



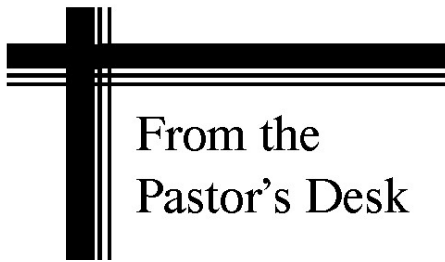
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

Newsletter of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sandwich, Illinois

June 5, 2025

VOL. 52, NO. 6



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every year about this time as young people graduate from high school and college, I am struck by how quickly time passes. While I can picture them as babies and small children, they are now striding forth as adults into the world. It is a miracle before our eyes to see them grow into interesting, smart, hardworking people who will make a difference in the world.

Yet even in that moment of celebration, there is often great uncertainty. What is next? Even if they are going to college, or have a job, it is a time of great change, a time to reassess their identity and place in the world. Who will they be, and what will it lead them to do?

I read a blog with some great questions about how we fit in the world. It is addressed to graduates first, but I think that these questions remain vital for each of us as long as we live. As people of faith, God has called us each by name in our baptism and sent us out into the world to love and serve. What does that mean for you?

The questions are: Who are you called to be?

 What are you called to do?

 Why are you here?

We may struggle to answer those in a big-picture way even when we are much older. But what if we answer these questions for the immediate present? What if we answer them just for the moment, fully expecting our answers to evolve and change over time? What if we explore these questions as a part of our journey with Jesus, as a part of following our Lord on the path that he leads us, as graduates or people of any age?

With such a present-tense focus, our life can become an act of living into God's call for us. Most of us don't hear God's call in a vision or a burning bush, but in real, physical needs placed right before us. A child whose hand you can hold when they are uncertain, a garden you can plant and tend lovingly, a neighbor you can feed by keeping the Blessing Box or Our Sharing Pantry stocked. Or in learning patience and gentleness for ourselves and others. Patience with a driver who is slow to move at the stoplight. Quietness and listening in a group, to make sure that each person gets a time to have their voice heard. Grace for someone who doesn't meet our expectations, realizing that their lives may be more complicated and difficult than we know.

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Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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Staff Office Hours: Tues.—Thurs., 9 am—2 pm; Fri, 9 am-12 noon

Happening this week...

Sunday, June 8 Day of Pentecost

9:00 am Worship - **Come celebrate with us!**

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:10 am Adult Bible Study

Monday, June 9

9 am-noon Quilting

4:30 pm Praise Team

Tuesday, June 10

9 am-noon Quilting

6:00 pm Outreach Committee

Wednesday, June 11

10:00 am Methuselah Coffee Group

11:30 am Lunch Bunch

Thursday, June 12

8:30 -10:30 am Our Sharing Pantry Distribution

7:00 pm AA

Friday, June 13 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly

7:30 pm AA

Saturday, June 14 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly

Sunday, June 15

9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:00 am Father's Day Brunch

In Our Church Family.....

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

⇒ Eileen Negley*

⇒ Andy Gawel (*friend of Leigh Kossman,
who is serving in the military*)

⇒ Stan Benson*

⇒ Mari Eklund (*Mother-in-Law of Pastor John*)

⇒ Family & friends of Sharon Foster*

***Indicates Salem member**



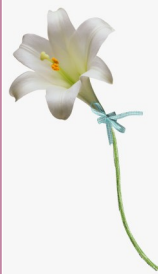
SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR:

SUNDAY, JUNE 8: Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17, 25-27

SUNDAY, JUNE 15: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15



JUNE "DIAMOND PLUS" BIRTHDAYS



6/8 Paul Kulbartz

6/9 Bill Negley

6/11 Darlene Bastian

6/19 Pat Whitten

6/23 Nancy Rex

6/27 Cindy Webster

6/30 Pat Clason

When we learn to live these questions, moment by moment, day by day, we can begin to sense how God is working resurrection in and among us. If we ask these essential questions, God will give us answers for each new day, and shape us over time to become the people that we are called to be in faith. We will develop confidence in those answers and know better what our life means.

Who are you called to be?

What are you called to do?

Why are you here?

Right now.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Rothfusz

*Credit to Pastor Char Cox, **Loving and Living the Questions**, Church Anew Blog 5-5-22*



June 6, 2025 Salem Congregational Council Meeting Highlights

The Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, June 6, 2025, starting at 6:30 p.m. Council members Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton, Walter Farley, Donna Fraley, Bonnie Guyer, Connie Hanson, Durk Hellinga, Sharon Wallis and Pastor John Rothfusz were present. Jacqueline Beverage was absent.

Alan Deaton led the devotion about seeds planted in the ground, and the thrill of watching them grow if conditions are right. God's kingdom grows and bears fruit in the same way among us.

The council voted to accept the minutes of the May 6 Congregation Council meeting, as prepared by Alan Deaton.

The Financial reports for March were examined. These are the following balances as of the meeting.

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| General Fund: | \$7658.56 |
| Designated Fund: | \$33,828.36 |
| Capital Fund: | \$35,593.85 |

Council members heard monthly reports from Pastor John Rothfusz and from council members representing Salem's committees. They reviewed the calendar to highlight events coming up in June and look for conflicts.

The Christian Education Committee noted that 3N1 has purchased a ping pong table for the basement from the Bobby Harpster memorials. 3N1 will also need to find new leadership as the Boczkos step down.

The Fellowship Committee hosted a Fellowship Feast at Salem on May 27 for the community. It went very well, and served about 70 people.

The Outreach Committee is offering a new Salem Lutheran t-shirt to show our pride in the community. Order forms are available in the coffee area.

The property committee is working to mark items for disposal from closets and storerooms. Decluttered items will be placed in the basement outside the elevator for a time for leaders to evaluate.

The group heard council comments from each member.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Congratulations!

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION

Hudson Cline - Sandwich Middle School

Wyatt Farley - Sandwich Middle School

Delilah Wunderlich - Yorkville Middle School

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Evan Ryan Haag - Corydon Central High School, Corydon IN

Joshua Schaefer - Sandwich High School

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Sawyer Allen - Indiana State, Finance Major

Allison Graham, New Mexico University, Education Major

Anna Rothfusz - St. Olaf College, Biology Major

May God bless each of them as they move
on to the next chapters in their lives.



Congratulations
Wyatt Farley
on your
Affirmation of Baptism!

- 5/11/2025 -

Youth Ministry Update

Pastor Chris Schoon from Somonauk has announced that she will be retiring at the end of the summer. That means that our shared confirmation program with St. Johns in Somonauk will have to change. Pastor John will plan the year and lead all of the sessions for the two churches until they have an interim or a new pastor to share in partnership again.

The 3N1 Youth group has been led for a number of years by Jason and Kim Boczko. They are ready to step down from that role. We very much appreciate their long and faithful service working with our High School youth.

We are starting a conversation to discern who might be ready and able to lead or share in the leadership of this group. 3N1 is shared between Salem, St. John in Somonauk, and Bethany in Leland. We would love to see ideas and potential leaders from each church. Please keep that in prayer, that we may find the right people for this essential role.

Vacation Bible School

Watch for details about Vacation Bible School this summer in partnership with St. John Lutheran Church in Somonauk.

Theme: Camp Chaos Dates are July 21-24

Northern Illinois Synod Assembly

The Synod Assembly will be held June 13-14 at Augustana College. Durk and Marilyn Hellinga and Sharon Wallis will be our voting members, along with Pastor John.

The Synod Assembly offering will go to support Global Refuge, formerly called Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. This is a group we as Lutherans can be proud of that originated after World War II to help displaced people.

The 2025 Synod Assembly In-Kind offering will be advocacy letters. Congregations are encouraged to have members write letters to their representative and senators. More information, including sample letter templates, will be shared soon. In the meantime, please visit [ELCA Advocacy](#) for other resources. As prayerful Christians, it is good to make our voices heard as we share the faith that shapes us.

How does your faith in Jesus shape what you think God wants for our world and our leaders? Please consider writing a letter to your senators or representatives, at the state or federal level, sharing what is important to you. You can talk to Sharon Wallis or Pastor John if you have questions.



Our next road clean-up walk is set for Saturday, June 21, beginning at 8:00 am. The group meets at Prairie View School parking lot and walks north on West Sandwich Road. All ages are welcome. Please wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots, and work gloves. Safety vests and bags will be provided. Plan to spend just about an hour and you will get a ride back to your car, if desired.

Have you responded yet?

- ✓ Hymnal Supplement for \$16
- ✓ "You are Loved" Outreach Dusk Blue T-shirt for \$15*
- ✓ "God's Work. Our Hands" Yellow T-shirt for \$15* (limited sizes are available, FCFS)

*Extra cost for larger sizes

Call the office with questions.



Lunch Bunch at Harner's Bakery 5/14/2025
(L to R, Sharon, Pastor John, Doug, Marilyn,
Durk, Jan, Libby, Sandy, Donna, Laura, and
Joanne.)



Quilting Days

Quilting Days are June 9 & 10.

Tuesday, June 17

Adopt-a-Road Clean-up

Saturday, June 21 8:00 am

Styrofoam Recycling

Sunday, June 22

Diaper Closet

June 22 is Diaper Sunday.

Picnic and Walk at Sannauk Forest Preserve

Sunday, June 29

**VBS in partnership with St. John's
Lutheran Church, Somonauk**
July 21-24

LifeWorks Youth Mission Trip
July 20-25

Join us for Lunch Bunch in June!

We are going to Paw Paw to the Beaver Den Tavern & Grill Co, where "small-town charm meets culinary excellence." The husband of Salem Choir member, Lisa Harness, is one of the cooks at the Beaver Den. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 11 at 11:30. To car pool, meet at Salem at 10:45 am. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for reservations.

Sign up for the Northern Illinois Food Bank!

Volunteers packed macaroni in May. We packed 1,121 pounds of macaroni, providing 935 meals!

The JUNE DATE is Tuesday, June 17.

The JULY DATE is Tuesday, July 15.





You are All Invited!
Father's Day Brunch
Sunday, June 15
following worship

The Christian Education Committee invites YOU to help celebrate ALL FATHERS with a delicious brunch of biscuits and gravy, frozen fruit, coffee and juice on Sunday, June 15th following worship.

Please Join Us!



Little Rock Summer Solstice

Music Festival

June 21st, 2025 2'til 10 pm

Come out for a day in the countryside for
Music, friends, fun, and food

Open Mic to be Hosted by



Music, comedy, theater welcome

Bring food to share and beverages
Camping on west lawn encouraged
Bring your tent!

76 Squaw Road, Little Rock, IL

New Ping Pong Table set up at Salem

Thanks to the Bobby Harpster Memorial Fund gift to Salem's Youth Ministry, a ping pong table was purchased. Youth of All Ages and 3N1 now have a fun activity to do in the Fellowship Hall.

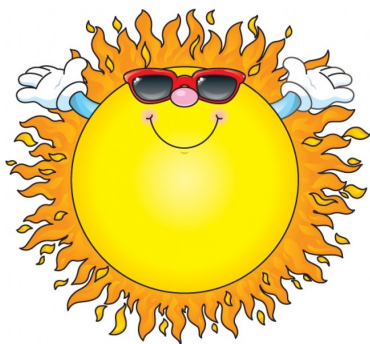


Tyler Wernli and Evan Beverage play ping pong while Grant and Easton Habbe look on.

Salem Lutheran Church

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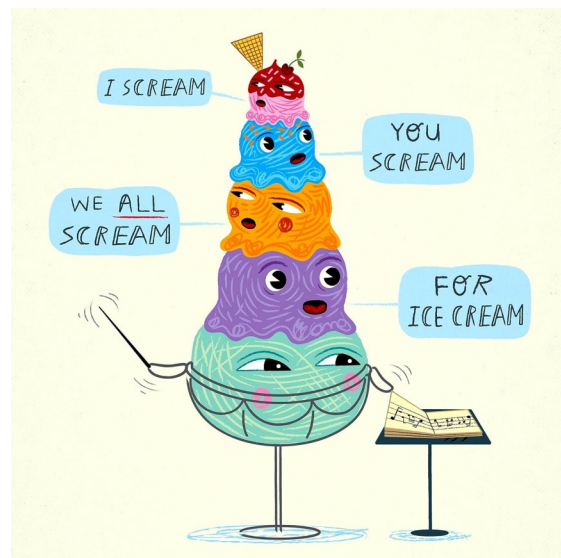
Summer Schedule from the Christian Education Committee

Over the summer there will be three monthly activities scheduled for youth and anyone who would like to join in on the fun. Please save the dates for the following Sundays:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| June 29 | Sannauk Forest Preserve Picnic and Walk |
| July 20 | Hayes Farm Visit |
| August 10 | Water Games |

Sundaes on Sunday

- ♦ July 6
- ♦ August 10



hosted by the
Worship Committee