



Hello, Church.

You realize that *YOU* are the Church, right? I know that Pastor Slim used to tell you that; I know I have told you that; I would imagine other pastors and preachers have told you that. But do you remember it? We have a neat, old building, but that isn't the Church...it's only the Church's (your) building. We belong to a denomination (Lutheran) and an organization (Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ - Augustana District), but that isn't the Church...it's only the Church's identifier. The true Church is *YOU*.

You, your ancestors, your children, and believers all around the world are Church. And we keep on celebrating who we are. We also are continually being formed further into Church. We are formed when we hear God's word and share in the Sacraments; when we gather to challenge and support our brothers and sisters; when we reach out to others and their organizations; when we pray as individuals or in groups; when we socialize in respectful and fun ways; when we educate ourselves about our Scriptures and our History.

As Salem Church, we are doing all of this and doing it well. A larger and larger group of folks – younger and older – have gathered on Sundays for our 9:30 service. An impressive group of people met on the Wednesday nights of Lent to learn. A half-dozen or so leaders of our Church went to a training event on how to be an even better Church. A group of folks went to the MapleFest at Glenna farms as a social event. The first Date Night (an opportunity to drop younger kids off at the Church's building to be watched while mom and dad go out) was received well with plans for more of them in the future. We've donated to Doctors In India and Family Pathways Food Shelf. The Easter garden helped us worship throughout the spring. We've gotten new Bibles for our Church's building. We continue to maintain and improve our grounds and building. Memorial Day found the largest group of folks I've ever seen attend the service in our cemetery. We've baptized Meta Tauer, shared in Lane Nelson's and Ivan Nechal's first communions, witnessed Andy and Jenny Dillum's marriage, and helped Larry and Donna Nelson celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. We've honored Anita for her ten years of service/ministry at the organ, other couples on their 'lesser' anniversaries, and many people on their birthdays. We honored the Nels Nelson family on our Heritage Day. We have prayed, grown, and celebrated as a Church.



