



# The Bugle

**A**s we turn the final page of the calendar to close the chapter of one year, at the same time we begin a new set of months and start another. Many may ponder, as did Mary, what sort of greeting or beginning will this be? What is in store for us that we cannot anticipate just as we did not anticipate the many unexpected surprises that accompanied this past year? As Lent began, so did the shelter in place order which started a long and difficult journey which

far beyond the Bethlehem community as Magi from distant lands saw a sign in the sky that announced the coming of someone new, a king. Together, they journeyed to Bethlehem in search for this newborn king and to worship the infant Jesus with precious and unique gifts that honored the future role of Jesus for people everywhere for all time to come. This memorable story lives in the hearts of those who are blessed to believe that Jesus is God's Messiah and the world is a better and special place because of him.

## *Immanuel* **GOD IS WITH US**

caused us to adapt as a church to new realities to not only keep ministries functioning, but make them relevant for a changing world. Together, we turned our focus to what was before us, learn from the past and set our sights on future possibilities.

The Christmas season ends on January 5, and a new season begins. The Day of Epiphany celebrates the revelation that news of the birth of Jesus was extending

With that in mind, we boldly conclude one calendar and open another. With wonderment, excitement and with confidence we enter another year of possibilities knowing that God provides a way for us, and God will not allow us to journey alone. Immanuel, God is with us. Blessed New Year!

-Pastor Craig

### IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2	Annual Reports
Page 2	Midwest Food Bank
Page 3	Sock It To Them
Page 3	Outreach Ministries Curbside at Salem
Page 4	Blood Drive
Page 4	Faith at Home
Page 4	Youth Devotions
Page 5	Adult Fellowship
Page 5	Salem Book Club
Page 8	Ulrich Update
Page 9	Poinsettias
Page 10	Thank You
Page 11	Birthdays
Page 11	Remembrance
Page 12	Prayer Requests

### ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

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 31 at 11am** on zoom. Please sign up in advance to receive the zoom link.

## Annual Reports Due January 8

Attention all Salem ministry committees and groups: please submit your annual reports to Leah Grebner at [lgrebner@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:lgrebner@salemofpeoria.com) by **Friday, January 8**. Please let her know if you need any assistance in gathering information for your reports or if you need a copy of last year's report e-mailed to you.

This year, we are planning to do the annual report a little different. We will be consolidating some of the written reports and we will have some of the congregational leaders provide brief videos about their specific areas of ministry. If you are a ministry leader and did not have an opportunity to attend the informational zoom meeting, please contact Leah Grebner for details and questions.



## Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity on January 27 from 9am-11am

Midwest Food Bank currently distributes over \$23 million worth of food to over 2,000 non-profits each month. We stand ready for disaster relief efforts and can get food-filled relief boxes to those in need, within 24 hours. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the valuable work of our volunteers, and most importantly, the blessings of God, Midwest Food Bank now shares the blessings worldwide. Nearly \$280 million worth of food was distributed in 2019.

Salem's volunteer opportunity at Midwest Food Bank has had about 4-6 dedicated volunteers (THANK YOU!), but would love to have a few more! If interested please plan to meet at the Peoria Division (9005 N Industrial Rd, Peoria, IL 61615) at 9am on January 27. If you have questions please contact John Gabel ([iron\\_man\\_46@yahoo.com](mailto:iron_man_46@yahoo.com)).



**Craig Swenson,**  
Senior Pastor  
[cswenson@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:cswenson@salemofpeoria.com)

**Jill Goldhammer, Deacon,**  
Children, Youth & Family Ministries  
[jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com)

**Leah Grebner,**  
Office Coordinator  
[office@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:office@salemofpeoria.com)

**Maggie Sloter,**  
Director of Music & Choir Director  
[msloter@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:msloter@salemofpeoria.com)

**Meghan Peterson, Editor**  
[mpeterson@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:mpeterson@salemofpeoria.com)

**Lori Reimer, RN**  
Parish Nurse  
[lreimer@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:lreimer@salemofpeoria.com)

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

February monthly Bugle content due date is January 12.

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



## WHY ARE SOCKS SO IMPORTANT TO THE HOMELESS?

### PROTECTION FROM THE COLD



Time it takes to get **frostbite** in sub-zero temperatures.



Time it takes to get **frostbite** when temperatures are -15 degrees or lower.

### PROTECTION FROM INFECTION



Wet socks breed **bacteria**, which causes infection.

January. The socks will be donated to various local ministries who serve Peoria's shelters and homeless population.

Please consider picking up an extra pair of socks (or pack of socks) on your next shopping trip or ordering socks on-line. You can call the church to drop them off any weekday from 8:30am-Noon in January or you can leave new socks in the large blue weatherproof container at the back entrance to church at any time during the month.

If you want to get more bang for your SOCKS, order your socks at [www.bombas.com](http://www.bombas.com). For every pair of socks you purchase, Bombas donates a pair to programs serving the homeless through their Make A Purchase, Make A Difference Campaign. They've donated more than 40 million pairs of socks to more than 2500 community organizations to date. (And, they have great socks!)

Thanks in advance for your donations! Together we will bring hope, healing and warm, dry feet to everyone facing homelessness in our community. Please feel free to encourage your friends and family to share this collection opportunity! There will be a collection bin located under the balcony for donation drop off.

## Outreach Ministry Salem "curbside" food collection for the Bethel Food Pantry and Fair Trade Pick-up SATURDAY, Jan. 9, 10am-12pm

We will be having a curbside drop off food drive for Bethel's Food bank on January 9 from 10am- Noon to coincide with Fair Trade order pickup (please watch the Bugle Blast for the online order form or contact Jennifer Gallas.) This month's theme is "Doctor Seuss - Help us feed the hungry. One can, two can, who can? YOU CAN!!"

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has donated to the last three food drives. Special thanks to Roberta Kessinger for delivering our monthly donations to Bethel. The response has been phenomenal and has

## Help Us Feed the Hungry



been received gratefully by the folks at Bethel.

Outreach will be continuing this curbside drop-off as long as is necessary to continue to meet the needs of the hungry in our community. Thank you!!!

Sarah Gonzales, Outreach Chairperson





January is National Blood Donor Awareness Month. According to the American Red Cross, winter is “one of the most difficult times of year to collect enough blood products to meet patient needs.” This can be due to busy holiday schedules and bad weather often resulting in canceled blood drives or donations. In addition to our current Covid pandemic, seasonal illnesses such as the flu force potential donors to forgo their blood donations. These are a few of the reasons that National Blood Donor Month has taken place each January since 1970. Don't wait for a disaster, give blood every 56 days (112 for double reds). While 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, less than 10% go out and do it. About 36,000 units of red blood cells and 7,000 units of platelets are needed every single day in the U.S. The most requested blood type by hospitals is type O as it can be transfused to patients of all blood types and only 7% of people in the U.S. have type O. Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person — the gift of life.

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**SALEM'S NEXT BLOOD DRIVE is  
January 18, 2021 from 1pm - 6pm.**

It will be located again at Northwoods mall (area to be determined). You are eligible to give if you have not donated since November 23, 2020. Go to

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and search for Salem Lutheran Church or contact Lori Reimer to sign up for a time. Help is also needed to take temperatures or register donors. Contact Lori if you can help with these for any part of the five hours.



**Faith at Home Bible Study Update**

We are taking a break! For many reasons the following groups will not be meeting until:

- **Wednesday, January 6:** Wednesday Bible morning Bible Study with Pastor Craig
- **The week of January 10:** Sunday night Junior and Senior High Bible Study and the Wednesday evening Jesus Storybook Bible - Bible Study group

Sunday School typically takes a break from meeting until children are back in school. Some of us may be a little weary of Zoom, as well. And, taking time to refresh your soul is always a good thing! Peace and joy to all of you.

**Youth Devotions**

Online youth devotions will continue at 7pm on Sunday nights in January for Junior High and Senior High through Zoom resuming on **Sunday, January 10**. Watch for new opportunities for Youth Groups to gather on-line in the new year. For more information please contact Jill Goldhammer (jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com).



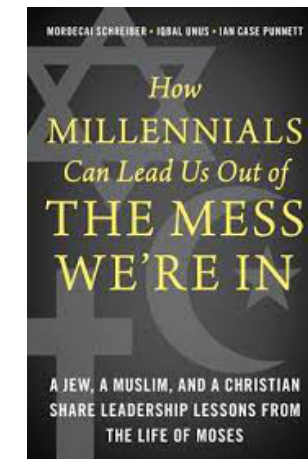
**ADULT FELLOWSHIP:  
Crafts & Craft Beer,  
Thursday, January 21  
at 7pm**

Crafts and craft beer, corks and canvas, knitting, stitching, stained glass, coloring, jigsaw puzzles, whittling, woodcraft? What is your go-to pastime or hobby?

On **Thursday, January 21 at 7pm**, bring a snack, a drink and your favorite time filler to this 2021 mid-winters night online gathering. We can work, gab, and play show and tell with whatever our ongoing projects happen to be now that we are past our covid Christmas. Watch for the zoom link sign up in the Bugle Blast!



**JANUARY BOOK: “How Millennials Can Lead Us Out Of the Mess We’re In”**



**Zoom Discussion Meeting will be January 28 at 7:30pm**

Salem Book Club meets each month on Zoom for fellowship and book discussion. Anyone may join the group – for a single book that interests you or every month. Books are suggested by members of the group. Email Gretchen at [gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com) to be put on the list to receive the Zoom link and reminders.

During troubled times, millions have been inspired by the stories and spiritual lessons of the selfless leadership of Moses. In a world increasingly affected by political, social, and racial imbalance, we need strong, innovative leaders who have not forgotten or ignored these valuable lessons. **How Millennials Can Lead Us Out of the Mess We're In: A Jew, a Muslim, and a Christian Share Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses** brings together an Israeli-born rabbi, a Pakistani-born Muslim scholar, and an ordained Midwestern American to inspire the next generation of leaders with a timeless story of the ancient prophet Moses. Written in an easy and accessible style, this book is meant for sincerely spiritual but church-resistant Bible readers as well as those who are familiar with the Moses narrative. No leadership book has ever attempted to synthesize the religious views of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity into one unified, harmonious voice singing a single hymn.

Our February meeting time is **February 25th at 7:30pm** to discuss the book, *The Beauty of What Remains* by Rabbi Steve Leder.

# JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>JAN. 31</b> 9am: Live Phone Call 9am: Worship 11am: Annual Meeting on Zoom 7pm: Faith for Life & Kappa Chi Faith at Home Devotion					<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Office is Closed</b>	<b>2</b> 5pm: Worship Online
<b>3</b> 9am: Live Phone Call 9am: Worship 11am: Zoom Adult Fellowship Coffee Hour	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10am: Zoom Staff Meeting 10:30am: Rebecca Circle 7pm: Zoom Council Meeting	<b>6</b> 10am: Zoom Bible Study	<b>7</b> 9am: Adult Bible Study 7pm: Man-To-Man	<b>8</b> 1pm: Zoom Grown & Flown Mom's Group	<b>9</b> 10am-12pm: Fair Trade Curbside Pickup 10am-12pm: Outreach Drop off 5pm: Worship Online
<b>10</b> 9am: Live Phone Call 9am: Worship 11am: Zoom Adult Fellowship Coffee Hour 7pm: Faith for Life & Kappa Chi Faith at Home Devotion	<b>11</b> 6:30pm: Zoom Congregational Care Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>Northern Conference Bugle Deadline</b> 10am: Zoom Staff Meeting 7pm: Zoom Outreach Meeting 7:30pm: Zoom Faith Formation Meeting	<b>13</b> 10am: Zoom Bible Study 7pm: Zoom Adult Sunday School Study	<b>14</b> 9am: Adult Bible Study 7pm: Man-To-Man	<b>15</b> 1pm: Zoom Grown & Flown Mom's Group	<b>16</b> 5pm: Worship Online
<b>17</b> 9am: Live Phone Call 9am: Worship 11am: Zoom Adult Fellowship Coffee Hour 7pm: Faith for Life & Kappa Chi Faith at Home Devotion	<b>18</b> 1pm-6pm: Salem Blood Drive at Northwoods Mall 7pm: Zoom Salem Churchmen Meeting	<b>19</b> 10am: Zoom Staff Meeting 7pm: Zoom Property & Finance Meeting	<b>20</b> 10am: Zoom Bible Study 7pm: Zoom Adult Sunday School Study	<b>21</b> 9am: Adult Bible Study 7pm: Man-To-Man 7pm: Adult Fellowship Crafts & Craft Beer	<b>22</b> 1pm: Zoom Grown & Flown Mom's Group	<b>23</b> 5pm: Worship Online
<b>24</b> 9am: Live Phone Call 9am: Worship 11am: Zoom Adult Fellowship Coffee Hour 7pm: Faith for Life & Kappa Chi Faith at Home Devotion	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10am: Zoom Staff Meeting 7pm: Worship & Music Meeting	<b>27</b> 9am: Midwest Food Bank 10am: Zoom Bible Study 7pm: Zoom Adult Sunday School Study	<b>28</b> 9am: Adult Bible Study 5:30pm: Executive Committee 7pm: Man-To-Man 7:30pm: Zoom Book Club	<b>29</b> 1pm: Zoom Grown & Flown Mom's Group	<b>30</b> 5pm: Worship Online



Dear Family and Friends,  
Merry Christmas!

We are very excited to let you know that we will be going back to Malawi January of 2021. We have been very blessed to have this time in the States and we are thankful for all your continued partnership.

***Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."***

Psalm 91: 1-2

In this Christmas season as we are pondering the birth of Christ and all that has happened this year. This year has been a year of change, confusion, fear, and a trust in the Lord for us and maybe for you too. No matter what has happened, we know that He is our refuge. May we continue to trust and lean on Him.

We are celebrating our first five years in Malawi! We are so thankful for five years of doing God's work. These five years would not have been possible without the faithful support of so many. We often tell everyone in our ministries that when we come, we are coming with hundreds of people that are partnering with us through prayer, emotional support, and financial support. We want to say a huge thank you to the 42 individuals/families that give financially regularly and have done so for all the last five years, the 17 others that have given regularly for part of those five years, the 6 churches/organizations financially partnering with us for all five years and the 5 others that have partnered for part of that time, the over 300 one-time gifts given to fill in the gap in our regular support, the countless people that pray for us regularly and even more that have prayed for us for specific needs or times, the 16 people who have visited us in Malawi, and the so many that have called or emailed or messaged. All of these people, you, have made it possible to do the tough task of following God's calling.

If you want to send us a note before we leave. You can send it to:

Ulrich  
74 N. 400 E.  
Loda, IL 60948

Continue to follow us on our blog, [hoperisestogether.wordpress.com](http://hoperisestogether.wordpress.com) and Facebook.

Love,  
The Ulrich Family

# Poinsettias

Due to the unique nature of our services this year, we did not have usual poinsettia tree at Christmas. However, the church purchased some poinsettias for the sanctuary to provide a more festive atmosphere. Thank you for helping offset the cost of the poinsettias, and giving us the opportunity to memorialize or honor your loved ones.



## Donated by:

**Terry Krus & Jack Grant, Jr.**

**Dave & Paula Sydow**

**Donald & Susan Hamann**

**Peterson Family**

**Nancy Bastian**

**Mike & Brenda Newcomb**

## Donated by:

**Donald & Susan Hamann**

**Nancy Peterson**

## In Memory of:

**Jack & Carolyn Grant**

**Pastor Paul Park  
Roman Wegrzyn  
Susan Mikkelson**

**Raymond & Marian Anderson  
Russell & Dorothy Hamann**

**James Moffett  
Lois Schwarz  
George Schwarz  
Steven C. Peterson**

**Jerry Bastian  
Joanie Bastian  
Henry Bastian**

**Jerry Bastian  
Joanie Bastian  
Henry Bastian**

## In Honor Of:

**Tim  
Brad & Andrea  
Jeff, Raluca, & Victor Hamann**

**To the Glory of God**



# THANK YOU!

Thanks for the wonderful cards, treats and gifts from Salem members and to Meghan for delivering them. Also thanks to Lydia Circle for the many gifts and cards delivered by Inez. I sent the gifts to the health center for Walt to enjoy and read him a few of the cards each time I have FaceTime with him. We miss our Salem family.

-Walt & Joy Anderson

• Thank you to Rebecca Circle for all of the nice things they brought and I appreciate them thinking of me.

- Susan Barham

• Special thank you to Pastor Craig, Salem staff, and volunteers for the so many ways you keep us connected during this strange time. All the internet services, Zoom opportunities, calls, and goody bags are wonderful.

-Bless you all!

Keith and MaryAlice Erickson

• Thank you to Rebecca Circle for the beautiful card and wonderful greetings. Merry Christmas to all!

-Janet Jones

• Dear Pastor Craig and Salem Family,

Thank you, with my grateful appreciation, for celebrating my 100th Birthday with me.

Your beautiful cards and messages are so inspiring and uplifting. I experienced an epiphany of Joy and Thanksgiving. A greater realization of how God, in His loving care, has sustained and guided me through all of my life's challenges safely. To Him Be The Glory! Now, I begin my Advent with renewed anticipation of new beginnings and expectations in Christ.

Know too, as each of you celebrate your birthdays, I will be present in prayer cheering you on in your new milestones and advents of expectations.

-God's Blessings with Love, Bea Kent

• Thank you to Lydia Circle which delivered a Christmas bag filled with goodies and useful gifts. I appreciate receiving it from all these generous ladies.

-Ruth Landes

• Thank you to the Salem Family for my Christmas bag. I really appreciated reading each card. The cookies and candy were great. The other gifts were much appreciated, too. May 2021 be a much better year.

- Love and Prayers,  
Bev Maier

• Thank you to all who put together the Christmas bags. I really enjoyed reading all of the cards and messages from everybody.

- Georgia Sutherland

Dear Friends in Christ, The Bethel United Methodist Church would like to thank you and your congregation for all the

food donations received during the months of October through December. We also received your kind donation in the amount of \$125 for our food pantry. All of your donations and many acts of kindness are very much appreciated. Your contributions enable us to better serve those who are less fortunate and afford us the opportunity to witness the love of our savior, Christ Jesus. Thank you for your generosity and all of your love. May God continue to richly bless you in His Service.

- In Christian Friendship,  
Linda John, Outreach Chairperson and  
Rev. Tyson T. Parks III

• Thank you for your continued support and generosity to Thomas Jefferson School. We will utilize the \$500 to support any additional purchases needed at our building level. We have distributed several of the Kroger gift cards to our families in need and they have been extremely appreciative. Thank you for always thinking of us.

-Merry Christmas,

Kary Boerger, Principal of Thomas Jefferson School

• Because of your generosity, \$1,000 was donated to Lutheran Disaster Response. This represents funds from the Outreach budget along with contributions from Salem members. Thank you!

• Thank you all for your faithfulness to continue to stand behind us. We at South Side Mission are so thankful to have such a long connection with Salem.

-Blessings,

Rev. Frank Winfrey,

Director of Church Relations, South Side Mission

• Thank you for your generosity. Your gifts support the mission of the whole church doing things that an individual congregation cannot do on its own.

-In Christ,

Pastor Chrissy Slaser, Member of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee

• Construction continues on our last home for 2019-2020, but five more families have been chosen our 2020-2021 builds and we want you to hear a message from one of them. Robin Bryant says, "Yes, we have a place to live at this moment, but the thought of having a place that we can call our own home is so overwhelming to my heart. We have lived in apartments, houses, with others, and so on, but now we have the chance to build our own home. My motto has always been 'Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.' We as a family are ready and will be part of this team!"

Your gift of \$1802.07 will help our new partner families build their homes. Thanks again for your partnership in this life-changing work.

- In partnership,

Lea Anne Schmidgall, Executive Director,  
Habitat for Humanity Greater Peoria Area

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



### January 1

David Mills  
Kylie Swanson  
Jennifer Wallstedt

### January 2

Eleonore Hansen

### January 4

Robert Arehart  
Adam Oertley  
Maryanne Rastatter

### January 5

Walter Anderson  
Matthew Wiesehan

### January 8

Dorothy Strickler

### January 9

Jacklyn McKinty  
Alexia Campbell

### January 11

Liam Cochran  
John Petrakis

### January 12

Dean Doughty  
Margaret Onyun  
Meghan Onyun  
Nathan Onyun

### January 13

Lesly Baumgartner

### January 17

Erinn Ambrosch  
Jazmyne Scoville

### January 18

Kelly Knobloch  
Jim Metternich  
Anitra O'Connor  
Andrea Roberts

### January 19

Ann Roberts  
Brent Salverson  
Jason Sterr

### January 20

Gwyn Egan  
Lauren Swanson

### January 21

Sharon Mollenhauer

### January 22

Matthew Grebner  
Dennis Gustafson

### January 23

Richard Nelson

### January 24

Betty Bennett  
Rachel Gonzales  
Rachel Malone

### January 25

JoAnn Misselhorn

### January 26

Elgene Martin

### January 28

Elaine McHugh  
Jackie Ripper  
Marilyn Stamerjohn  
Kaylee Stenzel

### January 29

Jocyle Nolde

### January 30

Donald Swanson

### January 31

Gary Snider

## In Remembrance

Prayers are requested for Sharon Mollenhauer and her family. Her husband, John, joined the church triumphant on Friday, December 25, 2020. May Christ surround her in his arms and comfort her and may all who mourn his loss find comfort and peace.

## 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 Shelbyville

### 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  
• Patty Bash  
• Luan Borquist

• Scott Cochran  
• Art and Diane DeVooght  
• Keith Erickson  
• John Ford  
• Gabe  
• Jack Grant  
• Laurie Hacker  
• Ron Hipple  
• Helen Johnson  
• Karie  
• Briggs Landwehr and family  
• Jodie (Lori Reimer's daughter)  
• Judy Livingston  
• Lizzie  
• Marta  
• Morgan Lott  
• Bill Mettam  
• Ella (Vandervlugt) Moehlman and family  
• Sharon Mollenhauer and her family with the loss of John

• Tom Mueller  
• Sarah Nazes St. Clair, (daughter of Linda Peterson)  
• Donna and Larry Newbanks  
• Carolyn Noe  
• Dr. Rick O'Connor  
• Rosy Park  
• Bill Schroeder  
• Tim Speck  
• Teresa Stewart  
• Teddy and for his family  
• Wayne (brother of Barbi Ricketts)  
• Lesly Baumgarten  
• Teresa Wright

### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

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





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

