

Experience God's Peace

Salem Lutheran Church

June 2020

JUNE MEDITATION MUSINGS

There are four lovely Sunday Sabbath Days in the month of June and all of the meditations being planned to celebrate them will paint a new canvas on the colorful palette of life from our Creator God.

--On June 7, we observe Trinity Sunday by looking closely at the artwork of Mary Engelbreit and a colorful and Spirit-filled children's book entitled "The Next Place" by Author Warren Hanson.



--On June 14, the sermon title is "Anointed For Ministry" and this will be a healing service complete with the definition of the Biblical practice of using anointing oil as described by David in Psalm 23.



--On June 21, we will observe Father's Day by looking at the Old Testament prophet named Jeremiah, who experienced "the fire of the Holy Spirit deep in his bones."

--On June 28, the sermon title is "A Cup of Cold Water" and we will focus on the 1964 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Cinderella."



Come plant seeds with us as the family of Salem Lutheran Church in Shell Lake grow together in the flower garden of God's amazing grace.

"A Whole New World"

Pastor's
Corner

AS

I write this, I am thinking about the Disney song entitled "A Whole New World" from the animated movie "Aladdin." It is sung as the hero and heroine embark on a beautiful journey through the clouds on a magical flying carpet...there they experience a new and exciting point of view from the sky looking down. It is a little like how I feel when I think about what our world looks like from the clouds, as together we experience "a whole new world" this summer during the remarkable and life-changing year of 2020.

Certainly, it is a reality like none other. There are new horizons, and shadows of sorrow...there are summer birds chirping outside, and the heartbreaking silence of families who have lost a loved one.

It truly is a "whole new world..."

Summer preaching in the church is a time to be reflective -- especially this June, July, and August. It is a time to reframe for others how God continues His presence to His beloved community of believers, against all odds.

Even after a lifetime of years, He is still prompting preachers to tell His story -- through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. He is still making the vital story of His Son, Jesus, relevant, vibrant, and new.

The narrative causes us to persevere in hard times, and to flourish always...

The Prophet Moses stuttered, and Jeremiah was compelled to speak even though he had no assurance that people would even listen. Jonah was told to go to Ninevah to preach to the people there, but he chose to run the opposite direction and flee the presence of God. Yet, like these Biblical giants, we thrive in the great garden of God's Word, which grows in the summer sunshine and thrives in the showers of rain.

Seeds of truth sprout in our summer gardens -- blooming both in the physical and the spiritual worlds. The parables of Jesus plant rows and rows of understanding as we weed out what threatens to choke out

God's plan in our individual lives.

It is important to remember that God is our Master Gardener and He will reap all that is sown.

This month our preaching focuses on what Jesus calls "The Kingdom of Heaven." Together we will explore the glorious things that come about from the sprouting of a small seed, a little yeast, and a treasure hidden in a field.

Preaching for this summer reveals a sense of awe in the commands of Jesus to the wind and the rain -- from a storm at sea to the disciple, Peter, also known as "The Rock." In all of this, we see how humans experience fear and doubt -- both of these seem to be experienced in abundance in this "Whole New World" of ours.

It is true, that the beloved community we call the Church is continually being shaped by its attention to our individual carpet rides of faith. For every day, our baptismal calling in Christ is being reborn.

So it is that despite our setbacks, misunderstandings, and distractions, God continues to come close to us. The Prophet Isaiah declares that "the Lord will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places, and will make the wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord."

We have been given a precious gift in the life of Christ -- His arrest, His trial, His crucifixion, and His glorious Resurrection. We find renewal in this gift during the summertime. As we look to the heavens, we ask our God how we might share this whole new world and His message with others...

--Pastor Sue Odegard



THANK YOU to Jerry Dahlen for your Thrivent Choice Dollars donation to Salem. Your generosity is a Blessing!

THANK YOU very much to the Salem members who joined hearts and hands to do a clean-up—both indoors and outdoors—at Salem Lutheran Church on

May 6....Arlys Santiago, Jan Ogden, Jene Morey, Sam Boatman, Lee Prill, Rollie Erickson, Bill Holmson, and Larry Odegard. Your volunteering spirits are so appreciated! ♥□♥□♥□

Church Council

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH Executive Committee Minutes May 19, 2020



President Bill Holmson opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. followed by a short reading and opening prayer by Pastor Susan Odegard.

PRESENT: Bill Holmson, Kelly Curtis, Lynn Berghuis, Rollie Erickson, Pastor Sue Odegard, and Wayne Peterson.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Bill Holmson shared that the A/C unit in the offices will be installed soon. Stucco repair on outside South wall hopefully by mid-summer.
2. Wayne Peterson updated committee on grant. Received \$14,900.00 being used for salaries and possibly some utilities. Must be expended by end of June 2020.
3. Lynn Berghuis shared that new Facebook page progress still being developed. Stay tuned.
4. Pastor Sue shared many, many activities she has been involved in this past month – and upcoming. See details elsewhere in Newsletter.
5. Pastor Sue shared that Laurie Simenson, our Administrative Assistant, has decided to retire. Final date to be determined as of now. Following a good discussion, Wayne Peterson is in the process of taking on the position, in addition to continuing as Bookkeeper. He, Laurie, and Pastor Sue will develop the transition schedule. More information as change takes place.
6. Good discussion of all involved with preparing to open Salem for more “normal” worship. Decided emphasis will be on safety. Kelly Curtis will develop guidelines for discussion based on Synod thoughts, State, best practices, etc., and have available prior to the June 2020 meeting of full Council.

7. Decided to meet as a full Council on Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. Wayne Peterson will contact all members.

8. Lastly, a “commercial” from this Secretary. You are strong – we are strong – and we’re much stronger together! Pray, serve, give, and help – each other, your family, your neighbor, your community – in any and every way you possibly can. This too shall pass.

Meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rollie Erickson
Rollie Erickson, Secretary

*Christ...
Calling Us to Follow...
Guiding Our Growth...
Lighting Our Way...*

VISIT US ONLINE **slsalemlutheran.org**

HIGHLY ESTEEMED

After returning from a lengthy mission trip overseas, John Huffman and his fellow passengers were held up in customs for two hours. When he finally made it to the packed airport lobby, Huffman realized it might take a while to find his family. But suddenly his 3-year-old daughter ran toward him yelling, “Daddy! Daddy! That’s my daddy!” and launched into his arms.

“What a welcome,” he writes. “I have never felt so loved and acknowledged in my life.” Perhaps that’s how God feels when we call on his name in worship and prayer, acknowledging him as our heavenly Father — and honoring him above all else.



Pastor's Report for April-May, 2020 **Salem Lutheran Church -- Shell Lake, WI**

On April 21 -- I wrote another session for our Adult Forum Bible Study. I attended the Executive Council Meeting at Salem, along with Wayne Peterson, our church bookkeeper.

On April 22 -- Larry and I recorded two videos for our Web Page and our Facebook Page. One is for Home Communion and the other is for Sunday's meditation on the Journey to Emmaus. I also wrote up a bulk email and a newsletter item for our Holy Communion decision by the Salem Executive Committee.

On April 24 -- I went to Salem to meet with a parishioner for private counseling and prayer. I also wrote an article for our upcoming Salem newsletter.

On April 26 -- I posted a Sunday meditation on my Facebook Page. I wrote a Pastor's Corner Column for the June Newsletter.

On April 27 -- I held office hours when I went to Salem to meet with Jene Morey and Judy Harms to talk about the incoming offering and to catch up on personal experiences in this Pandemic. Our secretary, Laurie Simenson, came at the same time to run out our monthly newsletters.

On April 28 -- Larry and I recorded another video for our Sunday meditation.

On April 29 -- Larry and I drove to Salem to meet with Greg and Cheri Lyga so we could install our new Blessing Box they made. They filled it with non-perishable food items so people in need can drive by and pick them up for free. Lee and Jan, and Larry also came to help install it. Larry Samson from the local newspaper was also there to take photos for the paper. I am also a volunteer with Community First: Washburn County, and will be delivering Care Packages to needy families very soon. I am also President of Washburn Christian Outreach and we are supplying needed items like gasoline money and overnight lodging to those in need as well. I wrote a sermon for an upcoming worship service.

April 30 -- I wrote another sermon for an upcoming worship service.
On May 1 -- I drove to Shell Lake to meet with a parishioner for private counseling and prayer. Then I met with Jean Waldron and John Sahlstrom of the Shell Lake Ministerium for conversation and prayer. I

also met with a Salem parishioner in person at my home and talked for over 90 minutes.

On May 2 -- I wrote two sermons for upcoming worship services.

On May 3 -- I wrote a Memorial Tribute to Helen Pederson who died at age 96 at Maple Ridge Care Center in Spooner yesterday. I talked with her son, Jeff, about doing a funeral for her after the Pandemic is under control.

On May 4 -- I learned that Salem got our PPE loan to protect the three people on our payroll -- Laurie Simenson, Jene Morey, and Tony Ullom...now we can keep paying them!

On May 5 -- I drove to Salem to meet with a parishioner for private counseling and prayer. I also met with Judy Harms to share lunch. I made hearts to decorate our front door with...I talked in person to seven parishioners who stopped by and I went to see. I also took a Mother's Day booklet to the home of Judy Ricci. In that afternoon, Larry and I video-taped another sermon -- this one is for Mother's Day, May 10, 2020.

On May 6 -- Larry went to Salem to help with Clean-up Day. I wrote another session for our Adult Forum Bible Study.

On May 7 -- I drove to church and made copies of our Bible Study for Salem. I participated in the Ecumenical National Day of Prayer Parade with John Sahlstrom and Jean Waldron in Shell Lake. I drove to parishioner Sharon Norstog's house to meet with her on the Shell Lake Beach as she has returned home from wintering in California.

On May 8 -- I worked on a plan of action for when we are allowed to return to having church services -- along with printing out guidelines for Gov. Evers' "Badger Bounce Back" plans and talking with Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson and Heather Kistner about the possibility of meeting at Salem for our next Heart of the North Conference...but the Bishop said we could not meet yet.

On May 9 -- I posted our Mother's Day video meditation for Salem. I stopped by Salem to give Lisa Mikula a baptism candle for one of her Hospice clients. Larry had washed the Salem kitchen mats and he brought them back to church, too.

On May 10 -- I wrote a sermon for an upcoming worship service. I called to talk with parishioner Jerry Larson, who returned from spending the winter in Florida.

On May 11 -- I drove to Salem to counsel with a parishioner and to pray with her. I had lunch with Judy Harms as well.

On May 12 -- I had a long fruitful talk with Salem Secretary Laurie Simenson to update her on upcoming meditation topics and talk about the church in general.

On May 13 -- I wrote another session for our Adult Forum Bible Study. I also wrote a sermon for an upcoming worship service.

On May 14 -- I drove to Salem to hold office hours at the church. I ran copies of my new sermon and my new Adult Forum Bible Study. I then attended the Shell Lake Ministerium Car Parade with John Salhstrom and Jean Waldron. Jean agreed to be WCO president and Barb Boatman agreed to be Vice President, so our positions on the WCO Executive Committee are filled!

On May 15 -- I wrote a sermon for an upcoming worship service.

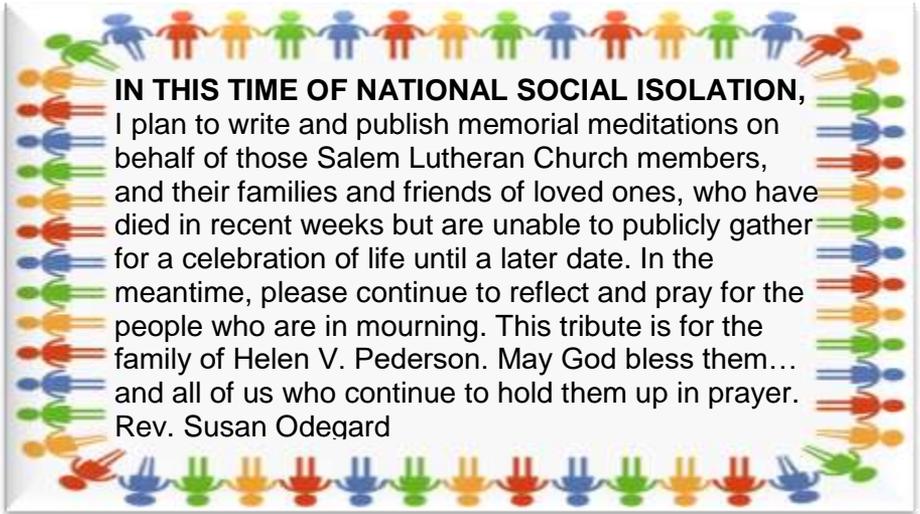
On May 16 -- I wrote another sermon for an upcoming worship service.

On May 17 -- I wrote another session for our Adult Forum Bible Study. I made phone calls to the Salem Executive Committee to prepare for tomorrow night's meeting.

On May 19 -- I drove to Salem and met with a parishioner for lunch. I met with another parishioner for private counseling and prayer. I met with the Salem Executive Committee for our monthly meeting.



WE AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH are collecting funds for Lutheran World Relief's "God's Global Barnyard." Every \$20 raised sends honeybees and equipment for sustainable farming for a family in a Third World Country. If you can help, send a check written out to Lutheran World Relief to Salem Lutheran Church, 803 Second Street, Shell Lake, WI 54871.



**Funeral Sermon for Helen Pederson
Salem Lutheran Church -- Shell Lake, WI**

By: Rev. Susan Odegard

Sermon Title: "One Big Family"

Biblical Text: Excerpts from Romans 6: 1-23

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

"For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin."

"For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him."

"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to sin -- once for all -- but the life He lives, He lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

It is said that a life worth living is one that deeply touches the lives of others. This is most certainly true in the life of Helen Pederson.

When Helen went to be with her Lord on Saturday, May 2, people who knew and loved her started sending their prayers and blessings they had known because of Helen's kind heart and gentle spirit.

This is what some of them said:

"...Oh wow...such an amazing lady...prayers to her family during this time."

"Helen was a Sunday School teacher, a nurse, a wonderful mother and friend to so many...Rest in peace, Helen...we love you!"

"Lots of Heart Lake and Salem memories with her family..."

"She was the youngest of the Christ Odden family...12 Oddens and 15 Olsens were like one big family in Timberland..."

It is true. Being a member of the Family of God is a treasure beyond price. It is a legacy.

I met Helen on the very first day of my ministry at Salem Lutheran Church. It was seven years ago and I was asked to participate in the Shell Lake Ecumenical Beach Worship service as part of "Town and Country Days."

I didn't know which people were my parishioners, but I stood in circle with the other four pastors of the community as we held hands and prayed for the people of our community.

When the service was done, a woman who was pushing her friend in a wheelchair came up to introduce them both to me. The woman who spoke first was Salem member Aryls Santiago. She then introduced me to her friend -- it was Helen Pederson.

I talked with Helen many times over the next seven years...first at Glenview Assisted Living in Shell Lake, and then at Maple Ridge Care Center in Spooner. We shared stories, Holy Communion, and lots of prayer. She attended the worship services I led at the care center, often singing along with the old, familiar hymns she loved so well.

Helen had the most beautiful smile. She was always gracious and very, very kind. She had the gift of hospitality and she reminded me of a Scripture I will share with you now...it is Matthew 10: 40-42



Evelyn Olson, June Knoepke, Ruth Swan, Helen V. Pederson

"Jesus said: 'Whoever welcomes you, welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me.'

'Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of the little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'"

It is a profound Gospel because it is here that Jesus focuses on hospitality and having a welcoming spirit. It bears noting precisely whom Jesus says to welcome: His disciples are to welcome prophets, righteous people, and children.

Here it is noteworthy that Jesus exemplified all three: He was a righteous prophet who barely escaped death as a vulnerable child in the manger. And by speaking so clearly, He outlined the welcoming and protection He needed, but often lacked during His 33 years on Earth.

Helen knew this and shaped her own life after His supreme example. Psalm 89 outlines this gift of hospitality in this way:

*"I will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord, forever
With my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations
I declare that Your steadfast love is established forever;
Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens."*

*"You said: 'I have made a covenant with My chosen One,
I have sworn to My servant David...
I will establish Your descendants forever,
And build Your throne for all generations.'*

*"Happy are the people who know the festal shout
Who walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance...
They exult in Your name all day long
And extol Your righteousness...
For You are the glory of their strength
By Your favor our horn is exalted."*

*"For our shield belongs to the Lord...
Our king to the Holy One of Israel."*

Did you notice how the psalm starts out praising God and His people...but by the end, the focus has switched to include all of us who have come to God in generation after generation since the beginning of time?

"For OUR shield belongs to the Lord and by His favor OUR horn is exalted!"

Helen knew this to be true also.

In Paul's letter to the people of Rome, the practice of handing out a cup of cold water to those who live obediently under God's grace, is further defined. This is the gift of hospitality personified. And it is the sermon text I chose to honor the memory of Helen:

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

"For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin."

"For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him."

"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to

sin -- once for all -- but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

May the memory of Helen continue to bless those of us who knew and loved her. Because she has died with Christ, and she will live with Him in eternity. Amen.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

2 Tom Butler	16 Karen Quam
2 Mark Schultz	17 Juany K-Dahlen
3 Rev. Susan Odegard	24 Rick Studt
9 Jene Morey	25 Karen Greeley
12 Mark Parker	25 Craig Hanson
13 Judy Ricci	27 Logan Zebro
14 Dave Zebro	29 Mavis Flach
14 Cody J. Swan	29 Lisa Mikula

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

- 6 Gary & Lynn Berghuis
- 9 Warren & Helen Quam
- 17 Lee & Dotty Swan
- 27 Craig & Brigitte Hanson
- 30 Larry & Rev. Susan Odegard





Salem Church Council member Cheri Lyga was inspired to create a Blessing Box filled with non-perishable food items to be given away for those in need...Cheri's family helped construct and paint it..and then installed it on the corner of Eighth Avenue and Second Street near the Salem Lutheran Church Bell Tower. Thank you Cheri, Greg, Julia and Ethan!





THE FULL SALEM CHURCH COUNCIL – all twelve members – are invited to meet at Salem beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17. This will be our first full council meeting since the mandated Social Distancing was put in place in March. Please feel free to bring your own face mask to the meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE SALEM CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

are composing a plan of action for when we are allowed to gather as a congregation for worship. The plan will be brought before the full Salem Church Council at the June 17 meeting.

DO YOU PRAY? I love this interpretation of a prayer. What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't only happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say 'drive safely' or 'be safe', that's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone, that is prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A Feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being. Keep praying always.

Salem Lutheran Church

803 2nd Street N • Shell Lake, WI 54871-4600 • 715-468-7718
salem012@centurytel.net s1salemlutheran.org

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Office Hours..... 8 a.m.-12 p.m. ~ Tuesday-Friday

Pastor Susan Odegard
Pastor's Cell 1-612-229-8885
Pastor's Home 715-635-9735
E-Mail susanodegard@gmail.com

Adm. Assistant..... Laurie Simenson
Bookkeeper Wayne Peterson
Custodian Tony Ullom
Fin. Secretary Judy Harms
Musician Jene Morey

Executive Committee

President Bill Holmson
Vice-Pres Lynn Berghuis
Secretary Rollie Erickson
Treasurer Kelly Curtis

Council Members

Gary Berghuis, Diane Brandt,
Glen Hanson, Juany K-Dahlen,
Cheri Lyga, Wayne Peterson,
Roger Rydberg