

Fall 2018

After a very full summer for – seemingly – almost everyone, we have entered our fall season. The kids are back at school, the leaves have turned and are falling, and the crops are being harvested. We wrap ourselves up in sweaters and coats as the weather gets cooler. We've pulled in the boats and the docks as we've pulled out the hunting gear. Political races have ramped up as November 6th draws near (please remember to vote!). Finally, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas decorations start appearing and plans are being made.



In the midst of this all, some things stay constant. Among the constants, we know and believe that our God blesses us individually and collectively. We maintain hope given to us through our Father's mercy and and plan for salvation. We participate in the mission to share Christ's light and the courage of the Holy Spirit with others. We find our little parish community growing and celebrating (10 baptisms down; two to go!).

And your generosity is constant. The folks at Salem must be some of the most generous people I have ever met. All the way from the beginning, the local settlers donated time and money to build this little building as well as maintain it through the years. Similarly, I was told a story about your generosity during the renovation project (when the new altar area was added on the east end of the building and the kitchen/hall/bathroom on the west end). At the time, the parish was still associated w/ the ELCA; officials from the organization offered to help with fundraising. The president of the parish council at the time, who also coordinated the renovation, told them it wasn't necessary because 130% of the goal had already been reached!

Both as a congregation and as individuals, Salem has, in the time I've been associated with you, given ample monetary gifts to the Gideons, the Military Bible Stick program, the publishing house that offers The Daily Bread, Lutheran Indian Ministries, Family Pathways Food Shelf, Lex Pregnancy Resource Center, Isanti Teen Home, various individual mission trips, and both the LCMC and Augustana District with which we associate ourselves. This is *in addition to* sustaining – very well, I might add – the parish in its administration and physical property.

Simply amazing!

Generousness is not just in the realm of financial/monetary giving either. Folks around here donate SO MUCH TIME AND TALENT to the sustaining of the parish and its ministry! The generosity of the Sunday School teachers, the bible study leaders, the ushers, the readers, the musicians, and the treat-bringers (keep signing up!), as well as the people who keep the grounds, the building, and the worship space is awesome. Plus, you all give time and service to your neighbors and the local community, let alone to other members and people associated with Salem. Again, I am floored by your generosity!

Come again to see some of this constant, unbelievable generosity! Check out the many things that are coming up, where Salem's generosity will be on full-display:



As always, it truly is a pleasure and a blessing to serve you wonderful, generous people. Please feel free to contact me at robkrajewski72@gmail.com or 651.261.7333 or our council president, Kevin Almendinger, at 612.839.5991.

Sincerely, and in Christ,