



the Bugle

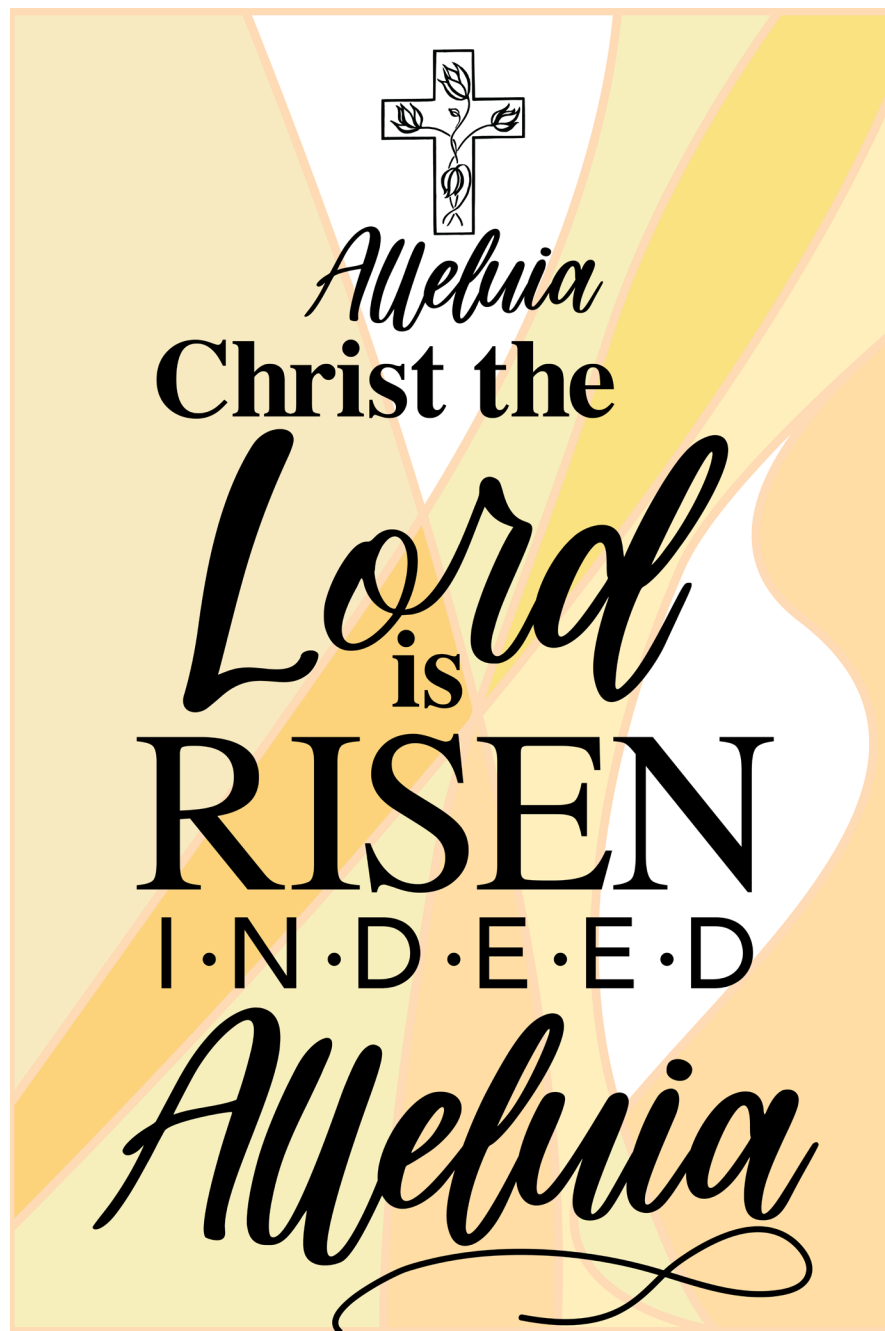
There are many reasons to be excited in the month ahead.

- 1. There is cautious optimism that we have turned a corner on the lingering pandemic and people are beginning to move forward into new patterns of life.**
- 2. The earth has tilted yet more directly toward the sun as Winter has faded and the long-awaited season of Spring unfolds.**
- 3. Lent moves us ever closer to the celebratory climax of Easter.**
- 4. And yet there is another reason I am excited for the month ahead. Since Easter is later this year, it does not conflict with the highly anticipated festival of Spring Break. I cannot tell you how many times I have been excited to share Easter festivities over the years only to learn that Easter and Spring Break have overlapped, meaning many families had plans to be away for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and even Easter Sunday. But not this year.**

I am therefore excited and, I look forward to the time that is before us. Plans are in place to share Holy Communion with children and their families for the first time on Palm Sunday as we shout Hosannah and welcome news of the coming Messiah. We will gather on Maundy Thursday to remember the last gathering Jesus had with his disciples on the night of his betrayal. On Good Friday, children and families will have the opportunity to walk the path Jesus took on his way to cross. Later in the evening, we will read together and reflect the story of Jesus's passion through readings and hymns amidst a dimly lit sanctuary. On Holy Saturday we wait... and then we come together on Easter Sunday to sing Alleluias and to rejoice in the resurrection news that the living presence of God is indeed greater than our biggest fears and sin's strongest grasp.

If you have been away for any reason, this is an exciting time to re-engage with your church family and join in the journey together. Easter is the church's great family reunion and it would be great to have the family together. There are three services planned for Easter Sunday. In part, to give people options to consider, but what if it was more about the anticipation that others of you are equally excited to be together that we need three services to hold everyone? Wouldn't that be special? We have a story to tell, to witness and to experience. I encourage you to share an invitation of welcome to someone who has yet to connect to a faith family and is just waiting for the invitation. You have an opportunity to share what excites you about your church and how your church helps you grow in Christ to love and serve others. That's an exciting opportunity to consider!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! How will others know unless we share the greatest news of all?



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Worship Times

6am (outside), 8:30am, 10:30am

Easter continental breakfast
of fruit and Trefzger pastries
between services



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
lreimer@salemofpeoria.com

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

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Bugle content due by April 12

Pastoral Emergency Number:

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

APRIL MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS at 9am (online/in person)

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH APRIL 6:
11AM / 7PM

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10: 9AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14:
11AM / 7PM

WAY OF THE CROSS,
FRI, APRIL 15: 10AM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15: 7PM

EASTER

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17:
6AM / 8:30AM / 10:30AM

**SALEM COUNCIL &
MINISTRY GROUP MEETINGS**

TUESDAY, APR 5 at 7pm:
Salem Council Meeting
(in person)

MONDAY, APR 11 at 6:30pm:
Congregational Care Ministry

TUESDAY, APR 12 at 7pm:
Outreach Ministry

TUESDAY, APR 12 at 7:30pm:
Faith Formation Ministry

TUESDAY, APR 19 at 7pm:
Property & Finance Ministry

TUESDAY, APR 26 at 6:30pm:
Worship & Music Ministry

SALEM COUNCIL & LIAISONS

Grant Peterson, President, Endowment
Ann Roberts, Vice President, Outreach
Kris Griffith, Secretary
Dave Swanson, Treasurer

Kelly Brinkman, Faith Formation

Matt Grebner, Worship & Music

Emily Jolliff, Faith Formation

Todd Kelly, Worship & Music

Jason Lantz, Property & Finance

Maren Thompson, Congregational Care

Gretchen Petrakis, Faith Formation

Eric Schroeder, Property & Finance

email: salemcouncil@salemofpeoria.com

WORSHIP & MUSIC

THURSDAY, APRIL 7 at 6pm: Chancel Bell

THURSDAY, APRIL 7 at 7pm: Chancel Choir

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 at 7pm: Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 at 6pm: Chancel Bell

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 at 7pm: Chancel Choir

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS at 10:15am: Education Hour
Sunday School, Faith for Life, Kappa Chi,
Women of the Word, Man-to-Man

WEDNESDAYS at 9:30am:
Bible Study on Zoom with Pastor Craig

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 5 at 10am:
Rebecca Circle

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 at 2pm:
Lydia Circle

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 at 10am:
First Communion Instruction

WED, APRIL 27 at 7:30pm:
Salem Book Club on Zoom

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 at 8AM: Property Clean-up

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 at 8AM: Spring Work Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 30 at 5:30PM: More Than
Pink Fundraiser (at the Kotewa's)

OUTREACH

MONTH OF APRIL: Fill the Crib Collection for
Crittenton Centers

SUNDAY, APRIL 3: Dave's Coffee Cake
Fundraiser for Fill the Crib

SUNDAY, APRIL 3: Fair Trade Sunday
and Food Collection

Salem Lutheran Library

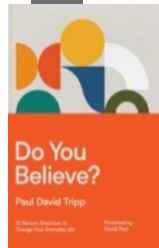
Come check-out resources to Encourage – Equip – Engage in your growing to Love & Serve!

An online library resource is now linked to Salem’s website. To access and view the collection (salemofpeoria.com), look for the Learn tab, click on Salem Lutheran Library, click again on Library Catalog and scroll through the online collection.

Or, search(salemofpeoria.com/salem-lutheran-library).

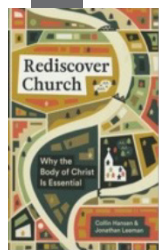
If you wish to have books delivered to your home, please contact Karen Swenson at 309-258-5708 or at klswen@hotmail.com.

Featured this month:



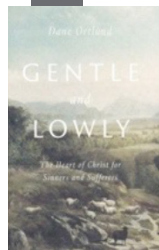
Do You Believe? 12 Historic Doctrines to Change Your Everyday Life by Paul David Tripp (230 TRI)

What we believe has a direct effect on the way we live. Best-selling author Tripp takes a close look at a dozen core doctrines—including sovereignty, justification, sanctification, and glorification—and explores how they engage and transform our hearts and minds. As he explains each one, Tripp focuses on its relevance to everyday life.



Rediscover Church: Why the body of Christ is Essential by Collin Hansen & Jonathan Leeman (262.7 HAN)

The pandemic, political dissension, racial division, abuse scandals—contemporary churches are navigating a lot of potholes, and some wonder if it’s really worthwhile to gather each week. Hansen and Leeman say yes! Underscoring the importance of in-person preaching, teaching, membership, and more, they remind readers that the discipline of being physically present is vital to God’s mission.



Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers by Dane Ortlund (231.7 ORT)

Are you discouraged, fearful, disappointed, frustrated, or anxious? Cast your cares on Jesus, whose yoke is easy and burden light! Painting a fresh portrait of God’s grace, Ortlund examines Scripture and Puritan teachings to explore the relational heart of Christ. His insights will encourage you to see Jesus as he really is—ready to embrace you in love.

Property Clean-up Day & Spring Work Day

PROPERTY CLEAN-UP DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 8AM-10AM

Help clean-up the outdoor church property in preparation for Easter Sunday service the following weekend. 5-10 are people needed.

SPRING WORK DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 8AM-NOON (April 30 rain date)

Please considering volunteering there will be projects for all indoors and outdoors! Planning to add new mulch to the landscaping and garden areas. 20 plus people needed.

For any questions please contact the Salem Churchmen president, Chad Arnold. Many hands make light work!

FAITH FORMATION

April Book Club

We Would LOVE to have you Join Us

Salem Book Club will meet **Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30pm**. Our book will be “The Jesus I Never Knew” by Philip Yancey. All are welcome to join us on Zoom:

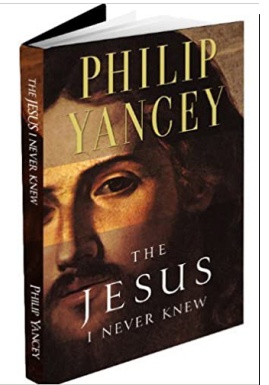
Meeting ID: 879 6250 3385

Password: Books

What happens when a respected Christian journalist decides to put his preconceptions aside and take a long look at the Jesus described in the Gospels? How does the Jesus of the New Testament compare to the “new, rediscovered” Jesus—or even the Jesus we think we know so well? Philip Yancey offers a new and different perspective on the life of Christ and his work—his teachings, his miracles, his death and resurrection—and

ultimately, who he was and why he came.

From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey presents a complex character who generates questions as well as answers; a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform your life and stretch your faith. The Jesus I Never Knew uncovers a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying. “No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same,” says Yancey. “Jesus has rocked my own preconceptions and has made me ask hard questions about why those of us who bear his name don’t do a better job of following him.”



FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER

Learn About Blood Pressure

Blood pressure is the amount of force exerted on your arteries when your heart beats. Your blood pressure is highest when your heart beats, pumping the blood - systolic pressure. When your heart is at rest between beats, your blood pressure falls - diastolic pressure. Your blood pressure reading is the systolic over the diastolic. 120/80 or lower is normal blood pressure where 140/90 or higher is considered high blood pressure, stage two. High blood pressure usually has no symptoms, but it can cause serious problems such as stroke, heart failure, heart attack and kidney failure. You can often control high blood pressure through healthy lifestyle habits or taking medicines, if prescribed by a physician.



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Have your blood pressure checked the first Sunday of the month following church service in the Parish Nurse office (located on the first floor). If you need assistance with more frequent blood pressure checks, please see Lori Reimer. For more information on high blood pressure (hypertension), how to recognize and reduce risk factors, stop by the Parish Nurse office, or go to heart.org (American Heart Association).

Faith for Life Students are hosting the Fill the Crib Service Project for Crittenton Center throughout the month of April

There are several ways to support this project:

Dave's Coffee Cake Sunday - April 3, 2022

All proceeds go to the Crittenton Fill the Crib project.

Coffee Cake samples will be available during Coffee Hour. Your \$20 tax deductible donation on **April 3** will get you a free coffee cake of your choice – Make checks payable to Salem Lutheran and add your envelope number in the memo line. If you want to reserve your favorite flavor(s) in advance, call Jill or the church office.



- Apple Cinnamon Supreme
- Blueberry
- Blueberry Crème Cheese
- Strawberry
- Chocolate Chip
- Chocolate Chip Crème Cheese
- Double Cinnamon
- Cinnamon Chip
- Raspberry Crème Cheese
- Raspberry Lemon
- Triple Chocolate

Fill the Crib Donation Items

We will be collecting the following items in the Atrium at church throughout the month:

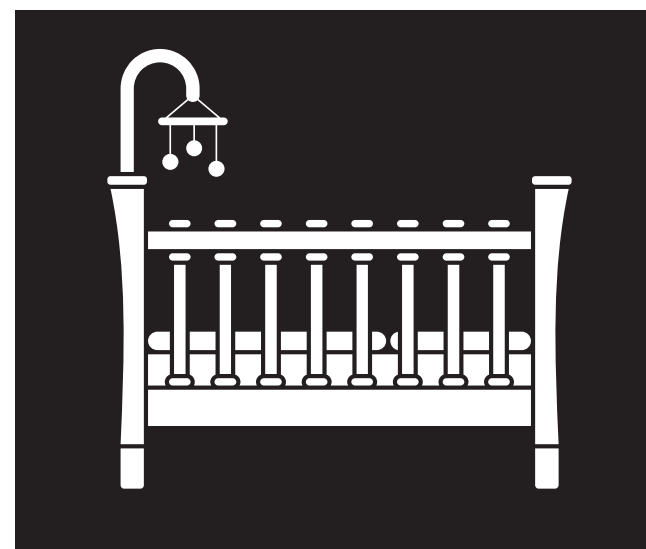
diapers (size 5-7), pull-ups (size 4T-5T), formula, wipes, and basic need baby supplies.

Or, you may visit any of these stores on-line to order and send your items directly to Crittenton: Walmart, Amazon, Target, and Amazon Smile For direct links the registries to do your shopping on-line, please visit: www.crittentoncenters.org/donations

About Crittenton:

Crittenton Centers believes strong families build strong communities. Each day they work to prevent child abuse and neglect while strengthening the family unit. Through providing crisis intervention and supportive parent education services, they are strengthening families. Crittenton Centers focus their work in three primary service areas including crisis nursery, child development center, and Family Services.

Learn more about Crittenton, the critical work they do, and Salem's partnership with this important community organization in April Communication Blasts and announcements. Crittenton Centers is located at 442 W. John H Gwynn Jr Ave, in Downtown Peoria.



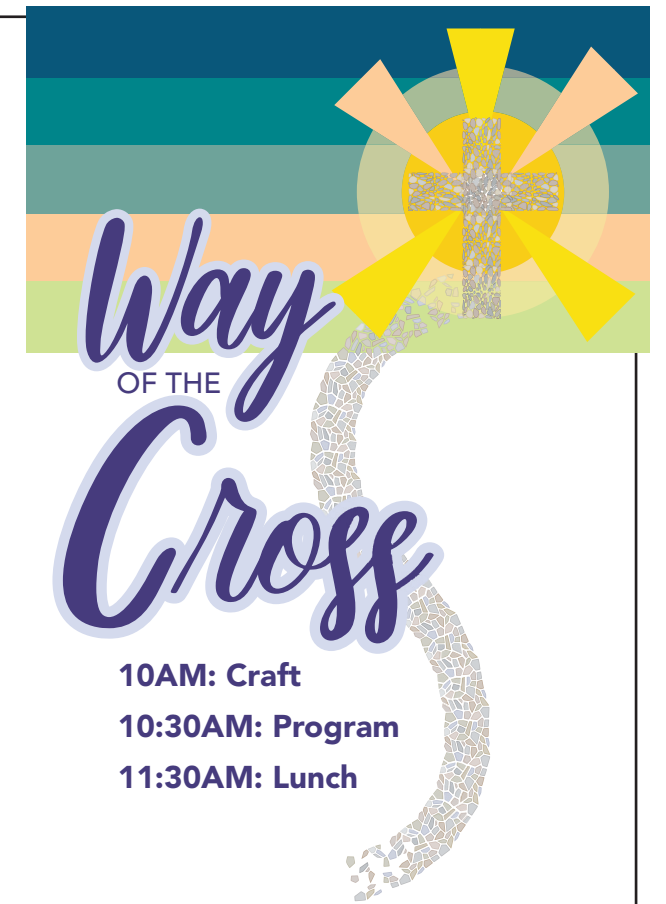
DONATIONS ACCEPTED THE MONTH OF APRIL! LET'S FILL THE CRIB!

Way of the Cross

Salem's Faith for Life (5th-8th Grade) Students are presenting "The Way of the Cross" on **Friday, April 15**. All are invited to attend as we walk with Jesus on his way to the cross. We start with the joyous entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and we walk through the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, and other stories of Holy Week. We end our walk on the story of Good Friday and Jesus dying on the cross for our sins.

We begin at 10am with a craft and our service begins at 10:30am in the Sanctuary. Lunch will be provided immediately following in the Social Hall. Sandwiches from Avantis will be served with chips, drinks, and dessert. Please join us in the Social Hall or you may take your lunch "to go" or if weather is nice you may eat outside.

This service is specifically designed to tell the story of Holy Week to children. Please join Salem's youth as they grow in their faith by sharing these stories with your family. All ages are invited to join us and the support the youth! Invite a friend to join!



Salem Family Sampler Day at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) - SATURDAY, MAY 14

Salem has reserved Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) and their staff on **Saturday, May 14**, to re-introduce children, youth and families to our favorite Bible Camp and some awesome activities in the great outdoors. Planned activities include: canoeing, archery, team building, gaga ball and a good camp hike. (You may also bring your fishing poles along if you wish to work that in). We plan to bring along our own sack lunches. It will be a very full day!

- 8am: The Salem bus will leave the church parking lot
(Families can drive themselves to Oregon, Illinois, and meet up with the group at camp.)
- 4:30pm: Return to Salem

This activity is for all ages - Families are encouraged to participate together, however, 5th graders and up can come along without an adult. Please keep Jill posted if special arrangements need to be made for younger unaccompanied children. We can invite some mentors along.

ABOUT LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRY CENTER

LOMC's mission is to connect the Word of God with the World of God. This activity is being provided FREE for Salem families and you are welcome to invite friends along for free, too. What a great way to introduce friends to some of your Salem friends than experiencing Jesus in the great outdoors!

Registrations are due by May 1, 2022, so the camp can plan for our fun day!



Salem's Gimme Shelter Emphasis a HUGE success!

On any night in our community, hundreds of men, women and children do not spend the night in their own homes. They stay with friends and relatives, in shelters, abandoned buildings, tents and cars. Many sleep outside – seeking whatever shelter they can find. The pandemic has been devastating for those without homes. Food insecurity has become a major issue and the public buildings many people relied on for warmth and to maintain their personal hygiene are no longer accessible.

Gimme Shelter is a fundraising event hosted annually by Phoenix Community Development Services in Peoria to raise awareness of the challenges faced by those in the community without homes and to give citizens an opportunity to help end homelessness in Central Illinois. Gimme Shelter 2022 was held on the evening of February 25. Community members raised funds for the privilege of spending the night, from 6pm in the evening until 6am the next morning, outside in a cardboard box or in their car. The organization set a goal of raising \$100,000.00 for this year's event.

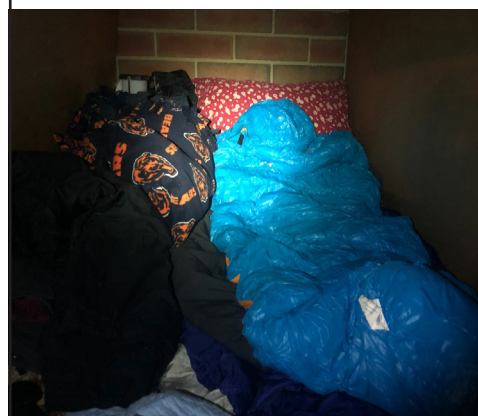
In February, Salem decided to go "all in" to learn as much as possible about homelessness and make a difference in the community. As a congregation, we published weekly email "Blasts" about homelessness and efforts being made in the community to help. We prayed specifically for those who are homeless and those working so hard to change that. We collected

items and packed homeless kits for Phoenix staff to hand out as needed; hosted the CEO from Phoenix Community Development Center along with "Mike," a consumer from their housing program in a Sunday morning educational forum; and raised a whopping \$8,491 to become the first-place fundraising team in the 2022 Gimme Shelter event! But that wasn't all. On the night of February 25, Pastor Craig, Deacon Jill, and Meghan Peterson spent a very cold night outside in boxes at the Gimme Shelter event.

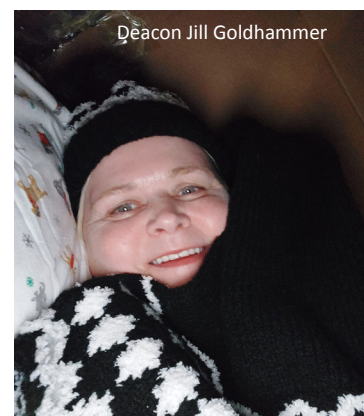
As always, thank you for your generosity people of Salem and for caring so deeply about others in our community. What a blessing to be a part of the Salem family, growing in Christ to love and serve! We are already looking forward to next year's Gimme Shelter event. Is there a box with your name on it in your future?!?!?



Pastor Craig Swenson



Meghan Peterson



Deacon Jill Goldhammer

CONDOLENCES

Martin Wiesehan

Prayers are requested for the family of Martin Wiesehan who joined the church triumphant on Saturday, February 26. Martin's funeral and visitation was Friday, March 4 at Salem Lutheran Church. Sympathy is especially extended to Marty's wife, Jan and sons, Matthew and Nathan.

Dr. Rick O'Connor

Dr. Rick O'Connor joined the church triumphant on Thursday, March 10. Please pray for his wife, Anitra, children, Kerstin, Paul, and Martin, and all who mourn his passing. May the love of Christ and the promise of the resurrection bring them comfort and peace. Funeral services with visitation was on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at Salem Lutheran Church.

Thank you to friends who supported me with prayers, cards and good wishes. I am getting stronger each day with the outpouring of positivity! Dick Serrahn

With Love From Your Salem Family

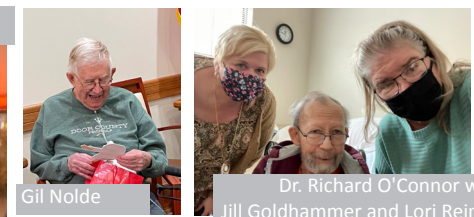
What a joy it was to deliver the video greeting card, "With love from your Salem Family," to so many of our members in February. They were excited to see so many smiling Salem faces! A great big thank you to the video card editor, Aaron Grebner; to Megan Thomasson for editing the children's reading, and to Kappa Chi students Caleb Brinkman and Caiden Hickey for taking the pictures. Thanks to everyone who had their picture taken or sent in pictures. And, thanks to everyone who made visits to deliver the greeting. This was quite a team effort!

If you haven't seen the video, it is available as an unlisted video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/T5PrRuRluRo>

Here are some pictures of the visits!



Ed and Lynn Akers with Kris Griffith



Gil Nolde, Dr. Richard O'Connor with Jill Goldhammer and Lori Reimer



Kay Peterson with Kris Griffith



Marti Plunkett with Jill Goldhammer, Bea Kent with Lori Reimer



Bill Middleton and Alf Berg with Lori Reimer and Jill Goldhammer



Rosy Park with Kris and Dave Griffith

THANK YOU!

- Thank you to Salem for the joyous video for Valentine's Day. It was wonderful to see the Rebecca Circle and I appreciate them thinking of me. So glad I was able to visit with Dave and Kris Griffith.

- Rosy Park

- Thank you Salem friends, Rebecca Circle and Salem Sunday School for all the Valentine Greetings. Jill Goldhammer and Lori Reimer brought a laptop to share your Valentine videos with me. I was so happy to "see" all of you and hear your message of Love, Hope and Happiness. Words I still truly feel. Our visit was so enjoyable too.

Blessings to all of you -
Bea Kent

Are you ready to cook up heaps of fun for VBS this summer?

Salem is hosting Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School



Monday – Thursday, June 27-30, from 9AM - Noon each morning.

Food Truck Party VBS invites children to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11: "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God - and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met.

At the center of Food Truck Party VBS is a special food truck called "On A Roll with God." Here children become chefs and learn about the Daily Specials, which are based on the well-loved prayer:

Monday - God is Great, God is Good.

Tuesday - Let us thank God for our food.

Wednesday - By God's hand we all are fed.

Thursday - Give us, Lord, our daily bread.

At VBS, we will learn the countless ways God provides, loves and cares for us and we will be invited to join God in providing, loving and caring for others.

A reminder, our annual VBS program was well up over 100 children before the pandemic, with many guests from the local community. It takes a great number of adult and student volunteers to provide Vacation Bible School to such a large group. Volunteer registration information is coming soon. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this joy-filled week if you are able.

Vacation Bible School will be filled with Crafts, Bible Stories, Games, Snacks, Service, Small Groups and more. Won't it be AWESOME to be back in person again!

The CREATIVE TEAM is just forming to plan this fabulous VBS experience. Please contact Deacon Jill Goldhammer at 309-370-1692 if you want to be a part of the planning team.

MORE THAN PINK SATURDAY, MAY 7 SALEM LUTHERAN SAINTS

Salem has registered a team for the More Than Pink Walk™ again this year, the Salem Lutheran Saints. The event will be **Saturday, May 7**. If you want to register for the walk and join the team, or if you are unable to join us, but wish to make a donation, go to <https://bit.ly/SalemLutheranSaints>

There are many ways to participate and support the Salem Saints Team through Susan Komen's More Than Pink™ beyond the walk:

- April 30 at 5:30pm, Mexican theme dinner and silent auction at Julie & Larry Kotewa's house.
- Thursday, May 5 at 6:30pm Pray for the Cure
- Saturday, May 7 at 8am More Than Pink Walk™

Watch for more information about these the fundraiser events will be in the *Bugle Blast*.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1

Randy Carlson
Michelle Hassel
Martin O'Connor

April 2

Craig McGregor

April 3

Caleb Bradle
Susan Ross

April 4

Judy Cagle
Kevin Hodgkins

April 5

Michael Bohm
Shirley Gustafson
Brianna Schroeder
Sheryl Snider
Kayla Webster

April 6

Sandra Salverson

April 7

Lynn Akers

April 8

Alexander Kelly

April 9

Amy Koepke
Gretchen Petrakis

April 10

Deana Collins
Nicholas Hughbanks

April 11

Julia Kotewa

April 12

Joyce Crone
Julie Hancock
Poppy Jolliff

April 13

John Gregg

April 15

Julie Millman
Leslie Scott

April 16

Sienna Hopkins
Sydney Hopkins

April 18

Carl Buerger, Jr.
Alysa Mathisen
April Pierce

April 19

Caroline Ricketts

April 20

David Sydow

April 22

Jody Adams
William Petrakis

April 25

Marlie Heider
Jacie Howard

April 26

Elyse Hickey
Anna Vandervlugt

April 27

Makayla Schroeder

April 28

Kamryn Heider

April 30

Dennis Mitchelar

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 Ahlgren
- Natalee Arff

- Wally Bastian and his family
- Lesly Baumgarten
- Luan Borquist
- Butch Conard
- Stephanie Dammann's grandfather
- Erica, Clint and their family
- Gabe
- George, Rosemary Swanson's cousin
- Neighbor of Sue Hammann
- John and Tanya's daughter-in-law and their family
- Jack Grant
- Henry
- Ron Hipple
- Lesley Howard
- Helen Johnson
- Lizzie
- Morgan Lott
- the family of Mary Ann
- Marta

- Bill Mettam
- Tom Mueller
- Bruce Norgard
- the family of Dr. Rick O'Connor
- Lana Pasco
- Donita Purcell
- Regina
- Rosy Park
- Irene Sawatzky
- Phyllis Williams

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

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

The Bugle
USPS 477-460



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

You're Invited!

Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

WORSHIP: 6am (outside), 8:30am, 10:30am
continental breakfast between services

INVITE A FRIEND! TO SHARE THE EASTER STORY!