

Greetings Everyone,

I would imagine many of you who like to look outside your window have noticed the birds. Some of my colleges are quiet birding enthusiasts. They enjoy going out into nature to look for and taking pictures of various birds. Though I am not a birding enthusiast, I do like to watch the birds from time to time. I always enjoy watching the winter Chickadees playing in the snow or getting a glimpse of a Cardinal as they fly from branch to branch. Birds are an important part of our environment and bring joy to many people.

Birds can also be inspirational and stand as symbols for many people throughout the world. The American Bald Eagle is a symbol for the United States of America. Such a symbol can represent strength and unity for the nation. The state of Minnesota state bird is a Loon. Though I wonder what that might represent about Minnesota. Maybe it represents how loony people are who live in a place where it can go from subzero arctic temperatures to tropical heat waves within 6 months. Other nations and states have their birds too. Some have hawks, eagles or other birds that are native and symbolic of a nation or community in which people live. Overall, Birds can have quite the impact and are symbolic for many people throughout the world.

In our faith birds also have a symbolic meaning and one bird especially noted in our faith is the Dove. The Dove can represent peace but also the active presence of the Holy Spirit. Throughout scripture we hear the important and symbolic nature of the dove in both the Old and the New Testament. From the stories with Noah and the flood to Jesus and his baptism the Dove is ever present. Now other birds are mentioned in scripture, but I think dove symbolizes an extremely important and powerful message. A message that can transcend any national symbol. For the peace and active nature of the Holy Spirit can do greater things than any one nation can do. For me the Dove is a wonderful bird to represent the great aspects of faith and activity within our world.

Hopefully as the summer goes on you may take some time for the birds. Maybe you can even do some research on the meaning or symbolism which some birds may have. Yet one bird we are familiar with in relation to our faith is the Dove. For when we see the Dove we are reminded of peace and God's presences ever with us through the Holy spirit. May God's blessing be with you this and every month.

Yours in Christ

-Pastor John Ansell

Lessons for August, 2024

8/4/2024 Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

8/11/2024 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

8/18/2024 Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

8/25/2024 Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

With Sympathy!

Our heartfelt sympathy to Matt & Chinisa Loberg and their family following the death of Matt's mother, Nancy Loberg on June 29th.

Thank you!

Salem,

Thank you for the gift card. It will help me with my future plans as I join the Air National Guard and learn the HVAC trade.

Gavin Reid

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Evan Gunn on passing his Eagle Board of Review! We are so proud of your accomplishment!!

We've Moved!

Jim & Mary Mart
4110 LaVaque Rd. Apt 230
Hermantown, MN 55811

Peggy Bannor
4110 LaVaque Rd. Apt 229
Hermantown, MN 55811

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 “August”

2	Sharon Kantola	14	Brian Riggio
4	Lorraine Wisniewski	16	Sara Reid
5	Mary Mart	17	Ray Lampi
7	Kara Graves	18	Dennis LeMay
8	Eileen Dusek	20	Reed Paulson
	Kelly Erickson		Tim Peterson
10	Pastor John Ansell	21	Nash Byrnes
	Scott Erickson		Mason Thedens
	Jayden Isensee	22	Duane McDonald
11	Chloe Chilberg	24	Dianne Agustsson
12	Peter Erickson	28	Robin Johnson
13	Rolene Lampi		

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

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

Sunday School News

Fall is quickly approaching. Watch your September newsletter for Sunday School Kickoff on September 29 and the first day of Sunday School October 6!

Bike for Justice – Bike Against Hunger RIDE Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger

50 Years, 50 Miles

Munger Trail

Duluth – Mahtowa – Duluth

Saturday, August 17, 2024

8 am-3 pm

More information and registration forms can be found at

www.nemnsynod.org/hunger-and-justice-ministries



CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF GRACE

It has been an honor to commemorate Salem's 100th Anniversary by featuring different monthly themes that look at our varied ministries. August's theme is "Outdoor Summer Worship." The highlight of this month will be an Outdoor Sunday Worship on August 18th in front of the church with an Old Fashioned Potluck in the Family Room following the service. It's been quite a while since we've had a potluck and it's a wonderful way to share in fellowship! We'll each bring a favorite dish and drop them off downstairs before worship or we can have "runners" stationed by ushers to take your dish down for you.

After enjoying a great meal, you are encouraged to stay and participate in activities like bingo, cribbage, cornhole, or just watching and visiting. There will also be activities for younger children. Everyone will be a winner by joining in the fun! If we have inclement weather that Sunday, our service will be held indoors, but our potluck and activities will still be held. It's just too hard to cancel the potluck part with all the preparations. If weather allows, we will hold an outdoor Sunday service on August 25th with coffee and goodies afterwards.



September is always a busy month as we kick off our fall schedule. We are also going into preparation mode for our grand finale weekend November 2 & 3, 2024 when we hold our 100th Anniversary Banquet & Program and our Celebratory Sunday Service.

Tickets for the Banquet Dinner will be sold for \$15 each, and will be available for purchase from September 15 to October 15, or until sold out. You will be able to purchase tickets each Sunday in the narthex or in the church office during regular hours, 9:00-1:00 Tuesday-Friday. There is limited space in the Family Room so you will want to get your tickets early. We're looking forward to a lovely evening.

Salem Church Council Highlights May 14, 2024

Ongoing Business

- **Salem's 100th Anniversary Planning**
June is focused on recognition of Salem's Pastors and Sons and Daughters of the Congregation.
- 6/16-Jen Hane presentation about her Father, Dick Hane. Plans for former Pastors to present on 6/23 fell through.
- 6/30-Outdoor service.
- Discussed Summerfest parade for July. Will ask the Congregation for volunteers.
- Memorabilia cabinet is finished and cleaned. Beginning to put up displays.
- August-Outdoor service and potluck activities and games.
- Boy Scout overnight. Carol will be the contact person for arrangements and we will have a key holder to be the liaison while the Scouts are at the church.
- Assistance requested in finding substitute for Lisa's absences.

- Non-Profit Security Grant Program----Kelly has experience with Grant writing and will review the process for this grant to see how it applies to Salem.

Committee Updates

Youth Ministry

- The Sunday School Team met on June 6. Reviewed past year and decided to continue with same arrangement of one-room all-classroom and format.
- Set up calendar for upcoming year; will have a leader and helper for each lesson.
- Lessons and possible themes were given
- Service projects were discussed.
- Camps, etc-VBS at Grace 6/23-6/26 from 6-8 pm; Summer camps at Camp Vermillion or Hiawatha,
- Chris Swenson volunteered to be a chaperone for the Middle School Gathering
- Confirmation-Three children-Pastor will contact parents to coordinate.

Mutual Ministry.

- OT Rule change-checking to see if it affects clergy.
- Continue work on updates to Employee Handbook
- Carol is working on a checklist, to be posted in the Janitor’s closet by restrooms.
- Do we need to review Beth’s job description?

Property

- Fence repaired in the daycare play area.
- Update on having the kitchen drains snaked.
- Waxing the daycare floor during week of the 4th?

Finance

- Update on Insurance premium costs.

Outreach and Social Concerns

- Kim and Kelly will plan to survey the congregation to see if there’s interest in presenting Mental Health Seminars.
- Four Prison team members attended a Christian/volunteer appreciation meal.
- Sally and Dale Rollins will be using Salem’s Family room the 4th Wednesday of the month 5:30-8:30. Sally is starting a Young Parkinson’s Support Group.
- St. Louis County Master Gardener Bulb Sale is October 12, 10-1pm.
- Rhubarb Festival June 29. Salem will be helping with the Bake Sale.

Pastor’s Update: Sent via email.

**WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE
August, 2024**

	4	11	18	25
LEAD	Justin	Simon	Judy	Judy
COMM	Reid	Erdmann	Giese	Giese
READER	Carol Christenson	Richard Petersson	David Pipho	Frank Dusek

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)