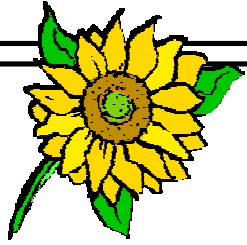
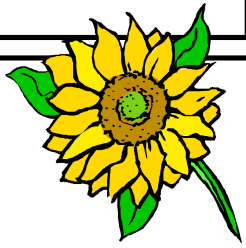


THE PARISH COMMUNICATOR



NEWSLETTER FOR FALUN/SALEMSBORG LUTHERAN PARISH

JUNE/JULY 2009



Pastors notes

On April 19th, thirteen young men and women stood up in front of the Body of Christ at Salemsborg and affirmed their baptism. As is my custom, before they affirmed their baptism, they were asked to write at least a 100 word paragraph on a Bible verse of their choosing. Half the names of the youth, the verses and the paragraphs were printed in the last newsletter. The remaining paragraphs appear in this one. Please take time to read them, the youth did a wonderful job. The Holy Spirit worked through them. As one person told me on that Sunday, "It's always amazing how good these paragraphs are, they bring a tear to the eye." Enjoy and may the Spirit continue to lead.

—Pastor Ethan

Kellee Carson

"You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much, and he will show you how to escape from your temptations."

1 Corinthians 10:13

When I read this Bible verse, it reminds me that God will always help with the temptations I face in life. When I'm tempted by my friends to do something I know isn't right, I am reminded that God will help me out of the situation safely. Everyone is faced with the same temptations, but I trust God to help me handle the temptations and do the right thing. I know that I'm going to make wrong decisions sometime in my life, but I hope I can remember this verse and start making the right decision again. This verse not only helps me make the right decisions but also makes me want to help others make the right decisions. Thanks Pastor Ethan for making confirmation fun.

Max Carlson

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

After Moses had died, God said this to Joshua, Moses' aide. He said this to prepare him and the people to cross the Jordan River and go into the promised land. All of those people's ancestors were promised a land where they could be free, and they were about to enter that land. God is reminding them that through the journey they need to have faith in Him and courageously travel to the promised land.

To me, this passage is saying that just because the finish line is right in front of you, it's not going to be easy to make it there. If you lose faith in God's presence, all hope of victory will be gone. Things always seem to be the worst just before they become the best, and the reason for that is God giving strength, will and ability to those who deserve it.

God does bless us with all of these things, but he doesn't fight the battle for us. He always arms us with enough power to make it, but we have to have the faith and courage if we want to trigger that power. I think that is the meaning of faith. Faith is taking all of our blessings and using them to the fullest so we can defeat fear and evil.

Holden Hendricks

"He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn't make. Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines though the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."

John 1: 3-5

Whenever I read this verse of John, I always feel like it's God's open door policy. God reminds us that life is never too complex. He created the whole universe and nothing is ever too difficult for him. God's love is bigger than any problems we'll ever face. This verse reminds us to always believe in him and even when we fall into the depths of darkness, Jesus will always be our guiding light into heaven. So even when I sin, God will be lighting the doorway of my journey to heaven. We are strong, but God is stronger, he loves us and we should love him. Let God lead our lives.

Briton Hawk

"For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent and set me high upon a rock."

Psalms 27:5

This verse is a part of a group of verses in Psalms that represent a lot of what God means to me. Those verses talk about the things in life that are scary and bad but how God will shelter you and help you through those things.

People all over the world face things that are scary such as illness, war, loss of loved ones, hunger and many other things. So far, most of the things in my life have not been that scary. But when something bad has happened to me, my family and our home, just like God and his tent, have made me feel safe.

God offers shelter, comfort, love and safety all the time. I think that it is important to remember to enjoy and be thankful for the peace and shelter of God not only in bad times but in good times as well.

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More Scriptures from Our Confirmands

Martina Nicole Schartz

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

I chose this Bible verse because this verse is very true for how I live my life. Everything I do is done at a certain time and in a certain way. Even though things do not always seem to happen at the right time, there is always a reason why they happened when they happened. I do not always go to church every Sunday and Wednesday. Some people say I should but I have swimming. Even though I do not go to all the church events like a good Lutheran Christian, I still live my life for God and Jesus. This last confirmation class we had was rescheduled due to the snow and the rescheduled class was the same weekend as a huge swimming event that I had. Normally I would have missed church. Since the confirmation class had to do with learning about God in a group I thought that it was more important to go to, and be with my class than go to the swimming event and miss the class. So the timing for all of this weather was not good for me, but maybe God believed that it was for others. So time literally has to do with everything that happens and goes on in this whole confusing, ginormous world.

Hannah Carlson

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Matthew 5:9

When I first saw this verse I knew it was perfect for me. I am at a stage of life where everything around me is drama. People want popularity so much that they don't care about hurting other people's feelings. There is competition in everything, and it seems like everyone is so focused on looking out for themselves. The days are gone when it seemed like the whole world was going to end when someone stole your crayon box. This verse reminds me that if I just try to keep the peace, I will be blessed by God.

Following this verse isn't very easy. In confirmation, Pastor Ethan taught us how we can be a servant to others by putting their needs before our own. A commentary on Matthew 5:9 says, “You must be willing to give when others take, to love when others hate, to help when others abuse.” Being blessed doesn't mean that God will make life perfect. He wants us to follow Him, no matter what the cost. If we do so, he promises us greater happiness than what we will ever gain by trying to be better than everyone else.

Falun/Salemsborg Graduates

Southeast of Saline

Chadd Johnson--Attending Cloud County Jr. College--
Majoring in History

Trell Peterson--Attending K-State University--
Majoring in Secondary Ed with emphasis on Science

Smoky Valley

Austin Anderson--Attending K-State University--
Majoring in Journalism with minor in Political Science

Brandon Carlson--Attending K-State University--

Majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Nick Carlson--Attending K-State University--

Majoring in Organ Performance

Chase Dippel--Attending Ottawa University w/Basketball

Scholarship--Majoring in Exercise Science

Kurtis Pihl--Attending Bethany College with Football

Scholarship--Majoring in Pre-Med

Maggie Pihl--Attending Kansas University--

Majoring in Pharmacy

Michelle Pihl--Attending K-State University--

Majoring in Dance

Tanner Scott--Attending K-State University--

Majoring in Electrical Engineering

Jennifer Suppes--Attending K-State University--

Majoring in Education with minor in Dance

Joint Parish Service

A joint parish worship service will be happening at Salemsborg beginning at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 31st. It will be a service of blessing the fields/harvest. Pastor Ray Mai will be the guest preacher. We will be continuing this great event with more fellowship/coffee and cookies downstairs after worship. If any Falun folk would like to help with the cookies and coffee, please contact Betty Pihl.

Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Ethan and family will be leaving on vacation after the Memorial Day services at Salemsborg. They will be getting back home on June 3rd. In case of an emergency, contact your Council president—Jerrine Oleen at Falun; Mary Ann Carlson at Salemsborg.

Baptism at Falun

Congratulations Claire Blanner on your baptismal day, April 26, 2009! May God bless you and keep you as you grow in faith and in years. God bless Claire's parents Steven and Bren Blanner and her sponsors, the Falun Congregation. May all show the faith and the Spirit as fellow members of the Body of Christ. Congratulations to all!!!

Salemsborg Lutheran Mission Statement

“We at Salemsborg have so benefited from the gifts of God's love, peace, strength and joy through Jesus, that we seek to share these same gifts with others in grateful response!”

Falun Lutheran Mission Statement

“As children of God, we strive to love, care for, and inspire one another as we extend the grace of Christ to all”

one another as we extend the grace of Christ to all”

W/ELCA NEWS

Salemsborg WELCA

Calendar Group 4 has been busy serving 5 Sundays and Memorial Day! Thanks for all your work, ladies.

Our Synod Assembly will meet June 4-7 at Bethany College. Each congregation is asked to donate 12 dozen cookies for the hospitality room. Three dozen have been promised. We still need 9 dozen. You may sign up to provide cookies on the sign up sheet in the back of the church or talk to Mary Tillberg or Marilyn Johnson. The cookies need to be brought to the registration table on June 4th or 5th or brought to our church kitchen June 3rd.

Our WELCA Synodical Convention will be held July 24-28, at the Clarion Hotel in Manhattan. Each congregation is entitled to 1 delegate. The delegate registration is due June 1. Deadline for others attending is June 15th. Information and registration forms are available on the table at the back of the church. See the registration for details on fees. Meal ticket costs will be added to the registration fee. Please consider attending or being our delegate. Another option is to attend Saturday only. Hotel rooms cost \$78.00 per night. Room capacity is 4. Reservations need to be made to the hotel.

A short business meeting will be held May 31 immediately after our worship service. Topics for discussion are: giving a donation to our Growth Fund for the windows project, and paying the registration fee for our delegate to the WELCA Convention. Cost of full time registration and meal tickets is \$102.00. Registration for Saturday only is \$35.00 plus cost of each meal eaten there.

Have a great Summer! Mary Tillberg

Falun Lutheran Women

Falun Lutheran Women will be hosting Bingo at Bethany Home on June 8th at 2:30 p.m. Prizes are needed by June 7th. Helpers are also needed. Looking ahead to July, they are hosting the birthday celebration at Bethany Home on July 24th at 2:15 p.m. The quilting ladies will not meet in June but will meet on July 27th at 10:00 a.m.

Parish Pool Party

The Parish Pool Party will be held on Sunday, July 5th from 8-10:00 p.m. at the Lindsborg Swimming Pool. Kids under 3 are free. All others are \$1.00 per person. Sign-up sheets will be placed at both churches. We need to know the number attending by Sunday, June 28th, so the number of lifeguards needed can be determined.

Parish Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for the 2009 VBS Event which will be held July 27-31 from 6:30-8:30pm. Grades Pre-K through 6th are invited to visit ROME and learn about Paul and the Underground Church. All ages 0-100 are asked to join the VBS crew and their families for a Closing Night Carnival. Volunteers are needed and WILL be recruited. Please contact Melanie Barnett 785-227-2539 or 316-650-6501 if you are interested in helping. More information will be posted later.

Anyone interested in helping with the VBS video production should meet with Melanie Barnett after Sunday School music time (10:45). 4th, 5th, and 6th grade kids are invited to help with this event. Please meet in the back of the sanctuary for scripts and a schedule.

Parish "Painting Days"

Parish painting days to paint the parsonage and garage will be held on Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 beginning at 9:00 am. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Roets. Thanks for helping as we show each other good stewardship of what God has given.

Special Request for Information

Doris & Emery Frost would like any information, history, pictures or personal experiences with and about Pastor & Minnie Erickson. We have quite a bit of information but would not want to skip some interesting facts about this couple. We would like to copy them and would return the originals to the owners.

New Baby

"We are proud to announce that our daughter, Shannon, had a baby boy by emergency C-section April 23rd. They were both in ICU until later on the 24th but are both doing pretty good now. His name is Isaac Andrew Moran. He weighed 7 lbs. and was 18 3/8 inches long. Nick is his big brother. Thank you for all the prayers and please continue. They will probably be in the hospital a few more days. It will depend on when they are ready to let her go home. Thank the Lord everything has turned out good." Gene & Deb Smith & Nick.

Synod Assembly

June 4-7, Area 3 is hosting the Synod Assembly at Bethany College. We are asking each congregation to donate 12 dozen cookies for the hospitality room. The cookies need to be brought to the registration table on June 4 or 5. Contact Mary Tillberg or Marilyn Johnson or sign the sign-up sheet in the back of the church if you are willing to donate cookies. Cookies can also be left in the church kitchen on June 3.

Help Needed at TACOL Thrift Store

Rose at the Thrift Store is needing people who can run the cash register from time to time during the summer. If you are able to help, contact her at 227-4710.

Special Thanks

"Dear Friends, Like a candle that lights the way Your generosity and love helps many people every day! Thank you. May God bless you for your love. Sincerely, Salina Emergency Aid/Food Bank, Freda Rees."

Stephen Ministry Presents

The Stephen Ministry of Bethany Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, presents "Sensitive Communication: In Case We Have to Eat Our Words, Make Sure They are Tender And Sweet". Event will be held Sat. June 13 at Bethany Lutheran. Registration is \$10 per person (includes lunch & breaks). Deadline for registration is June 10. More info on bulletin board

If you need to contact Donna Swanson with information for the bulletin or newsletter, you can call 668-2600 or email her at donlee@hometelco.net. Thanks

Information needed for the August 2009 Newsletter is due by Monday, July 20th.

Memory Lane

In the Salemsborg Centennial Booklet of August 1969 much interesting information on the history of Salemsborg is written. We will give several paragraphs from this booklet and will continue with successive paragraphs in each newsletter.

"On June 16th, 1869 the Pioneers of the Smoky Valley met at the home of C.J. Brodine to discuss the question of organizing a Congregation and building a church. By a unanimous vote, a decision was made to organize and build the sod church. 160 acres of land were purchased from the Railroad Company at a cost of \$400.00. The four churches, which this congregation has erected have all been built on the original tract of land.

At a meeting on June 24, 1869, the name "Salemsborg" was adopted as the official name for our congregation and church home. The official organization meeting was held September 25, 1869 at which time the constitution was adopted. On September 30th, an official call was extended to Rev. A.W. Dahlsten to be the first Pastor at Salemsborg. November 7th, a decision was made to build a parsonage (16 ft. by 20 ft.), the building to be of stone. A subscription was taken which amounted to \$225.19. The sum of \$23.00 subscribed by the Freemount Congregation was later repaid. The first services were held in the new Sod church November 29, 1869, when Pastor Dahlsten preached and the Holy Communion was celebrated.

When we read from our church history how these pioneers labored and sacrificed to build a church home on the prairies, when lumber and the supplies needed for building were carried by human strength from Salina, surely we should bow in humble thankfulness for their zeal and desire to build a church home where they might worship the True and Living God. May the heritage which they passed on to the following generations never be lost.

At the annual meeting in 1873, the membership of our congregation had increased to 600 of which 300 were children. The need for a new and larger church was discussed and at a special meeting June 13, by unanimous vote a decision was made to build a new church (60ft. by 35ft.). A subscription was taken at that meeting which amounted to \$1,645.00, a very large sum in those days. The church was completed in time for the Thanksgiving Day services in 1874."

If you have interesting "tidbits" of history from this parish which can be included in this special section of the newsletter, please give them to Donna by the 20th of each month. Call her at 785-668-2600 or email her at donlee@hometelco.net.

ELCA Youth Gathering Support

ELCA youth need your help to support their service projects in New Orleans this summer. Given the immensity of the mission--likely the largest servant event ever attempted--tools and supplies must be in place when 36,000 youth arrive to do their assigned work. The youth need the whole church to support them by providing the supplies they need. All of the supplies will be left in New Orleans to benefit ongoing Gulf Coast relief efforts. An information sheet with some needs and websites to go to are placed on the bulletin boards at both churches.

Food Bank Sunday

Food Bank Sunday is the first Sunday of each month. Below is an updated list of items suggested as possible donations each month.

However, any item you would like to give will be greatly appreciated. A box is located next to the front door of the church for your convenience.

January--Cold Cereal

February--Flour

March--Sugar

April--Jelly

May--Small boxes Biscuit Mix

June--Small boxes cornbread mix

July--All kinds of pasta (particularly egg noodles)

August--Canned Fruit

September--tooth brushes & toothpaste

October--toilet paper

November--Canned Veggies (particularly pea

December--All kinds of soup

Hospice of Salina

Hospice of Salina's Volunteer Training will be May 30 and June 6 at the Hospice Center, 730 Holly Lane, Salina, KS. Hours are from 8am-noon. Both days required. Volunteers work in our inpatient center, go out to homes to give caregivers a break, work in our office, help with mailers, assist with fundraisers and much more. Call for more information. 825-1717.

Please contact Pastor Ethan or Donna Swanson if there are names that can be removed from our prayer list. Contact them as well if you would like to add someone.

We remember in prayer those who have been brought to our attention: Roger Pihl family, Leland Tillberg, Chuck Janowski (friend of Kathy Rishel), Art Barnett, Pat Anderson, LeRoy Pihl, LeRoy Miller, Mike Wineteer, Delores Ade, Shannon Moran, Jaden McBride, DeVere Blomberg, Mary Craig, Chandra McClure, Nikki Driscoll, Don Pihl, Cindy Dimitri, Edna Kvacik, Don Cheever, Robin Roets' aunt, Karson Schierling, Calvin Carlson, Marie Nelson, Axel Thomas, Gordon Gladden, Ron & Gayla Bloyd, Malcom Stambaugh, Kristy Bergstrom, Cal Williams, Caden Wekamp, Greg Aune, Carlina Swisher, Rebecca Copley Johnson, Kristine Govier, Seretha Johnson, Jennifer Hoffmans, Leann Marr, Vickie Everhardt, Allen Nicholson, Tom Hollopeter, Harry Sandahl, Melinda Ho, Jim Gooch, Evelyn Peterson's daughter Kathy, Mary Tillberg's aunt, Pastor Steven Little, Leigh Heller, Joan Garman, families in conflict, Kathy Sadey, Diane Williams, Carolyn Johnson, Marjorie Oleen, Viola Miller, Rosella Oleen. We also pray for many unspoken requests. If we have forgotten anyone, please let us know so we can include them next time.