

Happy Fall, Everyone! For me, in addition to loving the weather and the leaves/harvest aspects of the fall, I really appreciate the fall in a very practical way: we have more of a routine! Seemingly, the days for our families (or our kids' and friends' families) settle into something more regular, as do our weekends and things overall. This is simpler, more predictable, and allows easier planning. As you move into the fall, plan on coming to join us for our regular worship, our special celebrations, Sunday School, and adult spirituality groups at Salem.

SUNDAY SCHOOL starts this Sunday, September 8th, during the regular, 9:30 AM service. We have four teachers who have dedicated themselves to sharing the Word of God in age-appropriate ways to the pre-K and grade school children of our parish. Gina Nechal, Eden Krajewski, Deb Hoppe, and Jenny Dullum will be rotating weeks throughout the fall months. Thank you to them! Thank you for planning on having your children/grandchildren/friends' kids participate.

The **MEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP will be starting up again this Saturday, September 7th, at 8:30 AM.** The group will be watching and discussing a video by the author (John Eldredge) of the book they have been studying: Wild At Heart. All men are welcome to attend for fellowship, food (brunch-like items are served), and growth-potential. The men who have attended during the last year have found this group to be a real boon for them. Hans Erdman leads this on the first Saturdays of each month (future dates are Oct 5th, Nov 2nd, and Dec 7th – all at 8:30AM).

Ellen Erdman will continue to lead the **WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP, starting at 7pm on Wednesdays, Sept 11th** and continuing on alternating Wednesday nights (Sept 25th, Oct 9th, Oct 23rd, Nov 6th, and Nov 20th). This year, the women will be studying and praying their way through Psalm 23. This is the third year of meeting; all the participants have spoken of the community, the strength, and the wisdom they have gained through these meetings. All are welcome.

Sunday, Sept 15th, during the 9:30 service, CONFIRMATION will be celebrated. Six of our teens will be confirming the faith their parents initially instilled in them, we have encouraged in them, and which they have studied and grown within themselves over the summer. Please come celebrate with Kasey and Ryan Frantzick, Mady Hockert, Ava and Eden Krajewski, and Charlie Templin.

Looking ahead, we will have a Gideons presentation and opportunity to contribute to their ministry (date to be determined), at least five baptisms to be celebrated sometime over the next year, the fall clean-up (a Saturday toward the end of October), Reformation Day (Sunday, Oct 27th) and All Saints Day (Sunday, Nov 2nd). Also, plan for an evening to give thanks on Wednesday, Nov 27th, at 7pm, followed by a pie social. Advent starts the following week, and we will be will holding our Wednesday night learning services at 7pm. The next newsletter will give dates and topics for those, as well as the dates for our Kids' Christmas program and Christmas services. Mark your calendars as is appropriate.

Looking back at the summer, we had a great First Communion (May 19th) and Heritage Day (June 9th) celebrations. We want to give a special thanks to Deb Stenberg for coordinating a very successful Vacation Bible School and Vicki Bengtson for setting-up a wonderful picnic. Both VBS and the picnic also had a great group of volunteers to help out. You can see pictures of the events on both our web-site (salemlc-oxford.org) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/Salem-Lutheran-Church-of-Oxford-422071064796637/>).

As always, you may contact me via email (robkrajewski72@gmail.com) or by calling/texting me at 651-261-7333. I'd also love to see you at a Sunday service – as we all would – you are always welcome!!