

Hello friends and members of Salem.

We are excited to start a new format for our newsletter wherein I will send out six (or so) emails throughout the year. In them, you will always find information about soon-upcoming events, a bit of teaching most of the time, and some down-the-road dates to put on your calendar.

If you do NOT want to receive these 'newsletters', please respond to us by email and we will remove your name from our list. If you know of others who would be interested in receiving it, please pass their address on to us (after you confirm with them that they would like to get it).

ANNUAL MEETING is this Sunday (Feb 3rd). If you are member, please come to be a part of the voting and decision making. If you are friend, please come to find out more about our parish. We will be hearing reports about the various parts of the parish ministry and our financial health, voting on new council members, and discussing our parish-wide benevolences/tithing.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP meets alternating Wednesdays at 7pm to discuss "holy relationships". A book is available as a study guide to relevant passages in the bible. The next meetings are Feb 6th and Feb 20th (no meetings during Lent, which starts Mar 6th). Pastor Ellen Erdman facilitates this fantastic study and wonderful group of women.

MEN'S STUDY GROUP will start meeting on the 2nd Saturdays of each month from 8:30-9:30am. The first meeting will be Feb 9th. The discussion will be on "male spirituality in the world today", based on the book Wild At Heart by John Eldridge. Here is a video discussing the concepts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cItIAunJgw> (the key concept/summary is found in the last three/four minutes, starting at minute 24). Please talk to Hans Erdman (the facilitator) or to me about any questions you might have. This promises to be an excellent community builder and inspiration.

LENTEN SERVICES will start at 7pm on March 6th with an Ash and Penance service (we will NOT burn the palms during the service/inside this year). Soup and sandwiches will be served each following Wednesday at 6pm with learning and praying (about 20-25 minutes each) at 7pm. These events are always rewarding socially, educationally, and spiritually.

LOOKING AHEAD, keep in mind that Easter will be celebrated on April 21st, First Communion is being planned for May 19th, and the parish picnic will be held on Aug 4th. We are also looking to host a Vacation Bible School during the week before the picnic; watch for a survey to help determine the format.

SO MANY GOOD THINGS are happening here at Salem. I am so glad that you are a part of it; I look forward to your continued and increased involvement these great things.

Please, let's pray for one another, our parish, our community, and our world. Remember, the Good Lord blesses each of us. Rob. 651.261.7333 robkrajewski72@gmail.com

Ps – past newsletters as well as this one can be found at our website www.salemlc-oxford.org. We are also on Facebook.