

the Bugle

March is often considered the windy month. It is the time of year when Winter begins to lose its grip and warmer days give way to Spring. Snow melts and the earth begins to warm making ready for new life to break forth through the colorless landscape. The birds begin their migration, and the air is filled with the sound of songbirds and a freshness as grass greens, buds swell making ready for the April showers that bring May flowers once again. As many of you know, I value each of the seasons and have an appreciation for each of the four unique and different seasons in the mid-west. It is a cycle of life that repeats year after year making it a joy to live in this part of the world. And even though the cycle is predictable, each year, season, month, and day are not exactly the same. Each day is an adventure, and we are never quite sure what the next day might bring.

While I have appreciated bundling up and seeing a blanket of snow cover the ground, I am also looking forward to what is now to come. We are coming out of a winter's sleep and we are being shaped to embrace the new that is before us. Last summer and fall, Karen and I spent a good deal of time in the landscape areas of

our yard to thin and even remove some plantings and to amend and improve growing conditions for other flowers, shrubs, and perennial plants. We planted a few additional plants, and we have one more area to plant in May. I aerated the lawn and sowed additional grass seed so I am more than excited to see what will become of this year's growing season and the fruits of our labor.

What seeds have you sown in God's garden of life and what will you anticipate in the new season before us? Have you sown or will you yet sow seeds reflective of the Spirit's fruit as Paul describes to the Galatians—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Can you imagine what a difference our future seasons could look like if we sow and nurture seeds that have the potential to change lives because they have been sown and grown in God?

Spring is coming and there is work to be done, both in the outdoor gardens as well as our communal and personal gardens. God has blessed us with work to be done and invites us to share in caring for God's creation. It is an exciting time as we anticipate what is yet to be. Blessings to you, fellow gardeners, and caretakers.



-Pastor Craig

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WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE SATURDAYS AT 5PM

SUNDAYS

IN-PERSON 9AM

(pre-registration required
currently limited to 50)

MIDWEEK LENT

ONLINE TUESDAYS AT 5PM

through March 24

Hope through the Wilderness

While Lent will again be different than what we long remember, it will still give us an opportunity to reflect, pray and anticipate for what God is doing even through challenging times. Continuing through March 24, **mid-week worship will be all virtual and will go live at 5pm on Tuesdays.** All are encouraged to grow in hope through the wilderness even as we face many difficulties. Worship services midweek will all be Evening Prayer from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship. A corresponding message will be shared through a *Bugle Blast* and through Salem's website each week.

February 24 – Hope through Creation – Genesis 1:1-5

March 3 – Hope through a Flood – Genesis 7:11-8:12

March 10 – Hope through New Beginnings – Joshua 1:1-9

March 17 – Hope through Temptation – Luke 4:1-15

March 24 – Hope through a Promise – Acts 1:3-5

What does your wilderness journey look like? Take heart, we need not live in despair but rather in hope for hope is rooted in a promise, God's promise of Jesus who has ushered in the coming kingdom. That is really good news!



Easter Lily Donations

Salem has ordered 20 lilies to beautify the sanctuary for Easter. Donations will be received to help offset the cost of the lilies and to allow people to memorialize or honor their loved ones to be shared in both the online and in-person services for Easter. An online form is available here: <https://saalemofpeoria.com/worship/flowers/> or you may contact the church office at (309) 688-9212.



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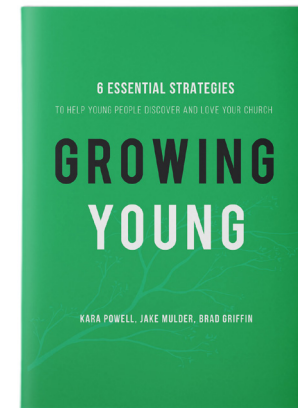
February monthly Bugle content due date is March 9.

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

MARCH BOOK: Growing Young

Salem Book Club for March

The March book is *Growing Young* by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, Brad Griffin and we will meet on Thursday, March 25th at 7:30pm on Zoom. If you would like to be on the email distribution list for meeting information please email gpetrakis@saalemofpeoria.org.



More about the March book:

Across the United States, churches are losing both members and vitality as increasing numbers of young people disengage. Based on groundbreaking research with over 250 of the nation's leading congregations, *Growing Young* provides a strategy any church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults. It profiles innovative churches that are engaging 15- to 29-year-olds and as a result are growing--spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically. Packed with both research and practical ideas, *Growing Young* shows pastors and ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the whole church.

ADULT Fellowship

Salem Online Trivia Night, Friday, March 19 at 7pm

Join your fellow trivia buffs for an online virtual trivia night on zoom. Dress for St. Patty's Day and come join the fun! Teams, singles, couples, friends, neighbors- all are welcome!

Contemporary Art Center Visit: Making Faces at the World, Saturday, March 27 at 7pm

Join us for an adult fellowship outing on Saturday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. We will be meeting at the Contemporary Arts Center to see Pastor Richard Wehrs' gallery exhibit of his ceramic sculptures. For more details visit: <https://peoriacac.org/events/making-faces-at-the-world>

Adequate Sleep

We often concentrate on nutrition and physical activity when thinking of our health and well-being, but sleep is also important for optimal health for all ages. Adequate sleep is not only necessary for general good health but also helps to fight infection, maintaining metabolism of sugar to prevent diabetes, and helping us to perform effectively and safely at school, work, and home. Sleep timing and duration affect several functions of the brain and body that are critical to maintain individual health and inadequate sleep can lead to increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, and depression. Some natural approaches to improve sleep health include:

- Avoid stimulating agents such as nicotine and caffeine
- Avoid heavy meals or alcohol late at night
- Sleep in a dark room
- Develop a sleep routine which includes a regular time of going to bed every night
- Evaluate the comfort of your sleep space such as temperature, mattress firmness
- Try relaxation techniques, calm music, meditation, prayer, relaxing book
- If you can't sleep, get up and do something quiet for awhile
- There are herbal supplements to try but do not forget to include these on your list of medications and discuss with your healthcare team



FROM THE
PARISH NURSE,
LORI REIMER, RN



WHY ARE SOCKS SO IMPORTANT TO THE HOMELESS?

Everyone deserves the basic comfort and safety that comes from equal access to showers, bathrooms, and laundry facilities. Access to hot showers and clean clothing has always been critical to the health of our homeless community members living on the streets and other places unfit for human habitation.

The need for proper hygiene is now more important than ever, especially for a population who are at high risk of contracting COVID-19. Since the start of COVID-19, many individuals experiencing homelessness have had limited access to facilities with running water and basic hygiene supplies while being at a higher risk of developing hygiene related illnesses.

PHOENIX COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Phoenix Community Development Services is a leader in the All Continuum of Care effort partnering multiple nonprofit and civic organizations in our community to address the needs of homeless people in our community.

HOWIE is a self-contained winterized unit that features two complete bathrooms with showers, laundry facilities, and a wheelchair lift. By assisting unsheltered individuals without access to these types of facilities, HOWIE will provide vital services on location throughout the community. It will also provide a fresh start for those in need by connecting people to critical resources through the Heart of Illinois 2-1-1



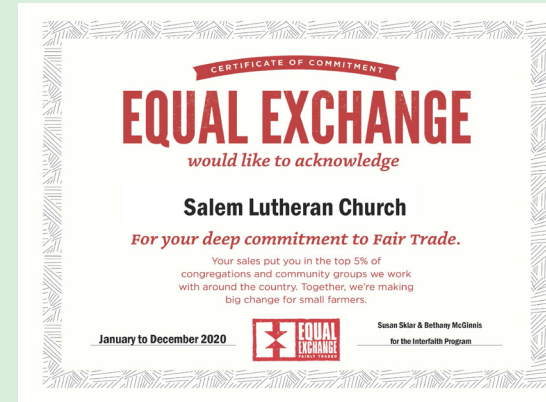
Information and Referral Service. HOWIE will help move homeless individuals onto a path to stable housing through vital resources such as emergency shelter, case management, mental health services, workforce readiness support, and more.

Socks donated by the Salem family will be given to individuals and families who use the HOWIE mobile unit and distributed throughout all Phoenix Community Development Services outreach programs. Salem members are encouraged to visit www.phoenixcds.org to learn more about collaborative community efforts to serve the needs of the homeless.

The Salem Family collected over 500 pairs of socks in January to address a critical need for clean, dry socks in our local homeless community. The donated socks were delivered to the Phoenix Community Development Services (Formerly South Side Office of Concern) on Friday, February 11 for use with their brand new collaborative, innovative Hygiene On Wheels Independence Empowered (HOWIE) mobile unit. **Thank you!**

FAIR TRADE - We're #50!

The Fair Trade Team is excited to share the news that Salem's Fair Trade sales with Equal Exchange earned us some recognition. We placed #50 among the thousands of faith ministries and congregations across the United States that sell fair trade items! Wow! Thank you for your ongoing support.



We plan to continue the curbside pickup on the first Saturday of the month as long as we are still on a modified schedule for the pandemic. If the Saturday pickup does not work for you and you would like to arrange for a drop off or pickup of items at another time, please call Jennifer Gallas at 309-256-5862 or email at Pew117@aol.com to make arrangements. We are happy to assist you!

Fair trade communities and coops have also been hard hit by the pandemic, so your purchase of products helps even more these days. This month we will be having a sale on our Congo Whole Bean Coffee, regularly \$8.50 per pound bag, but it is on sale for \$7.50. We also have a price break on regular Green Tea which will be \$2.75 per box this month (regularly \$3.25) You can pick up these items as well as others on Saturday, March 6 from 10 am – 12 pm.

Please use our online form at www.jotform.com/build/201694526477161 publish to order your products or call your order in to Jane Topel at 309-966-4953. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Many thanks –
Jane, Jenifer, and Karen,
Salem's Fair Trade Team

MISSIONARY ACTIONS

You've seen it, I know you have.

On the boulevard leading up to Target, or on the grass between Menards and Shell station, the cardboard sign that reads: "Anything will help. God bless." Some have passed bills through the car window, bottles of water, or other necessities. This is missionary action.

You've felt it, I know you have.

That tug on your heart, when the commercial showing the small child with the hungry eyes, asks for a donation of less than the cost of a coffee per day. Some sponsor a child, this is a missionary action.

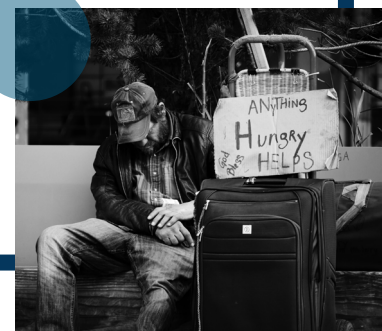
You've heard it, I know you have.

Jesus' voice "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me." - Matthew 25:35-36. These are missionary actions.

This is an invitation for you to join our "missionary action food drive". On your next grocery store trip pick up some extra canned goods, mac & cheese, cereal, pasta or any other staple, then on **Saturday, March 6 between 10am-Noon, drop them off at Salem and become a missionary in action.**

The outreach committee is looking for new members to join our ministry group – meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. At the meetings we discuss and plan activities that are "missionary actions" for the Salem congregation. If you are interested in joining outreach please email Sarah at sarbear11814@gmail.com.

Sarah Gonzales,
Outreach Ministry
Chairperson



Preparing for Holy Week at Home

Nothing this past year has been the same. We have had to adapt activities and even cancel events that we look forward to every year. Many of us feel alone, disconnected and we miss our usual connections and friendships with Salem friends. However, there is hope through the wilderness as we have discovered during this Lenten season.

Although we will not be able to gather and have our usual Palm Sunday celebrations, we have made arrangements to bring some of Salem's Palm Sunday and Holy Week traditions to you.

Make plans to stop by Salem on **Saturday, March 27** between **10am-11:30am** curbside and contactless for materials to enrich your Holy Week activities:



Palm branches and crosses will be available so that you can use at home while you participate in online Palm Sunday Worship.



Holy Week bags for Sunday School families Everything you need to lead your family through Holy Week: lessons, activities, and thoughtful conversation ideas.



Craft materials for Good Friday Family Craft Project on Zoom We won't be able to meet in person for "Way of the Cross" on Good Friday but materials will be provided for you to join on Zoom.



Donuts Not quite the same as the treats we enjoy at church, but a little taste of fellowship at home (donuts will be pre-packaged for pick up.)



CURBSIDE PICK UP

As people of God, we still have hope and dwell in the promise of our Resurrected Lord! Make a commitment to come by Salem on Saturday, March 27th for materials to help prepare your heart to follow in the steps of our Lord as he leads us to the promise of everlasting life.

Fill the Crib for Crittenton Centers – Drive-Thru Donations

Each year, the Crittenton Centers sponsors a Fill the crib campaign to provide baby/toddler supplies for its Crisis Nursery and other families in need. This past year during the pandemic, the need has been great due to economic instability and other stressors influencing peoples' lives. Salem will be collecting the following items on **Saturday, March 27 from 10am to 11:30am** at a curbside drop off at church. (If you are unable to donate items, monetary donations will be collected on the 27th or can be mailed to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Salem with "Crittenton" marked in the memo line.)

Needed Items for Donation:

- Diapers (more in need of larger sizes)
- Training pants
- Baby wipes
- Enfamil Formula (yellow can)
- Comfortable pants (3M- 5T)
- Baby lotion
- Desitin diaper rash cream

The Crisis Nursery provides child abuse prevention services for children from birth to six years; through emergency intervention and respite care, crisis counseling, and support services to families facing stress related to domestic violence, parenting challenges, mental health issues, and other situations that put children at risk. In turn, parent stress levels are reduced, parenting skills increased, and children are safe. Family stability is improved while children are in a safe environment.

Sunday School Zoom, Mar. 14

Join us on **Sunday, March 14 at 10am-10:30am** for fellowship and fun (and maybe a short lesson). Sunday School teachers join in when they can. All are welcome!

Meeting ID: 910 2259 6056

Passcode: Faith

Phone: (312) 626-6799

Online Fellowship & Game Night for High School and Young Adults, Mar 12



Join us on **Friday, March 12 at 7:30pm** For games, fellowship and fun!

Meeting ID: 910 2259 6056

Passcode: Faith

Phone: (312) 626-6799



Resurrection Eggs

Resurrection Eggs are a hands-on resource to tell the story of Holy Week. The twelve eggs come in an egg carton and each egg has an item inside (such as palm frond, nail, purple cloth, or a rock) that helps tell the story. A companion booklet tells the story of Holy Week with scripture and explains the significance of each object.

Sunday School families will be receiving a set when they pick up their Holy Week Bag on **Saturday, March 27th at the "Preparing to Celebrate Holy Week" Curbside Pick-Up event.**

We are preparing extra sets if anyone else in the congregation would like one. They would be available for you to pick up when you pick up your Palm Sunday palm branches on March 27. **Please fill out the online reservation form or call the church office to reserve one if you are interested.**

"Way of the Cross" Online

Salem's high school youth have helped prepare this Good Friday tradition of following Jesus as he fulfills God's promise to give his children... that is, us... the promise of everlasting life. We follow Jesus from the joyous shouts of "Hosanna!" on Palm Sunday, to the life giving promises of the Last Supper, and the betrayal of Jesus that led to him being crucified... and then we wait, with hope, for the glorious promise revealed of Easter.

With readings, songs, and photos this 30 minute video will take you through this traditional Good Friday service. Thank you to Jason and Kelly Brinkman for organizing the script and high school participants and Megan Thomasson for creative video development. This video will be available on Salem's YouTube channel on **Wednesday, March 31st at 5pm.** Watch for the link in future Bugle Blast emails.

Continuing the tradition of craft time that always occurs with this Good Friday event, join Meghan and Emily Peterson on **Good Friday, April 2nd at 10:30am** as they lead us in a craft. **Materials will be provided in Holy Week Sunday School bags available for pick-up on Saturday, March 27 at the "Preparing to Celebrate Holy Week" Curbside Pick-Up event from 10am-11:30am.**



MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm: Zoom Congregational Care Meeting	2 10am: Zoom Staff Meeting 10:30am: Rebecca Circle 5pm: Worship Available Online 7pm: Zoom Council Meeting	3 10am: Zoom Bible Study 6:45pm: Zoom Faith for Life 7:30pm: Zoom Adult Sunday School Study	4 9am: Adult Bible Study 7pm: Man-To-Man	5 1pm: Zoom Grown & Flown Mom's Group	6 10am-12pm: Fair Trade Curbside Pickup 10am-12pm: Outreach Drop off 5pm: Worship Online
7 9am: Live Phone Call 9am: Worship 11am: Zoom Adult Fellowship Coffee Hour 4pm: Zoom Faith for Life	8	9 Northern Conference Bugle Deadline 10am: Zoom Staff Meeting 5pm: Worship Available Online 7pm: Zoom Outreach Meeting 7:30pm: Zoom Faith Formation Meeting	10 10am: Zoom Bible Study 6:45pm: Zoom Faith for Life 7:30pm: Zoom Adult Sunday School Study	11 9am: Adult Bible Study 7pm: Man-To-Man	12 1pm: Zoom Grown & Flown Mom's Group	13 5pm: Worship Online
14 9am: Live Phone Call 9am: Worship 10am: Zoom Sunday School 11am: Zoom Adult Fellowship Coffee Hour 4pm: Zoom Faith for Life	15 7pm: Zoom Salem Churchmen Meeting 7pm: Worship & Music Meeting	16 10am: Zoom Staff Meeting 5pm: Worship Available Online 7pm: Zoom Property & Finance Meeting	17 10am: Zoom Bible Study 6:45pm: Zoom Faith for Life 7:30pm: Zoom Adult Sunday School Study	18 9am: Adult Bible Study 7pm: Man-To-Man 7pm: Adult Fellowship - Craft Night	19 1pm: Zoom Grown & Flown Mom's Group 7pm: Adult Fellowship: Trivia Night	20 5pm: Worship Online
21 9am: Live Phone Call 9am: Worship 11am: Zoom Adult Fellowship Coffee Hour 4pm: Zoom Faith for Life	22 6:30pm: Lydia Circle	23 10am: Zoom Staff Meeting 5pm: Worship Available Online	24 10am: Zoom Bible Study 6:45pm: Zoom Faith for Life 7:30pm: Zoom Adult Sunday School Study	25 9am: Adult Bible Study 7pm: Executive Committee 7pm: Man-To-Man 7:30pm: Zoom Book Club	26 1pm: Zoom Grown & Flown Mom's Group	27 10am: Zoom Faith for Life Make-up Session 5pm: Worship Online 7pm: Adult Fellowship to Contemporary Arts Center
28 PALM SUNDAY 9am: Live Phone Call 9am: Worship 11am: Zoom Adult Fellowship Coffee Hour 4pm: Zoom Faith for Life	29	30 10am: Zoom Staff Meeting	31 9am: Midwest Food Bank 10am: Zoom Bible Study 5pm: Online Way of the Cross 6:45pm: Zoom Faith for Life 7:30pm: Zoom Adult Sunday School Study			

THANK YOU!

• Thanks to Salem and Meghan for delivering the Valentine bag! I had so much fun opening the Valentines and pasting them in a scrapbook for Walt. He will love seeing them and enjoy the treats. So much love and effort went into these remembrances.

- Blessings, Walt & Joy Anderson

• Thank you for the wonderful Christmas box with so many wonderful cards, messages and treats. While we are always grateful for the boxes from Salem... this year with all the limitations due to Covid when we were unable to be with our children... the kindness of our Salem friends meant a great deal. This year with all the limitations when members had to drive by to leave the cards it really was so appreciated by both of us.

So in closing we wish you a happier new year and stay safe!

Sincerely , Carl and Helen Buerger

• To the Members of Salem and Pastor Craig and Karen, This is a note of thanks for all the lovely Christmas cards I received from each one of you. It truly warmed my heart getting such a warm welcome from all of you. Salem is such a warm and friendly church and I am looking forward to becoming more active in the future. God bless each and every one of you.

- Sincerely, Velma Crowley

• To the Second Grade Children – *His Dear Ones*
This is a thank you note from two of Salem Church Members, Marilyn Smith and Velma Crowley. We were so pleased to receive the lap blankets that you made for us. These lap blankets will be a reminder to us of the kindness you have shown with these gifts of love thanks each one of you again. Thank you for delivering the lap blankets and for the nice visit.

-Sincerely Velma Crowley and Marilyn Smith

• Thank you Salem friends for all of the Valentines and goodies. I appreciate it so much.

-Thanks again, Janet Jones.

• Dear Salem Friends.... How happy a day can be when kindness touches it. I enjoyed this pleasure when your Valentine cards and treats were delivered with care. In the spirit of the day, I too wish you Valentine love with my heartfelt appreciation.

-Bea Kent

• Thank you for the Valentine bag and all of the candy.

-Ruth Landes

• Thank you so much for the cards and candy. I don't get out much so it is very thoughtful of you to do that for me.

Thank you again -Carole Love

• A big thank you to the bag fillers, bag organizers and deliverers. So many nice valentines and treats. Thank you to Susan Ross for the delivery and visit. I really appreciate all involved and their hard work.

Sincerely -Bev Maier

• What a bright spot in my day to receive all the lovely Christmas cards and gifts. It was such fun to open, read and be remembered. Thanks to all. May the new year bring good health and happiness.

- Elaine McHugh

• Dear Salem Persons -Thank you so much for the thoughtful, artistic and delicious Valentine bags. I haven't been to the church since Covid, but I enjoy the family singers and pastor's weekly services on my computer. Thank to all of you who keep things going. I will be praying with you during the coming Lenten season.

Peace, Suzanne McMickle

• Thank you for sending us the prayer shawl and blanket! I am sure they will bring Mary Ann warmth and comfort. We have received a little hope that the nursing home will open for some type of visits in another month or so. Mary Ann and I both got covid shots last week with the second to come in a month. Visitation in the home will also be affected by infection rates in this county which are high at this time.

Thank you -Bill and Mary Ann Welch

• To Our Salem Family,
Thanks so much for all the cards and memorials for mom's passing. She and Dad loved Salem for about 57 years. She so missed seeing everyone in this last year especially. You have truly been a big part of our lives. God bless you all.

The family of Ruby Chelgren

Patti & Tom, John & Terry, Jeanne & Gary, Jim & Liz and all the grandkids

• Dear Friends-Thank you for supporting the Salvation Army and "Restoring Hope" for those in need.

Blessings, Laura Clark

• On Behalf of the Peoria Board of Education, I wish to express our appreciation to you for your donation of 20 Kroger gift cards valued at \$1,000. And your monetary donation of \$500 for the support to the students at Peoria Public Schools. With your support, we know our community will always be proud of our schools and our students.

Sincerely, Douglas Shaw

• Dear Pastor Swenson and Friends at Salem Lutheran Church, Thanks be to God for YOU! Your support, now more than ever, means that Wartburg can continue to meet the

"Thank you" continued on page 11

"Thank you" continued from page 10

changing needs of future leaders who have come to us to learn, lead, and grow in ministry. Thank you!

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us all to be more creative in every aspect of our lives. With the support of people like you, Wartburg can continue to adapt and change as we continue preparing our students for a world that needs pastoral leadership. Please keep the Wartburg community in your prayers as we continue to pray for you. Together wherever, we will get through this and find ourselves stronger than ever.

-In Christ, Dr. Kristine Stache, Interim President

• Dear Friends, Your gift of \$1,000 and partnership with South Side Mission is appreciated during these challenging times. When we receive a gift from a generous partner like you, it gives hope and life to the dreams of those we serve. As we move into a new year, your investment in this ministry continues to be a blessing. For those living in poverty, on the margins of society, your gift means a spirit-filled place for their children to learn and grow, it means food and clothing and mentoring. But, your support means so much more. It is truly an act of compassion and affirmation for those seeking our help. It provides hope for them and enables life-transforming work to be done here at South Side Mission. Thank you again for helping us to bless those in need.

-Thank you again for helping us to bless those in need.

With Gratitude, Rev. Craig Williams Executive Director

• Thank you so much for your generous donation to Midwest Food Bank. We are committed to use it wisely as we work to alleviate hunger and provide relief from disaster.

-Blessings, Tom Rieker - Treasurer
Midwest Food Bank, NFP - Illinois

• Thank you for donating to LOMC's ministry of helping guests of all ages connect with God and each other. Your gift makes all the difference in helping LOMC thrive.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

• Dear Salem Lutheran Church,
It is so heartwarming when a donor like you makes it possible for us to say "yes" to one more child in need, or move one more parent out of a crisis. On to behalf the Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers of Crittenton Centers, I was to thank you for your gift of \$2,0000. I want to share some thanks from a parent helped b our Crisis Nursery Staff:

"If it wasn't for you, I know my kids would have been placed in foster care by DCFS. Thanks to you I've been able to hit a rough spot and not lose everything."

Crittenton Centers' Crisis Nursery has been able to distribute over 112,566 diapers, 1,674 packages of wipes, 1,124 cans of formula and 35 pack n plays during COVID-19 thanks to support from donors like YOU! Utilizing new protocols, our Crisis Nursery is providing emergency and

respite for safety children while their families are in crisis. Family Services' Parent Educators continue to support all of their clients through weekly telecommunications. Utilizing new protocols, our Child Development Center is providing education and safety childcare. We believe strong families build strong communities. Your donations mean so much to children and families in our community.

Thank YOU for helping us to achieve our mission of protecting and nurturing children and families. Let us know if you need any support with a donation from your employer. Follow us on Facebook @CrittentonCenters matching and on Instagram @crittentoncenters309 to see some of the faces your donations have helped!

Thank you for your continued support and assistance in meeting the needs of the children.

Jeff Gress, President and CEO

• Dear Friends,
While 2020 was a difficult year for everyone, we were able to provide a record number of services at Neighborhood House BECAUSE OF YOU.

BECAUSE OF YOU, we were able to ...

- Feed 2,329 children, seniors, families, and pets
- Tutor and prep 65 adults in literacy and GED
- Tutor 60 children
- Help 58 individuals with employment and building credit
- Deliver 1,500 gifts to isolated seniors for Christmas
- Adopt 320 children on our Angel Tree

Thank you for giving Neighborhood House and our clients so much to be thankful for. Happy New Year

Becky Rossman, President/CEO

• Dear Friends at Salem Lutheran,
What a year of shaking we've all experienced in 2020! The nations have been literally brought to their knees through the pandemic as travel and economies ground to a halt while hospitals burst at the seams. In the midst of such storms, it would have been tempting to shrink back and not sow into the work of God. We are grateful for your faith-filled partnership with us during this tempestuous season!

And the Lord has honored your sowing with a harvest of souls in the midst of this suffering. We witnessed thousands of Muslims come to a saving faith in the Savior Jesus who calms the storms and speaks peace to fear wrecked hearts. One of our senior leaders in South Asia wrote this a couple of weeks back in reflection on this season:

"This is almost the end of 2020, God led us wonderfully though this pandemic year. We have seen his love and protection on our lives and work. To be truthful, we have seen death and chaos, natural disasters, economic breakdown. But our God graciously preserved us, blessed us in many ways, he has given us increases in our work. People have come to acknowledge him more and more in their personal life, God has become more real in many

"Thank you" continued on page 12

people's lives. Considering all good and bad, year 2020 was not a bad year. People have grown so much in their lives in God, I will just say it is amazing."

It has been an amazing year of our Heavenly Father working through His people to bring good news in word and deed to bad situations and to needy people!

With this letter we gratefully acknowledge your gift of \$3,000 to Global Teams International, Inc. With hearts full of faith, we look forward to what God will do in the coming year.

-Curtis Chanda, International Director

- January reminds many of us that God wants to keep doing new things in our lives and in the earth. He invites us to look and perceive those things underway and to join Him. Thank you for your gift of \$150 for Luke and Jamie Ulrich, for the new things that God is doing through Global Teams! We anticipate great things this year and are thankful that you have chosen to be a partner with us.

Trusting God with you for Christ honoring fruitfulness,
Curtis Chanda, International Director

- Thank you for your gift of \$1500 to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois!

Your kind generosity allows us to open the doors of our Springfield and Peoria Houses to more than 1,000 seriously ill children and their families each year. Your support helps us provide warm beds, hot shower, a kitchen and homemade meals, playroom, recreation area and laundry facilities- all of the essentials of home – to the families we serve. Our houses are a place of respite – a place to rest, a place where families can support each other, and a place to be close to their child when togetherness is needed most.

A mother who stayed with us for many months described the feeling of relief best:

"After long days at the hospital, when we didn't have an ounce of energy left, we were able to go to the House to have a warm meal and a comfortable bed. It's hard enough to worry about if your child will survive, but that was all we had to worry about during that time because the House provided everything else for us."

BAPTISM OF ALEXANDER CRAIG ZAPF - February 7, 2021

"It was wonderful to be in the church again and see all of the work that has been done in the last year," the Zapf Family.

Middle: Alexander and his parents (Matthew and Jennifer Zapf) and sponsors Jessica Reardon and Amanda Schmidgall; and to the **Right:** Pastor Craig and Alexander.



Child of God - Alexander Craig Zapf baptized on February 7, 2021

We believe our families should not worry about anything except caring for their child, and our families stay with us, for as long as needed, at no cost to them. Your support helps us ensure that families have one less stressor during these time of their lives.

Thank you for opening your hearts to our families.

Sincerely,

Amber D. Jaylor, Chief Executive Officer

- In times where crisis is around every corner, we hold fast to our faith in God and each other. We are so very glad to have friends that support outdoor ministry. We continue to welcome a reduced number of guests and we are working hard to care for this beautiful place called LOMC. Thanks again for helping us keep outdoor ministry thriving.

Blessings and peace from the LOMC staff and board,
Robert Gieraltowski, Executive Director

- Dear Salem Lutheran Church, Thank you for your gift of \$1,500.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring ("Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," ELW 254).

This season, we remember a time before Christ's birth, when humanity waited to be delivered from fear and sin. But, we also remember the day the waiting ended. Our Savior arrived, and now we live in a world transformed by God's grace. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you are sharing the everlasting joy of that transformation with your neighbors around the world. Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now, you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you.

In Christ, The Rev. Robin Brown Mission Funding Director

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 1
Janice Lambie

March 3
Jason Ripper

March 4
Emily Arnold

March 5
Jeanne Setterlund

March 6
Thomas Oertley
Matthew Zapf

March 7
Benjamin Cooper
Donita Purcell

March 8
Gary Setterlund

March 9
Matthew Bennett
Jennifer Zapf

March 10
Randall Blum
Linda Sedgwick

March 12
Joan Creager

March 13
Tanya Grabel
Ronald Hartman
Benjamin Owen
Jacob Owen

March 15
Beverly Maier

March 16
Nicole Breidel
Nancy Bridges
Ava Salverson

March 17
Vicki Johnson
Veronica Reimer
Noah VanLaningham

March 18
Mia Doty
George Moore
Clifford Shoemaker
Pastor Craig Swenson

March 19
Melissa Metternich

March 20
Drew Runkel
Mason Runkel

March 21
Ann-Marree
Anderson
Todd Kelly
Ward Ricketts

March 23
Sarah Gonzales
Karen Holmes

March 25
Kelsey Bastian

March 26
Colette Conard

March 27
Natalie Breidel

March 28
Audrey Aprahamian

March 30
Ruth Bock
Michael Swanson
Mary Ann Welch

March 31
Heidi Hainline
Howard Knobloch
Richard O'Connor

PRAYER REQUESTS

THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR...

- Salem's growing ministry

DIRECTION...

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

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
- Lesly Baumgarten
- Ron Bathje
- Paul Bahnfleth

- Luan Borquist
- Keith Erickson
- Gabe
- Jack Grant
- Sis and Bill Gavin
- Ron Hipple
- Helen Johnson
- Ken
- Briggs Landwehr and family
- Lizzie
- Morgan Lott
- Marta
- Bill Mettam
- Tom Mueller
- Mike Newcomb
- Dr. Rick O'Connor
- Rosy Park
- the family of Fran Riley
- Mike and Teresa Stewart
- Teddy's full recovery and for his family
- Wayne (brother of Barbi Ricketts) - prayers of praise!

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like your prayer request to appear on the prayer list beyond this one month period, please submit a new request each month. Thanks for your partnership in Salem's prayer ministry. Please contact the church office with prayer requests at: 309-688-9212 or contact Norma Hartman at: 309-240-8387 or at nkhartman248@gmail.com.



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

Hope *through the* Wilderness

Mid-week worship will be all virtual and will go live at 5pm through March 24. All are encouraged to grow in hope through the wilderness even as we face many difficulties. The weeks between Ash Wednesday and Holy week will all be Evening Prayer from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship. A corresponding message will be shared through a *Bugle Blast* and through Salem's website each week.