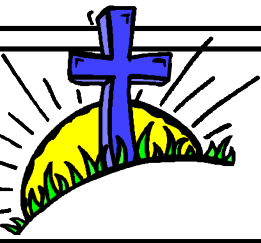
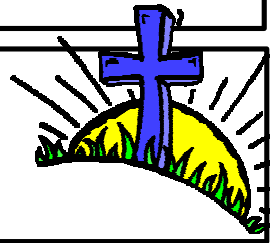


THE PARISH COMMUNICATOR



NEWSLETTER FOR FALUN/SALEMSBORG LUTHERAN PARISH

MARCH 2008



FROM THE PASTOR

I was going to begin this article with the following sentence, "We are very lucky this year to get to celebrate Easter early." As I thought about it, I changed my mind. It is true that the calendar has March 23rd as Easter Sunday. It is also true that it is early. So why not begin the article with the before mentioned sentence? Well, I'll tell you.

I didn't want to begin this article with, "We are very lucky this year to get to celebrate Easter early" because of the trap. The trap of thinking that we can only celebrate Easter one day of the year. As a matter of fact, we worship on Sundays because of Easter. The early Church wanted the day of worship to remind Christians of Jesus' resurrection.

We gather to praise and worship God on Sundays, as the early Christians did, to remember. We remember Jesus' defeat of death and the Devil. We remember that we are baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection. We remember the great gift Jesus has given us out of love and grace. We remember the cemetery is not the last stop. We gather in hope! We gather to celebrate! We gather to praise!

I can't imagine what the first witnesses of the Resurrection felt. What joy! What confusion! What empowerment! What fear! What love! The emotions that responded to a life and world changing event! What a day it must have been! My prayer for all of us is that the Spirit may take hold; take hold and fill us with such emotions on Easter Sunday, every Sunday and every day. May our hearts be filled by God's amazing grace that we may bask in the light of the resurrected Lord as we celebrate and remember Easter. Easter, it's just not a one day event. It is an event that we can celebrate every day of our lives from now through eternity. Wow, thanks be to God!

A blessed and happy Easter!
Pastor Ethan

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."

New Parish Members

Glad to have you worship with us and proclaim the Gospel!
Anita Neilson and Sarah Gross joined Falun Lutheran in January.
John, Tricia, Eric and Briton Hawk joined Salemsborg Lutheran in February.

David, Patricia and Chad Stamm also joined Salemsborg Lutheran in February.

Let's get to know one another better sharing the blessings of Jesus Christ with one another, the community and the world!

Are you ready for "Goat Sunday!?"

Goat Sunday will be Sunday, March 9th. You may be asking, "What is Goat Sunday?" Well, it's the Sunday that we will be focusing on raising \$300 to buy six goats for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. These goats will be a way that we can combat world hunger as they are given to people to raise for food, for an income, to build up a herd, etc. So please mark your calendars and keep you eyes and ears open for more info. Are you ready for "Goat Sunday!?"

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 16th, Palm/Passion Sunday:

Palm branches will be handed out, the Passion Story will be read and Holy Communion will be offered on this Sunday at both churches.

Thursday, March 20th, Maundy Thursday, 6:30 pm.:

We will gather as a Parish in the Salemsborg Fellowship Center for supper. We will also have a worship service with Holy Communion.

Friday, March 21st, Good Friday, 7:00 pm:

We will gather for a Parish Tenebrae Service at Salemsborg.

Sunday, March 23rd, Easter Sunday:

Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am at Falun with a fellowship time afterwards. We will celebrate our Savior's resurrection with the dressing of the altar and Holy Communion at both churches.

Parish Directories

Work continues on the Parish Pictorial Directory. The pictures have been taken. The committee is now working on the layout of the directory. If you have any pictures of parish events you could donate, they would be appreciated. All you need to do is paperclip a description of what's happening in the picture and place it in the containers located in back of both sanctuaries. Thanks for all of your help, it is appreciated!

www.fslc.net

salemsborg@hometelco.net

Food Bank Sunday

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

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

January--shampoo
February--Ramen Noodles
March--canned meat stew
April--coffee & tea bags
May--sugar
June--baking mixes
July--instant potatoes
August--dish soap
September--tooth brushes & toothpaste
October--toilet paper
November--salt & pepper
December--laundry soap

Easter Lilies

It would be great to have the chancels of both churches decorated with Easter Lilies for Easter. If you would like to purchase a lily and bring it to either church by Saturday, March 22, that would be great. If you would like to dedicate the lily or lilies in memory or in celebration of someone or some event, just write it down and get the information to Donna. A listing will be placed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Baptism at Salemsborg

Congratulations! to Sebastian Bryce McGinty-Kinderknecht on your baptismal day February 10th! God has marked you, you are God's! Sebastian's parents are Levi Kinderknecht and Stephanie McGinty. His sponsors are Michelle McGinty and Alex Kinderknecht. It's a great day! God will always be there for you and so shall we, the fellow members of the Body of Christ!

Freedom Dollars!

Jerrine Oleen's class is collecting "Freedom Dollars" from the Salina Journal dated Jan. 22--March 11. For those collecting the most, a \$200 certificate for books will be given. If they win the contest, they want to donate their certificate to the 3rd grade class at Greensburg. Clipped "Dollars" or whole newspapers can be given to Jerrine. Contact her at 227-3279 if you have any questions.



Parish Notes

Many thanks to Anita Neilson for filling in at the organ for Pat at Salemsborg on February 3.

Thanks as well to Smoky View 4-H for their help with the service on February 3 at Salemsborg.

The Confirmation Class met at Salemsborg after worship on Sunday, February 3rd.

Thanks to all the people who were installed Sunday, February 3rd, you are being good stewards of God. Thanks! We will keep you in our prayers.

Thanks to all the UYG members, sponsors and other volunteers who helped with the yard clean up crews last Sunday, it is appreciated!

Annual Theophilus Family Super Bowl Party was held February 3 in the evening in the Fellowship Center! Those attending were asked to bring an appetizer to share and drinks for their family.

Falun Lutheran Women: Due to conflict at Bethany Home on Thursday, the date was changed to Tuesday, February 5th at 7:00 p.m.

The Falun Senior Citizens had their Christmas/Valentine celebration on Tuesday, February 12 at 12:00pm with a catered meal at noon. Everything was furnished.

The Flowers in front at Salemsborg on February 10 were in memory of Mannie Nelson's 84th birthday. They were placed by Dolly and family.

The Esther Group ladies and their spouses dined out on Sat, Feb 16. They met at the Brookville Hotel in Abilene for a reservation at 7:15 p.m.

The Salemsborg WELCA sewing day was held on Thurs. Feb. 21st at 9:30am instead of Feb. 14th.

A big thank you to the Elton Bloomberg family for the purchase of 3 fiberglass stepladders and a 20 ft. fiberglass extension ladder. These ladders will make our work both inside and outside much easier and safer. Thank you !!!!

On February 26th, Viola Miller will be 99 years old. If you would like to send her a card to help her mark this special day, please address it to Presbyterian Manor, 2601 E. Crawford, Salina, KS 67401.

Those who would like to send cards to Ruth Oborg can do so at the new address: Select Specialty Hospital, Room 506, 6447 Main, Houston, TX 77030.

We welcomed Camp Tomah Shinga Representative Sister Shana Williams on February 24th. She was available during the coffee and fellowship time at both congregations.

We need some volunteers to help read the Passion Story on March 16th. If you would like to help with this special reading, please contact Pastor Ethan. There are seven parts in the reading.

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: Curtis Forsberg, Doris Swenson, Pat Anderson, Cal Williams, MSgt. Tim Harkin, Abram Jennings, Seretha Johnson, Sue Pihl, Carol Brown, Robert Buhler, Jennifer Hoffmans, Jennifer Applequist, Dolly Nelson, Ed Dippel, Leann Marr, Vickie Everhardt, Allen Nicholson, Paul Brown, Larry Lamer, Sgt. 1st Class Eddy Carranza, Tom Hollopeter, Harry Sandahl, Melinda Ho, the Tunison family, Jim Gooch, Evelyn Peterson's daughter Kathy, Luke & Tabitha Peterson, Lois Peterson, Anita Neilson and her family, Valerie Rush, Gerald Walter, Mary Tillberg's aunt, Pastor Steven Little, Leigh Heller, Norma Oborg, Joan Garman, families in conflict, Kathy Sadey, Deb Meyers, Jade Pihl, Janet Rowland, Diane Williams, Carolyn Johnson, Marjorie Oleen, Viola Miller, Karen Miller, Rosella Oleen, Irene Dauer. We also pray for many unspoken requests. If we have forgotten anyone, we apologize. Please let us know so we can include them next time.

Grand View College Choir

The Grand View College Choir from Des Moines, Iowa, will be performing at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 14, 2008 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Lindsborg, as part of its spring 2008 tour through the Midwestern United States and Colorado.

Many Thanks

Thanks for all of the gifts given to me on my birthday, they are all appreciated very much. You once again have touched my heart with your kindness and thoughtfulness. Thanks also, I guess, to the one person who called my birthday into the radio station, we will have to see what comes from that move! Thanks again for everything you have done and continue to do for me, you're the best! God's blessings to all of you! Pastor Ethan

A sincere thanks to everyone for your prayers, kind deeds and support during my back surgery. I know it has been a big help in my recovery. So far things seem to be going fine, but I have a ways to go. I'm glad we're into a new year. 2007 was not a good year, not only for our Parish but for many more, even world wide. Floods, tornados, hurricanes, late freeze, health problems, family troubles, war...and the list goes on. Please join me in praying that 2008 holds many blessings for everyone. We also pray that our faith and spiritual life may be strengthened. May our gracious Lord's loving arms enfold each and every one of you. With my love and blessing, Dolly

Joint Parish Service

Sunday, March 30th, we will be having our Fifth Sunday Joint Parish Worship Service. It will be held at Salemsborg beginning at 10:30 a.m. We will be starting a new liturgy setting at this service. Now don't be discouraged, the tunes are based on well known hymns. It's going to be great. Coffee and fellowship will begin at 10:00 a.m. After worship, the UYG will be serving a special dinner as a fund raiser. You will need to purchase a ticket for this meal. There is more info in the newsletter about this special dinner.

Joint Baby Shower

A joint baby shower for Marik Anderson and Cade MacDonald will be held in the Salemsborg Church basement on Sunday, March 9th at 2:30 p.m. If you would like to help with the shower, please contact Leanna Schmutz at 668-2217 or at work in Salina, 823-4015.

Pre-School Program for 2008-09

The Smoky Valley Board of education voted to approve the implementation of a four-year-old at-risk pre-school for the 2008-09 school year. The pre-school will be designed to serve USD 400 four year old students who qualify under one of the nine "at-risk" criteria as outlined by the pre-school grant. This is a free program for those that qualify. A Parent Information Meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Soderstrom Lunchroom. Pre-school Screening will be held on Tuesday, March 25, at Soderstrom Elementary School. For more information there are posters on the bulletin boards of both churches.

Church Basement Ladies

The Saline Valley Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will sponsor two separate Dinner/Theatre bus trips to Wichita's Crown Uptown to see the "Church Basement Ladies" musical comedy on Apr. 27 and June 8. Cost per ticket is \$18.00. More info is available on posters located on the bulletin boards of each church.

The deadline for April Newsletter information is Thursday, March 20th

Augustana Heritage Association

Save this date, June 19-22, 2008 for Gathering VI of the Augustana Heritage Association that will be held in Lindsborg, KS. You are invited to celebrate the Augustana Synod heritage. This time will be an opportunity to tell the stories and share the faith of our ancestors who came to this new land. Mark your calendars and plan for an eventful and inspiring time with former Augustana members from across America. For more information about Gathering VI, see the website www.augustanaheritage.org. or contact Pastor Richard Monson at 620-241-6003.

Christian Youth Day

Junior high/middle school youth and their sponsors are invited to Christian Youth Day at Bethany College on Saturday, March 8. This annual event is a great way for youth to have fun, practice being servant leaders and make new friends through their service teams. To ensure an event t-shirt, register by Feb. 22, final registrations are due Feb. 29. The cost is \$10.00 and \$5.00 for the optional lock-in on Friday night. Contact Noni Strand at 227-3380 ext. 8340, for more information.

Discounted Messiah Festival Tickets

Call now to get special ticket rates for students, seniors, churches and tour groups at the 2008 Messiah Festival of Music and Art, March 16-23. For more information, call 227-3311.

Swede Days at Bethany

Interested in seeing what it's like to be a student at Bethany College? Come to a Swede Friday, and take a walking tour of campus, attend a class, eat lunch in the cafeteria and visit with current students and financial aid staff. Your family and friends are welcome, too. This even will be held March 28, April 18, and May 16. **Preview Day** will be held on March 8. Get snapshot views of the Bethany College experience from different panel discussions with faculty and current students, as well as staff members from Student life, admissions and financial aid. Then join us for lunch; family members welcome.

Inauguration Ceremony for President of Bethany College

Mark Saturday, April 12, 2008 for the Inauguration Ceremony for Edward F. Leonard III, Ph. D. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

Receipts from Scott's

Receipts from Scott's Thriftway (dated through March) are being collected at Falun to benefit the Lindsborg Children's Center.