



February 23, 2021

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## Covenant Community

*"Israel's testimony to Yahweh as a promise-maker presents Yahweh as both powerful and reliable enough to turn life in the world, for Israel and for all peoples beyond present circumstance to new life-giving possibility. Yahweh's promises keep the world open toward well-being, even in the face of deathly circumstance."*

*Dr. Walter Brueggemann*

The God known to us in Christ Jesus, the word of God made flesh, was known to the people of Israel as YHWH, a mystic combination of Hebrew consonants that was too holy to be spoken. They would only ever say "Adoni," (Hebrew: Lord) when God's true name appeared in the text of Scripture.

Yet, this same God would draw near to the people of Israel, and through them to all peoples of the Earth, through a series of promises called covenants. First came the covenant with Adam to take care of God's good creation, the first community. God walks with them in the garden, but they choose their own way over dwelling in community with God. Then came the covenant with Noah after the Flood, to no longer destroy the world for sin.

God's promises don't end there, however, and in fact draw God closer to humanity. This continuing movement of God centers on the family of Abram and Sari, who were righteous people, but old and barren. The covenant promises to make of them a great nation and to bless all people bound through their family bound to God as a husband and wife are bound. These promises also brought hope of offspring and a legacy to a couple who were barren.

God's covenant promises were operative in the work of Moses and Aaron, who were called into community with one another. Through their renewed bonds, they helped lead the people of Israel into the hope of God's liberation and salvation, while God's faithfulness turned Egypt upside down with plagues that led to the Exodus. Once the people were freed, they were bound by covenant promises at Mt. Sinai which carried them through to the Promised Land, the Promised Land itself being part of God's covenant with Abram.

Each time God makes a promise, it is not just to one person, but to a community. Their descendants become heirs to the promises that God, in perfect faithfulness, fulfills. What Walter Brueggemann points to is nothing less than the enduring character of God, to bring God's people together and reveal to them the life that can be found amid barrenness, the Manna in the wilderness, and the hope for a new day regardless of what life around them looks like. A hope that is easier to hold in community, with others to share the load. A hope for us founded upon the resurrection of Christ, whose blood shared in communion is the enduring sign of forgiveness for us, and whose resurrection the proof that God will lead us into life abundant and everlasting from the deepest, most barren places of this world. Together.

Pastor Justin Smoot (he/him)

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## Soup for Community

SALC will be serving Lenten Soup To Go as a part of its Created for Community mission for this season of Lent. There will be a few different soup options available weekly to be picked up at church on each Wednesday **now through March 24**. Make sure to order your soup [here](#) and place your order week-to-week by **4:30 pm** each Monday of that week.

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## Soup For Community Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a way to dedicate your time to church this Lenten season? Volunteer for Soup For Community! Volunteers are needed to help with various tasks such as delivery, food preparation, and others on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through the Lenten season. If you are interested, please contact Sandra Fischer at (715) 680-1566 .

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## This Week in Lent

To access the Lent mailer, click [here](#).

This week in Lent, we remember that we have been created in community with *Creation*.

The featured text for this Wednesday, February 24 is Mark 4:35-41 *Jesus calms a storm*.

Gracious Creator, you fashioned us in your image in the midst of a world beyond our knowledge and understanding. Continue to weave us together in community with all created things, and deepen our awareness of the ways you connect us to the earth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

This week, we pray for creation in partnership with the Monk Botanical Gardens who will be receiving the proceeds from this week's soup donations.

Join us for worship via livestream at this link or by using the Zoom information listed below:

Click [here](#) to join the Zoom Meeting.

Meeting ID: 818 0905 7687

Passcode: 484955

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81809057687#,,,,\*484955# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,81809057687#,,,,\*484955# US (New York)



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## Called to Create and Participate: The Create-a-Crane Project

A colorful art installation will fly into the Sanctuary just in time for Easter and we need you to help grow the origami flock! Let your creative energy soar while transforming origami paper into cranes while relaxing at home. Then migrate your completed creations back to church to nest in SALC's own artistic aviary.

Here's how you and your family can participate:



-pick up origami paper and step-by-step instructions at church in the Narthex, free of charge.

-make as many cranes as you would like, but please take only as much paper as you'll be able to complete.

-On **March 1 at 6:30-7:00 pm**, join in faith and fellowship for a live Zoom "Create-a-Crane" class, including step-by-step instructions. Click [here](#) to join the meeting. We'll enjoy folding our feathers together!

-look for Facebook updates and instructional videos.

-drop your completed cranes off at church in designated baskets anytime between now and Palm Sunday.

-enjoy seeing the completed art installation in the church Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, knowing that you were Called to Create and Participate!

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## Easter Food Baskets Available and Donation Opportunities

At the beginning of the pandemic, Social Ministry needed to donate or dispose of all the food and supplies that were on hand in the food pantry. Now all these months later, the ministry has decided to resume some of the pre-pandemic activities. A collection area will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for items to be donated to the Wausau Warming Center, the Hygiene Drive and the Saint Andrew Food Pantry. Emergency food baskets will also begin to be distributed as well as Easter food baskets for those in need. If you know of someone who could use an Easter food basket, please contact the church office no later than **Wednesday, March 24**. Easter food baskets will be available for pick-up on **Saturday, March 27**. Any donations are appreciated for any of these outreach ministries. Below are items currently needed:

**Easter at the Saint Andrew Food Pantry:** canned yams, canned corn, canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup, canned fried onions, canned cranberry sauce, jello, gravy, canned pie filling and Easter candy

**Emergency use at the Saint Andrew Food Pantry:** pasta, marinara sauce, macaroni & cheese, canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, crackers, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, mayonnaise, jams & jellies, canned soup, canned tuna or chicken, rice, boxed potatoes and beans

**Wausau Warming Center:** cleaning supplies to include general disinfecting cleaners, toilet bowl cleaner, laundry detergent, dish soap, disposable coffee cups, disposable to-go containers and individually wrapped plastic forks

**Hygiene Drive:** shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, diapers in sizes 4-7, baby wipes, toothpaste, deodorant and toilet paper

Thank you from the members of the Social Ministry of SALC.

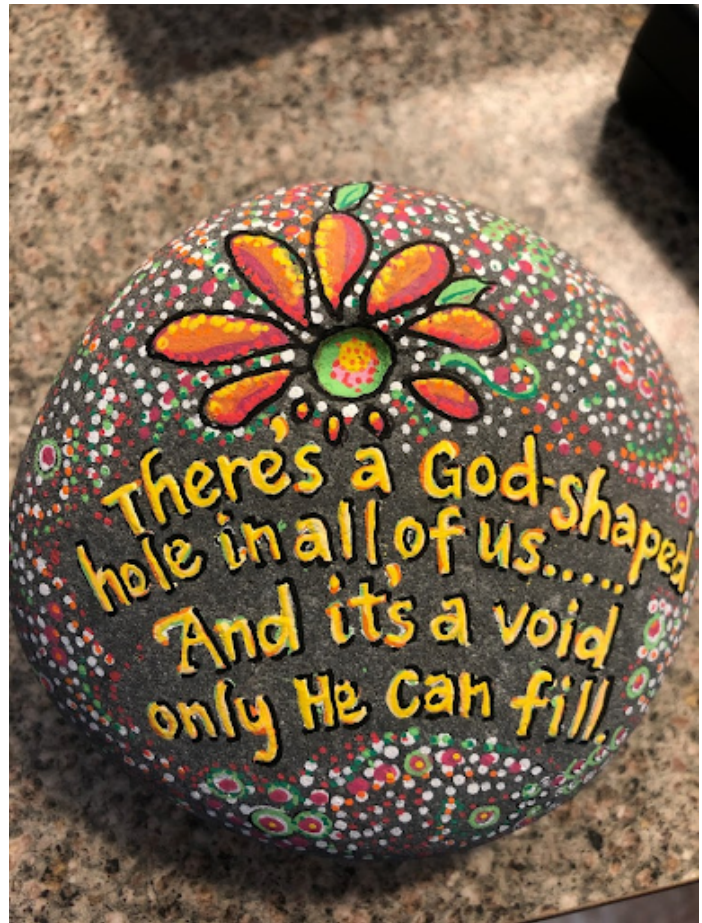
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## Art in Verse

This new social media series will be featuring the art work of members of the SALC congregation and how art connects them to their faith. To read a WSAW news feature about this new series, click [here](#). Last week we featured Pam Clark, a beloved artist in our congregation. Read on to learn about Pam's journey as an artist.

Pam is a self-taught artist. At 12 years of age, she started painting names on the smooth, white stones she had collected. Ever since then she has enjoyed the alphabet and letter forms.

While Pam is a multi-media artist, one of her specialties is calligraphy. This picture shows an example of calligraphy practice in Pam's journal using Psalm 46:10 - "Be Still and Know that I am God", which is one of her favorite verses.



The strength and simplicity of the verse has a way of bringing peace of mind to a head filled with non-stop chatter about this or that. She feels like time stops when she creates and there is only one thing to focus on. Lettering also helps her to sit still and meditate on the words she is writing and what they mean.

Much of Pam's time working in calligraphy is used for creating gifts for friends and family as well as commissioned pieces for others and this makes her heart swell knowing it will be looked at and appreciated for a long time.

Pam feels blessed to have been gifted with this lost art of calligraphy and when she is using this gift for the baptism and marriage certificates at church, it is a way of giving back to God what has been given to her.

One of Pam's other passions is stones or rocks. She is constantly on the look out for ways to use them as art or use them in her art. On many a summer weekend Pam can



be found collecting these treasures (rocks) on the shores of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan.

Whether picking up stones on the beach of Lake Superior, playing with watercolors on paper, paint pouring on canvas in the activity room at church, arranging rocks in the garden, taking photos of rocks in the garden or lettering an envelope to send in the mail, Pam feels the Holy Spirit working through her art to help brighten another persons day. And just the practice of calligraphy itself makes her slow her writing down which, in turn, calms the mind and opens up the channel to hearing and listening to what God has to share with her.

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## Easter Altar Flowers

Help beautify the altar for Easter with Tulips, Chrysanthemums or Easter Lilies - \$15 each - or Begonias for \$20 each. Order forms are available in the Narthex or you are welcome to call the church office to place your order (715-842-3333). Order forms will be available online soon. **Order deadline: Sunday, March 14.**



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## Reflections on Rogers

Mister Rogers is someone I often think of when I think of a great example of a Christian individual. Although he never directly referenced scripture, the way he lived was a direct reflection of how Jesus wanted us to live. I peacefully think of the songs he sang and the lessons involved in them. Starting next week, I'll be taking you with me through some songs of Mister Rogers' and how God makes himself present in the simplest of ways.

Michelle (she/her/hers)

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## A Night at the Warming Center

Take a look at what a typical night in the Wausau Warming Center looks like in [this video](#). For volunteer opportunities, feel free to contact Ruth Poutanen at [repoutanen@aol.com](mailto:repoutanen@aol.com) or by phone at (715)409-0674.

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## Videos Available on YouTube

Did you miss worship live? Was there something in particular that you'd like to listen to again? A children's sermon that tickled your ear? Facebook not your thing? Church is uploading these video resources to our YouTube channel. Check out [this link](#) or search for Saint Andrew and hit "subscribe" to see and share the latest content.

### Plan to Gather Weekly Update: 2/23/2021

For now, Saint Andrew remains in Phase One of the Plan to Gather. We can begin to have outdoor worship gatherings when the burden number is 50 or lower. Click [here](#) for an updated Plan to Gather video and visit [www.salc-wausau.org/covid](http://www.salc-wausau.org/covid) for more information.

## SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 2/17/2021

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
1/27	382.2	Shrinking	Very High
2/3	279.8	Shrinking	High
2/10	170.7	Shrinking	High
2/17	129.9	No Change	High

**Current SALC Status: Phase One**

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