



the Bugle

I have been re-reading a booklet on my shelf authored by former ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson, “Faithful yet Changing, The Church *in* Challenging Times.” It is a small resource I plan to share with Council leadership in the coming year. In it, Pastor Hanson reminds us who we are as a church and what our focus should be, as a church that witnesses, worships, engages, equips, invites, connects, changes and prays together. With a new year before us, it seems good to me to share this resource with church leaders as we grow in Christ to love and serve others while we navigate today’s challenging and exciting times. When I picked up the booklet, I noticed a marker among the pages to indicate where I last left off. I do not recall where I got the marker, but the words on it are a prayer from over 50 years ago that resonate with me and perhaps, they will for you as well.

*My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.*

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,

*though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.*

*I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

“The Merton Prayer” from [Thoughts in Solitude](#)

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As we begin a new calendar year and consider the revelation of the God made flesh in Jesus in our midst, we also may not know just where we are going and how to get there. Even so, I pray that as this year unfolds, we are as eager to seek where Jesus is revealed with as much eagerness and curiosity as the shepherds in the fields and the sages from the East whose response to the news of this new birth prompted hearts to praise and worship the one in whose name we are called to love and serve generously and eagerly.

Joyfully sharing in the message of Jesus and his love for the world, Pastor Craig

Congregational Annual 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 30 at 10:30am** in the sanctuary. Sunday School classes will be meeting during this time under the guidance of Gretchen Petrakis and Kelly Brinkman, so parents and teachers may attend.

Annual Reports Due January 3

Attention all Salem ministry committees and groups: please submit your annual reports to Isabel Gonzales at igonzales@salemofpeoria.com by **Monday, January 3**. 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.

Sunday School, January 9

A reminder that Sunday School will not be meeting again until **Sunday, January 9**. **Sunday School begins at 10:15am**, and all are welcome! All online resources for Sunday School will still remain available at: www.salemofpeoria.com/sunday-school-2. Peace and joy to all of you.



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Bugle content due by January 11.

Pastoral Emergency Number:

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



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Outreach Ministry group would like to thank everyone who contributed to our various collections throughout the year.



12 months of non-perishable food donations to Bethel

United Methodist Church food pantry.



Fill the Crib donations in April for Crittenton Centers, with the help of Children, Youth & Family Ministry.



120 personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief. Special thanks to Children, Youth & Family Ministry for spearheading the project.



833 pairs of socks donated to Phoenix Community Services for the homeless through 'Socktober'.



60 pajama's for Center of Prevention of Abuse



60 gift donations for foster children through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) Room at the Inn/Giving Tree.

We look forward to more opportunities to serve in 2022.

Sarah Gonzales,
Outreach Chairperson

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Serving Opportunity on January 26 from 9am-11am

Midwest Food Bank currently distributes over \$32 million worth of food to over 2,000 non-profits each month. They also 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. In 2020, over \$383 million worth of food was distributed.

Salem's volunteer serving opportunity at Midwest Food Bank has had about 4-6 dedicated volunteers (THANK YOU!), but would love to have a few more!

Please register online to volunteer at:
<https://portal.goldenvolunteer.com/timeslots/KMWigaHPot> (link will also be in the Bugle Blast.)



If interested please plan to meet at the Peoria Division (9005 N Industrial Rd, Peoria, IL 61615) at **9am on January 26**. If you have questions please contact John Gabel (iron_man_46@yahoo.com).

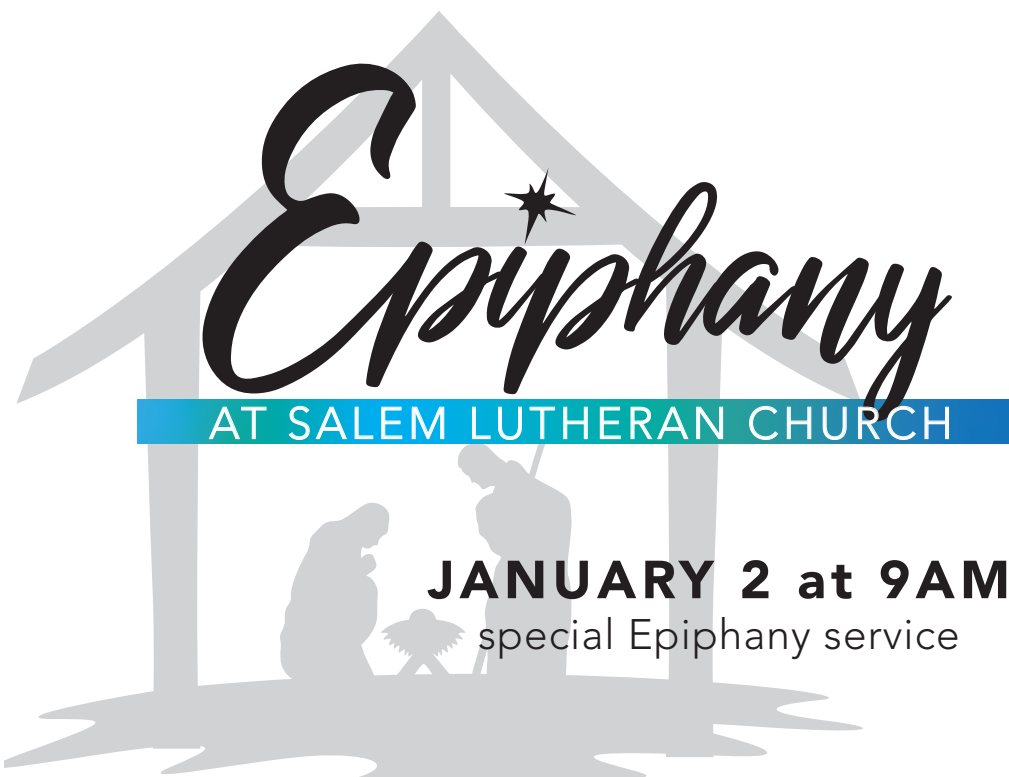
OUTREACH & FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

Sweet Snowmen for C.T. Vivian

Thank you to everyone who donated items or made the Sweet Snowmen from Salem. Also, thank you to Cindy Fischer for the Thrivent Action Team grant. Over 20 households,



along with the High School and Junior High Sunday School classes, made 465 snowmen. Those not needed for C.T. Vivian Primary School were donated to Crittenton Centers.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship is an adult social group who get together for social events throughout the year. This is a chance to get to know each other and do something fun. Upcoming events to mark on your 2022 calendar are:

- **Thursday, January 6 at 7pm:**
Game Night at Oliver's Pizza on Willow Knolls

- **Saturday, February 19, 1pm:**
Bradley University vs. Illinois State University, Men's Basketball Game at the Peoria Civic Center

- **Friday, March 11, 7pm:**
Salem Lutheran Trivia Contest, more details to come!

If you have questions please contact Merrell Hickey or Leah Grebner. All are welcome!

FAITH FORMATION

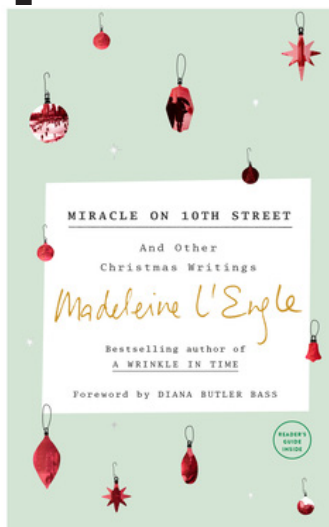
January Book Club: "Miracle on 10th Street," by Madeline L'Engle

Zoom Discussion Meeting will be January 26 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 to be put on the list to receive the Zoom link and reminders.

Salem's Book Club will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday, January 26th at 7:30pm**. Our book is "Miracle on 10th Street," by Madeline L'Engle. This book is available in the Salem library.

For more than seventy years, Madeleine L'Engle's writing have delighted and inspired readers. In her stories, essays, poems, journal entries, and letters, she returned again and again to the beauty of Christmas, illuminating the holiday with her singular insight and imagination. "Miracle on 10th Street" includes excerpts from her most cherished works, reflecting on Advent, Incarnation, Epiphany, mystery, and redemption. In these pages, L'Engle points to the marvels and curiosities that fill everyday life. And, as always, she shows herself to be a one-woman force for celebration—fully believing that delight and wonder must mark the life of anyone who sees God's love at work.



FAITH FORMATION

Faith For Life

Faith for Life (5th-8th graders) will meet for lunch and youth group at church immediately following Sunday School on **Sunday, January 23, 2022, from 11:15am - 1pm**. Lunch will be included. Watch for details and a sign-up sheet in Sunday School classes in January.

New Year! Fresh Start!

Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. - Lamentations 3:23

Each day gives you new opportunities to know God better. Let Salem's library help you to *Grow in Christ... to Love & Serve!*

Winter is a good time to catch up on some reading! Salem's library collection is filled with many great reads to grow your mind, provide spiritual enrichment and deeper understanding of a Christian's commitment.

In Salem's library collection you will find: New books, Classics, Bestsellers and Best-Selling authors. Bookshelves are labeled with categories such as: Commentaries, Old Testament, New Testament, Christian Beliefs, Devotional/Prayer, Christian Living, Church History, Biographies, Christian Fiction etc.

Arrangements could be made for book delivery to your home if you wish to tell me your interests. Contact Karen Swenson at: 309-258-5708 or at klswen@hotmail.com.

A Listing of the New books is available at the check-out table for you to take with you.

Featured this month:

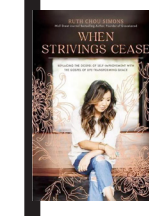
You Were Made For This Moment by Max Lucado

Racial divides, political strife, uncertain futures – are these challenges reflective of Esther's era or ours? Offering an in-depth look at the famed biblical queen, Lucado calls you to live faithfully by reclaiming your eternal identity, discovering your role in God's story, putting your faith in God's victory, and realizing that you were born for this time.



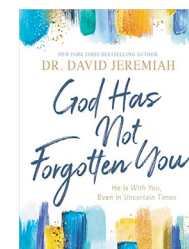
When Strivings Cease by Ruth Chou Simons

Simons has discovered the truth: trying to keep people happy and prove our worth is exhausting—and futile! What we need is God's extravagant, merciful, undeserved grace. Sharing her personal story, biblical insights, and practical applications, teamed with her stunning original artwork, she leads us to the freedom of knowing that, in Christ, we are enough.



God Has Not Forgotten You: He is With You, Even in Uncertain Times by Dr. David Jeremiah

Want to feel God's embrace and deepen your faith in his abiding presence? Looking to comfort somebody who is struggling? Dr. Jeremiah offers approaches for building trust in the Lord. Gain assurance that the Lord is there for us through all the seasons of life, no matter the circumstances.



The Children's Section in the Salem Library

The right section of Salem's Library is home to the children section. The children's section offers many children's books organized by the Old and New Testaments. Each week children's books are selected and placed on the table (pictured to the right.) These highlight the Sunday School lesson. Salem's library is available for use during office hours and on Sundays.





**BE AN MVP FOR PATIENTS.
GET A CHANCE TO GO TO
THE 2022 SUPER BOWL LVI**

Give blood in January
RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl



American Red Cross

What does donating blood, the new year, and football have in common? Take a moment, make (and keep) a New Year's resolution to give the gift of life. All donors in the month of January will be entered for a chance to win an exciting Super Bowl LVI getaway for two in Los Angeles. Plus a

chance to win a home theater package and \$500 e-gift card. Salem's next Blood Drive is **January 17, 2022 from 1pm-6pm** and you are eligible to give if you haven't donated since November 22, 2021.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sign-up by contacting Lori Reimer through the church office at (309) 688-9212 or email at lreimer@salemofpeoria.com or log-in to www.redcrossblood.org (Enter sponsor code: **PeoriaSalem**). Whatever your reason is for giving, blood donors like you play an extremely important role to

help ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available during the winter months. The hour or less it takes you to give could mean a lifetime to somebody else. If you do the Rapid Pass under the "donate Blood" tab at redcrossblood.org, it will save you time the day of the drive.

If you are unable to donate blood but would like volunteer at the drive, please contact Lori Reimer.

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
LORI REIMER, PARISH NURSE

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for cards, donations, prayers and sympathy shown to us at the sudden loss of Paul. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. Very special thanks to Pastor Craig.
-The Bartholomew Family

CONDOLENCES

JAMES BRIDGES

Our condolences for the family of Salem member, James Bridges, as he joined the church triumphant on Friday, November 26, 2021.

BILL WELCH

Prayers are requested for the family of Bill Welch. Bill joined the church triumphant on December 8. Prayer of comfort for his wife, MaryAnn, their children, and family.

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

January 11

Liam Cochran
John Petrakis
Matthew Reimer

January 12

Lynette Davis
Dean Doughty
Margaret Onyun
Meghan Onyun
Nathan Onyun

January 13

Lesly Baumgartner

January 17

Erinn Ambrosch
Jazmyne Scoville

January 18

Kelly Knobloch
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

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
- Ulrich family in Malawi
- Families at Crittenton Center
- Midwest Food Bank

- Betty Ahlgren
- Wally Bastian and his family
- Lesly Baumgarten
- Luan Borquist
- Jim Chelgren
- Butch Conard
- Stephanie Dammann's grandfather
- Ethan, grandson of Bea Kent
- Gabe

- John and Tanya's daughter-in-law and their family
- Jack Grant
- the family of Mary Haynes
- Henry
- Ron Hipple
- Helen Johnson
- Aunt Judie
- Lizzie
- Morgan Lott
- Mariann
- Marta

- Bill Mettam
- Tom Mueller
- Bruce Norgard
- Dr. Rick O'Connor
- Lana Pasco
- Donita Purcell
- Regina
- Rosy Park
- the family of Bill Welch
- Westley

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

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

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9am: Worship 10:15am: Youth Education Hour 10:30am: Annual Meeting	31					1
2 Epiphany Sunday Fair Trade Sunday 9am: Worship	3 Annual Reports due	4 11am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Council Meeting	5 10am: Zoom Bible Study 7pm: Praise Band Practice	6 9:15am: Adult Bible Study 6pm: Chancel Bells 7pm: Chancel Choir 7pm: Game Night at Oliver's	7	8
9 9am: Worship 10:15am: Education Hour	10 6:30pm: Congregational Care	11 <small>Northern Conference</small> Bugle Deadline 7pm: Outreach Meeting	12 10am: Zoom Bible Study 11am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Praise Band Practice	13 9:15am: Adult Bible Study 6pm: Chancel Bells 7pm: Chancel Choir	14	15
16 9am: Worship 10:15am: Education Hour	17 6:30pm: Worship & Music Meeting 7pm: Salem Churchmen Meeting	18 11am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Property & Finance Meeting	19 10am: Zoom Bible Study	20 9:15am: Adult Bible Study 6pm: Chancel Bells 7pm: Chancel Choir	21	22
23 9am: Worship 10:15am: Education Hour 11:15am: Service project for FFL	24	25 11am: Staff Meeting 7pm: Zoom Executive Committee	26 9am: Midwest Food Bank 10am: Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm: Zoom Book Club	27 9:15am: Adult Bible Study 6pm: Chancel Bells 7pm: Chancel Choir	28	29



Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Gingerbread House Party and Fundraiser for C.T. Vivian Christmas Grocery Cards on Sunday, December 12, 2021. We raised over \$2000 in coffee cake and donut donations and sold out of all 150 items!

