

the Bugle

Along with June, so summer begins and the lengthy season of Pentecost. It is a time to adjust programming and take a break from the school year routine. But this year is different than what we would expect. This year the ways we connect and relate with people remains virtual rather than in person. It remains a challenge for many of us to stay connected and yet remain distanced. Plans are underway to consider when it will be time to return and allow gatherings but for now the answer is, not yet. So what then do we do? What is our focus? The news media keeps our attention tuned into the dangers and uncertainties of the coronavirus. Civil unrest is stirring in our communities, across the nation and around the world prompting protests and cries for change in community systems that are intended to protect and defend rather than promote fear and anger. What do we do with our bottled-up anxiety?

One idea is to read through the Psalms. Believe it or not, many faithful servants have experienced similar emotions before and have vented them to God as a way to release what they were experiencing. The Psalms include songs of lament as well as songs of praise. I encourage you to spend some time reflecting on words that express humanity's deep longings and responses to both times of joy and times of sorry, frustration and even anger. Jot down how these words resonate in your heart and ponder what God is speaking to you in a way that brings comfort, hope and peace. God's word is trustworthy and true and God will not forsake us even when life

is challenging and uncertain. We believe in a God of mercy, justice, hope, love, peace. We believe in a God who joined us in suffering, died on behalf of the burdens of the world and now lives among us still. In Jesus, we have what we need and he meets us where we are. May God bless your time of devotion and reveal God's amazing and timeless love to you as we wait and wonder for a future together again.



Pastor Craig Swenson

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*special insert: Worship Resources

Hello Salem family!

It is surreal to prop my phone on a stand amidst Legos on our playroom floor, trying to figure out a worship video recording angle that allows me to extend my arms in prayer without revealing mess or missing paint. Regardless of the circumstances, the power of God's word and the beauty of the liturgy still move me. They are strong and true, even when I am wearing my collar at home, timing my preaching between lawnmowers, cat antics, and texts from the neighbor boy wanting to have a "cross-street conversation" with my younger son.

I have renewed appreciation for the priesthood of all believers. It is meaningful to see familiar faces and hear familiar voices share music and readings each week. I'm thankful for the technology and efforts allowing me to stay connected to all of you through video worship and prayer, and Zoom meetings and fellowship.

Recently my indefatigable internship committee (chair Sarah Kammerer, Chad Arnold, Edell Berg, Dean Doughty, Regg Glawe, Meghan Peterson), Pastor Craig, and I all completed evaluations, which along with an essay and ministry report were used for my seminary Senior Interview. Next stop before first church call is a synod interview in August.

I miss seeing all of you in person, but you are on my mind and heart, and in my prayers. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Kristen Schmid, Pastoral Intern



Kristen Schmid
Pastoral Intern



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In case of emergency please call:
Pastor Craig: 309-258-4759 or
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Maggie Slotter
Director of Music

Welcome, Maggie Slotter!

Salem Lutheran Church welcomes Maggie Slotter as the Director of Music and Choir Director. Maggie joins Salem's staff with extensive experience in music. She holds a Masters degree in Non-Profit Leadership and has a Bachelor of Arts from Bradley University. She stays active in the music and community theater. Maggie will begin her position in the coming months.

Please help update information by calling or sending an email to the church office (office@salemofpeoria.com) to confirm the information is up to date. If you have questions, ideas or some message to share, please do so through those avenues as well. Salem's website (www.salemofpeoria.com) will also be a continuous communication tool and will be updated frequently.

COMMUNITY benevolence



In 2019, approximately \$800,000 was donated to the capital appeal fund allowing for a donation of \$8100 to be made to local community outreach in 2020. The Salem Outreach Ministry Team selected **Neighborhood House** to be the recipient of these funds. At the end of 2019 one of Salem's community partners, Common Place, dissolved and ended all community programming. Neighborhood House absorbed the adult literacy and after school programs formerly housed at Common Place. In February several members of Salem's Outreach ministry group toured the Neighborhood House facilities and were very impressed with the programs they provide. The main program provided by Neighborhood House involves providing meals in Peoria and Tazewell county area. The addition of the education programs provided Salem the opportunity to provide some much needed funding to purchase computers, software and

storage systems to aid Neighborhood House's Adult GED program as well as afterschool education and tutoring programs. Neighborhood House will receive a donation of \$7,380 to put toward the purchase of computers and software for these programs due to the generosity of Salem's congregation.

In addition to this the Outreach ministry group felt it was important to reach out to other community partners during the COVID crisis to see if there were more we could do to help. LSSI received \$500.00 to put toward their need for disinfectant supplies for the families they support and Crittenton Crisis Nursery received \$500.00 toward needed baby supplies (some additional funds came from Outreach events budget). Salem was also able to provide \$500.00 in school

supplies to Thomas Jefferson to enable students to continue learning at home. These funds came from the planned and unfortunately cancelled Teacher appreciation dessert day and pen pal meet up – for which Thrivent cards had already be created.

Thank you to all who have donated to the capital appeal project! Your donations are making a difference for the future of Salem and for the benefit of our neighbors. We look forward to your continued support for the capital appeal project and for future opportunities for Salem to be a blessing in the community. We ask that you continue to hold our community partners in your prayers during this strange and difficult time.

Yours in Christ,
Sarah Gonzales,
Outreach Ministry Group

In the fall of 2018, Salem began the capital appeal process to raise funds for building renovations. In gratitude for the money donated to help Salem, the capital appeal team and the Salem council decided that, we, as a congregation, would set aside 1% of the money raised to be used for local community benevolence. In turn, Salem will not only be supporting a facility where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared, but we will also be sharing God's love with others in our community.



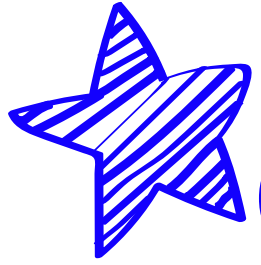
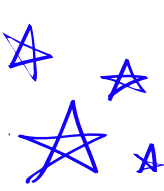
**EXPANDING OUR
POSSIBILITIES**
A GIVING PROGRESS UPDATE

As of May 11, 2020, with \$1,607,579.58 in total cash contributed and other gifts, this represents well over 70% of the total pledges made for this appeal. Included in these numbers is money, which was received from members who did not pledge and other sources including rent, cd interest, and gifts from Thrivent. A special thanks to those who have completed their 3-year pledges, to those who have given above their 3-year pledges, and a special thanks for those who did not pledge but have contributed to the campaign. Please know that any gift is welcomed and helps with the amount of funds that will be borrowed to complete the project.

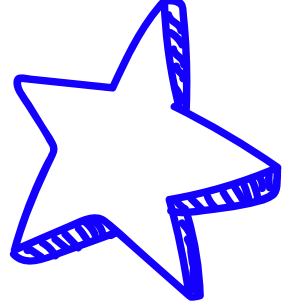
Please continue to pray for Salem and our future as we work our way through this process. 19 months remain before the end of this campaign on December 31, 2021. A special thanks for all those who have taken an active role to see this to completion.



ONLINE TOUR AVAILABLE AT WWW.SALEMOPPEORIA.COM



congratulations GRADUATES



Salem Lutheran Church celebrates an important milestone in the lives of several of our young people. High school graduates: Joel Brinkman, Isabel Gonzales and Jason Ripper; and college graduates: Matt Grebner, Elyse Hickey, Robert Petrakis and Noah VanLaningham. How we wish we could celebrate with you in person with quilts and cake, hugs and well-wishes. Know that your Salem Family is with you in spirit and our hearts are filled with pride in your accomplishments and bright hope for your futures!

JASON RIPPER - DUNLAP HIGH SCHOOL



Jason, is a graduate of Dunlap High School. Jason is passionate about playing guitar, music fundamentals and robotics. He plans to attend Purdue University in the fall to study Audio Engineering Technologies which perfectly joins his love of music and engineering.



MATTHEW GREBNER - BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

Matthew Grebner is graduating from Bradley University. He is graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Business and a Bachelor of Music in Saxophone Performance. He has been a member of the Symphonic Winds, Saxophone Ensembles, and the Jazz Ensemble all four years at Bradley, and joined the Hilltop Combo this year. He has also been a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (the men's music fraternity) all four years at Bradley, and has served as secretary and vice president. Once quarantine is over, he plans to start working in live event production and eventually make a career of playing the saxophone.

ELYSE HICKEY - SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Elyse Hickey graduated with honors this May from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She received bachelor degrees in both zoology and philosophy, and a minor in art education. She also achieved a 200 hour yoga teacher training certification during her junior year. She spent summers first as a YMCA Metropolitan Chicago camp counselor, then at Camp Orkilas on Orcas Island, Washington. Along her path, Elyse found a love for teaching kids. She has applied to the Eugene Waldorf School in Oregon for a two year teacher's certification, which will start in September. Her future plans are to continue to create, explore, learn and teach.



ISABEL GONZALES - RICHWOODS HIGH SCHOOL

Isabel Gonzales graduated Cum Laude from Richwood high school. She is a member of the National Honors Society. Isabel was a 4 year varsity soccer player and was elected to the all conference 2nd team her junior year. She was manager of the boys soccer team for two years. While at Richwoods, Isabel participated in interact club, science club, spanish club and scan club (save the children action network). She has worked at planet X rollerworld for the last two years. Isabel will attend Illinois Central College in the fall, playing soccer and studying business administration.



ROBERT PETRAKIS - BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Robert Petrakis is graduating from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is graduating cum laude with a double major - a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Bachelor of Science in Finance. In addition to latin honors, Robert also graduated with high departmental honors for both his Accounting and Finance degrees. He plans on returning to Butler University in the fall for one more year to complete a Master of Science in Accounting. Once he graduates, Robert is considering pursuing a career in financial consulting, specifically advising on the purchasing and selling of private businesses.



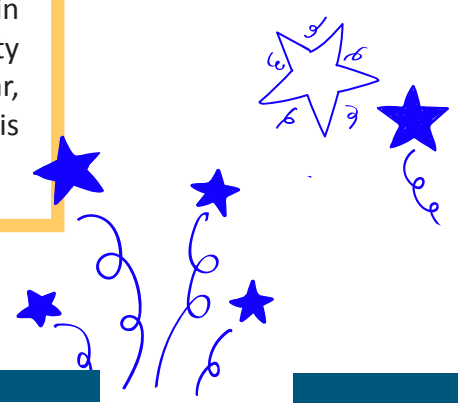
JOEL BRINKMAN - RICHWOODS HIGH SCHOOL

Joel Brinkman is graduating from Richwoods High School. Joel was a student in the International Baccalaureate program and active in the school band and varsity tennis. He is a member of the National Honor Society, a Sterling Merit Scholar, and a recipient of the Lincoln Senior Award. Joel will be attending Northern Illinois University in the fall. He plans to major in mechanical engineering.



NOAH VANLANINGHAM - IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Noah VanLaningham, son of Laura and Kelly VanLaningham of East Peoria, is a May 2020 graduate of Iowa State University. Noah graduated with a bachelor's degree in management information systems and a minor in philosophy. A highlight of his college career was spending the spring 2019 semester studying at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Post-graduation, Noah is continuing an internship with Kingland, a software company in Ames, Iowa.



SALEM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

(Totally "RE-CONSTRUCTED" due to COVID-19)

Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade



CONCRETE & CRANES

Philippians 1:6

Building On The Love Of Jesus!... the foundation that lasts forever.



Salem has been filled with concrete and cranes, rivets and rebar, forklifts and backhoes for many, many months. It seems fitting to celebrate the completion of our Renewing God's House project rediscovering ways to build our faith on Jesus as we uncover the truth that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion!

The world as we know it has changed and we face many unknowns about our interactions in the coming months. The Children, Youth and Family Team has decided to modify our annual VBS program, combining take home packets with multiple virtual opportunities for simple faith formation and fun.

Rather than expecting families to host one very full week of VBS in their homes, our daily themes will be presented as weekly themes starting July 5. Families can walk through each theme at their own pace. The first week, each family will receive a CD of the theme music in their take home packets. Weekly packs will include all supplies families need for a craft, service project, devotions, caring conversations and other theme related fun. We will also create easy to access on-line faith building opportunities that support the theme each week. We are very excited about the possibilities this year and hope you are too!

Registration is available on the Salem website. (www.salemofpeoria.com) It is more important than ever that we have an accurate number of participants as early as possible. Our preparations will be completely different this year. Families will have the option of picking up their weekly take home packs at church on Sunday nights or having them delivered. There will be packs for Pre-K/K and 1st-5th grades.

For questions please contact Jill Goldhammer or Rebecca Sipf. Volunteers will be needed!

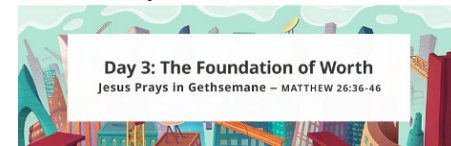
Week of July 5, 2020



Week of July 12, 2020



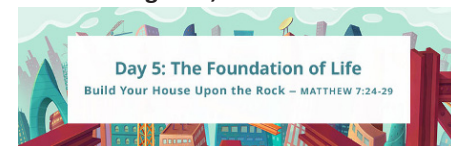
Week of July 19, 2020



Week of July 26, 2020



Week of August 2, 2020



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

connections

Junior High and Senior High Ministry

- Leadership Lab will not be held on-site at Augustana College this summer however it has NOT been cancelled. Plans are underway for a virtual lab July 20-25. As more concrete plans become available, details will be shared with Salem high school students and parents.
- Faith for Life (Junior High Ministry) - Meets on Zoom – Wednesdays at 6:30pm
- Student Leader VBS Meetings - Meets on Zoom - Sundays, June 14-21-28 from 6:30pm-7:15pm

Children's Ministry

- Resources for parents and greetings on-line (www.salemofpeoria.com and CYF FB Group)
- Occasional surprises in the mail for children
- **May Faith Practice:** Encouragement. We would love to hear some stories of children using their care cards on the CYF Facebook Group!
- Preparations are underway for a modified Vacation Bible School program later this summer.

Parents and Guardians

- Mom's Group: Meets on Zoom - Fridays at 12pm (contact Leah Grebner to be added!)

SALEM SUNDAY SCHOOL

Although we weren't able to gather for our usual year-end celebration to the Sunday School year and recognize students and teachers, let's not forget to thank those who taught this past year. The Sunday School teachers are a dedicated group of people who take their role of passing on the faith to Salem's children seriously with great devotion and passion. If you ever peek in a classroom, you will see amazing connections and learning happening each week. Teachers plan activities, lessons, crafts, and songs each week to help faith formation. Although the most important faith formation happens in our homes, Sunday School teachers provide another caring adult in our young people's lives and also serve as a resource and mentor to parents.

thank you!

Preschool and Kindergarten: Sarah Bidne, Karen Gonzales, Kayla Lambie

1st and 2nd Grade: Becky Hagen, Wendy Thomasson, William Petrakis

3rd Grade: Laura Hartman and Amy Schroeder

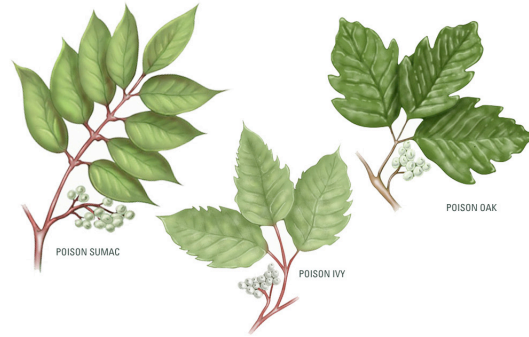
4th Grade: Patty and Jason Lantz

5th Grade: Joann and Randy Blum

Music: Kris Griffith and Jason Brinkman (1st-5th grade) and Sarah Bidne (preschool and kindergarten)

Office: Lisa Janco

This is the time of year when many of us are out working in our yards and even able to walk some paths in the parks. Be cautious for poison ivy. The rash from poison ivy, as well as poison oak and sumac, is caused by an allergic reaction to an oily resin called urushiol. You can get poison ivy from direct touch of the plant, touching contaminated objects, or inhaling smoke from burning plants. The rash itself is not contagious – the blister fluid from the rash will not cause the spread. The spread to yourself or others would be caused by the oils so be sure to immediately wash the oils from your skin and clean any other objects (clothes, gloves, gardening tools) that may have had contact with it. Other preventative measures include wearing protective clothing, kill the plants (not by burning), and washing your pet’s fur within 30 minutes of exposure. Knowing what the plants look like and being able to avoid them is also important. Symptoms, which can last for weeks, include itching, redness, swelling, blisters, and possibly difficulty breathing if you inhaled smoke from burning poison ivy. You may primarily see the rash where the plant brushed against your skin but it can transfer to other parts of your body if touched by the oils from your hand or clothing. You can treat a mild rash with cool baths and soothing lotions. Contact your doctor if the rash is widespread, you inhaled smoke from a burning plant, rash is around eyes or mouth, skin continues to swell, rash becomes infected, you develop a fever, or the rash doesn’t get better in a few weeks.



WORK DAY

Salem Churchmen and Property & Finance Ministry Group are organizing a Work Day for **June 13 beginning at 8am**. Please save the date and watch your email for a sign-up in the following weeks.

There is a fair amount of outdoor and some indoor work. You will be able to sign up for specific tasks or to volunteer to complete work at another date. This Work Day is scheduled based on the Stay at Home orders moving us into Phase 3. There are plans for continued safe and social distancing practices, and tasks may also be completed on a time that works for you.

Concrete & Cranes Philippians 1:6

Adult Leadership VBS planning!

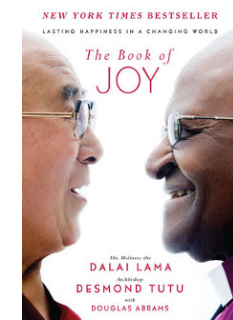
There will be a one-hour VBS Adult Leader Planning Meeting on Zoom every Monday morning in June at 9:30am. This is a great time for leaders to check-in to learn more about what’s being planned and offer ideas. Anyone can help with the creative process for this very unique Vacation Bible School. If you are someone who enjoys being a part of ideas and collaboration for Children’s Ministry, please consider joining in on these meetings. Contact jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com or (309) 370-1692 for more information or to receive the Zoom Link.

SUMMER book club

Join your fellow Salem members in a book club for the summer. Gretchen Petrakis will lead the discussion for the book group. The format will be as follows:

- One book for June and one for July (see below for details)
- Read on your own during the respective month
- Discussion questions will be emailed to those participating at the beginning of the month
- Follow up Zoom meeting at the end of the month to discuss the book with others

Please email Gretchen at gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com if you have questions or are interested in joining. Notices will be emailed to those interested in joining. If you don’t have email, please call the church office at 688-9212 and discussion questions and other information will be mailed to you.



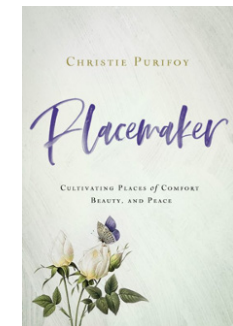
Book for June:

Two great spiritual masters share their own hard-won wisdom about living with joy even in the face of adversity.

The occasion was a big birthday. And it inspired two close friends to get together in Dharamsala for a talk about something very important to them. The friends were His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The subject was joy. Both winners of the Nobel Prize, both great spiritual masters and moral leaders of our time, they are also known for being among the most infectiously happy people on the planet.

From the beginning the book was envisioned as a three-layer birthday cake: their own stories and teachings about joy, the most recent findings in the science of deep happiness, and the daily practices that anchor their own emotional and spiritual lives. Both the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu have been tested by great personal and national adversity, and here they share their personal stories of struggle and renewal. Now that they are both in their eighties, they especially want to spread the core message that to have joy yourself, you must bring joy to others.

Most of all, during that landmark week in Dharamsala, they demonstrated by their own exuberance, compassion, and humor how joy can be transformed from a fleeting emotion into an enduring way of life.



Book for July:

Images of comfortable kitchens and flower-filled gardens stir something deep within us--we instinctively long for home. In a world of chaos and conflict, we want a place of comfort and peace.

In *Placemaker*, Christie Purifoy invites us to notice our soul’s desire for beauty, our need to create and to be created again and again. As she reflects on the joys and sorrows of two decades as a placemaker and her recent years living in and restoring a Pennsylvania farmhouse, Christie shows us that we are all gardeners. No matter our vocation, we spend much of our lives tending, keeping, and caring. In each act of creation, we reflect the image of God. In each moment of making beauty, we realize that beauty is a mystery to receive.

Weaving together her family’s journey with stories of botanical marvels and the histories of the flawed yet inspiring placemakers who shaped the land generations ago, Christie calls us to cultivate orchards and communities, to clap our hands along with the trees of the fields. *Placemaker* is a timely yet timeless reminder that the cultivation of good and beautiful places is not a retreat from the real world but a holy pursuit of a world that is more real than we know. A call to tend the soul, the land, and the places we share with one another. A reminder that we are always headed home.

ADULT connections

Reading, studying and pondering God's word is an experience that inspires and nurtures faith. Sharing this activity with others builds community and expands our insights into God's word. Many Salem members have a practice of sharing in times of Bible study on Sundays and throughout the week. Salem Lutheran Church is using Zoom to connect with connect with groups for not only Bible study, but also meetings, games, fellowship. Below are some opportunities for connections.

Zoom Sunday Fellowship

MEET at 11AM
Zoom link include in Bugle Blast or contact the church office

Zoom Wednesday Bible Study

PASTOR CRAIG LEADS WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS at 10AM
Please contact the church office for the Zoom link

Zoom Thursday Bible Study

GIL NOLDE LEADS STUDY at 10AM
Please contact the church office for the Zoom link

Zoom Friday Mom's Group

SALEM MOMS MEET at 12PM
Please contact Leah Grebner for the Zoom link

Crittenton Garden

Salem, Bethel, and Crittenton staff have provided a main garden and six raised gardens for the children and families at Crittenton for 15 years.

Fresh vegetables (lettuce, collards, carrots, radishes, potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, broccoli, and onions) are provided free of



charge. The items are put in gallon freezer bags and placed in the entry way to be picked up.

Emphasizing good health by including fresh vegetables in our diets is the primary goal of the garden. Interested in volunteering at the Crittenton Garden please contact the church office.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1

Sophia Doty

June 2

Dawn Koeltzow

June 3

John Ford

June 4

Jane Topel

June 5

Jaeyden Johnson

June 6

Robert Suelter

June 7

Sis Gavin
Robert Petrakis

June 8

Gilbert Nolde
Chelsea Siegrist

June 9

Ruth Landes
Rebecca Snyder

June 10

Mildred Collins

Rosy Parks

June 11

Diane Hanlet
Mark Hartman
Roman Wegrzyn

June 15

Mary Luan Borquist
Chloe Steele

June 17

Travis Janco
Jeff Machacek

June 18

Clarence Knutson
Stacy Lantz

June 19

Earl Gallas
Donna Miller

June 21

Edell Berg

June 22

Jeffrey Bastian
Timothy Hamann
Shane Snyder

June 23

Christine Harvey
Morgan Lott
Logan Roberts
Jennifer Swanson

June 24

Walter Koeltzow
Caleb Lott

June 25

Marilyn Smith

June 26

Shawn Blum
Amy Hainline
Lance Koss

June 27

Paula Sydow
Maxwell Thompson

June 28

Cailey Lantz

June 30

Julianna Dunkel
Brant Wegrzyn

OUTREACH PARTNER: Midwest Food Bank

Peoria Division: MFB Peoria is part of a community collaboration named HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) that helps those who are shut-in due to COVID 19. People in need call 211 for help, and the United Way and the Tazewell County Health Department coordinate volunteers to deliver food. MFB Peoria provides the food boxes and a bag of fresh produce for the recipients. It's a great example of community services working together to serve.

Morton Division: The COVID-19 crisis has created an increased demand for Tender Mercies, the packaged meal of rice, beans and chicken flavored seasoning produced at MFB Morton. Other Midwest Food Bank locations are requesting more of the meals at the requests of their partner agencies. Unable to be assembled by hand at this time, the packing machine is getting a workout. Production is running at three to four times the normal rate.



Salem volunteers serve at Midwest Food Bank in May

New MFB location planned in Pennsylvania

With plans to serve Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York, a new MFB division will open in the Hershey, PA area. 'In Pennsylvania, one in eight households are food insecure,' says David Kieser, CEO and President of MFB. 'It is our hope to show the love of Christ to those in need in that area.' The Pennsylvania Division will be the ninth domestic location for MFB. The warehouse will be strategically located to also serve New Jersey and New York, aligning with MFB's existing remote distribution in New York City. Lord willing, MFB Pennsylvania will be operational this summer.

SALEM QUILTERS

thank you!

A big thank you to our Salem Quilters who made beautiful personalized T-Shirt Quilts again this year for our High School Seniors (Isabel Gonzales to the left and Joel Brinkman to the right.)

Norma Hartman
Sharon Mollenhauer
Inez Norgard
Anitra O'Connor
Gretchen Petrakis
Deb Sanders
Rebecca Sipf
Dottie Strickler
Mary Ann Welch





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



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

25th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

congratulations!

PASTOR CRAIG SWENSON



Congratulations to Pastor Craig Swenson on the 25th anniversary of his ordination while serving at Salem Lutheran Church.

On May 21, 2020 members of Salem celebrated with a surprise “drive-thru” celebration. Thank you to Salem’s church council for organizing the event and thank you to Pastor Craig and Karen for your many years of ministry!

Video of the celebration may be found on Salem's YouTube Channel.