



Salem Lutheran Weekly eNews 7/1/26—7/8/26

"To share the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ with all people, and to serve God by serving others"

From the Pastor

I love to read. I love to read brand-new books. There is something about the smell of the ink and the crispness of the pages that pulls me in and lures me to enter the story. I love to read old books. There is something about the scent of the paper and the softness of the binding that quietly draws me into the pleasure of the story. Simply put, I love to read.

Joining you in ministry at Salem Lutheran reminds me of this simple pleasure. In many ways serving Salem is like opening a new book. I am drawn by the unknown excitement, the anticipation of how things will develop. I am eager to spend time with the characters in this story of ministry. I want to get to know the people and the plot of their lives.

In other ways, beginning ministry here reminds me of the pleasure of reading an old book. The people in each congregation hold wisdom in the pages of their experience. I want to savor the opportunity to dwell in the stories of this community. Like a favorite book, there is something familiar about this place, too. Pleasant conversation and caring words are shared whenever two or more are gathered. Kind actions are quietly undertaken demonstrating love and care for the neighbor. Salem Lutheran is a place where the soft binding that holds everything together is the lasting strength of the Gospel. God's love and forgiveness made manifest in Jesus Christ permeates the pages of these congregations.

The story of ministry at Salem Lutheran is an ongoing tale. And now, I have entered your story and join in its writing. So, I will enjoy reading the pages of your lives. I will spend time scanning the chapters of this community. I will savor your stories of faith. I will enjoy discovering how the Word of God is written in this time and place.

Shalom,

Pastor Deanna Wildermuth



Greg and Cory were given a tour, by Larry and Sharon, of the old Bethsaida (Salem) Church on Pleasant Ridge. You can see what's left of the walls.

In the photo to the right, if you look closely, you can see the old foundation (dark line in the foreground).



In the photo to the left, you can see the old parsonage which has been bought and refurbished.

Pastor Deannan rocking out during the children's sermon 😊



Salem,

Thank you so much for awarding me with the Arlene Jurgens Scholarship!
I am honored!

Thanks,
Joel Votipka



Consider hosting a coffee hour with friends like these ladies did! Keep spreading the joy!!



Friendship Circle is Wednesday July 8 at noon. Wear your **RED**, **WHITE** and **BLUE** and bring a friend for good food and fun! Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Questions? Call Dee at 360-982-7359 Happy 4th of July!!

NW Synod Website

The Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA is our partner in ministry. Visit their site and you'll see resources, prayers, social media connections, directories, calendars, events, information on the larger church' work, social statements and news.



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