# Bugle

Volume 72, Number 19

### The Beatitudes

This is our final Beatitude! All year the Sunday School classes have been studying the Beatitudes and the flower that has been associated with each one. This last beatitude is: "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10) The flower is the dandelion. Although dandelions

have both medicinal and food value,



they are despised by homeowners and gardeners. They are poisoned, ripped

from the earth. and cursed yet they continue to flourish. This flower can remind us that we should be happy when

people persecute us for our beliefs because we will be rewarded in heaven.

Let's look at the next two verses: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

(Matthew 5:11-12). This Beatitude is different from the other Beatitudes in that it is the only one that Jesus explains in a little more detail. All the Beatitudes are one sentence each. Except this one. The concept of being persecuted for righteousness' sake is not hard to understand. **BEING** persecuted but actually difficult. thing can very

The Beatitudes continued on page 3

### ABOUT DANDELIONS

Although dandelions have both medicinal and food value they are despised by homeowners and gardeners. They are poisoned, ripped from the earth, and cursed yet they continue to flourish. This flower can remind us that we should be happy when people persecute us for our beliefs because we will be rewarded in heaven.

> because the right you

### IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2 Pastor's Page

Page 3 This Week

Page 4 Malawi Yarn Project

Page 4 Midwest Food Bank

**DreamLeaders** Page 5

Fun in the Sun Page 6

**ELCA Youth** Page 7

Gathering

Page 8 Congrats, Graduates!

Page 8 Yard Decorating

Page 8 VBS

Page 9 **LOMC Retreat** 

Page 9 Pentecost Sunday

**Bakers Wanted!** Page 9

Page 10 **Financial Stats** 

Page 10 Bus Fund

Page 11 Online Giving

Page 11 Thank You!



### **Worship With Us! Sundays**

8:00am and 10:45am

**Education Hour** 

9:15am

nursery provided

www.salemofpeoria.com

Dear friends.

It was great to see such good attendance at the May 6 presentation of a proposed building improvement plan. I thank you for your presence, and especially for your questions, input and insight. Our Facility Design Team has put a lot of time and thought into this plan, but there are of course always things that get overlooked or new ideas that will continue our thinking throughout this process. In the coming weeks I invite you to look over the renderings



Pastor Elise Rothfusz

and floor plans in the second floor lounge or revisit the presentation in one of the binders located in the welcome center, lounge, or narthex. In those binders you will find not only the presentation but also some information on Kairos, the proposed fundraising consultant, frequently asked questions, and space for you to write your questions and comments.



If you were unable to hear the presentation, members of the Facility Design Team are available to meet with you either individually, or in a small group. Consider inviting some Salem friends, and learn more together about the proposal. In doing some of these presentations already, I have found that with a few people gathered there is lively discussion about various aspects of the building and our mission.

Council and the Facility Design Team are truly interested in hearing feedback about this project. Together, we are the Salem community, and together we discern how we move into the future!

### **Prayer Requests**

Please pray for

- The men and women of our armed forces
- · Families at Crittenton Center
- Midwest Food Bank
- Children of Guatemala
- Natalee Arff
- Bob Baker and his family
- Jeff Bastian
- · Bob's family
- Bob and Sheryl
- Stephanie Dammann's grandfather
- Pastor Elise
- Grace
- Jack Grant
- Ron Hipple
- Amy Hoffman
- · Jean Huprich and family

- Helen Johnson (mother of Joan Creager)
- Jordyn
- Judy Livingston
- Marilyn (friend of Carol Adams)
- Elaine McHugh
- Bill Mettam
- James Moffett
- Dr. Rick O'Connor
- Dave Nixon
- Mary Rothfusz
- Pat Sanders
- Sophie T.
- Tammy going through chemo
- Theresa
- Cindy Turner
- Tyth going through chemo
- · Baby Walter
- · Karla and Roman Wegryzn
- Jean and Frank Yancick



### Office Email:

office@salemofpeoria.com

Elise Rothfusz, Interim Senior Pastor erothfusz@salemofpeoria.com

Jill Goldhammer,
Deacon of Children, Youth and
Family Ministries

jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com

Meghan Peterson, Editor bugle@salemofpeoria.com

Deadline for copy is Tuesdays at 12:00pm in the church office.

The Bugle is published by Salem Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1700 W. War Memorial Dr. Peoria, Illinois 61614-6724 phone: (309) 688-9212 fax: (309) 688-9266

**Published Weekly** 

Periodicals Postage Paid at Peoria, IL 61601

Annual Subscription \$10.00

POSTMASTER:

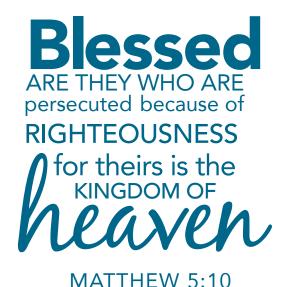
Send Address Changes to: Salem Lutheran Church, 1700 W. War Memorial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614-6724

Worship Attendance for: **Sunday, May 6:** 191

This is the last weekly *Bugle*. July monthly content is due June 6. Please look for your monthly *Bugle* before Memorial Day.

Pastoral Emergency Number: In case of emergency a pastor is available at: 309-679-7708 We are persecuted when we are righteous and righteous means "to be right with God." We are righteous when we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and then we do our best to follow him and be like him. To be persecuted means to

be teased, bullied, harassed, or treated poorly because of what you believe. At some point in their lives, every Christian will face persecution of some sort. We need to be courageous when it comes to talking about Jesus and doing things that Jesus would do. A few things we can boldly do to follow Christ include praying before lunch, playing with the new kid or a lonely kid at recess, telling the truth when you do something wrong, or showing mercy to siblings and friends when they are mean. Sometimes when we do these things, people will



tease us or call us weird. And that's okay. It's okay to face persecution when you are doing the right things. That's what Jesus is telling us in this last Beatitude.

Persecution happens to Christians all over the world. Most of us won't ever face severe persecution. We may lose friends, be teased or bullied, or lose our jobs or get in trouble with our teachers. In some places in the world though, it is actually illegal to be a Christian or to even own a Bible. There are followers of Jesus in the world who are arrested, beat, have their homes or churches destroyed, or are even murdered just because they love Jesus. We may see that as a terrible thing, but Jesus says we are BLESSED when we are persecuted. We receive God's favor, we can be happy when people tease us, beat us up, steal from us, destroy our stuff, kick us out of school or sports or fire us, call us names, and even kill us because we love Jesus.

That being said, persecution is still a serious thing. Christians are suffering intense persecution all over the world right now. And the Bible tells us what we can do about that... in Hebrews 13:3, we read: "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." When this verse says remember, it doesn't just mean spare them a passing thought every now and then. When we remember those who are suffering because of their faith, we should pray for them. We should pray for those who are being persecuted. We should also pray for those who persecute us. In Matthew 5:44 we read: "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Jesus wants us to pray for those who persecute us. This really is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. Followers of Jesus love God first, and love others. This is what God calls us to do. He doesn't tell us to love only the people we like or get along with. We are to love everyone, including the people who persecute and mistreat us.

### **THIS WEEK**

SUN., MAY 13 Mother's Day H.S. Senior Recognition Day 8AM & 10:45AM - Worship

SUN., MAY 13: 9:15AM Education Hour

MON., MAY 14: 9AM TOPS Meeting

TUES., MAY 15: 10AM Staff Meeting

TUES., MAY 15: 6:30PM Congregational Care Meeting

TUES., MAY 15: 7PM
Property & Finance Meeting

WED., MAY 16: 8AM Men's Prayer Breakfast

WED., MAY 16: 9:30AM Quilters

WED., MAY 16: 5PM Women of Salem Meeting

WED., MAY 16: 6:30PM Praise Band Practice

WED., MAY 16: 7PM Serendipity

THURS., MAY 17: 9:30AM Bible Study

THURS., MAY 17: 1PM Children, Youth & Family Meeting

THURS., MAY 17: 7PM Sanctuary Choir

THURS., MAY 17: 7PM Preschool Graduation

FRI., MAY 18: 2PM Pen Pal Meet-up

SUN., MAY 20 Pentecost Sunday Affirmation of Baptism Last Day of Sunday School 8AM & 10:45AM - Worship

SUN., MAY 20: 9:15AM Education Hour

### Mark Your Calendars for Summer Worship

Salem will continue to worship two services on Sunday until Sunday, May 27. On Sunday, May 27, Salem Lutheran Church services changes to a summer worship schedule. Sundays at 9am, and Wednesday worship at 6:30pm.

### **OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

### **Crittenton Family Garden**

Salem is ready to begin work in the community garden at Crittenton Centers. We need your help this season as we work together to create a successful garden. Please let us know if you would like to help by signing up in the Welcome Center. Opportunities for volunteering to help are helping with planting on May 19 (8:30am-10am), and helping in the classrooms reading to the children. If you have any questions please contact Bill Ligon.

### Fill the Jar for Thomas Jefferson School

There have been many stories in the news lately about teachers lacking resources and having to use their own finances to provide supplies for their classrooms. With just a little extra effort, you can help be part of the solution! Our adopt-a-school partner, Thomas Jefferson, collects box tops. The money earned from these box tops can be used for educational resources, playground equipment, etc. Make sure to look for the box top symbol before throwing away boxes on many brands of grocery products. Simply cut out the box top from the product packaging, bring it to Salem, and place it in the Box Top



collection jar which is on the donation shelf in the Welcome Center. While we are often inundated with financial requests, we all have an opportunity to support the teachers at Thomas Jefferson by taking a little extra time out of our day to cut out box tops and bring them to Salem. Our goal is to fill the jar by May 18. The Outreach Ministry Team thanks you for your support!

### Pen Pal Annual Visit

The annual visit with Salem's Pen Pals at Thomas Jefferson Primary School is Friday, May 18 from 2pm-3pm. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center if you wish to ride the bus. Please meet at church at 1:45pm. We will meet our pen pals in the classrooms for a short visit before going to the gym for an entertaining science program presented by Salem disciple Kim Ascherl.

### Pen Pal Thank You Letters

There are thank you notes from Thomas Jefferson Primary School Pen Pals for their "Spring Treat bags" that Salem gave them to celebrate Easter. All are invited to stop by the Welcome Center and read their notes.

### Malawi Yarn Project

Knitting supplies are needed to help our global missionary family the Ulrichs in Malawi to teach community women to knit sweaters for children in a local orphanage.

### **HOW CAN SALEM DISCIPLES HELP?**

- Donate 4-ply yarn
- Donate plastic or metal circular needles in sizes 5-7
- Fund the shipping costs with monetary donations

Containers will be located in the narthex and near the lower level entrance at the Welcome Center where knitting supplies may be deposited through May 20. Checks or cash can be placed in the provided envelopes located in your pew and put in the collection plate or delivered to the church office. Please put Malawi Yarn Project in the memo line. Salem is collecting these supplies as they are not able to access them locally in Malawi.

### Midwest Food Bank, May 30

Volunteers are needed for Midwest Food Bank help on Wednesday, May 30 from 9am-11am. Sign-up is located at the Welcome Center. Salem volunteers will be meeting at the Peoria Division location at 9005 N. Industrial Road, Peoria, IL 61615.



# The DreamLeaders Initiative is Coming to Salem Lutheran Church June 1-June 3!

Salem Lutheran Church will be hosting a DreamLeaders Initiative weekend, June 1- June 3, designed to encourage, inspire, and challenge us to pursue God sized dreams for our future that will allow us to have greater Kingdom impact in our neighborhood and city. The Initiative is designed to promote renewal in today's church and will be led by Pastor Jeff Linman, Pastor of Renewal and Redevelopment at First Lutheran Church in Monmouth, Illinois. Pastor Jeff previously served for 20 years as the founding pastor of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Orlando, Florida where the Initiative was birthed.

The weekend contains three components:

- A Friday Evening Get Acquainted Fellowship Meal from 6pm to 8pm in the social hall to give church council and staff a big picture overview of the DreamLeaders Initiative as well as giving the Initiative coordinator, Pastor Jeff Linman, a chance to get to know leaders and staff and get a feel for our congregation and community. We hope to wrap up the evening with momentum and a positive spirit for the weekend.
- A Saturday Workshop from 8:30am to 2:30pm in the social hall for congregational leaders and all Salem Lutheran Church disciples interested in dreaming together about our future. The day will include Biblically based elements of encouragement (naming our fears), inspiration (dreaming some dreams), and challenge (identifying the obstacles). Each workshop section will be tailored to our congregation's unique context and season. Lunch will be provided.
- A Sunday Worship Experience called "Created to Dream" and Forum that will engage the entire congregation in the journey and bring everyone on-board. Pastor Jeff will preach and share a children's message at our Sunday worship service at the 9am. After worship he will lead a brief Q&A Session where the results of the Saturday workshop will be shared and feedback invited from those who participated so that the entire congregation can be invited into the journey and the Initiative's impact extended. When leaders and members are aligned in pursuit of God-sized visions and dreams God's power is released so that every congregation can realize Kingdom impact through their mission and ministry!

Ephesians 3:20 teaches us that by the power at work within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine... or dream! Because attitude impacts outcome, inspiring renewed faith and hope is a key step in any congregational renewal effort seeking increased Kingdom impact. To learn more about the DreamLeaders Initiative and do some dreaming about the future at Salem Lutheran Church plan to join us the weekend of June 1-June 3. For further information visit www.BeDreamLeaders.com.

# FUN in the

### **Summer 2018 Children, Youth & Family Calendar**



A Random Joke...

Who is a penguin's favorite relative? Aunt-Arctica!

Join us this summer for these "BDDD" activities!





### MAY

ALL AGES: Wednesday, May 30 (5pm-6:30pm): Family Bowling & Pizza at the Christian Center: Cost: FREE



ALL AGES: Monday, June 11 (10am-1pm): Peoria Zoo; Cost: TBD

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUPS: Sunday, June 17 (6pm-8pm): Activity at Salem Lutheran Church; Cost: FREE

ALL AGES: Wednesday, June 20 (10am-noon): Kartville;

Cost: \$12 per person

H.S. YOUTH: June 26-July 2: ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston



### JULY

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUPS: Monday, July 9 (8:30am-4:30pm): Knights Action Park in Springfield; Cost: TBD

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUPS: Sunday, July 15 (6pm-8pm):

Activity at Salem Lutheran Church; Cost: FREE

ALL AGES: Wednesday, July 25 (1pm-3pm): Laser Tag

& Bowling at Plaza Lanes; Cost: TBD

H.S. YOUTH: July 23-28: Leadership Lab at Augustana College



### AUGUST

ALL AGES: July 30 - August 3 (9am-noon): Vacation Bible School - Rolling River Rampage

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUPS: Monday, August 6

(7am-11pm): Six Flags; Cost: TBD

ALL AGES: Saturday, August 11 (11am-2pm): Family Carnival for Common Place

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUPS: Sunday, August 19 (6pm-8pm): Activity at Salem Lutheran Church; Cost: FREE







## Thirty Years of ELCA Youth Gatherings WERE YOU THERE?

1988: SAN ANTONIO - "REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS"

1991: DALLAS - "CALLED TO FREEDOM"

**1994:** ATLANTA - "2 BE ALIVE"

1997: NEW ORLEANS - "RIVER HOPE"

2000: ST LOUIS - "DANCING AT THE CROSS ROADS"

2003: ATLANTA - "UBUNTU ("DO LIFE")"

2006: SAN ANTONIO - "CRUZANDO ("CROSSING")"

**2009**: New Orleans – "Jesus, Justice, and Jazz"

2012: NEW ORLEANS - "CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS"

**2015:** DETROIT - "RISE UP TOGETHER"

2018: HOUSTON - "THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING"

2018's Houston Youth Gathering, "This Changes Everything", marks the thirtieth year of ELCA Youth Gatherings. Were you there for one of these Gatherings? Please let us know by emailing Jill at *jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com* with the Gatherings you attended, any special memories and pictures are a bonus! Also, if you didn't go with Salem, please name the congregation you attended with.



## **COUNTDOWN TO**



**ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston Update** 

-from Deacon Jill Goldhammer

# How quickly our High School trip to the ELCA Houston Gathering is approaching! We need you!

The Children, Youth and Family program is looking for a minimum of 23 adults to serve as prayer partners and "debriefers" for the participants in this high impact event. You will be randomly assigned a name of a participant. There are two tasks: These can be scheduled at a time mutually convenient – like after worship any Sunday this summer after we return.

- 1. Pray for this person during the Gathering, June 26-July 2. (Prayer suggestions will be provided and you will receive pictures and updates by email from the group while we are in Houston.)
- 2. Meet with your assigned participant when we return for a short debriefing session.

There will be guided interview questions to help the participants debrief the experience and you can certainly make up your own questions. Your participation will make a tremendous difference as we process the experience with our home faith community. We will be eager to share how "This changes everything!"

### **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES**

### Congratulations, Graduates!

We congratulate the following Kappa Chi students who are graduating from High School this month:

Daniela Gonzales – Richwoods High School

Aaron Grebner - Peoria Christian

Jaedyn Johnson – Limestone High School

Sean Patterson - Morton High School

Michael Petrakis – Peoria Notre Dame High School

Caroline Ricketts – Richwoods High School

Jon Ripper – Dunlap High School

Quinn Salverson – Dunlap High School

David Thommasson – Peoria Notre Dame High School



We will celebrate their graduations at worship and the congregation is invited to share cards and well-wishes with them at a reception between services on Sunday, May 13.

### Yard Decorating Fundraiser

In 2009 the youth program went Fishing for Funds to get to the New Orleans Gathering. In 2012, they Monkeyed Around for funds to get to New Orleans a second time. And in 2015, they Fully Relied On God (FROGS and their Salem Family) to get to Detroit. How will they raise the remaining funds needed for Houston??? The "Big Reveal" is coming very soon along with great fun for the entire congregation!

We don't like to leave anyone out, but if you really don't want to participate, please email the youth director (*jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com*) or put a note in her box in the office. For a donation, you are still welcome to send a yard greeting to someone in the Salem Family, even if you request they don't make a stop on your yard first. Please put your request in writing or discuss it with the youth director.

New this year... Kappa Chi is expanding its Gathering Year Yard Decorating Service to include non-Salem members. Yard Decorating by Kappa Chi is available May 16 through June 24 for special occasions such as Birthdays, Graduation Parties, Anniversaries, or other greetings you wish to send your friends, families or neighbors. Dates may get a little tricky so be sure to get on our Kappa Chi calendar early! Please contact Jill for all special deliveries.



### VBS 2018: Rolling River Rampage

Salem's Vacation Bible School is Monday, July 30 – Friday, August 3, from 9 AM to Noon. We are still looking for some rotation station leaders and small group leaders. Please contact Jill Goldhammer, Rebbecca Sipf or Kris Griffith if you are available and willing to help or if you have questions. Our VBS attracts over 100 students each year from pre-school to 6th grade and takes about that many student and adult volunteers to make it such an awesome week. If you have not experienced Salem's VBS as

a volunteer, please consider helping for a morning or two, or all week! We have an opportunity that meets your availability and your special gifts – we promise! Volunteer forms as well as participant forms are now available on-line at **www.salemofpeoria.com/vbs**. Signing up early really helps us plan and provide the best experience possible.







### LOMC Retreat









### **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES**

### Pentecost Sunday is last day of Sunday School!

Join your Salem family in the Sanctuary at 9:15am on Sunday, May 20th, as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday and the last day of Sunday School. We will start with a closing celebration and recognize teachers and students, sing some songs, and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit! We will finish in the Social Hall with Pentecost activities and cake and ice cream. Join us as we celebrate the "birthday" of the church, and our 8th grade students who are Affirming their Baptism that day, as well!

### **DISCIPLESHIP**

### **Pentecost Geraniums Available**

If you would like to contribute to the Chancel Garden at Pentecost, and by doing so help remind us of this important gift of God, please fill out an order form and place it along with your contribution of \$3.50 per plant in the offering plate. Forms are located in the pews, the Narthex and the Welcome Center. All orders for Pentecost Geraniums must be received by Wednesday, May 16. Don't forget to "wear red" on May 20, Pentecost Sunday!

### **Planting and Summer Watering**

On Tuesday, May 22 at 8:30am gardeners are needed to help plant the Pentecost Geraniums. Gardeners please bring their own trowels and gloves. Please contact Paula Sydow or Julie Kotewa for more information.

Also during the summer without a summer intern we are looking for Salem disciples that have an interest in gardening and would be interested in watering and weeding the grounds throughout the summer. Interested in taking care of a specific garden bed, please contact Julie Kotewa or Paula Sydow.

### **Bakers Wanted!**

Fresh bread will continue to be used for communion. If you would like to provide bread, please sign up in the narthex on the bulletin board. The recipe is available, and volunteers are asked to provide enough for 250 communion participants on Sundays (one batch). Please plan on having the bread to the church by Saturday morning for communion set-up. It may be left in the sacristy on the counter. Questions, please contact Kirsten Kelly or Paula Sydow.

### **Salem's Financial Stats & Facts**

### Month of April 2018

General Fund	Budget	Actual	Difference
Income	\$49,002	\$62,277	\$13,275
Expenses	\$49,361	\$40,623	\$8,738
Net Income (Loss)	(\$359)	\$21,654	

### Year-to-Date, 2018

General Fund	Budget	Actual	Difference	
Income	\$215,387	\$226,004	\$10,617	
Expenses	\$197,442	\$189,541	\$7,901	
Net Income (Loss)	\$17,944	\$36,463		

### **Average Weekly Worship Attendance**

April 2018 233\* April 2017 259\*\*

### **Faithful Giving**

Due to faithful giving by Salem disciples, and council and staff's responsible stewardship of resources, Salem is in a good financial position heading into May. Annual general envelope giving to date is \$10,600 better than budget expectations, and \$13,200 better than 2017. Actual expenses for the year are \$189,500, which is \$7,900 lower than budgeted. Salem's balance sheet through April 2018, is \$36,500 to the positive.

Your regular and continued support for Salem's mission and ministry is so appreciated! Your generosity enables the staff and disciples at Salem to continue our mission to Grow People in Christ... to Love and Serve. You might be interested to know: for 2018, Salem has 111 pledging households. 69 of these pledges are new or increased amounts from 2017 and represent an increase of almost \$24,000 over 2017 pledging. Thus far in 2018 there are 185 households giving toward Salem's ministry. Thank you for your partnership in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



### **Bus Fund Update**

Our Salem bus has been busy this spring with the trip to Circa '21 Dinner Theater, numerous preschool field trips, senior outings and a Faith for Life day at LOMC. We now are transporting worshippers to church almost every Sunday morning! In 2018, we have received about \$5,000 toward the bus fund. Combined with the \$7,000 Thrivent Choice Dollars designated by council, the outstanding amount due on the bus loan is approximately \$12,000. If you would like to make a donation toward the bus fund, please make your check out to Salem, with "Bus Fund" written on the memo line. Thank you for your support of our Salem ministry!

<sup>\*</sup>Easter 2018

<sup>\*\*</sup>Easter and Palm Sunday 2017

### **GIFTS TO SALEM: Online giving**

A convenient way to contribute your annual commitment amount is through Salem's Electronic Funds Transfer program. Many of us already pay bills online, and having an automatic contribution is a convenient way to give your offering. The added benefit is you'll have the peace of mind knowing that the church is receiving your contribution even if you are unable to attend worship. All contributions are recorded for you on your bank statement with the date of transfer. There is no cost to you for participating in the program. There is also an option for you to use a debit or credit card.

Setting up the program is easy. Visit *http://www.salemofpeoria.com/giving* and click on the "Online Giving" link (or scan this QR code.) This link will bring you to a new page to set-up your secure online donation. The entire process takes about five minutes. You may allocate contributions to be one-time gifts, or recurring contributions. This program enables members to be faithful and consistent in giving to the Lord.

Thank you for your financial partnership with Salem Lutheran, as we seek to love deeply, grow spiritually and share abundantly with the people of Peoria and beyond! The financial gifts you share with Salem Lutheran Church help us grow people in Christ... to Love & Serve.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity...

2 Corinthians 9:11





SCAN HERE to give now!

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars at Work**

Thank you to our Salem disciples who are also Thrivent members! You've probably heard of action teams and how we are able to put those to work for our Salem ministry. There's also another way Thrivent members put their dollars to work for Salem: some members are eligible for "Choice Dollars." This is Thrivent money that members can designate toward a ministry or charity of their own choosing. In March, Salem received \$7,000 of Thrivent Choice Dollars. What a gift! Thank you to our Salem Thrivent members for their generosity. At the May council meeting, the council designated this money to go toward paying down our bus loan.

### **Pink Flower Party**

Thank you to everyone who donated a pink flower in memory or honor of someone special or to the beauty of God's creation. Also, a big "Thank You" to Julie Kotewa and all of the volunteers who planted pink flowers on Wednesday, May 2. The church grounds look beautiful! We raised \$149 in the Breaking Bread offering that evening for our Salem Saints Race for the Cure team. The Salem Family is so generous with their time, talents and gifts!

### Thank You's

Thank you for my birthday cards (which was May 1) and all those cards thinking of Roman and myself during his recent stay in the hospital. We appreciate our Salem family so very much.

Sincerely,

Karla







On Sunday, May 6, Faith for Life students had a fabulous retreat at LOMC with team building, ziplining, canoeing, games and hiking. A big thanks to Faith for Life Guide, Kim Ascherl, and all the parents who came along. Involved parents and adults make such a huge difference! Isn't a day at LOMC wonderful?!