



October 2020

Volume 32, Number 10

# Salem

United Methodist Church  
Forecaster

## Drive-Thru Holy Communion

Sunday, October 4,  
Beginning at 11 AM  
in Salem's Parking Lot

You are invited to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion on World Communion Sunday (October 4), the day when Christians from all over the world will receive the Lord's Supper. Staff and Leadership Board members will be present with the pastor to help and serve, wearing masks and gloves.

We will begin at 11 AM, about an hour after the online worship video ends. It's not necessary for everyone to arrive right at 11 AM. That's just when we'll start lining cars up. We'll serve until the line ends. The whole drive-thru process may only take 5-10 minutes, though it will take longer if there are several cars lined up waiting.

### Instructions

Please enter the parking lot at the main entrance off Coyote Road next to Target. This is important as the line of cars will travel one way through the parking lot. Parking lot attendants will be present to help direct and get cars lined up. Please do not leave your vehicle.

As you move forward in your vehicle, following the line of cars, you will receive prepackaged communion elements, a cup of juice and a wafer.

You'll have an opportunity to open them while you're waiting. Then the pastor will meet you at your vehicle and will invite you to take and eat the bread and juice and will bless you.

The last stop before exiting will include several things: a garbage can to dispose of wrappers and cups; Sunday school grab bags for families; prayer squares; and the opportunity to give a regular offering or a mission offering.

Finally, you'll exit out the parking lot through the west entrance by the car dealer. A parking lot attendant will be stationed there, too, to prevent vehicles from entering the one way traffic there.

We will offer Drive-Thru Holy Communion rain or shine. Come taste and see that the Lord is good!

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\*due to the COVID-19 pandemic Salem continues to offer online worship only



## We've Been Here Before



John Louk, Pastor

We're coming up on seven months in this COVID-19 pandemic. We canceled in-person worship the first time on March 15. This experience has been difficult for many and continues to get more bleak.

The coronavirus has now sickened more than 33 million and killed more than 1 million people globally. Our country, for the moment, has the most confirmed cases and the highest death toll with over 200,000 virus deaths. The number of cases and deaths in our state continues to rise.

Without doubt, this is a difficult moment. Still, the reality in the church is we've been here before. The 1917-18 Spanish flu was the most fatal pandemic in history. A hundred years ago it killed more than 50 million people. Churches in some parts of the world were shut for a year.

And before that, we know the great church reformer, Martin Luther, dealt with fatal epidemics every few years. None of that may have happened in our lifetime, but we have been here before.

While it's important to remember our history, it's equally important to acknowledge how difficult it is to not be the church we normally are. It's not just a sadness known in the mind, for some it is a heart-wrenching struggle. We're not getting together in-person in larger groups. We feel it in our bones the church is meant to be lived together.

That's the paradox we're living. We don't have to be together in a larger group to be the church, but at the same time the church is meant to be lived with one another.

The Leadership Board struggled over this for three hours at our last meeting. It seems like the older a person is the more he or she is struggling with not being together, needing that socialization and fellowship. At the same time, the older a person is the more vulnerable he or she is to the virus. Furthermore, younger persons are now the largest group testing positive for COVID, and while they may or

may not struggle physically, they can and do spread the virus to others. Moreover, a growing concern is the evidence that testing positive, even with minor symptoms, is leading to worse health conditions long-term, including heart, lungs, and brain.

Therefore, Salem will continue not gathering in-person in larger groups. We have some intentional plans in place for connecting with people and are working on those now. Also, we continue to encourage you to reach out to others on the phone, by video conference, and even in-person in smaller groups (less than 10) at a safe distance (at least 6 feet), wearing masks, and washing your hands frequently. Avoid crowds and smaller spaces, especially those poorly ventilated.

When he was asked for help 500 years ago, Martin Luther said we cope by following health guidelines, helping where we can, and not spreading infection to others. Bishop N.T. Wright, following Luther, says passing the virus to others would be irresponsible, playing with other people's lives. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Loving the Lord God is the only commandment more important.

So follow the safety protocols. Be intentional about caring for yourself and others now and in the coming months. If we're not able to gather together in larger groups soon, this will be a difficult winter for us—darker, colder, lonelier. Don't hold back your lament. The Bible is full of grief and sorrow. The people of God have experienced terrible exile before. It feels a little like exile for us now. This is a difficult time. But we've been here before.

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk

don't  
hold  
back  
your  
lament

## Fall Worship Series — *Short Stories by Jesus*

In October we continue in Ordinary Time and conclude the series, listening to Jesus tell stories about what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

Worship continues to be offered online only. Our online worship, available on demand anytime during the week, premieres live at the NEW time of 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings on Facebook, YouTube, and our website. 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/UCnWg4K2wc3F0nmk8h9y8Xjw>. The last link for our YouTube channel is pretty messy, but it could look much neater, such as [youtube.com/channel/SalemChurchCR](http://youtube.com/channel/SalemChurchCR). We can do this if we get to 100 subscribers. Would you help by subscribing to our channel? Click on the YouTube link above and hit the red SUBSCRIBE button next to our name. (If you don't already have a YouTube account, you will need to create one.)

You're invited to our parking lot for Drive-Thru Holy Communion on October 4, World Communion Sunday, beginning at 11 AM. This is about an hour after the "live" worship video ends. You don't need to be there right at 11 AM, that's just when cars will start lining up. We'll serve until the line ends.

Please let us know if you have any questions, and if you need or prefer, we will provide you with a DVD of online worship or a paper copy of the sermon and prayers.

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|--------|-----------------------|---|
| Oct 4  | Matthew 13:33 (34-35) | Parable of the Yeast                          |
|        |                       | Drive-Thru Holy Communion 11 AM               |
| Oct 11 | Matthew 13:44         | Parable of the Treasure                       |
| Oct 18 | Matthew 13:45-46      | Parable of the Merchant                       |
|        |                       | Holy Communion (separate Facebook Live video) |
| Oct 25 | Matthew 13:47-50      | Parable of the Net                            |

**Come and Worship!**

**Sundays**

*9:30 AM—Online*



## October Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 1 Sandy Adreasen
- 2 Jill Tunis
- 2 Carter Schooley
- 2 Catelyn Schooley
- 3 Raul Salazar
- 4 Connie Warnell
- 5 Roberta Carver
- 5 Dave Higdon
- 5 Cheryl Davis
- 6 Harold Wischmeyer
- 8 Kristin Jacobus
- 9 Larry Schooley
- 11 Roy Livermore
- 13 Pat Carson
- 13 Dave Fritz
- 17 Leroy Bierwirth
- 18 Ronda Johnson
- 18 Brooks Whitaker
- 19 Christine Rand
- 20 Dolores Cross
- 20 Joni Salazar
- 20 Melissa Cashen



- 21 Bob Jayne
- 22 Rick Dusil
- 26 Gary Sweet
- 26 Nan Livingston
- 27 Carolyn Jarvis
- 27 Ardie Junge
- 28 Mary Stransky
- 29 Barb Harrison
- 31 Teresa Janda

### Anniversaries:

- 4 Deb & Rick Black
- 9 Sharon & Louis Busch
- 23 Cynthia & Greg Johnson
- 24 Mary & Max Stransky

## Connecting with One Another



As we continue our physical distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have persons in the church intentionally making phone calls to connect with church members. Of course, even more people are doing that simply on their own because that's who we are as the church! If you need any help or support, you are welcome to contact the church at (319) 362-6178 or [office@salemchurchcr.com](mailto:office@salemchurchcr.com) or contact Pastor John directly at (319) 538-5145 or [johnlouk@salemchurchcr.com](mailto:johnlouk@salemchurchcr.com). Additionally, our Staff would be delighted to connect with you. Go to [www.salemchurch.life/staff](http://www.salemchurch.life/staff) and send an email to the person with whom you'd like to connect. Physical (social) distancing doesn't have to mean social loneliness.

## Finance Update

Salem Finance Update as of August 31, 2020	
<b>Operating Income (Annual Giving):</b>	
Offering Income	\$209,760
PPP Income	28,943
Total Operating Income	\$238,703
Budgeted Income to date	203,996
Amount Actual over/(under) Budget	34,707
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Expenses to date	\$179,480
Budgeted Expenses to date	202,903
Amount Actual over/(under) Budget	(23,424)
Net Amount of Actual Income over Actual Expenses	<b>\$ 59,224</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	
Offering Income	\$48,589
PPP Income	6,057
Interest Income	24
2020 Mortgage payments	57,361
Net Amount Income over/(under) Expenses	<b>(2,691)</b>
Building Fund Balance held in Reserve (5.65 months)	\$40,115

## 4 Ways to Give at Salem



There are four ways to give your offering •mail an offering to the church office •give electronically at our website [salemchurchcr.com/donate](http://salemchurchcr.com/donate) •use the mobile app Give+ •send a text to (855) 917-1810 with the dollar sign and the amount you are giving (e.g. \$25) and the text code, if applicable (e.g. \$25 CFR). Need help? Go to [salemchurch.life](http://salemchurch.life).



## Mission Focus: Green Square Meals

Joni Salazar

We are continuing to assist our community in this time of crisis of the Covid 19 and the Derecho. Green Square Meals, at 605 2nd Ave SE, has been a long time partner of our Salem Church. Their doors are open 5 nights a week for anyone in need of a hot meal. For several years, we have financially contributed to Green Square Meals. A couple days a month, several members of our congregation continue to assist with preparing food and feeding over a hundred meals a day to low income families and the homeless.

In 2019, they served 30,000 meals. Since the pandemic and the Derecho this year, the number of homeless has increased which also has increased the daily number of meals at Green Square Meals. Let's help them during this crisis. Salem is a very caring congregation and helps those in great need in our community. If giving by text, code is GSM.



Usually our October mission focus is the Crop Hunger Walk, which is virtual this year. It will be Sunday, October 11. 25% of the Iowa Crop Walks stays in Iowa. The Crop Hunger Walk helps transform communities around the globe through just and sustainable poverty, hunger, displacement and disaster. If you would like to make a donation, go to [www.crophungerwalk.org](http://www.crophungerwalk.org). Questions? Contact Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or [kenwvol@crschools.us](mailto:kenwvol@crschools.us).

## Charge Conference October 18



Salem's Charge Conference, the annual meeting of the church is Sunday, October 18 at 2 PM. Rev. Bonnie Koeppen, pastor of nearby St. Mark's UMC, has been appointed as our Presiding Elder. Because of the pandemic, the District Superintendent has given us permission to hold the conference online via Zoom.

Salem normally holds a Church Conference which is an open meeting with all members having a vote. In this case, a Charge Conference includes only the Presiding Elder, the Leadership Board, the Pastor, and any retired clergy (at Salem, Rev. Dave Higdon). The biggest official decisions voted on at the Charge Conference are the congregation's mission and ministry plan for 2021 and the pastor's salary. All information will be shared fully with the congregation.

## Report of the Leadership Board

9-15-2020

Due to social distancing restrictions with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Salem Leadership Board met off site via Zoom and opened with prayer at 5:35 PM. Those attending the virtual meeting were Troy Bergmann, Donna Sanders, Brian Schooley, Amy Schilling, Dave Davis, Jeremy Hague, Billie Shaffer, Linda Curson, and Pastor John Louk.

**Stewardship** - Salem continues to do well during the Covid pandemic due to the generous support of the parish. Year to date, Salem's income over expenses is just over \$59,000 and our reserve for the building fund is holding approximately 6 months worth of mortgage payments.

**Trustees** - The Board discussed developments with Derecho damage and continued to work with the insurance company to see if water damage sustained in the lower level may be covered. Trustees have plans to organize volunteers to assist with tree clean up on the property. A bid was secured to "knock down" high hanging limbs so volunteers can work at the ground level. Depending on how clean up progresses, Trustees may recommend additional paid labor for larger tree removal. Additional volunteers may be needed to clear smaller debris on the ground so mowing can take place.

**SPRC** - The Board will need to complete forms for the upcoming Charge Conference that is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, 2020. The Charge Conference will be presided over by Pastor Bonnie Koeppen and will be held virtually with the Board members in attendance. Documentation will be provided to the congregation prior to the meeting.

**Additional Discussion** - Salem will be hosting a United Methodist work crew from Indiana which will be using the lower level of the church as they provide clean up efforts to the area. The Board discussed continuing online worship and will continue discussion on how and when to meet in person. The Board will be assisting staff in reaching out to the congregation to assist those in need and to make personal connections. The Board approved moving the premiere time for online worship to 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings.

Meeting closed at 8:30 PM.





## October 2020 Forecaster

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www.facebook.com/salem.cr  
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 Only)

9:30 AM                      Online Worship  
www.facebook.com/salem.cr  
www.salemchurch.life  
www.salemchurchcr.com

Church Office closed in October

