

the Bugle

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is **true**, and **honorable**, and **right**, and **pure**, and **lovely**, and **admirable**. Think about things that are **excellent** and **worthy of praise**. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you. - Philippians 4:8-9*

In a world where people are often provoked rather than encouraged, it is good to be reminded of what is central to our lives together as brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul's words to the Philippians guard our hearts with encouragement especially when life is challenging. Paul understood full well what challenges looked like. He spells it out in his second letter to the Corinthians, *"Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea."*

And yet, Paul kept the faith and encouraged others to do the same. The words of Paul to the Philippians will be used to give focus to this year's stewardship emphasis. Annually, the church makes an effort to reflect on what has been accomplished thanks to generous support and to encourage faithful engagement in what is yet to come. Each of the highlighted words will be used as weekly themes beginning **October 13** to help us *"fix our thoughts"* on the qualities Paul urged to keep people of faith grounded in lives that are shaped by the gospel.

This month, you will receive a letter that is intended to prepare us for the year to come. The letter will express both thanks and an invitation. A second mailing will then arrive two weeks later encouraging you to share a pledge of support for ministry efforts for 2025 along with a brochure encouraging you to consider ways to actively participate in the life of Salem and the work we do together.

I ask for your prayerful engagement in this stewardship effort and invite you to share and work together to ensure we are fixed on godly things and guarded from worldly worries and distractions. The world definitely needs the work of the church but it first needs us fixed on right things that bring peace and encouragement.

-Pastor Craig Swenson



Thank you, Meghan!

"For everything there is a season..." these words from the book of Ecclesiastes speak to many situations as we navigate life's journey. There is joy for times shared and what is yet to come and yet sadness for closure and the void that results when change occurs. Meghan Peterson has served Christ's church through Salem as Director of Communications and Public Relations for eight years. Meghan was instrumental in updating Salem's graphics, printed and electronic media, guided us through the challenges of online meetings and worship production during Covid, developed all the publication material for a major capital appeal, updated Salem's monthly Bugle, weekly Bugle Blast and Facebook page among countless other tasks. After prayerful consideration, Meghan has discerned it is time for a new season of opportunities and has accepted a new position through Caterpillar. Her last day of employment with Salem will be October 10. Meghan has been a faithful servant in Christ's church in this role and will be greatly missed. Thank you, Meghan, for your creativity, leadership and kindness shared with many over the years. You are a blessing! May God continue to bless the next season before you!



BLESSING OF PETS AND ANIMALS

OCT 6

Please bring your well-socialized pet or a picture, collar or leash of your pet. Blessing following the first worship service outdoors in the front lawn on **Sunday, October 6 at 10:15am.**



NEW MEMBER CLASS

OCT 20

A new member class will be offered on **Sunday, October 20 in the Faith Chapel at 10:15am.** If you are interested in attending please contact the church office.



FALL WORK DAY

OCT 26

Salem Work Day is **Saturday, October 26** (Nov 2 rain date) from **8am-noon.** All are welcome for any amount of time that can be shared. There will be a list of inside and outside work items, including family-friendly chores. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center.



VETERAN'S DAY REMEMBRANCE: SAVE THE DATE - NOVEMBER 10

NOV 10

On **November 10**, Salem will celebrate our Veterans. If you have additional Veteran information and/or pictures to share, please turn them into the church office - attention Ann Sterr by **October 27.** Refreshments will be provided after the service and displays will highlight Veterans and the Greater Peoria Honor Flights of 2024. Please join us!



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**Bugle content for November Issue
due by Thursday, October 10.**

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

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

GIFTING OF STOCKS, BONDS AND MUTUAL FUNDS

Many people choose to gift stocks, bonds, or mutual funds instead of cash gifts. Gifts of appreciated assets may provide significant tax savings and often save you far more than gifts of cash.



HOW IT WORKS



Contact the Financial Secretary.

Dick Peterson, *Financial Secretary*
rlpeterson1@comcast.net or (309) 472-5486



Transfer appreciated asset directly to Salem Lutheran Church.



Receive a tax deductible receipt for the value of the asset.*

*if owned for more than 1-year



The assets are sold, and funds put directly to use for the greatest impact.

GIFTING OPTIONS

You may **donate** appreciated assets as

- An outright gift
- Designated in your estate

You may **designate** your gift

- For an Annual Pledge
- To the Endowment Fund
- To Capital Improvement
- To support a particular project

BENEFITS

Give appreciated assets now and enjoy the immediate benefits of giving, or add Salem as a beneficiary of these assets and minimize estate and inheritance tax, making the most of your gift.

Minimize your capital gains taxes

Make an **immediate** impact on Salem's mission

or **Minimize** estate and inheritance taxes



PLANNING TIPS

- The more your assets have appreciated, the more taxes you will typically save by giving them to Salem Lutheran Church.
- This information is not intended as legal advice. Please consult your attorney or financial advisor to learn if a gift of stocks, securities, RMD (required minimum distributions) or mutual funds is appropriate for your situation.

For more information, please contact:

Dick Peterson, *Financial Secretary* at rlpeterson1@comcast.net or (309) 472-5486
ph: (309) 688-9212 • email: office@salemofpeoria.com • www.salemofpeoria.com

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-ups are appreciated to ensure there is enough seating and resources as well as food for those interested in lunch.



SIGN UP



Cross-Generational Midweek Meal & Fellowship

Midweek meal and fellowship for all ages! Let Salem cooks prepare a meal for your family! We'll gather from **5:45pm-7pm on Wednesday** to enjoy a meal, music, and meaningful table conversations at the four-week gathering series.

- **OCT 23 - Join in the Harvest:** pumpkin decorating
- **OCT 30 - Fall Festival:** games, trick or treating, costume parade
- **NOV 6 - Thankful for Family and Friends:** bring a friend night
- **NOV 13 - National Kindness Day:** make kindness cards



OUTREACH FOOD COLLECTION

Throughout the month of October 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

OCT 6

Fair Trade has two new products - Maple Hot Cocoa and French Roast Whole Bean Coffee! Both will be available next month. There are also couple of "overstock" specials, too. You are welcome to stop by the table on **October 6** to check them out. 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 MARION MEDICAL MISSIONS

OCT 13

Please pray for Gary Setterlund as he travels to Malawi to volunteer for Marion Medical Mission. He will be helping to provide clean water to villages in Zambia. Continue to pray for the two teams as well as the African staff building the wells. Prayers be with them to keep them safe. Gary will return and share more about Marion Medical Missions on **Sunday, October 13**. Salem will assist the Marion Medical Mission with the Noisy Can offering received on **Sunday, October 13**.



God's Work. Our Hands.

Thank you for your help with "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday" on September 8th

On Sunday September 8th, we bore witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another. We celebrated who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

On Sunday, September 8th, we worked together during the Education Hour to assemble simple items of a towel, soap, toothbrush, comb, and nail clippers into almost 800 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).



On Sunday, September 8th, more than 60 people (between the ages of 3 and 97) stood together and assembled simple items into life-changing personal care kits that will show love and care for people all around the world.

On Sunday, September 8th, we saw the culmination of a project that started six weeks ago. A project that consisted of:

- your prayers
- your noisy can collection contributions
- your donation of kit items
- your stewardship gifts used as budgeted Outreach money to purchase kit items
- your hands sharing the love of Christ to our neighbor
- your knowledge of LWR help to neighbors in crisis growing

On Sunday, September 8th, we worked together in a simple, fun, and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need. Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. On this day... we helped!



On Sunday, September 8th, we worked together to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict, and more. A LWR kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene and provides dignity and hope in the direst situations.

We are not quite finished...

For those still wanting to help, we will have one more work day on **Sunday, October 6th during the Education Hour**. We will assemble 250 more personal care kits. Items have all been donated... we just need your hands!

On **Saturday, October 26th at 11am**, we will meet at church and load the Salem bus and other vehicles to caravan to St John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington to deliver our 43 boxes of 1,032 personal care kits. **You are invited to join!**

Thank you, people of Salem, for being a part of "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday!"

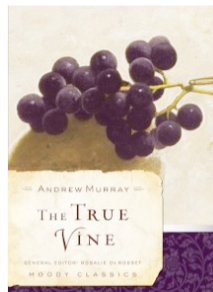


Photographs of just some of the 60 people (between the ages of 3 and 97) that helped with the God's Work. Our Hands. service project.





SALEM LIBRARY MONTHLY BOOK SELECTIONS

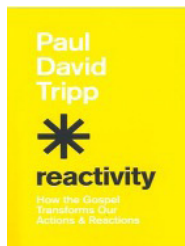


The True Vine by Andrew Murray (226.5 MUR)

"No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

Work for Him. Rest in Him. The Vine is the sole provider for the branch. The branch needs only to obey. The care and nutrients the branch receives from the Vine are more than enough to bear all the fruit it can handle.

This simple work is written in such a way as to make God's Word clear to anyone who would listen. Andrew Murray was able to reach the young and underprivileged of his day with his straightforward preaching and writing. And as he lived, fully abiding in the Lord, so these words of Christ are made clear for another century. (Moody Classic)



Reactivity: How the Gospel Transforms Our Actions and Reactions by Paul David Tripp (248.4 TRI)

Digital media and technology are altering the way people act—and react—toward each other. Criticism, outrage, and controversy dominate social engagement and unfortunately many Christians have joined in the chaos. It's a troubling contrast to Jesus's words in John 13:35: "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if

you have love for one another."

Award-winning author Paul David Tripp instructs believers to view digital media and technology through the lens of the gospel and points them toward a biblical framework for communication. Explaining how God wants the church to engage with culture and each other, Tripp encourages Christians to think wisely about their interactions and be a beacon of light in an age of toxicity.

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

OCT 8

Rebecca Circle

Rebecca Circle will meet at Salem on **Tuesday, October 8at 10am.**

OCT 9

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet at **2pm on October 9** at Salem Lutheran Church in the conference room. Come join the circle for study and conversation.



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

OCT 27

Salem Lutheran Church students: Allen Bidne, Ella Hartman, Landon Peterson, Makayla Schroeder, and Julia Wallstedt, will affirm their baptisms on **Sunday, October 27 at worship.** Please keep these students in your prayers as they affirm and grow their faith.

FAITH FORMATION

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, Sept 29:

Education hour: Acolyte, Crucifer, and Communion Assistant Training

4:30pm: Congregational Campfire Cookout

Saturday, Oct 5:

10am: Church Women United General Membership meeting at Glen Oak Christian Church

Sunday, Oct 13:

2pm: Faith for Life (at First English Lutheran Church)

2pm: High School Youth Group service project

Wednesday Oct 23, 30,

Nov 6, Nov 13 at 5:45pm:

Cross-Generational Midweek Meal and Fellowship

Saturday, Oct 26:

God's Work. Our Hands. Lutheran World Relief service project delivery to St. John's in Bloomington, IL



Salem Lutheran member Dave Griffith is singing in the choir for the Country GospelFest concert at Five Points on October 5 at 7pm

Justice Journey to Ethiopia

About Levi Salverson's Trip

Levi is embarking on an exciting opportunity for a Justice Journey to Ethiopia, centered around the ELCA's Practices of Accompaniment: mutuality, inclusivity, empowerment, sustainability, and vulnerability.

Vision and Goals

• **Accompaniment Practices:** Emphasize mutuality, inclusivity, empowerment, sustainability, and vulnerability as core principles guiding their journey.

• **Biblical Foundation:** Draw on Biblical examples of God's unexpected actions in unexpected places to shape our approach and interactions.

- The story of Ruth and Naomi highlights mutual support and transformation.
- Jesus' interactions with the Samaritan woman at the well illustrate inclusivity and breaking down barriers.

• **Neighboring as a Verb:** Focus on deepening our understanding of and commitment to living as neighbors in a global context.

Planned Activities

• **Structured Events:** planned activities that align with our mission and the model of accompaniment, such as participating in a feeding program, cultural exchanges, and educational business/fair trade business tours, visiting orphanages, home visits

• **Spontaneous Encounters:** Embrace the unpredictability of international travel to allow for spontaneous, meaningful interactions that reveal God's love and justice.

Expected Outcomes

• **Mutual Transformation:** Foster a two-way exchange where both our participants and the Ethiopian community benefit and grow.

• **Deeper Understanding:** Enhance our understanding of global issues, cultural diversity, and the universal call to justice and love.

• **Strengthened Relationships:** Build lasting relationships with our Ethiopian partners, based on mutual respect and shared experiences.

Levi Salverson

Prayerfully support is requested for Salem member, Levi Salverson. Levi is participating in a mission trip to Ethiopia with a group from both Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministries at North Dakota State University and Concordia College in Moorehead, Minnesota. One of his pastors has adopted family and a ministry over in Ethiopia that she works with. The mission group will visit the ministry and surrounding community to gain a better understanding of our brothers and sisters in Christ and how they can help, learn, and grow.

Levi Salverson will be on the mission trip from **October 17 through October 26.** Thank you for the support and prayers.

Support and Funding

• **Financial Needs:** For Levi's mission trip he had to raise the cost of the trip: \$4,000.

• **Investment in Mission:** financial support enables participant to fully engage in this mission of justice, fostering growth, learning, and mutual transformation. Salem Lutheran Church supported Levi's efforts with \$1,000 outreach support.

Why Ethiopia?

• **Cultural Richness:** Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage provides a unique backdrop for our journey of accompaniment and learning.

• **Historical Significance:** Ethiopia's deep historical and religious significance offers a profound context for exploring God's work in the world. The Lutheran church is growing the fastest in Africa; it will be interesting to explore firsthand why that might be happening.

• **Community Engagement:** Opportunities to engage with local communities in meaningful ways, promoting mutual understanding and solidarity.

Thank You

Thank you for your support for this meaningful initiative. I welcome your prayers for me and our group that will travel in October.



Fall and back-to-school not only brings new activities to share but unfortunately also the sharing of germs. Your child comes home with a sore throat, cough, and a high fever. Is it just a cold? Or could it be the flu or an RSV infection? Is it COVID-19? All these illnesses are caused by viruses that infect the respiratory tract. All are contagious and can spread easily from person to person and also have some similar symptoms. It can be hard to tell them apart. Here are some things to look for if your child gets sick.

Cold symptoms usually are mild and can include a tickly throat, a runny or stuffy nose, and sneezing. A child with a cold usually feels quite well and has a good appetite and normal energy levels. The flu can also be mild. Usually, kids with the flu feel worse and might have a fever that comes on suddenly, with chills, a headache, and body aches. They can have a sore throat, runny nose, and cough. And they feel generally miserable and tired and don't have much of an appetite. Some kids even have belly pain, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) usually causes cold symptoms. But in some infants and young children, it can lead to a more serious infection, such as bronchiolitis or pneumonia. Babies with an RSV infection might have fever, cough, wheezing, and trouble breathing. They might breathe very fast, grunt with the effort, or have retractions. They might feed poorly or seem very sleepy.

Kids with COVID-19 may not have any symptoms, or their symptoms can be mild, like those of a common cold. Some can have more severe flu-like symptoms. So COVID-19 symptoms can look very much like those from a cold, RSV infection, or the flu. But they can also look different. For example, they can include a loss of taste or smell, or a variety of rashes. If you have any doubts or questions, it's best to call your doctor. An illness that seems like a cold can turn out to be the flu, RSV, or COVID-19. Except for a cold, there are vaccines for these viruses so consult your child's physician if they qualify. Other preventative measures for all viruses include washing hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, avoid people who are sick, and clean surfaces that are touched a lot. If you have any doubts or questions, it's best to call your doctor. An illness that seems like a cold can turn out to be the flu, RSV, or COVID-19.

For more information on prevention, symptoms, and treatment, check out kidshealth.org or cdc.gov.

Thank You!

- Dear Friends at Salem - We are thankful for all the prayers, visits, and numerous acts of kindness we experienced during Dick's recent accident. He continues to feel the results of a caring community and God's healing hands. Thank you so much – Richard and Gail Serrahn
- Thank you so much for your generous donation to Midwest Food Bank. We are committed to use it wisely as we work to alleviate hunger and provide relief from disaster. Blessings-Christa Staley, Executive Director of Midwest Food Bank
- Dear Salem Lutheran Church - You have warmed our hearts because your donation will help us say "yes" to another local family in need. Thank you for your gift of \$3,034, received on August 24, 2024. We want to share with you the words of one mother who was able to find a path out of crisis with the support of Crittenton Centers' staff:
"From the first time I called the Crisis Nursery, I have been completely supported in every aspect of my parenthood. I was encouraged to utilize the Crisis Nursery. Thank to their support, I now have a job, a home, a vehicle and am a better mom. I don't know where I would be without Crittenton Centers' support."
Because of your donations, Crittenton Centers were able to say "yes" to 3,144 admission to the Crisis Nursery, provide 2,808 children with basic needs and help over 100 parents graduate from parent education class in 2023. Thank you for your thoughtful support for the children in the Crisis Nursery. We can't do this without you. Thank you. - Jeff Gress, President and CEO

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| October 1
Kim Ascherl
Zachary Ferrell | October 7
Trenton Hainline
Meghan Peterson | October 16
Roberta Kessinger | October 25
Brett Cooper
Faith Thornquist
Erika Haedicke
Sandra Harvey
Fred Stamerjohn*
Celeste Woerner |
| October 2
Velma Crowley
Stephanie Dammann
Miles Janssen
John Sipf | October 10
David Griffith
Maren Kelly
Ella Snyder | October 17
Daniel Young | October 26
John Day |
| October 3
JR Runkel | October 11
Terry Krus | October 18
James Ripper
Kelly Swanson | October 28
Mike Shadley |
| October 4
Jackson Gabel
Karsen Gabel
Collin Graves | October 12
Aaron Hartman
Brent Wallstedt | October 19
Christa Taubert
Gayle Young | October 29
Gail Serrahn |
| October 5
Allen Bidne | October 13
Michael Newcomb | October 20
Matthew Kammerer | October 30
Aaron Grebner
Ann Sterr
Annie Swanson |
| October 6
Alton Berg
MaryAlice Erickson
Elijah Sipf | October 15
Melissa Aprahamian
Sharon Coyner
Marilyn Oertley
Gavin Stenzel | October 21
Kelsi Gustafson
Jaxon Howard
Kathy Kalbacken | *Happy 101st birthday! |
| | | October 23
Joann Blum
John Gabel | |



Lessons and Carols

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 8 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Salem's mission
 - prayers of thanksgiving for Debra Knutson
 - Helene Peterson
 - Tim, Jessica, Daniel Peterson
 - Linda Peterson
 - Gary Setterlund
 - Vickie (Norma Hartman's sister) and family with the loss of her husband, Russ.
- DIRECTION...**
- Salem Congreg. Council
 - Salem's Pastor and Staff
- PRAYERS REQUESTS...**
- Jocette and Salih Arbeyi missionaries through CRU
 - Prayers of thanksgiving for Tyler Blum
 - Luan Borquist
 - Butch Conard
 - Joanie Creager
 - Ron Hipple
 - Maddy, friend of Julia Wallstedt recovering from a liver transplant
 - Mike
- 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

Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found at the Welcome Center. There are several misplaced items. All unclaimed items will be donated to the Church Mouse next month.



The Bugle
USPS 477-460



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS NEEDED

Salem is seeking an individual to work for as a part-time staff position to direct written and electronic communications including but not limited to: monthly Bugle, weekly Blast, Salem's website, digital sign and other related communication media.

If interested or for more information, please contact Pastor Craig.

QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES:

- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- Knowledge of and experience in various computer software used to produce print and electronic communication elements
- Strong commitment to working as a member of a team
- Ability to maintain positive relationships with church staff and congregational membership