

Salem Lutheran Church

Beginning our 180th Year of Serving Christ from Pike Township

The CHIMES Newsletter

Fall 2015

Volume 64, Issue 2



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THE COMMUNION OF JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BELIEVERS.

Minister Douglas Mmari

The word communion is rooted from the Greek word *koinonia* which means common participation or sharing in anything, in the way of giving, receiving or using. The most common word we use is *fellowship*.

For five Sundays in a row we have been dwelling on John chapter six, and at the same time reading from Ephesians. In the gospel message, Jesus is inviting people to have communion with him. He says, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven, whoever

eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh ... Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them." (John 6:51, 56) This has to do with an ongoing relationship and communion with him.

In Acts 2 we meet the first communion of believers. The Bible says, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship (*koinonia*), to the breaking of bread and prayers ... All who believed were together and had all things in common ... and day by day as they spent much time

Minister Mmari's message continues on the next page.



The video clip of the children chanting "Share the Bread" on Sunday, August 16 has reached more than 418 people around the world via the Salem Facebook page.

Home of Shalom International Ministry

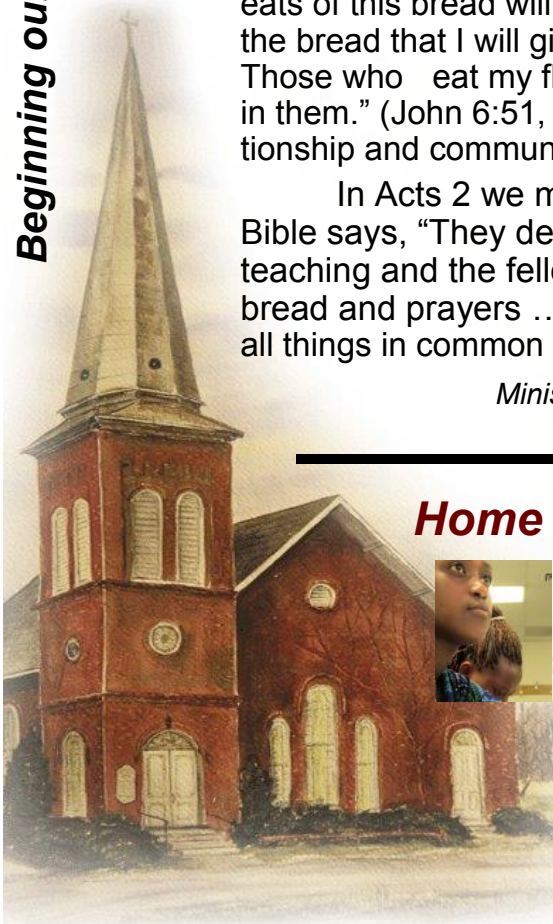
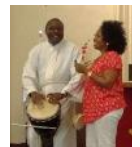
A parallel mission development of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
and the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

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Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

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THE COMMUNION OF JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BELIEVERS

Continued from the cover page.

together in the temple ... and day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42-47). Later we read about the spread of the church beyond Jerusalem, whereby all are included on account of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and his resurrection from the dead. This is what the Bible calls grace. And we receive it through faith in Jesus, and him alone.

At Salem Lutheran Church and Shalom International Ministry, we gather together each Sunday for worship, gather together in the conference room for Bible study each Wednesday, we come together in retreats, picnics, we invite people to our small food pantry, clothing bank and other activities. We really see and experience what the Bible says, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:5-6).

We also experience the *koinonia* of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that filled, empowered and used the first believers in Acts 2, is also moving and working in and through us. He causes Salem and Shalom to be a home of peace, joy, love, hope and fellowship with God and one another. A place where outreach and ministry to God's people is done daily and with gladness.

The above mentioned experience is just a glimpse of the great and eternal *koinonia* which is awaiting for all of us in heaven. As John testifies, "After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the Lamb, robed in white with palm branches in their hands." (Rev. 7:9). It's my prayer that God would enable and empower us to keep on living in *koinonia* with him and with one another, until that great day of being together in the everlasting one in heaven.

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

Thoughts from the Fifth Pew

It's Not Easy

Greetings and may you enjoy abundant grace,

About a year ago Minister Mmari (Douglas) and his wife Upendo came to Salem with the express purpose of exploring the feasibility of establishing a new African National ministry in Indianapolis. As we entered the new calendar year, the decision was jointly made by the ELCA, I-K Synod and Salem that a new ministry, which would soon come to be known as the Shalom Ministry, would, with God's help, be born at Salem Lutheran Church. It was not an easy decision to make.

By the time Spring arrived, it was time to say farewell to Pastor Bonnie and allow Douglas to be our new spiritual leader, interim minister and developmental specialist for Shalom. How best to proceed? How do we let go of or replace some past traditions at Salem while adopting new ones? What should this new ministry look like? These questions and many others would need to be addressed as development of the Shalom ministry proceeded.

During the spring and summer months, Salem and Shalom have continued to explore new ways of reaching out to our African friends. Douglas has spent countless hours transporting our new arrivals so they can begin to understand the basics of daily life in America. He has served not only as their "Pastor," but legal advisor, teacher, psychologist, and trusted friend. It has not been easy.

Much time and effort by many of you has been devoted over the past few months to bringing people from entirely different cultures together. Our Sunday morning worship is a reflection of integrating language and scripture so that everyone can be touched by God's word and rejoice in his presence. Adjustments to our worship service to accommodate new arrivals so that all may experience a level of comfort has been a challenge. It has not been easy.

As I look ahead to September and beyond, I question as to whether we are doing enough to make sure the Shalom ministry has a chance to succeed as God intends. As we all know, there are many obstacles to navigate around but also opportunities for growth. I try to recognize how difficult and, at times, frustrating it must be for these newly arrived Africans to feel at home in this new place where little is familiar and life is confusing. It is not easy.

By the same token, I try to fully appreciate how difficult it is for some of us to embrace change and not feel threatened by the speed of it. Someone once stated that there are only two guarantees in life: death and taxes. New ministries are not guaranteed to be successful but we can, with God's help and by supporting one another, make every effort to insure the best possible outcome for Salem and Shalom. It has not and will not be easy.

Do not be afraid; just believe (Mark 5:36 niv)

Peace and Grace Be With You,

Keith Kunze – Congregation Council President

Staying Busy at Salem: Fall Festivals and Events

FREE Food, Attractions and Games

Salem will again be part of the *IMPD Northwest District Community Day / Pike Township Fire Department Safety Day*. The festival will be held Saturday, **September 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at New Augusta Academy North - 6450 Rodebaugh Rd. The event is completely free and attractions include police & fire vehicles, numerous community agencies and businesses. Bounce House and other kids activities. Please come hungry because the hamburgers and hotdogs are provided by the Indianapolis Metro Police Department.

Volunteers are needed to meet and greet people at the Salem/Shalom table. We also plan to provide games again. Contact Fred Freeman or the Salem office if you can help all or part of the time.



Keith Kunze provides a bean bag to a young contestant at the 2013 Community Day.

Shalom International Harvest Festival

Sample food from many cultures. Celebrate the music of different continents. Hear the stories of how our friends came to America and Indianapolis. Shalom International Ministry and Salem are hosting this special FREE event

Saturday, October 24 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Salem Park.

This is an opportunity to meet and greet some of our ESL students.



Images from the October 2014 International Harvest Festival.

Engaging in The Word



Wednesday Bible Study

The Bible Study continues. Minister Mmari leads the weekly discussion every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Salem Conference Room (upstairs in the office wing, using the double white doors on Pollard Street). We are wrapping up our look at Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

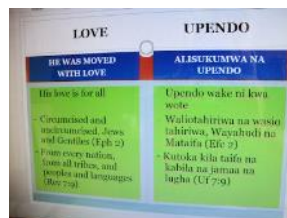


On August 26, the class said goodbye to Ismay Broomes (pictured second from left). She is making her annual trip to her homeland of Barbados to spend the fall and winter months. We prayed for safe travel and we look forward to her return next spring and summer.

Combining English and Swahili Every Sunday

As Keith Kunze shared on page 3, it's not easy. That includes finding ways to communicate in both English and Swahili during our weekly worship. Minister Mmari created a "split-screen" listing much of our service dialogue and songs in both English and Swahili. This is projected on the wall behind the lectern while the spoken language is English. This format is also used during the sermon to communicate the message. During the lessons, those who speak English use the pew Bibles and a printed copy of the day's scriptures is available in Swahili. Images for the children's sermon are also being projected.

Any suggestions on improving the presentation are appreciated.



Monday Replay

Miss a Sunday? Looking for a recap of Minister Mmari's message? Every week he recounts the highlights from the sermon in a post on Salem's Facebook page. Click on facebook.com/Salem175 to view past and present messages on our timeline.

Over the past four weeks we reached 603 people in Tanzania, 299 in the USA, 46 in Japan, 30 in the UK, 26 in Kenya, 10 in Barbados, 9 in Zimbabwe, 9 in Guyana, 7 in Canada, plus Australia, Senegal, Ghana, Sudan, Uganda, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, UAE, Angola, India, Czech Republic, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, Mozambique, Switzerland, Ireland, Spain, France, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland and more.



Thank You Notes



Pulpit exchange with PVLC April 10, 2011.

Pastor Mel Retires

The Salem family extends best wishes to Pastor Mel Schroeder.

August 23 was his final service at Pleasant View Lutheran Church on West 73rd Street. We pray for God's blessings for him and his family during his retirement. And we thank him for his service as Salem's Vacancy Pastor from July of 2010 through May of 2012.



BEFORE



AFTER

Clothing Bank

Thank you to Upendo Mmari and the girls from Rwanda for spending many hours on Saturday, July 18 organizing the clothing in the Salem church basement. Several families have benefited from this valuable resource.

Crayon Row

The right rear pews have been reserved for our young worshippers. We say **thank you to Constance Kadyole** for sharing part of her worship time supervising the younger children. Minister Mmari notes that she is from Zimbabwe and speaks Shona and English, while many of the children only speak Swahili. "She always takes good care of all the children who come to church. I don't know how she manages this with the language barrier."



Passing out the crayons and coloring books after the children's sermon on Sunday, July 19, 2015.



Born in America

Two of our ESL class students are kept busy during the summer break with their newborn girl. Congratulations to Arsen and Mirelle as we celebrate this blessing from God.

July 3, 2015.

Thank You Notes

At the Keyboard

Salem has been blessed this summer with three fine musicians at the keyboard on Sunday mornings. First a big thank you to Rosemary Rader for donating her time and talent. We also appreciate having Loraine Cox and Susan Raccoli fill in on the other Sundays. We are truly blessed by their music.



Rosemary and Charles Rader

Shalom helps the Shalom Children

Thank you to the Shalom Health Care Center (no relation to our Shalom International Ministry) and Chris Shepler for providing backpacks for the Salem/Shalom students heading to school in the U.S. for the first time. Shalom Health Care Center is at 3400 Lafayette Road, Suite 200.

<https://www.facebook.com/ShalomHealthCenter>
<http://www.shalom-hcc.org/>



Shalom International Ministry Has Wheels!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on the east side of Indianapolis left a gift to Shalom through the ELCA I-K Synod when they closed their doors this spring. We used the proceeds of the sale of Good Shepherd's vehicle to buy a used 8-passenger Toyota Sienna van. **Thank you to everyone** who had a hand in the gift and purchase. Above and right: Minister Mmari and the rep from Butler Toyota-Scion in Indianapolis on June 18.



Photographer: Charles Rader

Thank You Notes

A Gathering of Nations

Free ESL (English as a Second Language) classes are meeting in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Classes started again for the fall on August 18 and are free. Again we see students from different continents and religions coming together with the help of many volunteers - **but more are needed!**



August 27, 2015

Thank you to all who help and to the head instructor, Amadou Sy (kneeling).

New Augusta News



All Cooped Up

With goat on the grill, one of our feathered friends from the property east of Salem Park got this car-top view of the Salem picnic on July 26. In the summer CHIMES newsletter we showed the free-range fowls checking out the Salem campus. By the time we gathered for the August 23 picnic - the chicken wire was up and the rooster and his hens were more confined.



He still sends an occasional greeting to remind neighbors who rules the roost.

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 are continuing to update our directory. Ask the office for a copy of the fall edition.



9/5 Reuben Gooderum

9/9 Stephanie Kahuri

9/15 Eunice Kahuri

9/17 Bel Hedlund

9/20 Barbara Agresti

9/22 Chenai
Chibvongodze

9/24 Roseanne Herman

10/3 Jim Warriner

10/5 Anita Gooderum

10/10 Riziki Luanda

10/10 Jamila Muhindo

11/11 Diane Uwimana

11/17 Nshuti Arsene

Happy Anniversary!

Tom & Nancy Alexander - 9/20

Charles & Rosemary Rader - 11/28



2016 Stewardship Pledge Drive

It's that time of year again when we must think and pray about how we are going to support the Salem ministries in the coming year. Every so often we hear our friends remark that everyone has to "wear so many hats" to keep our church doing the things we expect. Without your generous sacrifices of time, talent, and financial resources, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church would cease to exist. Thank you all so very much for your faith and dedication!

On Sunday, September 27, and Sunday, October 4, commitment cards will be passed out to everyone in attendance at the morning worship service. On them, you will be asked to write the amount of your pledge to support the ministries of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church during 2015. Although you will be asked to fill out the commitment cards in church, you may take them home to fill out and return later. Salem members and contributors will also receive in the mail, a reminder about this stewardship event.

As you prayerfully consider what God is asking you to contribute monetarily to help support the ministries of Salem Lutheran Church in the coming year, we ask that you please keep the following stewardship goals in your prayers: Volunteers who can teach our ESL Classes; volunteers who can organize and sort the donations to our clothing bank; full support for our annual budget so that our income meets or exceeds monthly expenses to avoid borrowing from savings. If you are away on vacation or absent for a time, we would appreciate keeping your pledge current while you are gone, or catching up when you return. If, for any reason, you find that your financial situation has changed and you cannot maintain your pledge, please let us know immediately so that it can be changed.

May God bless you and return your generosity many times over!

Charles Rader



In Our Prayers

Here are some faces to go with the names we pray for each Sunday morning.



Left: **Ernestine Allen** at home on August 27. Center: Upendo with **Eleanor Powers** on June 16. Right: **Harry Bowden** on June 26. Below: Both Minister Mmari and Keith Kunze visit **Madge Hightshue** on June 13 in Zionsville.



June Celebration

Double Celebration on Father's Day

We gathered in the Fellowship Hall on June 21 to wish Minister Mmari a happy birthday and to honor the Dads.



Summer Memories

Alleluia Choir

At Synod Assembly and on Sunday morning.



Photographer: Devoe Slisher

The top right photo shows the first rehearsal of the Alleluia Choir. The group brought songs of praise in Swahili to the Made New for Mission anniversary banquet at the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly on June 5, 2105. The ladies sang in their native language as Esther Horvath Fer and Charles and Rosemary Rader played percussion instruments. Minister Mmari and Upendo also provided a duet. In the center bottom photo, a shot from the online streaming of the Friday evening worship. Devoe Slisher's camera in the video production focused on the Shalom group receiving communion from former Salem pastor George Mercer. Shalom received the gifts collected at the Gathering Worship. The total was \$3,971.30

The bottom right image shows the singing and dancing on August 9 in the Salem sanctuary.

Summer Memories

F.R.E.S.H.

Fellowship, Relax, Eat, Share, Hope

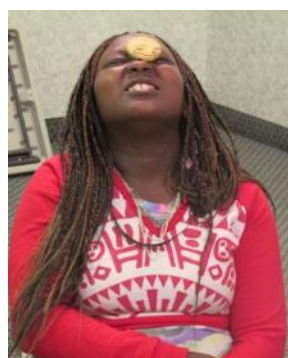


The Shalom youth summer retreat on June 22 began with a trip in the Shalom van to the Indianapolis Zoo. The visit included a dog show and the dolphin show.

Summer Memories

F.R.E.S.H.

Fellowship, Relax, Eat, Share, Hope



Study, food, games and sharing in the I-K Synod Conference Center in the afternoon.

Summer Memories

Fellowship in Salem Park



Salem is blessed with a beautiful park area to enjoy the summer. We give thanks that the rain stayed away from all four picnics this year. Special thanks to our food crew. Payton K. and his friends and neighbors from Kenya helped with the grilling. We thank Eunice K., Rosemary R., Upendo M., Connie A., Nancy A., Bel H. and all who contributed the great food. Thank you to Tom A. for donating some of the sports equipment (he is seen above testing the badminton racquets with Joe C.). And thank you to all who attended and helped us make some special summer memories.



Summer Memories

Fellowship in Salem Park

Families Together Picnic - July 26



Food, games, fun and special guests. In the bottom left image, Ismay Broomes leads us in prayer before the meal.

Summer Memories

Fellowship in Salem Park

The Great Friends & Family Day Out - August 23

