

# the Bugle



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More on this year's VBS and  
registration is open soon!

## WORSHIP

- 5PM: SATURDAY ONLINE
- 9AM: SUNDAY IN-PERSON  
(pre-registration required)
- SUNDAY, JUNE 13 AT 7PM  
OUTDOOR WORSHIP  
(please bring your own chair)

PASTOR CRAIG SWENSON

## FAITH OF THE GOSPEL

One of my sisters recently shared a Bible passage that has meant a lot to her as she prays regularly for her congregation. ***“Live your life in such a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel” – Philippians 1:27.*** As with most congregations, Deb’s church has gone through some difficult times where disagreements have led to hurt feelings and even divisions. When this was taking place, she wrote the name of her church in her Bible margin next to this verse so that she could pray with intension to encourage what Paul urged to remain firm in one spirt, striving side by side with one mind for the ***faith of the gospel.***

continued on page 2...



-Pastor Craig

## FAITH OF THE GOSPEL

... continued from page 1

History reminds us that causes for divisions and tensions commonly plague the human community and we do not often appreciate the other as we intend or as we are able. Sometimes tensions are strong and obvious with shouting and acts of physical violence and sometimes they are more subtle and seemingly benign and dismissed as irrelevant. But sin is like that. It seeps into the depths of our hearts and takes root where it can so that it grows as a wedge that separates us from God's love for us and our care and concern for others. A quick, reactive, and careless response (verbal, or virtual) settles in and begins to weaken an otherwise healthy relationship and soon bitterness and resentment take root where there was once empathy and respect. We live in a time of racial and economic disparity, political biases, varying interpretations of news and data which lead to separating people into labeled groups as divisions rather than seeing the other through love and compassion and a willingness to learn from and grow with one another.

Paul understood this well as he once persecuted and attempted to tear down what he later suffered much to defend. He had a change of heart because of his encounter with the risen Jesus. We are people of faith, striving to find our way through the often-dark shadows of life, seeking to live freely and confidently now and into the future. If this pandemic has taught us anything, hopefully we have learned that the path we desire for life is often unclear with roadblocks and potholes to challenge our journey, but we do not journey alone. We have each other and the love of Jesus that unites us even in dark times. Paul did not know whether he would be able to make a visit to Philippi, but he hoped that either way, people of God would be of one mind and one spirit for the faith of the gospel. May that hope be ours as well at Salem for how we live and navigate this time together.

## WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY MUSICAL GIFTS

If anyone has interest in sharing their God-given musical gifts for worship, please contact Director of Music, Maggie Slotter, at [mslotter@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:mslotter@salemofpeoria.com). Music of various styles may be chosen. Small vocal ensembles would be welcomed as well, since we are currently not meeting for choir, due to COVID. Any musical gifts you may desire to share are welcomed and appreciated.



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**July monthly Bugle content due date is June 8.**

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

## SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 10AM-12PM OUTREACH CURBSIDE

### FAIR TRADE PICK-UP

Curbside pick-up will be **Saturday, June 12 from 10am-12pm**. 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](mailto:Pew117@aol.com) to make arrangements. We are happy to assist you!

### FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF

Continuing the support for Bethel United Methodist, food pantry with donations of non-perishable items, drive by drop off on **Saturday, June 12 between 10 am-12pm**.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 7:30PM SALEM BOOK CLUB

Salem Book Club will meet on **Thursday, June 24 at 7:30pm-8:30pm** via Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact Gretchen Petrakis at [gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com) to be added to the email list or check out the Bugle Blast.

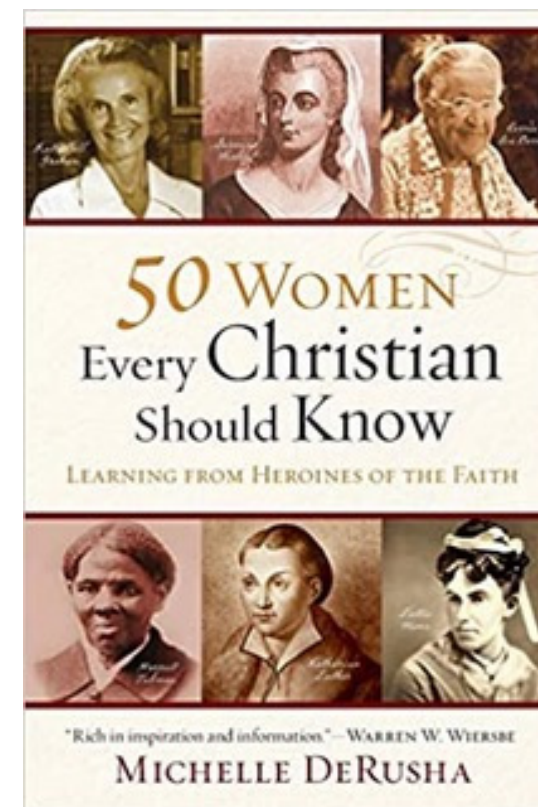
Throughout history, countless women have boldly stepped out in faith and courage, leaving their indelible mark on those around them and on the kingdom of God. In lively prose, Michelle DeRusha tells their stories, bringing into focus fifty incredible heroines of the faith. From Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Ávila, and Anne Hutchinson to Susanna Wesley, Harriet Tubman, and Corrie ten Boom, these admirable women live again under DeRusha's expert pen. These engaging narratives are a potent reminder to us that we are not alone, the battles we face today are not new, and God is always with us in the midst of the struggle.

Michelle DeRusha writes a monthly column on religion and spirituality for the *Lincoln Journal Star* and is a regular contributor to *The High Calling* and other online journals. She also writes about faith in the everyday on her blog at [www.michellederusha.com](http://www.michellederusha.com). She lives with her husband and their two boys in Nebraska. She is the author of *50 Women Every Christian Should Know*, *Spiritual Misfit*, and *Katharina and Martin Luther*, which is a finalist in the Memoir/Biography category for the 2018 Christian Book Awards.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 5:30PM ADULT FELLOWSHIP

June adult fellowship will be at **5:30pm on Thursday, June 3 at Obed and Isaac's** (corner of Spaulding and Monroe.) Take a walk through the Cornerstone Moonlight Market, and then gather outside for dinner. The Cornerstone Moonlight Market highlights local artists and artisans from around the Central Illinois area.

Please RSVP to Merrell Hickey ([merrellhickey@gmail.com](mailto:merrellhickey@gmail.com)) or Leah Grebner ([lgrebner@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:lgrebner@salemofpeoria.com)), so that we know how many will be attending.







**CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!**  
**SALEM'S GRADUATES**

Salem Lutheran Church celebrates an important milestone in the lives of several of our young people graduating from preschool through post-graduate studies. 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!

**SALEM LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL**  
**SALEM'S LITTLE LEARNERS**

As the first day of the 2020-2021 school year drew near, there was no doubt that the Salem Lutheran Preschool teachers were unsure exactly how the school year would go. Afterall, a global pandemic had thrown the world into a tailspin! For the school year to commence, preschool protocols and procedures had to be re-written to accommodate a variety of new health, safety, and sanitation guidelines; masks and thermometers had to be purchased; new drop-off/ pick-up procedures had to be re-imagined. There was so much uncertainty but, one fact rang true: your Salem Lutheran Preschool teachers were ready and willing to take on the world, however called, to welcome "little learners" into Salem Lutheran Preschool.



With beautifully updated classrooms and brightly colored bulletin boards, the preschool began to feel alive. We teachers hustled and bustled preparing for the first day. Photos of sweet faces were hung in the hall and, hooks waited to hold backpacks; curriculum was finalized and, name tags were made. Finally, the big day arrived! With open hearts and determined minds, your Salem Lutheran Preschool teachers joined the children on an adventure into the unknown.

Well, I can proudly say: we've made it! Summer is knocking on our doors and Pre-K promotion is complete. I speak for all the teachers when I say, the 2020-2021 school year is one that we will never forget. While challenges were inevitable, it was most certainly the hidden blessings that kept the ship afloat. For starters, the preschool children came to school each day with boundless energy. Their excitement to learn, create, socialize with friends, play games, and sing songs filled the building with joy. On hard days, that innocent joy kept hope alive- and often, laughter flowing. Further, it was incredible to work with families who were so dedicated to their child's preschool experience. Increased, consistent and open communication with parents for the greater good of the classroom was a wonderful reminder that we can still be a community of people who come together to accomplish a common goal despite the hardships that we face. Finally, I am so proud (and, grateful) to be a part of a team of teachers who give their all, heart and soul, to the children they teach. I have learned that camaraderie is an excellent cure for uncertainty and collective goals combined with diligent, hard work creates fantastic outcomes. The 2020-2021 school year was a SUCCESS.

Congratulations to the Salem Lutheran Preschool class of 2021. You defied all odds and did all the hard things. Your Salem Lutheran Preschool teachers are very proud of you!

- Miss Cortney



**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR**  
**STACY LANTZ**

Stacy Lantz will graduate from Metamora Township High School (MTHS) on May 16, 2021. Stacy was involved in soccer and volleyball at MTHS and played club volleyball. Stacy was a Girl Scout since Kindergarten and received the Gold Award early in 2021.

This fall, Stacy will attend Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona and major in Business. Stacy grew up at Salem attending Sunday School, Sonshine Choir, VBS, Be Like Jesus, and Leadership Lab. Stacy enjoys playing piano, guitar, and ukulele.



**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR**  
**WILLIAM RICKETTS**

William Ricketts is graduating from Richwoods Highschool on May 15, 2021. During his 4 years at Richwoods he enjoyed participating on the Speech team, community theater and gaming with his friends. Over the past several months he has been teaching himself Japanese and he hopes to study abroad in Japan. He will be attending ICC this Fall and plans to pursue a degree in Linguistics.



**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR**  
**COLLIN SWANSON**

Collin Swanson is graduating from Dunlap High School. He will be attending Iowa State University in the fall to study chemical engineering



**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR**  
**MAX THOMPSON**

Max is graduating from Brimfield where he's been involved WYSE, basketball, football and Trap. Max is a member of National Honor Society and has enjoyed working at Weaver Ridge golf course during high school. Max enjoyed attending the ELCA National Youth Convention in Houston with other friends from Salem. He values time spent outdoors as well as being with friends and family. Future plans include attending Purdue University in the fall, majoring in Aerospace engineering.



# JUNE MEETINGS & EVENTS

For more information: [saalemofpeoria.com/communications/calendar/](https://saalemofpeoria.com/communications/calendar/)

## WORSHIP

**SUNDAYS at 9am** (online/in person\* / live phone call)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13 at 7pm - Outdoor Worship**  
(please bring your own lawn chair)

\*in-person worship requires advance registration please contact the church office (309) 688-9212 for more details

## FAITH FORMATION

**WEDNESDAYS at 10am: Adult Bible Study on Zoom**

**WEDNESDAYS at 7:30pm: Adult Sunday School on Zoom**

**THURSDAYS at 9:15am: Adult Bible Study led by Bill Ligon**

## OUTREACH

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 10am-12pm:**  
Fair Trade Curbside Pick-up and Food Drive Drop-off

## FELLOWSHIP

**THURS, JUNE 3 at 5:30pm: Adult Fellowship** (see page 3)

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8 at 10:30am: Rebecca Circle**

**MONDAY, JUNE 21 at 7pm: Salem Churchmen**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24 at 7:30pm: Book Club on Zoom**

**MONDAY, JUNE 28 at 6:30pm: Lydia Circle on Zoom**

**FRIDAYS at 1pm: Mom's Group on Zoom**

## MINISTRY GROUPS

**TUESDAY, JUNE 1 at 7pm: Salem Council Meeting**

**MONDAY, JUNE 7 at 6:30pm: Congregational Care Ministry**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8 at 7pm: Outreach Ministry**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8 at 7:30pm: Faith Formation Ministry**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9 at 6:45am: Endowment Meeting**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 15 at 7pm: Property & Finance Ministry**

**MONDAY, JUNE 21 at 7pm: Worship & Music Ministry**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24 at 7:30pm: Executive Committee Mtg**

### FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER, RN A MATTER OF BALANCE

Each year one in 4 people over 60 fall and only half report them to their doctors. Falls can lead to broken bones, serious head injuries, as well as decreased activity due to these injuries or the fear of falling again. Some risk factors are weakness, medical conditions, poor vision, medications, and balance issues. Measures you can take to prevent falls are to evaluate these risks with your healthcare team, have your vision checked, exercise, and check your home inside and out for fall risks. Central Illinois Agency on Aging (CIAA) is offering an 8-week class called "A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls." This class will teach you to view falls as controllable, set goals to increase activity, make changes to reduce risks, and exercises to increase strength and balance. If you are over 60 and have concerns about falling, have fallen in the past, or just want to learn ways to increase your strength and balance, this class is for you. There is a \$4.00 suggested donation, and you must be fully vaccinated with Covid-19 vaccine to participate. The class runs Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until noon, starting June 10 through August 5 (skipping July 15) and will be held at First English Lutheran Church. To sign up or for more information, contact Beth Stalker or Renee Razo at CIAA at (309)674-2071 (extensions 2204 and 2205).



Lori Reimer, RN

### OUTREACH MINISTRY

## RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE BENEVOLENCE

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. The recipients for these benevolence funds are: 2018 - Crittenton Centers, 2019 - Neighborhood House, and 2020 - Thomas Jefferson Primary School.

**"... from the bottom of my heart thank you for the generous donation of the headphones. The headphones are going to be so useful while using computers frequently..."**

– Amber Dean, 1st grade teacher

Headphones have filled a great need for the school as many activities are planned during streams throughout the day. Headphones for every student allows students to do many different things at one time to learn in a distraction free environment; and they will help make Thomas Jefferson student's learning environment more ideal.

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.

In turn, Salem is not only supporting a facility where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared, but we also are sharing God's love with others in our community. For the 2020 funds, after a review of a proposal for headphones for all students, submitted by Thomas Jefferson principal and vice principal, the Salem Outreach team selected Thomas Jefferson Primary School to be the recipient of these funds.

**"We so appreciate all the wonderful things you do for our students at Thomas Jefferson... especially the headphones!"**

– Karen Schwegel, Kindergarten teacher



THE WAY WE EDUCATE OUR STUDENTS HAVE CHANGED. THE LOOK OF OUR CLASSROOMS MAY HAVE CHANGED. THE MODALITIES WE LEARN BY MAY HAVE CHANGED, BUT YOUR DEDICATION, SUPPORT, AND LOVE FOR TJ HAS NEVER CHANGED. THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING THERE FOR OUR STUDENTS.



**WATCH A SPECIAL THANK YOU VIDEO**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvmUBk70Rw8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvmUBk70Rw8)



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL • AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 5, 2021

## RENEW: THE GREEN VBS HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS



God's creation is a gift we all share. We live in it together and depend on it together. Caring for it – together – is both a good work and collective act of faith. The Bible is filled with stories and teachings that reveal our dependence on God through the bounty of the earth. In fact, you could hardly tell the story of the chosen people or hear one of Jesus parables without water, trees, wilderness, animals, and weather forming the backdrop. RENEW VBS will weave together this rich natural imagery with engaging activities kids love, resulting in a deeper, more memorable experience of God's Word.

We will dig deep into the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-9) at **RENEW VBS** and experience God's Creation through a global, local community, & personal lens. Central themes will include: Planting Seeds, Taking Root, Growing, Facing Challenges and Living Together. We are very excited to experience this theme with you!

**THERE WILL BE BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES**

**THERE WILL BE MUSIC, CRAFTS, GAMES, LOTS OF LEARNING AND GROWING WITH GOD  
AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF FUN!**

Please watch for more details throughout the summer and pray for Salem's CYF Leaders as they plan, make decisions and navigate through all things COVID-19 in order to provide a fantastic, meaningful and safe VBS experience for everyone!

Registration for volunteers and participants will be in the July Bugle. In the meantime, we need excited, creative, "idea people" to serve on the planning team. Contact Jill Goldhammer if you can help – we will start with ZOOM meetings very soon. Ask former leaders-planning VBS is almost as much fun as hosting it!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Congratulations to the Leah and Barry Joyce as Helen Rebecca was born on April 15, 2021. Marti and Joan Creager are proud grandparents.

• Condolences for the family and friends of Keith Erickson as Keith joined the church triumphant on May 15, 2021. Please pray the Erickson family and for all who mourn Keith's passing.

• Thank you so much Salem friends for your kind words and prayers at my sister Beth's passing.

God's peace,  
Merrell Hickey and family

## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS! JUNE BIRTHDAYS

**June 1**  
Sophia Doty

**June 2**  
Dawn Koeltzow

**June 3**  
John Ford  
Scott Kalbacken

**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

**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**  
Brant Wegrzyn

## 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
- Ulrich family in Malawi
- Families at Crittenton Center
- Midwest Food Bank
- Betty and Jeff Ahlgren
- Mark Anderson

- Wally Bastian and his family
- Family of Ron Bathje
- Lesly Baumgarten
- Bill, husband of Amy Hoffman
- Luan Borquist
- Beth Cheville
- Butch Conard
- Family of Keith Erickson
- Gabe
- Jack Grant
- Ron Hipple
- Helen Johnson
- Briggs Landwehr and family
- Lizzie
- Morgan Lott
- Marta
- Bill Mettam
- Tom Mueller
- Rosy Park
- Family of Teresa Stewart
- Teddy's full recovery and for his family

### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

Stateside: Clarence Gomez, Gibson Gonzalez, Emily Graff, Barry Joyce, Ashley Owen, Lucas Owen, 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](mailto:nkhartman248@gmail.com).



The Bugle  
USPS 477-460



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



# OUTDOOR WORSHIP

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13 AT 7PM**

• *Please bring your own chair*