

From your pastor...

Lessons Learned (Or Re-learned) from Serving a Vacancy

On Sunday, January 26 our vacancy work at Zion in Chesaning came to an end when Pastor Paul Tessmer was installed as their new shepherd. The Lord is good in granting our brothers and sisters at Zion a full-time pastor in their midst once more. The Lord is also good in having granted your pastors at Salem the opportunity to serve this sister congregation in their time of need. Every experience our God gives us is an opportunity to grow and learn. Here are some things I learned or re-learned by serving as Zion's vacancy pastor:

- **God's people appreciate and value God's Word and God's messengers.** Not only were Pastor Wilde and I thanked often and profusely; Zion members were so thankful to all of you at Salem for so lovingly sharing your pastors with them. It made me think of what the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians: "To be sure, the administration of this service is not only making up for what is lacking among the saints, but it is also overflowing in many prayers of thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:12)
- **Pastors come and pastors go, but God stays.** Pastor Thomford had served Zion for 21+ years. And yet the members there displayed a maturity of faith and Christian life which indicated their faith rested not on Pastor Thomford and his continuing to be their pastor, but on the Lord, their Savior and his continual and abiding presence among them. That reminded me, as I get closer to retirement age (perhaps 3 years from now), to prepare you for my inevitable absence from the ministry at Salem. I want to make sure you are not thinking more of me than

is wise and healthy for your spiritual life. Your faith must not rest on me, but only on Jesus. He is your only Savior. His Word is your only anchor.

- **One more thought...** We couldn't help developing a bond of love, friendship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters at Zion. And that makes me (and Pastor Wilde) wonder how in the future we might maintain and nurture that bond between both Salem and Zion. Could we have a Reformation service together, hold a joint mission festival or do other fun, fellowship activities together? Just wondering!

The Lord bless and keep all of you!

- Pastor Bare

The installation of Pastor Paul Tessmer at Zion Lutheran Church in Chesaning.



Church Council News:

Our financial report – January 19, 2020

	Jan 19th	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	\$12,588.37	\$37,765.11
Offerings	\$ 5,533.76	\$22,625.76
Tuition/FEF/ Reg	\$ 0	\$ 231.50
Other	\$	\$
Total Receipts	\$5,533.76	\$22,857.26
Difference	-\$ 7,054.61	-\$14,907.84

Owed to Internal Line of Credit: \$0

The council approved the transfer out of Mark & Carol Bannan to Mt Sinai Lutheran Church in Montrose, MI

Pastor Wilde attended the WELS Leadership Conference in WI on January 21-23.

We have 5 men attending the Men Alive Rally on February 15th.

Our Ash Wednesday services will be communion services this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Kobe

Did you know...

- Salem has a website www.salemowosso.org

Both the church and school have pages on the site.

Church newsletters, calendars, bulletins, sermons and other things are on the church pages.

School newsletters, calendars, Pioneers, and many more things are on their pages.

- Salem also has facebook pages

Church: Salem Ev Lutheran Church

School: Salem Ev Lutheran School

- Salem offers online giving.

If you are going to be out of town, or would just prefer to give on line, you can. You can do a one-time gift or set it up for weekly, monthly, or quarterly offerings.

Go to <https://faithlife.com/selc-5/give>

Text: “Give amount” (Give 50) to 989-200-3454

Use your phone and this qr code



Salem School News:

Volunteers Needed: On Thursday, May 14, Salem’s Junior Choir, Cardinal Band, and Fifth Grade Ensemble will have the opportunity to participate in the Lutheran Schools’ Music Festival. The festival will be held at Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw. There will be about twenty schools involved. Each school is asked to provide a couple of volunteers to act as room monitors or runners to move judging sheets from performance rooms to the headquarters. The festival starts at

about 9:00 a.m. and can go until 5:00 p.m. (usually most rooms finish before 5:00). If you, or someone you know, can do this for the entire time or half the day, please have them contact Mr. Milbrath on or before Thursday, February 6. We need to submit names of volunteers with our registration materials which are due at that time. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Milbrath. We are hoping to get volunteers other than band and choir parents, so they are free to watch their child's performances.

Kindergarten Round-Up

Salem's Kindergarten Round-Up will take place on Tuesday, February 26th at 6:30pm. Word of mouth is the best advertising tool for our school. If you know a family with kindergarten-age children, please tell them about us and the good work we do here, and then invite them to our Kindergarten Round-Up.

Feelin' Good Mileage Club

Just like last year, **you must sign your child up for your child to participate.** Please go to www.sparrowmilesclub.com to register. Registration begins February 1st. You have the entire month of February to register. The deadline for entry is March 4th.

We will have as many days of mileage walks as we can get helpers. Please think about setting aside some time to help the kids get healthy. We generally do this after our lunch hour. About 12 noon until 1pm is the time commitment. We love to have grandparents and church members help as well! Please contact the school office if you are interested in helping.

From Speaking Up – Volume 7 Issue 1 ...for our Pregnancy Care Centers in Flint and Saginaw, informing and urging members of WELS and ELS congregations in the area to continue to support this ministry with their prayers, participation, and financial gifts. Our Centers are affiliated with Christian Life Resources, (CRL) , a parasynodical organization of WELS

This time of year in mid-Michigan is dark. Days are short, and the sun seems to only peek out for short spurts. We long for the long light and sunny days of summer. God says that the world is covered in darkness, the darkness of unbelief and despair. In his Word he shows us the light of life: Jesus our Savior.

At the Pregnancy Care Centers we get to share the light of Jesus with people who might not see his light in a world dark with unbelief. More than any physical or emotional support we can provide, this has the power to change lives eternally!

We also get to see Jesus' light shining bright through the actions of love that our volunteers and supporters do for women and children who need it most.

We get to see the power of God shining as he works faith in the hearts of the people we serve. While there are challenges, there is no room for hopelessness. Turn the page to see a wonderful list of blessings big and small that can give us all smiles.

Thank God for giving us this beautiful bright light in the darkness!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Your monetary gifts are appreciated and needed to continue sharing the good news of Jesus with those we serve. Please make any checks payable to *Christian Life Resources Saginaw Valley* and mail to the Saginaw Pregnancy care center. We also have a

“donate” button on our facebook page and website. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to have need for additional volunteers. The Flint Center especially needs mentors and receptionists. The Saginaw Center is seeking volunteers willing to provide child care during Bible Class on Tuesday morning from 9:45-11:15. If you think you could serve in these ways, please contact us.

THE FLINT PREGNANCY CARE CENTER NEEDS

***Winter clothing for girls and boys sizes 2-4**

***Boys winter coats**

Kids' mittens/gloves

Pac'n'plays & cribs

Infant car seats

Wipes

NB diapers

Newborn sleepers and outfits for boys and girls

New bottles

Baby shampoo

Baby wash

We have a basket in the back of church where you can bring your donations if you do not wish to take them directly to the care center.

Thank you
all. Tom

The gift was greatly
appreciated.
Mr. Milbrath



Thank you for
the gift.
Mr. Perry

Thank you
all so very much
for the generous gift!
- Pastor Wilde
Thank you for your
generous gifts.
Teawyn Blaha

Thank You.
Pam

Thank you for
your generous
gift.
Cd P

Thank you for the
generous gift. It
was a blessing.
Kelly Lattaine

Thank you
for the gift!!
M. Papp

Thank you for the Christmas
gift. It was greatly
appreciated.
Esther Matthies

Thanks so much for
your kind + generous
Christmas gift! The
Lord bless + keep you
always!
Pastor Bare

Thank you for the gift.
It is truly a blessing to
be a part of the Salem
Family. I am very grateful.
Hope everyone has a blessed
year! Tonyia Aschenbrenner