p.m. service at Salem.

Easter Sunday – March 27 – 9:30 a.m. service. Regular Worship featuring the band students playing with hymns. Followed by the famous Easter Egg Hunt!

Other Dates to Remember

April 5 – Soul Sisters at 5:30 p.m. with Potluck Supper. Meeting following at 6:00 p.m.

April 17 – Spaghetti Dinner following the regular worship service at Salem. Organ Appreciation Day.

May 15 – Confirmation Sunday at Salem. Service will begin at 10:30. (Note time change for this service only.)

Spring Garage Sale

The Youth will be having a spring Garage Sale as a fund raiser for the Mission Trip. More details will follow about donations and the date and time

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News from the Call Committee

Jean Hendrickson

Recently the Bishops had a very important meeting (That they compare to the NFL Draft!) where they figure out which synods get how many “first call” ministers. Last fall they thought our NE MN synod would not get any. We were happy to learn that our synod will be assigned two “first call” ministers. The seminary students are currently very busy finishing up their school obligations, but we are hoping we may get to meet some candidates shortly after Easter. We will keep you posted.

New Organ Appreciation Day

On Sunday, April 17 following church Joanne Bislow, the April Kitchen Committee and the Soul Sisters will host a spaghetti dinner. It will be an appreciation for all who donated money, prayer and enthusiasm for the new organ. We are counting on hearing the organ in its finest at worship that morning.

We will also start taking photos that day for the new church directory. If you cannot stay for photos that day, we will have a couple other choices of times for photos. You can also bring a photo of your choice to be used in the new directory

Church Directory

Yes, we do need a new Church Directory. On Sunday, April 17th after church we will be taking photos for the directory. We will also have other times to schedule your photos if you can't make that Sunday fit into your schedule. If you prefer you can bring in a photo of your choice to be used.

“Heads Up for March Madness”

Jean Hendrickson

March is the best opportunity to do the most good for area food shelves. During the month of March the United Council of Churches will match donations dollar for dollar. Our goal at Salem is to donate 200 pounds of food. (Hopefully we can easily surpass the goal.) We are also hoping to raise as much cash to donate as possible. Often money can be a large help to food shelves because they know what products are most needed. Area food stores sometimes give a discount to food shelves for their purchases which also helps stretch their dollar donations. Each Sunday in March we will have special containers to collect your food donations. We will also have a collection basket for money in the sanctuary and at coffee.

We would like to continue last year's tradition of collecting peanut butter on the last Sunday in March which is Easter Sunday. Food shelves will appreciate your donation of peanut butter instead of that Easter Lily.

First- Aid Kits Available

The women have put together two First-Aid kits. The one in the church is on top of the refrigerator in the basement. The one at the Hall is above the microwave. If you need to use any of the supplies, let Joanne or Sue G. know so they can be restocked as needed.

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Soul Sisters

Sue Gustafson

Happy Easter from the Soul Sisters!

This year there won't be an Easter breakfast, nor coffee after the Easter service. We find our needs are with our own families to enjoy time together after church.

The Lenten soup suppers were a success. We wish to thank so many generous people who provided food as well as many who helped to set up, serve and cleanup after the suppers. It seemed everyone enjoyed the fellowship and worship in our new building.

We voted to donate \$850 toward Salem's new organ. We hoped to use cookbook sale profits for some special need at Salem and this donation seemed quite appropriate toward the goal.

On Sunday, April 17th, we will be sponsoring a spaghetti meal after the church service. That day will also be the inaugural concert for the organ. The Soul Sister's spaghetti dinner will be a donation fundraiser. A great day to celebrate!

All March, we will continue to collect Food Shelf Donations during each Sunday service. Our goal is to donate at least 200 lbs. to the Moose Lake Food Shelf. The first 3 Sundays will be any type of non-perishable items and finally on Easter Sunday, we ask for Peanut Butter! Watch the wall chart showing where we are toward our goal. Also, we will be passing baskets for financial donations. Let's show how fortunate and how blessed we all are at Salem. God is good!!

Currently we are discussing what type of food we will serve for Salem funerals in the future; such as families having the food catered or cutting down on the amount of food served. We are in the process of evaluation at this time.

Happy Easter! God Bless!

Church Directory

Church Council:

Jason Marsh, President
(218) 355-0459
Donita Korpela
Brent Speldrich
Zach Langhorst
Caleb Anderson
Jeff Gilbertson
David Eller

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

Pulpit Supply

Pastor John Estrem
(218) 389-9772

Luke Lekander, Seminary Student
(218) 380-1021

Old Farmer's Advice -

"Good judgement comes from experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgement!"

And... "Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer"... unless it is someone from Salem asking for help with some project!!!

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