

THE PARISH COMMUNICATOR

NEWSLETTER FOR FALUN/SALEMSBORG LUTHERAN PARISH

MAY 2007



The 10 youth who affirmed their baptism on April 22nd wrote the following words based on bible verses that they had chosen. I am very proud of these young people and I can't wait to see what God does through them. It's going to be awesome! I hope as you read their words you will experience the Word working through them to bring you what you need. The next time you see these young folk, please congratulate them and let them know that you are ready to work with them in the Kingdom of God.

Ian Lemen

Matthew 4:1-4

In this chapter of the book of Matthew, Jesus has to spend forty days in the wilderness without food. While Jesus was in the wilderness, the devil appeared to him and asked him to use his powers to turn the stones into bread so that he could relieve his hunger. Jesus replied "No, the scriptures say that people need more than bread for life and that they should feed off of every word of God".

Reading this really got me thinking. Even though this happened thousands of years ago, it still really applies to my life today. Everyday I am faced with temptations and I try and do what I think is right. I know I am not perfect so sometimes I do give into those temptations. I know I should apply what I know from this story to every temptation but I don't. Thankfully, I have never been offered things like drugs or alcohol but I know there will be a time when this comes up in my life, and I am going to remember this paper I wrote and remember how Jesus tuned down the offer of temptation, and I am going to try and follow in his footsteps.

Emily Jones

Isaiah 43:5

My Bible verse is Isaiah 43:5—"Fear not, for I am with you." This verse is important to me because it has helped me get through hard obstacles in my life. It reminds me not to worry because wherever I am and whatever I am doing, God is with me all the time. This verse helped me through my parents divorce when I was 6 years old, the same year I learned the verse. I felt like everyone was getting separated, not just my parents. When I would remember the verse, I knew that God was with me.

I accepted Jesus into my heart when I was only 4 years old. Even at a young age, I knew what I was doing. I knew that I was accepting God into my life and making him a big part of it.

During Confirmation, it has made me realize how much I need God, which makes me want to be closer to him. So I think God himself

himself and sacrificing my time to be with him will help me become closer to him through my journey in life.

Rachel Norberg

Psalms 37:23-24

"Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way; though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong for the Lord holds us by the hand."

This verse is great because it reminds me to have faith in God. God is with us every step of the way through life. It is through God that we have strength to get through the toughest situations. God is always there when we need someone to turn to. It is important to honor God in everything that we do, and to bring glory to his name. By doing this, we are guaranteed eternal life. Therefore, even if we hugely mess up our life, there is still hope because of God. Over the years, God has become more and more important in my life, and I hope to continue to grow in faith. Going through confirmation has helped me realize that you can act through God while still being yourself. You can be crazy and outgoing like Ethan and still have a great love and respect for God. I look forward to expanding my knowledge of God even more over the next years.

Alex Feistner

Psalms 61:3

"Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy."

To me this means God will protect me from anything, even the biggest and scariest things. That when I need refuge he will be there to let me in and comfort me. He will lead me the right way. He will be that hand to help me up when I fall. He is the staff that will help me walk when I limp. He is my shepherd who will protect me from the lion. The one who leads me down the right road when I am going the wrong way. Confirmation class has taught me a lot and I am glad that I could participate in it. I will keep faith even through the most scariest and toughest task. Even when I question why that had to happen to that person or those people. I will always remember God will help me, and that he will be with me for the rest of my life. I would also like to thank my Dad and my family for helping me learn more about faith and what it means.

Affirmation of Baptism paragraphs continued on the next page.

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Salessborg W/ELCA

The last sewing day for the season was held on April 12th with 13 ladies there. They finished 6 quilts and repaired 13 flags. A total of 27 quilts were made this year. It was decided at the business meeting to pay for a couple to go to the 20th Annual Central States Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention which will be held August 3, 4, and 5, 2007, at the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center in Hutchinson, KS. Anyone interested in attending should let Diana Fairbanks know before June 15th. They also plan to start emailing the Prayer Tree requests as much as possible. Please let Joyce Saum know your email address so she can add it to the list. Others who prefer will still be called. A cleaning day was held on April 19th to clean both the kitchens (church and Fellowship Center). At a special meeting it was voted on and approved that the ladies will once again have the Caramel Apple Sundae Booth at the Hyllningsfest in October.

Care Boxes

The Evangelism Committee will be sending care boxes to our college students as they prepare for their finals. They could use some help with the cost of shipping those boxes. If you would be interested in donating monetary help (\$5.00 or more) please let Diana Fairbanks know. Also, they are needing the addresses of all the college students. Please contact Diana with those as well.

New Member Recognition Potluck

The potluck meal to honor all the new members to Salessborg will be held on Sunday, May 6th, 2007 around noon at the Salessborg Fellowship Center. All members are asked to bring large portions of their dishes. However, the new members are not supposed to bring any food. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and good food.

Sunday School Play

The Sunday School children at Salessborg will present the Easter mini-musical, "Alive! Alive!" during worship on Sunday May 6th. Plan to attend and enjoy the talents of our youth.

Notes From the Choir

Greetings from the Choir Loft! I want to thank Nita Kay Carlson and the bell choir for adding their talent to the Easter Anthem. Also, a big thank you to Tom Holmquist and Greg Nichols for marvelous trumpet sound, and as always, a huge thanks to Pat Anderson for her wonderful organ and piano accompaniment. On Confirmation Sunday we presented the praise anthem, "Shout to the Lord!" with CD accompaniment for the first time. Thanks to Wayne Carlson and Phil Kampfe for setting up the sound system!

May is the last month for the Adult Choir for the summer. We will be presenting a bluesy, spiritual rendition of "Take My Hand, Precious Lord", which you just can't miss, and the all familiar "Amazing Grace" on Memorial Day weekend.

I am spearheading an effort to bring "special music" each Sunday through the summer. If you have a talent and want to share it with us, please call me at 785-225-6752, or email me at

ablegordon@yahoo.com. We would especially like our young people to share their talents with us this summer. Anyone is welcome! 'Til we meet at the River, God Bless! Kathy Gordon

Joint Parish Worship

Don't forget our joint parish worship service happening on April 29th at 10:30 am. at Salessborg Following the service, the United Youth Group will be serving a Taco Dinner in the Fellowship Center. After dinner, there will be a United Youth Group Servant Auction. The free-will donation for the meal and the proceeds from the Servant Auction will go towards the United Youth Group activities in the future.

United Youth Group

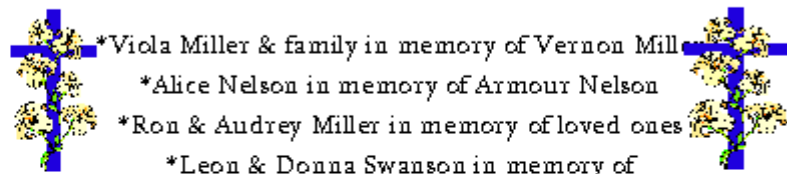
The United Youth Group and Thrivent would like you to help us with a Community Project on May 5, 19 & 20. We will be painting Red & Vicki Everhart's house. (They live on Burma Rd. south of Graham's) If you are able to help, please contact Rex Tjaden before hand so we know how many workers will be there.

First Communion

Congratulations to Cole Norberg and Kirk Barnes on their first communion on Sunday, April 15th. God bless both of you!

Easter Lilies

**Given to the Glory of God
and In Memory of Loved Ones**



- *Viola Miller & family in memory of Vernon Miller
- *Alice Nelson in memory of Armour Nelson
- *Ron & Audrey Miller in memory of loved ones
- *Leon & Donna Swanson in memory of Kari, Joshua and other loved ones
- *Wes and Karissa Shultis in memory of Kari and Joshua
- *Myrl & Fairlene Swanson in memory of loved ones
- *Don & Betty Pihl in memory of Wallace and loved ones
- *Dolly Nelson in memory of Mannie and other loved ones
- *LeRoy & Coleen Pihl in memory of loved ones
- *Almeda Ryding and family in memory of Amos Ryding
- *Charles & Arlene Kelley & family in memory of loved ones
- *John & Pat Anderson in memory of Franklin & Faith Stafford and Dave & Lill Anderson
- *David & Peggy Crowl and family in memory of Joann Peterson and Tom Gillum
- *Charles & Inez Johnson & family in memory of Edgar & Mae Johnson

If you need to contact Donna Swanson with information for the bulletin or newsletter, you can call 785-668-2600 or email her at donlee@hometelco.net. Thanks

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: Ray Applequist, Mary Holmquist, Rosalee Nelson, Arita Neilson and her family, Pete Rickert & family, Michell Lem on's friend, Valerie Rush, the Barnett family, Gerald Walter, Mary Tillberg's aunt, Mindy Graham's mother, Pastor Steven Little, Leigh Heller, Norma Oborg families grieving a loss, people recovering from surgery, Joan Garman, Bill Robinson, families in conflict, Jay Cromwell, Kathy Sadey, Deb Meyers, Brenda Kent, A.J. Holmquist, Tina Peterson's cousin, Major Sheldon Horsfall, Jade Pihl, Shane Turison, Janet Rowland, Dean Wahl, Connie Gratney, Diane Williams, Beth Reed, Carolyn Johnson, Marjorie Oleen, Viola Miller, Wayne Goodell, Karen Miller, Rosella Oleen, Irene Dauer and many unspoken requests. If we have forgotten anyone, we apologize. Please let us know so we can include them next time.

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

Baylee Kampfe

Colossians 2:6-7

Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

When I was younger, I was baptized into the Body of Christ. My parents were the ones who decided to have me take this first step in my faith. Now that I am older, I have more choices that I can make about my faith and my love of God. Deciding to be confirmed is one of the best decisions I can make for my faith. I am ready to accept the task of being more involved in church and strengthening my faith in God. My theme verse reminds me of what confirmation really is. It talks about your baptism when it says "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord." Then it tells us to continue to live in him. This verse also talks about strengthening your faith. I know that I can strengthen my faith greatly by being involved in the church. I have always enjoyed the steps of growing up. This is going to be a main step not only in growing up, but also in growing in my faith.

Ashley Pihl

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death or life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor power, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

To me this verse is very powerful. It says to me, that nothing can separate me from God, and nothing can separate anybody else from God either. The verse implies how strong God's love is. It might be hard for us to feel the same about him, but we can only try. Sometimes we have other priorities that take some of our steadfast love away from God, but his love only grows towards us. Not anything in the present or in the future can separate us from God. We don't know about the things to come, but whatever choices we make, God will still love us. This verse is a promise to me about how much God cares and loves me, and that will never change.

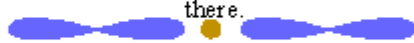
You're Invited

All are invited to a Bridal Brunch on Saturday, May 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the Salem sborg Fellowship Center. The event will be in honor of Crystal (Phillips) Pinedo and Mandy Dimitri. Crystal is registered at Wal-Mart and Mandy is registered at Target and Sears. If there are those

~~who would be interested in helping with these events, they can contact~~
Leanna Schmutz at 668-2217.

Darous Alton would like to invite all of his church family to his commencement exercises on May 12th at 7:00 p.m. at

Presser Hall, Lindsborg KS., and his luncheon reception at the Salem sborg Lutheran Church Community building May 12th from 11 a.m.--1 p.m. Thank you for all your teaching, guidance and support through my growing years here at Salem sborg Church. Hope to see you there.



Beginning in May, Pastor Ethan's day off will be Mondays. Please do not contact Pastor Ethan on his day off unless there is an emergency, he would appreciate it very much.

New Hymnal Orders

Sunday, May 6th will be the absolute deadline for ordering a new hymnal. If you wish to donate one in honor or in memory of someone, an order form is provided in this newsletter. Additional copies of the form are available at both churches. The cost of each hymnal is \$25.00.

Vacation Bible School

Summer will soon be here and we are looking forward to Vacation Bible School. Coordinators and teachers are needed to plan this event for our parish children and youth. Please contact Jane MacDonald if you are able to help in any way.

Many Thanks

Thank you to everyone for making my birthday celebration so special by giving me many cards and well wishes. Your kindness was very appreciated. Emery Frost

I would like to give a special thank you to everyone of you who came to my birthday party and to everyone who could not come but who sent cards and letters for my birthday. It is great to live in a community where people are so thoughtful and friendly. God bless all of you. Pip Nelson

A sincere thanks to my family and to everyone that made my 80th birthday such a special time. I appreciated it so much. I thank the Lord for the blessing of good health and the ability to continue to be able to do the things I love to do. Take care and God bless! Dolly Nelson

Thank you for your loyalty in this fight against hunger and suffering. You truly make a difference in others lives. May God bless you for your love. Salina Emergency Aid/Food Bank

Baptisms

Congratulations! Marcus Glenn Wescott Kern on this day of your baptism, April 8th. May God bless and keep you! Marcus' parents are Jason and Kristi Kern. Marcus' sponsors are Matt & Lori Thielen and Nikki Edmiston. We will keep you in our prayers and, don't forget, we are always there for you!

Congratulations! Tavein James Carter on your baptismal day at Salem sborg April 15th. May God lead and direct you as you grow in faith and in years. Tavein's parents are Ryker and Michelle Carter. His sponsors are Karena Hurziker and Scotty Hunziker. God bless and lead you that you may be good examples of God's love to Tavein. We as fellow members of the Body of Christ are here for all of you. Congratulations to all!

Congratulations! Gavin Robert Stambaugh on your baptismal day at Falun, April 15th. May God lead and direct you as you grow in faith and in years. Gavin's parents are Robert Stambaugh and Sheila McKim. His sponsors are Taton & Anecea Stambaugh-Tubbs and Seth Johnson. God bless and lead you that you may be good examples of God's love to Gavin. We as fellow members of the Body of Christ are here for all of you. Congratulations to all!



Taylor Peterson

Proverbs 17:22

A few years ago I received a card from my Grandma that contained a meaningful message along with a special Bible Verse. The verse comes from Proverbs, Chapter 17, verse 22. It states, "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a persons strength." This Bible verse and message encourages us to wake every morning knowing that we are blessed. Open your eyes and hearts to all the good God has given us. With this spiritual motivation, a cheerful heart is sure to occur. This cheerful attitude is ready to welcome and show compassion for others, pass on words of encouragement, and have a positive outlook on life. Such people are as welcoming as pain relieving medication. As you all know here at Salemsborg/Falun Parish, we are blessed with a Pastor that takes this Proverbs message to heart. His cheerful attitude is comforting and encouraging. Through my confirmation studies I have grown spiritually, learned more about my Christian base and have discovered the importance of faith, hope and love. All of these are a necessity for a cheerful heart. I thank Pastor Ethan and my Salemsborg/Falun family for helping me grow in my spiritual journey.

Lori Dauer

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

What this means to me is that Jesus was at a very vulnerable state; he was tired and hungry. Although he was exhausted, he still had the strength to hold up against the temptation by the devil. The devil tempted Jesus with great things, such as having all the kingdoms of the world. Each time the devil tempted him with these great things, Jesus would answer him with passages from the Bible. Eventually, Satan left Jesus alone and quit tempting him.

Temptation—a desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise. What does this have to do with my life? Well, each day brings new challenges, one usually being temptation. Temptation comes from different sources to do different things, some more serious than others. For example, one way I may be tempted

tempted is by my friends, probably to do something that I know I shouldn't do. This could be as serious as drinking or as simple as not paying attention in class. Each one has its varied consequences. I know that each day when I am tempted by my friends, family, teachers or others, I can think about this particular Bible passage and know that the Lord will help me fight off temptation and make the right choice.

Raymond Dauer

Philippians 4:13

For my Bible verse I chose Philippians 4 verse 13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." To me this verse means that I can do anything with the help of God. No matter what circumstances or situations I may face in my life with family, friends, school, work, sports or anything else, God will give me the strength to handle it and get through it. All I need to do is believe in him and trust that he will always be with me. I know that God will provide me with everything I need to face whatever he has planned for me. Today, I am ready to put God more in the center of my life and become more active in this congregation and the parish.

I would like to thank those who have helped me get to this important day, my parents, grandparents, godparents, Sunday School teachers and especially Pastor Ethan. During Confirmation, Pastor covered the key concepts of what having faith means. Thanks Pastor Ethan for making Confirmation meaningful, memorable and enjoyable.

Sam Carlson

James 5:7-8

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You, too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

This verse mainly talks about patience and having trust in God. It reminds us that sometimes we expect that God will help us with everything that goes wrong. Sometimes it feels like God isn't there and that He doesn't love us because of the things He does or doesn't do. We are often too quick with judgment of His love. Also, sometimes we are demanding of so much, expecting immediate results. People don't like to wait for responses from Him, but if you show trust and faith in Him and have enough patience, He will show His love and provide you with the things you need. People do get mad at and blame God for bad things that happen, but with enough faith and prayer, God will forgive and provide. I hope that throughout my life I can be patient and know that God is providing, even at times when I may not be aware of it.

Affirmation of Baptism paragraphs continued on the next page.

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."