



**SALEM UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST  
*Living Out God's Love*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

September 18, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship (Responsively):

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

**God's steadfast love endures forever!**

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom God has redeemed from trouble.

**And gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Let us offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of God's deeds in songs of joy!**

(adapted from Psalm 107)

\*Hymn: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* 1

\*Prayer of Confession (Responsively):

Holy God, in a world of confusion and fear, you teach us how very important it is for those who speak of justice and who profess to live in self-giving love to actually fulfill their words.

**We confess that we have not always, or even often, lived up to the words we have so easily repeated. When opportunity has arisen which required some sacrifice, we have found excuses that were not even convincing to ourselves.**

**We are sorry for shallow professions. We are saddened by opportunities lost.**

But we are heartened to know that you, our God, can continually see more potential in our faith than we usually see.

**So stir our hearts again, and draw us into faithful and active ministry together, in the name of Christ who showed us the very face of faith and love. Amen.**

\*Silent, Personal Prayers of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon:

The Psalmist said:

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it."

**We praise you, O God, that you sent Jesus to us, to teach us and to show us that your statutes and your ways are fulfilled in love of God and love of neighbor. In this love, teach us to live!**

Reading from the Epistles: I Timothy 2: 1-7 p. 1082

Sunday School Teacher Dedication

*"May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon tender grass, and like showers upon the herb". Deut. 32:2*

**Leader:** God of Creation, you have gifted these Individuals with the call to teach others about You. They all have their own unique skills and spiritual gifts to use in this ministry. We pray you would fill them with the power and compassion of your Holy Spirit. Fill them with energy, patience, and love. Help them know that they are enough just as they are.

**Teachers:** You have not called us to be perfect. You have called us to be faithful. You have not called us to be all-knowing. You have called us to be seekers and guides. We dedicate ourselves to the call and task of teaching. Grant us wisdom, patience and joy in our preparation and teaching of your Word. May everyone in our classrooms learn to know the love of God.

**Congregation:** Loving God, guide each teacher as they study your Word. Fill them with your love and strengthen the gifts you have given them. Remind us to find ways to support and encourage them throughout the year. May we share in their doubts and challenges while we also celebrate their successes and joys.

**ALL:** We commit ourselves, each to our part, in this joyful task. We are all teachers. We are all learners. May your steadfast, faithful, love guide all we do. Amen.

S.A.L.T. Trip Testimonials

Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine* (v.1) 525

Sarah Pundt

Chase Runnheim

Brianna Runnheim

Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine* (v.2) 525

Prayers of the People and **Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

Reading from the Gospels: Luke 16: 1-13 p. 955

Sermon: "How to Be a Better Sinner!" Dr. Robinson

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology: tune: 780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn: *Rejoice You Pure in Heart* 55

Benediction

Postlude

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An asterisk (\*) where those who are able should stand as an act of worship.  
Hearing-assistance devices are available in the entrance near the canopy.

## STAFF and SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

### Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson  
trobinson@salemchurchverona.org

### Director of Music

Dawn Lingard  
dawn.Lingard@landsend.com

### Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry

Sarah Pundt  
spundt@salemchurchverona.org

### Office Administrator

Cara Bahr  
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

### Scripture Reader

Brad Bergin

### Guest Organist

Carrie Coenen

## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

### Today

6:30PM - Youth Kickoff Meeting

### Monday, September 19

Eve - Boy Scouts

### Wednesday, September 21

6PM - BRC

6:45PM - Chancel Choir

### Thursday, September 22

6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Harlan Hall's

### Saturday, September 24

10AM-12PM - Blue Mounds State Park

Maintenance

### Sunday, September 25

9AM - Sunday School

10:15AM - Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MEALS FOR MADISON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Every Friday for many years St. Marks Lutheran Church in Madison has provided a free noon meal for the community. In the past Salem UCC participated as a volunteer organization to help staff this meal once per month. The job involves preparing, serving and cleaning up for their Friday noon meal. We need 4 to 5 volunteers who can help at St. Marks from approximately 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the chosen Friday. We are currently exploring whether or not we can commit to supplying volunteers one Friday a month. We would need a group of 10 or 15 people who might be interested in periodically going to St. Marks to help out. Here is a link with more information <http://www.stmarksmadison.org/friday-meal.aspx>

If you are interested in being a part of this volunteer opportunity please contact John Cashman at [jchange@tds.net](mailto:jchange@tds.net) or 608-720-0719. We are exploring our ability to commit to providing volunteers the first Friday of every month.

### LIVE STREAM HELP

Kevin Booth is looking for some volunteers interesting in helping with live-streaming our Sunday services. If you are interested, let Kevin or the church office know.

### BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK PRAIRIE MAINTENANCE

As a follow-up to the Al Swain Prairie maintenance performed by the youth group during the June 2022 SALT trip, we've scheduled a fall prairie maintenance event with the Blue Mounds State Park rangers for youth and adults who are interested in some outdoor community service! The event is planned for Saturday, September 24th from 10:00a.m. to noon (weather permitting), and we've been asked to help with prairie seed collection in the Pleasure Valley Prairie and plant harvesting and transfer to the Al Swain Prairie. If interested, please RSVP with your name, number of people attending, e-mail, and phone number to Kristin Runnheim at [krunnheim@yahoo.com](mailto:krunnheim@yahoo.com) or 608-443-7652 by Tuesday, Sept. 20th. For those attending, long pants, gloves, and insect repellent are recommended. Also, please bring a few paper bags if you have them for seed collection. We'll meet at the Blue Mounds State Park office at the park entrance. We can coordinate carpooling from Salem if anyone needs a ride. Hope you can join us!

### "WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE" OUTREACH PROJECT

In response to the explosion of growth in Verona Salem is partnering with Sugar River Methodist Church in an effort to connect with our new neighbors. We hope to greet each new resident to area apartments with a heartfelt invitation to visit Salem and/or Sugar River and with a welcome bag of goodies to let them know that we're glad they are here.

Reusable shopping bags imprinted with the churches' logos have been ordered. Can you help supply the following for assembly after the **October 2** church service? Collection bins at the back of the church. Monetary donations also gladly accepted! Aiming for 20 completed bags!

- Box of tissues
- 4pk of toilet paper
- roll of paper towels
- 6-10 oz bag of popcorn or pretzels

**Celebrate the kickoff of this project with Neighbor Fest in the Sugar River parking lot on Sunday, Oct 2, 1 - 2:30pm**

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