



# Salem Lutheran Church OUTREACH

## March 2017

**We invite you to join us for our weekly Worship Services:**

**Sunday:**

**8:30 a.m.** Traditional Worship Service

**9:30 a.m.** Coffee Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

**9:45 a.m.** Sunday School

**10:30 a.m.** Contemporary Worship Service

**Saturday:**

**5:30 p.m.** Casual Worship

*Prepare to . . .*



*. . . for Christ's sake*

**Pastor Joel Guttormson**

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### MISSION

Salem Lutheran Church members have known and now extend to others the invitation from Jesus Christ to know him and his gifts of forgiveness, hope, peace, and purpose. Our desire is to be a welcoming place in service to the Lord who has welcomed us. We seek to grow in our faith through meaningful worship and study. We seek to share the gifts of Christ, both as individuals who reach out in love to our families, our community, our workplaces, and our world, and also as a congregation reaching out with meaningful and supportive services and programming to people of all ages. We seek to be servants, following the example of our Lord Jesus, who said that the greatest life is not the one lived simply for itself, but for the benefit of others.

## *A Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson...*

Whether we think of the church as an institution in a state of decline or renewal, I suppose, depends on our perspective. As one who was born into the Lutheran tradition, active in churches, outdoor ministries and campus activities my whole life and now serving as a pastor for fifteen years, I am acutely aware I no longer lead the same church I was faithfully formed in. What it means to be church and a member is changing. There are plenty of books, blogs, seminars, and media sites weighing in on the future of the church and we will be focusing on a few of those resources in the coming months.

As our 2017 Church Council gathers monthly we will be studying a book entitled, "I Am A Church Member" by Thom S. Rainer. Rainer writes primarily from a Baptist perspective as others from different organizations join the conversation. David Ramsey, New York Times best-selling author and nationally syndicated radio show host says comments, "In I Am a Church Member, Thom Rainer reminds us that it is possible to have an effective, unified church body – even if the people in the pews have different opinions." Rick Warren, Pastor, Saddleback Church writes, "It is impossible to grow to spiritual maturity by yourself you must be connected to other parts of the Body. This wonderful little book explains the power of belonging to a church family."

Part of this conversation about "decline or renewal" includes a discussion about personal individual milestones in a person's faith journey. In regards to Baptism, Winston Persaud, Systematic Professor at Wartbury Seminary, would note that the gift of baptism is always "personal" but should not be thought of as "private." "In baptism, our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ...reborn children of God and made members...living with Christ and in the communion of saints....(ELW rite of Holy Baptism). Holy Communion is also a corporate time where we gather, hear God's lifesaving word, sharing of a meal that offers forgiveness and strength often in a world that breeds disunity, fear and rampant individualism.

Pew Research has been gathering statistics on this time of "decline or renewal" which has led to the trend of describing a growing number of Americans as "spiritual but not religious." Do a search of "Love Jesus but hate the

church” and read a few posts or watch a few videos...Jeff Bethke’s “Why I hate religion but love Jesus” is challenging (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IAhDGYlpqY>) but informative if you want a millennial’s view. For a longer more nuanced view I could recommend viewing a sermon by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss II, “I Love Jesus But Can’t Stand the Church” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWG8i0XtVCw&t=110s>)

Moss preaches in this video on the gospel of Mark 11:15-19 “Jesus Cleansing the Temple” I was inspired by the preaching of Rev. Otis Moss II at a preaching seminar a few years ago. Moss speaks of another conversation with Dan Kimbal and the Barna Group who sees this great disconnect between millennials who want to know more about Jesus yet actively avoid and speak against the church and organization.

The great experiment in this time of “decline or renewal” will be how we will understand the Church of the future to be the body of the resurrected Jesus, in a time when the Church is often seen as toxic or irrelevant. Christ is the visible presence of the body of Christ until his promised return. When I’m asked whether the church is in a state of decline or renewal, my answer is “Yes!” We are in the midst of celebrating the 500 Year Anniversary of the Reformation. It always has and always will be in a state of renewal. Luther, his followers and detractors lived through tumultuous times. I can’t imagine anyone in the 16th Century was excited about their future. They most likely had a hard time seeing one.

Looking for comfort, Luther searched through the scriptures and the traditional symbols of our faith, the Ten Commandments, the Creeds, the Lord’s Prayer, Confession and our understanding of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. In the midst of his own prejudices and failings became one of the many reformers that set the stage for a truly great Reformation and left us the Small Catechism. As Lutherans we can learn that we live in a world of paradox; what our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton describes as a community formed by Law and gospel. Saint and sinner. Free and bound. We are a both/and believing community living in an often polarizing “either/or world.” For me, talk of a church in decline or renewal really depends on one’s perspective; and you know by now my perspective is shaped Jeremiah 29:11 and a whole cloud of witnesses that never gave up on me or the church.

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So, as we enter into the season of Lent we will again contemplate for the two-thousand and seventeenth time, the questions of living and dying, and rising again. We are a church that follows a God, willing to die for the fallen, lost, least, last, little and dead. Jesus journeys to Jerusalem to die on a cross, having spent three years performing miracles, feeding, healing, forgiving and teaching those who just could not grasp the concept that living is dying, and to die is to be raised up again. This is the story that gives us purpose, meaning and hope.

Thom Rainer begins his discussion of the church and membership with “A Tale of Two Church Members.” Michael and Liam are two friends who experience the same church in two different ways. Liam has lost his sense of purpose, meaning and hope at the church he and his friend attend. As Liam distances himself from the congregation, the pastor and community, he begins to question Michael’s commitment, “You seem enthused about the church,” Liam explains, “You keep serving and contributing. Don’t take me wrong Michael, but I wonder at times if you are blind to all the problems in the church.” Michael offered his friend Liam a compassionate and honest reply, “We are really two different types of church members. Why is that? Why do we have such different perspectives?”

Jesus told two parables I find helpful in framing this conversation about what it means to be a church and a member. Matthew 25:31-45 “the judgement of the nations” seems to describe a people who have turned inward and ignored their community. In the process they have also come to find out they have also ignored Jesus. Matthew 22:1-14 “the parable of the wedding banquet” describes a people who refuse to come to the banquet no matter how enticing and inviting the host has become. How do these two sayings of Jesus inform each other? Each has something to say about the church and its membership. I hope and pray you will join me and our council on a journey of renewal to better understand what it means to be a member of the church in today’s world.

Shalom

Pastor Joel

## *A Message from Pastor Melinda McCluskey...*

**Midweek Lenten Services Begin Wednesday, March 1 at 7:15 p.m.**

### **March 1 - Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. A season of renewal. A time in which Christians consider the meaning of their baptism into Christ and his church. During this service we are invited to receive the imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross upon our foreheads. The mark of the cross is accompanied by some sobering words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words remind us that our entire existence is animated by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The ashes remind us that as mortals one day our family and friends will stand beside our grave and hear the words, "Ashes to ashes and dust to dust." But the symbolism of the ashes does not stop there, because just as in the ancient world ashes were used to cleanse in the absence of soap, and fields were burned to give opportunity for new life, so the promise of cleansing and new life come to us through the power and promise of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Midweek Lenten Series Based on Luther's Small Catechism**

The year 2017 marks the international observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In honor of that anniversary, our midweek Lenten series is built around Luther's Small Catechism. The Small Catechism was designed as a teaching tool of the faith, not just within the church but in the home.

Luther intended for the home to be the place where faith was first shared and taught. To that end he created the Small Catechism—a simple explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments. He included basic prayers for morning and evening, and suggested ways to worship, praise, and revere God during each part of our day.

### **March 8 - Week of Lent 1 – Ten Commandments**

In Exodus God gives Moses the Law so that the people of Israel would know how to fulfill their part of God's covenant as God's people.

### **March 15 - Week of Lent 2 – Creed**

How do we express belief? How do we share our faith? The Creed, crafted in the early days of the church, gives us a simple but firm foundation for sharing and professing. In Ezekiel, God promises Israel: “I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances” (36:27). The Creed reminds us of those ordinances, and how and why we are given the precious gifts of faith and belief by our loving God

### **March 22 - Week of Lent 3 – Lord’s Prayer**

Lent and Lenten worship call us to repent, to make a new beginning. One of the best ways to begin again with God is through conversation, also known as prayer. And what better prayer than the one that Jesus taught us? In Psalm 81 God yearns for Israel to turn from their ways and follow God. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, he gave them, and us, the Lord’s Prayer in Luke 11:1-4 (see also Matthew 6:9-13). In Luther’s explanation of this prayer, he beautifully tells us not only what not to do but expands on how to live in the way God desires.

### **March 29 - Week of Lent 4 – Baptism**

Dying to our old, sinful self in baptism, we rise from the waters as beloved children of God. We are walking wet throughout the forty days of Lent, reminded daily that we are dead to sin. In Psalm 23 the psalmist claims the promise to live in God’s house forever. We too are given that promise in baptism, as Paul reminds us in Romans 6:3-5. Martin Luther uses this passage in the Small Catechism to tell us that we are “drowned” so that a new person may rise every day in God’s service.

### **April 5 - Week of Lent 5 – Holy Communion**

As we approach Holy Week, we remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us. We gather around the table to remind ourselves and one another of that sacrifice and how it shapes our lives. In Psalm 143 the psalmist thirsts for God, asking to be revived. In holy communion we are revived and renewed with God’s gifts of life and salvation. Luther reminds us that all we need is faith to make us worthy and well prepared to receive that gift.

## *Update from the Council...*

### **Salem Church Council February 13, 2017**

President Scott Hagenson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present: Scott Hagenson, Deb Throne, Stephanie Steffens, Steve Nelson, Wayne Van Veldhuizen, Kathy Chose, Mike Swenson, Willie Skellenger, Pastor Joel, Linda Helgeson, and Heidi Obermeyer. Pastor Joel opened the meeting with devotions.

**Secretary's Report:** A thank you and acknowledgement of donations to Youth for Christ was shared. It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Stephanie to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as written. All approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike reported month end balance in checkbook of: \$29,715.00. Total income for January was \$22,165.67 with expenses of \$30,016.66.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Deb reported year to date contributions of \$22,667.00, this is a 9.3% increase in comparison to last year totals. Motion made by Willie, second by Kathy to approve the financial reports. All approved.

**Board of Worship and Music:** Kathy reported a contemporary service focused on families & children will begin on Sunday, March 5th at 10:30 AM . This service will use existing resources available. The board is diligently looking for a new music director. A brief discussion was held regarding distributing additional weekly preparations to this position to help relieve clerical duties. It was moved by Mike, seconded by Wayne to approve the addition of a contemporary service. All approved. Scott will be announcing during the 5:30 and 8:30 services this week.

**Board of Stewardship:** no report

**Board of Youth:** Stephanie reported the Creature Choir is continuing under the direction of Abby and Jennifer. There is a need for leadership and a designated area for the confirmation aged kids on Sunday mornings. Pastor Joel and Pastor Melinda will be meeting with the Board to discuss needs.

**Board of Life and Growth:** Willie reported on the preparations for the Prayer Vigil beginning following Maundy Thursday service April 13 and continuing until the Good Friday service April 14. Announcements will be made and a sign-up sheet available to those who want to participate. The board is exploring learning opportunities in conjunction with the upcoming 500th anniversary of the reformation and who Martin Luther was.

**Board of Property and Management:** Steve reported minor repairs and clean up are underway related to ice plugging a drain in the tower. There was also a small leak in the chapel. The overall heating bill is lower, contributing factor – milder weather.

**Lead Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joel presented a written report with pastoral acts during the month of January. Living Water Conference meeting was discussed along with the "Generosity Project" workshop.

**Associate Pastor's Report:** Pastor Melinda presented a written report.

**Communication Director's Report:** Report presented by Stephanie. Ashley is continuing work on daily posts on Facebook. Deadline for March newsletter is February 21st . The outdoor sign has been having issues again.

It was moved by Mike, seconded by Stephanie to accept the above reports. All approved.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Harris Honsey presented in-depth history and current functions of the Enduring Gift Fund. The board is actively looking at best strategies for investing monies held in the fund to ensure its solid future. Through active promotion of this unique opportunity of giving our youth will continue to benefit from camps, vacation bible school and youth trips. Additional projects have also been supported. The board continues to actively promote the Enduring Gift Fund. Current board members Harris Honsey, Connie Sabin, Don Knudtson, Christi Grothe, David Anderson.

A brief discussion for the exploratory building committee members was held. Volunteers Derald Kloster, Don Knudtson, Jill Budach, Kari Osheim, Delane Behr, Sondra Nelson will have a walk through the building and then present recommendations. Motion was made by Wayne, seconded by Deb.

All approved. Update of council contact information was presented.

Request to transfer remaining project dollars to the general fund was made. This is in an effort to “clean up” old accounts. Motion was made by Deb, seconded by Stephanie. All approved. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wayne, seconded by Mike. All approved.

Meeting adjourned 7 PM. The next regular council meeting will be March 13. We closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Obermeyer

### **SALEM RECORDS FEBRUARY 2017**

#### **Funerals:**

Chris Nyguard

#### **Baptisms:**

Adelyn Jo Brackey

### *Good Samaritan Clothes Closet*

The Good Samaritan Clothes Closet is always just a phone call away! If your child(ren) are in need of clothing, please call Lake Mills School nurse, Joan Krull, at 641-592-7009. Free clothing is available to all children!

Monetary and clothing donations are also always appreciated.

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**Reminder:** Hospitals do not notify the church of hospitalizations. If your loved one is hospitalized, please call the church office at 641-592-1771.





## *Maundy Thursday*

Our fifth- graders have the opportunity through the Sunday's of Lent to receive instruction about Holy Communion during the 9:45AM Sunday School Hour. On Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017, all are invited especially, parents and youth who desire to learn more about Holy Communion, to a meal that prepares or continues to inform our understanding of Holy Communion. Those who have received instruction are welcomed to the Lord's Table at our Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion. The meal begins at 6:15 pm with Maundy Services following at 7:15 pm

The fellowship meal prior to the Maundy Thursday service is a learning event which includes a simple four course meal of soup, bread, grapes and chocolate, interspersed with readings from scripture and conversations about what Holy Communion means to us. It can be informative for individuals of many ages. It is an intergenerational event ,not just for our fifth-graders and their parents but all who want to participate in a meal and conversation about the gift of the sacrament of Holy Communion.

It seems fitting to welcome our youth and others to the table of our Lord in the day we remember the Last Supper as recorded by the gospel of John. Here we remember just how unprepared and almost unwilling the disciples were to receive our Lord with a living faith. Yet while washing the disciples' feet and sharing in a holy meal, a new commandment is given, "that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

Following the meal and our Lenten instruction about what it means to be "Fed and Forgiven", we have the opportunity to celebrate a Maundy Thursday participate in confession and individual absolution of sin. The sermon will be replaced with a scene from the movie Jesus of Nazareth depicting the Passover. Then prior to Holy Communion those who are prepared to receive their first communion will be recognized and with their parents renew our baptismal promises. Following Holy Communion, together we will help to strip the altar and chancel in preparation for the three day Easter Vigil.

## *Good Friday - Way of the Cross*

As part of our Holy Week observances there will be an opportunity to gather in the sanctuary on Friday, April 14, at 7:15PM for songs, prayers and contemplation of Jesus' death on the cross. The Way of the Cross is a devotion adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus. Traditionally, there have been as many as fourteen stations. Of these, eight are based directly on events of scripture. Traditionally Way of the Cross pilgrimages include scripture, prayers and periods of reflection, accompanied by stations set throughout gardens, grottos, or within cathedrals.

Our Stations of the Cross service will be an adaptation of a liturgy taken from the African American Lutheran Hymnal, "This Far By Faith." Usually seen as a "Catholic" ritual of devotion, The Way of the Cross resonates with several aspects of African and African American Christian traditions: an association with struggle and suffering and the idea of pilgrimage and marching for justice.

In some communities, stations are made at significant locations in the immediate neighborhood where healing is needed and where associations between the contemporary struggles of life and the events of Christ's suffering can be made. Examples include sites where crimes have occurred, abandoned buildings reveal economic decay, or other places of human struggle point to suffering and our need for healing. Our Stations will take place in the sanctuary where the extinguishing of candles and video images will accompany music and prayers marking each of the stations.

We hope this evening's prayer, readings, songs offered by our Choir and sung by the congregation, and images presented by the youth offers you the opportunity to reflect on the gift offered on this "Good Friday." The ancient title for this day, celebrating the triumph of the cross, reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life.

### *Sunday School Reminders*

- \* 3 year olds thru 2nd grade will be singing on March 5th at the 10:30am service in the sanctuary.
- \* Beginning Sunday, March 5th, there will no longer be a Faith Formation service in the chapel. We encourage everyone to join us for our new 10:30 contemporary service in the sanctuary.

### *Holy Week Prayer Vigil*

Salem will once again be having a prayer vigil to commemorate Jesus's plea to his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemene to "watch and pray with him in his hour of trial." This will run from 8:00pm on April 13th (Maundy Thursday) through 7:00pm on April 14th (Good Friday) in Salem's chapel. Sign up sheets for one hour time slots are in the Narthex and Chapel entry.

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### *Thrivent Choice*

Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program and a unique member benefit. Eligible Thrivent members are designated Choice Dollars that they can direct to enrolled charities. They can even recommend organizations to be added to receive Choice Dollars grant funding.

If you have available Choice Dollars, now is the perfect time to make a direction. **Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31, 2017.** Salem Lutheran Church is enrolled in Thrivent Choice. Since 2010, Thrivent members have used the program to help direct more that \$270 million to nonprofits nationwide.

**If you're eligible, you can direct your Choice Dollars now!**

Help the organizations you care about strengthen communities and change lives. Direct available Choice Dollars now by following one of these easy steps: Go online at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4839 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

*Salem Women of the ELCA*

**Altar Guild**

Tuesday, Mar. 7 at 7:00 pm

**Altar Guild for March**

Sharon Casey

Pat Thorson

**Communion Schedule**

Sundays, Mar. 5 and 19

Saturdays, Mar. 4 and 18

**Mills Harbour & LMCC**

Wednesday, Mar. 29

**Mission Quilters**

Monday, Mar. 13 at 1:00 pm

**Birthdays:** Elizabeth Circle

**Program:** Miriam Circle

**WELCA Meeting**

Thursday, Mar. 16th at 2:00 pm

Rhoda Circle presents "Rowing up a Hutterite" by Jennifer Wipf

Hosted by Elizabeth Circle

**Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2017 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City. The service can also be heard at 8:30 a.m. on cable channel 2. Call the office to reserve your dates. Cost for 2017 is \$83.**

**Available dates are:**

**March 26**

**July 9, 16**

**April 23, 30**

**August 13**

**May 7, 14**

**September 3, 17**

**June 11**

**October 29**

## *March Volunteers*

### **Saturdays, 5:30pm in the Chapel**

- 4th**     Acolyte: Kit Byars
- 11th**    Acolyte: Jayden Hengesteg
- 18th**    Acolyte: Caleb Swanson
- 25th**    Acolyte: DeShawn Linnen

### **Sundays, 8:30am in the Sanctuary**

- 5th**     Acolytes: Riley Kirschbaum, Carson Eaton, Kadence Henderson  
            Communion Servers: Steve and Melissa Groe  
            Reader: Lexi Groe  
            Ushers: Jason and Abby Holtan Family
- 12th**    Acolytes: Kayler Jensen, Summer Lauen  
            Reader: Pam Brackey  
            Ushers: Jason and Abby Holtan Family
- 19th**    Acolytes: Michelle Jones, Dalton Thorson, Sam Hagenson  
            Communion Servers: Pat Young and Gail Porter  
            Reader: Tyler Helgeson  
            Ushers: Mark and Tammy Alphs
- 26th**    Acolytes: Olivia Schoonover, Peyton Severson  
            Reader: Carlton Shaw  
            Ushers: Mark and Tammy Alphs

Acolytes: If you are unable to serve on the date designated, please ask one of the other students to serve in your place, or trade dates with you. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of worship.

## *March Lenten Volunteers*

**Meal 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

**Lent Service in the Sanctuary 7:15 pm**

**1st** Ushers: Christopher Jamtgaard family, Michelle Jones family  
Acolyte: Bennett Berger, Nicole Canny, Karli Helgeson

**8th** Meal: Sam Hagenson family, Kaitlyn Anderson family, Olivia Schoonover family, Nicole Canny family  
Ushers: Madison Levine family, Tyler Christian family  
Acolyte: Brooke Bergo, Lindy Brekken

**15th** Meal: Summer Sterrenberg family, Courtney Lorenson family, Peyton Severson family, Dylan Sanden family  
Ushers: Morgan Brainard family, Nicole Canny family  
Acolytes: Anthony and Jack Ramaker

**22nd** Meal: Christopher Jamtgaard family, Michelle Jones family, Carson Eaton family, Emma Hoffman family  
Ushers: Riley Kirschbaum family, Courtney Lorenson family  
Acolytes: Danielle White, Madison Levine

**29th** Meal: Bennett Berger family, Jack and AJ Ramaker family, Brooke Bergo family, Lindy Brekken family  
Ushers: Carson Eaton family, Sam Hagenson family  
Acolytes: Courtney Lorenson, Christopher Jamtgaard

**Each week during the Lenten Services (March 1– April 12), we will be collecting personal care items for the Promise Project. There will be a basket in the Narthex. Items include: lightweight bath towels, bars of soap, sturdy combs, adult sized toothbrushes, and metal nail clippers. All items should be new and in good condition.**

## *10 Ways to Remember your Baptism: Celebrating Baptism in Daily Life*

Baptism is a glorious sacramental day in the life of every disciple of Jesus, the day of rejoicing when we each became a child of God. But baptism is more than a single day in the life of a Christian. It is, as Martin Luther reminds us, “a daily dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ”. Baptism is not just a day. It is a way of life.

Here are ten ideas for celebrating that pattern of dying and rising that molds us and marks us as people who follow Jesus, the one who died for us that we might rise with him.

1. Follow Luther’s suggestion of a daily waking prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of a new day to be live in the forgiveness of love and Jesus. Make the sign of the cross as a remembrance of your baptism and pray: *I give thanks to you, blessed Jesus, that you have made me a child of God forever in your sinless death and live-giving resurrection. Amen.*
2. Be more conscious of the gift of water in your life. This is a precious resource, both physically and spiritually. Think about how each encounter with water carries the potential to drown and revive, to kill and bring life, to overpower and to heal.
3. Talk about your baptismal faith and let your words lead to actions. *Because I am baptized, I believe that if I reach out to this person in need and give myself away (dying to self), God will provide me with all I need for daily life (rising with Christ).*
4. Remember that baptism is a gift that not only brings one into a relationship with Christ but also into a relationship with the entire community of faith. Think about the ways in which your life reflects the baptismal understanding of life lived for others. Pray for strength and insight to live more fully into that baptismal understanding.
5. Take seriously the baptismal understand of putting sin to death, It is drowned by a gracious Savior in the waters of baptism. What in your

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life needs to be drowned?

6. At baptism, each new Christian is presented a candle, and these words may be said: *Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* The presentation of this candle with these words is more than a gesture signaling an individual's relationship with Jesus for the sake of receiving salvation. It is a rich sign of good works lived for the sake of witnessing to a loving God. How is your life shining light in the world calling others to Christ's love?
7. Serve a person in need. As you do, make the connection in your mind between your loving outreach to another and Christ's welcome to you through baptismal grace. See Christ in the other.
8. Invite another person to the waters of baptism. Share with him or her the invitation that was offered to you or given before awareness dawned. In the confidence and joy of this gift of life, explore the possibility of sharing it with someone who has not yet been introduced to life in Christ.
9. Think about the pattern of baptism (dying and rising) as a pattern for everyday activities in your life. *What of my ideas might die in this discussion at the office in order for something new to be raised up in its place? What of my rigid schedule as a parent might be drowned so that a creative moment with my child might be raised up in its place? What of this old grudge could be buried that a new relationship could rise up in its place?*
10. Pray daily that God will continue to deepen your life of faith as you walk through the lifelong journey of grace and forgiveness with Jesus initiated by your baptism into Christ.



*From Washed and Welcome: A Baptism Sourcebook*

**Salem Lutheran Church**

401 South Lake Street

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