

**Remember Yesterday, Live Today, Plan for Tomorrow**

So much has happened since the last Fish Catcher! We might feel we're in a whirlwind that's trying to toss us here and there, but our sure and reliable foundation is when we cling to the cross of Jesus as our only hope. Your president, the council, the staff have tried to guide our congregation without a good map, with dangerous shoals surrounding, without a mandate informing our heading—but knowing that sitting becalmed amidst the storm would be the worst choice. We trust the Lord will lead us.

We have tried to keep a perspective that remembers yesterday, that lives today and plans for tomorrow.

Salem has a rich history of music and education and service and evangelism and worship and prayer and fellowship...well, Salem has been a home for the people of God. We thank the pastors who've led us through the past, who have preached the Word and married us and buried us and blessed us with God's Means of Grace. We remember yesterday and learn from and rejoice in yesterday.

But we live today, with no "do overs," no "rewinds." We decide every day, without enough knowledge, without enough skill, without enough confidence. But despite that, the Lord leads us to good decisions—and even when we make bad ones, they too will work out because the Lord is with us. We cling to Jesus' blood and righteousness. All things will work together to promote God's ministry.

And yes, we are planning for the Tomorrows of Salem. We are working to keep our ministry alive and Spirit-filled. We will be receiving an excellent interim pastor—who is scheduled elsewhere until the end of October—so we are developing plans to cover our pastoral needs until then. Our elementary school is ready for a good year. Sundays in Pentecost will be meaningful worship experiences. Join a choir. Attend a Coffee House. Take part in Confirmation and Sunday School. Have fun at Rally Day. Drink a cup of refreshment after worship. Enjoy your Circles. Come to quilting. Help feed the hungry. Buy a new hymnal. Change a light bulb. Build a house with us in Mexico. Tell somebody about the love of Jesus. Try a ministry opportunity you've not done before.

Salem is not sitting idle. We are working to prepare for tomorrow so your ministry at Salem will continue to offer the Word of God to the world. Remember yesterday, live today and plan for tomorrow. Trust in the Lord.

*-- In Christ, Les Simons, President of Salem Lutheran Church*