



Our Vision:

To be a congregation of disciples proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all.

Our Mission:

To Glorify God in all that we do, reflecting His love to our community and the world.

SUMMERFEST 2008

BIBLE BLUEPRINTS

July 6.....Formal Dining Room Plans: When It's Not Just "Eat and Run"

July 13.....The Living Room: The Gathering of God's People

July 20.....Plumbing Necessities: Cleansing and Refreshment

July 27.....Landscaping: Reviewing the Placement of Trees

August 3.....Inspecting the Foundation: Set in Blood, Not Concrete.

August 10.....The Basement Furnace: Hot Enough for You?

August 17.....The Family Room: Household Designs & Styles

WORSHIP SERVICES

SALEM LUTHERAN

CHURCH

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8:00 A.M.

9:15 A.M.

10:30 A.M.

BIBLE SCHOOL

9:15 A.M.

JULY, 2008

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Wayne Schmidt

Asst. Pastor.....Jefferson Cox

Minister of Music.....Jim Kuzman

Secretary.....Linda Magnuson

Grounds Keeper.....Ron Vasak

Dearly Beloved,

" Singing the Old Songs - Telling the Old Stories "
" Disney Songs / Divine Truths "
" I Can Only Imagine "
" Faith Fest 2001 "
" Lake Wobegon Days "

Bring back memories? Wonder what these are about?

These were the titles of previous Summer Fest worship celebration series. One summer as we sang those familiar but forgotten songs from the past, we revisited those biblical stories we so loved as a child: David and Goliath; Gideon; The Walls of Jericho. The summer Disney was boycotted by Fundamental Conservatives Christians in protest to the "Tree of Life," we examined the Christian theology reflected in such songs as "Lion King", "Zippity Doo Dah" "Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier." It was wonderful to be renewed and reassured by the message of these classics. The summer the song "I Can Only Imagine" was on the top of the charts of Contemporary Christian Radio and was being played on "Rock" stations across America, we took a concentrated look at what God's Word really reveals about heaven. It was insightful. During the summer of 2001, members of our congregation came forward during worship to share their favorite biblical passage and their faith story as to how that particular passage came to impact their life. Indeed, it was very moving and spiritually inspiring to listen as fellow members articulated their faith story as they shared how they personally came to experience the truth and grace of God's Word. A few years ago Salem became for the summer "Lake Wobegon Lutheran Church". We shared some of the wonder stories of Garrison Keillor, such as "Bruno, The Fishing Dog" and "Pontoon Boat" We theologized as how these stories touched the inner story within us. The sharings were profound.

"Bible Blueprints" is the title of this year's Summer Fest worship series.

Building on the well received 2008 Lenten Series "DELVING into the Bible", starting Sunday, July 6th during the 8:00 and 10:30 am worship offerings, we will be DWELLING in the Bible. There are theological themes that run through the pages of scripture, appearing again and again in the Old Testament and then in the New Testament. As we take a break from our standard Sunday worship liturgical practices, we are afforded opportunity to trace these important theological themes. Have you ever wondered to yourself "Why does Jesus' death on the cross bring salvation?" or "Why was not eating meat on Friday ever practiced?" It has to do with the role "Blood" plays in and throughout scripture. We'll be tracing the biblical "BLUEPRINTS" of this conceptual development. Have you ever wondered why fire is associated with damnation? Come trace the biblical "BLUEPRINT" of the concept of Hell. (We have the air conditioner on super low that Sunday)

Hear are the BLUEPRINTS for summer worship

- July 6th Formal Dining Room Plans: When It's Not
• Just "Eat and Run"
- July 13th The Living Room: The Gathering of God's
• People
- July 20th Plumbing Necessities: Cleansing and
• Refreshment
- July 27th Landscaping: Reviewing the Placement of
• Trees
- August 3rd Inspecting the Foundation: Set in Blood,
• Not Concrete.
- August 10th The Basement Furnace : Hot Enough for You?
•
- August 17th The Family Room: Household Designs & Styles

Pastor Cox and I are excited about having this special time of biblical study and spiritual growth with you, and with your children and grandchildren. Each Sunday, look forward to the gifting of younger worshippers with special theme related presents. For example, on July 27th as we study the role "tree" plays in Holy Scripture, we will be gifting each child with a "seedling" to take home. It is our hope they will remember the message, long after worship has concluded, as they watch their "tree" grow. Each Sunday, look forward to being part of the renewal happening across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as congregation after congregation responds to the "Book of Faith" initiative. Every Sunday, look forward to a Hymn Fest with Jim Kuzman, our new organist and Senior Director of Choirs. Look forward to a meaningful and constructive series of worshipful experiences as we examine the 'Bible Blueprints' the GREAT ARCHITECT has laid out before us.

Joy in Jesus.
Pastor Schmidt

Dear Members and Friends of Salem Lutheran Church,

Hopefully most of you have seen the architectural model of our buildings which is on display in the foyer by the Fellowship Hall. If you have seen it, you've no doubt noticed that it includes a building that doesn't exist (at least, no yet!) I'm sure many of you have wondered about that model and what it means for Salem. Perhaps we can answer some of those questions that we ourselves have been asked regarding this building project.

Question 1: Why are we talking about starting a building project?

Answer: We are talking about building a permanent structure to replace the modular buildings that we currently lease for classroom space. They have been on our property for far longer than we anticipated, and they are certainly showing their age. How much longer than can they last is anyone's guess, but we don't want to be caught unprepared.

Question 2: Have we decided to start a building project?

Answer: No, not yet. The Mission Team has been discussing the need to build more educational space for several years now, and in response to those discussions we asked Scott Fetterhoff to put together the architectural model to generate discussion on the property issues and possibilities before us. At this stage we are still in the process of gathering information.

Question 3: What kind of building is the proposed one?

Answer: As shown, it's an educational building with 8 classrooms. However, one of those rooms would need to be used for bathroom space, leaving only 7 classrooms. This is just a guess as to what kind of building we would build. The modular classrooms have a total of six classrooms. One of the rooms in the new building could be used as a larger nursery (which is needed), leaving 6 regular classrooms. There could also be a small storage room, as well as attic storage. You might notice then that we're only adding one additional classroom to our property, as well as additional bathroom space, although the new classrooms themselves would be much larger than the ones in the modular classrooms.

Question 4: If we need more space, why not build a larger building?

Answer: There are several factors that we need to consider. First, there seems to be a limit as to how much of our property can be built upon, which is based on the size of our parking lots and our water retention space. To our best knowledge at this time, the model building is about as big as we would be allowed to build. An option would be to build a two-story (or higher!) building, increasing our floor space. But this runs into other issues, not the least of which is cost. To the best of our knowledge at this time, the amount of money our congregation could be reasonably expected to raise and the size of the debt we could be expected to handle would be just about enough to build the one-story building as shown, so a two-story building might be too expensive without an extraordinary financial response by our congregation. There are also zoning issues to consider with a two-story building, and with our relationship with the neighborhoods around us.

Question 5: What other property and space issues are affecting our growing congregation?

Answer: Besides the need to eventually replace the modular classrooms and the need for a larger nursery, we need more fellowship space, more worship space, and more storage space. We need more educational space dedicated to adult education. We are also dealing with many general wear-and-tear issues with our property.

Question 6: So what's next?

Answer: This month (July) a feasibility study group will be meeting with Karen Sumner, the Building Consultant with the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund (who currently holds our mortgage), so that she can help us make sure we're considering all of the aspects of the kind of grand undertaking that this building project would be, and to help us set priorities between the various property issues before us.

If you have any other questions, please share them with any member of the Mission Team, including us.

In Christ,
Pastor Schmidt &
Pastor Jeff

