



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

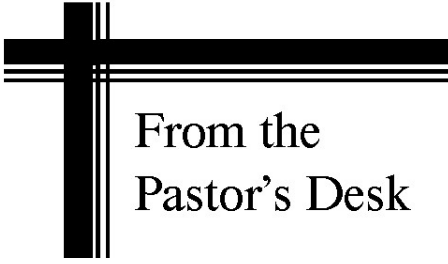
God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 8, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 8



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace... Ephesians 2:13-14a

Peace. What does that word mean, in the midst of our world today? We don't have a single enemy that we can defeat or make a treaty with. We see nations riven by war among many factions, without a clear way to say who is good or bad, or even which side we should support. We see mass shootings and terrorism in our nation and around the world, so that we wonder where in the world is safe. We see unrest in our cities, as people cry out against injustice that shocks and disconcerts us. And our politics seems to be at a full boil, with a constant turmoil. We see deep divisions among families, friends, and neighbors, who often choose their candidate because they find the opponent absolutely unacceptable.

Our lives could surely be worse, as anyone in war-torn Ukraine or Gaza could tell you. But we seem far from any peace and wholeness in our nation and our world. What does it mean when we pray "For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all?" How does God bring this peace?

Many say that security should be our highest goal. As long as we are strong and safe, that is a kind of substitute for real peace. Some believe that they will be safe if they are armed everywhere they go. But an armed peace will never be enough. If we have to live in a police state, carry weapons everywhere, and cower in bunkers to feel safe, we will have missed the point. Peace means seeking for justice and understanding, so that opposing sides can find ways to live together without threat or coercion. Real peace can never use force or violence to compel an opponent to submit and live quietly.

In faith, we proclaim that Jesus is our peace. Our Lord enters in to transform our lives, our church, our family, and from there the community and the world. Jesus says "blessed are the peacemakers," and that is a part of our calling in the world. In the midst of division, violence, and war, Christians are called to be peacemakers, seeking ways to bring justice and wholeness to all the world. We are called to be the ones who listen to the oppressed and speak for the voiceless. Violence is often the last resort of those who have no voice and no ability to make a place for themselves in the world. If we show them love and care, and include them in the community conversation, we open the door to a more meaningful peace.

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Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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Pastor

Reverend John Rothfus

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Staff

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary, Etc.

Bookkeeper

Traditional Worship Coordinator

Director of Contemporary Worship

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

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Kelly Clason

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Staff Office Hours: Tues.—Thurs., 9am—2pm; Fri, 9am-noon

In our church family. . .

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CURRENT—Jim Fraley, Otto Heimsoth, and Jim Whitten*

CONTINUING— Pat Clason*, Jackie Cline*, Ruth Erickson*, Nancy Fatland*, Tom Glover*, Steve Guyer*, Shirley Hines*, Marlene Kee*, Mick Kimmey*, Baby Henry Ryan-Melchor, Marci Bluestone, Jerry Burd, Darlene Comiskey, Julie Cook, Rayden Davis, Shandol Dulin, Bobby E., Sally Ferko, Rick Flowers, Elin Frietsch, Kate Gage, Jo Gehlbach, Mary Gliszczynski, Mike Guzzardo, Mark Hanson, Ava Hawbaker, Walter Ihnatiuk, Pamela Isaacson, Dan Jackson, Steven Johnson, Jacob Kenyon, Tanya Kimmey, William Lein, Bill McGing, Colleen McMahon, Pastor Steve Mindrup, Nick Morgan, Carol Peisker, Joe Petit, Robert Perales, Martha Poggi, Lani Quast, Laurie Jacobson Rappa, Gloria Simpkins, Alphonse Somé, Erin Stiver, Joanne Sumner, Leslie Trettenero, John Wilson, Pearl Undesser, Carol Wilhelm, Tom Wysoglad, Bridget Yaeger, and Susan & Linda

MILITARY—All people serving in the military, especially: Kaden Brennan, Danny Cassidy, 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



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 11:

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

AUGUST

"DIAMOND PLUS" BIRTHDAYS:

August 7—Jean Hanson
August 7—Donna Kimmey
August 13—Linda Benson
August 16—Ron Cunz
August 18—Tom Glover
August 21—Linda Moran
August 27—Ron Gengler



New at Salem

Have you seen these devices plugged in around Salem? Is it an air freshener or an Alexa?

No, these devices are located throughout the building to spread wifi to all the rooms enabling internet access on cell phones and laptops. It is helpful for staff working throughout the building and for leaders during meetings to be able to check the internet as decisions are made.



Like Jesus, we may find peace by giving our lives. Jesus was killed by violence and injustice, but God raised him up and showed the power of life and peace. Christians are sometimes targeted or killed as we work for justice and peace in the world. We can even expect persecution and violence if we live out our faith publicly. But Christians do not react to violence or injustice out of fear or anger. We don't lock up our churches or make them an armed camp. There are worse things than for a Christian to die and rise again, as Jesus does.

Finding true peace may seem impossible now, but we can never let go of our calling. Our own peace is incomplete until we see the peace of Jesus extending out into the larger world. Where there is injustice and inequality, we are called to strive for true wholeness, by standing with those who are cast aside. Where people struggle with illness or loss, we stand beside them, bringing the peace of Christ into the brokenness of our world.

Peace is not the full reality that we see in our world, and it will not be fully realized here in this life. But Jesus is our peace, and he can bring his peace to us, to our families and church, and through us to all the world. He gives us peace with God, and peace with one another. Our Lord's calling is for us to engage with the world as peacemakers, and see the miracle of peace that only God can bring.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Rothfus



Sandwich Fair Worship

On September 8, during the Sandwich Fair, our worship schedule will change for the day. We will worship with our community churches at 8:30 a.m. at the Fair. Worship will be at the Ag Land stage this year, and Pastor John will be preaching. We will also have a service back at Salem at 10:30 a.m. that morning. It is good to make time for worship whatever may be happening.

Watch the website for changes to our normal schedule during fair week:

www.wearesalemlutheran.org

Blessing of Students, Teachers, Backpacks

As our students prepare to head to school, we want to pray for them and encourage them. They are working hard and learning important things, and we rejoice to see them grow and mature. We will have a special blessing for them in worship on August 11, followed by Sundaes on Sunday and a special Water Fun Day for our kids and all who want to take part.

Second Saturdays



Kelly Clason, from the Member Support Committee, led summer gatherings on the second Saturdays in

June, July & August. The final summer outing is planned for August 10 for a Chinese Dinner in Yorkville. RSVP to Kelly at (815) 325-4075 if you plan to go. We want to support members of all ages. Young adults and those with young families are important to Salem.



**SUNDAES on SUNDAY,
AUGUST 11
10:00 AM
Join Salem's
Worship Committee
for Ice Cream Sundaes
during
Coffee Fellowship Time.**

Confirmation classes

Confirmation classes will start September 11. Pastor John has reached out to families who may be interested in their child going through the confirmation program at Salem in partnership with St. John's Lutheran Church. If you would like more information, contact Pastor John at Salem (815) 786-9308.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is beginning its work, praying and considering who God wants to have us call forth as leaders for the ministry of Salem Lutheran. Please pray with them that God will raise up the right people to energize and strengthen our ministry, and have an open heart to respond joyfully if you are called to serve.

Congregational Meeting October 13

The council has set the October Congregational Meeting for October 13 after worship. We will hold elections for various roles, and consider an amendment to our Salem Constitution. Please put that date on your calendar and be sure to share with your Salem Family as we work together.

SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Jacqueline Beverage, Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton, Walter Farley, Bonnie Guyer, Connie Hanson, Durk Hellinga, Nancy Rex, and Pastor John Rothfusz attended this meeting.

Following devotions led by Walter Farley, the minutes of the July 2, 2024, Salem Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for June 2024. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances as of August 6, 2024, for the following accounts:

General Fund: \$17,954.51 Capital Fund: \$35,097.14 Designated Fund: \$27,095.52

Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported that all current bills are paid, and that \$5000.00 of the \$10,000.00 transferred from the Capital Fund to the General Fund has been returned to the Capital Fund. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Pastor Rothfusz presented his regular monthly report of activities and asked council members for some comments about his first six months as Salem's pastor. Comments offered were all good. Pastor Rothfusz also noted the continuing need to encourage youth and young adult participation in the ministries of Salem.

Council members reported on the work that Salem Committees are doing.

Pastor Rothfusz noted that WiFi is now available throughout the church building.

Council members voted to recommend to the members of the congregation a change to C5.05.01 of Salem's Constitution that will allow members to serve two consecutive terms on the Memorial and Endowment Fund Board and be eligible to serve again at a later time. The congregation will vote on the recommended change at the meeting of Salem Congregation in October 2024.

Sunday, October 13, 2024, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service was established for a meeting of Salem Congregation to elect Congregation Council members and vote on the change to C5.05.01 of Salem's Constitution.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

The Endowment and Memorial Committee has expressed a concern that our current requirements in the church constitution will make it too difficult to find members. The Church Council is recommending a change to the constitution to be voted on at the October 13 congregational meeting. If it passes with a majority, it would need to be ratified by a 2/3 vote at the January annual meeting.

The current text of the constitution says that Endowment and Memorial Committee
C5.05.01....Members shall not be eligible for consecutive terms and may serve no more than 2 non-consecutive terms....

The proposed text simplifies this to say:

C5.05.01....Members shall be eligible for two consecutive terms....

This matches our practice for council members, who may serve two terms, and may come back later to serve again. Please ask Pastor John or council members if you have any questions.

Thank You, Dear Salem Family!

My Salem office journey began in 1973 when Pastor Arne Peterson asked if I would volunteer a few hours a week to help put together the newsletter. I was a young mother, and my youngest had just started kindergarten; so it seemed like a good idea. And so it began! After a short time as a volunteer, “Secretary” became a budget line, and I was officially on the payroll.

My first task was a weekly newsletter, “The Spectator”. Pastor Peterson did not like that name – he thought it sent the message of someone outside looking in rather than reflecting what was actively going on at Salem. And so the “Salem *LIFE*” was born with VOL. 1, NO. 1 dated January 1, 1975. Then came bulletins, annual reports, and more.

The church office has occupied three locations since 1973. We began in what is now the coffee fellowship area. After some renovations in 1986, we moved to what is currently the music office. With the addition in 2008, offices were moved to the current location. From our humble beginnings with a manual typewriter and stencil duplicator, we progressed through a variety of office equipment to our present computers and “smarter than me” printers.

Sometime in the early 2000’s, my title became Administrative Assistant. The job description really did not change. No matter the titles or the tasks, my time at Salem Lutheran Church has always been more than a job to me. It has been a ministry, a calling, and a blessing.

After more than 50 years, I decided that the time was right to pass the baton. The decision was made easier by the fact that I had the perfect successor ready and waiting to learn what goes on in Salem’s office. Kelly Clason and I have been working very hard these past few months to transfer decades of knowledge, much of it stored only in my brain. I can assure you that Kelly is a quick learner and more than capable. But more importantly, we share the same passion for Jesus, His Church, and specifically the ministries and the people that are Salem Lutheran Church.

Sunday, August 4 was a day that will stay in my heart forever. I was truly overwhelmed by the love and the generosity that you all showered upon me. The recognition during the worship service was a very special blessing. I was blessed to have Walt and my children and grandchildren share in the day. Having Pastors Lund, Mayer and Derber present was more than I could have hoped for. Your very generous cash gift was totally unexpected and very much appreciated. There were beautiful flowers and, of course, food—Salem can’t ever seem to celebrate without a potluck! I am especially grateful to my good friend Nancy Rex and to Pastor John who orchestrated the details of the celebration.

Thank you all for the love and support through all of these years. You are truly family, and I love you all.

Michele “Mickey” Farley

Giving Thanks for 50 Years of Service

On August 4 in worship, we gave thanks for Mickey Farley as we marked her retirement as Administrative Assistant in the church office. She served there for 50 years, helping to shape and strengthen the ministry of Salem Lutheran Church. We were blessed to have Pastor Wayne Derber, Pastor Greg Mayer, and Pastor Phil Lund come to join in our celebration. We prayed for Mickey in worship, giving thanks to God for her, and had an overflowing potluck afterward. Thank you to everyone who shared in this special day.



Photo Credit to Bonnie Guyer.
 (Clockwise from top left) Mickey Farley with cake and cash bouquet; Pastor John gave a blessing with family and former pastors who worked with Mickey; photo board; Pastor Greg Mayer, Pastor Phil Lund, Mickey Farley, Pastor John Rothfus, and Pastor Wayne Derber; Mickey's grandchildren: Sterling, Wyatt, Abby, Jaiden, and Jacob.

- - - - - Important Upcoming Dates - - - - -

Lutheran World Relief School Kits—September 15 deadline

Thank you to those of you who have donated school supplies for Lutheran World Relief! The Sunday School students will be packaging items into complete kits after Rally Day. Please turn in donations to Salem by September 15. Complete kits are especially welcome!

Each school kit requires the following items:

- 70 sheet notebooks, either wide or college ruled, approx. 8 X 10 1/2"
- 30 centimeter ruler, or one with both cm and inches
- pencil sharpener
- blunt scissors
- unsharpened #2 pencils
- black or blue ballpoint pens, no gel ink
- box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 1/2" eraser

Adopt-a-Road Clean Up—August 24

Mickey Farley coordinates Salem volunteers to do road clean up. We meet at Prairie View School and clean West Sandwich Road to the cemetery. Many hands make light work. Please join Mickey at 8:00 am on Saturday, August 24. Wear closed toe shoes or boots. Come dressed for the weather.



Community Interfaith CROP Hunger Walk—October 6

Salem has supported the Crop Walk for many years! Jan Dunn is a Co-coordinator with Cindy Fraser. They invite you to make plans now to be a walker and/or donor for Crop Walk. Billions of people are hungry worldwide and we can play a small part to help along with Church World Service. The walk supports the Hinckley Food Pantry and Our Sharing Pantry in Somonauk to provide support for local families in need. CROP Walk will be held in Somonauk on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Save the date!

and lastly.....

- **Quilting Days—Monday, August 12th and Tuesday, August 13th**
- **Diaper Collection—Sunday, August 18th**
- **Styrofoam containers and packing foam pick up at Salem—Sunday, September 15th**
- **Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center annual Autumn Fest—Saturday, October 12th. LOMC is combining it with their 50th Anniversary Celebration. Check out their website for details.**
- **Harvest Celebration at the fairgrounds for Growing Hope Globally—Saturday, October 19th.**

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

3N1 was in action at the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans with 16,000 youth. Our youth journey was impactful starting with building a stronger relationship with Christ and with each other and many unique challenges. We were able to get to know our bishops on a personal level, hand out meals to the homeless, worship with our Synod, help serve at a paint recycling center. Our time ended with a worship service where all 16,000 were given communion. The next Youth Gathering will be in Minneapolis 2027. We are so grateful and appreciate all the support that our congregations have provided to make our youth group a success.

You will hear more information about the Youth Gathering and see more pictures during worship on August 18.

3N1 meets the second Sunday of each month rotating between Salem, St. John's, and Bethany, unless an activity is planned.

All high school youth are welcome! Please contact Kim and Jason Boczko at (630) 429-4909.

The members of 3N1 who attended the ELCA Youth Gathering are pictured in orange "Created to Be" T-shirts. Below, this is a photo of the youth from the Northern Illinois Synod with Bishop Stacie Fidlar.





Monthly Mission Work

Our July Northern IL Food Bank team of 19 volunteers packed 5,750 pounds of sweet potatoes providing 4,791 meals to our hungry neighbors. Registration is closed for the August 20th volunteer shift at Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The next opportunity to volunteer will be Tuesday, September 17, 9-11:30 am. New volunteers are welcome! Sign up in narthex. Please check with Walt or Mickey Farley if you have questions.



The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch enjoyed food and fellowship at The Vault in downtown Yorkville in July. The next Lunch Bunch outing will be Wednesday, August 21 at 11:30 am at Tap House Grill, 123 W Washington Street in downtown Oswego. Please sign up if you plan to go. Call Donna Farley (815-263-7227) if you need a ride.



Pictured above (from left to right, clockwise) is Laura, Donna, Doug, Jan, Kelly, Dave, Sandy, Dori and Sharon.



Pictured above (from left to right, clockwise) is Dale, Ruth, Pastor John, Pat, June, Joanne, Marilyn, and Durk.

GARDEN WALK 2024

The rain didn't dampen our spirits at the 2024 Garden Walk, hosted by the Fellowship Committee. Thank you to Marilyn Wouda and Durk Hellinga for hosting the pot luck and smoking the delicious sausages for the meal. Jan Dunn prepared our quiz and provided prizes for the winners. Thanks also to sharing your gardens with us: Cheryl Carls, Cindy & George Webster, Linda & Stan Benson, Dori & Dean Burau, Jan Dunn & Alan Deaton, and Marilyn Wouda & Durk Hellinga.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Salem teamed up with area churches and participated in VBS at St. John's Lutheran Church in Somonauk. Thank you to Sharon Wallis and Bonnie Guyer for volunteering. As you can see below, Pastor John started his day at VBS.



Salem Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 105

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