



the Bugle

The verse of the week from a recent daily Bible app struck a chord with me.

"We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps." – Proverbs 16:9

As I reflected on this verse, I was reminded that while it is important to plan and prepare for the future, it is equally important to remember that God guides and directs the steps of the plans that bring honor and glory to God.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminded fellow believers, *"I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow."* – 1 Corinthians 3:6. Paul knew that his mission was not to draw attention to himself. He had tried his plan before, but Jesus intervened and set him on a new path to proclaim the good news message of Jesus and rejoice when he saw it growing in ways that changed hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. That was and remains the purpose, *growing people in Christ*. That's the heart of Salem's mission - worship, education, service, fellowship, prayer - we are a community whose main purpose is to grow in faith and intentionally point others to the joy and fulfillment of knowing God's greatest expression of love revealed to us through Jesus.

Ministry plans are beginning to unfold as we turn the corner toward fall programming. Worship time will change to **9am beginning September 8**, with time for fellowship and education following for all ages. On that particular Sunday, all will be invited to take part in assembling personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief and then stay for the church picnic and a few games of bingo into the afternoon. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students (Faith for Life) will then meet at First English Lutheran Church for their first session of studying Luther's Small Catechism. Other plans including choir rehearsals and numerous upcoming events laid out in more detail in the pages that follow. Plans. We plan but it is important to remember who guides our steps and provides the growth.

To quote 18th-century poet Robert Burns, *"The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry."* It is true that there are times when, even with best intentions, things do not go as planned. When that is the case, we re-assess, re-plan, re-center our hearts on God's purposes, our mission and try again.

So grab a towel, comb, nail clippers, soap and toothbrush, wrap them up and send them off to provide care for someone in need and do it for Jesus. Sing a song in worship and sing it for Jesus. Teach a lesson, share time with someone you just met, pray, laugh, cry, listen, learn and do it in the name of Jesus. Jesus changes lives, yours as well as others. Try something new and try it for Jesus.

A prayer of new beginnings was offered in worship August 11. As we begin this new season of life together. It is exciting to anticipate the unfolding of plans as together we pray for God's blessing to see growth that we hope will result. Pray with me using the words of a Moravian prayer focused on the journey ahead.

God of new beginnings, we confess, we are not always excited about another new song, another adjustment, another change! So, please open our hearts to the new song the Spirit may be inviting today. May singing it help us be it. Amen.

-Pastor Craig

What is a church?

A church is not just a place where we meet.
 It's the people each Sunday we go there to greet.
 It's the warmth and comfort their friendship brings.
 As we worship together and our choir sings.
 It's the word of the Lord heard down through the years,
 Bringing us joy and easing our fears.
 It's the work that we share with our sisters and brothers,
 Spreading the message of God's love for all others.
 Yes, a church is more than wood and stones,
 It's a place where the children of God are grown.

Luan Borquist – July 2024

Luan Borquist will be honored as Salem Lutheran Church's Poet Laureate on **Sunday, October 13.**



**SALEM CHURCHMEN
SALEM PICNIC 2024**

Salem Picnic

All are invited to the Salem Church picnic following the God's Work. Our Hands. service project on **Sunday, Sept 8 at 11:30am.**

Lunch will be served in the Social Hall after the service project with bingo and other activities to follow.

The Salem Churchmen will provide the meat and side dishes (baked beans, mac n cheese, potato salad, coleslaw) and ask the congregation to please bring a dessert to share.



**CONGREGATIONAL CARE
WEEKDAY WELCOME CENTER VOLUNTEER**

As the new season begins, we are looking forward to the Weekday Welcome Center Volunteers returning. These volunteers are a warm welcome as the Preschool children and parents arrive each morning. They also provide help with answering the phones, other small office related tasks, and have been a tremendous blessing to us all. We will begin this season on **September 3.** The usual times for this volunteer opportunity is Monday – Thursday, 8:30am to 10am. Each person is scheduled to serve one day each week. If you are interested in volunteering in the Welcome Center, contact the office for more information.

SEPT 16

Ladies' Night Out

Ladies' Night Out will be at Salem Lutheran in the Social Hall on **Monday, September 16 at 6pm.** Please sign-up in advance at the Welcome Center.

SEPT 23

Salem Blood Drive

Salem's next blood drive is **Monday, September 23 from 1pm-6pm** and in the social hall. Remember to use the Rapid Pass on the day of donation to minimize your time at the blood drive. For any questions or to sign up, contact Lori Reimer.



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Office Hours starting Sept 3:
Monday-Thursday, 8am-2pm
Closed on Fridays

**Bugle content for October Issue
due by Thursday, September 12.**

Pastoral Emergency Number:

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

SEASONS OF LIFE Embrace the Journey

As the season changes to fall, we recognize that our lives have seasons that change as well. We are offering a series of topics to help us along this journey. Please consider attending one or all of these events if they pertain to you, a loved one, or you have experience to share with others, and feel free to invite friends. The presentations will be on **Sundays at noon following an optional light lunch at 11:30am,** and will last approximately two hours long.

SEPT 29

Paving a Pathway of Peace at Any Age for Your Loved Ones

Presentation by Salem members with legal expertise

- Prepare for unexpected loss
- Learn the lingo and importance of legal documents
- Types of Powers of Attorney, their boundaries, and Transfers on Death
- Estate Planning Essentials: Wills, Trusts, Probate Process, and Charitable Bequests

OCT 6

Compassionate Guide When Life Presents Challenges or Hardships

Presentation from Agency on Aging

- Resources for Seniors
- Resources and Self-care for Caregivers
- Support for Disabilities, Dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease
- The role of Hospice and Palliative Care

OCT 13

Navigating the Move to any Senior Living Location

Presentation by Lutheran Hillside Village Stewardship Director Phil King, Director of Community Sales & Marketing Victoria Martin, and Chaplain Pastor Pat Monroe

- Preplanning timeline, questions to ask in the quest, and how to find reviews
- Lightening the load - Dealing with the downsizing dilemma
- Settling into a new community
- Difference in criteria and Medicare coverage for Assisted Living, Skilled Care, and Nursing Homes

OCT 20

Leaving Directions for the Final Steps

Presentation by Mark Johnson from Knapp Johnson Funeral Home and Pastor Craig

- Preplanning your final resting wishes
- Communicating your funeral and celebration of life wishes
- Crafting your own obituary
- Contacts to make when a loved one dies



SIGN UP

Sign-ups will begin **September 8,** and are appreciated to ensure there is enough seating and resources as well as food for those interested in lunch.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully. "God's Work. Our Hands." is an annual day of service and an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. "God's Work. Our Hands." is a way for us to be church together. On this day, **Sunday September 8**, we bear witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another.

These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely.

On **Sunday, September 8**, plan to work together **during the Education Hour at 10:15am** to assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). It's a big goal... but the need is great!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8



OUTREACH MARION MEDICAL MISSIONS

Gary Setterlund will be traveling to Africa with Marion Medical Missions mid-September. Marion Medical Missions hosts devotions that you may sign-up for here: www.mmmwater.org/devotions.



OUTREACH NOISY CAN OFFERINGS

July Noisy Can Offering

Thank you, the Noisy Can offered on **July 21** received \$6,120.58 to support Luke and Jamie Ulrich through Global Teams as they transition back to life in the United States. This support will allow the family to be fully present in the process of closure, and then transitioning and discerning their next steps. Thank you for your generosity!

August Noisy Can Offering

Thank you, the Noisy Can offered on **August 11** received \$629.42 for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. This generous offering will be used to purchase additional items for the God's Work. Our Hands. service project for Lutheran World Relief on **Sunday, September 8**. Thank you!



OUTREACH New Initiative Form

The Interim Outreach team has created an online and print form for outreach project initiatives. The forms are located in the work room, or available online (www.salemofpeoria.com/outreach-initiative-form). Please contact Emily Jolliff, Interim Outreach chair, if you have questions.



OUTREACH FOOD COLLECTION

Throughout the month of September consider donating items for Salem's partner in ministry - Bethel United Methodist Food Pantry. Donations are accepted throughout the month. Please be conscious of donating non-perishables that have not exceeded their shelf life date. Items that the pantry needs include: canned vegetables, canned meats, canned soup, cereal, paper towels, kleenex, and toilet paper. Plastic store bags are not needed, however, reusable fabric bags would be appreciated.



OUTREACH FAIR TRADE SUNDAY

SEPT 1 Fair Trade

Fair Trade items will be available for purchase on **Sunday, September 1** after worship. If you need any items from Fair Trade please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Gallas at pew117@aol.com or (309) 692-5762.



OUTREACH MIDWEST FOOD BANK

SEPT 25 Midwest Food Bank

Midwest Food Bank serving opportunity on **Wednesday, September 25 at 9am** at the Peoria Division. Please sign-up online in advance.



ABOVE: Salem feeding the thousands at Midwest Food Bank.



FAITH FORMATION Milestone Ministry, SEPT 15

SEPT 15

Bible Presentation: A Milestone Ministry

"Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens." -Psalm 119:89

As part of Salem's Milestone Ministry, Bibles will be presented on **Sunday, September 15th** as part of the **worship service** to students in our 3-year-old, 3rd Grade, and 6th Grade Sunday School classes. Presenting Bibles to these students helps fulfill promises that their parents; sponsors; and we, the Salem Family, made at each of their baptisms. Placing the word of God in the hands of these young people is an important milestone in their faith journey. Let us celebrate with them and give thanks to God for their continued growth in faith.



EDUCATION HOUR ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

SEPT 15

Sunday Women's Study

The Women's Sunday Study group will read and discuss Golden Fruit beginning on **Sunday, September 15** during education hour. Golden Fruit, a nine-session Bible study, helps Christian women put all of their various roles, characteristics, and emotions into perspective. Each session focuses on one fruit of the Spirit and considers how the lives and stories of nine biblical women convey that characteristic. Readers study women like Esther (self-control) and Dorcas (goodness), Ruth (love) and Elizabeth (joy), learning how God is at work in their lives, too, and how His promise of salvation and peace through Jesus are fully theirs all the time.

Copies of the book will be available to all participants. Please sign up at the Welcome Center for your copy or join the study on **September 15** to explore the study group.

SEPT 15

Men of Salem Study Opportunity

The Man To Man study group will resume on **September 15**. We plan to start with a series called 'Men of Character' written by well known author Pastor Gene Getz. This series consists of well known Biblical men, the books give some great insight and background on names we all know. The study will start off with Joshua.

We are excited to be together again and learn from famous men of the Bible as well as learn from each other. Any man of Salem is invited with open arms to join us. There is no homework and the study is light and informative. While there is some continuity it is no problem to miss a Sunday, one can pick up where we left off. We will be meeting in the comfortable main meeting room on the first floor. Come try us out. I hope to see many of you!

-Leo Vandervlugt, facilitator.



FAITH FORMATION YOUTH WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

SEPT 29

Youth Worship Participant Training

Interested in serving as an acolyte or crucifer? Join Pastor Craig in the sanctuary for training on **Sunday, September 29 during Education Hour**. Open to all youth in 4th grade and above. Parent(s) are encouraged to attend.

FAITH FORMATION

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, Sept 8

10:15am: God's Work. Our Hands. service project Education hour (10:15am-11:15am) will be used for the congregation-wide service project to pack health kits for Lutheran World Relief for God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday.

10:45am: After working on the service project for about a half hour, Sunday School for ages three through high school will meet in their classrooms.

11:30am: Salem Picnic

2pm: Faith for Life at First English

Sunday, Sept 15:

Education Hour Resumes

Education Hour opportunities for all ages: Sunday School, Women and Men's studies meet starting at 10:15am.

Sunday, Sept 29:

Education hour: Acolyte, Crucifer, and Communion Assistant Training

4:30pm: Congregational Campfire Cookout



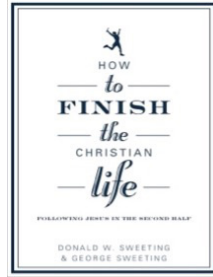
BIBLE STUDY ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday Online Bible Study

Online Bible Study resumes **September 4 at 10am via Zoom**. All are welcome. Please contact Pastor Craig to be added to the Online Bible Study group. Pastor Craig leads this online Bible study through the upcoming Sunday's readings and psalm.



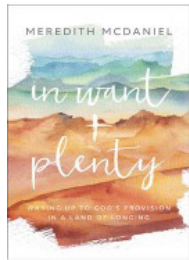
SALEM LIBRARY MONTHLY BOOK SELECTIONS



How to Finish the Christian Life by Donald W. Sweeting (248.8 SWE)

How to Finish the Christian Life, a guide that gives mature believers a new set of disciplines and encouraging truths to help them finish well.

Retirement from a career should never be mistaken for an absence of purpose. On the foundation of his own ministry that continues to thrive, Dr. Sweeting and his son deliver an inspiring message that the end of the believer's journey is not a matter of dying but a challenge to live to the fullest to the glory of God. When it comes to the life of a true follower of Christ, there is only one way to finish: strong.



In Want + Plenty: Waking Up to God's Provision in a Land of Longing

by Meredith McDaniel (248.8 MCD)

Although our circumstances vary, we all ache with a longing for something more. We are born with dreams, and some of us even have detailed plans about how to make them happen. Yet we all come to a point in life when we realize that we are not in control. A loved one gets sick, a tragedy occurs, our plans backfire. What we may not realize is that even if we can't depend on our circumstances or even ourselves, there is One who will always provide what we need, just when we need it.

With compassion and enthusiasm, Meredith McDaniel invites you to walk alongside God's people in Exodus as they wake up each morning to manna, God's provision for them in desert places. As she unfolds their story of complete dependence on their Creator, you'll discover through guided journaling how God is providing for you right now, where you are in your own unique story. Along the way, you will develop a comforting awareness that you are seen, guided, protected, and filled by a good God in the person of Jesus.

To access and view the library collection (saalemofpeoria.com), look for the Learn tab, click on Salem Lutheran Library, click again on Library Catalog and scroll through the online collection. Or search, (saalemofpeoria.com/salem-lutheran-library).

What are Women's Circles?

Circles meet to support one another in their faith lives and conduct a Bible study. Circles offer interpersonal support to members through listening, sharing, and prayer for personal concerns and life joy or issues. Circles also offer support through offerings to Salem and select charities, Lenten lunches, facility cleanings, and homebound member support and communications. Come join a circle for support, study and conversation.

SEPT
10

Rebecca Circle

Rebecca Circle will meet at Salem on **Tuesday, September 10 at 10am.**

SEPT
11

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet at **2pm on September 11** at Salem Lutheran Church in the conference room. Come join the circle for study and conversation.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Cross-Generational (Child - Adult) Midweek Meal and Fellowship

Families of all ages and sizes - Save these dates and let Salem cooks prepare a meal for your family!

Join us for four Wednesday evenings of food, fellowship, and faith! We'll gather from **5:45pm-7pm on October 23, 30, November 6, and November 13.** Enjoy a meal, music, and meaningful table conversations at the four-week gathering series.



SALEM BOOK CLUB FELLOWSHIP & CONVERSATION

SEPT
25

Join us on **September 25 at 7:30pm via Zoom** when we discuss the best-selling book by beloved writer, Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Nouwen was inspired to write this classic book about the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) after viewing and meditating for a week in front of the painting by Rembrandt, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, that hangs in The Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia. Rembrandt's painting is a renowned work described by Kenneth Clark as "a picture which those who have seen the original in St. Petersburg may be forgiven for claiming as the greatest picture ever painted." You will not want to miss reading this book and joining the discussion as we meditate on the larger-than-life painting and discuss Nouwen's book. This was Nouwen's personal favorite book that he wrote.



Nouwen was a Dutch-born Catholic priest, professor, psychologist, and prolific writer. He taught psychology at the University of Notre Dame and pastoral theology at the Divinity Schools of Yale and Harvard before leaving academia to become the pastor at L'Arche Daybreak, a community for people with intellectual disabilities. A master communicator, Nouwen wrote and spoke with great openness and vulnerability about faith, spiritual formation, prayer, social justice, and other themes related to the spiritual life. He wrote thirty-nine books that sold over one million copies in his lifetime and were translated into more than thirty-five languages.

A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, catapulted Nouwen on an unforgettable spiritual adventure. He shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. Identifying with each of the three main figures in the painting, Nouwen crafts a fresh interpretation of the parable, concluding: "Though I am both the younger son and the elder son, I am not to remain them, but called to become the Father." Ultimately, this book expresses all Nouwen wanted to say about love.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, September 5, 12, 19, and 26

Bell Choir rehearsals at 6pm
Sanctuary Choir rehearsals at 7pm

Sunday, December 8 at 3pm
Lessons and Carols

Lessons and Carols - Save the Date

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 3 at 3pm** to join us for a Lessons & Carols Event! We celebrate the beginning of the Advent season by sharing song and scripture. This will be a highly collaborative event, including many of our Salem members sharing their musical talents. Please join us to get into the Christmas spirit! Invite your friends and family to enjoy this immersive experience. Reception will follow in the Social Hall with light refreshments.

Thank You!

- Dear Salem - Thank you for the gifts as I celebrate moving on to a new chapter of my life. The t-shirt quilt is something that will remind me of my time with Salem and about my journey. – Conner Bidne
- Dear Salem Lutheran Church, Just wanted to drop a note to let you know how much we truly appreciate your continued support each and every year. Thank you for your monetary gift – that helps us do and accomplish things that aren't covered by everyday budgets. We are truly grateful for the prayers and volunteers that we also receive on a regular basis. Your partnership is a real gift to our school community. Thank you for all you do! - Kary Boerger, CT Vivian Principal
- Dear Salem Lutheran Church – Thank you for your gift of \$3,040 to ELCA World Hunger. As a church, we are freed by the transforming life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you. In Christ – Amanda White, Director, Congregational Generosity



September is **Sepsis Awareness** month. You may have heard of sepsis but not understand what it is or how it could affect you. Not only is it the leading cause of readmissions to the hospital, but it is also the leading cause of death in the hospital. Most of the cases though do not originate in the hospital, rather out in the community. According to Sepsis Alliance, sepsis is defined as the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. Any infection, from the smallest (bug bite, hangnail) to the more severe (pneumonia, meningitis, and more) can lead to sepsis and septic shock. Those with the highest risk of developing sepsis include infants and seniors as well as those with chronic or serious illnesses. The risk of sepsis can be reduced by preventing or quickly identifying and managing infections. This includes good hygiene, current vaccinations, and seeking treatment when you suspect an infection.

Remember **TIME** when identifying symptoms:

- Temperature (higher or lower than normal),
- Infection,
- Mental decline (confused or sleepy), and
- Extremely ill

If you suspect sepsis, see medical help immediately. For additional information on sepsis go to sepsis.org.

Congregational Campfire Cookout, Sunday, September 29

Everyone is invited to a fun-filled evening of fellowship around the campfire on **Sunday, September 29, starting at 4:30pm**. We'll gather for a moment of worship together. Then enjoy hot dogs, chips, water, and s'mores while making new friends.

Please bring:

- Lawn chairs
- Roasting forks

To sign up: Visit the Welcome Center or register online (<https://forms.gle/nCK7uRftZdvTQrh59>).

For questions, please contact the church office.

We can't wait to see you there! And you are welcome to invite friends!

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

-Hebrews 10:24-25



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS! SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 1
Julie Doty

September 3
Emily Jolliff

September 4
Greg Grebner
Caidon Hickey
Talon Maki
Kate Uphoff

September 5
Diane Engfer
Carole Love
Robert Middleton, Sr.
David Swanson

September 6
Katherine Hancock
Nancy Knobloch

September 8
Suzanne Ligon

September 9
Jamie Hancock

September 10
Laura VanLaningham

September 11
Paul Misselhorn

September 12
Caleb Brinkman

September 13
Jennifer Friberg
Donald Hamann
Jordyn Manning
David Thomasson

September 14
Amy Hoffman

September 15
Kadyn Cochran

September 15
Marlene Peterson

September 16
Connor Kelly
Henry Noe

September 17
David Rees

September 18
Kevin Setterlund

September 20
Ella Hartman
Tim Koeltzow
Kylee Lambie
Drew Swanson

September 21
Karl Larson

September 22
A.J. Bastian

September 22
Nicole Vandervlugt

September 23
Daniela Gonzales

September 24
Inez Norgard

September 26
Alice Bahnfleth
Kelly Brinkman
Justin Machacek

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Salem's mission

DIRECTION...

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

PRAYERS REQUESTS...

- Jocette and Salih Arbeyi missionaries through CRU
- Charlotte Austin
- Anne Bollwinkle Buckert and her family with the loss of John Buckert
- Luan Borquist
- Butch Conard
- Joanie Creager
- Grant, a teen who recently was diagnosed with cancer
- Heather
- Ron Hipple
- prayers of thanksgiving for Debra Knutson

- Tim, Jessica, Daniel Peterson
- Linda Peterson
- Thelma Neal
- Dick Serrahan
- prayers of thanksgiving that Raymond Weitzel's surgery went well

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

Stateside: Ian Borquist, Gibson Gonzalez, Emily Graff, Barry Joyce, Talon Maki, Greg Miller, Ashley Owen, Lucas Owen, Jim Sterling, Jason Sterr

Women's Fall Gathering

C/SIS WELCA Northern Conference



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28
9am-1pm**

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED.
WORSHIP • FELLOWSHIP • FUN**

**REGISTER BY
SEPT 14**



St. Paul Lutheran Church
1427 West Lake Ave. Peoria, IL 61614

Communication Deadline Reminder

Bugle content for October Issue due by **Thursday, September 12**. Please note the change to the second Thursday.

Weekly Bugle Blasts (email) content is due the Tuesday of the week by noon for the Friday email.



The Bugle
USPS 477-460



START A
**New
Season**

**WORSHIP at 9AM
SUNDAY, SEPT 8**

