

From your pastor ...

The dreaded “C” word is spooking around the homes of many Salem members at this time. I wouldn’t call it an epidemic, but there certainly is a rash of cancer cases causing concern and consternation among our families. My mom died of cancer in 1976 when I was a senior in college. My youngest brother was only a second grader. So I understand the emotional strain and drain cancer causes. And that’s true even when God grants physical victory, and the disease is in remission or the patient is declared cancer-free. To get to that point can be an exhausting struggle with surgeries and treatments exacting a high-priced toll along life’s road.

So what helps our families face these battles with cancer (or any problem for that matter) and come out as conquerors? It’s the Word of God, the promises of God! I have two (of two thousand) passages I’d like to share with you in this article. The first is 1 Peter 5:7 which I learned in the King James Version: *“Cast all your cares on him, for he careth for you.”* Cancer can make the strongest believer doubt the caring love and concern of his or her God. That’s why all of us – no matter what we’re facing – have to look deeper than what’s going on in our lives to determine the endless dimensions of God’s love. Look at the cross and the unimaginable suffering Jesus was willing to endure for you to spare you from eternal sufferings, to give you eternal joys. God cares for you, and you can cast all your concerns on him.

The second passage is Psalm 68:19 & 20: *“Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.”* Aren’t those strength giving thoughts? Our loving and saving God is with you every day to carry the weight alongside you. And you can’t lose. Because of Jesus’

life, death and resurrection, the Lord provides you with a sure and certain escape from death. He can kill the cancer and prolong your life. Or He may allow the cancer to kill you and bring you through death to eternal life. Cancer is not your master since God is your loving and caring heavenly Father!

In Christian love,
Pastor James Bare

News from Church Council

Below are some highlights from the January Church Council Meeting.

The Treasurer presented the following report:

General Fund Report – December 2011

	Month	Y-T-D
Offerings	38,470.10	219,435.70
Tuition/FEF/Registration	2,906.10	22,528.05
Other	189.16	1,058.00
Total Receipts:	41,565.36	243,021.75
Actual Expenses:	44,200.18	263,861.83
Balance:	-2,634.82	-20,840.08
Budget:	43,801.42	262,808.50
Other Detail		
Thrivent	138.00	694.00
Miscellaneous	51.16	364.00
Other Total:	189.16	1,058.00

It was noted that to date \$25,000 has been borrowed from the

internal line of credit.

A Bible translation conference is taking place on January 16th and 17th at Zion Lutheran Church in Monroe, MI.

Bible Information Class is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of January 22nd.

— Sam Norder, Recording Secretary

The **quarterly Voters' Meeting** will be January 24th at 7pm. All male communicant members 18 and older are encouraged to attend.

There will be a **congregational potluck** on Sunday, February 5th after the late service. Bring a passing dish. Table service and beverages will be provided.

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22nd. We will be having noon and 7pm Lenten services. Before the 7pm service a meal will be hosted by a variety of organizations. Watch the bulletins for more information.

2011 offering statements will be on the table by the elevator. The **2012 offering envelopes** are on the same table.

Salem Preschool is pre-enrolling for the 2012-2013 school year. Our preschool program is open to the community. If you know of someone who has young children and might be interested, please let them know about our program. Applications are available in the school office, on our website: www.salemowosso.org, and also on our facebook page: Salem Ev Lutheran Church.

Thank you!

The workers of Salem church and school have signed a thank you page for their monetary worker gift. Their actual signatures are in the printed newsletter.

~ Pastor Bare
Esther Matthies
Ed Perry
Tony Perry
Eddie Voeltz
Greg Milbrath
Emily Gorzalski
Carol Janetzke
Carol Hill
Daisy Blaha
Tom Fuller
Lainie Zelenka
Char Porubsky