

February 2018

Salem United Methodist Church

Growing Together on the Journey with Christ



A note from Pastor Paola

What are you giving up this Lent?

We are about to enter in the season of Lent: 40 days from Ash Wednesday, February 14, to sunset on Holy Saturday, March 31 (the day before Easter). Since the time of the early church, Christians have used the 40 days prior to Easter as a time of preparation for Good Friday and Easter Sunday, the days we remember and celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. The number 40 is very symbolic in the Scripture.

40 years was the journey through the desert from Egypt to promise land; Moses fasted for 40 days when he communed with the Lord on Mount Sinai (Ex. 34:28). Elijah fasted for 40 days on his journey to meet God at Horeb (1 Kings 19:8); Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert to prepare for his public ministry (Matt. 4:1-11).

During Lent, Christians have traditionally engaged in practices of self-denial, like fasting, meant to orient our hearts and minds to the sufferings of Christ. Perhaps we give up some type of food, a habit, an activity or an addiction. In making a sacrifice, we can become more aware of Jesus' sacrifice for us and let go of whatever keeps us from preparing our spirit for the

celebration of Easter. *Giving up* is a wonderful spiritual discipline.

Nevertheless, there is another discipline that has been emerged in recent years that I find even more powerful and life changing. It is the discipline of *giving back*. Imagine every day during Lent waking up in the morning, and in prayerful reflection ask yourself:

How can I offer peace to someone today?

How can I bring a smile to someone's face?

How can I say words of healing?

How can I show love to someone?

How can I forgive someone?

Everyday becomes an opportunity to recognize God's love in your life and give back that love to those who God sends in your path.

Every day it becomes a walk with Jesus toward the cross, by doing what Jesus did. Sometimes it may involve a material gift, sometimes a gift of time, other times, a gift of self.

Every day though, it requires paying attention to God and those who are in your life or happen to cross your path.

Consider *giving back* this Lent. It will change your life and fill you with blessings!

Pastor Paola

Inside this issue....

Battle of the Lasagna Chefs

A battle for good!
February 4th

Pastor Paola's trip to Haiti

February 6-13
Let's send with her needed medical supplies!

Sweetheart Dinner

Friday, Feb. 9 at Salem

Undie Sundays

Feb. 11 – Mar. 4

New Lent Study:

Final Words from the Cross

Lent Worship Series

"We were there. We walked with Jesus."

-Ash Wednesday

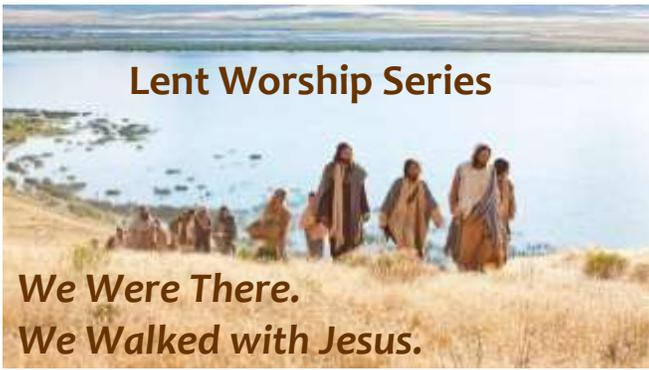
-Passover Meal

-Tenebrae Service

-Easter

Salem's Facility Task Force

What is that??



Lent Worship Series

**We Were There.
We Walked with Jesus.**

Renew your heart during Lent and walk with the men and women who witnessed the passion of Jesus.

February 18 First Sunday in Lent

Costly Love: Mary Magdalene

John 12:1-7 and 19:25

February 25 Second Sunday of Lent

Destructive disillusion: Judah

John 13:21-30 and 18:1-6a

March 4 Third Sunday of Lent/Communion

Overpowering fear: Peter

John 13:36-38 and 18:15-18; 25-27

March 11 Fourth Sunday of Lent

In search of the truth: Pilate

John 18:28-40 and 19:1-16

March 18 Fifth Sunday of Lent

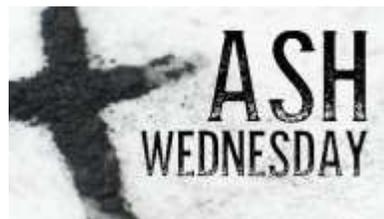
A new family: The disciples under the cross

John 19:26-27 and Acts 1:12-14

March 25 Palm Sunday, Children/Youth Parade

From Darkness to Light: Nicodemus

John 3:1-21 and 19:39-42



We are invited to attend an **Ash Wednesday Potluck and Worship Service** at First United Methodist Church in

Waukesha on Wednesday, February 14th. Potluck will be at 6:00 pm, and the service will begin at 6:45 pm. Please meet in the Asbury Room to the side of the sanctuary. Pastor Greta Hietpas from First UMC will lead the service, and Pastor Paola will also participate.



“Final Words from the Cross”

(Book by Adam Hamilton)

Your choice of Sunday mornings (after worship) or Wednesday evenings (Soup Supper) at 6:00 pm
Beginning the week of February 18,
ending the week of March 25

We will be studying the words that Jesus said during the last six hours that he hung dying on the cross:

- Father forgive them.
- Today you will be with me in paradise.
- Behold your son... behold your mother.
- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- I thirst.
- It is finished... into your hands I commend my spirit.

Pastor Paola will lead this class, and we hope you can join us. We'll explore Jesus' final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. We'll talk about what these words mean for our lives today. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex. Choose between Sunday mornings (following worship) or Wednesday evenings (with soup supper).

HOLY WEEK:

March 29 Maundy Thursday at Salem

6:30 pm Celebration of the Passover Meal, Jesus last meal, and Holy Communion

Waukesha First UMC will be our guests. A light soup dinner will be served in the fellowship hall.

March 30 Good Friday

7:00 pm Tenebrae Service

Reflective worship with music and the readings of Jesus' last hours

Join us at Salem on April 1st to celebrate with worship, an Easter egg hunt, and brunch!

EASTER SUNDAY

HE IS RISEN



Who Makes the Best Lasagna?

(A battle for a very good cause)

Three Salem chefs have been preparing for the Lasagna Battle on Sunday February 4th. (Every week we've been asking our chefs a new question. See the Outreach bulletin board for their answers to our last question!) Each chef thinks their lasagna is outstanding!



Bill says his is "yummy", Rich says his is "mouth-watering" and Paola describes hers as "buonissime" (that's "very good" for those who don't speak Italian!)

On Sunday, February 4th, after the worship service, you will get a taste of each lasagna, and place your vote for which one you think is best. Of course, all of this is great fun, but the real reason for the contest is to raise money for Medical Missioinaires in Haiti. Besides voting for your favorite lasagna, we encourage you to give a donation. This money will go towards the salary of a local Haitian man who has been an invaluable worker in the clinic. We hope to sponsor his meager salary of \$70.00 per month for up to a year. Please join in the fun and help with this worthwhile project!



Help Paola Pack a Bag!

Paola is going to Haiti for the week of February 6-13. We are donating cash or the following desperately needed products for the clinic: Ibuprofen, Liquid Children's Tylenol, Neosporin and medium sized medical gloves.

Please place a monetary

donation or a check in an envelope marked "Haiti" and place in the offering plate. (Checks can be made to Salem UMC) You may place items we've requested into the suitcase under the Outreach Board. Does anyone have a suitcase they don't want? Paola could fill it with supplies and leave it in Haiti to save paying for the suitcase on the way back. Please let Paola know.



While Pastor Paola is in Haiti, February 6-13, her husband, John Hobbins, will be filling the pulpit. On Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, Pastor John will share with us his message, "Beam Me Up Scotty!" during the morning worship.

If there is a unexpected pastoral emergency while Pastor Paola is gone, please contact Kermit Bohing.....one of the pastors from Waukesha First UMC will provide pastoral help.



6th Annual Sweetheart Dinner Friday, February 9th at 6:30 PM

Open to one and all... single, married, etc.! Enjoy a delicious fish fry from Sunset Family Restaurant, served right here at Salem! We'll enjoy good food, fellowship, and musical entertainment. This has been one of our most popular events for several years. The menu will feature baked or fried fish, baked potato, salad, rolls and coleslaw for \$14; dessert and beverage are complimentary. Kids can choose chicken strips and fries as an alternative entrée for \$10. You can find a reservation slip in the Sunday bulletin Please fill out and put in the offering basket, or contact Bonnie Stuempfig 262-547-3455, text at 262-366-4174 or email bonniestuempfig@yahoo.com. Deadline to reserve is Sunday, February 3rd. Please let Bonnie know if you need childcare available to you in our church nursery.

Join Us at the Hope Center

Salem will be helping with the evening meal at the Hope Center on Friday, February 9th. The Hope Center located at 502 N. East Avenue serves those in need in Waukesha County. The center has been serving approximately 95-100 people at each meal. The Salem team will provide servers along with 8 dozen cookies and 10 gallons of milk. Volunteers should arrive at 5:00. The meal will be served at 5:30. Please sign up on the kiosk. You can help make a difference in your community.

Miracle Celebration Report

Our Miracle Sunday Stewardship and Capital Campaigns were a huge success! Here are the highlights:



Capital Campaign:

Burn the Mortgage-Heat the Church- Open Doors

Our goal was to raise \$20,000.00 to meet three goals.

- 1) Pay off the mortgage
- 2) Pay for needed boiler repairs
- 3) Address the entrance door issue.

Total capital pledges were \$42,831.00! With a goal to receive the donations by mid-February, to date we have received \$39,288.00. The extra capital contributions are in a dedicated account and will be used only for future approved projects.

The mortgage was paid off early on November 28 instead of waiting until March, with a savings of \$543.00 in interest. The boiler system was purchased at an additional discount and the installation came in under the estimate. The boiler project final cost was \$7,506.94 which is \$1,493.00 under the project estimate of \$9,000.00. Options for the entrance door project are being reviewed.

Stewardship Pledges

The initial 2018 pledges were up almost 20% over 2017 pledges!

2017

On December 1, our year to date expenses were almost \$5000.00 over our income. But very generous support from everyone in December covered the December expenses and the deficit, and we ended the year with a positive balance!

WOW!!! THANK YOU to all the members and friends of Salem who helped make this happen. These are very exciting times at Salem!



SUNDAY SCHOOL February Teaching Plan

Sunday, February 4th
No Class. Communion Sunday

Sunday, February 11th **9:15 AM**
Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Sunday, February 18th **9:15 AM**
Children: Jesus Feeds 5,000
Teens: Caring for God's Creation

Sunday, February 25th **9:15 AM**
Jesus Walks on Water

Undie Sundays!

Every Sunday, February 11 through March 4, is Undie Sunday at Salem! Our Outreach Team sponsors this project each year to benefit those in our community who do not have these basic necessities – Underwear, warm socks, underpants, t-shirts etc. These items are needed for men, women and children. At local clothing outreach centers, these items are very limited. Sometimes there is NO underwear available at all! Starting February 11th, you will find a big wash tub in the narthex underneath the Outreach bulletin board. If you prefer that we do the shopping for you, please place a monetary donation or a check in an envelope marked “Undie Sunday” and place in the offering plate. (Checks can be made to Salem UMC.) Thank you so much!

Fill me with undies,
socks, t-shirts



What is the Facility Task Force at Salem?

The purpose of this committee is to look at and evaluate our Church building and how it can be improved to better meet the needs of our members and surrounding community. To this end, we have invited three individuals from outside the church to walk through and give us suggestions. The Facility Task Force Committee, which initially met in December 2017, has also done a thorough walk-thru and compiled a list of modifications or changes to be considered.

Members of the Facility Task Force Committee are: Pastor Paola, Ken Bringa, Lori Buxengard, Vicki Nease, Kim Newton, Bill Pardoe, and Bonnie Wojcik. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to talk to any member of the committee.

Tips on Welcoming Visitors

(from the Salem Marketing Team)

We have some ideas that might make it easier for each of us to welcome visitors to Salem. We really want to be known as a friendly, welcoming church.

Circle of 10: Greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within 10 feet of you. Make a special effort to greet the people you don't already know within your Circle of 10.

Rule of Three: It takes visitors about three minutes to exit the church after worship. We really want to make sure at least one person has made contact with visitors before they leave. If you see someone you don't know, please try to greet them before fellowship with those you know already.

Don't know what to say to a guest? Here are some conversation starters:

Offer a handshake and say, "Hello. My name is _____ . What's yours?"

Wait for a response and repeat the other person's name so you make sure that you get it right and so you can more easily remember it.

If you think you know the face, but can't recall the name, try this approach:

"Hello, I'm _____ . I believe I've seen you here before, but I don't know if we've had the opportunity to meet. What's your name?"

Don't be embarrassed if you greet someone who is already a member at Salem and you don't know that person's name – or be offended if someone doesn't remember yours. We need to offer grace to one another, just as we would to guests.



Love Verses

Let these Bible verses encourage you to celebrate, for God has unconditional and indescribable love for us. No matter your age or stage in life, Valentine's Day can be celebrated because of God's great love!

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:14

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

Genesis 29:20

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4

To love God with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Mark 12:33

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 12:9

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:7-8

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19



February 7	Ken Reichert
7	Carol Stachowicz
15	Brian Fischer
25	Cory Buxengard
25	Cole Nease
28	Kim Newton



We need refreshments for fellowship time for the month of February! Please consider signing up on the kiosk. 😊

"For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
That Whosoever
Believeth In Him
Should Not perish
But have Everlasting life."
-- John 3:16

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

Feb. 4	Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39
Feb. 11	2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9
Feb. 18	Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15
Feb. 25	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

Sewing Salem in February

Sunday, February 4

Greeters: Greg & Kim Newton
Acolyte: Anna Hobbins
PowerPoint: Gary Wollenzien
Worship Leader: Harriet Young
Liturgist: Sheryl Crusan
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers:
Refreshments:

Sunday, February 11

Greeters: Cory & Laurie Buxengard
Acolyte: Abby Buxengard
PowerPoint: Paul Becher
Worship Leader: Cory Buxengard
Liturgist: Aaron Buxengard
Children's Time: Bill Pardoe
Flowers:
Refreshments: Rozskowskis

Sunday, February 18

Greeters: Rich & Amy Manns
Acolyte: Cole Cochran
PowerPoint: Harriet Young
Worship Leader: Maggie Bringa
Liturgist: Peggy Barnes
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers:
Refreshments:

Sunday, February 25

Greeters: Doug & Brenda Lindsay
Acolyte: Isaac Chapin
PowerPoint: John Klopp
Worship Leader: Amy Manns
Liturgist: Rich Manns
Children's Time: Bill Pardoe
Flowers:
Refreshments: