



May 2022

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# Salem

United Methodist Church  
**Forecaster**

## Digital Church

In the 1983 hit movie, "Risky Business," there is a famous scene where Tom Cruise slides across the floor in his socks wearing underwear and a button up shirt. I remember in 1993 my dad doing the same thing in our kitchen. Thankfully he was wearing pants. I asked, "What are you doing?" He exclaimed, "I'm surfing the net! We have dial up baby!"

I am old enough to remember a time without internet and cell phones. We are witnessing the greatest shift in the church in the last 500 years. Not since the invention of the printing press has our methodology for ministry been affected like this. Since Covid-19, pastors and laity are fulfilling their calls in ways they were never trained for. I am encouraged by all the ways our church has stepped up in this unusual time.

I have an extensive background in worship technology. In addition to being a full time pastor, I extend audio/visual consulting for churches all over the state of Iowa by helping them develop their sanctuary sound and visual systems. During the pandemic, many churches were scrambling to figure out how to do "digital church." The demand for my time in this arena has never been greater. I have traveled to several congregations and have conducted webinars for the annual conference to help lead Iowa forward during this time. It is not uncommon for me to be in 1-3 different zip codes a week consulting with other congregations on how they break into this digital space.

The pandemic has taught us several things but I would highlight two key things.

The first, is that by bringing church to the internet, we have discovered an evangelistic opportunity that we were unaware of before. Most congregations experienced higher engagements for online worship than they ever did with in person worship before the pandemic. That is true for us at Salem. While we normally have about 160 people in the building on a given Sunday, we have almost twice that many interactions online with our worship services. We are reaching more people for Christ than we ever thought was possible.

The second, is that the internet is the new front door of the church. Statistically speaking, most people who visit a church for the first time have already tried to google that church. If you don't have a website/social media account and livestream your worship online, you are invisible to first time guests. When I speak to our first-time guests that visit our church, almost all of them tell me they first encountered us online. Those who are part of our congregation also value digital church if they are traveling, or find themselves homebound.

We have brought a Technical Director on our staff to help bring consistent excellence to our online ministries as well as in person worship. We have a Communication Director on staff that helps with our website and our social media pages. Most of our Bible studies and meetings we hold at church are done in a hybrid fashion so people can attend online. We are intentionally aligned as a congregation to continue to meet people at the new front door...the internet.

I am grateful for the ways Salem has stepped forward innovatively as we continue to reach people with the Gospel by all means necessary. I'm proud of you!

Be Bold, Be Strong,

Pastor Matt

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# May 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9 AM Worship (Modern)</p> <p>10 AM Fellowship Time</p> <p>10:10 AM Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:10 AM New Members Exploration Class</p> <p>11 AM Worship (Traditional)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12 PM Recreation for Seniors</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Room</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9 AM Circuit Pastor's Meeting</p> <p>10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12 PM Recreation for Seniors</p> <p>3:45 PM Salem Servants Serve at Green Square Meals</p> <p>7 PM ZOOM Share Group</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8 UM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>9 AM—3 PM</p> <p>Spring Cleaning Day</p>
<p><b>8 Food Bank Sunday</b></p> <p>9 AM Worship (Modern)</p> <p>10 AM Fellowship Time</p> <p>10:10 AM Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:10 AM New Members Exploration Class</p> <p>11 AM Worship (Traditional)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12 PM Recreation for Seniors</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 AM UMW Sarah Circle Meeting</p> <p>12 PM Recreation for Seniors</p> <p>7 PM ZOOM Share Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1 PM UMW Rachel Circle Meeting</p>	<p>14</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9 AM Worship (Modern)</p> <p>10 AM Fellowship Time</p> <p>10:10 AM Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:10 AM New Members Exploration Class</p> <p>11 AM Worship (Traditional)</p>	<p>16</p> <p><u><a href="#">Forecaster articles due to Church Office</a></u></p> <p>12 PM Recreation for Seniors</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Room</p> <p>5:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12 PM Recreation for Seniors</p> <p>7 PM ZOOM Share Group</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11 AM—3 PM</p> <p>Graduation Party</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9 AM Worship (Modern)</p> <p>10 AM Fellowship Time</p> <p>10:10 AM Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:10 AM New Members Exploration Class</p> <p>11 AM Worship (Traditional)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12 PM Recreation for Seniors</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 AM Dignity for Girls Workshop</p> <p>12 PM Recreation for Seniors</p> <p>3:45 PM Salem Servants Serve at Green Square Meals</p> <p>7 PM ZOOM Share Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>2 PM—5 PM</p> <p>Birthday Party</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9 AM Worship (Modern)</p> <p>10 AM Fellowship Time</p> <p>11 AM Worship (Traditional)</p>	<p>30 <b>Memorial Day</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>31</p>				<p><b>Salem Office hours:</b></p> <p>Monday—Thursday</p> <p>9 AM to 4 PM</p> <p><b>(closed holidays)</b></p>

## New Sermon Series: Fire and Brimstone

On May 1 we will be kicking off a 5-week series we are calling, “Fire and Brimstone”. The book of Revelation is one of the most confusing and misunderstood books we find in the Bible.

Listen....I know it sounds pretty intense. When we think of the book of Revelation, often times our mind goes straight to the idea of the end of time, judgement, and possibly the apocalypse. When read this way, you can pretty much cue the background music that goes doom, doom, doom, doom. Many of us have been brought up encountering this book in ways that feel scary and unknown. Unfortunately, most churches don't have any robust teaching on this book so we are left with unhealthy theology and conspiracy theories to guide our biblical understanding.

We are going to look at it in a new way.

1. **Jesus in the Middle**---Revelation 1:12-20 — May 1
2. **Jesus on the Throne**---Revelation 6:1-8, 8:1, 8:6-9, 7:3-4 — May 8
3. **The Cosmic Battle**---Revelation 12:1-15 — May 15
4. **The Hope of Judgement**---Revelation 19:11-15 — May 22
5. **All Things New**---Revelation 21:1-5, 22:1-5, 21:22-25 — May 29

This series intends to address how the themes in Revelation were intended to shine hope for people who were oppressed or struggling. It was meant to convey how God will move on our behalf in the future. We are going to meet the dramatic metaphors and analogies head on in order to find the Good News intended for us. It is my hope that by the end, you will read this book with new eyes. I trust you will find it contains great hope and not fire and brimstone. I can't wait!

Be Bold, Be Strong,

Rev. Matt German



**Both 9 AM and 11 AM Worship Services are livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and salemchurch.life.**

The links are [www.facebook.com/salem.cr](http://www.facebook.com/salem.cr), [www.salemchurch.life](http://www.salemchurch.life), and <http://youtube.com/channel/UCnWq4K2wc3F0nmk8h9y8Xjw>.

*As a reminder, the worship videos continue to be available online anytime after they go live.*

**Come and Worship!**

**Sundays**

*9 AM—Modern*

*Online & In-person*

*11 AM—Traditional*

*Online & In-person*

## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 1 Rachel Clayton
- 2 Diane Foss
- 3 Tom Harrison
- 3 Bob Walker
- 6 Morgan Schutt
- 7 Sheryl Hansen
- 8 Bob Lanz
- 9 Joyce Taylor
- 10 Dan Stanford
- 11 Richard Pankey
- 14 Pierce Mara
- 14 Keaton Schooley
- 15 Alana Lindo Steele
- 16 Matt German
- 18 Marlene Andersen
- 18 Bill Heald
- 19 Bev Carnahan
- 20 Roger Lindo
- 22 Janet Wilfong
- 23 Leia Nelles
- 23 Lemon Nelles

*Celebrate!*

- 24 Alissa Studt
- 25 Jane Pohorsky
- 26 Carol Thompson
- 26 Nelly Lindo
- 27 Peyton Carnicle
- 30 Piper Black
- 31 Sue Mihal

### Anniversaries:

- 1 Roger & Nelly Lindo
- 8 Charles & Fran Martinec
- 8 Tim & Jackie Sweet
- 19 Frank & Cathy Halsted

## Thank You



Thanks to everyone who helped me celebrate my 90th birthday on Sunday, April 10. I loved all of the cards, gifts and good wishes.

My family was so impressed with your kindness and friendliness. Salem Church is the greatest!

Barb Whitmer

## Finance Update

Salem Finance Update as of March 31, 2022	
<b>Operating Income (Annual Giving):</b>	
Offering Income	\$ 66,787
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Expenses to date	\$ 73,562
<b>Net Amount of Income over/(under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$(6,775)</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	
Offering Income	\$ 10,365
2021 Mortgage payments to date	\$ 16,116
<b>Net Amount Income over/(under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$(5,751)</b>
<b>Building Fund Balance held in Reserve (3.4 months)</b>	
	<b>\$ 18,092</b>

## Pastor's Help Fund Needs Help



Salem has traditionally had funds available to help those in need, whether it be for gas money, groceries, or rental assistance. A fund has been in place to allow the pastor to help those he feels are truly in need of

assistance. The need has been great and throughout the last year, those funds have been depleted. Please consider giving to the Pastor's Help Fund so when a need arises, the money will be there. If giving by check, please note "Pastor's Help Fund" in the memo line. If giving cash in an offering envelope, note Pastor's Help Fund on the face of the envelope. You may also give online at salemchurch.life, with the Vanco Mobile app, or text to (855) 917-1810 using code PHF.

## Mission Focus: Together We Achieve

Joni Salazar

Together We Achieve is located at 1150 27th Ave SW. Their mission is to unite the personnel, skills, and resources of people from all walks of life and deploys them in times of need. They serve hot meals “to go” on Tuesdays and Saturdays to anyone who is hungry. During the month of October, Together We Achieve collects winter coats, boots, hats and gloves. They give each person at least a coat and other winter items. During the winter, they offer a Space Heater Gifting Program, and during the summer a Fan Gifting Program for families and individuals who do not have working furnaces or air conditioners. As derecho cleanup efforts continue, Together We Achieve offers a free Chainsaw Loan Program. Clients and community members may borrow a chainsaw, fuel, and oil for a loan of up to seven days.

Every month, Together We Achieve distributes 1,000 boxes of food to the community. Each box includes 35 pounds



of food including cold, fresh, and canned items. The next food box giveaway is May 22 at Jefferson High School at 11 AM. If you are interested in volunteering at this non-profit, please contact them at (319) 432-9754.

If giving by text, the code is TWA. Send to (855) 917-1810 with the dollar sign and amount (e.g. \$25 TWA).

Questions, contact Mission Team Leader Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or [jsalazar412@gmail.com](mailto:jsalazar412@gmail.com).

## Spring Clean-Up Day



Many hands make light work! Mark your calendars for our Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 7, from 9 AM - 3 PM (a light lunch will be provided). If you can spare an hour or a few, please join our efforts to make our beloved church sparkle and shine. Our to-do list includes both inside and outside projects – all ages and abilities welcome.

The removal of Salem’s outbuilding last fall resulted in the need to renovate the existing deck to make it safe and usable, looking over our beautiful church property. We are needing volunteers to help with carpentry work and landscaping to restore the area. Please contact Mark Minger at (319) 651-4751 or [markminger38@gmail.com](mailto:markminger38@gmail.com) to volunteer.

## Report of the Leadership Board

The monthly Board meeting opened at 5:30 PM. Those attending were Amy Schilling, Donna Sanders, \*Richard Pankey, Brian Schooley, \*Deb Fritz, Jan Graham, Jan Johnson, and Pastor Matt.

\*virtual attendees

5:39 PM – Pre-Meeting called to order

**Loving** – Shared an Easter joy.

**Learning** – Shared scripture: John chapter 20 – Jesus appears to the disciples after his resurrection.

**Leading** – Though Thomas was doubtful of Jesus' return, the disciples readily accepted and welcomed Him. We need to show Love, Hospitality, and Patience in our church, so all feel welcome.

### 6 PM – Opening Prayer

**Stewardship** - Giving for March was \$22,980.43, expenses were \$24,898.28 leaving a deficit of \$1,917.85. Our year to date on the operating budget is -\$6,775. We are down to 3.4 months reserve in Building Fund. We like to have a full 6 months. Noted the increase in utilities, especially the gas bill.

The Budget Task Force continues to meet and have identified two initiatives:

Recurring Electronic Giving – How to encourage and assist in getting more folks utilizing this option. Recurring giving allows for a more consistent monthly giving.

Inspiring younger folks to give. They want to know how their giving makes a difference.

**SPRC** – Salia Henderson (Nursery Director) gave notice and will be done at the end of April. Job has been posted with no applicants. Pastor Matt will reach out to the Kirkwood and Prairie Child Care programs to see if we can find some applicants.

The Board approved Paid Sick Leave in the form of PTO for staff. Each employee will be granted one week based on their current allotted hours. Updates will be made to current contracts starting July 1, 2022.

**Trustees** – AV Task Force is still awaiting the bid from one vendor, approved to review the two bids we have and proceed with recommendation as the third vendor hasn't responded.

4-19-2022

Sanctuary Lights – Upon further review the electrical contractor is recommending a dome to keep insulation away from the lights (this is thought to overheat them and cause them to burn out sooner). We were also informed the contractor is awaiting parts as there are supply chain issues. We will be receiving additional information on the projected cost of adding the domes, plus understanding if all lights will need to be domed right away and should lights be replaced also.

Approved approximately \$205 for hardware to mount monitor in Narthex and Nursery that will be able to live stream the services.

**Miscellaneous** – Have held one Town Hall Meeting with 3 others scheduled.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 7 PM

Next Meetings:

May 17, 2022 at 5:30 PM

June 21, 2022 at 5:30 PM





## May 2022 Forecaster

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

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salemchurch.life

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Salem's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**  
**"connecting people, building community, transforming lives through Jesus"**

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## Salem's Sunday Morning Schedule

Online Worship  
[www.facebook.com/salem.cr](http://www.facebook.com/salem.cr)  
<http://youtube.com/channel/UCnWq4K2wc3F0nmk8h9y8Xjw>  
[www.salemchurch.life](http://www.salemchurch.life)

9:00 AM	Modern Worship	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall
10:10 AM	Children's Sunday School	Lower Level
11:00 AM	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary



*Nursery for infants through 4-year-olds is available on the Lower Level during worship services and Sunday School.*

Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM  
(closed standard holidays)