



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

April 5, 2023

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From Pastor Steve

Keeping It Real at Easter

The Easter stories are wonderful, mysterious glimpses into an event so overwhelming that it changed the world. It wasn't long before the apostles and their followers, utterly convinced that the risen Lord had destroyed death and opened the way of eternal life, had gone to practically the whole known world with the story of Jesus.

Yet there are and were those who would not accept this wonderful and mysterious message. To some, the resurrection of Jesus is a fairy tale and a delusion. For some, being "spiritual" is a generic category that addresses certain feelings of awe and wonder but does not attach to any particular event or narrative. "I am spiritual but not religious" is a common modern refrain. There are more and more folks checking "none" when a survey asks for affiliation with a faith community — any faith community, Christian or otherwise.

So how do we believers keep the Easter message real? Can we say with Mary Magdalene, the disciples, and St. Paul, "I have seen the Lord"? Is the way of Jesus disappearing among the competing claims on our attention, and in the face of an increasingly secular, hostile, and violent world?

Here are some questions to ponder:

Can we participate in worship expecting to meet the risen Lord? If Jesus is risen, he is with us. You may find him in the bread and wine of his Supper, in a hymn, in the words of Scripture or a sermon, or in a kind word said by a brother or sister. Where genuine love is, Christ is present.

Can we pray with the firm conviction that God hears us? "Ask and you shall receive", says Jesus. Our conviction is that the risen Lord is listening and will answer — perhaps not always as we want, but always as he promises to be with us.

Can we face every day knowing that we can trust ourselves completely to the care of God? As the United Church of Canada's confession of faith affirms: "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone."

Whatever befalls us, nothing can separate us from him and from his Son. That's the real Easter; that's the eternal promise.

- Steve Mindrup

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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In our church family. . .

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

It is with heartfelt sadness that we report the passing of long-time Salem member Janet Klotz. Janet died on March 9 at Sandwich Rehab and Health Care Center where she had resided for the past few years. A memorial service will be held later this spring. Our deepest sympathies go out to her son Lee and his family as well as Janet's friends.



Laura Caupert has asked that we express her thanks to her Salem Family:

"I want to thank all of those who visited me in the hospital. The flowers and cards and the great food certainly made the time seem to go faster. I am blessed!"

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CURRENT—LaVerne Mattson*

CONTINUING— Laura Caupert*, Jane Burkett*, Tom Glover*, Lila Mattson*, Shirley Hines*, Pat Clason*, Ruth Erickson*, Steve Guyer*, Ben Burkett*, Jackie Cline*, Mick Kimmey*, John Wilson, Art Kossman, Wanda Jirsa, Sam Meier, Muriel Scott, Dan Jackson, Augie Frietsch, Debi Clausen, Darwin Classon, Mike Clayton, Mary Gliszczynski, Martha Poggi, Jeanne McNish, Laverne Schober, Linda McVicker, Kate Gage, Marci Bluestone, Bridget Yaeger, Ava Hawbaker, Jim Martin, Nick Morgan, Scott Evans, Joanne Sumner, Sally Ferko, Jacob Kenyon, Steven Johnson, Bobby E., Brian Porter, Brad Engle, Colleen McMahon, Pearl Undesser, Julie Cook, Carol Peisker, Darlene Comiskey, Erin Stiver, Jerry Burd, Carol Wilhelm, Shandol Dulin, Tanya Kimmey, Tom Wysoglad, Joe Petit, and Mike Guzzardo

MILITARY—All people serving in the military, especially: Kaden Brennan, Danny Cassidy, Charlie Golowacz, Nathan Hunt, Brandon Jakubiec, Shawn Jakubiec, Joseph Kimmey, Ross Magee, Garrett O'Dell, Jared Usey, and Kevin Zaleski

***Indicates Salem member.**



Please help us keep this list up to date by checking on any persons you may have referred.



DIAMOND PLUS (75th +) BIRTHDAYS FOR APRIL:

April 14—Stan Benson

April 27—Joanne VanPelt

April 30—George Webster

APRIL 4, 2023 SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Salem's Congregation Council met on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Council members Jacqueline Beverage, Alan Deaton, Patricia Farley, Walter Farley, Donna Fraley, Bonnie Guyer, Durk Hellinga, Dean Lundeen, Pastor Steve Mindrup, and Nancy Rex attended this meeting.

Following devotions provided by Alan Deaton, minutes of the March 7, 2023, Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for February 2023. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported that all bills are currently paid and reported balances in the following accounts as of April 4, 2023.

General Fund: \$9518.00

Designated Fund: \$29,055.79

Capital Fund: \$51,267.85

Treasurer Bonnie Guyer also reported that to date the Renovation Fund has \$19,090.00, Lenten Offerings designated for Salem's budgeted benevolence commitment are \$4128.00, soup supper offerings designated for the Northern Illinois Food Bank are \$723.00, and offerings collected at the Community Lenten Breakfast and Worship designated for Our Sharing Pantry are \$223.00. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Monthly reports were presented by Pastor Mindrup and representatives of Salem's committees.

For information about all of the work being done by Salem's Committees and for information about upcoming opportunities at Salem, check Salem's web site, weekly emailed news bulletin, and the monthly Salem *Life*.

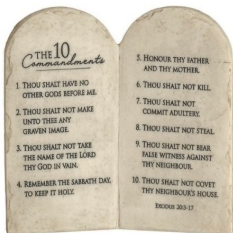
GoodNews

SPECIAL OFFERING UPDATES

(as of April 2):

- LENT OFFERINGS FOR SALEM'S BENEVOLENCE COMMITMENT—\$4128
- SOUP SUPPER OFFERINGS FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK—\$723
- MARCH 29th COMMUNITY BREAKFAST OFFERING FOR OUR SHARING PANTRY—\$223
- ***Building on a Legacy of Faith*** FOR SALEM RENOVATIONS - \$19,090

*"Now as you excel in everything,
so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking" 2 Corinthians 8:7*



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES—During 2023, Salem's memory verses for the year begin with a review of the Ten Commandments and Martin Luther's brief explanations of them. For an overview, read Exodus 20.

APRIL:

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT: Honor your father and your mother.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? We are to fear and love God, so that we neither despise nor anger our parents and others in authority, but instead honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.



MAUNDY THURSDAY— APRIL 6:

12:00 noon Lunch Provided by the Worship Committee—All are welcome.

1:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion with Stripping of the Chancel Area

GOOD FRIDAY— APRIL 7:

1:00 pm Service of Prayers and Readings

7:00 pm Service of Prayers and Readings with a Brief Cantata, “Wondrous Love” by Lloyd Larson Sung by Salem’s Traditional Choir

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 9:

9:00 am Festival Service of Holy Communion

10:00 am Easter Breakfast Hosted by the Fellowship Committee

10:30 am Children’s Egg Hunt

Easter Breakfast



All are welcome to enjoy a delicious breakfast of casseroles, pastries and fruit immediately following the Easter Sunday worship service. Persons wishing to help by providing food should sign up in the narthex.



Children are invited to join us for an egg hunt (outdoors, weather permitting) beginning at 10:30 am on Easter Sunday.

APRIL



Hosanna in the highest!

Salem's Sunday School students led the Procession with Palms at our worship service on April 2.



Fourteen Salem women are registered for the Women's Retreat to be held April 14 and 15 at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon IL. Sandy Martens has stated that there is a possibility of adding a few more, so please contact her if you are interested.



APRIL LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, April 20—11:30 AM

Last Chance Saloon

102 S Church St—Millington

Meet at the restaurant or call Donna Fraley if you need a ride. Please sign-up in the narthex.



Saturday, May 13—1:00 pm

MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT

Paint a Mug or Paint a Tea Cup

\$5.00 each—all materials are provided.

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.

All are invited—come alone or bring a child.

Please sign up in the narthex so that we can have enough materials on hand.



God's work. Our hands.



EARTH DAY has been celebrated on April 22 each year since it was established in 1970. It is meant to be both a reminder of our responsibility to be good stewards of our environment and to be a celebration of the ways in which we honor that responsibility.

Salem members have two opportunities to demonstrate their good stewardship of the environment.

- Saturday, April 22, 8:00 am—Our first **Adopt-a-Road** clean-up of the year—Please meet at Prairie View School to walk our assigned section of West Sandwich Road. Come dressed for the weather. Sturdy shoes or boots, long pants and work gloves are recommended. Safety vests and bags will be provided. Walkers of all ages are welcome. The walk usually takes about an hour.
- Sunday, April 23, 10:15 am—Everyone is invited to join our Sunday School students in a neighborhood clean-up walk near Salem Lutheran Church, weather permitting.



It is time for Salem to fill the volunteer schedule to deliver **Meals-on-Wheels** for the month of **May**. Salem's coordinator, Laura Caupert is beginning to recruit volunteers. If you are a regular, check your schedule and be prepared when Laura calls. If you would like to try something new, please contact Laura at 815-325-4751. Do you or someone you know of need to receive meals? Please let the church office know about this.

"We at the Diaper Closet at the Nazarene Church just want to extend a Huge Thank You to you all for your continued support and donations! If it were not for people like you, we wouldn't be able to continue to serve our community. God Bless You All!!"

About The Diaper Closet

Wednesdays, 2:00pm-6:00pm
205 W. College St, in Sandwich
Church of the Nazarene



Reminder: Salem's diaper collection emphasis is the third Sunday of every month.



Salem's Quilters and Outreach Committee combined forces to host an open house in celebration of LWR National Quilting Day on Saturday, March 25. They welcomed several people from the community who came to learn about Salem's quilt ministry.

The next scheduled work days for the Quilters will be Monday, April 10 and Tuesday, April 11 from 9:00 am to noon. They would welcome any willing workers to do a variety of tasks; no experience is needed.



Fifteen Salem members and friends volunteered at Northern Illinois Food Bank warehouse in Geneva on March 21. This day marked the end of eight years of monthly shifts. On this day they packed 3,108 pounds of food, equating to 2,590 meals for hungry neighbors in 16 Illinois counties. Their task was sorting, labeling and packing canned vegetables that had been donated by major corporations. Since our first shift on April 9, 2015, we have provided volunteer help monthly except for a few months during the height of the Covid 19 pandemic. Our next volunteer shift is set for Tuesday, April 18, 9:00-11:30 am. At that time we will be presenting our Lenten Soup Supper Offerings of \$723.



Pictured above are members of Salem's Ruth Unit. They had been busy in the church kitchen preparing a delicious Lenten Soup supper for the congregation on March 22. These ladies meet monthly September through May for Bible study and fellowship. They would welcome anyone who would care to join them at 1:00 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month.