

# Salem Lutheran Church

Beginning our 180th Year of Serving Christ from Pike Township

**The CHIMES Newsletter**

**Summer 2015**

Volume 64, Issue 1



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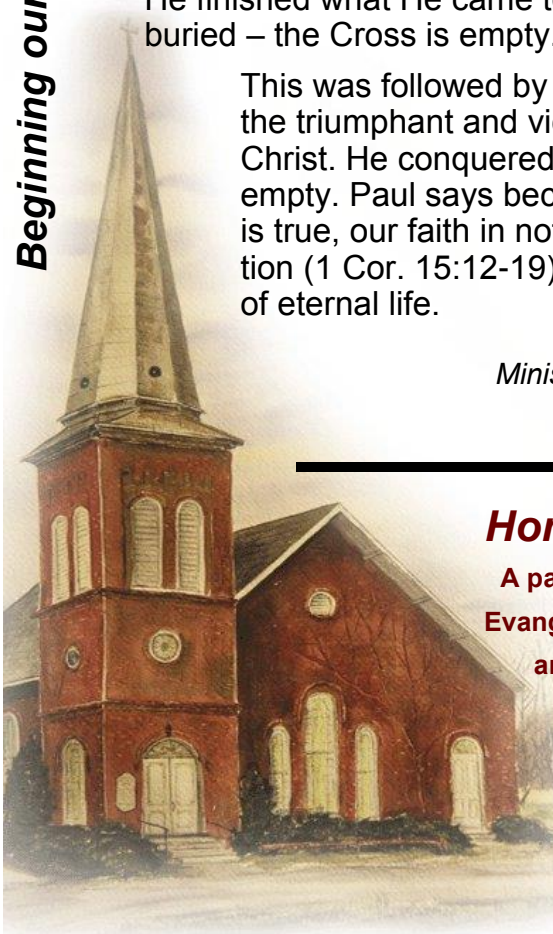
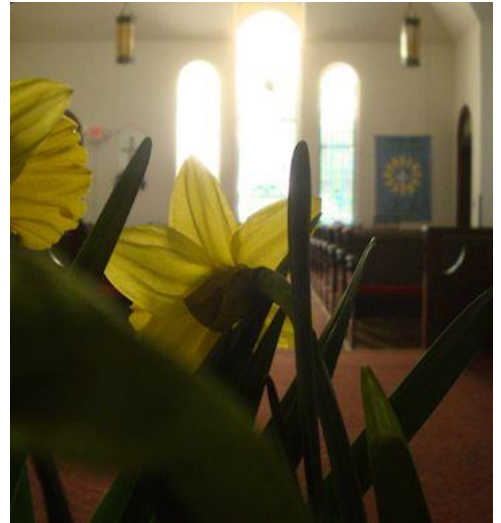
## THE CROSS IS EMPTY, THE GRAVE IS EMPTY, HOW ABOUT THE CHURCH?

*Minister Douglas Mmari*

In February, Lent began on Ash Wednesday. Traditionally, this is the time of preparation for Easter through prayers, repentance and self-denial. Then came Good Friday. It's a good one because we remember when Jesus Christ died a painful and shameful death on Cross for our sins. On the Cross He said, *It is finished* and not, *I'm finished*. He finished what He came to accomplish for the world. Then He was buried – the Cross is empty.

This was followed by the Easter Sunday. The day we remember the triumphant and victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He conquered sin, grave, death and Satan. The grave is empty. Paul says because the grave is empty then our testimony is true, our faith is not in vain and we have the hope of resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-19). Our physical death is just the beginning of eternal life.

*Minister Mmari's message continues on the next page.*



## Home of Shalom Ministry

A parallel mission development of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
and the Indiana-Kentucky Synod



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## HOW ABOUT THE CHURCH?

*Continued on the cover page.*

The climax of this festival is the Day of Pentecost. It was prophesized by the Prophet Joel, promised several times by Jesus Christ to his disciples and the church. Why Pentecost? The Bible says: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8). Is for us to be empowered for the work of reaching out all the people groups (nations) with the good news of Lord Jesus Christ. To be witnesses – people who are ready to go everywhere where He sends us, at any time and at any cost.

Is the church empty or is the church becoming empty? The good news is, Jesus is the head of the Church, and this is what He says: I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18). On the other hand the Holy Spirit is the one who is convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment – inviting all with love to believe in Lord Jesus Christ. By grace, He has called us, empowered us and entrusted us with the gospel. As we enjoy going out during this season of summer, let this remind us that Jesus is saying to us GO OUT where people are and share the gospel with gladness. Back to our question, whether the church is empty or not, whether it is becoming empty or not. It depends on our obedience to God's mission. What is your response?



**Douglas Mmari is Salem's Synodically Authorized Interim Minister and developer of Shalom Ministry, a parallel mission start of the ELCA and the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.**

# The CHIMES Newsletter

May 31, 2015

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Devoe Slisher, Editor

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

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## The First Week of June



### Wednesday Bible Study

A new Bible Study begins on June 3. Minister Mmari will be leading the weekly class every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Salem Conference Room (*upstairs in the office wing, use the double white doors on Pollard Street*).

### Shalom and Salem to Benefit from Special Worship Opportunity

On Friday, June 5, you are invited to join our ELCA Lutheran brothers and sisters from across Indiana and Kentucky for a grand Worship experience on Indy's east side to launch the 2015 I-K Synod Assembly. It will be a very special occasion as the Synod recognizes Salem and the Shalom Ministry mission start-up and directs the offering gifts given during the service to the Shalom Ministry.

I hope you can put this event on your calendar and join the gathering with the Bishop William O. Gafkjen preaching and presiding. The time and place are:

**Friday evening, June 5 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Liberty Hall of the Indianapolis Marriott East**

**7202 East 21st Street, 46219.**

Please let me know if you wish to car pool from Salem.

Devoe - office@salemELCA.com

A choir and musicians from Salem are scheduled to present some music in Swahili during the *Made New for Mission Banquet* before the service.

**HYMN SING during the Salem Sunday service on June 7!**

Be prepared to request your favorite.





## Thoughts from the Fifth Pew

### In Memory of

Greetings and may you enjoy abundant grace,

By the time you read this article another Memorial Day will have passed. Some will have taken time to remember those who gave their lives so we could live in freedom. Others will have enjoyed the holiday without giving much thought as to why it is celebrated.

As a military veteran of the United States Army, I learned about Army values early in my training. These are the values that inspire and enable ordinary men and women to rise to the challenge of battle, to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country. What is it that motivates them to respond and contribute wherever and whenever called upon to do so?

I believe the answer is values. The proud legacy of our Army and our country is grounded in these core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

\*Loyalty means to bear faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit and other soldiers.

\*Duty means to fulfill ones obligations.

\*Respect is treating people as they should be treated.

\*Selfless-service is putting the welfare of the nation, the Army, and subordinates before yours.

\*Honor is striving to live up to all the Army's values.

\*Integrity is doing what is right - legally and morally.

\*Personal courage means to face fear, danger, adversity whether it is physical or moral.

We as citizens owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live free. We can start to pay that debt by not forgetting, by remembering what they did and what they stood for. Think about these words provided by Charles M. Province –



“It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial; and it is the soldier – who salutes the flag, who serves the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag—who allows the protester to burn the flag.”

So, the next time you are able to look at a soldier's face, see if you can find that glimmer of pride. Sometimes it's hidden and you have to search it out. Most likely you will find it in the eyes – always in the eyes. For the eyes are indeed the windows to the soul, even a soldier's soul.

Peace and Grace Be With You,

Keith Kunze – Congregation Council President



## Thank You Notes

Dear Friends ~

Thank you for the wonderful Celebration of Ministry you gave in my honor. It was a beautiful and meaningful closure to our time together. I am still overwhelmed by your generosity. Your gift will go toward an airline ticket to somewhere exciting.

I thank you for allowing me to be a part of your faith journey. I hope, and believe, you grew closer to God during our time together. The path you journey along now is certainly different from the one you were on when I arrived in 2010. This new path is completely different from what you knew, yet, it is the story of Salem - people coming from different and varied places to find a church family to love God and one another. God has blessed you with a wonderful minister in Douglas Mmari. I shall hold him and Salem in my prayers each day. Your future is so exciting and I look forward to following all you and God accomplish together.

I still have no idea where my next journey will lead. I do know that wherever it goes, it will be a result of my time with you. Thank you for your impact on my life. I shall keep you posted.

With much love,  
Pastor Bonnie



*More photos from the service and celebration on page 16.*



A note of thanks for the numerous prayers and many offers of a helping hand during my surgery and recovery in March. I have now run out of hips to replace and both are working very well. I am walking better than I have in more than ten years.

A prayer of thanks for my sister and my Salem and Via De Cristo families,  
Devoe Slisner



## Coming Soon: Salem's Summer Blockbuster Events

### **FRESH Youth Retreat - June 22**

All youth from the age of 15, from different churches are invited to the FRESH (Fellowship, Relax, Eat, Share and Hope) retreat. A time to fellowship with God and with one another, to have fun and to be equipped for the future. The event will be held at the I-K Synod conference hall from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on June 22, 2015. No fees, it is FREE. Rides will be provided. Pictured above is Minister Mmari leading the FRESH event over the Christmas holiday school break.



### **Families Together - July 26**

If you have ever attended, visited or were connected in anyway with Salem, then you are invited to a summer picnic at Salem Park from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm (any size family—from one to one hundred). This will be a great time for fellowship and to sample meals from different countries, including East African special BBQ, play games and have fun. People are welcome to bring a salad or sides as they are able.

### **Great Family & Friends Day Out - August 22**

All are invited to this summer picnic at Salem Park from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm. This will be a great time for fellowship and to sample meals from different countries including East African special BBQ, play games and have fun. People are welcome to bring a salad or sides as they are able.

For this August event, Minister Mmari will be inviting some special guests.





## From the Community

### **New Food Pantry in Pike Township**

The **Crooked Creek Food Pantry**, located inside the Eskenazi Health Center—Pecar at 6940 North Michigan Road (just south of 71st Street), opened in February to serve the residents of Pike Township and the westernmost portion of Washington Township. Since that time, over 130 families per week, and growing, have been served by this partnership between St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Dow AgroSciences, Gleaners Food Bank and Eskenazi Health.

Unlike many pantries that provide customers with pre-selected bags of food, CCFP uses a client-choice system that enables shoppers to select items from shelves, much like a grocery store, with quantities based on the size of the household. This system offers a sense of dignity for clients, and better enables them to meet their personal dietary needs. Milk, eggs, bread, meat, and soon a variety of produce, are always available. They strive to provide not only food, but also hope.



The hours of operation are

WED 2:00—6:00 pm

THU 4:00—7:00 pm

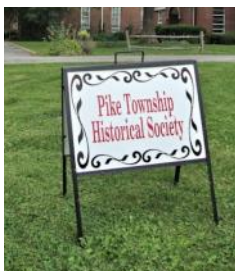
FRI 10:00—12:00 noon and 2:00—4:00 pm

2nd Saturday of each month from 10:00 am—1:00 pm

Salem will be considering how we might contribute. CCFP welcomes in-kind donations of canned goods, personal hygiene and cleaning products, fruit juice, cooking oil and other items. As well as monetary donations and volunteers. Please join in prayer as we examine this opportunity.

### **MSD of Pike Township Transportation Needs CDL Drivers**

The Pike Township School District is looking for hard working, dependable CDL drivers with the following endorsements: Public Passenger, Air Brake, and School Bus endorsements. Applications are accepted online at: [www.pike.k12.in.us](http://www.pike.k12.in.us) Must be able to pass drug screen and background check. CDL Training is available for qualified applicant.



### **Pike Township Historical Society Event on July 11**

The Pike Township Historical Society invites everyone to the Salem Fellowship Hall on Saturday, July 11 at 2:00 p.m. for their summer gathering. Meet members of our community who can share the rich history of this corner of Marion County. Refreshments provided.

## Greetings!

Please make sure the Salem office has your birthday and wedding anniversary (and other vital statistics such as postal address, email address and phone numbers). We want to honor Salem's friends and family on their special days. We will also be updating our directory and checking to see what information you wish to have published.



6/2 Keith Kunze	7/26 Esther Horvath-Fer
6/10 Madge Hightshue	8/1 Harry Bowden
6/21 Minister Mmari	8/12 Charles Rader
6/23 Christie VanPelt	8/19 Gino Agresti
6/30 Susan Grymonpré	8/20 Susan Kunze
7/16 Burt Hall	8/27 Dixie Richardson
7/19 Dan Bowden	8/30 Christine Chibvongodze

6/6 Keith & Susan Kunze  
8/25 Bart & Dixie Richardson

8/26 Sherman & Margie King  
8/27 Gino & Barbara Agresti

*Susan and Keith at the Salem altar.*



## **Honoring Former Salem Pastor Roger Thompson**

Liz Thompson passes along this news from Ohio. Pastor Roger Thompson who was Salem's Pastor from 1978-1990 was honored on May 15 by the Northwest Ohio Synod at their Synod Assembly for his 55th year of ordination. During those 55 years of ministry Pastor Thompson has served nine churches in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. He ended his active ministry December 28, 2014; and he and his wife, Liz, are now residing in Willard, Ohio. He is pictured here from his children's sermon during his 2011 visit to Salem.



## **HUGGING IS PRACTICALLY PERFECT: (from Bel Hedlund's newsletter archives)**

- |                           |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| -No movable parts         | -No monthly payments               |
| -No batteries to wear out | -No insurance requirements         |
| -No periodic checkups     | -Theft proof                       |
| -Low energy consumption   | -Non taxable                       |
| -High energy yield        | -Non polluting                     |
| -Inflation proof          | -And, of course, fully returnable! |





## English as a Second Language

Students wrapped up the spring session of Salem ESL class on Thursday, May 28. Here they display their certificates as they pose for a class picture with the teacher and volunteer tutors. The evening included a great buffet of international dishes and sweet treats. This ministry serves immigrants from many continents and nations. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED THIS YEAR!

**The fall session begins on August 18** with classes meeting every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Salem began this ministry when our African immigrants presented the need for free instruction during evening hours.



## Ring in Holy Week



Tom Alexander supervised the installation of a new bell rope. The old hemp rope wore through and broke on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Pike Township Fire Department for bringing their 16 foot ladder on March 27 and getting things tied up. And then returning on May 26 to attach a better rope (with a little less elasticity). The first Sunday tug is May 31.





## Cleaning Up the Salem Campus

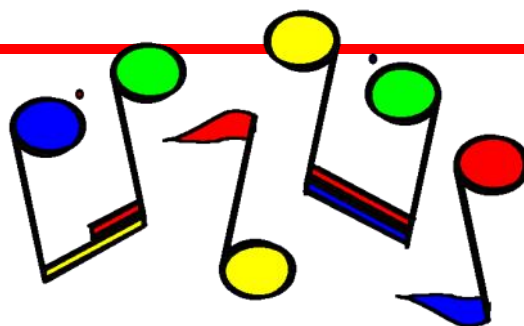


Minister Mmari lead us in prayer as we began Clean-Up Day on May 9. In addition to praying, he also was pruning. Keith Kunze performed extreme-pruning as he removed a dead bush from the 72nd Street porch. A BIG THANK YOU to all who contributed their time and talent, both on May 9 and the rest of the year! **And thank you to our neighbors Jim and John from 73rd Street. They volunteered to cut the grass on May 19.**

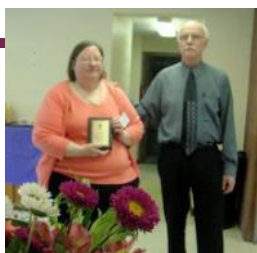
## Worship & Music Notes

Starting June 7, Salem will have guest organists each month.

The next meeting of the Worship and Music ministry team is after the service on Sunday, June 21.



## And the Winner Is . . .



Congratulations to Laura Morgan. Keith Kunze presented her with the "Harry Bowden Service Award" during Salem's annual meeting on March 29. We appreciate her contributions of time and talent to the council and the ministries she serves with.

## Winter Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Just a few months ago the temperature was much colder and Salem formed a circle in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning.

On the right: Lamb of God joined Salem to celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord on January 18. A rousing "This Little Light of Mine" got Tom Alexander to shuffle his feet in a happy dance.



On the left: Pastor Nancy Nyland leads the Youth Sermon on February 1.





## Paws and Claws News



We've met some new friends when they dropped by Salem. This friendly dog climbed into the Richardson's vehicle while she was helping with the landscaping back on April 11. He also tried to catch a ride with Diane Martenet who was setting up for the Pike Township Historical Society event. He appears



to belong to our new neighbors on the westside of Salem's main building. Before the Pentecost service, I captured this shot of him on the roof of the front porch on his house.



We've heard the rooster crowing from Dobson Street for several years, but he and his hens are now roaming free range at times around Salem Park. They were in the park when I brought out the grill for the picnic on Pentecost. Chicken was not on the menu.

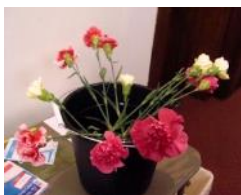
And then there are the "masked" intruders. This young raccoon dropped into the nursery crib on May 11. Animal Control escorted him out two days later. A week later we heard more noises above the sanctuary and a neighbor reported seeing two raccoons on the roof.

Devoe Slisher,  
photographer,  
office manager  
and zookeeper.





## Honoring Those We Call "Mother"



Ladies were offered carnations as they entered the Salem sanctuary on Mothers Day, May 10. A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall after the service with special tea and refreshments. Below we see Minister Mmari greet a friend of Salem and on the right, Tom Alexander and Douglas take aim for a group shot of the beautiful women.



## The Indiana Landmarks Tour of New Augusta



80 people signed up to tour New Augusta in the sold-out event organized by the Indiana Landmarks and the New Augusta Village Association. Pastor Bonnie gave a brief history of Salem and our arrival in Augusta Station in 1859. The New Augusta Acoustic Duo provided bluegrass and 'Old Time' music in Salem Park at the end of the evening. Catch a bit of them singing "I'll Fly Away" in the video section of our facebook page. The tall shadow in front of the Salem Park sign belongs to Devoe Slisher as he snaps the shot.





# Holy Week

## Palm Sunday

Presenting The Passion story and processing with palms on March 29.



Food and fellowship.



The traditional brunch.



## Maundy Thursday

Coming to the table and stripping the altar on April 2.

And on April 3, the Service of Darkness—celebrating Christ's life-giving passion and finding strength and hope in the tree of life.

Burt Hall assists those lighting the candles while the choir sings

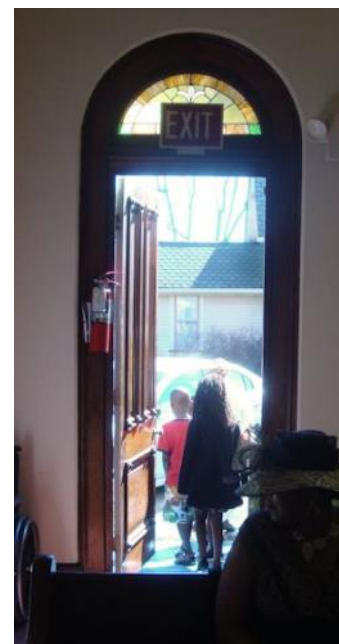


## Good Friday



# Easter Day

## The Resurrection of Our Lord



Pastor Bonnie lights the Paschal candle before Minister Mmari processes with it up the aisle. The musicians lead the gathering hymn:

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds." April 5, 2015.

The Youth Sermon takes a "field trip" to Salem Park to see the large rocks. Fresh lilies decorate the altar and a garden of daffodils fill the chancel area on Easter morning.





# Pentecost

Celebrating the birth of the Church on May 24, 2015.  
The Mmaris sing in Swahili about calling on the Holy Spirit.



The red of Pentecost and the Red, White and Blue of Memorial Day in a great picnic of good food and fellowship. More than 40 gathered in Salem Park on a beautiful Sunday. Pastor James Capers lead the prayer (bottom right). Minister Mmari taught the kids a game using a spoon and a grape while Payton Karanja and Joe Chibvongodze took charge of the grilling.



## Service of Farewell and Celebration of Ministry



On April 26, Pastor Bonnie turned over the care of Salem to Minister Mmari and we celebrated the many blessings she brought to the Salem family.

Members and friends of Salem from Zimbabwe sang in their native Shona language.



Pastor Bonnie passes her reign as "Queen" to her little Princess at Salem. Cutting the retirement cake. And posing for the paparazi. She sends us an update on page 5.