

Salem United Methodist Church

May 2021



Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. (1 Corinthians 13:1-4)

The apostle Paul didn't write these words as a poem to be read in happy times such as weddings. He wrote them in the midst of difficult times of uncertainty, changes, conflicts and dissensions. He was challenging the church in Corinth to keep at the center of their lives what counts the most: Love. Love is what God asks of us. Love is what matters. Love is the reason why Jesus came among us and gave his life on the cross.

These words speak loudly today as we live in a time that is, in many ways, similar to the Corinthians. From our own family dynamics all the way throughout our country and world, we live in a challenging time of uncertainty and conflicts exacerbated by over a year in a pandemic. Fear and uncertainty are very hard on us and lead us to inward looking, being absorbed by our own worries and interests. Yet, this way brings us only more brokenness and loss.

The way out, the way of a new beginning, is the way of love. If I do not have love, I have nothing. On the other hand, if I have nothing, but I add to it love, then I have everything in God's eyes. I know the word love is overused and seems to have become a cliché. Love is not primarily a feeling. Although it certainly will involve feelings, it is not primarily desire. It is not primarily closeness. It is not mainly being agreeable or doing what you want me to do. Jesus understood love as a God-powered condition of being in which I want the best for everybody I come in contact with.

In fact, this kind of love, agape love, where I want the best for others, will express itself very differently depending on the condition of the person I'm with. If somebody is hungry, and I love them with this love, I'll try to feed them. If somebody is lonely, and I love them with this kind of love, I'll try to connect with them and listen to them. If somebody is discouraged, and I love them with this kind of love, I'll cheer them on and encourage them. Genuine love seeks to be helpful according to the other person's needs, not according to my natural preference.

Imagine what our lives, our families, our country, and this world would look like if we love others this way? It really begins with me.

Paola Denech



**May 2 Stewardship Campaign
Consecration Sunday
Live Zoom Service with Communion
*Joy: Finding True Satisfaction***

(Matthew 13:44-46 & Matthew 6:19-24)
Following live worship on Zoom, drive through at Salem from 10:30-11:30 AM to drop off your pledge card and receive a delicious cookie!



Mother's Day May 9th

You will be able to view this worship service on Salem's YouTube channel. Have a wonderful Mother's Day!



Welcome Home!

It is finally time to gather together in person for worship! We have waited a long time for this. See the following article for more details.

**May 16 Ascension Sunday
Homecoming (Luke 15:20-24)**

**May 23 Pentecost Sunday
A Home Built on a Firm Foundation
(Matthew 7:24-27)**

May 30 Full House (Luke 14:15-24)

Reopening Update

We are getting really excited about the reopening of Salem! The reopening task force finalized a number of details we like to share with you all. Here are the results of the polling:



In-person worship: 41 Yes, 5 No

Call in or email reservations: 42 Yes, 4 No

The first in-person service will May 16 at 9 AM. Please call or email the office by Noon on Thursday, May 13th if you are planning on attending worship. While attending services please:

- 1) Wear facemasks covering both the nose and mouth
- 2) Observe social distancing – staying 6 feet away from others who are not members of your immediate family
- 3) Please remain at home if you are ill or have a fever

Salem will have a supply of:

- 1) Facemasks for those who forget theirs
- 2) Hand sanitizer dispensers readily available throughout the building
- 3) All surface areas will be sanitized before worship

The east entry door at the end of the building will not be available at this time. One door will designated for entry and the other for exit. A clear sign will be on the door and ushers will there to help you.

We thank you very much for your flexibility and patience. This is a new process and we are learning as we go. The reopening task force will reevaluate guidelines after two services and make necessary changes.



From the Salem Building Committee:

The remodel and update of Salem Church is completed except for a few finishing touches. HURRAY!! It has been a long process since the Building Committee first met in June of 2019 and began planning the renovation of our Church. The actual construction began in December of 2020 and finished in April of 2021. Fortunately, much of the demo and remodel was done when Salem was closed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Nevertheless, a thank you to each and every member of Salem for their patience in this endeavor. Now, we look forward to our reopening and being together in person.

The last part of the remodel included the laying of the new carpeting in the sanctuary, narthex hallway and the library. It looks wonderful. Metro Sound has hung and connected the message board in the narthex and TV monitor and sound system in the library. Both are good to go.

New office furniture for Pastor's and Amy's offices has been delivered. And soon, the new furniture for Pastor's counseling room and the library will arrive. A special thank you to Ken Bringa for the many hours it took to clean up the wiring for the phone and internet and to centralize all these wires in one location.

By the time you read this article, the storage pods in the parking lot will have been emptied and the pods removed. Unpacking of boxes and finding new areas for the storing of our supplies is one of the biggest tasks. It will take a while to do this and get use to the new areas available.

I know every member of our congregation is excited about returning to Salem on Sunday, May 16th. For many, it may be a big change. But remember even though the interior and exterior of the Church may look different, the things that make Salem so special have not changed: That is US. We are still the same warm, loving, welcoming community of Christ just in an updated and improved setting. Let us move forward and continue to make Salem shine by inviting others to join us in our new home.



AED/CPR Training (Hands-only)

The fire department is starting to participate in activities again.

They are able to work with small groups that allow for safe distancing during training. Please contact Marsha Everson if you are interested in this training. Please also indicate any time or day that would work best for you. With our return to in-person worship, our goal is to publish a list of trained persons near the first aid/defibrillator station.



Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study

Please join us on Thursdays at 6:30 PM for a Zoom Bible study. We use the lectionary as our Scripture readings. The link and password for the Bible study is found in the Pastor's weekly email. Let Pastor Paola know if you need to information to join us!

**From our Children,
Youth & Family
Ministries Coordinator,
Mary Jo Martin**



Congratulations all Graduates! On June 13 during worship service we will recognize our Salem Graduates. Our high school graduates are: Anna Hobbins, Sydney Hernandez, Cole Nease, and Matthew Ulrich. Natalie Tesch will be graduating from the University of Wisconsin Madison. Please call the Salem office or Pastor Paola if we have missed any graduates.

Welcome Back to Salem: If you and your family are coming for in-person services, we will not be using the Sunday School rooms at this time. Please sit with your families. We will have children bulletins and a take home activity for you that goes along with the message. Please look out for a take home bag at the seat that is reserved for you.

UPCOMING EVENT: we are planning an outdoor evening family event at Salem in July. Fun with GLOW sticks, games, and fire pit! More information to come. All are welcome.

Wanted: Gently Used Garden Tools

Hello Salem Friends! Are you using this nice weather to clean out your garage or storage shed? Do you plan to "weed out" some of your gently used garden tools?

The Trustees at Salem would like to encourage you to donate them to be used here on our grounds. The new shed is ready to be organized, and your donation would help us stock up with much needed tools. We are in particular need of a wheelbarrow. All outdoor



tools are welcome and anything in excess will be donated. Please bring your tools to church May 26th. Thanks in advance!!

Building Capital & Mustard Seeds Campaign

THANK YOU to those who supported the building project through the capital campaign and the mustard seed commitments for supporting the mortgage. The capital campaign helped make many projects possible that enhanced the remodel but were not part of the land sale funding. Examples are the hearing loop, office furniture, other furnishings, new windows, kitchen appliances, audio/visual enhancements, a new security system, and flooring. Both campaigns are key parts of the financing plan.

We need to complete the capital campaign in order to complete these projects. We also need to continue to meet our mustard seed commitments which support the mortgage payments. Thank you to the vast majority that have completed their capital pledge and to those regularly supporting their mustard seed commitment.

If you did not initially participate, you can make a contribution to either at any time. If you need information about your commitments, feel free to contact Kermit Bohning (262)336-6976 kbohning1@gmail.com.

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees have been busy trying to finalize some pending projects that need to be done in order to open the Church in May. We are all very excited for church together again. We have hired a Lawn Service for regular mowing and are working on cleaning up the mess of our grounds from all the construction.

A new fire alarm is installed and a new burglar alarm system will be installed shortly. More information on the alarms will be on coming shortly. New windows to replace all of the north and east sides are being ordered. Roof tiles have been replaced along with some minor repairs to the roof. We are looking for some help in replacing the garbage can enclosure; we will have the materials, just need help to put up and stain. If you can help email Sharon Seegers at sseegers1@gmail.com



Ingathering for WI Annual Conference

Looking for an opportunity to join a mission project without leaving home? *The Midwest Distribution Center* is a non-profit that serves the most vulnerable in times of crisis. The center distributes disaster relief kits in the US and around the world. Just last October, Oregon was sent 672 hygiene kits and 504 cleaning kits due to the devastating wildfires there.

During the month of May, Salem will be partnering with the *Midwest Distribution Center* by collecting monetary donations for two types of disaster relief kits:

Hygiene kits will contain items like a toothbrush, soap and shampoo. \$15.00 value each

Home Care Kits will contain dish and laundry soap, plus household cleaners. \$20.00 value each

Since the center is able to purchase items at huge discounts, your dollar goes a long way. Please mark your envelope with the words "Relief Kits". People in disaster areas will be most grateful for your generosity.



If you have a prayer concern you would like to share with our Salem Prayer Team or with the congregation, please contact Pastor Paola. We are here for you!!



A huge "THANK YOU!!" goes out to this group of hard working people who unloaded and moved hundreds of boxes, chairs, furniture, etc. from the storage pods on Saturday, April 24. What a big task! You all ROCK!!

Salem is now the SPONSOR of "SALEM CHURCH" Tuesday morning Senior Softball team! (Marlys Tesch & Kurt Guenther are Co-Sponsors!) They have beautiful new RED team shirts with the Salem Church logo! Come watch them Tuesday mornings. This year, the team is playing at VFW Field, 17980 W. Beloit Road in New Berlin! Any questions, ask Marlys or Kurt!

TEAM SCHEDULE: April 27 (9:30, field 1) 1) NOTE: league expanded to 12 teams on 3 fields, 9:30 AM or 10:45 games! May 4 (10:45, Field 2), May 11 (10:45, Field 3) May 18 (9:30, Field 3) May 25 (9:30, Field 2) June 1 (9:30, Field 3) June 8 (9:30, Field 3) June 15 (9:30, Field 1) June 22 (10:45, Field 1) June 29 (9:30, Field 2) July 6 (9:30, Field 3) July 13 (10:45, Field 2) July 20 (9:30, Field 1) July 27 (10:45, Field 2)



Superfans: Dick & Marlys Tesch

Eight of the twelve teams will be in the Playoffs.
Playoffs and quarter-finals: Aug. 3
Semi-finals and championship game -Aug. 10



May 2	Pastor Paola
3	Nick Tonz
9	Nancy Mueller
19	Debbie Campbell
20	Abigail Buxengard
21	Bonnie Wojcik
22	Ashley Scrima
25	Sydney Hernandez
26	Kyle Callen, Cole Cochran
31	Leonard Lamb

Quotes about Mothers

"There are really places in your heart that you don't know exist until you love a child." **Anne Lamott**

"To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world." **Dr. Seuss**

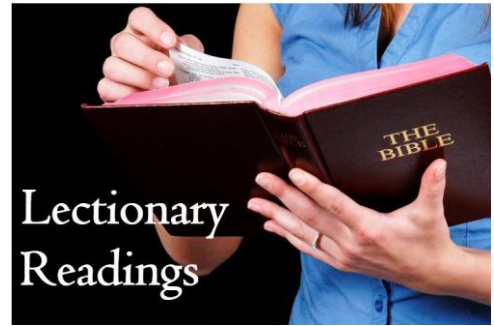
"There's no way to be a perfect mother, and a millions ways to be a good one." **Jill Churchill**

"Making the decision to have a child is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body." **Elizabeth Stone**

"Behind all your stories is always your mother's story, because hers is where yours begins." **Mitch Albom**

"The very fact that you worry about being a good mom means that you already are one." **Jodi Picoult**

"Mothers and their children are in a category all their own. There's no bond so strong in the entire world. No love so instantaneous and forgiving." **Gail Tsukiyama**



May 2

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Gospel John 15:1-8

May 9 Mother's Day

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel John 15:9-17

May 16 Ascension Sunday

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel Luke 24:44-53

May 23 Pentecost Sunday

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27

Gospel John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 30 Trinity Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17

Gospel John 3:1-17