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# SALEM CHIMES

Volume 63 Issue 1

***Sharing our plans for Pentecost and Ordinary Times  
and celebrating the life our congregation.***

**Past-tense Christians: pg. 1 / Immigrant Resources: pg. 2 / Photos! pgs. 8-14**

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Dear Friends,

Dr. Joseph Bocko pointed out Jesus' companions on the road to Emmaus continually spoke of Jesus in the past tense. Dr. Bocko referred to them as "past-tense believers." It struck me that so many folks today are past-tense Christians: "I used to go to church;" "We used to do such and such at church;" "We used to have a really good choir," "We used to be a big congregation;" *etc., etc., etc.*

There is nothing past-tense about God, faith, or Church. The mistake is only looking back to whatever was. By being a past-tense Christian we do not open ourselves up to the blessings God currently is bestowing each and every day. We miss what is going on at this moment. We also miss the future God is preparing for us.

I frequently talk about God threads—the threads on the backside of life's tapestry that weave from the past to the present and on into the future. God threads connect everyone and everything into God time. If we tie a knot in our God threads, we break the flow.

Not too long ago I attended an IMPD-NW District meeting in response to one of the recent murders. Chief Hite and NW District officers asked what neighbors want ***to happen***. Individuals responded with stories of what it was like in the past and expressed a longing for the "good old days." Chief Hite finally broke into the reminiscing and started calling on individuals to respond to the question, "What do you want to happen?" One man responded he *hoped* there would not be a lot of murders. Hoping for something in the future without living and acting in the present is futile.

The past—good, bad, or indifferent—is gone. Being a past-tense Christian is as sad as being a future-tense Christian—sitting around waiting for something to happen. We can hope for, wish for, and pray for any future we want. But we need to be present-tense Christians, living in the light of God and seeing what God is doing in the present.

Peace in present time,

*Pastor Bonnie*

# **Salem Ministry Teams**

## **Evangelism/Outreach Ministry Team**

The EMT is looking at ways to encourage visitors to Salem. We encourage everyone to talk about the exciting things that happen at Salem and suggest people visit to see for themselves. There are a lot of things that make Salem different from other churches.

We are pleased at the efforts of the ESL team and the value they are providing to newer people to Indianapolis. Through ESL Salem has the opportunity to connect with immigrants from around the world. In addition to teaching English, the ESL program recently offered a conversation with IMPD-NW on immigrant safety and an evening with Immigration and Naturalization attorneys from Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic. We are in the process of developing a list of immigration resources to share with our ESL students and others who are new to our community. This list will include restaurants, groceries, medical, legal, faith institutions, housing, ESL opportunities, and clothing banks. Please share any resources you may have for this list. Send them to Fred Freeman at [massagewerksindy@comcast.net](mailto:massagewerksindy@comcast.net).

Within Marion County 1% of residents are African National immigrants. However, in Pike Township this number is 8%. Salem enjoys welcoming people from all countries but seems to have an affinity with African Nationals. We are also in the process of creating a database of local African Nationals, gathering names, addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, country of origin, and languages. This will be a tedious process as there are no current such lists. Salem participants are asked to gather this information as you come into contact with people on a daily basis. Your help here is important.

Another goal of EMT is to offer some sort of event to our African National friends each month by gatherings at Salem. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

\*Sunday, September 7, 1-5 pm, Center for Interfaith Cooperation's *Festival of Faiths*, Veteran's Memorial downtown Indianapolis

\*Saturday, September 13, 11a-2 pm, *Pike Community Day*, New Augusta Public Academy North, 6450 Rodebaugh Rd.

\*Sunday, October 12, 3-7 pm, *Harvest Festival* at Salem Park, games, cookout, music, drumming

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### **PASTOR'S PICNICS IN THE PARK**

It is time to start PPPs again. During the summer months you are invited to bring a picnic lunch to Salem Park between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. each Thursday. The first one will be June 12.



This is also an opportunity to meet and greet some of our neighbors and make new friends. During the summer vacation many children will be out and about so there will be a couple of games set up for children of all ages to play or a time to visit. There will be a list of special PPPs listed soon on the web site, on our facebook page, and updated on our weekly emails and tweets.

See you in Salem Park beginning June 12!

### **Christian Education Ministry Team**

**Sunday School** is on summer hiatus and is scheduled to resume after Labor Day. In the meantime, **Bible Study** meets the first and third Mondays of the month in the fellowship hall. Bring a lunch and join in conversation at noon and an hour of study beginning at 12:30 p.m.

### **Worship and Music**

#### **Bishop Gafkjen Visit June 1**

Bishop Bill is coming to lead Worship and visit with us on June 1. The last time he was here was for our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Since then Salem has grown and taken on new ministries. Some of the original funding for ESL came from the Synod. Bishop Bill, the entire Synod, and Churchwide ELCA support what Salem is doing in Indianapolis. Bishop Bill asked if he could visit Salem to show his support for our ministries. He will lead Worship and stay for conversation and refreshments after Worship.



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**Also on June 1  
Farewell and Godspeed  
Nina and Gbefa Agbota**

Nina and Gbefa are returning to their home in Benin, West Africa to be with family. June 1 will be their last day in this country. We shall bless them in Farewell and Godspeed during the Worship.

Gbefa has promised to do some research for us. She is going to video various worship styles and musical instruments used at her family church. They use traditional African musical instruments as well as a couple which are water instruments. It will be fun to have our own correspondent sending back news reports.

**Remember *Church to Go*?**

God created the seventh day for rest. Jesus was a great fan of getting away from daily life and taking a vacation. Sometimes he went by himself (Matthew 4:1-2); sometimes he took a couple of close friends (Luke 9:28); sometimes he took all of his friends (Mark 6:30). And whether he was alone or with friends, Jesus always took time to stop and pray to God.

Summers is time for folks to away from daily life and take a vacation. We know that many of you are going on vacation or get away for a long weekend. We are happy you are able to do so. We also do not want you to hide your heads in shame and feel as if you are “playing heathen,” as one embarrassed Council Team member said. Instead, we are encouraging you to take a Sunday off from Church and be with others. And while you are with them take time to stop and pray to God as Jesus did.

*Church to Go* is an easy to use, short worship booklet from Salem Lutheran Church for you to take with you, share with everyone who is with and around you. After you are finished using *Church to Go* on your trip, leave the worship booklet behind so others might know of the ministry of Salem Lutheran Church.

*Church to Go* will be available on the back table of the sanctuary, online at [www.salemelca.com/salemTOGO1.htm](http://www.salemelca.com/salemTOGO1.htm) or call the church office for a copy. Wishing you safe traveling mercies!

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## Pentecost

June 8

Remember to wear **red** for Pentecost on June 8 as we celebrate the birthday of the Church. Pentecost is one of Pastor Bonnie's favorite days in the Church year.

## Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

June 22

LIRS, the Lutheran body for immigration and refugee justice, celebrates her 75th anniversary on June 22. Salem's ministry with immigrants and refugees makes us partners with LIRS. We shall celebrate LIRS' 75th anniversary on June 22 by using the †Maasai Creed. Our friend at LIRS asked for photos and a copy of our Worship bulletin.

### †The Maasai Creed

The Maasai Creed is a creed composed in about 1960 by Western Christian missionaries for the Maasai, an indigenous African tribe of semi-nomadic people located primarily in Kenya and northern Tanzania. The creed attempts to express the essentials of the Christian faith within the Maasai culture.

## Patriotic Picnic

July 6

Dress casual for Worship on Independence Day weekend and wear your **RED**, **WHITE** and **BLUE**. Our 10:30 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary will feature at least one patriotic hymn.

Then we cross the street for another picnic in Salem Park. Brats and hot dogs are provided for our Sunday holiday picnics. Please bring a desert or side dish to share. You are invited to bring a lawn chair, if you wish.



## Outdoor Service on Labor Day Weekend

August 31

We pray for fair weather for our annual outdoor service in Salem Park. Please bring a lawn chair as we gather 'round the log cross. at 10:30 a.m. Our final Sunday picnic of the summer follows with brats, dogs and a potluck of great summer dishes and deserts.

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## Fellowship Ministry

Big scores from a small crowd at the May Game Night. Richard Budach rolled a Salem Game Night high score of 268 to win the second match of the night. Bel Hedlund scored her personal best at Wii bowling to win the third match with a 227. Join us on Saturday, June 21 at 5:45 p.m. Bring a snack or dish to share. We are considering switching to a quarterly game night/day with special themes.



## ELCA Case Study

In April Salem was contacted by Katheryn Lohre, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop regarding ELCA Case Studies in Inter-Religious Relations projects. From that conversation, Salem's name was sent to the Project Team. Salem was asked to submit a response to the study questions.

The story of Salem's budding friendship with Muslim sisters and brothers through our ESL program, cooperation in National Days of Prayer, the 2014 Sunday School classes on *A Common Word* (Muslim, Jewish, and Christian sharing of same scriptures), and the visit by Dr. Curtis all exemplified the case study's goal of developing a "theology of praxis" (how we live our faith in the world). Without stated goals and practices, Salem has been living the Gospel as we reach out to minister to our neighbor and community.

The timeline for publication is uncertain. The Project Team estimates that the final document will be ready in spring 2015. In the meantime, friendships strengthen between Salem and various Churchwide offices and introductions and new friendships, such as LIRA, come along. Salem is making her mark on the ELCA. Thanks be to God!

# CHIMES

## June 1, 2014

Published Quarterly

### Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

4700 W. 72nd Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
(317) 291-5004

Worship Schedule:  
Sunday School (on break)  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

[pastor@salemELCA.com](mailto:pastor@salemELCA.com)  
Twitter: @salemELCA

[office@SalemELCA.com](mailto:office@SalemELCA.com)  
[www.salemELCA.com](http://www.salemELCA.com)



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This issue marks the change to a quarterly newsletter for Salem. The next CHIMES will cover Reformation Day and the Feast of All Saints to be published Sept. 1. Please sign up for weekly email updates.

## *Happy Anniversary!*

June 6  
**Keith & Susan Kunze**

June 29  
**Burt & Janet Hall**

August 12  
**David & Elaina Mundt**

August 25  
**Bart & Dixie Richardson**

August 26  
**Sherman & Margie King**

August 27  
**Gino & Barbara Agresti**

## *Graduation!*

May 31 - Carmel High School  
**Christine Chibvongodze**



## *Happy Birthday!*

June 2  
**Keith Kunze**

June 10  
**Madge Hightshue**

June 23  
**Christie VanPelt**

June 30  
**Jan Budach**

June 30  
**Susan Grymonpré**

July 6  
**David Gruender**

July 16  
**Burt Hall**

July 27  
**Mary Lou Etchison**

August 8  
**Harry Bowden**

August 12  
**Charles Rader**

August 19  
**Gino Agresti**

August 20  
**Susan Kunze**

August 20  
**Pastor Bonnie**

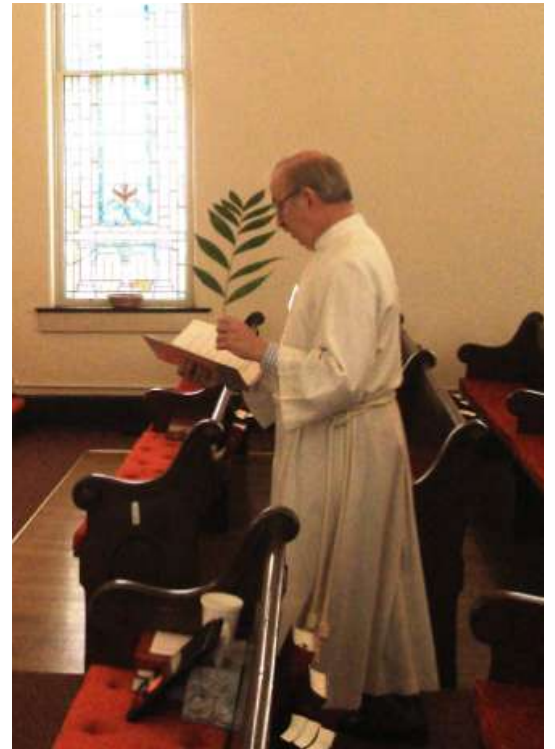
August 27  
**Dixie Richardson**

August 30  
**Christine Chibvongodze**

# Worshiping Together

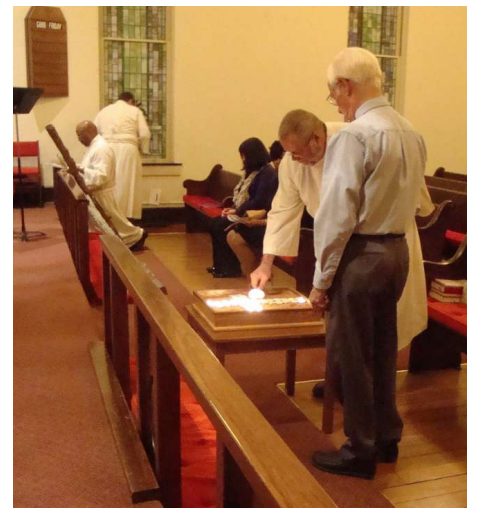
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The Salem family gathers for Holy Week.



**Above:** Choral reading of The Passion and Charles Rader processes on April 13.

**Below:** We share the Good Friday evening service with Lamb of God on April 18. Fred Freeman lights a votive during the Service of Darkness.



Photographer: Devoe Slisher





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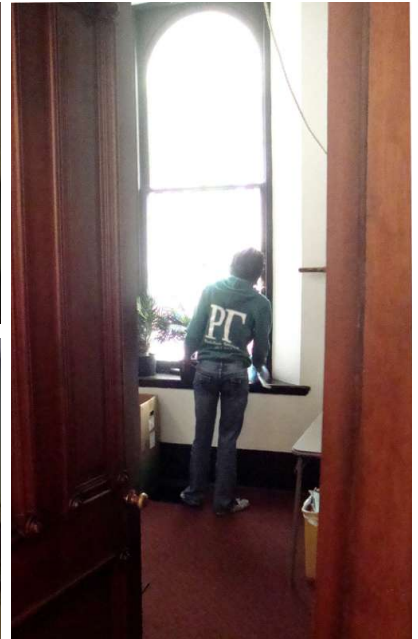
## Resurrection of Our Lord



Salem welcomes new and old friends along with some first-time visitors on Easter Sunday, April 20. Charles Rader leads the recessional and Pastor Bonnie does a “long distance” youth sermon to a shy young man in the back row.

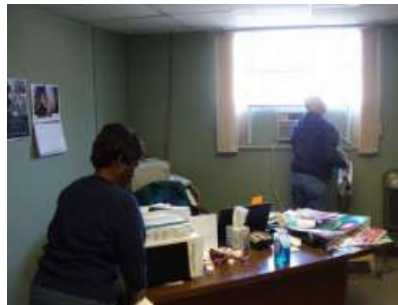
# Ministering Together

The Salem family doing God's work.



**Top left:** Reporting on the Winter Youth Retreat and Service Project. **Top right:** Learning about the practices of our Muslim brothers and sisters with Dr. Curtis on March 23.

**Above and right:** The April 5 Clean-Up Day. **Below:** Installing the 2014 Salem Council.







## Outreach Ministry

Salem's ESL Class (English as a Second Language) posed for a class photo at the end of the winter semester. A sergeant from the IMPD Northwest District sat with the class on May 20 to help them understand the role of the police and how to use their services. Below, we reach out to the community with an interfaith service on May 1, the National Day of Prayer. The scheduled outdoor service sought refuge from the strong winds in the Salem sanctuary.





# Together in Fellowship

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The Salem family shares a meal with our friends and neighbors.



**Above left:** On April 2, Rosemary Rader offers a bowl of “L.S. Ayres Tea Room” Velvet soup. Our Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers moved back to Wednesday this year.

**Above right and below:** This year the Palm Sunday Brunch included our Easter Egg Hunt. Below we see the beautifully decorated tables, wonderful casseroles (and fried chicken), and the fruit and sweet breads. We also see the men-in-plaid. Fred Freeman brought some fresh flowers from his yard as he and Tom Alexander head for the Hall.





# Dr. Bocko Returns

Rev. Dr. Joseph Bocko, the ELCA's Churchwide Program Director, African National Ministries, and Pastor Nancy Nyland, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission for the ELCA assigned to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod as Mission Developer, both visited Salem on May 4. We worshiped together and shared a meal of African dishes.







**Above:** Heavy spring rains created a reflective lake at Salem Park on April 3.

**Below:** Donations last year from our Monday night Mary Kay group paid for new tables in the Fellowship Hall. On March 25 we completed repairs to the Fellowship Hall sewer line. And on April 27 Charles Rader directs Rosanne Iles as she signs the farewell gift to thank Rhunell and David Gruender. They will be missed!



# JUNE 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship with Bishop Gatfjen Brown Bag Reception follows.	2 Noon Bible Study in Fellowship Hall	3 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	4	5 Office Closed— STAFF AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY  ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	6 Office Closed— STAFF AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY	7 Office Closed— STAFF AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY
8 10:30 Worship	9	10 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	11	12 11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	13	14
15 Father's Day 10:30 Worship 12:30 Council Meeting	16 Noon Bible Study in Fellowship Hall	17 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	18	19 11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	22	21 5:45 pm Salem Game Night Bring a snack or dish to share.
22 10:30 Worship	23	24 ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	25	26 11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	27	28
29 10:30 Worship	30					

# JULY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5
6 10:30 Worship Brown Bag 12:15 Patriotic Picnic in Salem Park	7 Noon Bible Study in Fellowship Hall	8	9	10 11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park	11	12
13 10:30 Worship	16	17	18	19 11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park	22	19
20 10:30 Worship	23 Noon Bible Study in Fellowship Hall	24	25	26 11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park	27	26
27 10:30 Worship	30					

# AUGUST 2014

Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
3	10:30 Worship Brown Bag	4	Noon Bible Study in Fellowship Hall	5		6		7	11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park	8		9	
10	10:30 Worship	11		12		13		14	11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park	15		16	
17	10:30 Worship	18	Noon Bible Study in Fellowship Hall	19	ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	20		21	11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	22		23	
24	10:30 Worship	25		26	ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	27		28	11:00 a – 1:00 p Pastor's Picnic in the Park ESL Class 6:30-8:30 in Fellowship Hall.	29		30	
31	10:30 Outdoor Worship 12:15 Labor Day Weekend Picnic in Salem Park									1		2	