

Salem United Ministry Update - April 2023

Discipleship Board - Leann

- Leading Bible studies

Children's & Family Ministry - Brooke

- Sunday School is averaging 15-20 kids weekly, with many Sundays seeing over 20 kids attending.
- We began offering Sunday school to the families attending the 8:30am service and are excited to see this Ministry grow. We are averaging 1-3 kids as of now.
- VBS planning has already begun. Meeting dates are on the calendar with our fellow churches in the local community. We had our second meeting on March 28th - 6 churches attended, and we are all looking forward to sharing ideas and resources, which helps keep the cost down for everyone. Our dates are June 26th-June 30th. VBS [registration](#) has launched, and we are actively seeking [volunteers](#)! Our theme will be *Stellar - Shine Jesus' Light*. Our kids will embark on a cosmic quest where they will have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! As of 4/13, we have 164 kids registered and approximately 30 volunteers. We were able to open back up our closed/waitlisted K-3rd classrooms thanks to adding additional adult volunteers in these age groups. Volunteers continue to be a valuable resource still needed to meet the demands of our growing VBS camper list. We want to be sure that all children who want to attend this amazing God-centered week of fun are able to.
- Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt this past Easter Sunday was a huge success! We estimate about 60+ kids attended the egg hunt. Having it out on the field allowed for lots of space to spread thousands of eggs. Parents and grandparents were able to see all their kids gather up the eggs and fill their bags. Children who attended the 8:30, 9am, and 10:30am service received treat-filled goody bags.
- Sunday school was offered for all three services on Easter Sunday. The 8am service did not have any children, the 9am service had 10, and the 10:30am service had 34 kids attend Sunday School.

Deacons - Mark

- We are praying for the community of Salem both personally and in our group meetings
- We are actively calling our members of Salem who are hurting or have been going through anxious or tough times to encourage them, listen, and pray with them.
- We are actively calling our members of Salem who we have not seen attending worship and engaging them personally with phone calls, text messages/emails, and personal greetings to remind and encourage them to participate in worship again. We are following up on those contacts regularly.
- We have been focusing on calling new members to encourage them and welcome them to the Salem community.

Facilities/Safety - Julie

- Renovation commenced on Mon, 4/10 for the Chapel. Anticipated date of completion is Sat, 4/15. Additional follow needed after 4/15.

- Roof for C building completed
- Starting patchwork for B building roof.
- Sealing outside of chapel to prevent water penetration.
- Lead testing done 4/4- required for PS license, waiting for results.
- Student Center project began - storage sheds moved (temporarily) to parking lot. Area fenced off to protect area and students.
- Received quotes for keyless entry into classrooms and offices - presenting to PTL
- New electrical work to be completed near Well area.
- Received quote to paint patio cover and nearby areas to blend, \$9,000.00
- Received quote to paint gym, \$5,000.00 (comments/questions about dirt on ceiling is it mold? No, it's the dirt from the vent) Does not look good.
- Received quote to replace lights in gym - convert to LED

Men's Ministry - Brian & Walt

- Thursday 6:30 am Men's Bible Study with Mike Grasz leading Mark.
- Saturday 7:30 am Bible Study Mike Grasz leading Nehemia.
 - Church Office Conference Room
- May 6th, 5pm Men's movie night will be held at Salem featuring *Father Stu*. This movie is rated R for language but is a faith-based movie with a great story to tell.

Missions - Donna

- [April 18th Agenda](#)
- Board discussing budget for next year - increase Church marketing, decrease School marketing
- [Sleep in Heavenly Peace](#) - Build Day April 22nd 2023. Coordinating with Church and School. Was it supposed to be a School Chapel for April?
- Missions March Balance is \$51,234.94
- Quarterly donations distributed
- Zach placed a full-page color ad for Easter in the Foothills Sentry.

Office - Christel

- Baptisms
 - Salem student Valentina Hardin was baptized on March 26th
 - Salem student Nathan Williams and his brother, Nicholas, will be baptized on April 23rd
- Three New Members were welcomed at services on March 26th. Three others will be welcomed in the near future.
- 6 students received their First Communion on Sunday, April 2nd
- Holy Week service attendance comparison
 - Maundy Thursday - 2022 = 60; 2023 = 50 (17% decrease)
 - Good Friday - 2022 = 103; 2023 = 125 (21% increase)
 - Easter - 2022 = 505; 2023 = 567 (12% increase)
- Community support
 - Orange Park Acres will hold a Town Hall meeting at Salem outside on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30pm and a Family Fair on Saturday, April 29th

- Salem is considering hosting an activity at this event as a community outreach opportunity
 - Orang Park Acres is hosting a Family Fair & Picnic at Salem on Saturday, April 29th. We are prayerfully considering hosting a game booth or bounce house as a community outreach piece.
 - Charity On Wheels will hold their annual Unbroken Women's Event at Salem on Saturday, May 6th
- The annual [Congregational Statistics Report](#) was submitted to the LCMS at the end of March
 - Total baptized and confirmed membership decreased significantly. A large number of members were removed from our list of active members due to lack of involvement.
 - Average weekly attendance increased by 34%
 - We had about half the number of baptisms as the year before
 - About half the number of students participated in Confirmation as last year
 - Non-member participation in youth programs increased by about 34% for grades 5-8

PTL - Liz Caniglia

- Teacher/Staff Appreciation April 21st
- Mother/Son Angels Game - April 23rd
- Final PTL General Meeting/Thank you volunteers - May 23rd at 9am
- End-of-year junior high dance: May 19th
- PTL to assist with Uniform Buy-Back
- PTL continues to discuss funding plans for remaining funds raised at Gala

School - Corissa/Kasey

- **Enrollment Update 2023-2024 School Year (as of 2/16)**
 - Preschool - 82 children (anticipating just under 100)
 - K-8 - 412 students (anticipating 432 = full)
- Weekly Parents & Partners Prayer Gathering - every Friday 8:45am - 9:30am and some Thursday evenings at 6:30pm (Chapel)
- Planning for using funds raised for safety and security upgrades
- Completed WASC/NLSA Accreditation Self-Study Full visit! Praise God! Report and Action Items to be shared in the near future
- Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day 4/21 (special thanks to our PTL)
- 1st-8th Field Day 4/28
- STEAM Night (Open House event for current families) 5/18

Women's Ministry - Brooke

- Praying weekly for the women of our Salem Family and community.
- Our Charcuterie Women's Event on Friday, March 17th was such a hit and so much fun! 32 ladies joined us and asked to host this event again this coming fall. Ladies learned how to make their own Charcuterie spread and got to take home their very own board and delicious creation!

- Line Dancing has been set for April 28th for our next ladies' event. We are advertising as a fundraiser for Women's Ministry with proceeds going directly to our ministry after paying for the guest dance instructor. We are also having a gift basket to raffle off. Donations would be greatly appreciated!

Worship Arts - Zach

- **Church**
 - Good Friday
 - Tenebrae service was very well received. Would like to make this service a tradition.
 - Easter Services
 - Better attendance from the previous year and better feedback!
 - Would like to have a kids choir next year.
 - Easter Egg Hunt
 - Great feedback this year!
 - A new precedent was set. Plan for larger crowds next year!
 - Advertising
 - Google & Social Media Ad performance was comparable to previous years
 - Sentry Ad - We did a full-page ad in the Sentry.
 - Difficult to track response rate - we attempted to track response through registration of the Gift Card Basket Raffle.
 - Not many confirmed registrations
 - I would recommend a smaller ad next year - focus more on local social media presence.
- **School**
 - Youth Worship band rehearsals underway, every Thursday 3pm
 - Vocal auditions began 3/23 - More to come!
 - Booking several worship nights
 - Recording school theme song with this group
 - Parents in Prayer - Hoping to build this into a monthly night of worship led by the Youth Worship Band.
 - **Website/Media/Marketing**
 - Working on website updates - after Holy Week
 - Need images & content still for School

Youth Ministry - Adam Dougherty

- Amazing, transformative experience with high schoolers at YouthLead in St. Louis. LCMS training in leadership and faith...thank you Missions for contributing to offset the costs!
- YOUTHX Jr. High conference April 22 - coming together nicely. Registrations soon to be over 100 students.
- SMC received approval and should have grading permits by 4/18...grading to begin Easter break

- Youth nights, small groups, fieldworkers, confirmation all normal - coasting until Easter then uptick as we approach summer and have a clear picture of construction timeline
- Forming my small groups for next year...talking to parents and scheduling. Currently three jr high, one high school, and one 5th/6th.
- Booking camp dates for next fall and summer!