

SALEM SPIRIT



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.

FELLOWSHIP HALL REMODEL

When you think of fellowship what do you think? Well one definition is "a friendly relationship", another "a union of friends". The Fellowship Committee took this to a new level by sponsoring the refurbishment of the fellowship hall at Salem Lutheran Church. Shane Barr and Tammy Ayotte championed the cause and the effort has included all new paint, new valance drapery, and other improvements. The new paint has brightened the facility and the congregation is again noticing the round stained glass windows that were a feature of Salem's original sanctuary. Over twenty gallons of paint were used on the very aged ceiling alone. The painting work was done by Kenny Quitana, the Barr's subcontractor. Please take a moment to thank both Shane and Tammy, and the hardworking Fellowship Committee who continually make a difference at Salem.

Scott Fetterhoff,

Property & Building Committee

WORSHIP SERVICES

SALEM LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Fax: (407) 876-1084

E-mail info@salemhc.net

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8:00 A.M.

9:15 A.M.

10:30 A.M.

BIBLE SCHOOL

9:15 A.M.

SEPTEMBER, 2008

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Wayne Schmidt

Asst. Pastor.....Jefferson Cox

Minister of Music.....Jim Kuzman

Secretary.....Linda Magnuson

Grounds Keeper.....Ron Vasak

Dearly Beloved,

“WORSHIP the Lord in his holy array!” so exclaims the psalmist. We seek to glorify God in each of our three Sunday worship services. Responding to the wonder of God’s abundant and amazing grace, our chief endeavor and centering act as a church is to *“worship the Lord”*. Together, we joyfully raise our voices in song and lift our hearts in prayerful thanksgiving. As family gathered, we dwell in and upon God’s Word and partake of the Sacraments. In the presence of Christ and each other, we are renewed and refreshed. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are then sent forth into the world to proclaim in word and deed the Gospel to all.

Rally Day, Sunday August 24th, marks the beginning of our new program year and the return to “worship as normal.” Summer Fest 2008 was well received. The content presented in ‘Bible Blueprints’ evoked a lot of thoughtful comments and insightful responses from worshippers, both member and guest. From the returned “SURVEY CARDS” taken during worship, Sunday July 13th, the idea of “taking a little break from ‘worship as usual’ during the summer” was strongly affirmed. When asked to identify personally the most meaningful part of worship most responded with either “the sermon” or “communion.” Yes, we are Lutheran indeed. It is through Word and Sacrament we experience the richness and the reality of the “presence of Christ.” When asked to identify what was the “congregation’s greatest strength/asset”

responses also carried a common theme of “ friendliness” , the “feeling of family”, “it’s people and pastors.”

What is being attested to is that worship is not just ” Me and God.” The feeling of welcomed in and belonging to ”the communion of saints” is imperative to one’s worship experience. Of the “SURVEY CARD” returned a variety of responses advanced in regard to the “areas that need to be improved upon.” Some comments forwarded identified “promptness of starting time for service” as an area for improvement. I agree, along with Pastor Cox. Sometimes our passion for the Word and our enthusiasm while sharing it with you is a bit “unbridled.” We appreciate the patience you expressed during Summer Fest 2008 and thank you for being so considerate to us and each other as you waited your opportunity to worship the Lord. As we return to “worship as usual” steps have been made to provide worshipful (and punctual) Sunday experiences. Each of these “improvement” comments, along with all comments summated, will be reviewed and reflected upon by the Worship Committee as part of our agenda. Whether you attend the 8:00, 9:15 or 10:30 service, your experience of worship is of utmost concern to me, Pastor Cox, your Worship Committee, and Contemporary Worship Team, along with Jim Kuzman and I want each worship service to be meaningful and inspiring for you and pleasing to the Lord.

With the Love and Joy of Jesus,

Pastor Schmidt

Dear Members and Friends of Salem Lutheran Church,

Over the last few years, our congregation has experienced a period of significant growth, both in numbers of members and in the number of programs and ministries our congregation offers. But while this growth has increased our ability to make a difference in the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it has also challenged us as a congregation to make sure that the way we do things remains effective.

One important thing we can do as a congregation to help the programs and ministries of the congregation is to be consistent about letting our event planners know that we intend to participate in whatever they're planning. Usually this takes the form of signing up for events on a sheet somewhere in the narthex or foyer, but it might include using email or calling the office.

Having an accurate count of participants for our many events, activities, and ministries is important for several reasons, but in truth they all boil down to the issue of faithful stewardship. First of all, those planning the events usually need to purchase materials ahead of time in order to have a positive and effective event. No one wants to come to an event and not have enough materials to do what is planned (or even worse, not have enough food!) On the flip side, showing up after signing up is also important, so that the planners don't purchase too much materials, risking them going to waste.

Second, there's the issue of the time that those planning and/or implementing the event puts in. If only a few people are expected, the planners may not spend enough time planning for those who show up unexpectedly. Or, if only a few of the many people who signed up for an activity show up, then the leading the event may end up either overburdened with the responsibilities or wasting their time if the event needs to be cancelled altogether.

As I mentioned before, this is actually a stewardship issue, but it is something that Salem does need to work on as a congregation. I hope and pray that as our congregation continues to move forward in mission and ministry, that we do all that we can as individuals and as a congregation to make our efforts as successful as possible.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff

