

he area of our church called Central/Southern Illinois Synod will gather June 2-4 in Champaign. As rostered leaders, Jill and I will be in attendance along with Larry and Julie Kotewa as lay voting members to represent Salem. In assembly we tend to the matters of living together in Christ for the sake of the world, learning and understanding how God calls us to be the church in the world. We worship together, receive greetings from ministry partners and ecumenical brothers and sisters, steward our financial resources to support and strengthen ministry, and are inspired and encouraged by one another. Bordered in large part by the Mississippi, Wabash, and Ohio Rivers, the Central/Southern Illinois Synod covers approximately two-thirds of the state of Illinois representing 117 congregations. The Central/Southern Illinois Synod is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

On Thursday evening, we will share in a festival worship service and celebrate our partnership in the gospel with others from around the synod. The offering from that service will support our companion synods in Madagascar.

The Ambovombe-Androy Synod and Faradofay Synod are located in southern Madagascar and have approximately 40 pastors who serve 60 congregations with 30,000 baptized members. The Malagasy Lutheran Church trains both pastors and catechists for ministry in congregations. The catechists are lay people who help preach, teach, evangelize, and organize in congregations, and they receive their training at Bible Schools located in each synod. Our synod's partnership support makes it possible to pay faculty and support the living costs of students at the Bible Schools. Students who train to be pastors must travel outside our companion synods to a seminary. Our synod support also assists with the seminarians' living expenses and seminary operations.

Companion synod relationships are rooted in "accompaniment," which promotes the values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment, and sustainability. Companion synods nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources. The relationships enrich and deepen our ministries by exposing us to global challenges and perspectives as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and the world.

Salem will receive a special offering on June 12 to support our companion synods and our commitment to share in the work of the larger church. For those who wish to donate aside from June 12, please designate your gift as **Festival Synod Worship Offering** and send to the church office to be included with the collected noisy offering on June 12.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of our brothers and sisters in Christ in Madagascar and our companionship in the work that is done for the sake of the gospel.

The Outreach Ministry group is sponsoring the Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project. Beginning in June school supplies will be collected for the project. Items needed:



- 70-80 sheet one subject spiral notebooks wide or college ruled (4/bag = 600 notebooks)
- 12 inch ruler (1/bag = 150 rulers)
- 1- one hole manual pencil sharpener (1/bag = 150 sharpener)
- 1 pair blunt safety scissors (1/bag = 150 scissors)
- 5-# 2 pencils unsharpened (5/bag = 750 pencils)
- 5 black/blue ballpoint pens, no gel ink (5/bag = 750 pens)
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons (1 box/bag = 150 crayon boxes)
- 1 -2.5 inch eraser (1/bag = 150 pink erasers)

Outreach ministry has currently has 75 bags complete. With the goal of 150 bags we are halfway to our goal.

Cash donations would also be gladly received.

Fair Trade, June 5

Outreach Ministry group will be selling fair trade items in the atrium on **Sunday, June 5.**

Food Collection

To continue the non-perishable food collections for Bethel United Methodist's Food Pantry, Outreach Ministry will be having theme months - please donate anytime during the month.

JUNE DONATION THEME: PICNIC

Please consider donating paper products, condiments and sides for picnic. These could include: canned chicken, canned salmon, baked beans, pasta, canned fruit, barbecue sauce, ketchup, mustard, napkins, plates, cups.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Adult Fellowship June 24

Join Adult Fellowship for Rhythm in the Forest at Forest Park Nature Center at **6:30pm on Friday, June 24**. Enjoy the sounds of the Peoria Drum Circle group in the serene setting of this beautiful park. Bring your own drum if you feel so inclined.



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

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Lori Reimer, Parish Nurse Ireimer@salemofpeoria.com

Maggie Sloter, Director of Music & Choir Director

msloter@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

Follow in the Footsteps of Paul

Paul was a strong, driven person, even before he became a Christian. When God chose him to preach the Gospel throughout the world, Paul knew he could not rely on his own power to face angry mobs, the miles of travel, and many other hardships. He prayed for strength and courage and that people would hear the good news of Jesus and believe. Paul asked others to join in the struggle by praying for him. He was grateful for their love and support (Acts 9:15, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 6:20, Philippians 1:19).

What are the lessons that we can take from Paul?

- 1. He believed that we are to be a witness to the Good News of Jesus. We should share with everyone the message that Jesus loves us.
- 2. He believed that we need to study the word of God.
- 3. He believed that we need to take time to be alone with God in prayer.
- 4. He believed in the community of believers coming together to share the good news of Jesus and God's love for us within our church and outside our church.

Each month there are many choices for you and your family to participate in various activities. These activities are designed to help you follow in the footsteps of Paul and the lessons he wrote about in his many letters to the early Christians and their churches. Go to the online form for each month to "check off" the activities that you and your family complete.



but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Worship for June, July and August will focus on five of Paul's letters as part of this journey.

Please check out Salem's website often for lessons and videos that you and your family can read and watch to learn more about Paul and his many travels as a missionary. Go to Salem's home page (www.salemofpeoria.com) and click on the "Sunday School" button for lessons on Paul.

JUNE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

SALEM COUNCIL & MINISTRY GROUP MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1 at 6:30pm:

Salem Capital Appeal Meeting

TUESDAY, JUNE 7 at 7pm:

Salem Council Meeting (in person)

TUESDAY, JUNE 21 at 7pm: Property & Finance Ministry

TUESDAY, JUNE 28 at 6:30pm: Worship & Music Ministry

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS at 9am (online/in person)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

FRIDAY, JUNE 24 at 6:30pm: Adult Fellowship

FAITH FORMATION

WEDNESDAYS at 10am:

Bible Study on Zoom with Pastor Craig

THURSDAYS at 9:15am:

Adult Bible Study led by Bill Ligon

MONDAY, JUNE 13 at 7am: Kappa Chi and Alum to Six Flags St. Louis

MONDAY, JUNE 27 - THURSDAY, JUNE 30,

9am-noon: Vacation Bible School

WED, JUNE 29 at 7:30pm: Salem Book Club on Zoom

OUTREACH

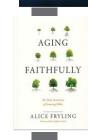
SUNDAY, JUNE 5: Fair Trade Sunday **SUNDAY, JUNE 19:** Ulrich Visit Salem

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Salem Library







Keeping the Sabbath Wholly by Marva Dawn

It's Sunday! Time to cut the grass, wash the car, paint the house, and . . . oh, go to church. Dawn shows you why going to church shouldn't be just another chore. Through sound biblical theology and research into Jewish traditions, Dawn motivates you to cease work and relish this God-given day of rest and worship.

Can You Still Trust God? by Charles Stanley

Facing painful trials, unmet needs, or lost dreams? Stop depending on your own strength, energy, and power---and start relying on God's ability! Beloved author Stanley explains how three essential beliefs---that he is perfect in his love, infinite in his wisdom, and absolutely sovereign---build a foundation for trusting in the Lord.

Aging Faithfully: The holy Invitation of Growing Older by Alice Fryling

As we age, we experience the loss of physical stamina, independence, and career fulfillment. Yet within each of these losses is a holy invitation to grow. God calls us to let go of our need for accomplishment and embrace the gift of fruitfulness so that we might be transformed in this final season of our lives. In Aging Faithfully, spiritual director Alice Fryling explores how to navigate the journey of retirement, lifestyle changes, and new limitations. In this season of life, we are invited to hold both grief and hope, to acknowledge ways of thinking that no longer represent who we are, and to receive peace in the midst of our fears. We all age differently, and God calls each of us to new spiritual birth as we mature. When we embrace the aging process, we grow closer to God and experience his grace as he renews us from within. Whether you are approaching the beginning, middle, or end of your senior years, you are invited. Come and be transformed.

To access and view the library 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).

Consider donating to the Salem Library your gently used books that would help others grow deeper in faith to love and serve! ("Donations" basket is located on the bottom shelf of the check-out table)

Questions?? please contact Karen Swenson at 309-258-5708 or at klswen@hotmail.com.

Sanctuary Paraments

The Memorial Gift Committee has approved the use of undesignated funds for the purpose of updating the seasonal banners and paraments in the sanctuary. Lent and Easter have been created so far with the seasons of Pentecost, Advent and Christmas yet to come. Thank you to all who share generously and freely so that such purchases are possible. A gift toward the Easter paraments has been received in memory of Bev Maier from members of her family. Thank you.

Job Opportunity

Salem Lutheran Church has a part-time Office Coordinator position available beginning mid-June. This part-time job opportunity is 25-28 hours per week, Monday-Friday. Please contact Pastor Craig for more details. This job opening will close on Wednesday, June 1.

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



Salem is hosting Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School on Monday -Thursday, June 27-30, from 9am - Noon. 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. Vacation Bible School will be filled with crafts, Bible stories, games, snacks, small groups and more. More information found at: www.salemofpeoria.com/vbs. Please register to participate or volunteer by Wednesday, June 1.



2022 Crittenton Centers Fill the Crib

Thank you to the Salem congregation for your generous support of the 2022 FILL THE CRIB Campaign. Salem served as one of several community collection locations during the month of April. In addition to the many baby items collected, our Faith for Life students raised over \$2000 through coffee cake sales and presented a check to Crittenton Centers Development Director, Sandy Garza, when she led an educational forum at Salem on Sunday, May 15.

We are grateful for the enthusiasm of our young people helping us lift up child abuse prevention month in a variety of creative ways. For those of you who voted to help name the large teddy bear Salem donated as part of the campaign, the winning teddy bear name was "Fred."





TOP: Faith for Life students present check to Sandy Garza for the Fill the Crib

BOTTOM: Members of Endowment, Larry Kotewa and John Iverson with Sandy Garza, Endowment Committee Salem endowment fund recently contributed \$1570 to support Crittenton Centers.

Salem Book Club

Salem's book club will meet on Wednesday, June 29 at 7:30pm via Zoom. Our book is "When Strivings Cease" by Ruth Chou Simons. All are invited to join for one book or all the time. The book is available in Salem's Library, and also from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Target, and Christianbook.com. The author also has a website that you can check out for more information - https://ruthchousimons.com.

In this hustling, image-forward age of opportunity, we feel more anxious than ever. Despite all the affirming memes and self-reflections that dominate social media feeds, approval and worth often seem assigned to what we do rather than who we are. And we end up constantly feeling like we're behind, lacking, and failing—at home, at work, with friends, with God.

Ruth Chou Simons knows something about feeling measured by achievement, performance, and the approval of others. As a Taiwanese immigrant growing up between two cultures, Ruth was always

on a mission to prove her worth, until she came to truly understand the one thing that changes everything: the extravagant, undeserved gift of grace from a merciful God. In When Strivings Cease, Ruth guides you on a journey to find freedom from the never-ending quest for self-improvement. She shows you how to confront the ways

you look to superficial means of acceptance and belonging; find relief in realizing self-help isn't the answer because you can't be so amazing that you won't need grace; stop seeing God as someone to perform for and start finding delight in responding to his welcome; and let go of trying to rely on your own strength, your own abilities, and your own savvy by truly understanding the freedom Jesus purchased for you.

With personal stories, biblical insights, practical applications, and touches of original artwork by Ruth, this transformational book helps you see the beautiful truth that God's favor is the only currency you need—because in Christ you are enough.

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Caleb Brinkman is graduating from Richwoods High School. Caleb was active in the school band and varsity tennis. He is a Sterling Merit Scholar, qualifier for state tennis, and recipient of the Bausch and Lomb science Award. Caleb will be attending Bradley University in the fall. Caleb is the son of Jason and Kelly Brinkman and the grandson of Salem member Roberta Kessinger.

Mia Doty will graduate from the International Baccalaureate program at Richwoods High School on May 22, 2022. Mia was involved in Soccer, Cross Country, Spanish Club, KISA, Student Council and Interact Club. Mia is a member of The National Honor Society a Sterling Merit Award Recipient a Big 12 Scholar Athlete and received the Illinois Principals' Award. She enjoys working at Leaves 'N Beans in Peoria Heights. She loves to spend time outdoors hammocking or hanging out with her friends. She is a free spirit and has plans to attend a college or university to study Environmental Design or Sustainability in the near future...short lists include University of Colorado Boulder, Iowa State University or starting off at Illinois Central College this fall. Mia is the daughter of Chad and Julie Doty.





Katherine "Katie" Hancock is graduating from Richwoods High School this month where she enjoyed participating in the theater and drama department She has also been active in community theater for several years including productions at Cornstock, Nitsch Theater Arts and the Peoria Park District in addition to Richwoods. Katie works at the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and is a crafter extraordinaire enjoying painting, crocheting and drawing. She plans to attend Illinois Central College this fall. Her parents are Tom and Julie Hancock.

Caidon Hickey jubilantly graduates from Richwoods High School having participated on the golf team, the Woodruff culinary arts program, and interning at Hearth restaurant for a year. A huge highlight for Caidon was placing first in state and fifth in nationals at the Skills USA Culinary Competition his junior year. This earned him his American Culinary Foundation chef certification and a scholarship check. Senior year Caidon discovered another passion and his future in engineering. Caidon plans to spend the summer relaxing, working out, golfing, and cooking. He will attend Illinois Central College in the fall for two years then transfer to the electrical engineering program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in Edwardsville. Caidon is the son of Tim and Merrell Hickey.



Noah Hopkins graduated from Dunlap High School on May 7, 2022. Noah earned the honor of Class Valedictorian with a 4.0 grade point average. He was also recognized as an Illinois State Scholar, a Sterling Merit Award Winner and "Student of the Year." Activities Noah enjoyed during high school included cross country and track where he was a state qualifier. Noah will attend University of Notre Dame in the fall and is interested in pursuing a career in finance. Noah is the son of Dan Hopkins and Heather Hopkins and the grandson of Salem member Carol Adams.





Gloria Grace Kroodsma is a homeschool high school graduate. She has been a dancer at Peoria Ballet for 15 years. She is involved with various food allergy initiatives such as a research internship and serving as the head of Project Operations at an organization called Food Allergies and Food Insecurity. She also enjoys nature photography and participating in Student Government at Stanford Online High School as Board Chair of Communications. Gloria is excited to continue her education at the University of Richmond in Virginia. Go Spiders! She plans to major in Biology and minor in French. Gloria is the daughter of Dr. Chris and Stephanie Kroodsma, and granddaughter of Salem members Ron and Gerri Hoehn.

William Petrakis graduated from Peoria Notre Dame High School. He was a member of the Men's Golf Team all four years and was team captain his senior year. William is attending Butler University. William is the son of John and Gretchen Petrakis and the grandson of Salem member Becky Hagen.



Join Salem Kappa Chi and Kappa Chi Alumni for a day at Six Flags in St. Louis

Friends and family are welcome! Welcome incoming freshman, and please share with Kappa Chi alumni

On **Monday, June 13** the Salem bus will leave the Salem parking lot at 7am and return by 11pm. (The park opens at 10:30am and closes at 7pm / Hurricane Harbor opens at 11am-5pm.)

Cost per participant for TICKET, TRAVEL, AND PARKING is \$35.00 and must be purchased in advance. Checks payable to Salem Lutheran Church by **June 8** please give checks to Jill Goldhammer. Or you may complete your registration and pay online (https://form.jotform.com/221296297783166).

FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER

National Men's Health Month

June is National Men's Health Month. While many health issues are the same for men as they are for women, there are key issues that increase the physical and mental health risks of men. Men have a higher incidence of smoking and drinking, making unhealthy or riskier choices, and putting off regular checkups and medical care. Additionally, there are health conditions that only affect men, such as prostate cancer and low testosterone. Many of the major health risks that men face, like cancers, heart disease, and diabetes, can be prevented and treated with early diagnosis.

There are some simple steps for men, and for those that love them, to take to live a healthier life:

- · Schedule yearly health check ups and if prescribed, keep track of your numbers like blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol
- · Schedule routine tests for early detection of disease
- · Be aware of the risks for your age, ethnicity, and lifestyle.
- · Know your personal preventable risks, as well as those beyond your control, including family history
- · Like you might do with your car, pay attention to the "warning lights." Examples of these warnings might be changes in bowel or bladder habits, persistent backaches, chest pains, shortness of breath, excessive thirst, extreme fatigue.



- · Take steps to create a healthy lifestyle with healthier eating, regular exercise, sleep, and knowing and paying attention to your personal health issues
- · Wear Blue on June 17 to recognize National men's Health Day!

Condolences

Bruce Norgard

Bruce Norgard joined the church triumphant on **Thursday, April 28, 2022**, at his home surrounded by his family. A Celebration of Life service was held at 11am on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at Salem Lutheran Church with visitation one hour prior to his service.

Natalee Arff

Natalee Arff joined the church triumphant on **Friday, May 6, 2022,** at Lutheran Hillside Village surrounded by her children. Natalee's Celebration of Life service was held at 11:30am on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at Salem Lutheran Church with visitation held two hours prior to her service.

Worship Volunteer Opportunities

There are worship volunteer opportunities for worship participants including: communion assistants, lectors, and ushers. Please contact the church office (office@salemofpeoria.com or 309-688-9212) if there is interest in participating in any of these volunteer positions.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1 Sophia Doty

June 2

Dawn Koeltzow

June 3
John Ford

Scott Kalbacken

June 4
Jane Topel

June 5

Jaeyden Johnson

June 6

Robert Suelter

June 7 Sis Gavin Robert Petrakis June 8

Gilbert Nolde
June 9

Ruth Landes Rebecca Snyder

June 10

Mildred Collins Rosy Parks

June 11

Mark Hartman

June 15

Mary Luan Borquist Chloe Steele

June 17 Travis Janco

Jeff Machacek

June 18

Clarence Knutson Stacy Lantz

June 19
Earl Gallas
Donna Miller

June 21 Edell Berg

June 22

Jeffrey Bastian Timothy Hamann Shane Snyder

June 23

Christine Harvey Morgan Lott Logan Roberts Jennifer Swanson June 24

Walter Koeltzow Caleb Lott

June 25

Marilyn Smith

June 26

Shawn Blum Amy Boland Lance Koss

June 27

Paula Sydow

Maxwell Thompson

June 28

Cailey Lantz

June 30

Brant Wegrzyn

PRAYER REQUESTS

THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR...

• Salem's growing ministry

DIRECTION...

- Salem Congreg. Council
- Salem's Pastor, Deacon and Staff

PRAYERS REQUESTS...

- All those affected with COVID-19
- The men and women of our armed forces
- Support for all caregivers when loved ones suffer
- Individuals suffering from depression
- People of Guatemala
- Ulrich family in Malawi
- Families at Crittenton Center
- Midwest Food Bank

- the family of Natalee Arff
- Wally Bastian and his family
- Lesly Baumgarten
- Luan Borquist
- Jim Chelgren
- Butch Conard
- Stephanie Dammann's grandfather
- Debbie
- Gabe
- John and Tanya's daughter-inlaw and their family
- Jack Grant
- Henry
- Ron Hipple
- Lesley Howard
- Helen Johnson
- Lizzie
- Morgan Lott

- Marta
- Melody and her son Caleb
- Bill Mettam
- Jo and Gil Nolde
- the family of Bruce Norgard
- Lana Pasco
- Donita Purcell
- Rosy Park
- Irene Sawatzky

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

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

Talon Maki

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Ulrich's to Visit on June 19

Through Salem's Outreach Ministry and the Salem Endowment Fund the work of the Ulrich Family is supported. The Ulrich family will participate in the **Sunday**, **June 19 s**ervice, and will have a forum in the Social Hall.

Please welcome them as they will review their special project "Hope Home" with us. This project will provide a daytime center to provide a safe place for the very poor children of Eastern Malawi to come and hear the Word of God. It will be especially for orphans and vulnerable families to receive additional meals, life skills, and help with medical needs in a safe, loving environment.

The Ulrich family, Luke, Jamie, Mark, Miriam, and Aaron, have ministered to the very poor in Malawi, Africa since 2016. They focus especially on the children. They are truly bringing the love of Jesus and are helping in so many ways.



The Ulrich Family (left to right): Mark, Luke, Miriam and Jamie holding Aaron