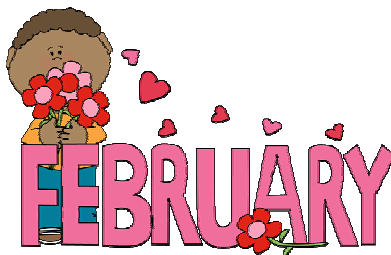


Salem United Church Of Christ
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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY: Marsha Meyer
CHURCH SECRETARY: Pamela Miller
MONETARY GIFTS SECRETARY: Jennifer Schoenefeld
MONETARY GIFTS ASSISTANT: Sharon Schoenefeld
CUSTODIAN: Cheryl Rortvedt

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
E-MAIL ADDRESS: churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org - WEB SITE: www.salemuccplywi.org
TELEPHONE: 920-892-7456/Rev. Hoppert's Cell 920-838-0405

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 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.

February 2018
Volume 68 No. 2

FIRST NOTES

For the first time since 1956, we have a year where Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day (not so great if you're giving up sweets for Lent) and Easter Sunday falls on April Fool's Day; (everyone is going to want to be a comedian that day).

It's a relatively early start to Lent, so that time will be upon us quickly. Although midweek Lenten programming isn't anything new around here, we will be doing something different during this Lenten season: we will focus both a book study and our worship services on the themes of Eric Elnes' book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood*. The "dark wood" represents a place where we might find uncertainty, temptation, and solitude, and a journey into that woods can teach us some lessons in faith. We will begin our time on Wednesday with a simple meal at 5:30 p.m., and a study on the Elnes book at 6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall, overlapping with the meal time (Marsha's article in this month's *Chimes* will explain the study in more detail). Worship (slated to be 30-40 minutes in length) will follow at 7:00 p.m. Our weekly themes will be, as follows: February 14th - "Where We Find Ourselves"; February 21st - "The Gift of Uncertainty"; February 28th - "The Gift of Emptiness"; March 7th - "The Gift of Being Thunderstruck"; March 14th - "The Gift of Getting Lost"; March 21st - "The Gift of Temptation." Worship on February 14th will also feature a service of Holy Communion.

The season of Lent is a time that encourages spiritual discipline. Some may fast and give something up. Others may take something new on. This study will give us an opportunity to take on a moment of reflection and growth, and I encourage you to be open to it.

Finally, a word about the membership information forms. I want to thank those of you who have turned them in: updated contact information is always appreciated in an era where phone numbers and e-mail addresses change so rapidly. We are, however, still waiting on a number of them, and I would encourage those of you who have not filled yours out to do so, at your nearest convenience.

I have had persons ask me why we have asked everyone to state what their membership status is, and they wish to be considered as a Member in Covenant or as a Friend of Salem. The simple answer is that it gives us the opportunity to give witness to our desire to be part of this household of faith at Salem. How often do we give that idea much thought? How often do we have the chance to make a declaration of it? If we asked to go on the record for our connection to organizations in the secular world, is it a hard thing to ask that we do it for our connection to the church one time a year? Some food for thought.

As I say, Lent will be upon us sooner than we know. May this upcoming season give you opportunities for spiritual growth and nurture.

Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Jim Hoppert



FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 Greta Debbink
- 2/2 Lorena McKerrow
- 2/5 Arline DeMunck
- 2/6 Dale Zimmermann
- 2/7 Ashton Debbink
- 2/8 Lori Holzer
- 2/9 Avrien Garcia
Abigail Hoppert
- 2/10 Dena Adamson
- 2/11 Kenneth Hoppert
Judy Lukaszewski
Laverne Eickberg
- 2/12 Dale Katsma
Margaret Bub
Judy Wilmot
- 2/13 Denise Kleinhans
Molly Hengst
Lucas Guillette
- 2/14 Donald Diver
Richard Groene
Dale Vanderkin
Georgine Littlefield
Pat Schoening
Jenna Iserloth
- 2/15 Carol Fenner
Jennifer Bubb
- 2/16 Scott Miller
David Bohrmueller
Andrew Hartmann
Judy Triplett
- 2/17 Robbie Gremminger
- 2/19 Carrie Ardell
- 2/22 Tammy Huenink
- 2/23 Betty Klemme
- 2/24 Steve Groene
Jered Krueger
- 2/25 Gloria Eldredge
Natalie Richart
- 2/27 Sam Meyer
Gerald Wagner
- 2/28 Nathan Mauk

2/29

Helen Toerpe
Kaye Theune



ANNIVERSARIES

2/27 Richard & Sharon Groene



50 + Anniversary

We would like to honor all couples who have been married 50+ years. This recognition will be held on Sunday, February 11th. Please contact the church office if you would like your name listed in the bulletin.



Dear Friends:

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your kindness and well wishes on the occasion of my de-commissioning on December 31st. The gifts and the cake and the warm thoughts meant more to me than I could ever begin to express. Thank you for your friendship, your confidence and your forbearance during my time of Ministry at Salem, and I take you with me as I embark on a new calling. It has been my great privilege to serve you.

May God bless you and keep you always,
Dale Miller



Thank you to the Nominating Committee who selected and contacted nominees for Consistory. The committee members included Scott Bunyea, Peter Meyer, Amy Nischik, and Bret Schoenefeld.

Anne Hernandez
Nominating Committee Chair

FROM THE PARISH NURSE . . .

The Mechanism of Glaucoma

Glaucoma means essentially an increased pressure within the eye. Normally, the rate of formation of the intraocular fluid and its outflow are in balance. The fluid, formed by the ciliary cells, bathes the interior of the eye and nourishes it and then flows forward around the lens into the anterior chamber. It is evacuated through the minute drainage canals situated in the angle of the anterior chamber. From here it goes into the veins of the sclera and conjunctiva and then into the general circulation.

If more fluid is formed than can be carried away, or if, as is most often the case, the outflow channels become narrowed with age, or blocked up by a swollen iris and dilated pupil, the pressure within the eye becomes elevated.

If the blockage is sudden, as it is in acute glaucoma, it is because the angle is narrow, often genetically so. The root of the iris in these cases becomes thickened when the pupil dilates as it does in the dark, after certain drugs, and exciting or emotional events (marital quarrel, death in the family, anger, or even after an exciting game of cards). The thickened root of the iris fills up the narrowed angle, blocks off the outflow channels and dams back the inflow. The natural mechanical result therefore is an increase of intraocular pressure (glaucoma).

In older people (about two per cent of all of us over 40 years of age) the blockage of the outflow is more gradual as the outflow channels become more and more narrowed with age. The mechanics and the immediate results are quite different because of the gradual versus the sudden occlusion of the outflow apparatus. This form of glaucoma is known as the *wide angle* (in contrast to the narrow or acutely blocked angle) form, or as *chronic simple glaucoma or non-congestive glaucoma*.

This is a very insidious and therefore dangerous form of glaucoma. It can steal away some of the vision, by pressure on the optic nerve, retinal cells and blood vessels, before the patient becomes aware of it. Remember it is painless and the eye remains white.

The increased pressure within the eye pushes back the soft pulp of the optic nerve and depresses it into a cup. The compressed nerve fibers can't live long, any more than flowers under a stone can. The decreased blood flow injures the precious retinal cells.

So it is that often the first thing a person with this form of glaucoma notices, is a blurring of vision on the side towards the nose, which spreads to involve other parts of the field of vision until, unless recognized and properly treated, total and hopeless blindness ensues (absolute glaucoma).

Because of the insidious serious nature of this disease in the patient who is unaware of it, it has become routine practice by every ophthalmologist, and it is hoped by every general practitioner, to measure the intraocular pressure or ocular tension of the eyes of everyone over 40 who come into the office. Indeed, nowadays increasing efforts are made to set up tension (tonometry) stations everywhere by local, state and federal actions under medical direction, so that more and more individuals over 40 can at least have the tensions of their eyes measured. If tension is found to be higher than normal the individual is referred to an ophthalmologist or an eye clinic.

Ocular tension is measured by an instrument called a tonometer. It can be compared crudely to an ordinary tire gauge, and everyone knows that an abnormal amount of air in a tire can raise the dickens with a tire.

After the eye is anesthetized with a drop of a local anesthetic, the base of the instrument is placed on the cornea, and the amount of indentation of the instrument gives a fairly

good reading of the ocular tension. (Compare kicking of a tire to see if it is soft or hard.)

But tonometry is only one phase, perhaps the most important one however, in the study of an eye to see if chronic simple glaucoma is present. Determinations of visual acuity, the mapping out of the boundaries of the field of vision (*perimetry*), the study of the appearance of the optic nerve (*ophthalmoscopy*) and an observation of the anatomy and appearance of the angle of the anterior chamber, *gonioscopy*, are necessary tests.

The treatment of chronic simple glaucoma is either medical (drops) or surgical. In this event a new outflow channel is made (e.g. trephine opening). Surgery is usually not performed until a trial of drugs is made. If these medications don't work, and there are a large variety of them to try, then surgery must be done.

Surgery is effective in about 85 per cent of the cases of glaucoma. It will not restore the vision that is lost. This is gone forever. But if it is successful it will check the progress, otherwise relentless, of the disease. It will put out the fire but not rebuild the house.

Congenital Glaucoma - This is a form of glaucoma that occurs in babies and children under two. The symptoms are sensitivity to light, spasm of the lids and watering eyes. Sometimes there may be pain which the child shows by fretting, refusing feedings and being obviously miserable. An unusually large cornea, often cloudy or hazy, which increases in size, and a deep anterior chamber are signs demanding attention.

The cause is a faulty development of the anterior chamber angle associated with aberrant tissue that covers and blocks the outflow channels.

The treatment is always surgical.

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, February 4, 2018 -

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 11, 2018 -

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration

Hebrew Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 -

Ash Wednesday

Hebrew Scripture: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 18, 2018 -

First Sunday in Lent

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, February 25, 2018 -

Second Sunday in Lent

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31

Epistle: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Mark 8:31-18

KEEP THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZED

St. Nicholas, Sheboygan

Ralph Groene, Vyra Thiel

Memorial, Sheboygan

Sharon Schoenfeld, Einale Mayer, Carol Stib

THE GIFT OF LOVE **1 CORINTHIANS 13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

CALLED TO CARE

On January 10th the Called to Care Ministry met to discuss how we can keep our mission strong with the departure of Dale Miller. Our goal is to never forget anyone needing a phone call, a visit or our help in anyway. Sometimes it is hard to make sure no one gets missed so we ask that if you know of someone please let

one of us know or call the church office. We will be using the nurse's office (off the main office) as our location for information.

For our homebound or hospitalized people we will have one person make an initial call and from there we will request the person's wishes for visits, phone calls or their request of no contact till further notice. We will try to team them with someone they will be comfortable getting a visit from or if that is not an issue we will let the team know they would like additional visits. This is to try to avoid bombarding anyone when perhaps they are not feeling well.

Lastly, we invite anyone that would like to join our ministry or find out more about us to call. We know some of you have signed up on the bulletin board. We thank you so much. We will be happy to have a conversation with you and find out how you would like to contribute to our mission.

Besides visiting homes, hospitals and nursing homes we also assist Dale Miller with his continued church services at several of our nursing homes monthly.

The people that attended our meeting were Judi Miller, Robbie Gremminger, Kathy Zelm, Marsha Meyer, Dale Knuth and Richard Groene.

FEBRUARY **LITTLE LAMBS CHILD CARE**

Sunday, February 4th:
Faye Hughes & Cora Meyer

Sunday, February 11th:
Gail Kleinhans

Sunday, February 18th:
Ashley Krueger & Confirmation Student

Sunday, February 25th:
Annette & Lauren Bunyea

FEBRUARY USHER LIST

Saturday, February 3rd:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: David Hengst
Jerry & Reta Klemme, Sharon Klemme

Sunday, February 4th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Linda Bosman
Dale & Janis Knuth, Bette Humbracht

Saturday, February 10th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Mary Mullen, Roger Rortvedt, Sharon Klemme

Sunday, February 11th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Mary Bender
Terry, Amy & Greta Debbink

Ash Wednesday, February 14th:

7:00 p.m. Head Usher: Terry Risse
Norman & Karen Raeder, Evie Kretsch

Saturday, February 17th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Mary Mullen
Ed & Darla Ardell, Linda Krueger

Sunday, February 18th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Consistory Member
Cindy Conrad, Carol Barts, Gene Boll

Wednesday, February 21st:

7:00 p.m. Head Usher: Consistory Member
Ron Schoenfeld, Tom Daigle, Judy Wilmot

Saturday, February 24th:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Kymn Schicker
Ray & Robbie Gremminger, Bob Becher

Sunday, February 25th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Amy Nischik
Paul, Susan, Cassie & Morgan Clarke

Wednesday, February 28th:

7:00 p.m. Head Usher: Consistory Member
Ansel Tupper, Janice Bunyea, Betty Klemme

Saturday, March 3rd:

4:30 p.m. Head Usher: Consistory Member
Richard Groene, Kevin & Deb Lisowe

Sunday, March 4th:

8:30 a.m. Head Usher: Consistory Member
Dale & Janis Knuth, Cheryl Rortvedt



COFFEE HOSTS NEEDED

Sign up on the volunteer calendar in the Gathering Area if you would like to host a coffee fellowship time. There are several Sundays still available in the coming weeks.

We will supply the cookies, coffee and juice. You can also bring in baked goods. If you would like to host coffee fellowship, but are not sure what is required, please contact the church office and someone will be able to help you.

If you like to bake but do not want to host coffee fellowship, you can bring in baked goods and we will freeze them to be served during fellowship time.

PARISH NURSE UPDATE

The nurse's office has relocated to its former location off the main office. Here you can leave messages, things you'd like me to post, or ideas for upcoming articles for the *Chapel Chimes*. I will continue to be in every week from 9:30 – 11:30 to try to help you with medical issues, benefits or just be available for conversation. Additional appointment times are welcome if someone requests it. Remember, I am here for you! Blood pressures will continue at both services the second weekend of the month for now unless more is needed. This office will also be available to the Called to Care Ministry. Postings will be presented on the bulletin board and medical materials will also be available. Please stop in!

Robbie Gremminger, Parish Nurse

Thank you to all those who helped share the story of the birth of Jesus by contributing their time and talent to the Living Nativity in December. We hosted over 130 people in the two-day event.

Cast

Elsa Blad
Jordan Blad
Lauren Bunyea
Megan Fontany
Joey Halle
Rev. James Hoppert
Jered Krueger
Kevin Lisowe
Chase Markus
Scot Markus
Cora Meyer
Peter Meyer
Amy Nischik
Jeremy Pratt
Bret Schoenefeld
Evan Sukowaty

Stable Set Up and Take Down

Dale Miller
Jeff Greuel
Andy Hartmann

Scene Set Up

Peter Meyer
Bret Schoenefeld

Costume Help

Angie Fontany
Kay Halle
Lorena McKerrow
Lena Schoenefeld

Lighting and Sound

Scott Bunyea

Greeter

Wes & Cyndi Huibregtse
Evelyn Kretsch
Lorena McKerrow

Straw Bales

Al Bosman

Animals

Steve and Cheryl Rortvedt
Bret and Jennie Schoenefeld
Jim and Debbie Sheets

Refreshment Serving

Sharon Klemme
Lorena McKerrow
Judy Wilmot

Thanks to all who made homemade goodies for the time of refreshment.

Anne Hernandez
Living Nativity Coordinator

