

The Salem Tidings, October, 2011

The monthly newsletter of Salem United Methodist Church

541 Hwy. 59, Waukesha, WI 53186

Salem's Mission is to GROW Disciples of Jesus Christ.



From
Pastor Linda

As we again join together in giving our community the gift of a *Fall Family Fest* on our Church grounds, I am struck by Saint Paul's admonition to believers when he says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, slave or free, for we are all one in Christ Jesus our Lord." Being "one" in Christ is what makes us "family" in the faith. We love each other and the community because we are sisters and brothers in Christ. We have a sense of belonging to the church that enriches our lives and makes us whole.

I believe that Christian hospitality begins in this knowledge that we ourselves are received and accepted. It is not that everyone overlooks our faults so much as we all know that God is not done with us yet. We know that God's grace revealed to us in Jesus Christ is bigger than our limitations and shortcomings. Because of what Christ has done for us in forgiving us, restoring us, and creating a new heart in us, we recognize this gift as something we want to pass on to others. What a privilege it is than to offer our spiritual home as a meeting place for a larger family gathering.

But it is not just here that we receive others as though receiving Christ. This hospitality is offered also in our worship, youth fellowship, men's and women's groups, choir, Bible study, confirmation, ministry teams, Sunday School, and Church events. God in Christ is present in the entire outreach of the Church and in all the "behind the scenes" planning and giving of our time and talents. Because of this gift of presence, we know we don't want to miss anything because at its core, it is God's party.

So as your Pastor, I challenge you to invite family and friends to participate in what God is doing for us at Salem UMC. Take the time now to remember just one person who doesn't have a church and needs an invitation to something at Salem UMC. People really do need to be invited. And each Sunday when we *pass the peace* at the end of our service, look for new faces and go and introduce yourself to them. They have done a brave thing, they have come to a church where no one knows their name and there are no familiar faces. They should never return a second Sunday with that still being true for them because in Christ, we are *family*.

Please join me in praying each day for our Church and our members that we may be faithful to our call to *make disciples*. Let us ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to enter all that we do in this Church we love so that Christ receives a central place in our life together. Let us ask for the blessings of Christ's love and compassion to be present whenever we reach out in his name. Let us remember God's dream of a peaceful kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. May our prayers be filled with gratitude for one another.

Thank you, disciples, for all you do each day and every week to proclaim and live the Gospel where you are planted. I know that it is not always easy but it is always good to be those who have the privilege of working with Christ to renew the world in our own small but powerful ways.

Your sister in Christ, *Pastor Linda*