

Salem United Methodist Church

September 2023

Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

***The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
He will dance over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;
He will exult over you with loud singing."***

Zephaniah 3:17



Yesterday, my neighbor asked me to see a picture of my children and children in laws. I started with the ones on the wall, then moved to those on the shelves in the living room, and finally I showed her their pictures over the years in photo albums. Well...it took a while. The poor woman!! I bet she wished she had never asked to see a picture of my kids!! Then of course I had to start telling her a bit about what my kids do, where they are, on and on. Then I told her: *I am so excited that I will see all my kids together in a few days. I will jump with joy.* Again, the poor woman...I am sure she will run away next time she sees me.

Now...The reason why I am so proud of my kids and why they bring me so much joy is not because their achievements are impressive or they have extraordinary talents. The reason is not because they are perfect because I can assure they are far from perfect. The reason why they bring me so much joy and pride is because I look at them with the eyes of a parent, with the love of a parent.

You see, each of us is a loved child in God's eyes. God is filled with joy and singing...when He is in our presence. The tiniest details of our lives never grow old to him. God himself is filled with wonder at our faltering talents—not because we do them better than anyone else, but because He views them through the eyes of a loving parent. God shows our pictures to the angels until even the angels get a little tired of looking. For God one day apart from us is one day too many.

The prophet Zephaniah captures the essence of God's love for us with these marvelous words:

***God will dance over you with gladness;
He will quiet you by His love;
He will exult over you with loud singing.***

Can you imagine God dancing and singing over you? I do. God dances and sings over you not because you are perfect or because you have incredible talents, but because he looks at you the way a loving parent does. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more. There is nothing you can do to make God love us less...God already loves us as much as an infinite God can possibly love.

Friends let us live, act and love as beloved children of our Father.

Blessings,
Pastor Paola

STANDALONE SUNDAYS

Sun, August 27

So...you think you talk like a Christian.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Pastor Pete Peterson

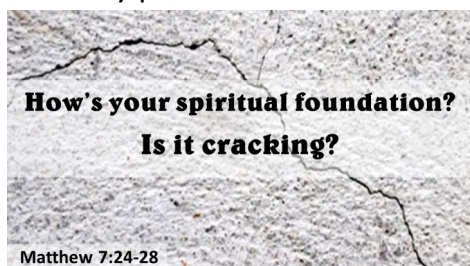
LET YOUR WORDS

**Speak grace
to those who
hear them**



Sun, Sept 3 - Communion

Lay preacher Bill Pardoe



How Can I Know I'll Go to Heaven?

During our mission trip this summer in Rome, we visited some of the amazing work of Michelangelo. His astounding works of art reveal a deep inner spiritual struggle.

Until the end, Michelangelo was divided between faith and disbelief, wondering if he was good enough to receive God's love and salvation.

Through the work of Michelangelo, led by the Gospel of John, we will unfold our ultimate spiritual question.

"How Can I Know I'll Go to Heaven."

Sun, Sept 10 *La Pieta'* (1498-1499)

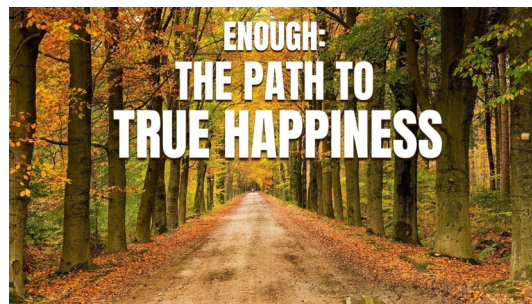
John 11:25-26

Sun, Sept 17 *The Sistine Chapel* (1508-1512)

John 10:10;14-18;27-30

Sun, Sept 24 *The Deposition* (1547-1555)

John 3:16



We live in the land of plenty and abundance. Everything we want is just a click away 24/7.

Yet, our society has never suffered like now with depression, anxiety and deep discontent.

During this month we will learn 4 simple practices that God reveals in the Scripture that have the power to bring satisfaction, peace, and joy back into our lives.

Sun, Oct 1 - World Communion

United Women of Faith Sunday

The Practice of Gratitude and Praise

Philippians 4:4-6;10-12



Sun, Oct 8

The Practice of Letting Go

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Sun, Oct 15

The Practice of using our Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1-7 and 1 Peter 4:10-11

Sun, Oct 22

Stewardship Sunday

The Practice of Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-15



Sun, Oct 29

Our missionary Temba will be among us, as part of our worship.



Standalone Sun, Nov 5

All Saints Day

Join us for a special service of remembrance of all the loved ones are gone back to the father.

Please invite families and friends who have lost a dear one.

Baptisms



We celebrated the baptisms of Sloane and Stella Cababa on September 6th!



This past Sunday just minutes before the service where we were going to celebrate **Sue Lewinski** and give thanks for her 20 years of playing piano at Salem, we received the heart breaking news she peacefully passed away in her own apartment, surrounded by her family. The family later joined us in worship and we transformed our service in celebration of her music and her life. We will miss Sue's incredible talent, love for music, and her passion for life. Prayers go up her family.



Chapel Service *Next Door*

September 20th
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Hymn Sing at 10:30 am

Come worship with our neighbors at New Perspective! Pastor Paola will lead worship in the chapel on the 3rd floor. Communion will be served. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in at the front desk.

Future services: October 18th & November 15th



We welcome one and all as we sing a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Until we find a permanent pianist, practice will be twice a month on the 3rd and 4th Wednesday.

**Our first practice is on
Wednesday, September 20th at 7:15 pm**

Susan Torres has agreed to accompany the choir until that time.

We will sing on the 1st and 4th Sun of the month. Pop up choir will be on the 5th Sun of the month.

Looking forward to being with everyone on the 20th. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle at 630-336-2317.

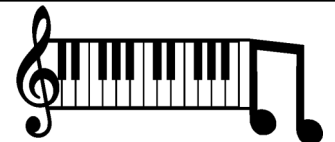


Calling all musicians!

The Salem Handbell Choir will begin weekly Wed night practices on **Sept 6th at 6:30 pm.**

Have you always wanted to give handbells a try? It is fun and does not require you to read music, just count up to four! Now is your chance! New ringers welcome. The Handbells play on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Contact Brenda Lindsay for more information.

Pianist/Organist



We are deeply thankful to Susie Brown for being our long term sub for piano and organ. She has been sharing her musical talent and love for the Lord as a volunteer in ways above and beyond any expectation.

Nevertheless, we need your help to find a permanent pianist. Please reach out to anyone who may have leads or pass on any information you have to Pastor Paola.



A fun day was had by all
involved in VBS!



Sunday School for Children & Youth



KICK OFF SUNDAY, SEPT 10
JOIN US FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP
EVERY SUNDAY AFTER CHILDREN'S TIME

Sept 3: No Sunday School - Labor Day Weekend
Sept 10: Kick-Off Combined Youth & Children
Sept 17: Combined Youth & Children Lesson
Sept 24: Sub Needed: Martin's Out of Town - TBD

SUNDAY SCHOOL Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed on Sundays to help with
the Children and Youth this year.

- Substitutes needed for teaching Children's Sunday School
- Leader for Youth Lessons - 1 Sunday/month

Immediate need for a sub for Children's Sunday School on September 24th. If you are interested, please contact Mary Jo Martin.

Vacation Bible School

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We are so grateful to Mary Jo Martin for the labor of love put into this year's VBS.

Thank you to the Superheroes that helped with VBS. It was a fun and spiritual time. Thank you to Katie Martin & Kari Schmidt for helping with crafts and decorating. Anna Hobbins for running games, Sharon Seegers and Pastor Paola for setting up and serving our meal.

Special thanks for donations from Maggie Bringa, Sherrie Kellogg, Seegers Family, Mary and Bill Watt, & Gladys Roszkowski.



Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to greet and bring refreshments through September. We still need someone to bring snacks on Sept 24 and more greeters will be needed again in October.



Women in the Middle is in the process of gearing up for this Fall. Wonderful things are being planned.

Women in the Middle is a group of women looking at how we are being challenged as we live in the middle (or afternoon) of our lives. All women at this stage in life are welcome. So many challenges for us! What struggles do we have? What joys? How do we make the necessary adjustments in this time of our lives? How can our faith help us?

Stay tuned for more information!



DIGNITY begins with the basics!



UNDIE SUNDAY

September 3rd - 24th

Just a reminder that Undie Sunday is coming up. Have you purchased any underwear to donate to the Hope Center yet?

Last year, Salem contributed 474 pairs of underwear, 164 pair of socks for a total of 638 items between items donated and monetary donations.

Can we beat these last totals? Yes, we can.

Please put new underwear or socks in the basket or designate checks for Undie Sunday made out to Salem. With your support, we can help our community with this very basic need.

Thank you! The Outreach Team



There is an urgent need for baby wipes and diapers (all sizes). Please bring items to church and put them in the basket that is located to the left of the cabinet facing the Sanctuary OR grab a pew envelope. Fill in your name and add your donation. Write diapers on the envelope and we'll shop for you!



Last fall Salem began a partnership with **Hadfield Elementary School** to provide snacks for their children. ***With your generosity***, Salem donated over 1,600 snacks! We also applied and received a grant from the Wisconsin Conference to provide support for this new ministry. The grant helps with providing winter clothing items, underwear, teacher supplies, snacks for special events, and other items for children and staff at Hadfield School.

Snack Collection



Children are feeling the excitement of starting a new school year, and what a comfort for the staff to know that Salem will continue to provide snacks for the kids! Watch for the collection basket to return to the Happening Center. If so moved, snacks such as applesauce cups, fruit cups, and goldfish crackers, to name a few, are welcome.

Please, NO snacks with peanuts!

Thank you for making this such a success last year, and we are hoping to restart the filling of the basket with your generous donations in September.



A welcome-back package including Expo markers, erasers and cleaning fluid for whiteboards in 22 classrooms was recently delivered.

OUR REACH

Ministry

Help feed the hungry. Salem will serve the evening meal at the **Hope Center** on **Wednesday, September 20th**. The Hope Center is located at 502 N. East Avenue in Waukesha and serves Waukesha County residents.



We still need the following help:

3 servers

2 dozen cookies

4 gallons of milk

Sign up at the Happenings Center. Arrive at 5:00 and help serve the meal. Then help with clean up by washing tables and sweeping the floor. We should be finished shortly after 6:30. Your hospitality will be appreciated.



Can you guess who's coming to dinner?

On **October 29th**, we will be honored with a visit from Temba, our missionary from Africa. He will be visiting supporting churches in the mid-west and we are very fortunate to have him come to participate in our service. We will also have a good old-fashioned pot luck brunch after the service. Be sure to mark the date so you can hear Temba's message and meet him in person!



Salem Operations Endowment Fund

Our operations endowment fund continues to grow, thanks to many generous donations from individuals, memorials, bequests, and philanthropic gifts. This fund is designed to provide support for the operating expenses of the church, such as the ministry teams and the education programming. The principal remains untouched as a permanent legacy to those making a gift.

Please consider how you can provide a lasting legacy to Salem through contributing to this fund.

Contact Kermit Bohning for more information.



If you are interested in becoming a member at Salem Church or knowing more about it, join Pastor Paola on **Sunday September 17th** after the service. Please grab a cup of coffee and a snack and come to the conference room for an hour meeting. Make sure to let me know if you are interested so that I'll have enough material for everyone. pastor@salemsonthehill.org

Book Sale Coming Soon!

We will be holding a book sale to benefit Salem's Library on Sept. 17th. Clean off your book shelves and bring books you've read or no longer want to the library, anytime up to the 16th. We will take all kinds of books: fiction, non-fiction, children's books, craft and cook books, DVD's, CD's and complete puzzles.





5 Don Callen
 6 Doug Lindsay
 7 Kurt Guenther
 8 Wayne Haws
 8 Edna Lesada
 9 Pat Bohning
 10 Maggie Bringa
 10 Dick Tesch
 13 Jessica Labib
 18 Marlys Tesch
 19 Michelle Oberwise Lacock
 19 Bob Stuempfig
 22 Jacob Lindsay



- Please pray for the family of Sue Lewinski. She passed away on August 20th. Her funeral will be held this Friday, August 25th at Holy Apostles Church in New Berlin. Visitation is from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Mass to follow.
- Please pray for the family of Rhena Knourek who is celebrating her 88th birthday in heaven.
- Praise for Sue and Ralph Yont who are celebrating 63 years of marriage on August 27th!
- Prayer for Mary Jo's niece Amanda and her husband Peter, who lost their unborn baby.
- Please continue to pray for Anna Hobbins' trip to Ecuador. There is much turmoil there.
- Please pray for those involved in the tragedy being experienced from the fires in Maui.
- Please pray for Maggie Bringa's brother, Jim. His cancer is spreading.
- Please pray for Sharon Link for the loss of her friend, Darlene.
- Praise for Sue Lewinski's great grand daughter Valerie Sue who is now home with oxygen. Pray for her continued healing.



LECTIONARY READINGS - SEPTEMBER

September 3

Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 105:1-6,
 16-22, 45b
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

September 17

Exodus 14:19-31
 Psalm 114
 Romans 14:1-12
 Matthew 18:21-35

September 10

Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm 149
 Romans 13:8-14
 Matthew 18:15-2

September 24

Exodus 16:2-15
 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
 Philippians 1:21-30
 Matthew 20:1-16



If you have Pastoral needs during the time Pastor Paola is on vacation (8/25 to 9/8), please reach out to Kari in the office and she will get you in touch with Pastor Pete who has graciously volunteered to be on call.

Kari can be reached by email at office@salemonthehill.org or by calling (262) 547-5231 Tues-Thurs 9-1