



# the Bugle

**A**s I take up the task of crafting this article, I look over my computer screen to see the trees and ground covered with fresh snow. The morning started early with shoveling at my own house then helping to clear the area around the church and particularly the area that will one day become the new atrium. Temperature is in the mid-20's but with salt and ice melt, some plowing and shoveling, the streets are clearing, traffic is flowing on W. War Memorial Drive, work resumes on the construction project and life goes on. We have no control over the passage of time. Ready or not, the hands of time and what comes with it press us forward.



Pastor Craig Swenson

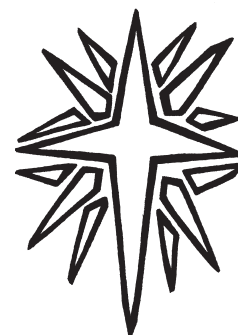
On this wintry day, the following hymn comes to mind. It is a reminder that even when the depths of winter swirl around us, there is comfort in the assurance that God is with us. "Immanuel." I pray the words to the hymn bring you hope in the winter stages of your lives and that your heart will be moved with gratitude for what God continues to do among us. Peace to you we enter deeper into the winter season, through Christmas and into the joyous season of Epiphany when we expand our joy to the world for Christ is born anew among us.

*1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.*

*2 Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.*

*3 What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.*

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894





Kristen Schmid

## A new church year, a new calendar year!

When I first told my kids I was going to seminary, my youngest son noted I would be done when the movie Godzilla vs. King Kong came out, and immediately began lobbying to see it. He also noted he would be 11, which struck him as impossibly distant. The year 2020, and finishing seminary, seemed impossibly distant to me, too. So it is with amazement, and gratitude to God

and the many people who have supported and taught me, that I see the finish line emerge in the distance.

This year I've found the changing liturgy and seasons of the church calendar to be an especially meaningful source of peace and faith. During the last several weeks I've enjoyed getting to experience special holiday events and worship services at Salem. I've had good opportunities to gain experience and confidence in preaching and teaching. Members who have been part of the Sunday morning Bible study, "From Death to Life: The Theology of the Cross and Our Baptismal Promises," have provided thoughtful participation and feedback. I've been grateful for the chance to refine and improve the class from week to week, and especially appreciated the insights and faith stories participants shared with the group.

Wishing you a new year filled with God's peace –  
Kristen

## Annual Reports Due Jan. 6

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 6, 2020**.

## Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan. 26

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 26 immediately following 10:45am worship**.

## Music Job Openings Available

Salem Lutheran Church currently has three job openings for your consideration:

**Director of Music Ministry, Choir Director and Organist/Accompanist**

To apply for either of these jobs or to share the job descriptions, please contact the church office at (309) 688-9212 or office@salemofpeoria.com.



Office Email:  
office@salemofpeoria.com

**Craig Swenson,**  
Senior Pastor  
cswenson@salemofpeoria.com

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

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**December monthly content is due December 6.**

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

## Constitution Amendment

The Salem Congregation Council voted at their December 3 meeting to recommend a change to Section C12.01 of the Constitution for Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The current constitution states "The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s) and not more than 16 nor fewer than 14 members of the congregation.

The proposed motion from the Council is to recommend the following :

"The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the rostered leaders and not more than 12 nor fewer than 9 members of the congregation."

This recommendation will be on the agenda of the next Annual Meeting which will be **January 26, 2020 at 12:30pm**. If approved, it will need to be ratified at the 2021 Annual Meeting before becoming effective.

## Advent Season Decorating Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Sanctuary and Narthex for the Advent season. Many hands make light work and your efforts are greatly appreciated. Thank you to Norma Hartman, chair of Worship and Music, for coordinating and bringing delicious treats! Thank you to the following people who assisted:

Lynn Akers  
Sue and Don Hamann  
Norma and Ron Hartman  
Sarah Kammerer  
Suzanne Ligon

Gretchen Petrakis  
Paula Sydow  
Leo Vandervlugt  
Nadine Willems

## Advent Season Decorations Removal

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 8 at 9:00am to come and help remove the decorations. This takes less time than putting them up and the more people that can come help, the sooner we will be finished.

## Secretary for Worship & Music Ministry Group

The Worship & Music Ministry is searching for a person to record ministry minutes. This ministry meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Please contact Norma Hartman if you are interested or have questions.

## 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 Library from **January 19 through February 9**. People to remember are: Walt Anderson, Natalee Arff, Susan Barham, Betty and Matthew Bennett, Alf Berg, Carl and Helen Buerger, Jr., Ruby Chelgren, Marge Gramm, Vi Gruber, Amy Hoffman, Bev Holmes, Shirley Hornecker, John Johnson, Bea Kent, Ruth Landes, Carl Lindquist, Bev Maier, Bill Mettam, Elaine McHugh, Nancy Owens, Kay Peterson, Fran Riley, John and Marge Ryberg, Arlene Schroeder, Irene Sawatzky, Cindy Turner, Frank Yancick, and Roman Wegrzyn.

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.

## FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER, RN

Though we don't want to think about it, the time of year where slips and falls occur due to winter precipitation is here. Even when ice and snow are cleared, there may be icy patches that remain. Do your best at preventing falling by:

- Wearing proper foot gear.
- Take small steps to keep your center of balance under you.
- Walk slowly and never run on icy ground.
- Keep both hands free for balance, rather than in your pockets.
- Use handrails from start to finish.
- Avoid carrying loads on stairways; carry loads that you can see over.
- Keep your eyes on where you are going.
- Test potentially slick areas by tapping your foot on them.
- Step slowly from vehicles.
- Keep walkways clear of debris, water, ice and slippery materials.



Lori Reimer, RN



## Blood Drive Reminder

Salem's Blood Drive is January 20 from 2pm-6pm and will be located at the Peoria Christian Center on Brandywine Drive. Please sign-up in advance in the church office, at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or by notifying Lori Reimer. If you have already signed up, using the Rapid Pass before you come in that day will shorten your pre-donation time. If you have any questions about the drive, signing up, ways to help, or the Rapid Pass, please check with Lori Reimer.

## Noisy Can Collection, January 19

Thank you for your donations last month to the "Noisy Can Collection!" The "Noisy Can Collection" and the weekly offering of Sunday School children will support Habitat for Humanity of Greater Peoria Area. Children will be passing a "Noisy Can" during the Offering on the third Sunday each month at both services. For more information about Habitat for Humanity, please see their website: <https://habitatpeoria.org>.

## Adult Fellowship Events in 2020

Mark your calendars and plan to attend these adult fellowship events!

**Sat. Jan. 11, 6pm-** Games & Pizza at Oliver's North

**Sat. February 8, 3pm-** Fired-Up in Peoria Heights

**March (date to be announced)** bowling

**Sat. April 11, 5pm-** One World dinner & Matthew Grebner's recital

Please sign-up for the **January 11**, Adult Fellowship event in the church office.

Adult Fellowship is an adult social group who get together for a fun events throughout the year. These include dinner, game night, golf or a concert. It's a chance to get to know other Salem members, and do something fun with other Christians.

# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS IN THE WEEKLY EXTRA...

Come maintain God's church!



## Property & Finance Ministry Group

Property and Finance Ministry group serve as steward of Salem church & property: managing it inside and out, identifying and prioritizing improvement, and maintenance needs. The ministry group generates and evaluates options and engages contractors when needed; while always keeping an eye on careful use of Salem's resources. Members of the group are dedicated in giving of their skills and time to various projects, whether executing or leading a team of Salem members to complete projects. Behind the scenes, each month, a variety of projects are completed to maintain God's house.

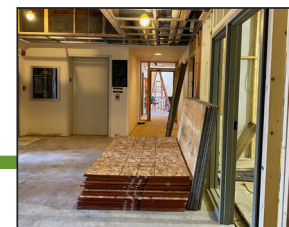
The P&F ministry group is central in managing the Renewing God's House renovation project. During this exciting time, P&F is working with Miller Architects to review progress, make decisions as needed, coordinate Salem activities and sub-teams, and evaluate any change orders.

The P&F ministry group leads financial management at Salem, including coordinating/managing the annual budgeting process, monitoring expenses and income. The team also ensures sound, efficient financial processes are in place.

**New members are always welcome with an interest in maintaining God's church and maximizing the use of Salem's financial gifts! No special skills are required! This is a fun and dedicated group to be a part of! If interested, please contact P&F chair Rick Lambie, or feel free to come to a third Tuesday of the month meeting, 7pm at the church.**



It is an exciting time at Salem as we see the construction and renovation in the midst of the first phase. As of December 9, 2019, we have received \$1,427,500 in gift and cash contributions of the \$2,021,900.24 that has been pledged over three years for this project. We want to thank each member for their commitment to complete their pledges. The amount received includes over \$27,500 in cash from members who did not pledge to the campaign. Please know that any member may contribute whether they pledged or not and that all receipts received will help lower the amount that needs to be borrowed to complete the renovation.



# JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> New Year's Day Office Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Fair Trade Sunday 8am: Worship 9:15am: Education Hour 10:45am: Worship 6pm: Youth Group	<b>6</b> February Monthly Bugle Content Due Annual Reports Due	<b>7</b> 9am: Rebecca Circle 10am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Council Meeting	<b>8</b> 8:30am: Bible Lessons 9am: Advent Decoration Clean-up 6:30pm: Faith for Life 7:15pm: Praise Team Practice 7:15pm: Serendipity	<b>9</b> 9:30am: Bible Study	<b>10</b> 12pm: Grown & Flown Mom's Group	<b>11</b> 6pm: Games and Pizza at Oliver's North
<b>12</b> 8am: Worship 9:15am: Education Hour- Epiphany Celebration 10:45am: Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Northern Conference 7pm: Outreach Meeting 7:30pm: Faith Formation Meeting	<b>15</b> 8:30am: Bible Lessons 10am: Staff Meeting 6:30pm: Faith for Life 7:15pm: Serendipity	<b>16</b> 9:30am: Bible Study	<b>17</b> 12pm: Grown & Flown Mom's Group	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Noisy Can Offering 8am: Worship 9:15am: Education Hour 10:45am: Worship	<b>20</b> 2pm: Salem Blood Drive at the Christian Center 7pm: Salem Churchmen at Lariat Club	<b>21</b> 10am: Staff Meeting 10:30am: Women of Salem Board Meeting 7pm: Property & Finance Meeting	<b>22</b> 8:30am: Bible Lessons 6:30pm: Faith for Life 7:15pm: Serendipity	<b>23</b> 9:30am: Bible Study	<b>24</b> 12pm: Grown & Flown Mom's Group	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Annual Meeting 8am: Worship 9:15am: Education Hour 10:45am: Worship 11:45am: Annual Meeting 6pm: Youth Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10am: Staff Meeting 6:30pm: Lydia Circle	<b>29</b> 8:30am: Bible Lessons 8:30am: Midwest Food Bank 6:30pm: Faith for Life 7:15pm: Serendipity	<b>30</b> 9:30am: Bible Study 1:30pm: LHV Worship	<b>31</b> 12pm: Grown & Flown Mom's Group	

## Epiphany Celebration!

Sunday School children and families will celebrate Epiphany on **Sunday, January 12 in the Sanctuary at 9:30am**. We will continue the story of Jesus with Simeon and Anna seeing the baby and continue through Jesus being left at the temple as a young boy. Telling these stories prepares us for the story of Jesus being baptized. You won't want to miss the Wise Men and camels coming to visit the young Jesus!

Sunday School children should go to their classrooms at 9:15am to get ready. Teachers will bring their classes up to the Sanctuary to begin the program. Children will be dismissed from their classrooms at 10:30am as the program will not take the entire Sunday School class time.

## Quake Youth Encounter

Salem Youth will be participating in Quake Youth Encountering the Gospel in St. Louis on **January 17-19**. Please keep Salem Youth in your prayers as the travel to their destination and find that our God is more than enough! Quake events are weekend retreats created specifically for youth in grades 6-12. Quake partners with youth leaders to encourage teens to become established in their faith, empowered for Christian living and enabled to live a life of ministry and leadership. The 2020 Quake theme is **More**. Our God is more than all this world has to offer. We have more life, more freedom, and more joy because of God.

## Faith for Life

Faith for Life for grades 6-8 resumes on **Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30pm**.

## Fair Trade Sunday, January 5

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 narthex on **Sunday, January 5**. We are always happy to answer questions and help you find your favorite Fair Trade Items. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

## Midwest Food Bank, Jan. 29

Salem, thank you so much for your generous contribution in 2019, and for partnering with us to help those who are suffering locally, nationally, internationally. Midwest Food Bank greatly appreciates your open heart, prayers and donations as we strive, through the Lord's strength, to give freely to those who need relief and assistance.

Volunteers are needed at Midwest Food Bank on **Wednesday, January 29 from 9am-11am**. Sign-up is located at the church office. Salem volunteers will be meeting at the Peoria Division location at 9005 N. Industrial Road, Peoria, IL 61615.

## Live Nativity

Thank you to all the people that helped present the Live Nativity to the community! It was a meaningful outreach to our community, as well as a wonderful cross-generational event enjoyed by many.

**Construction and Tear Down Crew:** Chad Arnold, Dave Griffith, John Iverson, Jason Lantz, Eric Schroeder, John Sipf, and Pastor Craig

**Costumes and Props:** Kris Griffith

**Costuming day of event:** Joann Blum, Patty Lantz, Tracy Daugherty, Norma Hartman

**Parking Lot:** Chad Arnold, Dave Griffith, Tim and Caidon Hickey, Larry Kotewa, Jason Lantz, Grant Peterson, Dave Rees, Susan Ross, Eric Schroeder, Pastor Craig

**Set Up:** Randy Blum, Pastor Craig, Jill Goldhammer, Jason Lantz, Gretchen Petrakis

### Nativity:

Pat Arehart  
 Heather, Henry, Emily, and Jonathan Arnold  
 Kim Ascherl  
 Joann Blum  
 Sue Colloton  
 Susan and Scott Faulkner  
 Megan Faulkner  
 Dave, Emily, Drew, Zac, and Jacob Ferrell  
 Ellen, Faith, and Cadence Forkell  
 Sarah Gonzales  
 John Grabel  
 Dave Griffith  
 Greg and Leah Grebner  
 Terri and Dennis Gustafson  
 Kelsi Gustafson  
 Jamie Hancock  
 Mark, Laura, Isaac, Ella, and Aaron Hartman  
 Ron Hartman  
 Leslie, Jaxon, and Jacie Howard  
 Connie and John Iverson  
 Lisa and Mark Janco

Emily and Poppy Jolliff  
 Geoff, Sarah, Anna, Madeline, and Matthew Kammerer  
 Julia and Larry Kotewa  
 Stephanie and Grant Kroodsma  
 Janice and Rick Lambie  
 Stacy Lantz  
 Suzanne and Bill Ligon  
 Pam and Jeff Machacek  
 Lana Pasco  
 Grant, Meghan, Emily, and Landon Peterson  
 Dave Rees  
 Susan Ross  
 Gail and Dick Serrahn  
 Jeanne Setterlund  
 Rebecca, Maggie, and Eli Sipf  
 Dave, Kelly, and Annie Swanson  
 Paula Sydow  
 Maren and Micah Thompson  
 Brent and Julie Wallstedt



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

## Save the Date for Salem's More Than Pink Event

Come join your Salem family for an exciting fundraising night to kick-off the Salem "More than Pink" Team on **Saturday, February 22 at 6pm-9pm!** Save the date for this evening of food, wine and fellowship hosted by Helene Peterson and Gayle Young at 1006 Hickory Creek Ct. (Metamora.) The 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 the event is for men and women over 21. Food will include hors d'oeuvres, desserts and wine to taste and enjoy. Please sign-up in the church office or email Gayle at [gyoung@komenmemorial.org](mailto:gyoung@komenmemorial.org).



Thank you to Rebecca Circle for remembering me with the bag of goodies and Roberta Kessinger for delivering it.- Sue Barham

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your friend of 60 years who is not able to read or write this year. Wishing you the best of holidays. - Marge Gramm

Thank you for your financial gift of \$500.00. Your generous gift supports life-changing work at Common Place Family Learning Center! Your gift of support provides safe environments filled with literacy, learning, and tutoring activities to children in kindergarten through 8th grade in our After School and Summer Youth

Programs. Thank you!

In appreciation,  
Pamela Rumba, Executive Director

Blessings to the people of Salem! Your gift to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) allows us to help so many experience God in nature. We are grateful for your partnership in this ministry.

Thank you,  
Rob Fieraltwoski, Executive Director

Thank you for your gift of \$1,380 for the ministry of Luke and Jamie Ulrich. Your gift is helping Global Teams go and bear fruit among peoples with least access to the Gospel.

Rejoicing in your partnership,  
Curtis Chanda, International Director

### A VIEW OF SALEM'S FINANCIAL STATUS

#### Month of November, 2019

General Fund	Budget	Actual	Difference
November Giving	\$49,558	\$49,405	(\$153)
Expenses	\$50,370	\$46,277	(\$4,093)
Difference (Loss)	(\$812)	\$3,128	

#### Year-to-Date, 2019

General Fund	Budget	Actual	Difference
Giving	\$557,042	\$522,836	(\$4,206)
Expenses	\$554,067	\$512,143	\$10,693
Difference (Loss)	\$2,975	\$10,693	

## Outreach Ministry Group Thank You!

The Outreach Ministry Group would like to thank all who donated to Lutheran Disaster Response during our annual Thanksgiving dinner. We raised \$1,152 to help individuals affected by natural disasters in our world. We also give thanks to Jill Goldhammer for her coordination and leadership of worship, and Helene Peterson, along with a great team of kitchen volunteers, who made this event happen. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR...

- Salem's growing ministry

### DIRECTION...

- Salem Congreg. Council
- Salem's Pastor, Deacon, Intern and Staff
- Salem's Renovation Project

### PRAYERS 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
- Family of Jerry Bastian
- Susie Bohm
- Luan Borquist
- Stephanie Dammann's grandfather
- Keith Erickson
- Gabe
- Gabriella
- Marge Gramm
- Jack Grant
- Laurie Hacker
- Ron Hipple
- Amy Hoffman
- Helen Johnson
- Lizzy
- Marta
- Morgan Lott
- Bill Mettam
- Karen Norman Rees' brother-in-law
- Dick Peterson
- Family of John Ryberg
- Stephanie
- Cindy Turner
- Ella Vandervlugt
- Wayne (brother of Barbi Ricketts)
- Fred and Lori Wysk
- Jean and Frank Yancick

### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

Stateside: Ian Borquist, Emily Graff, Jason Sterr, Col. Darnell Salley, Scott Wolfmeyer  
Overseas: Barry Joyce and Talon Maki



1700 W. War Memorial Dr. • Peoria, IL 61614-6724



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# Sunday School Christmas Program

Thank you Salem Sunday School for sharing the Christmas program on Sunday, December 15.

