



the Bugle

PASTOR CRAIG SWENSON ENTRUSTED WITH GIFTS

In his Synod Assembly sermon, Bishop John reminded us of God's promise and our calling: "What an amazing gift this is, that God willingly puts so much trust in us. God, who knows us better than we know ourselves, who sees through all the masks we wear – and I'm not talking COVID masks – still, trusts us to speak, to live, to embody the boundless, reconciling grace of God in our Lord Jesus Christ – because this reconciling grace makes us who we are. No pandemic can change that. No politics can take it away. No pressure can crush it. This is God's promise to you – and it is God's promise to us as the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – you are entrusted."

You are entrusted, with gifts, without strings without earning them or owning them. Gifts are entrusted to us as freely given and freely received. With that comes responsibility, joy and freedom. Responsibility in that gifts are not intended to be static, sit on a shelf to be admired, uninspiring, unuseable. No, gifts are intended to be shared, applied, to make a difference, to shine in the open rather than hidden and hoarded. We are caretakers,

stewards, servants and God is the one who provides, freely and abundantly. What we do with what is entrusted to us is fruit of the faith that claims God's blessings.

We have recently shifted to Paul's letter to the Ephesians as the New Testament reading in worship. On August 1, the reading is Ephesians 4:1-16 where Paul defines a variety of gifts for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. Again, the purpose of the gifts is not self-promoting, self-preservation or self-fulfillment. It is for the purpose of growing others in Christ. We are encouragers, leaders, witnesses of the good news of Jesus coming among us in our brokenness, even when we do not especially feel the need for news that is better than what we are experiencing. (If that is ever possible!) In the baptismal liturgy, parents are told that they are entrusted with responsibilities: to live among God's faithful people, bring their child to the services of God's house, teach them the Lord's Prayer, Creed and Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, nurture them in faith and prayer so that the child may learn to trust God (may come to faith), care for the world God has

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-Pastor Craig

ENTRUSTED WITH GIFTS

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made and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. It is a large task and in truth, it is something to which we are all held accountable, to care for the other and even to *desire* to care for the other in our midst. What gifts has God entrusted to you? How do you share in what God provides and the opportunities that help build up the church? The life we share is a blessing, a gift, an opportunity to tell others about God's abundant goodness which has come among us in the person of Jesus. Join me in sharing this joy with others.

ESTATE GIFTS

Recently, Salem received two estate gifts from former members, David Schwab and John Johnson. Both David and John were longtime members and loved their church. Salem was blessed by their generosity while they were actively involved but now also as legacy gifts that will further extend their generosity.

The Schwab gift of \$592,475.00 has been designated to help pay down the mortgage (\$392,475 to principle) and the remaining \$200,000 will be used to grow the Endowment Fund and further share generosity with others. It will first be loaned to Salem to further pay down the mortgage principle. This portion will be repaid to the Endowment Fund after the mortgage is fully satisfied at an annual rate of 2%. That \$4,000 interest will be an annual benevolent opportunity for the Endowment Committee to share in addition to any income accumulated by the invested funds. The Johnson gift of \$28,546.01 will be used to help offset the cost of new chiller units (sanctuary AC system) that will be updated later this summer.

Thanks to David and John for remembering their church with planned giving. Thanks to Salem leaders for creatively applying the gifts. And thanks to God for the opportunity to advance and enhance the work of Christ's church through generous giving. What blessings!

WORSHIP

Covid-19 protocols were reviewed at the **July 6th Council meeting**, and after conversations it was decided to remove requirements for social distancing, masks and registration for indoor worship. Masks for individuals are now considered optional for those in the building.



Craig Swenson,
Senior Pastor
cswenson@salemofpeoria.com

Jill Goldhammer, Deacon,
Children, Youth & Family Ministries
jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com

Isabel Gonzales,
Office Coordinator
office@salemofpeoria.com

Maggie Slotter,
Director of Music & Choir Director
mslotter@salemofpeoria.com

Meghan Peterson, Editor
mpeterson@salemofpeoria.com

Lori Reimer, RN
Parish Nurse
lreimer@salemofpeoria.com

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

AUGUST MEETINGS & EVENTS

For more information: salemofpeoria.com/communications/calendar/

WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 at 7pm - Outdoor Worship
(please bring your own lawn chair)

FAITH FORMATION

WEDNESDAYS at 10am: Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

THURSDAYS at 9:15am: Adult Bible Study led by Bill Ligon (in person)

AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 5 at 6PM: Vacation Bible School
(in person & at home)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 at 7PM: Blessing of Backpacks and Keys
(during worship in-person)

OUTREACH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 10am-12pm:
Bethel Food Pantry Drop-off and Fair Trade Pick-up

FELLOWSHIP

EACH SUNDAY BEGINNING SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 following worship: Coffee Hour (in person)

MONDAY, AUGUST 16 at 7pm: Salem Churchmen (Zoom)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26 at 7:30pm: Book Club (Zoom)

MINISTRY GROUPS

TUESDAY, AUG 3 at 7pm: Salem Council Meeting (in person)

TUESDAY, AUG 10 at 7:30pm: Faith Formation Ministry (in person)

MONDAY, AUG 16 at 7pm: Worship & Music Ministry (Zoom)

TUESDAY, AUG 17 at 7pm: Property & Finance Ministry (in person)

THURSDAY, AUG 26 at 7pm: Executive Committee Mtg (Zoom)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

RALLY DAY - SAVE THE DATE

More details to come for Rally Day on **Sunday, September 12**. Plans are underway for Rally Day, which will include a Rededication Service as well as the Salem Picnic.

SUNDAYS STARTING AUGUST 8
after worship

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour fellowship **each Sunday starting on Sunday, August 8 after 9am** worship outside or in the Social Hall depending on weather. Enjoy refreshments and individual treats.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 10AM-12PM

OUTREACH CURBSIDE

BETHEL FOOD DRIVE

Continuing the support for Bethel United Methodist, food pantry with donations of non-perishable items, drive by drop off on **Saturday, August 14 between 10 am-12pm**. The theme this month is your usual donation plus your favorite condiment.

FAIR TRADE

Fair Trade pick-up will also be Saturday, August 14 from 10am-12pm. If there are any items needed to be picked up at another time please contact Jennifer Gallas (309-256-5862 or pew117@aol.com).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 at 7PM

at **OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS & KEYS

Mark the passing of the summer on **Sunday, August 8 at 7PM outdoor worship**, and celebrate the beginning of the school year. Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks. Whether they are entering preschool, or preparing to leave for college, this event reminds students that God is with them always.

First time drivers and their families are also encouraged to come to this special worship service. All students who are now driving or will be driving soon will be invited to bring their keys up for a special blessing as we recognize the new opportunities, responsibilities and risks that come along for student drivers.

Bring your lawn chairs and start the school year worshipping with your Salem Family!

Is HYBRID WORSHIP and ONLINE COMMUNITY Here to Stay?



How do we know? How do we minister to those online and what do they need? What drew people to our online ministries? What keeps them there? How connected to people feel? What seems to be most important?

LET'S FIND OUT...

We are excited to use a brand new assessment tool called the **IMAP**, the **Internet Missional Assessment Profile**. Kairos and Associates, has spent the last few months working with church leaders around the country to discover what information would be most helpful in assessing and planning for the future of their congregation's online presence.

We know that many congregations developed an online presence without having had much experience or understanding of its capacities, impact or effectiveness. Our hope is that this new IMAP tool will provide leaders with valuable information to determine why and how online ministry should be developed, resourced, or expanded for the future.

A part of Kairos' partnership with Salem allows us to learn from everyone and anyone who has participated in our online ministry/worship experience. **Watch for an online link** so that you can take the survey. It will help us better understand this growing ministry reality and to be able to make good decisions as we move forward with planning.

FOR I KNOW

The plans
I HAVE FOR YOU
DECLARES THE LORD
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you
and a
hope
future
JEREMIAH 29:11

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 at 7PM at GAYLE & CRAIG YOUNG'S MEADOW MORE THAN PINK FUNDRAISER

The *More Than Pink Walk* will be in person this year, and once again, the Salem Saints team is in place. Our team will be holding our annual fundraiser event this year on **Saturday, August 21 at 7pm**. It will be an outdoor wine tasting event at Gayle and Craig Young's meadow at their home in Metamora. In order to help plan for the event, we are asking for RSVP, which can be done online through the Bugle Blast or at <https://salemofpeoria.com/more-than-pink-fundraiser-2021/>. If you aren't able to join us for the fundraiser, or join the team, you may make a donation through links in the Bugle Blast or the Salem Saints More Than Pink webpage.

**MORE
THAN
PINK**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26 at 7:30PM-8:30PM

SALEM BOOK CLUB

All are invited to attend, via Zoom, Salem Book Club discussions held the last Thursday of each month. August Book Club discussion is **Thursday, August 26 from 7:30pm-8:30pm**. If a certain book sparks an interest, feel free to join for just that month. It's a welcoming group and you can attend whenever you choose. Please email gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com to receive Zoom links or additional information.

This Book Club group plans on holding all future discussions on Zoom. We find it's easy to join in from the comfort of our own homes. Books are selected by attendees and we have read a wide variety of books over the past year. We try to choose books for a few months at a time so people have time to read the book. Salem's Library always has a copy in advance so people can check out the monthly selection if they choose not to purchase themselves. Many of the books are also available as an audiobook.

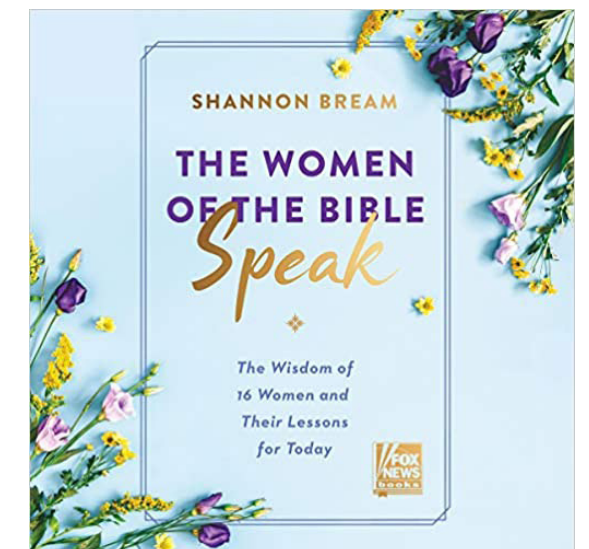
AUGUST BOOK: *The Women of the Bible Speak*

People unfamiliar with scripture often assume that women play a small, secondary role in the Bible. But in fact, they were central figures in numerous Biblical tales. It was Queen Esther's bravery at a vital point in history which saved her entire people. The Bible contains warriors like Jael, judges like Deborah, and prophets like Miriam. The first person to witness Jesus' resurrection was Mary Magdalene, who promptly became the first Christian evangelist, eager to share the news which would change the world forever.

In *The Women of the Bible Speak*, Fox News Channel's Shannon Bream opens up the lives of sixteen of these Biblical women, arranging them into pairs and contrasting their journeys. In pairing their stories, Shannon helps us reflect not only on the meaning of each individual's life, but on how they relate to each other and to us.

From the shepherdesses of ancient Israel who helped raise the future leaders of the people of God, to the courageous early Christians, the narrative of the Bible offers us many vivid and fascinating female characters. In their lives we can see common struggles to resist bitterness, despair, and pride, and to instead find their true selves in faith, hope, and love. In studying these heroes of the faith, we can find wisdom and warnings for how to better navigate our own faith journeys.

The Women of the Bible Speak outlines the lessons we can take from the valor of Esther, the hope of Hannah, the audacity of Rahab, and the faith of Mary. In broadening each woman's individual story, Shannon offers us a deeper understanding of each, and wisdom and insights that can transform our own lives today.



FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER, RN
SAFEGUARD YOUR EYESIGHT

Safeguarding your eyesight is an essential part of your overall health. Some steps to think about include:

- Know your family history so you and your ophthalmologist can watch for conditions like glaucoma or macular degeneration'
- Have regular physical exams by your doctor to check for diseases like diabetes or high blood pressure that can cause eye problems if not treated.
- Eating well and exercising not only helps your overall health but also your eye health. Diets rich in fruits and vegetables as well as plant-based and foods low in animal fats are the best.
- Wear sunglasses and a hat with a wide brim when outside. This will protect your eyes from too much sunlight, which can raise your risk of getting cataracts.
- Wear protective eye gear for sports, when working with chemicals, or activities such as construction or automobile projects.
- Watch your child's eyes as they grow for changes or injury. Balance screen time with time outdoors; too much screen time can lead to dry eye and strain.
- Adults should have a complete eye exam with an eye care professional every 1 to 2 years. Children should have an exam between 6 and 12 months, between 3 and 5 years, and before kindergarten then annually. The eye care professional should check your eyesight, your glasses (if applicable), and your eye muscles.
- See an eye care professional at once if you have any loss or dimness of eyesight, eye pain, fluid coming from the eye, double vision, redness, or swelling of your eye or eyelid.



Lori Reimer, RN

THE CHURCH MOUSE

DO YOU HAVE A TRUCK?

Because of restrictions in 2020, Lutheran Hillside Village had to store items that were intended to be donated to The Church Mouse. The storage space is FULL. Do you have a truck? We need you! Maintenance men at LHV will help load. Volunteers at The Church Mouse will unload. We truly just need your time to drive back 'n forth. If you are willing to serve the LORD in this way, please contact Phil King (309) 683-1298 or Shirley Lewis (309) 673-2363. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve your community? The Church Mouse could use your helping hands! Daytime hours Mon-Sat. Located at 600 West Main Street, Peoria (near Bradley University) They are always looking for volunteers. Try it. See if it is a good fit for you. If you would like more information, contact Shirley Lewis (309) 673-2363.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THANK YOUS

- Prayers are requested for the family of Stan Strickler. Stan joined the church triumphant on Sunday, July 4. Please pray for his son's, Jeff and Nate, and their families, for Dottie, and for all who mourn his death. May our risen Lord comfort them and grant them peace.
- Congratulations to Justin Machacek (son of Pam and Jeff Machacek) who was married on June 26, 2021 to Carly Slagel. They are living in Kansas City, Missouri.
- William "Bill" Gavin, 93, passed away on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, in Sarasota, Florida. Cremation rites have been accorded. A celebration of life was held at Salem Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 27, 2021. The full obituary, as well as a place to leave condolences for the family, can be found at www.thewiltonmortuary.com.
- 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
- Thank you to my Salem family for all the cards, phone calls, thoughts and prayers during my stay at the hospital. God bless you all. -Susie Bohm

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- August 3**
Paul Bahnfleth
Cloyd Conard
Candence Forkell
Patty Lantz
- August 4**
Idan Ghazanfari
- August 6**
Nancy Owen
- August 8**
Patricia Arehart
Rebecca Sipf

- August 9**
Nicholas Doty
Quinn Salverson
- August 12**
Jan Taylor
- August 13**
Gayle Carrillo
- August 14**
Justin Grabel
Beverly Holmes
- August 15**
Jaedyn Johnson
Riley Neltner

- August 16**
Heather MacIver-
Arnold
Jon Ripper
- August 17**
Jill Sidell
- August 18**
Nona Mitchelar
- August 19**
Liam Dammann
Dylan Schroeder
- August 21**
Evelyn Aprahamian
- August 22**
Jason Breidel

- August 25**
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

THANK YOU!

PENTECOST CELEBRATION

On Sunday, May 23rd we gathered outside for a Pentecost Celebration. The Outreach Committee, in partnership with Sunday School program, had asked the congregation for items to assemble personal care kits to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to the donations of items and money, we assembled 120 kits that night as a family service project that will be distributed all over the world. Thank you Salem Family for your generous support!

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

- Wally Bastian and his family
- Lesly Baumgarten
- Luan Borquist
- Gabe
- Jack Grant
- Ron Hipple
- Helen Johnson
- Lizzie
- Morgan Lott
- Marta
- Bill Mettam
- Tom Mueller
- Lana Pasco
- Rosy Park
- Paula
- 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

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.

It's not too late to participate in
RENEW FAMILY STYLE: Vacation Bible School!
AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 5, 2021

With in-person activities at Salem:

Sunday, August 1; 6PM-8PM

- Optional prepacked meal from Jimmie Johns served at 5:30PM
- Program: Kim Ascherl – presentation from her work at the Agricultural Lab
- Other activities: Music, Craft, Service Project and Games

Tuesday, August 3; 6PM-8PM

- Optional boxed meals from Jason's Deli served at 5:30PM
(Individual boxed meal orders will be Sunday night)
- Program: Clean Water Presentation by Gary Setterlund from his experiences building wells in Malawi
- Other activities: Music, Craft, Service Project and Games

Thursday August 5; 6PM-8PM

- Optional pizzas from Dominos served at 5:30PM (Family pizza orders will be taken Tuesday)
- Other activities: Music, Craft, Service Project and Games

Please keep Jill Goldhammer, the Director of Youth and Family Ministries, informed if you would like your family added to the participant list after the posted registration deadline. If you are not available to attend all three nights – you are welcome to come over for a night or two. Please just let us know by noon the day you plan to come so we are sure to have enough supplies.

- You are also welcome to register friends to participate in Renew VBS with your family.
- A special shout out to Grandparents – extended family is encouraged to participate in VBS too!

Families are encouraged to bring along portable lawn chairs to VBS if you have them. We are hoping to provide the majority of our VBS activities outdoors – weather permitting. In the event some activities have to be moved inside, we ask that each participant have a mask with them and wear it when indoors and not socially distanced from other families. Remember that the majority of the children participating in VBS are not yet old enough to be vaccinated and we are committed to providing a safe VBS for everyone!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FREE WILL OFFERING

A free will offering will be taken at each meal during VBS with proceeds going to the Marion Medical Mission. It costs \$450 to provide one well in Malawi through this program and that will be our goal for the week!

VOLUNTEERS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We could use some older student and adult help each of the nights – you may be helping serve the meal, with arts and crafts, games, or service projects. You may be asked to help us with transitions between stations – to wipe down tables and supplies in order to keep this activity safe for all participants. A few more helping hands from the congregation would be great so participating parents can enjoy the activities with their children.

- Pick a night you'd like to volunteer or contact Jill directly with any questions.

www.salemofpeoria.com or 309-688-9212

KAPPA CHI NEWS

2022 IS AN ELCA YOUTH GATHERING YEAR!!

Our High School Youth Group will travel to
Minneapolis, Minnesota

on Sunday, July 24, 2022, for the Youth Gathering
and return home on Thursday, July 28.

It's time to start thinking about WHO IS GOING!



Both on-line and in-person informational meetings are coming soon. Early Bird registration opens for congregations on September 22 and we'd like to have a good idea of the number of youth and adult participants from Salem by that time.

Call the Director of CYF Ministries, Jill Goldhammer, at 688-9212, if you have immediate questions and watch for info about upcoming informational meetings.

Note: registration is open to students entering 8th grade this fall through seniors graduating in May of 2022.

Salem ELCA Youth Gathering History:
(Places we've served in the last 15 years)

San Antonio 2006

NOLA 2009

NOLA 2012

Detroit 2015

Houston 2018

Minneapolis ~~2021~~ 2022

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



The Bugle
USPS 477-460



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

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 at 7PM

Share in worship outside on **Sunday, August 8 at 7pm**. Please bring your own lawn chair. There will be a special **Blessing of Backpacks and Keys** during this worship service (please read more on page 3.)