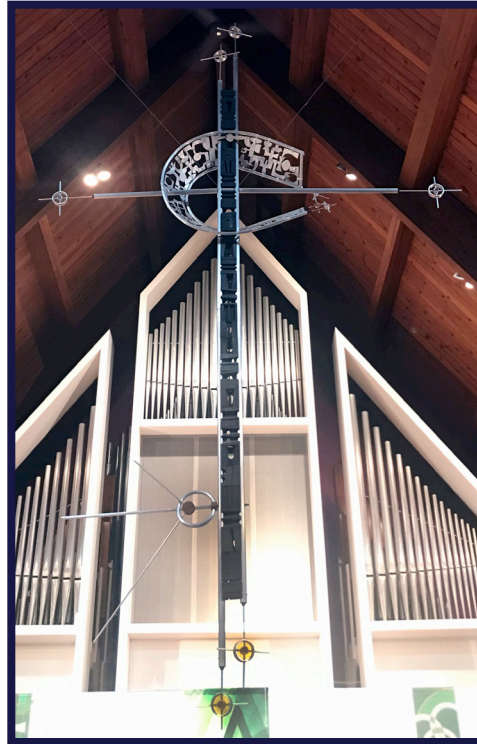


# the Bugle

It is difficult not to notice that the cross is evident in many congregations and certainly at Salem. From the cruciform shape of the sanctuary to the large and unique “Cross of Involvement” which hangs over the altar, the cross is central to our identity and focus at Salem. The processional cross with the image of the resurrected Jesus leads us in and out as we worship. Various banners and paraments include a cross in their design. Lay leaders and pastor alike wear crosses as a symbol of the one in whose name we gather. There are crosses on the candle stands, at the base of the eternal light that shines above the font and even the large light fixtures that illumine the main area of the chancel are marked with the sign of the cross. Why is it that this image of death and destruction is so central to our identity and place of gathering? We know that the cross is a Christian image but the fish is as well and is perhaps the earliest image of the first century believers. Jesus said, “follow me and I will teach you to fish for people” but he also said, “take up your cross daily and follow me.” So why the cross, the image of guilt, shame and oppression as our primary image for faith in Jesus? Shouldn’t we be drawing our attention to rainbows and butterflies, puffy clouds and sunshine?

For this and perhaps other reasons, many people do not care much for Lent. It is too dark, sad and depressing. Many people attend worship on Christmas and then not again until Easter because these are joyous celebrations and it feels better to be uplifted than reminded of the darkness that is



seemingly getting deeper these days. We seem to be on a roller coaster ride between extremes. We are very happy or very sad. I feel healthy or sick. News is really good or it is really bad and it can change in an instant. So why focus on the cross which ties both together?

As we move through this time of Epiphany, I am looking ahead to March and the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday this year will be March 6 with Easter on April 21 so I am preparing for what is to come and I am pondering the image of the cross to direct our meditations and focus. While there are many obvious images of the cross around us, I am considering focusing on the less obvious

ways the life transforming cross leads us every day.

I propose we challenge ourselves to view the world and those around us from the perspective that is defined **through the cross**. Next month’s *Bugle* will contain a schedule of weekly themes to guide us as we meet on Wednesdays to ponder a message of hope and encouragement because of what Jesus has accomplished **through the cross**. Without the cross there is no resurrection. Without the darkness there is no contrast of light. My prayer is that you join me on a 40 day journey that opens us to a deeper understanding of what Jesus has done and continues to do among us. Jesus is our hope and divine response to the world’s greatest need. He meets us most clearly and most profoundly **through the cross**.



Pastor Craig Swenson

## Salem Discoveries

As we have been opened for God's dream to become a reality here at Salem, reaching out and drawing in others has percolated up to the top of our priorities. In fact, the most dominant focus of our MAP survey was that we feel called to grow. Grow in membership; grow in worship and ministry participation. And that's what this initiative is all about.



**Evangelism**—reaching out with the Good News of Christ—has always been at the heart of Christian mission. And yet, the reality is that this core calling of all of Christ's church has too often fallen away from that which has energized our passions and energies. The bottom line reason why this is central to our future as Salem is because people are important to God... and people are important to us. It's just about that simple.

The good news is that while there's much to do, there's much fruit to be identified. We will be looking at everything from PR to social media to personal invitation as together we renew this ministry, draw others into the care and embrace of God's family, and grow our church!

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

### SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, Sunday, February 10, 12pm

The Special Congregational Meeting agenda will include two motions for consideration:

- The first motion will be to ask for congregational approval to move forward with the next steps of the building project, which will consist of contracting Miller & Associates to complete construction drawings for the project and to proceed with project quoting.
- The second motion will be to ask for congregational approval to proceed with procurement and installation of new signage for Salem (along the War Memorial side of the property).



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Deadline for copy is the 6th of each month at 12:00pm in the church office.

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

## IMMEDIATE NEED! Sidewalk Snow Removal

An immediate paid opportunity is available to shovel and salt the church sidewalks and entrances. Please contact Rick Lambie if you are interested (309-265-5029).

## Do You Know Your Gifts?

Spiritual gifts, that is. Have you ever tried to do something but it just did not seem to come naturally? It could be that you have a different set of gifts. Skills and talents can be learned and developed but some are a more natural fit than others. The ELCA website includes an online survey to help you assess your spiritual gifts. The Time and Talent portion of Stewardship will kick off with a **Ministry Fair on March 10**. Do you want to see what is a good fit for you? Follow the link here to help identify your God-given abilities so that you can more easily apply them in serving others. <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools>

## 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.

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 and take a look at the silent auction items or email Gayle at [gyoung@komenmemorial.org](mailto:gyoung@komenmemorial.org).



## Lunch & Singing Valentines

On **Sunday, February 10** after the **Congregational Meeting**, Salem Senior Ministries is organizing lunch followed by Singing Valentines. If you are interested in joining our group to sing please contact Joan Creager at (309) 231-7724. All singers of every age are welcome to join!

## 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 **now 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.

## Secretary for Worship & Music Ministry Group

The Worship & Music Ministry is searching for a person to be secretary. This person will take notes on the meetings and type up the minutes. We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

**Position has been filled**



## Cross-Generational Game Night, Feb. 1

Cross-Generational Game Night on Friday, February 1 from 6pm-8pm. All ages welcome. Pizza will be provided.



## MARDI GRAS PANCAKE & SAUSAGE SUPPER

Come celebrate the Mardi Gras season with a pancake and sausage supper on **Wednesday, February 27** in the social hall at Salem. The meal will be served from **5pm-6:30pm** and you may make your reservations by signing up on the Pancake Supper sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

Proceeds from the supper will benefit Thomas Jefferson school, Salem's adopt-a-school partner. A donation of \$5 per person or \$15 maximum per family will be taken at the door the night of the supper.

We encourage you to sign up and join in the fun of this pancake supper that has been a tradition at Salem. We thank you in advance for supporting outreach ministry at Salem. For more information contact Kelly Brinkman at [kellyjasonbrinkman@att.net](mailto:kellyjasonbrinkman@att.net).

## Menu BREAKING BREAD



Primetime, Breaking Bread and Faith for Life continues its winter session through February 27.

Salem serves a family meal each **Wednesday evening at 6pm** during the program year. We are in need of additional help cooking, serving and helping clean up after the meals in February. There are other ways to help, too – like providing a dessert for 50 people one week. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you can help or contact Jill Goldhammer or Inez Norgard for more information.

**February 6:** Fried Chicken

**February 13:** Guatemala Meal benefiting the Rees Family Guatemala Mission Trip

**February 20:** Chili, soup and grilled cheese, pineapple, and dessert

**February 27:** Pancakes & Sausage – Mardi Gras Meal benefiting Thomas Jefferson Primary School (read more to the left!)

Breaking Bread – Spring 2019

Resumes on April 24

## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

Salem's 2019 Vacation Bible School **TO MARS AND BEYOND!** will be held Monday, July 29 - Friday, August 2 from 9AM - noon everyday.



Voyagers 3 years old through the 5th grade will experience a space travel adventure to explore where God's power can take them. Along the journey, Voyagers discover a new realm of possibilities as they reach for the stars and encounter the limitless power and love of God.

There will be a great need for student and adult volunteers during the week and many ways to become involved in this awesome Salem outreach event. The Children, Youth and Family Leadership Team is currently recruiting VBS Team Leaders. **Please contact Jill Goldhammer or Rebecca Sipf if you can help.**

## YOUTH SERVICE

Kappa Chi Students have been hard at work preparing for the 2019 Youth Service which we be held during both worship services on **Sunday, February 17, 2019**. Please help us invite any Kappa Chi Alumni who are in the area to join us.

Larry Olson will be our musical guest for the Youth Service and will be in concert the night before, **Saturday, February 16 at 7pm**. Current students and alumni are welcome to come for a pizza dinner with Larry at 6pm at the church. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to join us for pizza.



## LARRY OLSON CONCERT

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.**

Enjoy a night of song and praise! Proceeds from the concert will benefit Richwoods High School's Can Do Kids Club. Richwoods High School's Can Do Kids Club is an organization striving to build a well that will provide clean water for two schools in rural Kenya. They hope to gain support from the community to reach their \$5000 goal in order to complete this project. For more information visit [candokidsrichwoods.weebly.com](http://candokidsrichwoods.weebly.com).

## BE LIKE JESUS 24 HOUR SERVANT LOCK-IN

On **February 22-23**, Salem will host the a 24-hour servant lock-in for 3rd through 6th graders from congregations in our conference and the community starting at 7pm. This annual event draws 150+ children and youth and includes worship with guest Christian artist, Shawn Smith, hands-on small group service projects in the community, food, fellowship and fun. There is a separate component for 7th & 8th graders at this event and high school and post-high students serve as small group leaders. Salem is proud to host this AWESOME event each year. Help us invite children from the community by passing on information about the event available at the Welcome Center and on-line. Salem children are encouraged to register as soon as possible and invite a friend to come along. Please contact Jill Goldhammer, Salem's Director of Children, Youth and Families, with questions.





# LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER OPPORTUNITIES



Salem has a long history of love and support for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) located in Oregon, Illinois. If you are unfamiliar with LOMC, please visit their website at [www.lomc.org](http://www.lomc.org) to learn more about this excellent Bible Camp.

The Salem CYF program is offering the following upcoming opportunities for children, youth and parents to get a taste of camp life and the great programs offered through LOMC:

## Overnight Retreat for 3rd-5th graders on Friday-Saturday; March 22 & 23

We will leave Salem at 4:30pm on Friday and return by 6pm on Saturday. The cost is \$65 per person which includes lodging, a snack, two meals on Saturday and the camp program. Activities include: Bible study, worship, games, campfire, team building, hiking, and the prayer labyrinth. Salem will provide \$25.00 scholarships per child making the cost per Salem child \$40. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by **March 3**. Parents are welcome to come along for this AWESOME overnight retreat.



## Junior/Senior High Retreat for 6th – 9th graders on Friday – Sunday; April 26-28

We will leave Salem at 4:30pm on Friday and return by 3pm on Sunday. The cost is \$130 per student which includes lodging, five meals, two snacks, and the camp program. Activities include: Bible study, worship, games, campfire, team building, hiking, and the prayer labyrinth. Salem will provide \$65.00 scholarships per youth making the cost per Salem youth \$65.00. Please sign up at the Welcome Center

by **March 31**.

**Theme:** It Only Takes A Spark... to pass on God's love to others! It only takes a spark to ignite our passions to serve others! It only takes a spark to start changing the world! It only takes a spark to get the fire burning!

## KAPPA CHI 2019 SUMMER MISSION TRIP ANNOUNCED

Students in our High School Ministry, Kappa Chi, will participate in a week-long mission trip through Youth Works this summer. We will serve in Benton Harbor, Michigan Sunday, June 30 through Friday, July 5. Watch for more details!



## UPDATE ON COLLECTION FOR THE ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge

Sunday School children have been donating their offering this year to the Global Farm Challenge. Thanks to the Congregational Council, permission to start collecting a “Noisy Can Offering” during worship was given. Starting in November, at the 3rd

Sunday worship, Sunday School children helped to pass the “cans” to the congregation during the Offering. To date, a Noisy Can Collection was taken in November and December. As of the end of December, almost **\$2,000** has been collected through the children's Sunday offering and the Noisy Can collection! Thank you, Salem Family! We will be collecting offerings through May. So save your loose change... even pennies can help families who are hungry.

As you may remember from previous Bugle articles, the Global Farm Challenge is an initiative of the ELCA to support the agriculture-related programs of ELCA World Hunger, our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. Almost 80 percent of all the world's food is produced on small farms where parents and children often work side by side. Growing food is just one of the many ways farmers care for God's creation and help share God's gifts with others so that all are fed. Yet half of the world's 815 million undernourished people live on farms themselves. Without access to adequate resources and training, farming families can often go hungry. And when the unexpected happens – drought, flooding, conflict and beyond – fewer farmers can make it through. But access to livestock, seeds, tools and training can change everything. Parents can earn income to save, kids can go to school, and their families can stay safe and secure in their homes. With support from ELCA World Hunger, communities around the world are working together to end hunger – for good. <https://www.elca.org/GlobalFarmChallenge>



OUTREACH  
MINISTRY



# GLOBAL MISSIONS: Mawali Update

Please pray for sponsorship for the Ulrich family in Malawi (Luke, Jamie, Mark, Miriam and Aaron). They are entering their third year of missionary work for this African country, one of the poorest in the world.

In 2018, Salem provided funding help from the outreach, endowment, and the generosity of individual gifts. Salem collected two large boxes of yarn for the women to knit sweaters for the children who have none. Already one-half of the yarn has been used.

In addition, 360 books were collected to provide books to children that have none and to start libraries in the orphanages that are a focus for the Ulrich's ministry.

In 2019, the major help needed is funding for the new sausage business being started, bed nets, schooling for special students, and fees for young children from the orphanage to attend preschool (\$3.30 per month).

Please join us on **March 3, Global Mission Sunday**, as Salem will celebrate all work being done around the world with our emphasis on our particular role with missionary sponsorship, and specifically the Ulrichs in Malawi. For more information follow the Ulrich's blog: [hoperisestogether.wordpress.com](http://hoperisestogether.wordpress.com).



## Thomas Jefferson Pen Pal Letters

Please return your Thomas Jefferson Pen Pal Letter return them by **Sunday, February 17**.

## Fair Trade

Stop by and see our array of Fair Trade items in the Gallery on **Sunday, February 3**. We are always happy to answer questions and help you find your favorite Fair Trade Items.

## Sound Board Volunteer

Salem could use some new recruits to help regularly (one service a month or to substitute when needed) monitor the sound board during first or second church service. A brief introduction to the controls is all it takes. Questions may be directed to me or any of our sound board operators. Email Tim Hickey at [timhickey2017@gmail.com](mailto:timhickey2017@gmail.com).

## Salem Quilters

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



Start with the misgivings of two parents when their 7 year old daughter wanted to help people in a foreign country. Jump eleven years to the ninth trip by a member of the Rees family to serve other families living in extreme poverty in Guatemala.

In between, we have witnessed heartbreaking living conditions but yet the never ending resilience of people striving for basic necessities. We have seen a school system that does not have funds for buildings or teachers and does not require attendance, but we have met parents who spend over half their income to educate their children. And in spite of obstacles unimaginable here in the United States and with zero governmental assistance, we have marveled at people who are dedicated to helping their fellow countrymen.

We found that our initial misgivings were addressed by Now Is The Time For Missions directed by Shawn and Damaris Smith. Their family-friendly mission encourages people from ages 7 to 77 to bring God’s love to a people in desperate need. All transportation, food, lodging and activities are conducted in a safe environment.

The most requested and important activity is an after-school VBS style program presented to over 200 children who receive NO child oriented religious message throughout the year. We are truly missionaries bringing God’s Word.

During the day we distribute donated children’s clothing and perform light construction to assist families improve their health and their living conditions and to enable their children to ultimately break this cycle of extreme poverty.

**We will be presenting more information at the Breaking Bread dinner on Wednesday, February 13 at 6pm. Clothing donations will be collected at both events.**

Thank you to the generous members of our Salem family who have supported us and, in the Epiphany spirit, who have brought light into a dark corner of the world.

Julianna Rees  
Karen Norman Rees  
David Rees



## World Day of Prayer: Come - Everything is Ready

At the core of the theme, an invitation - Come; and to enable the response - Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank and proclaim the kingdom of love (Luke 14:15-24). The invitation is grounded in the parable that Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by the ones called off the streets, as the ones invited excused themselves. The community formed around the table is not enough to fill the house- there is still room. Who are missing from the table in your community? How would you invite and prepare the feast? Throughout the worship service, we hear the stories of those who are coming to the table of bread, wine, water and salt. Their stories reflect the political and economic situation from the time Slovenia was a socialist-communist state to today. Their stories are the voices of the refugee and migrant workers, the mothers, the grandmothers, the wives, and the Roma people. While listening to their stories, we ask forgiveness for being silent in the face of injustice, and we pray that God open our hearts to compassion and understanding. And we leave with a blessing prayer to mutually support one another on the path of freedom, justice and peace. May the welcoming God enable us to set the table and fill the communities with hope, love and joy!



**World Day of Prayer on March 1, 2019, Salem Lutheran Church at 9AM**

## Women of Salem Advent Event: Thank You!

Women of Salem Advent Events were held on December 12 at 10am and 7pm. A huge thanks to Lynn Ackers and her lovely crew of women for fabulous food and Sue Colloton, Jill Goldhammer and Rebbecca Sipf for wonderful decorations. We are so grateful to Marty Creager, Susie Bohm and Natalie Arff for providing us with Thrivent Action cards to allow both these events to go on smoothly.

## General Membership Gathering for LWGP

Ladies of Salem, we welcome you to take a tour of Lutheran Hillside Village (LHV) on **Friday morning, Feb 8**. Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria (LWGP) will begin at 9am with a continental breakfast in the Waters of Life Chapel, on the 2nd floor. We will be given a tour to see and hear what LHV offers and see several items on LHV’s 2018 Wish List that were purchased by funds raised by LWGP.

### FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER, RN

February is American Heart Month and the key to prevention of heart disease is developing and maintaining your heart health. This begins with knowing your risk factors and modifying or controlling those that you can. **The first category of risk factors includes those that cannot be changed:** *aging (those over 65 at higher risk), male gender (men have a higher risk though women’s risk after menopause does increase), and heredity, including race.* **The second category includes those that can be modified, treated, or controlled:** *tobacco smoke (including second-hand), high blood pressure, physical inactivity, high cholesterol, obesity, and uncontrolled diabetes.* **There are is also a third category of contributing factors which include stress, alcohol, and diet.** Heart prevention doesn’t begin at the first sign of your controllable or contributing risk factors but as early as your 20’s and early 30’s. Everyone can benefit from a healthy diet and exercise. Stop by the Welcome Center for ways to prevent heart disease at any age.



Lori Reimer, RN





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



<b>February 1</b> Chris Cochran Lynnce Coyner Karen Durst Roxanne Vandervlugt	<b>February 6</b> Rick Lambie	<b>February 15</b> Anton Martin	Alan Puttcamp
<b>February 2</b> Martin Wiesehan	<b>February 7</b> Maren Thompson	<b>February 16</b> Janet Jones	<b>February 24</b> Chad Arnold Lesley Howard Gerri Hoehn Christine Steele
<b>February 3</b> John Iverson Bill Ligon	<b>February 8</b> Wendy Thomasson	<b>February 17</b> Pat Sanders	<b>February 25</b> Jacob Ferrell
<b>February 4</b> Barbara Ackerman Landon Peterson Adelaide Taubert-Koss	<b>February 9</b> Emily Peterson	<b>February 18</b> Annette Doughty	<b>February 26</b> Marla Breidel Mia Hoffman
<b>February 5</b> Sarah Bidne Janet Wiesehan	<b>February 11</b> Diane Proft	<b>February 19</b> Wendy Cochran John Harvey	<b>February 27</b> Conner Bidne
	<b>February 12</b> Norma Hartman Lisa Janco	<b>February 20</b> William Gavin Lila Moore	<b>February 28</b> Teresa Wright
	<b>February 13</b> Sandra Baumgarten	<b>February 21</b> Noah Hopkins Vickie Larson	
	<b>February 14</b> Allison Harvey		

A View of Salem's Financial Status

Month of December, 2018			
General Fund	Budget	Actual	Difference
December Giving	\$49,002	\$72,264	\$23,262
Expenses	\$49,361	\$47,055	\$2,306
Net Income (Loss)	(\$359)	\$25,208	
Year-to-Date, 2018			
General Fund	Budget	Actual	Difference
Giving	\$608,300	\$604,243	\$4,057
Expenses	\$592,327	\$566,619	\$25,708
Net Income (Loss)	\$15,973	\$37,624	

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
  - Wally Bastian and his family
  - Stephanie Dammann’s grandfather
  - Tommy Emmer
  - Keith Erickson
  - Evie (kidney dialysis)
  - Mary Gibson
- Jack Grant
  - Linda Hernandez
  - Ron Hipple
  - Amy Hoffman
  - Jean Huprich and family
  - Katie and her children
  - Helen Johnson
  - Bill Mettam
  - Bill Monckton
  - Jan Murzyn
  - Henry Noe
  - Dr. Rick O’Connor
  - Liz Osborne
  - The Purcell/Manning Family
  - Dave Rees and his father
- Barbi Ricketts
  - Pat Sanders
  - Ella Vandervlugt
  - Wayne (brother of Barbi Ricketts)
  - Laraine Wessell
  - Lesley Wegrzyn
  - Jean and Frank Yancick
- PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

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

Overseas:  
Talon Maki

THANK YOU!

- **LHV Cookie Walk Update**

The Annual Cookie Walk was an overwhelming success! The goal was to raise over \$2,000 for LHV’s Benevolent Fund. In 2018, the Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria raised over \$2,250!

Our gratitude to Paula Sydow and other members of Salem that delivered baked goods on December 13, helped us with preparations or chose to donate monetarily. We had oodles of cookies, a wide assortment of sweet treats and at least four kinds of homemade fudge. Our continuous flow of customers from 8am-11 am was a joy to see. LHV residents were all smiles. The LHV employees began the day with a 6am staff breakfast dressed in their holiday finest and having the Cookie Walk afterwards was a bonus. The ladies of LWGP say “Thank you!”

• Thanks to everyone who bought my book of poetry, “In Sickness and in Health.” It was gratifying, and I sold 50 copies. Thank you -Luan Borquist

• Special thanks to Pastor Craig and Lori for my hospital visits, and to Nadine for being my personal attendant. The many Get Well cards and amazing power of prayer were heard and answered. Truly feel blessed to be part of this Salem Family. God is good, all the time. A blessed New Year to each of you.-Barbi Ricketts

• Thanking all my Salem Family for the beautiful poinsettia plant, and Gary Setterlund for delivering it. Thank you, it meant a lot to me. -Sue Barham

• My thanks to all of my Salem Family for the great bag of cards, candy, etc. delivered by Lori Reimer. Blessings to all of you, and Happy New Year!-Mary Gustafson

• My appreciation to Helene Peterson for bringing me your messages of Glad Tidings with Santa’s pack of gifts “making spirits bright”. The joy you gave to me I wish abundantly for you in the New Year with God’s Blessings of everlasting peace and hope. Sincerely- Bea Kent
- Betty and Matthew Bennett want the congregation to know that they appreciate and enjoyed the gifts they received. Thank you!

• Thank you for the nice Christmas bag with all the cards and snacks. Thank you Paula and Sandy for delivering it. -Ruth Landes

• To my Salem Church Family: I was overwhelmed by your many Christmas cards and treats. Thank you so much! -Fran Riley

• Thanks to Inez and Bruce for delivering the Christmas bags from the congregation and Lydia Circle. We loved reading all the cards and Walt is enjoying the gifts and treats. Blessings and Christmas wishes. We love you-Walt & Joy Anderson

• I am writing to express my thanks for all the hard work the volunteers and membership at Salem Lutheran provide. Throughout the year many families, including ours, benefit from the love the congregation shows to the community. We need to give special thanks to the children of the church for the cards and letters, which touch our hearts. I would also like to mention what a pleasure it has been working with office staff over the years. At this time in Mother's life it means a lot to receive the attention from the church and our family can't thank you enough. In closing we wish the Salem Lutheran congregation of Peoria a safe and blessed 2019. Sincerely, Randy Gruber

• So many blessings bestowed upon us. Thanks to Pastor Swenson for his visit and communion, to Edell and Al Berg for delivering the beautiful poinsettia and to Lydia Circle and Salem friends for the many birthday greetings Walt received. We miss you, Walt & Joy Anderson

• Thank you for the wonderful box and cards and treats from our Salem friends and the Sunday School students. We are especially grateful for the notes on the cards which involved extra time, but made our day. In past years, we put cards in the bags at Salem, but to be on the receiving end is a rare treat and so appreciated by both of us. A special thanks to Nadine for all the work of sending that wonderful

- box. Our best to one and all at Salem in the coming year of 2019- Helen and Carl Buerger
- A huge thank you from Sunday bus riders to our faithful drivers Randy Blum, Dean Doughty, Scott Faulkner, and John Ford who are so willing and even fun as they get us to church every Sunday. And to Jill who has helped with special events. Bless you all!
- Thanks to all who sent Christmas cards and provided the poinsettia. Frank really enjoyed receiving the cards and plant. Thank you to Pastor Swenson, Early and Bonnie Gallas and Lois Knutson for their visits. They were greatly appreciated. Thank you – Frank and Jean Yancick
- Two Big Thank Yous**
- A thousand thanks from the Salem family to those who have provided coffee hour treats this past year. They have been delicious and of great variety. Thank you again!
- Anyone who would like to donate treats is most welcome to sign up for a Sunday of your choice on the sheet on the Welcome Center counter in the gallery. Or you may call Annette Doughty for information or to volunteer at 446-3400.
- Special thanks go out to the willing helpers who take their turns scrubbing and polishing to make sure Salem’s kitchen is ready for use at all times. Our gratitude is extended to the Salem Preschool board, Church Council, Faith for Life, Naomi Circle, Rebecca Circle, Lydia Circle, Kappa Chi, Salem Churchmen, and Serendipity. THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL!
- Any individual, family or group is encouraged to volunteer to take a month to clean just one time. The work goes quickly, and your ministry of service would be greatly appreciated. Simply call Annette Doughty for information or to volunteer (446-3400.)*



## FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6pm: Cross-generational Game Night	2
3 <b>Home Communion Fair Trade Sunday</b> 8am: Worship 9:15am: Education Hour / Blood Pressures 10:45am: Worship 12pm: Kappa Chi	4 9am: TOPS Meeting	5 9:15am: Rebecca Circle 10am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Council Meeting	6 <b>March Monthly Bugle Content Due</b> 8am: Men's Bible Study 9:30am: Quilters 5:30pm: Primetime! 6pm: Breaking Bread 6:30pm: Naomi Circle 6:30pm: Praise Team Practice 6:30pm: Financial Peace University 6:30pm: Faith for Life / Kappa Chi 7pm: Serendipity	7 6:45am: Endowment Committee 9:30am: Bible Study 6pm: Sanctuary Bells 7pm: Sanctuary Choir	8	9 6pm: La Nuit Rosé
10 8am: Worship 9:15am: Education Hour 10:45am: Worship 12pm: Special Congregational Meeting 12pm: Kappa Chi 12pm: Singing Valentines	11 9am: TOPS Meeting	12 <b>Northern Conference Meeting</b> 7:30pm: Education Meeting	13 8am: Men's Bible Study 9:30am: Quilters 10am: Staff Meeting 5:30pm: Primetime! 6pm: Breaking Bread 6:30pm: Praise Team Practice 6:30pm: Financial Peace University 6:30pm: Faith for Life/Kappa Chi 7pm: Serendipity	14 9:30am: Bible Study 6pm: Sanctuary Bells 7pm: Sanctuary Choir	15 6pm: Brage Lodge	16 7am: Youth Service Rehearsal 6pm: Kappa Chi Dinner 7pm: Larry Olson Concert
17 <b>Noisy Can Collection Youth Service Return Pen Pal Letters</b> 8am: Worship 9:15am: Education Hour/ Kappa Chi Reception 10:45am: Worship	18 9am: TOPS Meeting 11:30am: Women of Salem Board Meeting 7pm: Salem Churchmen at Lariat Club	19 10am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Outreach Meeting 7pm: Property & Finance Meeting	20 8am: Men's Bible Study 9am: Midwest Food Bank 9:30am: Quilters 5:30pm: Primetime! 6pm: Breaking Bread-Guatemala 6:30pm: Financial Peace University 6:30pm: Faith for Life 7pm: Serendipity	21 9:30am: Bible Study 6pm: Sanctuary Bells 7pm: Sanctuary Choir	22 <b>Be Like Jesus</b> 6pm: Be Like Jesus Volunteer Check-in 7pm: Be Like Jesus Student Check-in	23 <b>Be Like Jesus</b> 7pm: Be Like Jesus Closing
24 8am: Worship 9:15am: Education Hour 10:45am: Worship	25 9am: TOPS Meeting	26 10am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Worship & Music Meeting	27 8am: Men's Bible Study 9:30am: Quilters 5:30pm: Primetime! 6pm: Breaking Bread -Mardi Gras 6:30pm: Financial Peace University 6:30pm: Faith for Life /Kappa Chi 7pm: Serendipity	28 9:30am: Bible Study 1:30pm: LHV Service 5pm: Executive Committee 6pm: Sanctuary Bells 7pm: Sanctuary Choir		





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

## THROUGH THE CROSS

Join us at Salem for a 40 day journey that opens us to a deeper understanding of what Jesus has done and continues to do among us beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6. Jesus is our hope and divine response to the world's greatest need. He meets us most clearly and most profoundly *through the cross*.

### Ash Wednesday, March 6

Services with communion will be at 11am and 6:30pm

### Lenten Midweek Services (March 13-April 10)

- 11am service, and then followed with a luncheon.
- **New Time!** 5:30 soup supper followed by 6:30pm service.

*A free will offering will be collected at the Lenten meals to go toward the food costs.*

These are great times for fellowship, so we hope you will attend at least one of them as we take a 40 day journey through the cross.