

# 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.*

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## "SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS PROGRESSIVE DINNER"

*Saturday, November 22nd. Host families are needed now to commit to open their homes for this event being hosted by both the Fellowship and the Service Committees. Would there be more interest if we held it as a "Trinity" event - tri-county, that is? We realize we have members that are spread out from the local Salem area. Please contact us with your ideas and suggestions. (Tammy Ayotte @ 407-276-7970 or jimntam@hotmail.com) As always, we also need volunteers to help with the planning of this affair. There will be proceeds from this affair to benefit local charities in time for the holidays.*



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### WORSHIP SERVICES

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CHURCH

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8:00 A.M.

9:15 A.M.

10:30 A.M.

BIBLE SCHOOL

9:15 A.M.

OCTOBER, 2008

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Wayne Schmidt

Asst. Pastor.....Jefferson Cox

Minister of Music.....Jim Kuzman

Secretary.....Linda Magnuson

Grounds Keeper.....Ron Vasak

Dear Family and Friends of Salem Lutheran Church,

Over the years I've noticed an interesting trend. Someone I know will be taking medication of some kind, anti-depressants, hormone treatments, drug therapies, etc. to address a medical condition of some kind. For many, these treatments begin to work – the patient feels better emotionally, mentally, and/or physically. There is much rejoicing.

But then, it seems a thought starts growing in the mind of the patient. Perhaps they're feeling better overall, but sometimes these medications have side effects that can be quite annoying. Or perhaps it's been so long since they felt the effects of the condition that they begin to forget how bad it was before they started taking their medications. But for whatever reason, they begin to think that they don't need their medications anymore, or that they can start reducing the dosage. Family, friends and even their doctor (if they even bother to mention their plans to their physician) might not agree with the patient if they share their thoughts with them, but what do they know? It's not their body, after all.

So they stop taking their meds or reduce their dosage, and at first things seem to be okay. Sure, after a few days they might start to get a little irritated with people, but they assume that it's because those other people are just being annoying, or that perhaps they start feeling a little worse physically. But the side effects are going away, so they're happy about that. But after a few days, or even a week or more, suddenly they have a bad day, or even a very bad day. Their world seems to be crashing down around them, or their condition suddenly flares up, and they're miserable emotionally, mentally, and/or physically. To make things worse, this doesn't happen in isolation. Their co-workers, fellow parishioners, friends and family also feel the effects of this crisis, and often must end up taking care of both the patient and their other responsibilities.

The bottom line is that taking yourself off medications against the advice of your doctor and those closest to you is almost never a good idea. The reason you're feeling better is because of the medication(s)! Sure the side effects can be annoying, but they're rarely worse than the condition that the medication is treating, despite jokes to the contrary. And you should also take into consideration those closest to you. If you have a relapse, who is also going to be negatively impacted by your condition? It'll be your spouse, your children, your friends and/or your co-workers, right? If they may be greatly affected by your decision, shouldn't you at least take into consideration their insights into your deliberations?

So I hope and pray that anyone who's reading this article and considering taking themselves off their medications against the recommendation of their doctor would carefully consider all of the possible "side effects" their decision could create, for themselves and for those around them. May God the Holy Spirit guide their thoughts and decisions, and may those decisions be made with love for themselves and for others.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jeff

## ***STORM-TORN HAITI FACES FOOD CRISIS***

*Four tropical storms have wiped out most of Haiti's food crops and damaged irrigation systems and pumping stations, raising the specter of acute hunger for millions in the impoverished country.*

*The system of agriculture has been destroyed. Haiti desperately needs help to avert mass hunger. Emergency aid has flowed in to people directly affected by Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike, storms that triggered flooding and killed at least 425 people in less than a month, including 194 in the critical rice-growing Artibonite Valley.*

*But the United Nations has raised less than 2 percent of a critical \$108 million fundraising appeal. a further \$18 million has been pledged but not delivered. And much more is needed, with farms damaged or destroyed across the poorest country in the hemisphere.*

*Schools that were supposed to open in early September are still filled with refugees fighting over scraps of food aide. Much of Gonaives, the nation's fourth-largest city, remains flooded and without electricity. Malaria and other diseases are beginning to spread.*

*Haiti has always struggled to feed its people. Now, that is becoming impossible. Floodwaters still covered much of Haiti's rice-growing region. Crops were covered with brown mud or lay crushed in ruined fields stretching as far as the eye could see. An estimate of 60 percent of this year's food harvest has been wiped out by the storm, which hit just as farmers were preparing to collect corn, plantains and yams from their fields. The fall rice harvest was lost as well.*

*The damage might be felt for years--mountain topsoil, already loosened by rampant deforestation, washed out to sea. Hundreds of irrigation basins, canals and pumping stations were damaged, and about 10,000 tons of fertilizer distributed to farmers disappeared. It is estimated that these storms caused \$180 million in damage to Haiti's agricultural sector. If the world does not respond with long-term aide, experts warn that deadly food riots could reignite, unraveling Haiti's fragile political stability.*

*Excerpt by Jonathan Katz, Associated Press*

*Please support our Mission Team in their pledge of support to the Haiti Relief Fund*

## *From your Mission Team*

*Here are some of the highlights from the September Mission Team Meeting*

*\* Jane Meyer, representing the Search Committee for the Contemporary Worship Team Leader, presented the name of Sara Petefish for the position. After discussion, the Mission Team voted and approved the hiring of Sara.*

*\* The consultation process with Karen Sumner from the Mission Investment Fund continues to move forward as we look at improvements and additions to our buildings. The Mission Team was challenged to move this process forward in partnership with the Strategic Plan and in light of our "Going for the Gold".*

*\* The members of the Mission Team present at the meeting made a financial pledge to aid the victims of the many hurricanes to have hit Haiti over the past several months., The congregation will be encouraged to add to these funds as part of a greater response from Salem.*

*\* The Mission Team is in the process of developing the 2009 Strategic Plan for Salem.*

*\* Look for the complete minutes of Mission Team meetings on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the bathrooms. Also, don't forget to check our website for a listing of events and activities ([www.salemlc.net](http://www.salemlc.net).)*

*Yours in Discipleship,  
Eric Schubert  
Mission Team President*

## **SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH REVENUE/EXPENSE SUMMARY**

**JULY, 2008**

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>2007</i>
<i>Total Giving</i>	26,468	30,283	25,776
<i>Total Expenses</i>	28,474	28,419	28,756
<i>Net Income (Loss)</i>	(2,006)	1,864	(2,980)

*Total Giving for the month of August was under Budget by \$3,800; Total Expenses were right on Budget; this created a negative variance from Budget of \$3,900.*

*Salem is committed to assisting Haiti as they attempt to recover from recent hurricanes., Crops have ben distroyed. Assistance will be needed for many months. Indicate on your check or evenlope "Haiti Relief Fund." All donations will be forwarded to the proper organization. Please remember them in your prayers.*

*Celebrate our Silver Anniversary as we reach for the GOLD!*

### **FALL FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 2!!!**

*This will be a potluck style fellowship event with fun & games provided by the Youth of Salem. Watch for the signup sheets in the coming weeks. We will also use this opportunity to take a new photo of the entire congregation outside the church for our website and upcoming 25th anniversary events. Be sure to plan to be there.!*

