

Happy Birthday !!!

MAY

5-4 Robert Homan (young Robert)
5-6 John Werner
5-10 Patti Kem
5-13 Melissa Smoker
5-13 Gene Rice
5-16 Jessica Homan
5-16 Brett Lambert
5-17 James Smoker
5-17 Kevin Kuss
5-18 Chuck Mack
5-28 Christina McMahan
5-29 Tim Brown
5-30 Greg Smoker
5-31 Howard Heyn

JUNE

6-2 Cheryl Bagnall
6-4 Rae Manhart
6-4 Kate Poort
6-5 Nicholas Fike
6-6 Linda Vorkapich
6-7 Adam Holtz
6-12 Elisa Grieger
6-14 Aleda Waggoner

6-17 Sharon Tudor
6-21 Joe Ann Grieger
6-23 Bernice Gross
6-23 Joyce Miller
6-24 Kinsey Lambert
6-27 Gerald Benkie
6-27 Kristina Bertsch
6-29 Phyllis Smoker
6-29 Jenni Smoker

JULY

7-4 Matt Homan
7-5 Adam Werner
7-6 Donna Cross
7-6 Catherine Smoker
7-14 Lucas Cauley
7-16 Louise Grieger
7-17 Thresa Peters
7-17 Landon Bagnall
7-18 Lisa Cauley
7-21 Andrea Mitzner
7-22 Jeremy Brown
7-23 Janelle Mitzner
7-23 Allison McCormick
7-24 Paul Homan
7-26 Joanna Kuss
7-26 Karly Lambert
7-30 Eileen Land

August

8-1 Betty Jo Peek
8-3 Brian Bagnall
8-4 Joe Ubben
8-8 Elizabeth Reinke
8-9 Andrew Batzka
8-10 Jill Brown
8-11 Riley Charlesworth
8-12 Linda Stultz
8-17 David Homan
8-19 Bill Cromey
8-22 Ray Charlesworth
8-22 Matt Smoker
8-23 Ann Weinkauff
8-27 William Homan
8-28 Jacob Smoker
8-30 Penny Shotts
8-31 Janet Ballinger

Anniversaries !!

May

5-1 Bill & Linda Cromey
5-13 Mark & Elisa Grieger
5-20 David & Linda Pozil
5-27 Wayne & Joyce Hill

June

6-3 Chuck & Susie Mack
6-8 Tim & Dara Guse
6-10 Don & Joyce Miller
6-11 Gerry & Sandy Werner
6-15 Ray & Juli Charlesworth
6-16 Dale & Cheryl Bagnall
6-19 James & Phyllis Smoker
6-22 Gary & Lisa Cauley
6-25 Jim & Aleda Waggoner
6-27 Nate & Jess McGinley

July

7-8 Larry & Becky Pierce
7-10 Brett & Kylene Lambert
7-17 Scott & Keri Parks
7-18 Glenn & Kathy Wallace
7-27 Don & Thresa Peters

August

8-7 Jeff & Penny Shotts
8-9 Steven & Diane Fike
8-13 Joe & Victoria Ubben
8-14 Tim & Missy Grieger
8-15 Brian & Christina McMahan
8-20 Gene & Kathryn Rice
8-23 Steve & Amber Bos
8-24 Jeff & Andrea Mitzner
8-25 Tim & Donna Brown

Calendar of Events:

5/20-Women's Retreat at Salem, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sign up due by May 14th

5/28-Promotion Sunday for Sunday School classes, Honor graduates during worship

5/29-Memoiral Day service at the cemetery, 10:00 am

6/1-Women's Fellowship meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall

6/4-Pentecost Sunday, color is red; pew communion

6/11-Confirmaiton Sunday, reception after worship in Memorial Hall

6/13-6/20-Pastor Victoria is on vacation. Call Bill Cromey at (219)369-3897 or Larry Pierce at (219)307-0260.

6/18-Father's Day service with Rev. Jim Mitchell

7/9-Coffee hour at 9:00 with Corrie ten Boom, worship at 10:00 a.m.

7/23-Semi-annual congregational meeting, pew communion

8/13-Coffee Hour 9:00 a.m., worship at 10:00 a.m.

8/6-Pastor Victoria on vacation

9/3-Labor Day

9/10-Sunday School resumes, Church picnic/potluck meal; games to follow meal.

PEACETALK

Summer 2017

Pastor's Column

Summer is upon us and some of our Salem students are graduating from high school, our Sunday School children will be promoted, and we will observe Memorial Day, as usual. Many of our students will be entering their projects in the local county fair and some of our children already have begun their soccer, baseball, and softball seasons. This is what we do every summer around Salem.

We are also trying a few new and different things this summer to enhance our spiritual growth. On May 20, the women of our church are holding an event by and for women of the community: *Living Loved*. On July 9, an actress portraying Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom will be joining us for breakfast cookies and coffee and worship here at Salem. On August 12 (from 6:00 to 9:00 pm) our church will be a part of something very big as we minister to the youth of our two counties.

One of our own church members, Morgan Wolff, volunteered to use her musical skill to help me judge high school bands from Porter and LaPorte Counties on Saturday, May 13. The winners of those bands will "battle it out" at the covered outdoor pavilion at the Valparaiso Family YMCA on Saturday, August 12, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Children, youth, and families of Salem Church are invited to come out and watch the bands perform. While Morgan and our other judges are making their final decision, "**Seven Glory**" (a local Christian band from Valparaiso) will play upbeat inspirational music outdoors for all to enjoy. Food trucks with refreshments for sale will be available. Support Salem's investment in the youth of Porter and LaPorte Counties by joining part of our church family at the "Battle of the Bands."

Read the rest of this edition of *PeaceTalk* to be aware of the many other opportunities offered to you on behalf of Salem United Church of Christ!

Summer blessings,

Pastor Victoria

Salem Council:

President: Bill Cromey, trustee

Cemetery : Bill Cromey, trustee

Vice President: Greg Smoker, Head trustee

Secretary: Ann Weinkauff, elder

Treasurer: Suzi Carpenter, trustee

Financial Secretary: Jerry Benkie, elder

Memorials: Larry Pierce, Head Elder

No office: Dale Bagnall, elder

2017 Graduates: Congratulations!!!

South Central High School: Janelle Mitzner
Madison Wolff

SC graduation is Sunday, June 4 at 1:00 pm in South Gym.

LaCrosse High School: Daniel Serrato

LC graduation is Friday, June 2 at the school gym.

Ivy Tech Community College: Ashley Riegler



Prayer for the Graduates

Heavenly Father,

Surround those who are graduating with your grace.

Bless them with hope so that they move into

The future with eager and open hearts.

Help them to put the knowledge, skills, and

Insights gained through their education to

Use for the good of all humankind.

Inspire them to believe in the goodness of

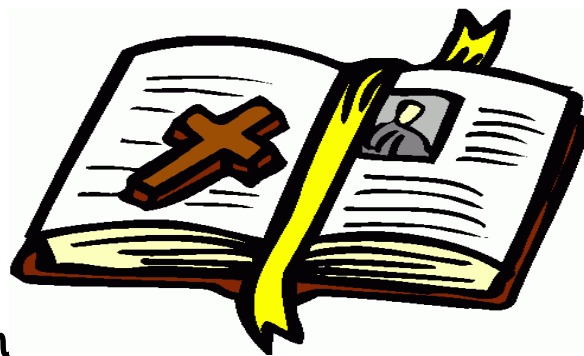
Life even when faced with challenges and

Difficulties.

As they commence with their lives, may they

Grow ever more grateful and wise.

All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son,



Amen

On Sunday, May 28th our graduates will be honored during worship service. Please let the office know of names of Salem graduates, if not listed above. Thank you.

Ladies Fellowship Spring Meeting:

The annual Spring meeting of the Ladies Fellowship will be held in Memorial Hall on Thursday, June 1st at 6:30 p.m. Activities for the rest of 2017 will be Discussed. Desserts will be served and fellowship enjoyed. So mark your Calendars today!



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

This year's semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, July, 23rd; immediately after worship service. The council will be giving the Salem's members an update on current projects and activities for this fall.



Confirmation Sunday- Three confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday, June 11th during worship service. Dakota Grieger, son of Tim & Melissa Grieger; Emily Grieger, daughter of Mark & Elisa Grieger and Daniel Morrow, son of Todd & Jennifer Morrow. A reception of cake and punch will be held in Memorial Hall after worship service. Congratulations to all the confirmands and their families!



Council Notes:

Pastor Victoria is on vacation June 13-June 20th and August 6-12th -please contact Bill Cromey at (219) 307-0260 or Larry Pierce (219) 369-3897, if pastoral help is needed.

Quarter Tubes will be going to the Food Pantry during second quarter.

Memorial Day Service- Service will be at the cemetery at 10:00 a.m. If it is raining service will held at Salem.

Coffee Hours this summer: June 11th- reception for confirmands after worship at 11:00 a.m.
July 9th- Coffee hour (9:00am) before worship with Corrie ten Boom
August 6th-Coffee hour (9:00 am) before worship

A VISIT WITH CORRIE: July 9

A special guest is coming to visit Salem Church! **Coffee and Breakfast Cookies will be held with Corrie ten Boom on Sunday, July 9, at 9:00 AM, followed by worship at 10:00 AM.** During worship, Corrie ten Boom will assist Pastor Victoria with worship leadership; Corrie will tell her story! And what is her story?

Corrie ten Boom was born on April 15, 1892, in Haarlem, Holland. Devout Christians, Corrie and her family lived peaceable lives until 1940, when the Nazis invaded the Netherlands. In 1942, she and her family became very active in the Dutch underground aiding and hiding Jews. In the Ten Boom home, a secret room was built into Corrie's third floor bedroom. On February 29, 1944 the Nazis raided the ten Boom house. Six people escaped detection in the secret room, but Corrie and her father, sisters, and brother along with some 25 others were arrested for their work with the resistance.

Betsie and Corrie were held for 10 months in 3 different prisons. In September of 1944, Betsie and Corrie were transported like cattle in boxcars to Ravensbruck, a concentration camp in Germany. There they experienced deplorable conditions, humiliations, hard labor, and cruel beatings. Despite the hateful environment, Corrie and Betsie delivered the message of God's love to their fellow prisoners and captors. Malnourished and weakened by the harsh treatment, Betsie eventually died in early December of 1944. Corrie was released from prison due to a clerical error. All the women in the camp, her age, 52 years, and older were executed shortly after her release.

Corrie returned home to Haarlem, Holland, where she set up rehabilitation centers for people of all races and creed in effort to bring healing and comfort after the ravages of World War II. Embracing the words of her sister, Betsie, Corrie traveled to over 60 countries, and shared a message of hope, forgiveness, and love. "There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still." Many books have been written by Corrie and a deeply moving film, "The Hiding Place", was made by World Wide Pictures in 1975. At 91 years old, she died on her birthday, April 15, 1983.

Corrie ten Boom was a Christian Holocaust survivor. She eventually died, but an actress portraying Corrie will be our guest. "Corrie ten Boom" will be arriving in Wanatah from Aurora, Illinois, on Saturday afternoon, July 8. Victoria and Joe will host them in Wanatah Saturday night in the parsonage... and **you will meet Corrie at 9:00 on Sunday, July 9. Our Church Council unanimously supports this dramatization. Please invite your friends. Corrie's presentation is appropriate for people of all ages (even for children).**



Memorials for Harold Maupin were given to the Cemetery Fund by:

Paul & Carolyn Homan
Ray & Juli Charlesworth
Greg & Deb Smoker
David Homan
Bill & Gerri Rosenbaum

Marlene Mitzner
Jerry & Carol Benkie
Elwood & Drelah Grieger
Jeff & Andrea Mitzner
Bill & Linda Cromey

Dorothy Cromey
Bill Homan
Chuck & Diana Arnett
Sherman & Carolyn Ososki



Salem Cemetery Notes:

Planning for the future? Don't forget your final earthly home. Contact one of Salem's trustees for details: Bill Cromey, Greg Smoker or Suzi Carpenter. Salem's burial sites are \$450 each.

Salem Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 10th at 9:00 a.m.

There will be Sunday school classes, worship service and a potluck/picnic meal with games for all ages to follow the meal.



Ark Encounter and The Creation Museum

We have not reached the goal of interested persons to go on the Ark/Creation trip. Because those people who have committed for the trip are really interested and wanting to go, the sign up time is being extended again. This trip is open to any friends or family outside of Salem who might like to take an awesome adventure with some awesome people. Many folks who have visited these two encounters have nothing but praise for them--awesome, beautiful, interesting, inspirational, fun, colorful, educational, historical, to name just a few, and "I would even go back."

The \$225 ticket price will only go down if we have more persons sign up. The bus is the biggest expense. Riding the bus is comfortable, relaxing and a great way to see our beautiful country. Trees should be starting to turn for a lovely autumn escape. Rest stops will be made every two hours on the way south and again back home.

Please give some thought to joining your Salem family and community friends for this 2 day adventure to Kentucky. Please sign up on reservation list on table in back of church. Nonrefundable payment of \$100 will be due on registration. (if you are unable to go, you find your own replacement) Another payment will be due in August and final payment in September. The bus will be booked as soon as there are 30 persons signed up. (Our goal is 40, but 30 can get us a smaller bus.) Bigger than Imagination, a life-size Noah's Ark Experience! And Creation Museum, Prepare to Believe!



Graduation Party !!

Salem Congregation is invited to Janelle Mitzner's graduation party on Friday, June 9th from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The party is at our home 8252 W. 1775 S. LaCrosse, IN

