



Plans change quickly, especially in the life of a pandemic. There was hope that we could have an outdoor worship service at end of July to celebrate the conclusion of the Renewing God's House project as well as Kristen's time with us as pastoral intern and also the beginning of Maggie's time at Salem as Director of Music Ministries. Everything was in place. No rain in sight. Just heat, plenty of heat when the day before the event, the Peoria County Health Department issued a health advisory for Peoria county. Several criteria indicated a rise in confirmed cases for COVID-19 as well as contact tracing data indicating increases in risky behavior for groups and individuals and thereby the concern for yet further increase in cases for our area. Even though it was planned to practice physical distancing, require face coverings and gather outdoors, the risk seemed greater than the benefit and responding to the caution of the local health officials, the service was cancelled.

Schools are struggling to come up with consistent guidelines to allow students to safely return to classrooms. It seems likely there will be a mix of in person and virtual learning as the fall begins. Time and again, however, practices relax, gatherings and events take place, case numbers rise, reminding us that the viral threat continues. While we all long for the day we can return to gathering in person again, it is also important to practice caution and do what we can to keep one another safe. Look for Gretchen's article in this issue regarding the decision by the Faith Formation Ministry members to not return in

person for Sunday school after Labor Day but to offer monthly themed online classes in place of Sunday morning in the room classes. The hope is that this will provide families the opportunity to share this virtual classroom model together and help deepen the family conversations about faith and life in Christ.

Even though we are not gathered in person, we are still very much connected as the Body of Christ. We are still the church and we are still growing in faith and striving to be creative to fulfill the mission of being "a vibrant welcoming Lutheran community that, through the grace of Jesus Christ, is connected within by love and reaching out in hope to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with one another, the community and the world." Love connects us and compels us to reach out and make a difference in the lives of others. Until and even when we meet in person again, may this be our focus that centers our lives in God's word so that we are fed and nourished by the love of Christ. How we gather has changed. Our mission, however, remains the same.

NOTE: All worship and other in person gatherings remain suspended until further notice. Access to the church building also remains limited. Thank you for your patience.

Thank you for the many ways you support and share in ministry as you are able through this unusual and unique time.



Pastor Craig Swenson

Dear Salem Family,
I am deeply grateful to all who made my farewell such a wonderful and special event. My family and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone who participated in the car parade. Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards and gifts, and the generous financial support. Altogether it is a huge boost for us as I prepare for my final semester of school, assignment and first call. You are a blessing in our lives.

God's peace,
Kristen Schmid



Kristen Schmid
Pastoral Intern



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

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

Published Monthly

Periodicals Postage Paid at Peoria, IL 61601

Annual Subscription \$10.00

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

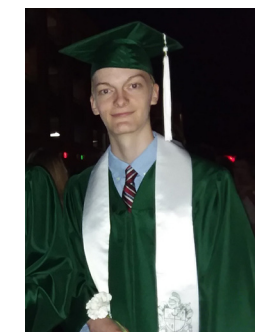
September monthly Bugle content due date is August 11

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

Retirement Card Shower: Thank You Good and Faithful Servant

Brenda Newcomb has been Salem's Office Coordinator for over 12 years. Brenda has been an integral part of the Salem staff. As she joins the path of retirement please consider sending a card to the church office by August 31 to thank her for her work and wish her all the best in this next stage of life. Please send cards to:

Salem Lutheran Church
Attn: Brenda Newcomb
1700 W. War Memorial Drive
Peoria, IL 61614



Travis Janco awarded the 2020 John Bachman Memorial Scholarship

The Salem Churchmen are pleased to announce that Travis Janco has been awarded the 2020 John Bachman Memorial scholarship. This scholarship is a tribute to Pastor John Bachman who served as Associate Pastor of Salem from August 2002 to August 2007, and is awarded each year to a graduating high school senior who started post-secondary education the prior fall. Travis is a 2019 graduate of Richwoods High School, and is currently studying at Illinois Central College. Congratulations Travis!

Adult Fellowship & Bible Study 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 and email to connect with groups for not only Bible study, but also meetings, games, and fellowship. Below are some opportunities for connections.

Zoom Sunday Fellowship

MEET at 11AM
Zoom link included 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 Friday Mom's Group

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

Email Bible Study

BILL LIGON LEADS A WEEKLY EMAIL BIBLE STUDY. The study includes lessons emailed each week centered on: 1 John 1:1-10 - the Source and Result of Complete Joy. Please contact the church office if you wish to be added to this Bible study group.



Volunteer Opportunity

Outreach ministry is looking for a volunteer(s) to coordinate the pen pal program with Thomas Jefferson for the upcoming school year.

Duties would include:

- Coordinate with teachers
- Recruit pen pals (we have lists of past pen pals)
- Deliver and pick up letters
- Coordinate end of year meet up

Outreach ministry group is always looking for fresh faces for our planning meetings, which are the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please contact Sarah Gonzales (sarbear@mtco.com) for more information.

St. John Lutheran in Shelbyville:

Salem's Sister Congregation within our Synod

The Central Southern Illinois Synod has randomly paired congregations to be "Sister Congregations" for the next year. Our sister congregation is St. John Lutheran in Shelbyville, and they have been an established congregation in the Shelbyville area since 1863.

Dave Griffith has volunteered to be Salem's liaison for this initiative and has reached out to St. John's to explore what we might do together as sister congregations. You are welcome to view their Facebook page (just search St. John Lutheran Church in Shelbyville, IL) to see photos or videos of their recent virtual services, and we certainly keep St. John's in our prayers as they continue their ministry in the Shelbyville area.

Traffic Flow Update



All worship and other in person gatherings remain suspended until further notice. Access to the church building also remains limited. Please note that the entrance and exit traffic pattern has been reversed with the Renewing God's House project.

ENTRANCE

- Now located to the west
- Accessible drop-off under canopy
- Accessible parking remains in the west lot near the bus

EXIT

- Now located to the east

Thank you for your patience as additional directional signage is being created.

SALEM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



CONCRETE & CRANES

Philippians 1:6

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

The Church is not closed! Salem's Children, Youth and Family team shared take home and virtual Concrete and Cranes Vacation Bible School with the community during the month of July. Each Sunday for 5 weeks, 66 pre-kindergarten through 5th grade participants received a bag filled with crafts, games, Bible stories and family activities at their home. These resources were supported with weekly on-line videos created by our junior and senior high students demonstrating the weekly themes and activities. About 80 percent of this year's VBS participants were guests from the community which is consistent with previous years. Weekly themes included: Building a Foundation of Love, Forgiveness, Worth, Promise, and Jesus is my Foundation for Life. We received great feedback from both parents and children who were excited to receive their bags each week. We were delighted to provide faith formation resources for use at home. Look for similar at home resources this fall from our Sunday School and other Children, Youth and Family programs.

A big thank you to the following volunteers who made at home VBS successful:

Co-Director of VBS and Coordinator of Pre-school and Kindergarten programming: Rebecca Sipf
 Director of Communications and online programming: Meghan Peterson
 Crafts Coordinator: Merrell Hickey
 Games Coordinator: Patti Lantz
 Outreach Project Coordinator – Habitat for Humanity: Gretchen Petrakis
 Coordinator of Weekly Bag Packing: Susan Faulkner
 Kindness Rocks Coordinator: Stephanie Kroodsma
 Bag Pick Up: Nadine Willems
 Delivery Crew: Mary Gibson, Terri and Kelsi Gustafson, Jason Lantz, Vicki Larson, Ashley Monckton, Inez Norgard , Meghan Peterson, Barbie Ricketts, Susan Ross, Amy Schroeder
 Special Project Volunteers: Joann Blum, Suzanne Ligon, Kirsten Kelly, Inez Norgard, Rosemary Swanson
 Hospitality and Outreach: Melissa Metternich and Joann Blum
 Pastoral support: Pastor Craig Swenson and Intern Kristen Schmid
 Adult Vacation Bible School Leader: Dave Griffith,

And, our fabulous student video leaders:

Handyman Hank Cochran
 Painting and Crafts: Emily Peterson and Mila Vogel
 Carabiner, Jelly Beaner, Weekly Themer: Brent Wallstedt
 Sidewalk Chalk Designs: Audrey Koeltzow
 Awesome at home games: Gloria and Grant Kroodsma
 BOLO Goggles: the Kammerer family
 Special Projects: Jamie and Katie Hancock
 Bible Story Readers: Anna Kammerer, Joel Brinkman, Stacy Lantz, Caleb Brinkman, and Caleb Lott

There is still time to view the awesome student videos as well as stories and pictures from VBS or to make a donation to our Habitat for Humanity VBS Project at www.salemofpeoria.com/vbs-2020.



FAITH FORMATION *at home*

There will be Sunday School this fall... we are going virtual! The Faith Formation Committee is working on bringing virtual faith resources to your family for the fall. Sunday School for preschool-high school will be monthly packets for families to do together. Planning is underway so watch your **Bugle Blast** for more information. Similar to our VBS this summer, packets will include everything a family needs to grow in faith together.

Perhaps it is helpful to remember Martin Luther's belief that faith formation begins at home. Luther strongly supported parents in their work of passing on the faith to their children. Luther believed if the next generation is to be able

to proclaim the grace of God in Christ, they must first experience it at home through their parents. Salem is here to support its members in their faith formation this fall as we continue in our virtual experiences.

Martin Luther loved children. One might say that he himself retained a somewhat childlike quality, as demonstrated in his sense of humor. Certainly, he regarded being "childlike" as an extremely important characteristic in the Christian when it came to matters of faith. Luther spoke of the basic catechetical faith (the 10 Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer) as something he never fully mastered, of being like a

little child in his need of instruction, and of learning with his own children when he prayed with them each day. He said, "I must still read and study the Catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and I do it gladly." Let us all be "childlike" in our journey to study God's word and to remain ever "wide-eyed" and in wonder of what we may learn in our studies!

"I must still read and study the Catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and I do it gladly."

- MARTIN LUTHER

We plan to kick-off the Sunday School year on **Rally Sunday, September 13 with a big Zoom get together.** The plan is to also meet **one Sunday a month** for family Sunday

School Zoom time! These will be led by Sunday School teachers and staff. This is one way to stay connected and so we can see each other in a virtual way. This time will be filled with Bible stories, songs, and games!

These are challenging times and we don't know what the future will look like. But we trust in God to love and lead and guide us. As we continue to worship and practice our faith virtually, we are still the church. We show our love for our neighbor by staying physically apart but remain together in our faith and love of God.

Some scripture that we can prayerfully meditate on the Word of God:

"And so we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in them." 1 John 4:16

Allow yourself to be an instrument of God's love and share it with others!

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Putting your trust in God is the way forward.

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream and does not fear when heat comes; for its leaves remain green and is not anxious in the year of drought; for it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8



At this point, what the school year will look like is uncertain. Whether at home or in school, staying active, eating nutritiously, and promoting strong mental health are important for children's development. These will help to better manage stressors, prevent disease and boosts the immune system, and create a healthy environment at home or school.

Stay active:

- Creating a fun exercise program, incorporate yoga techniques
- Do fun family physical activities, set goals for the week
- Do a scavenger hunt at home or in your neighborhood
- Play "old school" games like hopscotch, jump rope, or tag

Eat right:

- Start with a healthy breakfast, have easy and nutritious snacks available
- Introduce new foods in a fun way
- Grow your own vegetables
- Cook together and incorporate nutrition education

Promote mental health:

- Family conversations about feelings
- Express feelings through art or journaling
- Learn basic mindfulness
- Create a letter writing tradition within the family

Some good resources for healthy kids are:

- actionforhealthykids.org
- Kidshealth.org
- www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/basics/children

**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
PARISH NURSE**

PRAYER REQUESTS

THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR...

- Salem's growing ministry

DIRECTION...

- Salem Congreg. Council
- Salem's Pastor, Deacon and Staff
- Salem's Renovation Project
- Salem's Sister Congregation - St. John's

PRAYERS REQUESTS...

- All those affected with COVID-19
- The men and women of our armed forces
- Support for all caregivers when loved ones suffer
- Individuals suffering from depression
- People of Guatemala
- Families at Crittenton Center
- Midwest Food Bank
- Wally Bastian and his family
- Luan Borquist
- Scott Cochran
- Keith Erickson

- Darlene Ford's friend
- Gabe
- Howard Gallatin
- Jack Grant
- The family of Glenn
- Joyce Grubb
- Laurie Hacker
- Ron Hipple
- Amy Hoffman
- Hunter
- Helen Johnson
- Nicole Inman
- Karen
- Ken
- Briggs Landwehr and family
- Carl Lindquist
- Judy Livingston
- Lizzy
- Marta
- Millicent
- Abby (Young) Monahan
- Morgan Lott

- Bill Mettam
- Tom Mueller
- Dr. Rick O'Connor
- Larry Olsen
- Oliver and his family
- Heather Reiss
- Sam, Cindy Fischer's niece
- Stephanie
- Teresa Stewart
- Don Swanson
- Rosemary Swanson's friend with pancreatic cancer
- Ella Vandervlugt
- Wayne (brother of Barbi Ricketts)
- Karla and Roman Wegrzyn
- Lesly Wegrzyn

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

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

Book Club

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

The book for August Book Club, facilitated by Gretchen Petrakis, is **"I'm Still Here - Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness"** by Austin Channing Brown. The author is a writer, speaker, and practitioner who helps schools, nonprofits, and religions organization practice genuine inclusion. Her writing has appeared in outlets such as Christianity Today, Relevant, Sojourners, and The Christian Century. It has been a choice recently on many popular online book club groups. If you are interested in joining this group, please email Gretchen at gpetrakis@salemofpeoria to join. You can also call the church office. The book group meets on Zoom on a night meeting the last week of the month to discuss the book. We would love to have you join us!

This is not an easy book and parts will be hard to read as a white person. Austin Channing Brown writes in "breathtaking detail about her journey (yes, it's a memoir) to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice, in stories that bear witness to the complexity of America's social fabric - from Black Cleveland neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to the boardrooms at majority-white organizations. This book is an illuminating look at how white middle-class Evangelicalism has participated in an era of rising racial hostility, inviting the reader to confront apathy, recognize God's ongoing work in the world, and discover how Blackness - it we let it - can save us all."

Some reviews from readers of the book might help further:

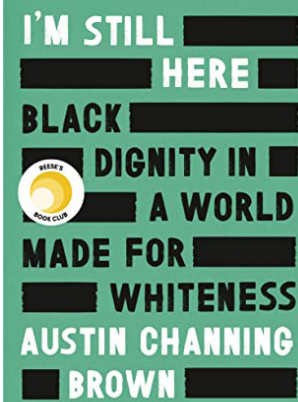
In the same way that not everyone was ready and could handle, "Between the World and Me," this is another that some will have a hard time with. It was not meant to comfort white people. It's written to share a black experience. With that being said, if there is one book that could most accurately define my Christian black womanhood... my thoughts, my pain, my fear, my concerns, my frustrations, my awareness that I MUST press on despite not having much to cling to for hope... it's this book. I read it in one sitting. It was that relatable. So grateful for Austin's willingness to share her perspective and a part of her story which so many of us black women can Amen to. (Shayla Mays on Goodreads)

Austin is spot on in her discussion of many workplaces. I rolled my eyes multiple times in frustration on her behalf as she recounted comments and challenges from coworkers, even those alleging they meant no harm. An overhaul of workplace culture is necessary, particularly in the corporate world — Too often companies issue distant, jargon-laden

statements, hosting a round table discussion once or twice, claiming they offer an inclusive environment and have zero tolerance for racist behavior/ comments, then continuously move on until the next instance of tragedy (that they become aware of). White people should be speaking less and listening more, at work and elsewhere, everywhere.

I listened to the audiobook, narrated by Austin herself, which I highly recommend. While short in length, I listened to it in small parts over the last week, taking in each piece of her story. I'm Still Here highlights several ongoing issues in our society and serves as a timely reminder we have much to learn — Change doesn't happen by hoping, it happens through action. (Brandice on Goodreads)

This is a powerful book. Many of Brown's experiences being black in a white world have echoed my own. However, they are more visceral because she lives with the double bind of being a black female. Her book is part memoir and also has elements of James Baldwin and Ta-Nehisi Coates. Her voice is unique because she focuses a lot on her interaction with white Christians, especially those who purport to be "nice" and not racist. Chapter 8-"The Story We Tell" and Chapter 14-"Standing in the Shadow of Hope" are my favorite chapters in the book. Brown has a way with words, this is clear in Chapter 14 when she writes about her relationship with "hope." (Raymond on Goodreads)



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



August 3

Paul Bahnfleth
Cloyd Conard
Candence Forkell
Patty Lantz

August 6

Nancy Owen

August 8

Patricia Arehart
Rebecca Sipf

August 9

Nicholas Doty
Quinn Salverson

August 12

Jan Taylor

August 14

Justin Grabel
Beverly Holmes

August 15

Riley Neltner

August 16

Heather MacIver-Arnold
Jon Ripper

August 17

Jill Sidell

August 18

Brandon Lott
Nona Mitchelar

August 19

Liam Dammann
Dylan Schroeder

August 21

Evelyn Aprahamian

August 22

Jason Breidel

August 25

Frances Riley*
JQ Scoville
Leo Vandervlugt

August 27

Joy Anderson
Amy Schroeder

August 28

Dennis Krus
Ellen Mangan
Marian Meinert

August 30

Levi Salverson

August 31

Donald Graves
Dylan Rastatter

* Fran Riley will be 101!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



September 1

Julie Doty

September 3

Emily Jolliff

September 4

Greg Grebner
Caidon Hickey
Talon Witt

September 5

Carole Love
Robert Middleton, Sr.
David Swanson

September 6

Katherine Hancock
Nancy Knobloch

September 8

Mary Gibson
Suzanne Ligon

September 9

Jamie Hancock

September 10

Laura VanLaningham

September 11

Paul Misselhorn
Gregory Scoville
Melissa Snider

September 12

Caleb Brinkman
Grant Kroodsma

September 13

Jennifer Friberg
Donald Hamann
Jordyn Manning
David Thomasson

September 14

Amy Hoffman

September 15

Kadyn Cochran
Jeffrey Hamann
Riley Moore

September 15

Marlene Peterson

September 16

Connor Kelly
Henry Noe

September 17

David Rees

September 18

Kevin Setterlund

September 20

Ella Hartman
Tim Koeltzow
Kylee Lambie
Drew Swanson

September 21

Karl Larson

September 22

Haley Aubrey
A.J. Bastian
Rebecca Glawe

September 22

Nicole Vandervlugt

September 23

Daniela Gonzales
Bruce Norgard
Donna Siegrist
Alex Swanson

September 24

Inez Norgard

September 25

Martha Mohr

September 26

Alice Bahnfleth
Kelly Brinkman
Justin Machacek

September 28

Barbara Glawe

September 29

Alyssa Glawe

September 30

James Patterson



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

IN-PERSON WORSHIP REMAINS SUSPENDED

Due to the ongoing uncertainty of the coronavirus and the need to keep people safe, worship services will continue as online only. Salem Council will again review possibilities at the September meeting and review considerations with the Gathering Task Force.

This continues to be a decision that is not taken lightly. As COVID-19 numbers continue to increase, schools adapt to the fall schedule, there is caution about the continued impact of Covid-19 in our communities well into the fall.

What Can We Still Do?

You are encouraged to go online for weekly worship and experience the variety of ways Salem members participate each week.



A new option has been added for those particularly without internet access to dial in by phone to visit with Pastor Craig on Sunday mornings, chat with Salem members and listen to portions of the service. That number is (727) 731-1641. The call is active at 9am each Sunday.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we journey through this wilderness time together seeking God's ever-present help to inform and direct us.

