

# SALEM SPIRIT

The logo for Salem Spirit features the words "SALEM SPIRIT" in a large, serif font. Below the text is a central illustration of an open book with a red cross on its cover, flanked by green leafy branches.

*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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## SALEM FALL CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES

*A general clean-up of the church grounds and much needed mulching of front landscape beds was completed on September 25th. A very big thank you to the team of: Dick and Nancy Ericson, Barb Ryan, Michael Ryan, Bill Rundle, Sean Rundle, Eric Schubert, Devon Kennedy, and Ray Lien. Thanks for your "heart" work.*

*...and more to come...*

*With the great fall weather the Property & Building Committee will host two more ground clean-up days in November. The 1st will be held on Saturday Nov. 15 specifically to clean up the landscape debris at the NW corner of the property. The second will be held on Saturday Nov. 22 to rake leaves, and weed and mulch the education portables garden. Both activities will start at 6:00 am and conclude before Saturday game-day kick off. All volunteers are welcome. Please come out, enjoy the weather, and support Salem Lutheran Church.*



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## WORSHIP SERVICES

SALEM LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

phone: (407)876-4000

Fax: (407) 876-1084

E-mail [info@salemcl.net](mailto:info@salemcl.net)

website [salemcl.net](http://salemcl.net)

8:00 A.M.

9:15 A.M.

10:30 A.M.

BIBLE SCHOOL

9:15 A.M.

NOVEMBER, 2008

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Wayne Schmidt

Asst. Pastor.....Jefferson Cox

Minister of Music.....Jim Kuzman

Secretary.....Linda Magnuson

Grounds Keeper.....Ron Vasak

Dearly Beloved,

October 31<sup>st</sup> is Reformation Day. On this day in 1517, Martin Luther nailed to the Castle Church doors a document that later would popularly be known as The 95 Theses. This was not an act of defiance or provocation as often thought. Luther's intention was not to incite the German people to riot against the Pope. The theses (questions) themselves were written in Latin, the language of the church, and not in the vernacular. By posting them, Luther was offering a proposal for debate over the doctrine and practice of the Roman Church, with a special emphasis given to the sale of indulgences in light of the Gospel of Christ. Nonetheless, this event did create controversy. Upon Luther's excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church in 1520, the Lutheran movement was born.

This year October 31<sup>st</sup> denotes not only the anniversary of the Reformation but also for us as a congregation marks another very special historical event. The ACT Capital Campaign is concluded!

What a spiritual journey it has been! At one time, our mortgage was so great that we could not get out of the "purgatory" of our indebtedness. We were hopelessly looped into a financial nightmare with the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund, our lender. We were 1.2 million dollars in debt and had 2/3rds of the facility needed for mission and ministry. There was no healthy way for us to grow large enough as a congregation to get from beneath this milestone mortgage. The M.I.F. would not "indulge" us by forgiving our loan. Consideration was given to handing them the keys to the "doors" and relocating our congregation elsewhere.

Thanks to a cadre of congregational leaders who were wonderfully skilled in contract negotiations, the Office of the Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod and the ELCA Division of Outreach -- two miracles happened! MIRACLE ONE: We successfully "debated over the doctrine and practice" of the Mission Investment Fund. MIRACLE TWO: We were granted the privilege of making principle payments while having reduced interest rates. This was the first time the Mission Investment Fund granted any congregation this opportunity. The Mission Investment Fund's "reformation" in their policy lead to our transformation as a congregation.

What followed was the ACT Capital Campaign for the reduction of our mortgage. Over \$377,000 were pledged over a three-to-five year period. As of Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup> we have received through the ACT appeal: \$419,551.33. Through negotiations and these pledges received, we have lowered our total indebtedness well below the manageable targeted goal of \$650,000 of indebtedness.

WELL DONE!

November 1<sup>st</sup> is the festival day of All Saints. It also marks the beginning of a new mortgage contract with the Mission Investment Fund. Thank you for your gifts of time, talent and treasure which has brought us to this day.

As a congregation the Holy Spirit first created us, then sustained us and now has empowered us for greater mission and ministry. In the tradition of those Lutherans of 1500's, we are a "movement" set loose in the world, proclaiming the "Gospel of Christ" near and far. I look forward with you to the day we erect and dedicate our much-needed and anticipated educational/multi-use annex. To the glory of God and for the good of others, let us go forth.

With JESUS' joy!

Pastor Schmidt

## *From your Mission Team*

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

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

\* *A presentation was made by the Worship and Music Committee on the proposed purchase of a new organ. At this point in time it was felt that any purchase of this magnitude needs to be part of an organized and well-thought out connection to the end of ACT I and the potential for an ACT II appeal.*

\* *The 2009 Investment in Mission and Ministry budget is being developed for Salem. If you have not returned a pledge card, please prayerfully consider doing so.*

\* *There are several openings for members of the 2009 Mission Team. If you are interested in serving on the Mission Team, please contact Eric Schubert or any member of the Mission Team.*

\* *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 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

*Paul & Kathy Stark  
Kyle Stark*



### **COMING UP IN DECEMBER**

*Reception of New Members (December 7th),  
Lunch Bunch (December 7th). Sunday school  
Children's Christmas Program (9:15 am,  
December 14th), Annual Congregational  
Meeting Part I (December 14th). Choir  
Christmas Cantata (all 3 services, December  
21st), Christmas Eve services (December  
24th)...and many more exciting opportunities for  
mission and ministry!*



Dear Members and Friends of Salem Lutheran Church,

September marked the end of the 3rd quarter of 2008, so I will bring you up to date on our attendance so far this year. But before I reveal the numbers, let me address the numbers we've seen so far in October. When looking around the sanctuary on Sunday morning at the 8:00 am and 10:30 am services, it may appear that our attendance numbers are down, but they really aren't. In fact, so far our attendance so far for 2008 (215.3) is just over 5% higher than at this point in 2007 (which was 204.6), which meets our goal for this year! Looking behind the numbers, this is a cause for celebration, for this increase in average attendance indicates that there is a level of excitement and optimism for the mission and ministry of Salem Lutheran church that is attractive to those who are looking to be part of a healthy congregation and is uplifting to those who already share our vision "to be a dynamic congregation of disciples proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all."

But then again, our attendance could be yet higher. 215 people in worship on a Sunday means that there's more than 285 members of Salem not in worship that Sunday (which our membership is currently around 500, there's a significant number of visitors who worship with us on any given Sunday, so there's even more members not gathered with us than the numbers indicate.) There are many reasons for this, of course. Many members work on Sunday mornings and simply can't make it to church as much as they'd like to. Others have to travel. Some are not feeling well that particular morning. Others have children in activities that meet on Sundays in our culture that by and large no longer respects the Christian Sabbath.

Of course, there are deeper reasons for staying home with some. I suspect that there are those who won't come to worship if they don't have an offering to put in the plate, or who are embarrassed because they feel that they don't have good enough clothes to wear for worship. There are probably others who are mad or angry about something with Salem or at one or more people within our congregation. Others won't come to worship if the whole family isn't going to go to worship.

But these are the times in which we need to experience God's presence and God's love the most. These are the times that we need to band together and take on the problems of the world, guided by the will of God. These are the times that we need to hear the wisdom and assurance of God's Work, not just as individuals, but as a congregation. The bottom line; there is no better time or more important time to keep the commitment and effort to gather for worship at Salem Lutheran Church than right now.

In Addition, in November we have several special events going on as well. On November 2nd, All Saints Day, we will remember all those members who have died in the last year, we will celebrate those who have served as staff of Salem Lutheran Church over the last 25 years, and several youth will be taking First Communion and then after worship we'll be having our Fall Festival which will include taking a new group picture of the congregation. On November 9th, we will be receiving several new members and a number of 3rd grade children of the congregation will be receiving Bibles as gifts from Salem. On Wednesday the 25th we will be having a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 pm. On Sunday, November 30th, the First Sunday of Advent, there will be a pot luck luncheon followed by the Hanging of the Greens.

In short, there's too many exciting things going on to miss out on any of them, and too many important reasons to be gathered with your brothers and sisters in Christ to stay home on Sunday if you can at all help it. See you soon!

In Christ,  
Pastor Jeff



