

Salem Lutheran Church & Preschool

91 W. Main St

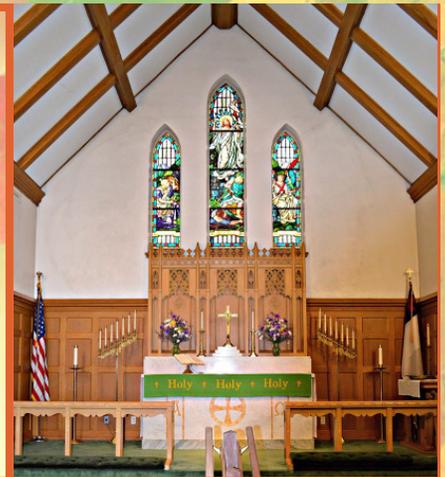
Springville, NY 14141

716.592.4893

www.salemspringville.org

Check us out on facebook...SalemLutheran Church & Preschool

To love God, to love people & to spread God's word



Be Strong and Courageous

Fall 2020

"Courage is the power of the mind to overcome fear."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

God's richest blessings my Christian friends,

We live in fear-filled times. There are so many issues and circumstances challenging our faith. We have the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic with all of its impact upon our homes, schools, businesses, houses of worship, entertainment venues, even a walk through our neighborhoods. Add to the Covid-19 pandemic the current uprising of so many "peaceful" protests that have devolved into anarchy and riots throughout too many of our cities and communities. Then include the unrest and high levels of tension occurring during this year's political elections which involve dramatic differences between our two strongest political parties visions of what this country should be morally and ethically. With so many challenges impacting us at the same time, the temptation to give in to fear is very real. However, this is certainly not the first time the children of God have been challenged by fear. Remember God's Word and remember the risen Jesus Christ is your solid foundation.

Psalm 56:3-4

³ *"When I am afraid, I will put my trust and faith in You.*

⁴ *In God, whose word I praise; In God I have put my trust;
I shall not fear. What can mere man do to me?"*

For such a challenge as this, God has brought us to be His children of the Light and Hope during a time of temptation toward darkness and despair. Remember, Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Jesus is on His throne over heaven and earth, ruling and reigning over all things for the blessing of His people and the growth of His Kingdom of eternal life. He moves a person's soul toward Him for their rescue from sin, death, and the power of the devil in many ways. Though God does not bring evil He has consistently, as is recorded throughout Holy Scripture, used very evil circumstances to rescue people from despair and eternal death to the joy of eternal life. Remember God's faithfulness in Jesus and stand in the power of the Holy Spirit working in you through God's Word and Sacraments.

From God Can Nothing Move Me

Lutheran Worship Hymn 409 verse 6

*"We were by God created In His own time and place
And by His Son persuaded To follow truth and grace.
The Spirit guides our ways And faithfully will lead us
That nothing can impede us. To God be all our praise!"*

Pastor Eric Goodwin

****POINT OF INFORMATION regarding our Sunday School program 2020****

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION

PSALM 23

A Psalm of David.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."



Dear Salem family,

The adventure continues for our nation as we begin this year's Christian Education at Salem on OCTOBER 4. Our world's continuing battle against the Covid-19 pandemic presents many challenges to our world and especially our own Christian faith. In order to address these needs our Sunday School and Confirmation classes have added an additional option for participation. There will be TWO distinct opportunities for participation. One will be in-person and the other will be a virtual online experience.

In order to have everything prepared properly, in regard to materials and the NY State mandated square footage per child regulation, we will need to know exactly how many children will be attending the in-person option this year.

While making your decision for your family please understand that either choice will be locked in for the first half of the school year. If you choose the in-person option, then you will be committed to that decision until after December. If you choose the virtual option, then you will be unable to switch to the in-person option until January and only if space is available.

1. The In-person classes will involve the following guidelines:

- **There will be a classroom size Maximum**
- **You must pre-register**
- **If you do not respond with a choice via the postage paid postcard enclosed with this letter, then the in-person option will NOT be available. The participation for in-person is only available on a pre-registration basis.**
- **At this point, we are very sad to announce that visitors to Salem will not be allowed to join our Sunday School classes because of the square footage requirements per person mandated by the state of NY. However, ALL visitors are heartily invited to join us for worship. In addition, they may view the lessons on our FACEBOOK page or website each week.**
- **Pre-Registered children and their parents must participate in and supervise their child's sign in routine every week:**
 - a. **Temperature check**
 - b. **A weekly Health inventory**
 - c. **Sign in sheet (contact tracing)**
 - d. **The must have a mask**
 - e. **Please encourage the social distancing of 6 feet as recommended by CDC.**

2. The virtual ONLINE experience for Sunday School will involve the following:

- **Each Pre-registered family for the ONLINE option will have a packet of 4 lessons for the upcoming month (preassembled) to be picked up at the Meeting House the last week each month.**
- **A video lesson for each week, recorded by Pastor Goodwin, will be available for viewing from our Salem Springville FACEBOOK page and/or website. They will be posted each Saturday.**
- **The packets will include all activities and student participation materials that their families can use to help strengthen their loved one's understanding of each Bible story.**

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 6 & 7 will involve two options as well. The in-person option is the same as Sunday School, However, the ONLINE option for Confirmation will use a live ZOOM Gathering. The day and time are to be determined.

We hope both of these options will prove to be a blessing for our Salem family. Thank you for your prayers and flexibility as we establish these new guidelines and options for our Christian Education this year. It is our heartfelt desire that each of our families will continue to grow in their faith and confidence in God's powerful love.

**Salem Lutheran Church & Preschool
Board of Education**



Preschool Community Service Project

Children from the school-age room collected items and assembled 20 Birthday Blessing Boxes to donate to the Trading Post.

The group doubled the amount of boxes they created from last summer. These boxes contained an assortment of things to create a birthday party including: cake mix, frosting, party hats, balloons, noise makers, candles, plates and napkins.

The boxes are made available to families utilizing the Trading Post's food pantry.

OFFICIAL ACTS:

Baptisms:

- † Gavin Benkelman son of Joshua & Samie Benkelman, Born on April 17, 2019 Baptized on February 23, 2020
- † Benjamin Roland , son of Adam & Bridget Roland Born on January 22, 2020 Baptized on July 26, 2020
- † Ella Widrig, daughter of Chris & Amber Widrig, Born on July 25, 2020 baptized on September 13, 2020

Marriage:

- † Kaitlyn Goodwin & Eian Dougherty in Rochester, NY on June 5, 2020

Members released per their request: Bryan Hansen, Kathy Michalski, May, Dustin & Sage Novoa



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have kept our finances in order. Our Praise Team full of amazing talent, our maintenance committee, our Stephen Ministers, and so many more - thank you for your tireless and often unnoticed efforts.

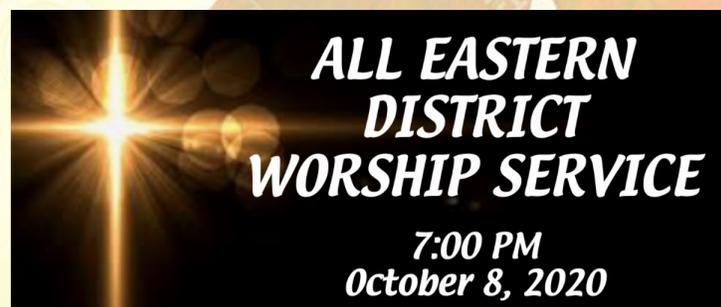
Our Salem Family always comes through strong by faith in Christ and coming together as a family despite any disagreements or challenges in our path. We don't let anything big or small divide us. For those that are comfortable attending service, it has been great to see you. For those that are not yet comfortable, that is no problem and I hope you can share in worship on line through the pre-recorded services Pastor has put together and available on facebook and our web site.

God bless,

Bill Snyder, Congregation President

STAYING CONNECTED TO JESUS & GROWING IN FAITH:

- † Saturday worship (4 pm)
- † Sunday worship (10:30 am)
- † Sunday School & Confirmation
 - + 9:15 Sunday in person Or Virtual online (preregistration required)
- † Wednesday Bible study on Zoom (preregistration required with church office)
- † Thursday 'Discovering The Faith' on Zoom (preregistration required with church office)
- * Recorded devotionals are available each Monday & Thursday on Salem Springville's Facebook and website (The Light of Jesus & Bedtime Bible Stories)



You are invited to join your Eastern District brothers and sisters in Christ on Thursday evening, October 8, 2020 as we gather for the first ever All Eastern District Virtual Worship Service.

The worship service, led by pastors and musicians of congregations of the Eastern District, will premiere at 7:00 PM on both YouTube and Facebook.

Mark your calendars now and watch for further information that will enable you to gather simultaneously with fellow saints from all corners of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to worship the Lord of Heaven and earth who "Makes All Things New".

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

A Message from our President

Dear Salem Family,

I pray this letter finds you safe and healthy. To say the past few months have been interesting would be an understatement! A pandemic, a near complete shutdown, social unrest, and a presidential election. Stress levels have been high as we deal with these and other issues in our lives. Salem has also had its share of ups and downs through this period but has remained strong none the less.

We were able to secure a PPP loan through the CARES Act legislation. This helped us keep our preschool ministry open through the pandemic shutdown where essential workers could count on childcare here at Salem. The preschool remains open and is at pre-pandemic enrollment levels as we enter the new school year. I want to thank our Director, Amy; Assistant Director, Erica; and all the preschool staff for working through these very challenging times. They have done an amazing job!

Salem Elders and Leadership recognized the importance of worship and church services during these times and worked to develop safety and other protocols to allow us to reopen as soon as possible after the initial shutdown. To say we all agreed on this would be false but as a team, we were able to come to decisions and reopen. I believe we did the right thing and were leaders in our community in reopening our doors - doors that should never shut again.

I want to thank our Leadership team and especially the Board of Elders who have stepped up in a big way to lead our congregation through these uncharted waters. Steve, Carl, and the Elders have done a stand out job even leading worship and undertaking a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes.

Our Board of Education is also working hard to put specific plans together to open Sunday School and Confirmation study which will include virtual options. Salem is not skipping a beat in providing critical ministries during critical times.

It is hard to mention and thank everyone since so many work silently to keep us on track. Our Business Manager, Bob Senecal and counting team led by our Treasurer, Sandi Hammond are God sent and

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