

Greetings Everyone,

Hopefully your summer season has gotten off on a good note. Though one thing I have noticed a bit more is the mosquitoes swarming about. I would say the added rain created a lot more mosquitoes around our area. Even in town they seem to be more noticeable. Granted we are all familiar with this insect and we have plenty of things to say about them. Most of those words are more negative than positive. Most people seem to have more negative things to say about mosquitoes. However, they are a part of our world and can have an impact on the rest of our environment. Many other animals find their food sources out of mosquitoes. Such animals are probably getting their abundant fill with the greater number of mosquitoes. Even though we may find mosquitoes a nuisance others might find them to be a life sources.

As we think about such a contrary understanding of the mosquitoes an old phrase comes to mind being one person's treasure is another's trash. Overall, the perception of something from someone can be quite different from the other. Even though we as human beings live in this world our experiences and perceptions differ. Because of our differences this leads us to how diverse we can be as human beings. With such diversity allows us to gain better appreciation for the world in which we find ourselves to be in. To be honest if every understanding and experience of life was all the same life would be quite boring. Life would also be a bit one-sided as well. In fact, it could lead to more issues than help. Take for example if we were to eliminate all mosquitoes, humans might not be much affected, but it would have negative impacts on the rest of our world. Which one could suggest whether it is treasure or trash both things can be important to our world.

As to faith and diversity this too is important. God as we hear in scripture dreams and calls all people and all things to be together in harmony. A world that has not one specific identity, nationality, or ideology but one that is filled with all things. God recognizes and appreciates the diversity of this world. God even works in ways to try and make it easy for diversity to be together. Such ease then comes as we look to Christ. In Christ we all can be drawn together in relationship. For no matter who or what we are Christ is for all to be with God and to be with each other in all our diversity. Which can make for a wonderful world even with mosquitoes. May God's blessing be with you all this and every month.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor John

Lessons for July, 2024

7/7/2024 Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

7/14/2024 Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

7/21/2024 Jeremiah 31:1-5; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

7/28/2024 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

With Sympathy!

Our heartfelt sympathy to Sharon and Jamie Szamatula following the death of their husband and father, Rick on June 16th.

Thank you!

Rick and I would like to thank you for the lovely prayer shawl Pastor John brought to Rick when he visited and brought communion. It was much appreciated. Thank you for the cards and notes sent to us.

God bless you all!
The Szamatula family

Thank you to Pastor John, Ruth Circle and congregation members for your healing thoughts and prayers as I recover from heart surgery.

With Love,
Rolene Lampi

THE POWER OF PRAYER AT SALEM

Salem's Prayer Chain contact person is Maria Karon. All members of Salem are welcome to become a link in this very important ministry. If you are interested in becoming involved or have a prayer chain request, please contact Maria at 218-940-0347.

“Happy Birthday” To Our Members in “July”

4	Leann Fahlsing	16	Linnae Bosley
6	Doreen Wehmas		Dale Rollins
7	Darlene Butkiewicz	17	Kurt Johnson
	Tim Thedens	22	Kadin Graves
8	Lorrie Ondracek	23	Ken Ahlberg
11	Roger Berntsen	24	Josh Rollins
12	Mary Larson	26	Raleigh Mirra
13	Jim Christenson		Amy Pipho
	Riley Willman		Cheryl Porter
14	Kristin Collins	27	John Agustsson
15	Mike Healy		Julie Eld
	Delaney Benson	31	Bob Johnson
	Monty Mirra		

Summer Coffee Servers, Ushers and Altar Care are needed!
Look for the signup sheet in the narthex!

Hey Ladies (Girls)- Let's Get Together!

It has been too long and it's time to reconnect and catch up with each other! Our lives are busy but we NEED each other! Did you know that getting together with other women improves our lives and emotional and physical health, and in turn, allows us to be better for those around us? We are better together! So, let's start getting together on a more regular basis. Join us to reconnect, meet new women, have fun, work on a service project, or maybe learn or do something new.

Our first gathering will include catching up, maybe some fun activities or a campfire (weather and pesky bugs permitting), and snacks! We will talk about how often we would like to gather and what kinds of things we would like to do. If anyone is up to it, we can walk a local, easy trail after our gathering, again if the weather permits. Hope to see you all!!

Invite others who might want to join us and bring a camp chair for our first gathering:

**Salem Lutheran Church-Family Room
Wednesday, July 10th, at 6:00 p.m.**

For questions or suggestions, call Kim Settergren (218)341-3665

Strides for Savings

Pastor's next race is the Park Point 5 Miler (about 8K) on July 18th. For those who want to participate in this donation challenge are encouraged to give at least 1.00 per K. Check out the sign promoting the events and tracking the donations coming in for this challenge in the narthex. If there are any questions, please contact Pastor John.

Hermantown Summerfest Parade

Good News! Salem will have a float in the Hermantown Summerfest Parade on July 20th. If anyone has connections to a trailer that could be used for the float please contact Christy Jaros (218-269-3516) or Dana Ross (ross@hermantownmn.com). We are currently looking for people to decide on a theme/help decorate the float, be in the parade, etc. This will be an awesome celebration of Salem's 100th Anniversary and I'm glad we'll be able to make it happen.

Christy Jaros

Consider automating your regular donations with our electronic giving program. Salem relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Contact the church office for more information. Thank you!

City On The Hill Music Festival August 2nd, & 3rd, 2024

City On The Hill Music Fest is set to unite believers for a joyous weekend of music and fellowship at the stunning Bayfront Festival Park in Duluth, MN.

Founded in 2015 along the majestic shores of Lake Superior, the City On the Hill Music Festival gathers Christian communities from all corners of the nation for an extended weekend filled with worship, soul-stirring melodies, and heartfelt praise.

More info can be found at www.cityonthehillmusicfest.com or contact Chris Swenson

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF GRACE

During the next two months of our 100th Anniversary celebration we will be featuring some of the ways Salem has experienced “Summer Fun” and “Summer Worship” that has been casual and has engaged in the beauty of nature that surrounds us. One of the highlights planned for July was an entry in Hermantown’s SummerFest parade. We weren’t sure we would have the leadership to make that happen, but at the last minute volunteers stepped forward and we’ll be able to spread the word about our 100th Anniversary in this unique way with the community. We will also be putting together an array of photos from past camping trips, softball games, parades, etc. that will be shown prior to our Sunday services in July.



The highlight of our August theme “Outdoor Summer Worship” will be an outdoor service on Sunday, August 18 in front of the church that will be followed by an old fashioned Pot Luck in the Family Room. We want people to stick around and enjoy each other after having a great meal, so there will be things like bingo, cribbage, and corn hole available as well as some activities for the kids. During August we will also be explaining how the sale for Banquet tickets will be handled.

We’d like to call your attention to a memorabilia cabinet that has been installed in the hall that runs from the nursery door toward the Prayer Room. A variety of memorabilia collected from the early beginnings of Salem’s history has been put on display in the new cabinet for your examination. The displays will change, so be sure to stop back to see what has been added.

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE July, 2024

	7	14	21	28
LEAD COMM	Carol Christenson	Kelly Erickson	Simon Erdmann	Carol Christenson
READER	Richard Petersson	Kelly Erickson	Judy Giese	Eric Settergren

2024 Council Members

Carol Christenson, President (218-348-3950)

Justin Reid, Vice President (715-969-4705)

Wayne Swor, Treasurer (218-269-9535)

Eileen Dusek, Secretary (218-729-9677)

Simon Erdmann (218-409-5388)

Kelly Erickson (218-410-2161)

Judy Giese (218-340-0823)