

# Salem Ev. Lutheran Church & School

14940 62nd Street North  
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082  
651-439-7831

Visit our Website at [www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)

May, 2010

## **WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?**

At our Voter's meeting on Sunday we face the question, "What are we doing here? Why do we have the budget we have? Why do we have recommendation from the various boards? What is the purpose of our ministry? Also most important where are we going in the future, God willing?"

Our Christian ministry has a two prong focus. We need to care for the sheep and lambs God has brought into our congregation and reach out to bring more into the Lord's flock. Our budget may look only like numbers, dollars and cents to some people. As we see the budget in action we are doing all kinds of ministry.

Here is a summary of sum of the action taken:

1. Calling a graduate whose work would be ½ teacher and ½ youth worker. (We do have 65 teenagers between 9-12 grades who are very important for the kingdom.)
2. Changing Preschool teacher Jane Grobe's call from 80% to full time. This means she will be free two afternoons a week to free Mr. Snodie for working on worship planning.
3. Hire a consultant to lead a full stewardship program in our congregation. We have found in speaking to experts that we have the possibility of funding our ministries and going beyond what we are doing.
4. Hire a consultant to help set the vision for the future and what might be the best use of our property on Manning Avenue. The goal was to have the vision before the congregation within a year's time. We will be drawing on ideas submitted over the past years, but also be looking for new ideas. One of the biggest concerns with the vision is how can we best reach out to the unchurched or lost and bring them to Jesus.
5. We also adopted a budget to carry out our current ministry. We keep the accounts the same as last year, but did include a 2% raise across the board since there was no raise last year in the budget.

As we move forward we ask for your prayers. Pray that we go forward according to God's will and also that we ask for his blessings. Pray for our called workers, our volunteers, our staff, and our whole flock. These are exciting times. We have much work to do.

Thank you for your support of Christ's ministry in our midst.

Pastor Birkholz

The following actions were accomplished at the April 20, Church Council Meeting:

**Request from Joe Covelli to give the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class \$500 toward the class trip for handing out bags at the parade.**

**MM/S** (Spencer/Hansen) Re-authorize \$500 contribution to 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip in return for passing out Salem bags at the Lumberjack Parade. Motion carried.

**MM/S** (Enter/Gruetzmacher) Make a 3-part recommendation to the Voters as follows:

1. Salem work with a consultant to develop an annual stewardship program to help people lift up their giving to God;
2. form a planning committee to work with a planning consultant to develop a ministry vision for Salem, to include creation of a master site plan for the Manning property;
3. Start a separate 3-year capital building appeal following Voters' approval of the plan.

### **Education Board & Committee Recommendations**

The council then directed attention to written recommendations from the Education Board & Committee that were included with the meeting agenda packet and presented by Jim Spencer. A series of motions were made and approved as listed below. There was discussion regarding whether there is a greater need for an additional pastor rather than a youth/teacher position. Pastor Birkholz stated that he and Pastor Brohn have discussed this and are in agreement that the greater need is for support of Salem youth.

**MM/S** (Spencer/Lefto) Endorse / recommend to voters the following staffing arrangement for the 2010-2011 school year:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Combined 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> (1/2)	Brohn (1/2) Graf (1/2) NEW
6 <sup>th</sup>	Zimmermann
5 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Noack
4 <sup>th</sup>	Snodie/Grobe (20%)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hasselquist
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hanson
1 <sup>st</sup>	Linda Noack
Kindergarten	Gutzke
Pre-School	Grobe (80%)

Plan calls for one new staff person who will work ½ time as 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and ½ time as Church Youth Director.

Jane Grobe will be taken from her current 80% salary to 100%, and her Tuesday and Thursday afternoons will be used to free up Jason Snodie to work as Church Worship Director.

Motion Carried.

**MM/S** (Spencer/Hansen) Make a recommendation to the Voters to change Kay Brohn's emergency/temporary ½ time call to a regular ½ time call. Motion carried.

**MM/S** (Spencer/Kaminski) Approve 3-yr contract with Tuition Management Systems (TMS) to handle the tuition billing and collections. Motion carried.

**MM/S** (Gruetzmacher/Spencer) Recommend 2% pay increase to called workers.

**MM/S** (Kaminski/Hansen) *Amend* the motion for salary increase to include all workers. Motion to amend carried.

**Amended Motion:** Recommend to the Voters a 2% pay increase to include all Salem workers. The amended motion carried.

**MM/S** (Hansen/Enter) Present budget with \$132k deficit to support the motions & recommended made during the discussion. Motion carried.

**Council approves that SCRIP program and keep up to \$1,000 of SCRIP Cards on hand.**

**MM/S** (Enter/Spencer) Authorize SCRIP program to keep up to \$1,000 of SCRIP cards on hand. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Meyer, Secretary

## Financial Update...

### Weekly Offerings

March24	\$ 549.25	\$ 851.00 Missions
March28	\$12,629.90	\$ 1,221.00 Missions
April 1	\$ 2,230.97	\$ 50.00 Missions
April 2	\$ 3,849.00	\$ 95.00 Missions
April 4	\$11,048.00	\$ 3,050.00 Missions
April 11	\$11,464.93	\$ 2,002.00 Missions
April 18	\$ 9,810.72	\$ 703.00 Missions

Offerings needed to meet budget each week  
\$14,667.00 & \$1,250.00 Missions

(2 Corinthians 9:7) Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

## Women's Guild

The next Women's Guild Meeting is Thursday, May 6, 2010, beginning at 1:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All Women are invited to join us!



## Altar Guild Update

Remember to contact the church office if you want to place flowers on the altar!

Marlis Dreier and Sharon Vetsch are the May Crew.

## Monday Night Services

**If you are away for the weekend and would like to worship during the week, we have an arrangement with Christ in North St. Paul, who offer Monday Night Services at 7 pm, every Monday, all year round. If you use your offering envelope from Salem, they will send it back to us.**

## Moms Bible Study

The 2nd & 4th Wednesdays are our days. Play begins at 9 am and Bible study begins at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room. All moms & their children are invited!



## **If you want to reach our Pastors...**

Pastor Birkholz can be reached at home, 651-430-2391

by e-mail [mbirkholz@salemlutheran.org](mailto:mbirkholz@salemlutheran.org)

Pastor Brohn can be reached at home, 715-381-1120

by e-mail [jbrohn@salemlutheran.org](mailto:jbrohn@salemlutheran.org)

**The Pastors' Church Office Phone Number is 651-439-5465.**

**New Broadcast times from the Cable Company:** We have received new broadcast times for our worship service. The times on Channel 18 are:

Monday – 1 & 7 pm Tuesday – 7 am

Wednesday – 4 & 10 pm Thursday – 10 am

## **Parish Nurse Fund**

From 2001-2007 Salem's members, especially our senior members, benefited by having a part time Parish Nurse Position in our congregation. The Nurse supports the Pastoral Care of our older members, shut-ins, and members requiring special services for their physical needs. The nurses who filled this position were also members of our congregation and were compensated through our annual budget. Recently, we were blessed to gain a new member who is willing to reestablish this position. Because of budget constraints, however, funds to compensate the Parish Nurse position were not deemed to be currently available. Nevertheless, several members have expressed an interest in monetary support through a special dedicated fund outside of the budget. Consequently a special Parish Nurse fund has been established so monies can be collected to compensate the Parish Nurse.

A special envelope for donations is included in this issue of the Parish Notes and can be dropped in the collection plate or at the church office. Additional envelopes will be available in the church narthex.

Your support for this program is greatly appreciated.

Board for Special Ministries

## **Flower Orders will Arrive!**

The flowers you ordered in March will be arriving on May 6 and May 27, depending on when you wanted them to be delivered. They will be available for pick-up on those days after lunch. Weather permitting, they will be on the lawn by the Fellowship Entrance. If you have any questions, call the church office.

## **EFT Contributions are now Available!!**

The Stewardship Committee has made arrangements with Thrivent and their "Simply Giving" program to make available the option of authorizing electronic transfers from your checking/savings account to make your contributions to church. Forms are available in the rack in the Narthex. Forms should be turned into the Church Office. If you have any questions, contact the church office.



Please keep our members who are serving in the military in your prayers. Brandon Marth, David Zoldan, and William Hansen, Jr.

## SCRIP

SCRIP orders are still due by the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month. There are order sheets on the SCRIP "Drop Box" in the Narthex. Orders typically arrive by the Friday after the order is placed. You can pick up your orders in the school office. You can designate your family's tuition to benefit from SCRIP you order or the proceeds will go to the Tuition assistance Fund.

It's easy and you can help send students to Salem!

## Committee Meeting Day

The Council decided to streamline operations and have all committee Meetings on the Tuesday prior to their council meeting.

**All of the Committees will have their meetings on  
Tuesday, May 11, at 6:30 pm**

If you would like to be a part of a committee or have an issue to bring up at a meeting, this would be the time to do so.

## Meals On Wheels

Salem volunteers deliver meals the week of May 10-14.

We have enough drivers at this time, but, we are always looking to add to our list of volunteers.

If you would like to help out, please contact Marlene Finley at 651-439-5674

**Garden Areas:** If you signed up to take care of an area around church, it is that time of year to begin tending to your area. There is a chart in the church office with the areas. If you would like to begin taking care of an area, please sign-up! Thanks for helping keep Salem looking good.

## Library Notes

The library encourages all members to use our library.

When you visit our library and are ready to check out some books, DVD or Videos, remember to sign the card in the back of the book - include the date and your first and last name. (This helps us keep track of the books!) We would appreciate the books be returned within 3 weeks of the check out date. If the book, DVD, or video is being used for a Bible Study, write it on the card so we know not to expect it back in three weeks. If your item becomes damaged or lost, let us know so we can remove it from our records.

Thank You to everyone who had donated books, DVD's and Videos to our library. Your donations are very much appreciated!

**Willing to help?** The caring committee is looking for more people to add to our **meal provider** list. We are also looking for people willing to volunteer some **babysitting or drive** people to appointments. A SIGN-UP sheet is on the bulletin board.

**If you think you may be able to help, even once a year, please sign-up.**

Emails or calls are sent to everyone when a need arises., Those who can help at that time let me know, so we get the need covered. Questions call Janet Rider at 651-439-0584.

We are still collecting Hotel Toiletries for the Food Shelf. Shower caps will go to our African Medical Mission.

***The "High Seas Expedition" is ready to begin!***

***Vacation Bible School is a mere 6 weeks away. The voyage sets sail June 21-25, from 9:00 - 11:45AM.***

We are gathering needed supplies and still looking for willing volunteers. There is a donation board in the narthex. Take a look and please consider picking an item or two to contribute to this important ministry. There is a wide variety of items. Bring your donation to the church or school office or just give them to Dave Noack. We would like to receive the donations no later than June 6.

For decorating purposes, we are seeking old soccer or hockey goal nets. Real fishing nets, nautical flags, buoys, lifesaver rings, and lanterns would also be helpful. **We are in great need of a ship's wheel to borrow for the week.** If anyone has a connection please contact Dave Noack ASAP. All borrowed items can be returned after June 25.

We are hoping to reach 150 children. There are currently 40 preregistered. The cost is now \$20 per student with a max of \$50 per family. We do have "scholarships" available for families in need. Contact Dave Noack if you are interested in the scholarship or contributing to the scholarships.

There are registration forms enclosed in this mailing, and available in the narthex or school office. You may also register online. Go to the Salem website- [www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org).

We still need volunteer crew leaders and station helpers. Contact Dave Noack for more information. Thank you for your prayers and support.



**Salem Lutheran Church  
“High Seas Expedition”  
Vacation Bible School  
June 21-25 9-11:45 am**

**Registration Form**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name & Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

List Allergies

\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Concerns

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

People who may pick my child up \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\$20 per child (\$50 max per family) Please return Registration form & payment to the church or school office.

## School News

Enrollment applications continue to come into the school office. The numbers right now look to be higher. Historically, at least 15-20 new students are added during the summer.

Plays this year: Preschool, Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade:

Tiki Tiki Tembo May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.

Grades 2-4: Compose Yourself May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:45 p.m.

Grades 5-8: Joseph: From the Pit to the Palace -

May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Public Speaking Meet at St. Croix: On Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup>, students in grades 5-8 participated in Public Speaking festival at St. Croix. Our students came away with 4 gold medals, 1 silver medal, 1 bronze medal, 5 blue ribbons, and 3 red ribbons. Congratulations to all of the students!

Special Dates:

- ~ May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Confirmation service
- ~ May 7<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade goes to St. Croix
- ~ May 7<sup>th</sup> - St. Croix Track Meet
- ~ May 31<sup>st</sup> - No School/Memorial Day
- ~ June 4<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of School - Closing Chapel
- School Dismissed at Noon
- ~ June 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation - 9:30 a.m. service
- ~ June 21-25 - Vacation Bible School 9 - 11:45 a.m.



## Pioneer News

### **Pioneer Easter Breakfast**

We would like to thank everyone who contributed supplies and their time for the Pioneer's Easter Breakfast. Your help was very much appreciated. Also a special thanks to all of you who were able to join us for breakfast-you're who made all our effort worthwhile!

### **Pioneer EAA Young Eagles Flight Outing**

The EAA Young Eagles flight outing is Saturday, May 9th at 9:00 a.m. at Lake Elmo Airport. This is open to all Pioneers ages 8 to 17. It's a lot of fun and a great introduction to flying for those who have never flown before. Please contact Debbie Sinclair if you have any questions and to let us know if your kids will be participating so I can get the permission slips to you and get a count of how many are coming. Hopefully all the kids will be able to come.

### **Pioneer Awards Ceremony**

The Pioneer Awards ceremony will be at 6:00 p.m. (after church) on Saturday, May 9th. There will be a potluck dinner followed by a program and presentation of awards. Families with last names starting with A-M should bring desserts and N-Z should bring salads or main dishes. Hope you can all make it.

### **Carnations for Mom**

The Girl Pioneers will be selling carnations after all three services Mother's Day weekend, May 9th and 10th. The carnations are \$1.25 each and will be assorted colors. Show Mom, Grandma or whoever that special woman in your life is that you are thinking of her and appreciate all she has done for you.

# Worship Helpers      May, 2010

<b>Ushers</b>	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
May 1	Lefto Family	
May 2	Plattner Team	Loss Team
May 8	Lillo Family	
May 9	Knefelkamp Team	Koester Team
May 15	Gruetzmacher Family	
May 16	Crowder Team	Wohlers Team
May 22	Sinclair Family	
May 23	Plattner Team	Raleigh Team
May 29	Yanta Family	
May 30	Knefelkamp Team	Loss Team (9:30)

<b>Vestrymen</b>	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
May 2	T Kopel	G Galler
May 9	D Knefelkamp	J Wohlers
May 16	V Crowder	J Beaudry
May 23	T Gruetzmacher	J Wohlers
May 30	T Kopel	J Beaudry

## **Communion Helpers**

May 8	Roger Zolldan
May 22	Kevin Lillo

<b>Greeters</b>	<u>8 am</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
May 2 (8 am)	Lyle & Dorothy Doerr (9:15)	Mike & Barb Miller (10:30 am) Miles & Audrey Wittig
May 9	Stan & Sharon Vetsch	The Gruetzmacher's
May 16	Dave & Randee Loss	Jim & Joyce Duyrud
May 23	Dave & Mary Richert	Mary Ecker and Tracy Poirer
May 30	Open	(9:30) Dennis & Ramona Sanders

## **Video Taping Crew**

May 2	Mark & Nancee Prchal
May 9	Joe Covelli
May 16	Quentin Johnson
May 23	Gary LeMay & Judy Zolldan
May 30	Mark & Nancee Prchal

Thanks For All Your Help!

April 25, 2010

Dear Members of Salem Lutheran Church and School,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate with you about the activity that is going on at Salem with regard to developing a stewardship program and updating the ministry vision for our congregation, and how this will impact future plans for the Manning Avenue property.

Earlier this year, at the January voters meeting, the Church Council announced that one of the top three priorities for 2010 would be to conduct a pledge drive, also known as a capital fund appeal, to pay down debt on the Manning Avenue property, increase regular offerings, and provide funding with which to do additional planning to determine the future best use of the Manning property.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, a committee consisting of Doug Wetzstein, Tom Gruetzmacher, Laura Gruetzmacher, Clay Raasch, Mark Enter, Pastor Brohn, and Pastor Birkholz interviewed 3 consulting firms that are in the business of helping churches plan and carry out capital fund appeals. The purpose of those interviews was to ultimately recommend that one of them be hired by Salem.

We met with Cornerstone Stewardship Ministries, The James Company, and RSI. All three companies appear to have excellent programs. With God's blessing, we would no doubt have a successful campaign with any one of them. At this time we are continuing to do some follow-up evaluation before making a final recommendation.

As we began this process, we had the following three needs in mind, in no particular order.

Debt reduction of the \$400,000 mortgage on the Manning Avenue property.

Annual offerings are between \$120,000 and \$170,000 short of 2010-11 needs. (Note: The budget approved at the voters meeting today is \$132,000 short of last year's offerings.)

Funding for planning and for future construction of facilities at the Manning Avenue Property.

We learned that a congregation our size should expect a major fund appeal to produce gifts of between 2 and 4 times our annual offerings, with the average being 2.6 times. Based on our annual offerings budget of \$700,000, this calculates to between 1.4 and 2.8 million dollars. It became quite clear that if our only goal is to reduce debt by \$400,000 and increase regular offerings, a capital fund appeal is not the correct stewardship tool to be used at this time.

We also realized, that although it is within the reach of our congregation to generate enough gifts that we could begin construction of a new sanctuary on the Manning Avenue property, Salem has not yet made a decision to do that, nor do we have a clear vision of what should be done at the Manning Avenue property at this time. To be blunt, embarking on a major capital appeal at this time would be putting the cart in front of the horse.

During discussions with all of the consultants, a number of common themes emerged. One was that an effective capital appeal is not about asking people for money. It is about asking people to ask God,

through prayer, what he would like them to do as they consider the vision of Salem Lutheran Church. A second is that whatever we decide to do, it needs to accomplish two things. It needs to bring more people to Jesus and it needs to bring those who already know Jesus, closer to him. That is the mission of the Church and if we are not accomplishing it, we need to change our plans so that we do. There are many, many tools and many means of accomplishing this. A church and other facilities are only tools that can be used to accomplish this goal, but we have to ask ourselves, does the vision accomplish the goal of bringing more people to Jesus.

So we began to ask ourselves, does building a sanctuary on the Manning Avenue property bring more people to Jesus? Here are some thoughts.

While our current location is a great blessing, it is kind of tucked away. Many locals have never seen or heard of Salem. Some have referred to our school as one of "The best kept secrets in the valley". How sad. Conversely, a Sanctuary on the Manning Avenue property would be highly visible. Current traffic volume past the Manning property is 12,300 cars per day. This makes Manning Avenue one of the busiest streets in Washington County. By comparison, Hwy 61 in Forest Lake is at 16,000 and Radio Drive at Valley Creek Rd in Woodbury is at 19,000.

A new sanctuary can be designed to better meet the needs of our current and future members. Modern designs allow more worshipers to be physically closer to the front of the church with a better view and ultimately a more intimate worship experience. A larger narthex is necessary to facilitate more visiting following the service, resulting in a better connected church family. An enhanced youth area, that doesn't just "suffice" but actually excels at attracting youth, means more souls hearing the word. Some churches are finding that a certain family dynamic has changed over the years. Kids used to go wherever their parents went. Today, kids are more likely to become connected first, and parents often follow the children. We currently have 65 teens in grades 9-12. These young people need to grow closer to Jesus, and have an enhanced opportunity to bring their friends to Jesus.

So what is the next step? We need to update the Ministry Vision of Salem. In 2003, Salem worked with the Parish Assistance program to conduct small group meetings with as many members as possible. Some of you recall those meetings where we met in every nook and cranny of the church and school to get ideas from everyone. In 2007, we did this again. These meetings generated lots of good ideas and many of them have already been implemented. But throughout the process we never really created an overall ministry vision. Since there are many new members at Salem, not to mention fresh ideas from the rest of us, it is time to do it again, but this time to make sure the result is a shared vision of the ministry of Salem. At the voters meeting today, Salem decided to work with a consultant to go forward with this process during the next 3-12 months. We chose to use a professional to guide us to make sure the process gets completed properly and on time. However, rest assured, the vision will be Salem's vision, the result of the ideas and desires of our members.

Meanwhile, Salem has an ongoing ministry to continue to support. To accomplish all the components of our current ministry costs about \$132,000 more than what we received in offerings last year.

The right tool to use for this situation is a formal stewardship program. A stewardship program uses devotions to help us properly frame what Christian Stewardship really means. It communicates information about what our financial gifts actually accomplish in our current ministry. It uses sermons, and personal prayer, focused on asking God to help us know what he would like us to do in the way of supporting his work at Salem. Today the voters also approved plans to work with a consultant to develop a formal stewardship program for Salem immediately.

If you would like help with the process of establishing the Ministry Vision for Salem, or with development of the stewardship program, or have questions about what you just read, please contact one of the pastors, or myself.

In Christ,

Mark Enter, Stewardship Committee Chair



# May 2010

Church & School 651-439-7831  
Toll-Free 877-439-7831

Pastors' Office 651-439-5465  
Fax 651-439-0035

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 8 am Men's Bible Study @ Gorman's  5 pm Worship
<i>2</i> 8 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday Sch No Bible St 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Worship Confirmation	<i>3</i> 7 pm Sunday School Teacher Meeting  2:30 pm Fellowship 6:30 pm FPU	<i>4</i> 10 am Bible Support Group	<i>5</i> 6:30 am Men's Bible St 9:15 am Chapel 6:30 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Sr High YES 7:30 pm Men's Chorus	<i>6</i> 1:15 pm Women's Guild Meeting  5:30 pm Handbells  Flower Order Pick-up	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>   5 pm Communion
<i>9</i> 8 am Communion 9:15 am Bib St & Sun- day School 10:30 am Communion	<i>10</i> SCRIP Orders due 6:30 pm FPU  Salem Kids Closet	<i>11</i> 10 am Bible Support Group  6:30 pm Council Committee Mtgs	<i>12</i> 6:30 am Men's Bible St 9:30 am Mom's Bible St 1:15 pm Chapel 6:30 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Sr High YES 7:30 pm Men's Chorus	<i>13</i>   5:30 pm Handbells	<i>14</i> Preschool through Gr. 4 school Plays in the gym 6 pm  Pioneer/Viking Camp-Out May 14-16	<i>15</i>   5 pm Worship <i>Contemporary</i>
<i>16</i> 8 am Worship 9:15 am Bib St & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<i>17</i>   6:30 pm FPU	<i>18</i> 10 am Bible Support Group  6:30 pm Church Council	<i>19</i> 6:30 am Men's Bible St 9:15 am Chapel 6:30 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Sr High YES 7:30 pm Men's Chorus	<i>20</i>   5:30 pm Handbells	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>   5 pm Communion
<i>23</i> 8 am Communion 9:15 am Bib St & Sun School 10:30 am Communion 11:45 am New Mem- ber Orientation <b>Music Sunday</b>	<i>24</i> SCRIP Orders due 6:30 pm FPU 6:30 pm Sisters in Christ	<i>25</i> 10 am Bible Support Group  6:30 pm Piano Heroes Recital	<i>26</i> 6:30 am Men's Bible St 9:30 am Mom's Bible St 9:15 am Chapel 6:30 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Sr High YES 7:30 pm Men's Chorus  Gr 5-8 Play at the Phipps	<i>27</i>   5:30 pm Handbells  Flower Order Pick-up	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>   5 pm Worship
<i>30</i>   8 am Worship 9:30 am Worship	<i>31</i>   No School Memorial Day					

## Help kids take a stand against alcohol and drugs



With prom and graduation seasons here, teenagers may face more opportunities than usual to experiment with drinking and drug use. Kids turn to these substances not only to look cool and fit in with the crowd but also because they may help them feel good, ease their nerves, and make socializing easier.

Alcohol and drugs are addictive and harmful, as well as illegal. Using and abusing them can lead to everything from bad decisions to death. **But there's much more for Christian teenagers to consider when they're faced with temptations of drugs and alcohol than just being "safe."**

In the Bible, Jesus instructs his followers to stay awake and alert in our everyday lives. He said Satan is **stalking us like a "roaring lion" (see 1 Peter 5:8), and he wasn't kidding. God instructs us to take up his armor (see Ephesians 6:13-17) so we can stand firm and resist temptation. He also tells us to walk in the light (see 1 John 1:7). Nothing neutralizes our impact for God's kingdom faster, broader, and deeper than shadow living. Whatever we do, we should train kids to live their lives in the light—away from the shadows that give Satan, God's enemy, room to operate and leverage to sideline us.**

So when you talk to your teenagers about the physical and legal reasons to steer clear of drugs and alcohol, remember to mention the spiritual reasons as well. Then stop talking and set an example by how you live. God knows about all the temptations we face and wants to be the first place we turn during difficulties.

### **Here's a rundown on what really keeps kids away from alcohol and drugs—and what doesn't:**

#### WHAT WORKS

- Kids who have "an active spiritual life" are half as likely to end up as alcoholics or drug addicts. This is true only for kids who make a personal choice to pursue a spiritual life.
- Kids are at higher risk of becoming substance abusers if they're highly stressed, frequently bored, or have too much spending money.

#### WHAT DOESN'T WORK

- Kids who go to schools that test them for illicit drug use are likelier to use drugs than are students at other schools.
- Education programs aimed at reducing drinking among college students may actually encourage more drinking.
- Experts now say stepped-up enforcement to try to cut off the drug supply doesn't really work.

*(Group Magazine)*

## Pulse

Contrary to media reports and popular opinion, not all teenagers are into drugs and alcohol. Check out a few of the latest findings:

- **By the time they're seniors in high school, 36% of all teenagers have experimented with illegal drugs.**  
*(Office of National Drug Control Policy)*
- Every day, 2,500 teenagers use a prescription drug to get high for the first time.  
*(drugfree.org)*
- When American young people were asked what makes them **happy, only 8% said drinking makes them "very happy." And 55% said the question doesn't apply.**  
*(MTV/AP)*
- Alcohol use continues to decline among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, as does use of cigarettes and meth. Meanwhile, marijuana use is on the rise.  
*(Office of National Drug Control Policy)*



## Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Start conversations with your teenagers about drinking and drugs by using these discussion starters:

1. What motivates people to **drink or do drugs? What's appealing** about getting drunk or high?
2. Why do people believe drunkenness or drug use can fill their emptiness? Can you be both drunk (or on drugs) and filled with **God's Spirit? Why or why not?**
3. Why should Christians avoid drugs and alcohol? Is it merely **because they're illegal or bad for you?** Explain.
4. When everyone else seems to be drinking or using, how can you be clean and sober?



## Focus on Prayer

PRAY THAT:

1. God will help your teenagers resist the temptations of alcohol and drugs, finding fulfillment from positive sources instead.
2. Your teenagers will be able to recognize the false promises of **happiness and "coolness" offered by alcohol and drugs.**
3. Among friends, your teenagers can take a strong stand against mind-altering substances.
4. God will bless your teenagers for pursuing a relationship with **him rather than chasing after the "high" from drugs and alcohol.**

### Verse of the Month

**"Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Ephesians 5:17-18)**

Many lives have been ruined—and even destroyed—by alcohol and illegal substances. They seem to offer people of all ages quick solutions to common life experiences of pain and loneliness. But **only God's presence can truly fill our deepest longings. God wants his children to make wise decisions that honor him, and he promises to renew our weak spirits with his all-powerful Holy Spirit.**

## Going Deeper

At [SimplyYouthMinistry.com](http://SimplyYouthMinistry.com), youth-culture expert Walt Mueller offers these tips for teaching your teenagers about alcohol.

Most teenagers are left to get their information about alcohol from unreliable sources. Some learn from their friends. Others learn from the media. Only about one in three middle school and high school students say their parents talk to them **"often" or "a lot" about tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. Alcohol education should start when we tell our preschoolers not to accept candy, gifts, pills, or rides from strangers. As they grow older, educate kids on the different types of alcohol they'll encounter and the dangers and effects of each. Don't overstate the danger by saying that everyone who drinks beer will die. Rather, tell kids about the potential short- and long-term harmful effects of alcohol abuse in a truthful, realistic manner. Don't assume that because teenagers are likely to experiment it's best to give them both the alcohol and a place to drink "safely."**

Seize teachable moments as kids encounter alcohol use and abuse in the media. Teach them to discern the false messages. Help them pick apart the ridiculous promises and nature of alcohol ads. Teach them **that it's against the law for minors to buy or drink alcohol. Teach kids that God has given them the responsibility to obey laws. Read and study Romans 13: 1-3, 6-7 with your kids. And if they get caught, be sure they're given the wonderful opportunity to learn by suffering the legal consequences of their actions. Don't work to "fix" any of the legal ramifications. Read together what Scripture says about drunkenness in passages such as Proverbs 23: 20-21; 1 Corinthians 5: 11; Galatians 5: 19-21; and 1 Thessalonians 5: 5-8. Finally, walk your talk. A code of biblical moral conduct lived out in the house is the most powerful shaper of your child's own spiritual values and behaviors.**



## MUSIC SPOTLIGHT



### Mainstream Artist

**Background:** Canadian R&B singer Justin Bieber, 16, was discovered on YouTube. His boyish good looks and songs about teenage love make girls swoon. **Bieber's new album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts. He's already sung for the president, presented at the Grammys, and scored the opening line in the "We Are the World" benefit remake.**

**Albums:** *My World 2.0* (2010), *My World* (2009)

**What Parents Should Know:** Bieber's lyrics are clean, and other than a duet with the often-crude Ludacris, Bieber seems to be making good choices. He wants to follow the career trajectory of Usher and Justin Timberlake, but time will tell if he steers clear of their penchant for sex-soaked lyrics.

**What Bieber Says:** "There's a lot of stuff [on the album] that's not just about love. .... Real life isn't perfect, so my album kind of portrays that. You just have to make the best of what you have."

**Discussion Questions:** Have you known someone whose life seemed perfect? How can appearances be deceiving? What pressure, if any, do you feel to be perfect? Read aloud Matthew 23: 25-28. Why was Jesus so harsh to people who pretended they were perfect? Does this mean we shouldn't strive for godly behavior? Why or why not?



### Christian Artist

**Background:** MercyMe has been a staple of contemporary Christian music since forming in 1994. Their crossover hit "I Can Only Imagine" helped their debut album, *Almost There*, go double-platinum. MercyMe, which has been nominated for numerous Dove and Grammy awards, was recently named Billboard's Christian Artist of the Decade.

**Albums:** *The Generous Mr. Lovewell* (2010), *Coming Up to Breathe* (2006), *Undone* (2004)

**What Parents Should Know:** MercyMe holds a unique position in contemporary Christian music, appealing to adults as well as teenagers. They've helped with charity events, including raising money for kids with diabetes.

**What MercyMe Says:** Lead singer Bart Millard says the band hopes the new album creates "a movement of encouraging people to make a difference in the world, whether it's helping your neighbor or just loving each other."

**Discussion Questions:** How can acts of kindness change people's lives and surroundings? What are some simple ways you can show kindness to others? Read aloud 1 Thessalonians 5: 15. How would daily life be different if everyone followed this advice? Is that a realistic expectation? Why or why not?

## FILMWATCH

**Movie:** *Iron Man 2* (releases May 7)

**Genre:** Action-Adventure

**Rating:** PG-13 (for sequences of intense sci-fi action and violence, and some language)

**Synopsis:** The world now knows that Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) is Iron Man, and with that fame come complications: The U.S. government wants the technology from his suit, a mysterious woman is vying for his attention, and powerful new adversaries are trying to take down the superhero.

**Discussion Questions:** Why do problems sometimes seem overwhelming? How do you cope with pressure? Why do so many problems exist in the world? Why doesn't God just remove our problems? Read aloud Genesis 39. Think of a time you've seen good come from a problem: Was the end result worth the struggle? Explain. Does God always have lessons to teach us through our problems? Why or why not?



# SALEM KIDS CLOSET

IS

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MAY 10<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup>

COME AND SHOP FOR FREE!

Excepting donations now thru May10th.

Please leave donations in the school or church office.

WHAT TO DONATE:

Kids clothes any size, shoes, sportswear, and any season outdoor wear.

This is a big event to prepare for, if anyone is interested in volunteering I could use help setting up on Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> and taking down after church on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact me with any questions or interest in volunteering.

Patricia Goplen

Home: 715-247-2274

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