

the Bugle



You have no doubt heard someone say they had an “epiphany” meaning an awareness, revelation, an “aha” moment. It is when something comes into focus with a new understanding that changes one’s perspective. Some of you will recall the commercial when a person takes a drink, slaps their head and says, “wow, I could have had a V-8!” It is a revelation moment that, according to V-8, there was a better choice to consider if only they had thought of it.

The story is told of astrologers/sages/wisemen/maji/“kings” from a faraway land who followed a star and travelled to worship who they had come to believe was a new king for all the world. They first stopped in the holy city of Jerusalem to inquire from the sitting king, Herod, “where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.”

January 6 marks the day these eastern travelers brought their unusual gifts to lay before this anticipated one as announced by the prophets and now revealed to shepherds and kings alike. It is this story that we tell as we celebrate the expanded message of the birth of Jesus outside the holy land and the ushering in of a new kingdom that will

change the world. News of the birth of Jesus was casting light into the dark corners of the world and opening opportunities for a new way for God to relate to humanity.

Through Jesus, God becomes vulnerable and relational and models for us how we are to relate to one another and the world in which we live. This is a revelation/awareness/“epiphany” to those who otherwise live in a land of darkness. News of Jesus opens us to a world of possibilities and shatters worldly images that keep God’s love hidden and inaccessible. So it is that God was so determined to break through the clouds of oppression, despair, injustice, unawareness, that God came into the world through the most unlikely experiences to relate in a real and personal way like never before.

Where have you seen such break throughs? How has news of Jesus and his coming among us changed your perspective on life and the world in which we live? As we enter a new calendar year together, I am hopeful we will experience many “aha” moments together and that our perspective is shaped by the love of Christ who continues to make all things new. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel. – Pastor Craig Swenson



Pastor Craig Swenson

Salem Discoveries

By the power at work within us, God is able to accomplish ABUNDANTLY far more than all we can ask or imagine... or DREAM!" -Ephesians 3:20

Renewing God's House

Together is an effort to boldly ask for support to renew not only Salem's aging facility (roof, mechanical systems, efficiency) but also renewed space for hospitality including our mission at and beyond Salem.



To date, total pledges in support of this appeal is over \$1.9 million. Your gift and/or three-year pledge to this campaign will further help Salem to step boldly into the future. Your generosity is a blessing as together we work to make this dream a reality.

Together we are a community of faith striving to make a real difference in people's lives. Your support and generosity ensures that worship blesses those who gather and that learning and growth happens for people of all ages. Reaching out in compassion and service to others is a tangible expression of God's love to our neighbors. Thank you for your consideration in support of this effort!

What's Next:

- 1.) Please complete your General Giving for 2018.
- 2.) Please complete your 2019 General Giving Pledge
- 3.) Pray about your BEST GIFT for the Capital Campaign- and pledge your support
- 4.) Be ambassadors for the Capital Campaign by sharing this information with friends.

Annual and Capital Appeal Pledges will continue to be received and added to the total through January 20. An accumulating total for annual and the capital appeal pledges will be shared regularly to inform the congregation and ensure we have the most accurate information for the **Annual Meeting on January 27** and prior to a **Special Congregational Meeting at noon on Sunday, February 10** to approve the scope and overview of the facility improvement project. Thank you for sharing!



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In case of emergency please call:
Pastor Craig: 309-258-4759 or
Lori Reimer: 309-303-3808

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Lunch and Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan. 27

In accordance with Salem's constitution, this article, along with verbal announcement at worship, constitutes official notice of our annual meeting to be held on **Sunday, January 27**. Relevant (Salem's Young Adult group which meets on Sundays during Education Hour) will be organizing lunch which includes gondolas. Proceeds will benefit their ministry group. **The business meeting will begin after lunch at 12:30pm.**

Special Congregational Meeting, Feb. 10

The facility design team, based upon pledges received, will present a recommendation for what the content of the project will be and the estimated cost of the project at the **Special Congregation Meeting at noon on Sunday, February 10**. Along with that recommendation, will be a recommendation for a financing plan for the project. (The facility design will not have final detailed quotes by Feb 10; this vote will provide congregational approval back to the facility design team to proceed with detailed quotes the recommended project scope.)

Annual Reports Due Jan. 10

It is that time again to be thinking about your annual reports. Brenda Newcomb has copies of last year's report so if you need a copy please let her know. The deadline for getting your reports to Brenda (bnewcomb@salemofpeoria.com) is **January 10, 2019**.

Financial Peace University Begins

Have you ever made a New Year's resolution about your finances and failed to follow through? Do you just wish you could use the words "peace" and "finances" in the same sentence?

This is your chance! Salem Lutheran Church is offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, a nine class course the first of the year! It will run on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm-8:30pm beginning January 9-February 27 with the last class being held on Sunday, March 3rd. Financial Peace University will provide us with a 7-step plan to gain financial peace in our lives, with a central message that "everything we own is God's, we just manage it". Registration is available online at: <https://fpu.com/1078249> and through Salem's website. If you are interested, check at the Welcome Center for more information or contact Rebbecca Sipf (beccagurl1@hotmail.com).

Salem Quilters

A reminder that Seniors in Kappa Chi need to bring your nine t-shirts to the quilters by **January 9** if you would like to have a quilt for senior recognition day in May.

More hands are always welcome! Quilters will be meeting regularly in January starting on **January 9 at 9:30am** in the first floor conference room (former youth room) For information or questions, please call Norma Hartman at 240-8387.

Altar Guild Volunteers and Bakers Needed

Help prepare Salem for worship! Volunteers are needed for the Altar Guild.

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. Recipes are available for the unleavened bread. Volunteers are asked to provide enough for 250 communion participants on Sundays. 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.

Valentine Bags

Spread some joy by sending a message of love with a valentine to Salem's homebound members who are not able to attend worship and church activities on a regular basis. Valentine bags for our homebound members will be in the Welcome Center from **January 20 through February 10**. People to remember are: Walt Anderson, Natalee Arff, Susan Barham, Betty and Matthew Bennett, Helen and Carl Buerger, Ruby Chelgren, Marge Gramm, Vi Gruber, Mary Gustafson, Bev Holmes, Shirley Hornecker, John Johnson, Bea Kent, Ruth Landes, Carl Lindquist, Elaine McHugh, Bill Mettam, Bob Middleton, Nancy Owens, Lillian Ries, Fran Riley, John and Marge Ryberg, Arlene Schroeder, Irene Sawatsky, and Frank Yancick. There is a sign-up sheet for you to volunteer to deliver on of these very special bags. Please contact Joan Creager at (309) 231-7724 if you have any questions.



Wednesday Evening Programming Resumes Jan. 9

Primetime, Breaking Bread and Faith for Life will resume its winter session on **Wednesday, January 9 at 6pm**. Pizza will be the first Breaking Bread meal. Please contact Jill Goldhammer (jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com) if you are interested in hosting or helping prepare a meal for Breaking Bread. Please follow the Bugle Blast for menu updates!

PRIMETIME!

Family meal time is **PRIMETIME** for children and families and we believe time together as a church family is also **PRIMETIME**! Pre-Kindergartners through 5th graders are invited to come to **PRIMETIME Children's Ministries** at Salem on Wednesdays from 5:30pm – 6pm, immediately followed by our Breaking Bread meal at 6PM.

There will be singing but also much more. We will use our hands and feet and hearts and voices to celebrate being a part of God's Family as we grow in Christ.. to love and serve! You do NOT have to be a singer to enjoy **PRIMETIME**! Come, give it a try!

PRIMETIME resumes on **Wednesday, January 9**, and will follow the midweek Breaking Bread schedule. **PRIMETIME** will meet in the all-purpose room on the first floor near the pre-school classrooms. QUESTIONS? Contact **PRIMETIME** ministry directors Jill Goldhammer or Amy Schroeder.



PRIMETIME FOR MOMS

After dropping off your kids at **PRIMETIME**, join us in the Social Hall for 30 minutes of midweek unwinding from 5:30pm-6pm. **PRIMETIME for Moms** is a time to catch up with other Salem moms without distraction. Friendships for young moms are sometimes overlooked and **PRIMETIME MOMS** simply seeks to connect busy moms in Christ.



- Just realized you haven't eaten since breakfast? Grab a snack!
- Your caffeine superpowers wearing off? We've got that covered, too!

By the time the kids are done, you will be refueled, refreshed, and ready to conquer the rest of the evening. This program is geared toward moms with school-aged or younger children. Even if your kids do not participate in PRIMETIME you are welcome to join us!

Mark Your Calendars! Larry Olson Concert and Youth Service

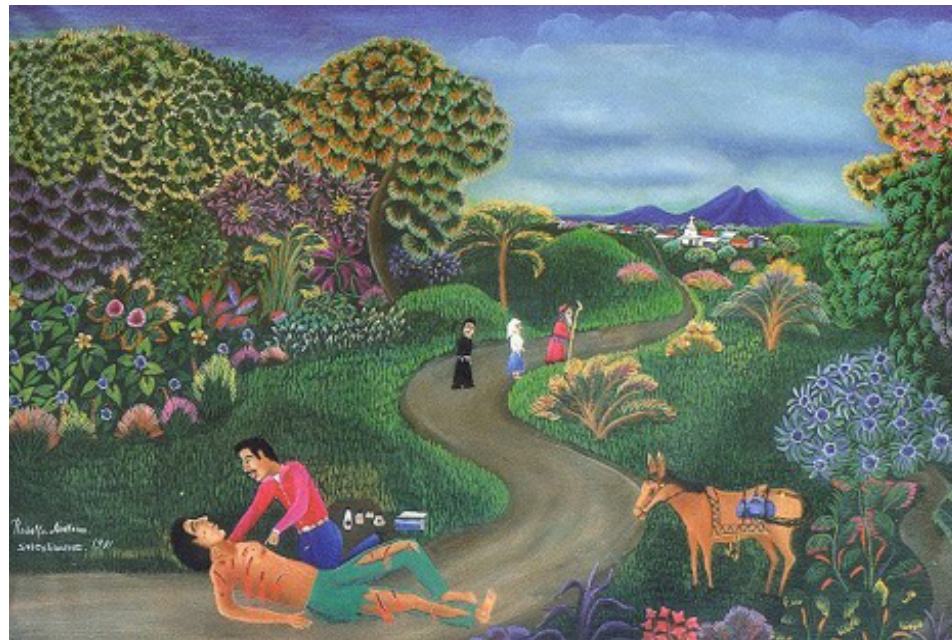
Larry Olson will be our guest musician at Salem's 2019 Youth Service and with us for the weekend. The Larry Olson Concert will be **Saturday, February 16 at 7pm**, and the Youth Service will follow the next day at both services on **Sunday, February 17**. More details to come!



Larry Olson

OPEN OUR EARS

This month, our theme is "Open our Ears ... to hear God's call and our neighbor's story" and we think of the story of the Good Samaritan. When asked what the most important commandment was, Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and the second to "love your neighbor as yourself". Jesus was then immediately asked who counts as a neighbor and he responds with a parable, or a story lesson that is an example for everyday life.



In the story of the Good Samaritan, from Luke 10:25-37, a man is attacked and robbed. A priest comes by and does not stop to help. A temple worker comes by and does not stop to help either. Finally, a man from Samaria comes by and he does stop to help. Samaritans and Jews did not like each other. The fact that the Samaritan was the person who stopped to help would have had an impact on Jesus' listeners and reframes the question of "who is my neighbor."

As we contemplate this month's theme of "Open our Ears ... to hear our neighbor's story", let us keep this bible

verse in our minds: "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" (1 John 3:18). Jesus asks us to act in love toward our neighbor...and our neighbor is anyone in need of help. As Martin Luther said, "Thus nothing could be regarded as worthier of love in the whole universe than our neighbor...now our neighbor is any human being, especially one who needs our help, as Christ interprets it in Luke." Luther's Works 27, 58 (1535)

Global Farm Challenge Update

As we have learned, family farms are a key source of food and income for most of the people in the world. Limited resources for many of these families mean they struggle to feed themselves. But through the ELCA Global Farm Challenge, families can have access to livestock, seeds, tools and training.



It doesn't cost much to help give families and communities the means to have a sustainable way of life. Sunday School children have been collecting an offering all year for the Global Farm Challenge. In addition, we have had two "Noise Can" collections during worship service to provide the congregation an opportunity to join this ELCA initiative. As of the end of December, we have collected almost \$1,000.

Noisy Can Collection

Children will be passing a "Noisy Can" collection during the Offering on the third Sunday each month at both services this weekend. All of our loose change added together can help families around the world end the cycle of hunger and poverty – for good. For more information and videos, check out the website: <http://www.elca.org/GlobalFarmChallenge/Why-Farms>.

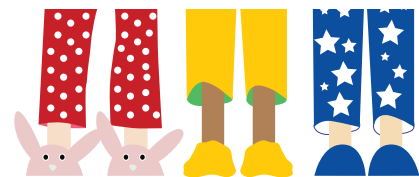


OUTREACH
MINISTRY

A Look Back...

As the 2018 has drawn to a close, the Outreach Ministry Team is grateful for everyone who donated their time, money, and items to the various activities and collections this past fall. Below are some highlights!

• **Malawi Book Collection:** In September, almost 350 books were collected for the Grace of God Orphanage. Sunday school children helped decorate book plates for the inside cover of each book, and individuals in the Prime Time Mom's group helped place each book plate. The books were then packed in boxes and shipped off at the post office by Bill Ligon and Lois Knutson in mid-October. The books arrived in Mawali in late December!



• **Pajama Collection CFPA:** In October, Kappa Chi students helped prepare a "Breakfast at Dinner" for Breaking Bread to kick off the publicity for the pajama collection for the women and children staying at the Center for Prevention of Abuse. During the month, over 200 pairs of pajamas were collected along with toiletry items as well as \$400 toward the purchase of these items.

• **Trunk-or-Treat:** In October, thanks to the initiative of the Children, Youth, and Family team, Salem held its first trunk-or-treat event open to families from our Adopt-a-school partner, Thomas Jefferson, and the surrounding community. Over 250 children stopped at approximately 40 trunks of cars to for treats and Halloween fun. A simple meal was served with over 400 people attending the festivities that day. What fun it was to see so many of Salem's members taking part to help make this a wonderful day for children and their families.



• **Thomas Jefferson Food Baskets:** Salem collected food to fill 15 food baskets for families in need at Thomas Jefferson School. Our Junior High "Faith for Life" students took the lead by sorting and counting food items each week and then spent one afternoon sorting and packing all items. The baskets were then delivered by the students and adults on a Saturday morning in December.

• **Thanksgiving Meal and Donation for Lutheran Disaster Response:** The entire congregation was invited to come together to enjoy food as Salem celebrated Thanksgiving with its annual Thanksgiving dinner held on Wednesday, November 14th. As usual, Salem turned this event into a meal with a purpose by collecting a free will offering for Lutheran Disaster Response. A generous \$962.00 was raised to help individuals affected by recent natural disasters. As we counted our blessings, how nice it was to be a blessing in return.



• **LSSI Sharing Tree:** In December, Salem members eagerly came forward to participate in the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' sharing tree project. Gifts were bought for 50 individuals ranging from children to adults. Salem is proud to be one of many congregations that help to support the clients of LSSI in this way. Gifts were returned to Salem and dropped off at LSSI in mid-December in time for their holiday parties.

Along with the above listed events, we are thankful this fall for those that helped out at Midwest Food bank, served meals at Loaves and Fish, worked on projects at Common Place, volunteered in classrooms at Thomas Jefferson, or wrote pen pal letters to students. We also acknowledge the many hours of service for individual causes and other local and global agencies by Salem members. Thank you for sharing Christ's love with the world and for truly exemplifying the statement, "God's Work. Our Hands." May God continue to bless our service in 2019!



Thomas Jefferson Game Collection

Fun Friday at Thomas Jefferson is a time for the students to learn skills in a fun way through board games, card games, and other activities that are not part of the regular curriculum. In order to do this, the teachers need a variety of games. The Outreach Committee is supporting Fun Friday by collecting games for the school, and we ask the congregation's help in doing this. The following are the games that we want to collect for Thomas Jefferson: Battleship, Monopoly, Connect 4, Chutes and Ladders, Yahtzee, Aggravation, Trouble, Sorry, Candy Land, Boggle, Farkle, Checkers, Scrabble, Hi Ho Cheerio, Guess Who, Pop the Pig, Jenga, Uno, Polly Pockets, and Legos.



The games can be new or used (as long as they have all the parts and pieces). Games can be put in the designated container in the Welcome Center from now **until January 20**. Thank you for your support of our adopt-a-school-partner Thomas Jefferson.

Midwest Food Bank, Jan. 23

Volunteers are needed for Midwest Food Bank help on **Wednesday, January 23 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.

Thomas Jefferson Pen Pal Letters

Letters from Thomas Jefferson students will be in the Welcome Center for pick-up on **Sunday, January 28**. Please return them by Sunday, February 18.

Fair Trade Chocolate Is Good for You!

Our chocolate is actually good for you! We hear our parishioners walk by our booth and comment on the array of candy bars that we have available to sell. Although we know many of us probably indulged for the holidays, rest assured that our chocolate is a bit different than some of the candy sold in the stores.

Here is some information from Equal Exchange, our Fair Trade provider, about the health benefits of cacao, which is a major ingredient in our chocolate bars.

- **CACAO 101:** Cacao is actually a fruit, which is why the beans (used to make chocolate ingredients) are so full of nutrients. Cacao is packed with fiber and antioxidants. Other ingredients used in chocolate are typically preservatives, milk, sugar and fat. This is why you want to look for a bar with a high quantity of cacao. The more cacao present, the more health benefits.
- **Heart Health:** A recent analysis of numerous studies found that people who ate dark chocolate had a reduction in blood pressure and LDL (bad) cholesterol.
- **Stroke:** A 2012 study in Sweden found that individuals who consumed chocolate had less incidence of stroke than those who did not.
- **Satisfaction:** In addition to satisfying your craving, Equal Exchange chocolate bars have fiber and healthy fats. Fat and fiber make you feel more full and keep you full for longer. This means that eating a few pieces of Equal Exchange chocolate will keep you satisfied for longer than if you ate 2 or 3 sugar cookies.



Stop by and see our array of candy bars (\$2.50), cocoa (great for the cold winter), coffees, teas, nuts, and olive oil in the Gallery on January 6. We are always happy to answer questions and help you find your favorite Fair Trade Items. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

SENIOR MINISTRIES

Senior Lunch and Bingo

On **Sunday, January 13** after second service, Salem Seniors will meet in the Social Hall for food, fellowship and fun! Please plan to bring a wrapped white elephant gift (under \$5), which will be the bingo prize. The "snow date" is Sunday, January 20. Please sign-up in the Welcome Center.



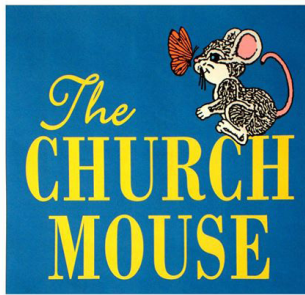
SERVING at THE CHURCH MOUSE IN PEORIA

Do you have items that you no longer need or use? When you think of donating to Goodwill please consider donating to The Church Mouse instead! The Church Mouse is located near Bradley University at 600 West Main Street, Peoria, and has been in operation for over 30 years by the Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria. Parking is in the rear of the building, and donations are accepted Tuesday – Saturday from 10am – 2 pm. The Church Mouse is always looking for donations of: household items, toys, clothing and more! Donating is easy! Simply drive your vehicle around to the back entrance and others will help you unload your items.

There are many Salem members that volunteer at The Church Mouse and have done so for many years. Volunteers from Salem include: Elle Hansen, Inez Norgard, Joanne Misselhorn, Lois Knutson, Paula Sydow, Elaine Sokolowski, Gail Serrahn, and others have been volunteers for many years. The Church Mouse is a unique non-for-profit business where members from the LCMS and the ELCA work together.

The Church Mouse could use some more helping hands in 2019. The store is serviced by volunteers working a variety of shifts, and you are able to choose the day of the week. Duties inside the store include: sorting and hanging clothes, bagging purchases, organizing shelves and racks. A person with a pick-up truck would be beneficial as calls are received describing large items that cannot be easily transported. Staff can accompany you to load and unload, as needed.

The Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria is able to generously give to Lutheran Hillside Village and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois to help serve their residents and clients, respectively due to the profits at The Church Mouse. You donate, customers buy and Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria gives back to the Peoria community. Please contact one of the store managers: Shirley Lewis or Joan Resler at (309) 673-2363 if you would like more information about volunteering.



“One Church Mouse Volunteer from Salem Inez Norgard says, "What I enjoy most about volunteering at the Church Mouse is the people - the manager, the other volunteers, and the regular customers. Everyone is so concerned about others. It warms your heart to see how happy the customers are with their 'finds'. The merchandise is so interesting! You just never know what you will see! It's amazing what special equipment the proceeds have been able to provide for LHV and LSSI!"

FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER, RN

This time of year we are making New Year's resolutions. Take a moment, make (and keep) a resolution to give the gift of life. The hour or less it takes you to give could mean a lifetime to somebody else. If you do the Rapid Pass under the "donate Blood" tab at redcrossblood.org, it will save you time the day of the drive. Salem's next Blood Drive is **January 21, 2019 from 2pm-6pm** and you are eligible to give if you haven't donated since November 26, 2018.

Sign-up at the Welcome Center or contact Lori Reimer. Whatever your reason is for giving, blood donors like you play an extremely important role to help ensure a safe

and adequate blood supply is available during the winter months. As always, following your donation will be homemade soups, sandwiches, and desserts available. If you are unable to donate blood but would like to donate food or your time volunteering at the drive, please contact Lori Reimer.



Blood Drive



Welcome! New Salem Members



New Members were installed on Sunday, December 9. From left to right are: Caleb Friedrich, Lisa Coates, Pastor Craig Swenson, Kaesey Glaess, Connie Iverson, and Julie Gannon.

On Sunday, December 9, Salem welcomed five new members. Salem welcomes them as they join us to "Grow People in Christ... to Love & Serve."

Caleb Friedrich

Caleb is from Henry, Illinois and was a member at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Varna, Illinois. Caleb has a passion for working with youth and families and graduated with his Masters in Social Work from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He currently works at the Children's Home Association of Illinois' Youth Farm Severe Residential Program as a Residential Therapist. Caleb has been living in Peoria for about two years and recently purchased a home, so he decided to find a new church home to transfer into. Salem seemed like a good fit and the community was very welcoming.

Lisa Coates

Lisa moved to the Peoria area when she was eight years old from the Quad Cities and attended Salem. Lisa was confirmed here and feel like she is coming home. She is married to Jon Coates and will celebrate their thirty fifth wedding anniversary this coming year. They currently live in Spring Bay area and attended Germantown Hills Grade School and Metamora High School. Lisa and Jon have two grown children, Benjamin and Timothy. They have a dog named Marley, and she is a rescue. Lisa works as a sleep technician at Graham Hospital in Canton Illinois. Her husband is a retired iron worker. Lisa enjoys bicycling, working out at the Riverplex, boating, training my dog and our 60 l-gallon aquarium. Lisa and her husband are members of the East Peoria Boat Club. Lisa looks forward to getting to know people at Salem and being a part of the exciting future ahead.

Kaesey Glaess

Kaesey grew up in Southeast Minnesota on a family farm, attended college at Iowa State University and graduated in the spring. This summer, she moved to Peoria and began working at Maurer-Stutz, Inc. In her free time, Kaesey enjoys hiking, traveling, cooking and helping on her parent's farm. Having grown up in an ELCA church, she discovered Salem and was attracted by the community feel and friendliness of the congregation.

Connie Iverson

Connie and her husband, John followed their daughter Sarah and her family to Salem about a year and a half ago. The Iversons had been members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church for many years and felt it was time for a change. Salem was what Connie and John were looking for and they immediately felt welcome.

Connie and John have four children and five grandchildren who all live in the area. They are so blessed to have them so close and be able to attend their activities. Connie has always enjoyed volunteering, reading, and knitting. She hopes to find her niche at Salem.

Julie Gannon

Julie Gannon was baptized and confirmed at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Armstrong, Iowa. Julie lived in Sunnyland for 21 years and was a member of Faith Lutheran Church. She spent 10 of those years taking care of my cancer-stricken mother. After she passed, Julie decided to look for a partner. She met Mike (a Catholic) 3+ years ago. They decided to buy a house in Peoria and got married this past August. Julie knew she would not drive to Sunnyland every week so decided that Salem would be a good fit.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



January 1 Kylie Swanson Jennifer Wallstedt	January 11 Liam Cochran John Petrakis	January 19 Brent Salverson Jason Sterr	January 25 JoAnn Misselhorn
January 2 Eleonore Hansen	January 12 Dean Doughty Margaret Onyun Meghan Onyun Nathan Onyun	January 20 Gwyn Egan Lauren Swanson	January 26 Elgen Martin
January 4 Robert Arehart Adam Oertley Maryanne Rastatter	January 13 Lesly Wegrzyn	January 21 Sharon Mollenhauer	January 27 John Johnson
January 5 Walter Anderson Matthew Wiesehan	January 17 Erinn Ambrosch Jazmyne Scoville	January 22 Matthew Grebner Dennis Gustafson	January 28 Elaine McHugh Jackie Ripper Marilyn Stamerjohn Kaylee Stenzel
January 8 Dorothy Strickler	January 18 Kelly Knobloch Jim Metternich Anitra O'Connor Andrea Roberts	January 23 Richard Nelson	January 29 Jocyle Nolde
January 9 Jacklyn McKinty Alexia Campbell		January 24 Betty Bennett Rachel Gonzales Rachel Malone	January 30 Donald Swanson
			January 31 Gary Snider

Save the Date for La Nuit Rosé

La Nuit Rosé, the Pink Night, is an evening of food, wine and fellowship hosted by Helene Peterson and Gayle Young at 11218 N. Oakwood Dr, Peoria. Come join your Salem family for an exciting fundraising night to kick-off the Salem "More than Pink" Team on **Saturday, February 9 at 6pm!** The French-themed night will have a silent auction with a wide variety of items donated by Salem members and friends. If you are interested in donating a silent auction item please contact Gayle Young.

Early registration for the "More than Pink" team has reduced registration costs and ends on **February 1** (adults are \$20 and children are \$15). Please consider registering for the Salem Saints before registration costs increase!

Come and enjoy the fun! There is a \$20 per person suggested donation, and La Nuit Rosé is for men and women over 21. Food will include hors d'oeuvres, desserts and French wine to taste and enjoy. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center or email Gayle at gyoung@komenmemorial.org.



Advent and Christmas Decorations

Advent decorations will be taken down at **10am on Wednesday, January 2 and Saturday, January 5**. Sign-up in the Welcome Center to help take down decorations.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity:** Wednesday, January 23, 9am
- **Annual Meeting:** January 27, 12:30pm
- **La Nuit Rosé:** Saturday, February 9, 6pm
- **Ministry Fair:** Sunday, February 10 between services in the Social Hall
- **Special Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, February 10 at noon
- **Larry Olson Concert:** Saturday, February 16 at 7pm
- **Youth Service:** Sunday, February 17 at both services (Kappa Chi has begun prepping for their worship service!)
- **Be Like Jesus:** Friday, Feb. 22-Sat., Feb. 23, 24-hour servant lock-in for 3rd through 6th graders.

A View of Salem's Financial Status

Month of November, 2018

General Fund	Budget	Actual	Difference
November Giving	\$49,002	\$52,651	\$3,649
Expenses	\$49,361	\$48,931	\$430
Net Income (Loss)	(\$359)	\$3,720	

Year-to-Date, 2018

General Fund	Budget	Actual	Difference
Giving	\$559,298	\$531,979	\$27,319
Expenses	\$542,966	\$519,563	\$23,403
Net Income (Loss)	\$16,332	\$12,416	

2019 general pledges to date are: \$505,020.

Prayer Requests

- The men and women of our armed forces
- Support for all caregivers when loved ones suffer
- Ulrich Family
- Children of Guatemala
- Families at Crittenton Center
- Midwest Food Bank
- Jim Chelgren
- Stephanie Dammann's grandfather
- Keith Erickson
- Evie (kidney dialysis)
- Bev and Howard Gallatin
- Jack Grant
- Roz Gott
- Ron Hipple
- Amy Hoffman
- Jean Huprich and family
- Katie and her children
- Helen Johnson
- Bill Mettam
- Jan Murzyn
- Ole and Candy
- Liz Osborne
- The Purcell/Manning Family
- Barbi Ricketts
- Jo Roberts
- Roxana

- Pat Sanders
- Don Swanson
- Ella Vandervlugt
- Wayne (brother of Barbi Ricketts)
- Raymond Weitzel
- Jean and Frank Yancick

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

Stateside: Ian Borquist, Alex Gonzalez, Col. Darnell Salley, Jason Sterr, Scott Wolfmeyer

Overseas:
Talon Maki

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the gift certificate to Dollar Tree and Landmark Theater. I appreciate you putting my name on the Giving Tree. I will be able to see 6-weeks of movies and I appreciate your thoughtfulness quite a lot.
Thank you, Ron Hipple

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends at Salem. I wish I could be there to celebrate the blessed events of the season, but it is not possible.
Love to you all, Marge Gramm

Salem Friends and Women of Salem,
I received a big bag of useful and pretty items. Thank you, thank you!
Fran Riley

A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree. Over 50 people from Packages were delivered on Monday, December 10. Gifts were bought for over 50 individuals ranging from children to adults. Salem is proud to be one of many congregations that help to support the clients of LSSI in this way. Gifts were returned to Salem and dropped off at LSSI in mid-December in time for their holiday parties. Thank you to the Salem members who eagerly came forward to participate in the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' sharing tree project.

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 8am: Men's Bible Study 7pm: Serendipity	3 9:30am: Bible Study 6pm: Sanctuary Bells 7pm: Sanctuary Choir	4	5
6 February Monthly Bugle Content Due 8am: Worship 9:30am: Education Hour / Blood Pressures 10:45am: Worship	7 Annual Reports Due 9am: TOPS Meeting	8 Northern Conference Meeting 9:15am: Rebecca Circle 7pm: Council Meeting 7pm: Outreach Meeting 7:30pm: Education Meeting	9 8am: Men's Bible Study 9:30am: Quilters 10am: Staff Meeting 5:30pm: Primetime! 6pm: Breaking Bread 6:30pm: Naomi Circle 6:30pm: Financial Peace University 6:30pm: Praise Team Practice 6:30pm: Faith for Life / Kappa Chi 7pm: Serendipity	10 9:30am: Bible Study	11 6pm: Brage Lodge	12
13 Fair Trade Sunday 8am: Worship 9:30am: Education Hour 10:45am: Worship 11:45am: Lunch and Bingo 12pm: Kappa Chi	14 9am: TOPS Meeting	15 10am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Property & Finance Meeting	16 8am: Men's Bible Study 9:30am: Quilters 5:30pm: Primetime! 6pm: Breaking Bread 6:30pm: Financial Peace University 6:30pm: Praise Team Practice 6:30pm: Faith for Life/Kappa Chi 7pm: Serendipity	17 9:30am: Bible Study 6pm: Sanctuary Bells 7pm: Sanctuary Choir	18	19
20 8am: Worship 9:30am: Education Hour 10:45am: Worship 12pm: Kappa Chi	21 9am: TOPS Meeting 11:30am: Women of Salem Board Meeting 2pm: Salem Blood Drive 7pm: Salem Churchmen at Lariat Club	22 10am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Worship & Music Meeting	23 8am: Men's Bible Study 9am: Midwest Food Bank 9:30am: Quilters 5:30pm: Primetime! 6pm: Breaking Bread 6:30pm: Financial Peace University 6:30pm: Faith for Life 7pm: Serendipity	24 9:30am: Bible Study 1:30pm: LHV Service 6pm: Sanctuary Bells 7pm: Sanctuary Choir	25	26
27 8am: Worship 9:30am: Education Hour 10:45am: Worship 12:30pm: Annual Meeting	28 9am: TOPS Meeting	29 10am: Staff Meeting	30 8am: Men's Bible Study 9:30am: Quilters 5:30pm: Primetime! 6pm: Breaking Bread 6:30pm: Financial Peace University 6:30pm: Faith for Life /Kappa Chi 7pm: Serendipity	31 9:30am: Bible Study 5pm: Executive Committee 6pm: Sanctuary Bells 7pm: Sanctuary Choir		



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Memories from December



Caroling at Lutheran Hillside Village



Advent Event - Morning Edition



Sunday School Christmas Program



Advent Event - Evening Edition