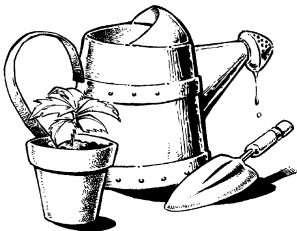


Salem United Church Of Christ
217 Salem Drive
Plymouth, WI 53073

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MAY

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MONETARY GIFTS ASSISTANT: Sharon Schoenefeld
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CHAPEL CHIMES IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday
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TELEPHONE: 920-892-7456/Rev. Hoppert 920- 838-0405

SALEM UCC MISSION STATEMENT

To praise and glorify God through Jesus Christ, Salem United Church of Christ will be a nurturing family that shares the Good News with people of all ages. Our congregation will invite and warmly welcome others into this faith community. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will create and maintain places and programs, which satisfy needs and nurture spiritual growth while recognizing and utilizing the diverse gifts and talents of all.

May 2016
Volume 66 No. 5

FIRST NOTES

On May 15th the Church of Jesus Christ will celebrate its birthday on Pentecost Sunday. Depending on how one reckons the starting point, we will either be celebrating our 1983rd or 1986th birthday. That's a lot of candles on the birthday cake!

The reason I mention this upcoming milestone is that the thought of it is something that makes me ponder the miraculous origin of the church. If someone were to come up and ask me why it is that I believe the things that I believe about God, Jesus, and the church, I would have to pin a lot of that on what happened in that span of 50 days that developed the church as we know it. Much of what I personally believe about God comes from what I have come to learn about God through Jesus. And why is it that I place so much stock in Jesus and what we believe about him? Those beliefs, it turns out, are based on the miracle of the church, itself.

What makes the existence of the church such a linchpin in my belief system? Simply put, like N.T. Wright, I can't explain the existence of the church without the resurrection of Jesus and I can't explain the mission of the church without the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Without a Risen Christ, there is no church. Under any other circumstance, the crucifixion of Jesus should have marked the failure of the Jesus movement: by rights, his followers should have either have scattered and gone off to other movements, or a successor would have tried to take over. None of that happened with the church. They didn't scatter and there was no new "Jesus" type to take over the movement. They held on to the belief, until their dying breaths, that Jesus had appeared to them, and they believed that he was still present to them through the power of God's Spirit.

Yet, as important as the resurrection was, it was not enough to give us the church that we know: that would require the Holy Spirit to guide and move this largely illiterate group of fisher folk into a dynamic world movement. Without the Spirit, the church may never have left the confines of Jerusalem. I can't explain the church, the rise of the Apostle Paul, or any of the other things without the Holy Spirit, either.

So, happy birthday, Church! With all of the flaws and imperfections that we may have been party to over almost two millennia, we are still the Body of Christ to a broken world. It's very existence is a testimony to the transforming power of God. What we shall become and form we shall take in the future remains a mystery, but there will always be the Church. We have God's promise on that.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Jim Hoppert



MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

5/1	Jean Groene Lucille Matzdorff	5/18	Joan Vorpapel
5/2	Kathy Bruggink Ken Schaap	5/19	Emma Weedman
5/4	Shelley Bubb Robert Metz Pat Morrison Dale Miller Brenda Nabak	5/20	Tom Miller Chris Buelke
5/5	Nicole Pilgrim	5/21	Roger Eldredge
5/6	Corrine Doherty Haylen Odekirk	5/22	James Lanser Ron Schoenfeld Robert Bubb Sara Farr
5/7	Darren Holzer Evan Wachter Martin Roberts	5/23	June Miller
5/8	Hunter Bubb Brook Crane	5/24	Denise Prange Tom LeMahieu II Ethan Feldner Colin Hughes
5/9	Clifford Meyer Bonnie Laack	5/25	Sharon Groene
5/10	Connor Guillette	5/26	Ardice Schuette
5/11	Lynn Ditter Ryan Risse	5/27	Alayne Bosman Linda Lehrke Ben Meinnert Carol Bournoville
5/12	Kathy Ferguson Lyle Theune Ashley Konrad Larry Zwerg Owen Fink	5/28	Tina Meyer
5/13	Kathy Zelm	5/29	Elsa Blad
5/14	Katie Oberreich Madelyn Farr	5/30	Kenneth Baumann Jayna Flunker Riley Huenink
5/15	Tristen Ostrom	5/31	* * * * *
5/16	Dan Buss Karen Raeder	5/2	Mike & Amy Goetsch
5/17	Janice Nohlquist Albert Nysse Alison Greuel Kevin Butters Madelyn Markus	5/7	John & Judy Meerstein
		5/12	Roger & Vicki Binder
		5/16	Todd & Julaine Thiel
		5/17	Jay & Donna Pfrang
		5/19	Dennis & Andrea Kapellen Brett & Jill Pilling
		5/23	Kevin & Debbie Lisowe
		5/24	Gene & Georgine Littlefield
		5/28	Bob & Julie Sukowaty
		5/30	Jim & Deanna Lindow



INVEST IN THE VISION
THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH
OFFERING

Strengthen The Church is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the United Church of Christ. Shared at the conference and national levels, Strengthen the Church largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the United Church of Christ voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Strengthen the Church funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is Still Speaking," message. Salem United Church of Christ will receive the Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016.



MAY
LITTLE LAMBS CHILD CARE

Sunday, May 1st:
Annette & Lauren Bunyea

Sunday, May 8th:
Susie Katsma & Makayla Mendenhall

Sunday, May 15th:
Denise Kleinhans & Katie Oberreich

Sunday, May 22nd:
Jill & Megan Thiel

Sunday, May 29th:
Amy & Greta Debbink



Mark your calendar for the up-coming events:

- Confirmation**, Sunday, May 1st
- Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting**, June 10-12
- Church Picnic**, July 31st



Please Keep These Families in your
Thoughts & Prayers

HOSPITALIZED

St. Luke's, Milwaukee
Maureen Rudebeck, Anna Hoppert

BAPTISM

4/3/16 - Liam Robert Graham, son of Robert* & Kayla (Sukowaty) Graham, born 7/13/15

FUNERAL

4/9/16 Sheryl Jarosch at Salem United Church of Christ

*denotes non-member



In a world full of people who couldn't care less, be someone who cares more.

~Author Unknown~

MAY LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, May 1, 2016-Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

Psalm: Psalm 67

Epistle: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

Gospel: John 14:23-29

Thursday, May 5, 2016-Ascension Day

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 47

Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, May 8, 2016-Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 16:16-34

Psalm: Psalm 97

Epistle: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Gospel: John 17:20-26

Sunday, May 15, 2016-Pentecost Sunday

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Epistle: Romans 8:14-17

Gospel: John 14:8-17

Sunday, May 22, 2016-Trinity Sunday

Hebrew Scripture: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm: Psalm 8

Epistle: Romans 5:1-5

Gospel: John 16:12-15

Sunday, May 29, 2016-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Kings 18:20-12, 30-39

Psalm: Psalm 96

Epistle: Galatians 1:1-12

Gospel: Luke 7:1-10



"A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us when adversity takes the place of prosperity when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert us when troubles thicken around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts."

--Washington Irving

MAY USHER LIST

Saturday, April 30th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker

Ansel Tupper, Janice Bunyea, Roger Rortvedt

Sunday, May 1st:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Tom Daigle

Ken & Pat Schoening, Evelyn Gundersen

Saturday, May 7th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker

Bob Becher, Sharon Klemme, Roger Rortvedt

Sunday, May 8th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Mary Mullen

Ken & Dorothy Baumann, Cindy Conrad

Saturday, May 14th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Lori Holzer

Kymn Schicker, Bruce & Barb Hengst

Sunday, May 15th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Mary Bender

Salem Youth

Saturday, May 21st:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Lori Holzer

Ansel Tupper, Janice Bunyea, Linda Krueger

Sunday, May 22nd:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Mary Mullen

Dale & Janis Knuth, Steve Fieck

Saturday, May 28th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker

Richard Groene, Kevin & Debbie Lisowe

Sunday, May 29th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Consistory

Lois Faas, Evelyn Gundersen, Karen Raeder

Saturday, June 4th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Lori Holzer

Gerry & Reta Klemme, Judy Wilmot

Sunday, June 5th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Bret Schoenefeld

Paul Clarke, Lorena McKerrow,

Cheryl Rortvedt