Monthly News from Salem Lutheran Church Bthe Bugle

ne of my professors in college believed February is a short month so we do not have to tolerate it as long. In Nebraska (and most of the Midwest), the snow that remains piled along roadways and walkways is dirty, the trees are bare and leafless, and any lawn that is exposed is packed down, brown, and lifeless. February for many of us is as colorless as a 1950's tv show. Move along, February, we want Spring and the vibrancy of color again. In the same way, we can equate the lingering pandemic to how my music professor defined February. Move along, Covid. You have inconvenienced us, caused us hardship, suffering and even grief far too long. We want the freedom and the vibrancy of life again. Even while we long for changes, and think life has stopped, we know that Spring is coming and life through and beyond this pandemic defined time of life is also coming. We just do not know when. But what if the reality exists and we are renewed in spite of what we can see?

Two different books come to mind for me. One is the book I am working through this winter called *The* Nature of Oaks and one Karen read along with Salem's book club last September, *Growing Slow*. These two books paint a very different picture of the seasons of the year than what we often experience and they are worth reflecting on in this fallow time of year. Doug Tallamy describes oak trees as highly valued not only for their beauty and longlife but also that they support hundreds of different species that help feed nature's hungry critters and enrich the nutrients of the soil. They grow slowly but they are strong and important trees among the many species that grow and thrive in many soil conditions. In

the other book, Jennifer Dukes Lee offers a path to unhurried living by returning to the rhythm of the land and learning the ancient art of Growing Slow. Lee points out that there is value to an unhurried life and makes the analogy that even when the leaves have fallen and the branches have stopped their growth, there is another kind of growth that is slowly at work as the energy of the plant shifts form growing leaves, flowers, and branches and instead growth takes place in the roots. What if when we see no hope for growth and life, there is growth taking place out of sight but just as abundantly? What if roots are forming, strengthening, and storing nutrients so that when the warmth of Spring returns, life

breaks forth again? What if it is the same for human life as it is for plant life? What if there is growth taking place beneath the surface of life because of the Spirit's work within us? It might just be that there is value to an unhurried life, a slower kind of growth that sustains and promotes growth for the next seasons of life.

Perhaps February is not so difficult to tolerate after all and is worth savoring for all its four full weeks. What if this is a time, a good time, to worship, study, reflect and dwell in God's word so that our faith is deepened, enriched, nurtured, and better equipped to burst forth in new and abundant life when the dawn of Spring returns? What if???



Cold Winter, Warm Greetings...

Salem's congregational care team is creating a **VIDEO GREETING CARD** for our homebound members. This cross generational project is called **With Love from Your Salem Family.**



Please email your pictures and videos (mpeterson@ salemofpeoria.com) or drop off your photos to scan no later than January 31, 2022.

With Love From Your Salem Family **Delivery Volunteers**

Volunteers needed to deliver in-person greetings to our homebound members **February 13-27.** No experience needed to share our video greeting card — With Love from your Salem Family. Volunteers will be given a user-friendly laptop from church to use for the visit. Our video will be fully loaded, just push play, no internet needed, etc. Please contact Joanie Creager or Lori Reimer to be a special visitor in February.



Craig Swenson, Senior Pastor cswenson@salemofpeoria.com

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

Joan Creager, Senior Ministries Stephanie Dammann, Nursery Isabel Gonzales, Office Coordinator office@salemofpeoria.com

Meghan Peterson, Communications mpeterson@salemofpeoria.com

Gretchen Petrakis, Director of Sunday School gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com

Lori Reimer, Parish Nurse Ireimer@salemofpeoria.com

Maggie Sloter, Director of Music & Choir Director

msloter@salemofpeoria.com

The Bugle is published monthly for \$10 per year by Salem Lutheran Church,

1700 W. War Memorial Dr. Peoria, Illinois 61614-6724 phone: (309) 688-9212

Periodicals Postage Paid at Peoria, IL 61601

POSTMASTER:

Send Address Changes to: Salem Lutheran Church, 1700 W. War Memorial Dr., Peoria, IL 61614-6724

Bugle content due by February 8.

Pastoral Emergency Number:

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



FEBRUARY MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

SALEM COUNCIL & MINISTRY GROUP MEETINGS

TUESDAY, FEB 1 at 7pm: Salem Council Meeting

MONDAY, FEB 7 at 6:30pm: Congregational Care Ministry, Zoom

TUESDAY, FEB 8 at 7pm: Outreach Ministry

TUESDAY, FEB 8 at 7:30pm: Faith Formation Ministry, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, FEB 9 at 6:30pm: Endowment Meeting

TUESDAY, FEB 15 at 7pm: Property & Finance Ministry

TUESDAY, FEB 22 at 7pm: Worship & Music Ministry

SALEM STAFF MEETING

Tuesdays at 11am with the exception of FEB 8. Staff meeting is FEB 9 at 11am.

SALEM COUNCIL

After the February council meeting, Salem's Council leadership will be determined

email: salemcouncil@salemofpeoria.com

WORSHIP & MUSIC

SUNDAYS at 9am (online/in person)

THURSDAYS at 6pm: Chancel Bell practice

THURSDAYS at 7pm: Chancel Choir practice

SUNDAY, FEB 6: Home communion

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 at 11am / 7pm

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS at 10:15am: Education Hour

Sunday School, Faith for Life, Kappa Chi, Women of the Word, Man-to-Man, Parent Group

WEDNESDAYS at 10am:

Bible Study on Zoom with Pastor Craig

THURSDAYS at 9:15am:

Adult Bible Study led by Bill Ligon

SUNDAY, FEB 20 at 11:15am:

Faith for Life

WED, FEB 23 at 7:30pm:

Salem Book Club on Zoom

SATURDAY, FEB 26 at 6:30pm:

Shawn Smith Virtual Concert

OUTREACH

SUNDAY, FEB 6: Fair Trade Sunday and Food Collection

FRIDAY, FEB 25, 6pm - SATURDAY, FEB 26. 6am: Gimme Shelter (see page 4 for more information)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

SATURDAY, FEB 19 at 1pm:

Adult Fellowship at Bradley Basketball Game

MONDAY, FEB 21 at 7pm: Salem Churchmen

2 Salem Lutheran Church • The Bugle
The Bugle • Salem Lutheran Church 3

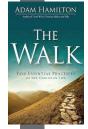
New Year, New You!

With all that is ahead of you, what will you put at the center of your life this year?

Make Christ the center of your life - let Salem's library guide your journey!

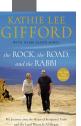
An online library resource is now linked to Salem's website (*salemofpeoria.com/salem-lutheran-library*). Over 250 books of Salem's collection have been entered with more to come. You are invited to scroll through the library collection online, and then come and check-out books of your interest whenever the church is open, or make arrangements for book delivery to your home if you wish. Contact Karen Swenson at 309-258-5708 or at *klswen@hotmail.com*.

Featured this month:



The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life by Adam Hamilton

You want to follow in Jesus' footsteps—but what exactly should that look like in everyday life? Pastor Hamilton highlights five essential practices modeled in Christ's own walk with God and reinforced throughout the New Testament. Discover the transformational power of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to your faith.



The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi by Kathie Lee Gifford

When she began studying the biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek and hiking the ancient paths of Israel, Kathie Lee discovered a deeper understanding of the Bible and of God Himself. Follow her as she hikes the land with Rabbi Jason Sobel, Ray Vander Laan, and others who are trained in the messianic rabbinical way – and see Jesus' earthly homeland with new eyes!



My Life, My Love, My Legacy by Barbara Reynolds and Loretta Scott King

The life story of Coretta Scott King—wife of Martin Luther King Jr., founder of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and singular twentieth-century American civil rights activist—as told fully for the first time.

ONLINE LIBRARY RESOURCE: www.salemofpeoria.com/salem-lutheran-library

What is your Love Language?

LUTHERAN WOMEN OF GREATER PEORIA

Ladies of all ages are welcome to join the Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria (LWGP) on **Friday, February 11 at 9am**. LWGP's General Membership meeting will be held at Bethel Lutheran (200 Colona Avenue, Bartonville.) We will begin at 9am with a continental breakfast in Bethel's Fellowship Hall. The featured speaker is Jennifer Anders, on staff at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Peoria. Jennifer will share a presentation on Love Languages based on books written by Gary Chapman. Please RSVP to Lisa Mack by **Mon, Feb 7:** lisadmack14@gmail.com or LisaDMack@comcast.net / call or text (309) 360-2669.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER

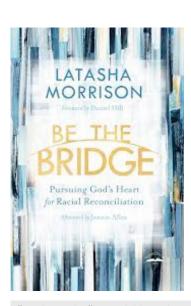
Learn More About Over-the-Counter Medication

Being cautious and knowledgeable about taking over-the counter (OTC) medications is important for all - adults and children. Here are a few safety tips if you take OTCs whether you take them on a regular or temporary basis:

- When in doubt, ask first don't guess, ask your doctor or pharmacist
- Make sure the doctor knows all the OTCs being taken before they write a new prescription. This includes keeping regular OTCs, like vitamins and supplements, on your medication list
- The reverse is true also, before taking an OTC, check with the doctor or pharmacist if any conflicts with a prescription medication
- For children, know their weight so you can give the proper dose; give babies and children only those medicines formulated for their weight and age
- Follow the directions on the label carefully be sure to read the entire label
- Use the specific dropper, dosing cup or other device that comes with liquid OTCs
- If using multiple OTCs, watch for both duplicate ingredients and usage
- With children, emphasize that OTCs are not candy and they should not touch or taste them on their own

February Book Club

In an era where we seem to be increasingly divided along racial lines, many are hesitant to step into the gap, fearful of saying or doing the wrong thing. At times the silence, particularly within the church, seems deafening. But change begins with an honest conversation among a group of Christians willing to give a voice to unspoken hurts, hidden fears, and mounting tensions. These ongoing dialogues have formed the foundation of a global movement called Be the Bridge—a nonprofit organization whose goal is to equip the church to have a distinctive and transformative response to racism and racial division. In this perspective-shifting book, founder Latasha Morrison shows how you can participate in this incredible work and replicate it in your own community. With conviction and grace, she examines the historical complexities of



SALEM BOOK CLUB

We are reading
"Be the Bridge - Pursuing
God's Heart for Racial
Reconciliation"
by Latasha Morrison
for our monthly Zoom
gathering on Wednesday,
February 23rd at 7:30pm.
If you wish to join the
group for one time or
every time, please email
Gretchen at gpetrakis@
salemofpeoria.com.

"Be the Bridge" is available in the Salem Library.

racism. She expertly applies Biblical principles, such as lamentation, confession, and forgiveness, to lay the framework for restoration. Along with prayers, discussion questions, and other resources to enhance group engagement, *Be the Bridge* presents a compelling vision of what it means for every follower of Jesus to become a bridge builder—committed to pursuing justice and racial unity in light of the gospel.

4 Salem Lutheran Church • The Bugle
The Bugle

Salem Family to take on HOMELESSNESS in February

The pandemic has been devastating for those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Gimme Shelter is an event hosted by Phoenix Community Development Services to give Peoria area citizens an opportunity to help in the fight to end homelessness in Central Illinois and to raise awareness of the challenges faced by those without homes.

of Friday, Feb 25, 2022. Salem will be participating in fundraising for this event throughout the month of February. The Salem Gimme Shelter Team will have participants at the in-person, outdoor overnight event at the RiverPlex from 6pm Friday evening until 6am Saturday morning and in other locations – some even virtually from their home or garage. Some will stay in a cardboard box or a vehicle.

All to experience a bit of what it might be like to be outside, overnight, in the Central Illinois cold. Proceeds from **Gimme Shelter** will benefit Phoenix Community Development Services and support our continuing efforts to provide permanent supportive housing and homeless outreach services to end homelessness in our community.

Gimme Shelter will:

- Bring our community together
- Raise awareness of the plight of those with nowhere to call home
- Provide a powerful opportunity to learn more about homelessness.



A NIGHT TO END HOMELESSNESS

February 25-26, 2022

Watch for a variety of opportunities in February at Salem to learn more about the causes of homelessness and specific needs in our community; to pray for those without a place to call home; and to contribute through fundraising opportunities.

SUPPORT

Make a donation to the Salem Lutheran Church Gimme Shelter Team — please visit: https://secure.qgiv.com/event/gimmeshelter2022/team/889821/

BE PART OF THE TEAM

Register as a participant online: https://secure.qgiv.com/event/gimmeshelter2022/register/

DONATION AND REGISTRATION LINKS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE WEEKLY BUGLE BLAST.



"Phoenix Community
Development Services
strives to provide people
with the opportunity to
help themselves toward
self-sufficiency."



Emergency Resource Kits for Phoenix Development Center DONATION OF ITEMS FOR KITS

The Salem Family will make emergency resource kits to give to the Phoenix Development Center to distribute to the homeless during the month of February. Please sign up through a sign up genius link in the Bugle Blast or in the atrium for what you plan to donate and have all donated items at church by the end of worship on Sunday, February 20.

bars of soap nail clippers pairs of gloves small bottles of hand lotion small flashlights toothpaste tooth brushes small sewing kits razors dental floss boxes of band-aids energy bars sticks of deodorant single size aspirin or gum or mints Tylenol packs small packs of bacterial wipes cracker packs quart size ziplock bags (w/cheese or peanut butter) small packs of tissue gallon size ziplock bags combs

These items will need to fit in shoe boxes or small cloth bags so donated items should be "travel size." Signing up in advance helps us plan so we can purchase additional items needed from financial donations and/or Thrivent Action Team funds. Watch for a cross generational packing party immediately after worship on Sunday, February 27.

SIGN-UP THROUGH A LINK IN THE WEEKLY BUGLE BLAST.

Success Story

LUTHERAN WOMEN OF GREATER PEORIA

Did you realize that Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria (LWGP) is dependent upon your donations to The Church Mouse? Your generosity helps us help others! LWGP was able to raise \$42,000 in 2021, despite covid restrictions. The money was divided evenly between Lutheran Hillside Village (LHV) and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). LSSI uses the donations to fund their childrens' services, both locally and statewide.

LWGP was able to fulfill the wish lists of many different departments at LHV. Equipment for Physical Therapy and the Wellness Center was purchased, a new scanner for the business office has been put to use, and two CoaguCheck machines will be purchased soon.

The next time you find yourself in the mood for "spring cleaning" and have gently used items that someone else may need, please remember The Church Mouse, 600 West Main, Peoria, near the campus of Bradley University. The Church Mouse accepts donations Mon-Sat, 10am-3pm around the back of the building. Questions? Contact Joan Ressler or Shirley Lewis at (309) 673-2363.

6 Salem Lutheran Church ● The Bugle
The Bugle ● Salem Lutheran Church 7

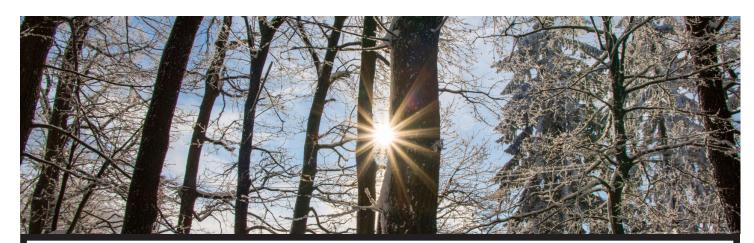
Prayer Ministry

Prayer is an act of Communication with God. Galatians 6:2 says that prayer eases others' burdens.

Today, knitters and crocheters of all faiths are creating handmade shawls for people in need, as gifts of comfort, hope and peace. Although we were unable to physically reach out and touch members and friends in pain, we could wrap them in the love of our great Lord with a simple prayer shawl. Any member can request a prayer shawl to deliver to family or friends in need.

Are you looking for a project during these cold winter evenings ahead? If so, please put your needles and hooks to good use bringing comfort and prayers to those in need by getting involved with Salem's Prayer Shawl Ministry. The shawl maker begins with prayer and blessings for the "recipient" and continues to pray and meditate as the shawl is created.

Yarn we have; workers we could use to turn donated yarn into beautiful comforting shawls. Pattern suggestions are available if needed. If interested in helping, please contact Jeanne Setterlund: settejm@mtco.com or the church office for more information.



In the journey of life, wherever God takes us, His love will go with us.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR KRISTEN SCHMID

Dear Salem Family,

As I celebrate my one-year anniversary as a pastor. I think fondly of all of you, and wish everyone at Salem well as we begin a new year. It has been a time of big adjustments for us, as it has been for many, but also a year of gratitude and blessings. While I certainly had a steep learning curve this past year. I also had and continue to have a sense of deep joy and appreciation for all who helped me aswer God's call, including all of you. The people at both churches I serve have been very welcoming and supportive.

Ted has been taking online classes in data visualization and learning to make impressive looking charts and graphics. The boys are making friends here in Logansport, and I am now the only member of our family who is not a percussionist.

Wishing you all health, peace and joy in the coming year, Kristin Schmid

Milestone Quilts

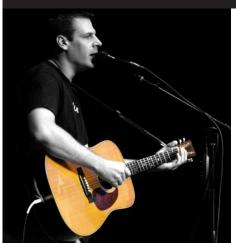
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you have a senior in high school, we would love to provide them with a t-shirt quilt celebrating the milestone of High School graduation. What we need from parents to get started is 10 personal t-shirts that represent activities, places, organizations that have been meaningful to your son or daughter during their childhood and high school years. Students and families have chosen sports teams, band shirts, school shirts, vacation t-shirts, in addition

to Vacation Bible School and youth group shirts. The Salem quilting group adds a couple congregational specific squares and helps put together a beautiful representation of your son or daughter's faith forming years at Salem and beyond. We hope to have the quilts ready to present for Graduation Sunday in May 2022. You can drop t-shirts off at the church office or give them to Jill Goldhammer. Please be sure your student's name is on the box or bag and on any individual t-shirts you drop off.

SALEM QUILTING GROUP

A wide variety of skills are needed to work on the milestone quilts. If you are a seasoned quilter or someone who sews, or even someone who can cut the t-shirts into squares and are willing to help, you are encouraged to let Jill Goldhammer or Rebbecca Sipf know. You can work on your own at home or get together in small groups at church. An important part of this ministry is praying for the young people and their families as they approach this important milestone and for their future as they continue to grow in Christ to love and serve.



SHAWN SMITH

Shawn's music and message is fun and meaningful for all ages! Mark your calendars and plan to join in from your living room as we celebrate with praise, worship and gratitude to God for the variety of blessings in our lives.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE YOUTH BOARD

SHAWN SMITH
Saturday, February 26, 6:30PM

Watch the **BUGLE BLAST**! An online link to the concert will be shared closer to the event.

Bradley Basketball Game

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.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1PM

Bradley University vs. Illinois State University, Men's Basketball Game at the Peoria Civic Center

If you have questions please contact Merrell Hickey or Leah Grebner.

All are welcome!

Salem Lutheran Church ● The Bugle

The Bugle ● Salem Lutheran Church 9

THANK YOU

Dear friends in Lydia Circle,

Thank you so much for our beautiful Christmas bags and gifts. They were so useful, thoughtful and tasty. We could tell a lot of thought went into what was given. Walk smiled when I read each name on the card, and now I will tell him a little about each of you, reading one each day as I give him a treat to eat, or use the other items. So much fun, so much love! Blessings and love to each of you.

-Walt and Joy Anderson

Thank you to our Salem friends for the wonderful box of cards and treats...while always welcome, it meant more in these difficult Covid times

-Helen and Carl Buerger

Wonderful cards and goodies arrived! I miss Salem friends and love to hear from you! Thanks so much.

-MaryAlice Erickson

Thank you for all the Christmas cards and the goodies from the Sunday School. Wishing you a merry post-Christmas. Thanks for everything.

-Janet Jones

Dear Salem Friends,

My appreciation to Dick and Helene Peterson for bringing me your Christmas messages of cheer and goodwill. It was a joy for me to celebrate with you in the Word the birthday of our Savior. Blessings in the new year!

-Bea Kent

Thank you for all the Christmas gifts and cards. Thank you to all the members and Lydia Circle. Thank you, too, for Pastor Craig's visit.

-Ruth Landes

I would like to extend a big "thank you" for the many cards and treats from Salem at Christmas time. It put a smile on my face from your kindness and thoughtfulness from the parish.

-Arlan Maier

Thank you for the package of Christmas cards and goodies. It is most appreciated.

-Rosy Park

To Lydia Circle - Thank you for the assorted goodies and notes. We sure had fun opening all the wonderful gifts. Thank you for being so thoughtful.

-Fred and Marilyn Stamerjohn

CONDOLENCES

BEV MAIER

Prayers are requested for the family of Beverly Maier. Bev joined the church triumphant on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. Please pray for comfort and peace for Debra Baker, Roger A. Maier, and Karen Sudaj, and all who mourn her passing. Per Beverly's wishes a private family service was held, and memorials may be made to Salem Lutheran Church.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1

Chris Cochran Lynnce Coyner Roxanne Vandervlugt

February 2

Martin Wiesehan

February 3

John Iverson Bill Ligon

February 4

Barbara Ackerman Landon Peterson Adelaide Taubert-Koss

February 5

Sarah Bidne Janet Wiesehan February 6

Lily Bastian Rick Lambie

February 7Maren Thompson

February 8

Wendy Thomasson
February 9

February 11Diane Proft

Emily Peterson

February 12Norma Hartman
Lisa Janco

February 14Pam DeBruyn
Allison Harvey

February 16

Janet Jones Nancy Rehn

February 18
Annette Doughty

February 19Wendy Cochran
Janet Cox

February 20 Lorelei Hull Lila Moore

John Harvey

February 21 Noah Hopkins Vicki Larson Alan Puttcamp February 24 Chad Arnold Gerri Hoehn

Gerri Hoehn Lesley Howard Christine Steele

February 25
Jacob Ferrell

February 26 Marla Breidel Mia Hoffman

February 27
Conner Bidne

February 28 Linda Dowell

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
- Family of Mark Anderson
- Wally Bastian and his family
- Lesly Baumgarten
- Luan Borquist
- Alicia Call
- Jim Chelgren
- Butch Conard
- Stephanie Dammann's grandfather
- Ethan, grandson of Bea Kent
- Gabe
- John and Tanya's daughter-inlaw and their family
- Jack Grant
- Henry
- Ron Hipple
- Helen Johnson
- Julia Kotewa
- Lizzie
- Morgan Lott
- Mariann

- Marta
- Bill MettamTom Mueller
- Mary Nelson
- Bruce Norgard
- Dr. Rick O'Connor
- Lana Pasco
- Donita Purcell
- ReginaRosv Park
- Dan Rubin
- Westley

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

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

Talon Maki

10 The Bugle • Salem Lutheran Church





What if.

this is a time, a good time, to worship, study, reflect and dwell in God's word so that our faith is deepened, enriched, nurtured, and better equipped to burst forth in new and abundant life when the dawn of Spring returns?

WORSHIP AT SALEM SUNDAY, 9AM

(Livestream available at www.salemofpeoria.com

STUDY • REFLECT • DWELL

Studies for All Ages: Sunday, 10:15AM Zoom Online Bible Study: Wednesday, 10AM In Person Bible Study: Thursday, 9:15AM