

# SALEM LIGHT

*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. —Matthew 5:14*

**June 2021**

We at Salem Lutheran are facing a unique time. As many of you know, in recent weeks, the council accepted the resignation of our youth director, music director, and then our pastor. These resignations evoke feelings of sadness and uncertainty among all of us. Please be assured that each is leaving for their own personal reasons, in response to their unique opportunities and challenges. I, along with the council, graciously thank them for their service here at Salem Lutheran and sincerely wish them happiness and the very best in their future endeavors.

Here is the big picture. Our community is strong. The current council members each bring valuable skills to help maintain our church services and programs. At this point, the council is meeting with the bishop and assistant bishop to arrange pastoral help during our time of transition and begin the process of moving forward.

While we identify an interim pastor, we will have several services conducted by what is known as a supply pastor. Supply pastors will perform a Sunday service for a number of weeks. Here is a schedule of who we have confirmed as of now:

6/6 Bob Slind  
6/13 Pr. Helen McPeak  
6/20 Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee  
6/27 Pr. Andy Yee  
7/4 Pr. Rick Pribbernow  
7/11 Pr. Helen McPeak

Your participation will be vital as we identify a new pastor, bringing our hearts and minds together to energize the church we all love and call our own. As we move forward together, I ask for your patience and gracious assistance. If by chance I call upon you to consider a committee position or simply provide a helping hand to a particular task, please consider a favorable reply.

I encourage us all to smile, take a deep breath, and **enjoy the process** that lies ahead, with spirits that are optimistic and looking forward to new horizons.

It continues to be my pleasure to serve the congregation, meeting the challenging times ahead with favorable resolve. As always, please feel free to reach out to me any time.

Sincerely,

Roger Ragusa  
President, Church Council  
r.ragusa1@frontier.com  
360 708 5252 cell

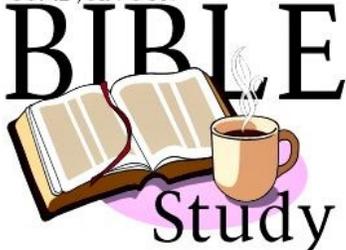


**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2529 N. LaVenture Rd., Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
(360)336-3600 [www.slcmv.org](http://www.slcmv.org)

## Men's Monthly Breakfast

Monthly Men's Breakfast meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, June 1. Join us for wonderful breakfast and good conversations at Curious Chef at the Outlet Mall, 7:30 a.m. Any questions, contact Dale Ragan 360/708-0975.

COME JOIN OUR



## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study for June is scheduled for the fourth Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 9:30 m.

We are meeting in the music room at church. Come join us!

## SEWING FOR OTHERS

Sewing for Others meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 9:15 am. We are putting together and tying LWR quilts. If you have a favorite needle, thimble and scissors — bring them. Otherwise, you can use our equipment. Questions — Linda Dunlap (253)548-6439 or (253)863-8627



## BLOOD DRIVE SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH Multi-Purpose Room

You can register for an appointment by calling 800-398-7888 or online at <https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org/DonorPortal/Default.aspx>

Below are the scheduled dates and times.

|         |                  |         |                   |
|---------|------------------|---------|-------------------|
| June 3  | 9:00 am—4:00 pm  | July 19 | 10:00 am--5:30 pm |
| June 4  | 9:30 am—5:00 pm  | July 20 | 9:00 am—4:00 pm   |
| June 5  | 8:00 am—3:00 pm  | Aug 10  | 10:00 am—5:00 pm  |
| July 15 | 10:00 am—5:00 pm | Aug 11  | 9:00 am—5:00 pm   |
| July 16 | 9:30 am--5:00 pm | Aug 12  | 10:00 am—5:00 pm  |

**Due to increased usage of type O Negative** by hospitals, some appointment slots have been reserved for this blood type. If you are O Negative and can donate in the immediate future, please call us at 800-398-7888 or [schedule@bloodworksnw.org](mailto:schedule@bloodworksnw.org) for a special reservation time.

# ANN UNCEMENTS

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

**Beginning June 1, the church office will be open every Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

Phone messages to the church office (360-336-3600) will be checked daily; however, if you need to reach the church immediately, please call me directly at 425-931-1445.

Additionally, all emails are responded to promptly—[office@slcmv.org](mailto:office@slcmv.org)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Laurie

We continue to hold the following people in our prayers, asking for God's healing mercies:

Mel Huynh  
Bridget Pratt Luvera  
Barb Schlagel

MJ Bender  
Dan Mitzel  
Rick Benson



## Council News

4/22/2021

- Regathering Team – It was decided to remain conservative and continue as is for at least another 30 days. 57 attendees last Sunday, only 3 unvaccinated. Hollie is updating our plan to reflect current science.
- Plans are underway for Pastor Marc's conclusion of service.
- Bishop Shelly will be preaching on June 20; Pr Andy Yee on June 27. Pr Helen McPeak will take one Sunday in June and one in July. She will let us know which dates those will be. We are working on filling the remainder dates.
- Staff changes in hours/pay – Peter Swanson – Turn it over to personnel for help determining what Jim needs to do.
- Lawn mower status – Laurie MOTION: Purchase new Honda mower. Approved
- Set date for Generosity Sunday – June 20th
- Family Promise – Don Moe – We are looking forward to hopefully opening our church to families soon. Keep everyone in the West Wing and serving food in the hallways or music room.
- Senior Quilts will be presented Sunday, May 23.

# CELEBRATIONS



Aleigh Davis plans to attend Skagit CC and get a transfer degree to WSU where she will major in animal science, specializing in animal nutrition and reproductive health. She hopes to become a bovine nutritionist, herd manager or a bovine geneticist. She is very active in FFA. She is the Vice President of the Mount Vernon FFA chapter and District 1 President. She is also the president of her 4-H and Skagit County's Dairy Ambassador.



Chase Rochelle will not only be moving to Boston in June, but will attend Boston University in the Fall.

Carley Ney will be continuing her education at Skagit Community College in the Fall.



Gabe Hander will be attending the University of Washington this Fall and will be studying Physics.

# CELEBRATIONS



Our Senior High Graduates were presented with quilts on Pentecost Sunday. It was a glorious day of celebration!

Brenna Uppendahl and Quinn Swanson were confirmed at Salem on May 30th. What a very special day for all of us as we rejoice with them in the life of baptism.



# NW WA Synod News



I began my Bishop's Report for the 2021 Synod Assembly on May 15, 2021 by quoting Paul in his letter to the Romans, "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world."

I am so glad to be the Northwest Washington Synod with you – as we walk, journey, travel together. We are connected as the body of Christ – as siblings in Christ – together. We are the Northwest Washington Synod in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully. As people forgiven and redeemed, beloved and welcomed, we are called to embody God's grace in speech, action, and relationships. I am reminded daily that it is Jesus Christ who loves, welcomes, and forgives. As baptized children of God, we are called to participate in this love, hospitality, and forgiveness. I am thankful for all of you for your love, your welcome, and your forgiveness.

We on the synod staff have agreed to embrace the following statement as we work together with the congregations and ministry sites of this synod: *"Trusting in the Spirit, we are journeying together with God's people so that all may discover and participate in what God is doing among us through Jesus."*

Further, there are five focus areas interwoven in the work that we are doing as we journey together in Christ:

1. Faithful Innovation
2. Youth and Young Adults
3. Leadership
4. Connection
5. Racial Justice

I'd like to lift up a few of the actions from the 2021 NW WA Synod Assembly:

We had our first online assembly with 332 voting members in attendance on Zoom and over 200 following along on our Facebook Livestream.

We approved the Recommended Changes to the Constitution that were forwarded from the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

We approved the changes to the Constitution proposed by the Synod Council (with a minor amendment to have the Nominating Committee changed to 5 persons).

We elected persons to the following:

Synod Council

Committee on Discipline

Consultation Committee

Voting Members to the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Approved budget.

We shared videos from our ministry partners and synod committees/teams.

Announced Grace Grants recipients.

As we do the work of this synod, I am reminded that it is not us but the Spirit that leads and guides. Trusting God's promises and participating in the Holy Spirit, we have reached places beyond what I thought possible. We have exceeded priorities and we are moving forward towards God's preferred future. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



We've been doing renovations around my house over the past few months. One of the things we've done is pull up the carpet to reveal the hardwood floors that had been covered with up with one layer of carpeting or another for about sixty years. Whew! What a lot of work that was. The flooring looks pretty good, but it was SO dusty. Tiny, fine grit that had made its way over the years through the carpet and the padding. Grit that escaped the regular vacuuming and occasional steam cleaning. Tiny grains of sand in between the wooden slats wherever there was the slightest crack. I swept, I vacuumed, I wiped it with a damp microfiber cloth, I Swiffered. I filled the vacuum over and over. It took forever to get the floor feeling clean. As I was down on my hands and knees cleaning, it came to me that this is a metaphor for implicit bias. I have been good about cleaning up the big stuff – overt racism, sexism, ableism, etc. is easy to see and I have the tools to work on cleaning them up. From the outside, my carpets are clean. However, the events of recent months have pulled the carpets up, revealing those tiny habits of thought that have settled so deep inside of me that I didn't even know they were there. This grit needs new tools to dislodge and sweep them away.

One of those tools is the Intercultural Development Inventory. This is something that Synod Council did together, and it reveals our own personal orientation, as well as how our group, as a whole, operates. The orientation gap report showed that I am not as self-aware as I thought I was – more of those pesky dust motes to be cleaned up. The council is using the IDI to help us move forward and become more accepting and adaptive in our intercultural development. Currently we fall (as do I personally) in "Minimization," an orientation that highlights cultural commonality and universal values but can also mask deeper appreciation of cultural differences. We focus on similarities and although interested in differences, are limited in our ability to adapt to other cultural practices. Minimization is also like the concept of parallel play from the field of child development: two children playing peacefully next to each other, one building blocks and one coloring. That's not bad. It can be peaceful - at least they are not knocking down block towers or breaking crayons. As a council, we are good at playing nicely alongside other cultures, but, just like in child development, we need to move past that stage and learn from and interact and grow with others.

This work will, by necessity, be ongoing. New dust will settle and start to stick. I (and the council as a whole) will need to be vigilant about not falling back into old pathways. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

Here are a few things I or the Synod Council have been up to:

Attended Synod Assembly orientations, the budget hearing, and rehearsals. Many thanks to our awesome planning team, headed up by the fabulous Sr. Liz Colver!

Executive Committee met on May 13.

The Grace Grant Committee met to award the 2021 Grace Grants.

The Synod met in Assembly on May 15!

**Some highlights** of the assembly include electing new council and committee members, amending our synod constitution, recognizing ministry milestones, announcing Grace Grant recipients and hearing about the many amazing things we've been up to as we have journeyed together these past two years.

**Opportunities:** We are looking for some people who are passionate about funding ministry and mission here in NWWA. We have a couple of targeted task groups we'd like volunteers for: **Financial Policy Review** – this team will look at our financial policies and recommend any changes to make them more responsive to current needs. **Restricted Accounts Review** – we have several restricted accounts that need to be reviewed to make sure the funds are being used as designated, as well as to identify funds that are being held for purposes that no longer exist.

**If you are interested in serving on either of these limited task forces, please email me:**

[veep@lutheransnw.org](mailto:veep@lutheransnw.org)



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|--------|-------------------|--------|------------------|
| Jun 1  | Lori Lacey        | Jun 21 | June Bounds      |
| Jun 6  | Randi Leber       |        | Henry Cook       |
| Jun 7  | Candy Johnson     | Jun 22 | John Johnson     |
|        | Lynne Rittenhouse |        | Florrie Reep     |
| Jun 11 | Judy Markus       |        | Nancy Slind      |
| Jun 12 | Blaine Watkins    | Jun 24 | Finley Uppendahl |
| Jun 15 | Grace Uppendahl   | Jun 27 | Mel Takehara     |
| Jun 16 | Marlene Opichka   | Jun 28 | Susan Watson     |
| Jun 18 | Holly Berard      | Jun 29 | Diane Webb       |
|        | Marilyn Nelson    |        |                  |
|        | Nicholas Ruby     |        |                  |
|        | Tatiana Ruby      |        |                  |
|        | Bill Webb         |        |                  |

April Financials:

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Total Income:  | \$25,736.36        |
| Total Expense: | <u>\$24,354.01</u> |
| Net Income:    | \$ 1,382.35        |



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|---------|-------------------|--------|
| June 12 | Al & Linda Dunlap | 56 yrs |
| June 16 | Don & Erin Moe    | 48 yrs |
| June 18 | Bob & Nancy Slind | 63 yrs |

## Year-to-Date Financial Comparison for Salem

|                               | Jan Through<br>to April<br><u>2020</u> | Jan Through<br>Decem-<br>ber<br><u>2021</u> | 2021 to<br>2020 | BUDGET<br><u>2021</u> | Act 2021<br>to Bud<br><u>2021</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| TOTAL INCOME                  | \$92,000                               | \$292,024                                   | 217.4%          | \$325,540             | -10.3%                            |
| OPERATING EXPENSE             | \$24,612                               | \$86,922                                    | 253.2%          | \$88,150              | -1.4%                             |
| TOTAL STAFF EXPENSES          | <u>\$75,665</u>                        | <u>\$190,964</u>                            | 152.4%          | <u>\$222,778</u>      | -14.3%                            |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES      | \$100,277                              | \$277,886                                   | 177.1%          | \$310,928             | -10.6%                            |
| RESERVE FOR CHURCH OPERATIONS | -\$8,277                               | \$14,138                                    |                 | \$14,613              |                                   |

**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
**2529 N. LaVenture RD.**  
**MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273**  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## JUNE NEWSLETTER

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

It is our mission as members of this congregation to share the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ with all people, and to serve God by serving others.

### CHURCH COUNCIL:

**Roger Ragusa**  
President

Vice President

**Susan Ragan,**  
Treasurer

**Laurie Benson,**  
Secretary

**Lynne Rittenhouse**

**Bob Ruby**

**Nancy Raschko**

**Carl Bruner**

**Barb Gurney**  
Past President

### SALEM STAFF:

**Jim Bowers,** Custodian

**Church Office**  
office@slcmv.org

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**Building Use Requests**  
building\_use@slcmv.org



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

### OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

9 a.m.-Noon Monday, and  
Wednesdays

### WEBSITE:

www.slcmv.org

### **"Salem ELCA" App**

(Apple & Google Play Stores)

### **Like us on Facebook**

@Salem Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.



Like us on  
**Facebook**