



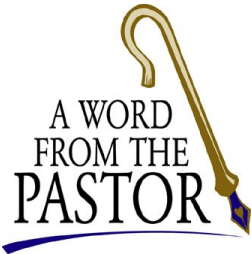
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# The Salem Life

Newsletter of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Sandwich, Illinois

June 7, 2026

VOL. 53, NO. 6



Dear Friends in Christ,

Today I'm in a bit of a rush. I have to write this newsletter article. I need to pick some hymns and write a sermon for Sunday. I have meetings today with the council and the ministerial group. My to-do list is exceptionally long. I have an inbox full of e-mail that I need to deal with. I hope I have the energy to get it all done!

**That's one way to look at the day. Here's another.**

Today I get to come to a job that I really enjoy. I have the opportunity to write a newsletter article that can help people to grow in faith. I get to prepare a sermon where I have the pleasure of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus who gives us new life and hope. I pray that the Holy Spirit will use it to change people's lives.

I get to meet regularly with young children when we gather for Sunday School and Confirmation, and I get to share in a youth mission trip later this month to Louisville, Kentucky. I get to share with people of all ages at Salem Lutheran, having conversations that mix laughter and tears with essential questions of faith. I get to plan out worship, serve our neighbors in need, and meet with a Church Council full of people who love our Lord and are committed to the ministry that we share. I get to gather each week for Bible studies and worship with people who want to grow in their walk with the Lord Jesus. It is exciting stuff, and I can't wait to jump in and get started!

**Two ways of looking at the day: one focusing on tasks that need to be 'cranked out' ...the other celebrating the things that I *get* to do, things that I enjoy.**

It's quite tempting to focus on what I 'have to do.' With the different roles in my life, the to-do lists never seem to end. They can sometimes wear me down to the point where I approach each new task, even each new day as simply another task to get off the list. On those days, my motivation level plummets. I get overwhelmed.

But God has blessed me with the opportunity to do what I enjoy. I get to share my life with you, being a partner and a voice for God with you in all the joyful and challenging chapters of your lives. I like to write, I get to craft sermons that share the love of Jesus, and I appreciate knowing that the work I do in partnership with you at Salem makes a difference here and in the wider world. I even get to sing with the Salem Choir and the Praise Team, and lead a Hymn Sing once in a while! These aren't just chores for me to slog through – These are opportunities to do what I enjoy. When I do what I love, I'm having fun, and I get more done!

This morning I'm reveling in God's blessings. Bring on the to-do list...because it abounds in wonderful ministry opportunities! *This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm 118:24*

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Rothfusz

*Thanks to Pastor Peter Reuss for inspiration for this letter.*



## *Happening this week...*

Sunday, June 7

- 9:00 am Worship/Kids Church
- 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship/Book Signing
- 10:15 am Adult Bible Study

Monday, June 8

- 9 am - noon Quilting

Tuesday, June 9

- 9 am - noon Quilting
- 5:30 pm Outreach Committee
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee

Wednesday, June 10

- 10:00 am Methuselah Coffee Group
- 11:30 am Lunch Bunch

Thursday, June 11

- 8:30 -10:30 am Our Sharing Pantry Distribution
- 7:00 pm AA

Friday, June 12

- NI Synod Assembly
- 7:30 pm AA

Saturday, June 13

- NI Synod Assembly

Sunday, June 14

- 9:00 am Worship/Kids Church
- 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship
- 10:15 am Summer Adventure—Hike & Picnic at Harvey Creek, Lions Road, Sandwich

**Sunday, June 14 is Styrofoam Recycling Day**

## *In Our Church Family.....*

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:**

- ⇒ Tanya Kimmey (*family of Mick & Donna Kimmey*)
- ⇒ Brett Hammer (*friend of Carlson Family*)
- ⇒ Shawn Brennan (*friend of Marlene Kee*)
- ⇒ Jeff Urban (*brother of Michele Farley*)
- ⇒ Paula Mueller
- ⇒ Stan Benson\*

\*Indicates Salem member

### **JUNE "DIAMOND PLUS" BIRTHDAYS**

- 6/8 Paul Kulbartz
- 6/11 Darlene Bastian
- 6/19 Pat Whitten
- 6/23 Nancy Rex
- 6/27 Cindy Webster
- 6/30 Pat Clason



Happy Anniversary to Mick and Donna Kimmey! They are celebrating 65 years of marriage on June 24.



### **Scripture Readings for:**

Sunday, June 7: Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sunday, June 14: Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8

## Synod Assembly

The Synod Assembly will be held June 12-13 at Augustana College. Durk Hellinga, Marilyn Wouda and Nancy Rex will be our voting members, along with Pastor John. The Synod Assembly offering will go to support our two Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWC), Becoming in Oswego, and Iglesia San José Obrero, in the Quad Cities. These are non-traditional worshipping communities that are seeking to reach out in new ways.

The 2026 Synod Assembly In-Kind offering will be something different. Congregations and individuals are invited to bring \$25 gift cards for LSSI staff caregivers to use to help those that they serve. They can quickly meet a need with foster children, or many other families in need that they serve. Gift cards from the following places would be helpful and welcome:

Retail/Grocery: Walmart, Target, Amazon, Walgreens, CVS, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Aldi, Hy-Vee, Jewel-Osco  
Gas Stations: Casey's General Store, Shell, Mobil, BP  
Restaurants: McDonald's, Subway, Burger King, Wendy's, Culver's

Another alternative way to give is with the Mindful Giving program. Mindful Giving allows you or your congregation to purchase items from a dedicated Wishlist curated by LSSI staff, and the items will be shipped directly to LSSI. These items support many important LSSI programs, and the Wishlist is updated regularly based on current, urgent needs. You can look at [giftlist.lssi.org](http://giftlist.lssi.org) (or use QR code) to shop the Wishlist. Please be sure to add your congregation's name at checkout so we can track and celebrate your church's generosity!



GIFTLIST.LSSI.ORG



### June 2, 2026 Salem Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, starting at 6:30 p.m. Council members, Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton, Walter Farley, Bonnie Guyer, Connie Hanson, Durk Hellinga, Sharon Wallis, and Pastor John Rothfusz were present. Jacqueline Beverage and Bryan Wernli were absent.

The council voted to accept the minutes of the May 5 Congregation Council meeting, as prepared by Alan Deaton.

The council started a new practice of reviewing the giving opportunities or special offerings scheduled for each month. This is in response to a policy recently adopted, hoping to avoid too many "asks" at the same time.

The treasurer's reports for April were examined. These are the current balances as of the meeting.

General Fund:	\$ 5199.17	Designated Fund:	\$ 32,348.08
Capital Fund:	\$ 53,383.17	Loan balance:	\$348,735.46

We made a sweep of \$5000 this month when general funds were low.

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 and to look for conflicts.

There will be a Community fellowship feast June 23 at the United Church of Sandwich.

The Outreach team will work on a Fruit of the Spirit float for Freedom Days.

A number of property projects have been happening, like the delivery of the new shed, the new church name lettering facing the parking lot, grading and reseeding north of the church, and the window glazing and painting. Things are looking good!

The new sign on the corner should be constructed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of June.

The group heard council comments from each member.

The meeting was closed at 7:05 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

# CELEBRATE ALL FATHERS WITH A DELICIOUS BRUNCH

Sunday, June 21, 10:00 am

Invite your dad for a simple Sunday menu of

Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, Frozen Fruit Cup,  
Coffee & Juice.



Let's celebrate fatherhood on this Father's Day!  
Hosted by Salem's Christian Education Committee for  
those who are a father, have a father, or had a father.

## Youth Mission Trip to Louisville

St. John Lutheran in Mendota and Salem Lutheran in Sandwich are planning a summer youth mission trip to Louisville, Kentucky. Pastor John and Brandon Beverage will be going from Salem. They will leave (early) after worship on Sunday, June 21, and return on Friday, June 26.

Salem has a long and meaningful history of sending young people on service trips, and we are excited for this chance. Please keep our mission trip and those that we will meet and serve in your prayers as we prepare for the chance to learn and make a difference in Jesus' name.



## Freedom Days Parade: Saturday, June 27

Salem will be handing out pencils and sharing Fruit of the Spirit as recorded in Galatians 5:22-23. Parade entries will be stepping off at 10:00 o'clock on Saturday morning, June 27 from the Sandwich Fairgrounds. Walkers can join us by 9:30 am.

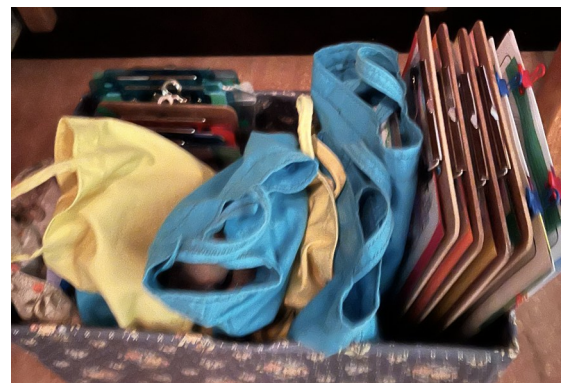


... <sup>22</sup>the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control.  
Galatians 5:22-23

## Thank You Member Support!

One task monitored by the Member Support Committee is the activity bags near the usher table. We sorted supplies and restocked the bags for our youngest attendees. Parents will notice that we prepared clip boards for coloring and drawing which can be picked up and returned in addition or instead of an activity bag. Thank you to parents who provided input.

This is a good time to remind you that there are books and puzzles for all ages to be borrowed on shelves in the coffee fellowship area and around the corner from the sanctuary. Labels have been added to the puzzles for your reviews! This group is willing to provide rides to church or appointments or meals if you are in need. Please speak to Pastor John and ask for what you need and he will reach out to this committee.





## Meet the Author and Illustrator

Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, June 7

It has always been Gina Carlson's dream to write a book ever since she was a little girl. Her uncle encouraged her to follow that dream because, "if you don't do it now, you'll regret it!". Gina's poem about her own pets and pets of family and dear friends became a children's book, You Belong With Us. Gina paired up with Libby Welsch, who illustrated the book.

They will have a Book Signing during Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, June 7. Books will be on display and available for purchase for a discounted \$15. Fruit, cheese & crackers, puppy chow, brownie paws, and "dog treats" for humans will be served!

Gina Carlson is the Financial Secretary and Libby Welsch is the Director of Contemporary Worship at Salem Lutheran Church.

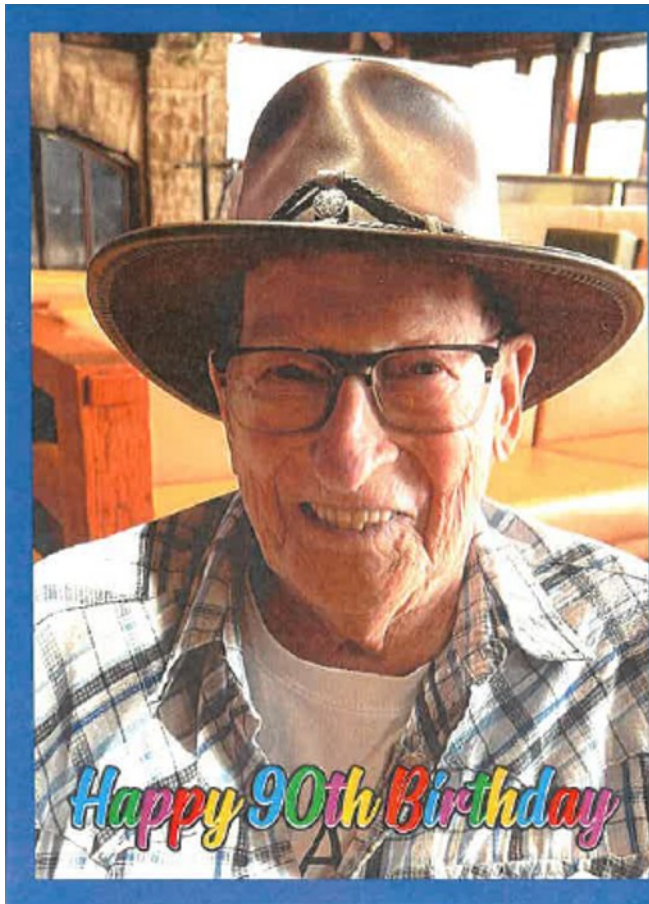
### Planning for 2027 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis

The 3N1 Youth Group has gone together for the last several ELCA National Youth Gatherings. The next one will be in Minneapolis in Summer, 2027.

There will be an information session at Bethany Lutheran, Leland on Sunday, June 28th at 4 p.m. Youth and parents are welcome to come and begin planning ahead for this big event. Registration opens in October, so we will want to make our plans early, and register right away for the best housing options. All students who will be entering High School grades and those who will have just graduated are welcome to take part.

Pastor John will not be able to attend this first meeting, but will be very involved in the planning. Please talk with him if you have any question.

<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">3N1</h1> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">ST. JOHN'S, SOMONAUK BETHANY IN LELAND SALEM IN SANDWICH</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;">ELCA YOUTH GATHERING</h2>	<h3 style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">INFO SESSION</h3>
<p>For youth going into <b>8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> and their grown-ups</p> <p>To Learn More about attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis June 28 - July 2, 2027</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">ELCA YOUTH GATHERING <b>IMAGINE more</b> JUNE 28 - JULY 2, 2027 MINNEAPOLIS, MN</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">SUNDAY JUNE 28 4:00PM BETHANY</p>



In Celebration of  
Michael (Mick) Kimmey Jr's

# 90th Birthday

The family is honoring him  
with an open house.

**July 11th, 2026**  
**12 noon to 3pm**

**Sandwich Fairgrounds**  
**Gate 3**

Suydam Rd  
Sandwich, IL 60548

Your presence is the only gift we need!

Follow the birthday signs to find the celebration.

Contact Matt Sr. for more information (815) 791-0077



## God's Work. Our Hands.

Northern IL Food Bank volunteers made a trip to Geneva in May to pack food for our hungry

neighbors. We packed 5900 pounds of apples which represented 4917 meals.

Those who have signed up already will pack again on June 16, 2026. The next date is July 21.



### LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, June 10 at 11:30 at Sabor Nayarit. This indoor/outdoor restaurant is located at the corner of Route 34 and Ben (206 S Ben Street) in Plano. It is known for seafood/Mexican dishes.



Photos from recent weeks: (top right, clockwise) AJ Parkison had his Court of Honor ceremony at Salem. In the next picture it shows him giving his mom a medal for her support throughout his scouting career.

Sheep came to the Children's Sermon on Good Shepherd Sunday. It was exciting to see and touch them! Molly Habbe and her sons Easton & Grant taught us what it takes to be their caretakers, in much the same way Jesus is our Shepherd.

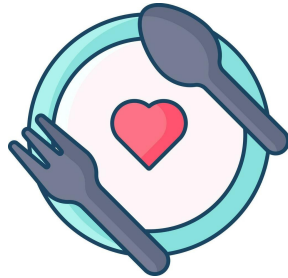


Thank you to Laura Caupert, organizer, and the volunteers who delivered Meals On Wheels in May. Volunteers were: Holly Ballas, Dean & Dori Burau, Kelly Clason, Ron Cunz, Jan Dunn, Doug & Donna Fraley, Steve & Bonnie Guyer, Deb Haag, Kelley Mindrup, Pam Pescitelli, Leo Sondgeroth, and George Webster.

## COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP FEAST

The next Fellowship Feast is Tuesday, June 23 at United Church of Sandwich. United Church is grilling hamburgers for the Fellowship Feast. Salem will bring these side dishes:

- ◇ 4 vegetable dishes,
- ◇ 4 potato dishes, and
- ◇ 4 dinner casseroles.



Please sign up if you are able to help in this way and save the date! Invite friends or family to join you to dine in fellowship with others.

## Thank you Property Committee!

These projects have been started this summer.

- ✓ Landscaping/Planting Grass
- ✓ Window glazing & painting
- ✓ Shed delivery & installation
- ✓ Electric updates and sign readiness
- ✓ New sign to be installed this month

Watch our progress!



## God's Barnyard

Vacation Bible School will be July 20-23 in partnership with St John Lutheran, Somonauk. VBS goes from 9:00 to 11:30 am on Monday through Thursday. Pick up a registration form or call the office and it can be emailed to you. VBS is available for children 3-years-old (must be potty trained) and on up to those completing 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**VBS helpers are needed.** Anyone 6th grade or older may volunteer by calling the church office (815-786-9308), talking to Bonnie Guyer, Salem (815-970-4753) or Nancy Miller, St. Johns (815-970-3085).

Last Sunday in June! So good, let's do 2!  
Enjoy Sundaes on Sundays - June 28 and August 16!

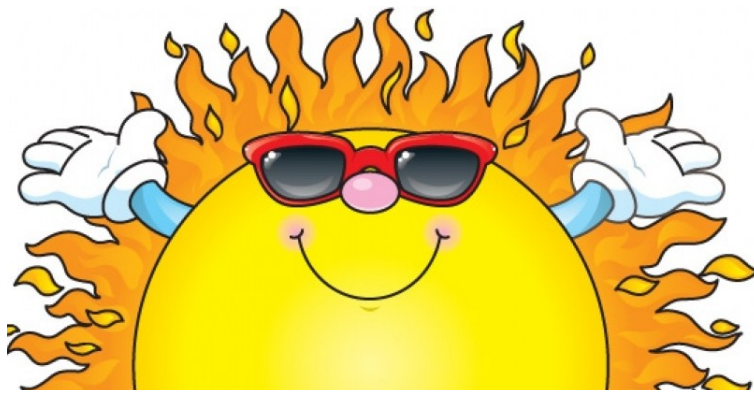
Thank you Worship Committee for this good treat.



Salem Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 105

Sandwich, IL 60548



## SUMMER ADVENTURES

Summer Adventures are planned for all ages to enjoy. It is good for our church family to share in activity together. We will leave after Coffee Fellowship and car pool or meet up at the adventure location. Mark your calendars!

- ◆ Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> - The first of three Sunday School summer activities is a Hike and Picnic at Harvey Creek Conservation Area Park, 1025 Lions Rd (near the Sandwich High School), Sandwich.
- ◆ Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> - We will head to Hinckley to see goats raised at Kurt & Kelsey Mattson's Farm. Maps will be handed out on the Sunday we go.
- ◆ Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> - Water Games on the church lawn and you know what that means! Bonnie has supplies and great ideas for wet, fun games for kids and adults!

ALL ARE WELCOME!