



# the Bugle

One of my college professors once said February is cut short from other months by a few days because we want spring to come. February lacks color, the grass is brown, the trees are bare, and flowers have yet to push forth from the cold ground. While I understand his perspective, I also realize that such realities give us hope for what is yet to come. It is good that the earth has a season of rest. It is good that we take a break from the growing season and focus on what and when to plant, what activities and events to plan for the warmer months, to wait patiently in what is and to anticipate what is yet to come. Direct exposure to the sun increases daily. Rains will come. Soon, the grass will turn green, buds will appear, spikes of tender plants will emerge and sights and sounds of new life will return for another season. Hope is what keeps me going as the cold and barren landscape looks a little depressing.

Perhaps you are in a season of life that looks a bit like February, caught between two seasons and longing for new possibilities. What encourages you? What gives you hope?

As this year unfolds, there will be times when it feels the drab and lifeless look of February extends longer than we like. Wars still linger, disagreements over various government policies persist, injuries and illnesses are realities. We might ask ourselves, can hope live again? I love the words to the song "Baptized and Set Free."

*We are people created,  
chosen by God.  
Then we're washed, ever gently,  
in mercy and love.  
Sin has power no more.  
Jesus opened the door  
to a fountain bringing healing,  
and wholeness and more.*

We are people created in hope and we are chosen by God to honor and glorify God. Through baptism we are joined to Jesus and his love for us holds us in hope for promises now as well as for our future. This is what encourages me when suffering lingers, when I tire from efforts to bring about needed change. This is what sustains me when I feel stuck and lack clarity for what looks hopeful. The light of Christ breaks the darkness, warms cold hearts and allows us to experience true joy in his presence.

Warmest regards,  
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## SAVE WEDNESDAY DATES IN LENT

Ash Wednesday Worship, March 5 – 11am & 7pm  
Mid-week Worship – March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

- 11 am with Lunch to follow
- 6:30 pm Word and Worship, Food and Fellowship

**Canned and Packaged Nonperishable food items will be collected throughout Lent. Goal – 5,000 items!**

*More information will be shared in the March Bugle.*



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to Benefit ELCA World Hunger

Please join us on **Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** for our traditional pancake supper to celebrate Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras). Come join us any time between **5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** **We ask that you sign up at the Welcome Center to help with planning.** (Please note that the signup sheet will list time slots of 5:00-5:30 p.m., 5:30-6:00 p.m., and 6:00-6:30 p.m. to make sure our kitchen crew is extra prepared to serve you fresh pancakes.)

**A free will offering** will be accepted on behalf of ELCA World Hunger. We are participating in an Epiphany challenge asking congregations in the Central Southern Illinois Synod to raise \$10,000. If the synod meets this goal, they will receive an additional \$5,000 for World Hunger from a generous donor. (Please make checks payable to Salem with World Hunger Challenge in the memo.

From the ELCA World Hunger website: “For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Part of our church’s long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God’s promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more.”

Thank you for supporting ELCA World Hunger, and we look forward to seeing you on **March 4<sup>th</sup>**.



## Nursery News

When the renovation plans were being developed at Salem over 7 years ago, they included a revised nursery to ensure there was space to provide care and support for families of all ages. While all ages are encouraged to be together at Salem, the nursery is supplemental support when needed. For many years, the nursery has been overseen by a paid individual with experience and professional credentials. Beginning **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Salem will enter a contractual agreement with a local organization called JOVIE to once again provide a regular staff person in the nursery on Sunday mornings for children aged 3 and under. Should anyone care to bring your child to the nursery, please know there will be a trained staff person eager and ready to assist you with childcare needs during times of worship, fellowship and education on a weekly basis.



## Welcome Brandon Worner

Brandon has spent the last year working for OSF HealthCare in the MultiMedia Services department. The twelve years before that, he served the church as an Associate Pastor of Worship. He brings with him an experience as well as a deep love and passion for serving the church as he steps into the Director of Communications role here at Salem.

## Breaking Bread Meals

Wednesday evenings during the month of February.



Mark your calendars for the February return on our Wednesday evening Breaking Bread Meals. We will meet on **February 5, 12, 19, and 26<sup>th</sup>**.

Our February 5<sup>th</sup> meal: Hawaiian baked ham and cheese sandwiches and homemade tomato soup, and a make your own sundae bar.

Please sign up in the welcome center. Hope you can join us for this fun evening of food

## Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria

Save the date!

February 14<sup>th</sup>

The Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria's winter general meeting will be held on Valentine's Day, February 14 at 9 am at Salem Lutheran, 1700 W War Memorial Dr, Peoria.



We'll start with a devotional and a light continental breakfast, then have our programs and a business meeting. Lutheran Hillside Village is providing an interesting program and since it's Valentine's Day there will be a fun surprise or two. Invite friends from church to come with you. Every person you bring gets your name in the hat for a door prize drawing. Let's recruit some new members.

Start 2025 right by helping LWGP with exciting fundraising events to further our mission.

See you there!

## Youth Groups

### Calling All Salem Families!

Faith Formation would love your feedback. To promote spiritual growth within Salem's children, youth and family ministry, Faith Formation is organizing a Family Feedback meeting.

Where: Second Floor Gathering Space

When: **Sunday, February 23**

Time: 10:15 am (During the Education Hour)

We prayerfully ask that you bring your thoughts and ideas on the future of our Salem Youth. Questions? Please contact Amy Schroeder at amy.angela.schroeder@gmail.com.

## Salem Churchmen

Join us for

**Bradley Braves VS. Northern Iowa Panthers**



Sunday, March 2nd – Time: TBA

Lower Bowl Seats: \$5.00

Sign up at the Welcome Center

For more information see Jeff Machacek or Tim Hickey



### 1st Communion

First Communion instruction for children in 3rd grade and older is scheduled for **Saturday, April 12 at 10am**. If interested in participating, please contact the church office to express interest.

### 2025 Vacation Bible School

Volunteers are needed in all positions for 2025 Vacation Bible School. Please contact Faith Formation Ministry leader, Amy Schroeder (309) 202-1210 or amy.angela.schroeder@gmail.com about your interest in volunteering.

## Salem Book Club

Salem's Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, February 26 at 7:30pm on Zoom**. You are always welcome to join for a specific book or start joining each month! All are welcome.

The book this month is *It Seemed Good to the Holy Spirit and to Us*, by Mark Love. The letter sent at the conclusion of the Jerusalem council to gentile Christians includes the line, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us . . ." (Acts 15:28). Contemporary congregations desire similar moments but are simply not built for them, lacking the discernment postures and practices that would make such a moment possible. This work undertakes a deep reading of Acts 1–15, asking the questions, "What led to this pivotal moment in Acts?" and "What can we learn about discernment for churches today?" Along the way we learn that discernment is not simply a process that conjures the Holy Spirit but the byproduct of a way of life shaped by participation in the mission of God.



Please join us for discussion on Wednesday, February 26 at 7:30pm.

# Thank You

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and goodies. Merry Christmas! - Janet Jones

Dear Salem Friends – Thank you for my lovely Christmas cards delivered by Helene & Dick Peterson, to Salem Sunday School & Rebecca Circle for their greetings & gift. Most importantly, thank you for Pastor's visit. Your kindness brought love, peace & joy to my holiday this year & made me so happy. God bless you in the new year. - B. Kent

Thank you so much for all of the cards & beautiful ornament. Special thanks to Nadine for delivering it all. - Kay Bartholomew.

Dear members of Salem's Sunday School classes – Thank you so very much for the bag of Christmas cards - all signed by old friends & new. I enjoy re-reading them & remembering the one who signed it. Thank you for your thoughtfulness & remembering me. - Jan Saylor

Dear Salem Sunday School members – Thanks so much for the Christmas bag of greetings and goodies. I am always amazed that no two cards are alike. Wishing all of you good health and happiness in the new year. - Suzanne McMickle

A big Christmas Holiday thank you for the many cards & treats from the Salem members & Sunday School at my front desk. The Spirit, gladness and hearts of Christmas living is peace, hope and love. We hope the Holidays leave us with memories that make us smile with great joy now and all year. The Lord has been with us yesterday, today and forevermore. Thanks for the Advent devotional booklet. - Arlan Mauer

I want to thank all of Salem Lutheran Church for all the cards, candy & Christmas wishes. It warms my heart to hear from you at Christmas!! Thank you to the Sunday School class for remembering also. I want to thank Ina Busse for including the letter to the Scandinavian countries. I really enjoy as my mom's parents were Norwegian and my father's parents were Norwegian. Like my mom proudly said, we are from good stock. Thank you for all the ways you make this way a brighter one. - In Christian Love, Wanita Vanscoyoc



## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS! FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

### February 1

Brian Duncan  
Christopher Cochran  
Lynnce Coyner  
Roxanne Vandervlugt

### February 2

Bridget Wilczewski

### February 3

Bill Ligon  
John Iverson  
Layne Meinders

### February 4

Adelaide Taubert-Koss  
Jeffrey Hainline  
Landon Peterson

### February 5

Janet Wiesehan  
Sarah Bidne

### February 6

Lily Bastian  
Rick Lambie

### February 7

Maren Thompson

### February 8

Wendy Thomasson

### February 9

Emily Peterson  
Melissa Durst

### February 11

Diane Proft

### February 12

Lisa Janco  
Norma Hartman

### February 14

Allison Harvey  
Pam DeBruyn  
Scott McGregor

### February 15

Carmen Paar  
Erin Catton  
Samuel Wragge

### February 16

Bradley Billerbeck  
Jane Sterling  
Janet Jones  
Misty Kelly  
Nancy Rehn

### February 17

Patricia Crittenden  
Sarah Nichelson

### February 18

Annette Doughty  
David Noe

### February 19

Ann Roberts  
Janet Cox  
John Harvey  
Wendy Cochran

### February 21

Alan Puttcamp  
Noah Hopkins  
Vicki Larson

### February 22

Olivia Kelly

### February 24

Chad Arnold  
Christine Steele  
Lesley Howard  
Stephanie Lowery

### February 25

Jacob Ferrell

### February 26

Marla Breidel  
Mia Hoffman

### February 27

Conner Bidne

### February 28

Linda Dowell  
Rebecca Miltenberger

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Jocette and Salih Arbeyi  
missionaries through CRU

### PRAYERS REQUESTS...

- Dennis Rhoades
- Luan Borquist
- Butch Conard
- Joanie Creager
- Ron Hipple
- Maddy, friend of Julia Wallstedt recovering from a liver transplant
- Mike

- Tim, Jessica, Daniel Peterson
- Linda Peterson
- Sheryl Sattler

### 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



## Memorial Fund Contribution

A monetary contribution was made to Salem Memorial Fund by Ruth Bock and family in loving memory of husband Steve and sons Russ & Ron.

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.