



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

MARCH 7, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 3

### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

A few years ago I took a couple of days to help my sister. She lives in Des Moines and needed to clean out her house so that she could downsize. We worked hard for quite a while, clearing out her basement and attic and filling a large dumpster.

The trouble is, once I started decluttering her house, it made me see how much I needed to clean my own house as well. It is much easier to

sort through someone else's things, without the emotional attachments and stories that make it hard to let go of them. But my own things? There is a reason I have them – even if I don't actually need those things any longer!

When I was finishing up my time at my former church, I finally had to do that sorting and house cleaning for myself. We filled a dumpster several times, amazed at how much clutter had filled our house over the years.

The season of Lent is a time for confession, and a time for cleaning up. We take a good hard look at our lives and ask what kinds of things clutter up our lives or bind them up with our sin.

Our season began with Ash Wednesday when we faced our own mortality. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return." If our time is limited, if we will one day die and return to the dust as we all surely will, then what do we need to do to get our house in order? What do we need to work out with God, with family members, with friends and neighbors, so that we can be at peace, with good relationships and our life complete? If we don't clean house we will leave lots of messes behind us. I am sure that many of you have had to clean out homes for family members who have died. Our lives and relationships, just as much as our cluttered homes, leave a lasting impact on others.

As a part of our Wednesday Lenten Services, and especially on Maundy Thursday, we come before God in confession. We confess that we are often unfaithful to the Lord who gives his life on the cross for us. We are often selfish, and unwilling to love and serve others as Jesus does. We live our lives to please ourselves, and not to give ourselves away for our neighbor in need. We can be unkind, even cruel to those we love and those we work with.

How would you shape your own confession? We each need to clean house in our own way. My sister's messes are not mine, but I do have plenty of my own messes to deal with. What dark and dusty corners of your life are cluttered with sin, those unexamined things that you try not to look at too closely? How might God set you free from sins and conflicts that burden you?

Lent means springtime – pointing at new beginnings. What would a spring cleaning look like for you, not just in your house, but in your heart? What can we clean out, air out, sweep out, and feel like we are freed from a burden that has been holding us back?

Jesus comes to make all things new. As he takes our sin, our burdens, our messes onto himself on the cross, we are set free in him. Let us claim that forgiveness and freedom, and enter into the promise of new life and hope in him.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John

# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Serving Christ!*

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Web site: [wearesalemLutheran.org](http://wearesalemLutheran.org)

## Pastor

Reverend John Rothfus

Phone: 779-901-0803

Email: [pastorjohnrothfus@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohnrothfus@gmail.com)

## Staff

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary, Etc.

Bookkeeper

Traditional Worship Coordinator

Director of Contemporary Worship

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

Maintenance

Michele Farley

Gina Carlson

Karen Wesson

Nancy Rex

Libby Welsch

Gloria Gilbertson

Connie Hanson

Nancy Hayes

[salem-mickey@comcast.net](mailto:salem-mickey@comcast.net)

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[salem-libby@comcast.net](mailto:salem-libby@comcast.net)

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

*In our church family. . .*

*Happy 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary*

Congratulations to Jerry and Cheri Davis who are celebrating 50 years of marriage on March 9.

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

**CURRENT**—Marlene Kee\*, Gloria Fry (This is Todd Claxton's mother-in-law, Shelly's mom.), Rick Flowers

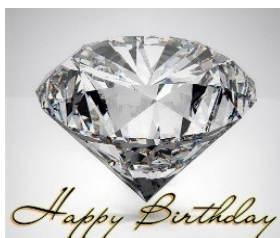
**CONTINUING**— Pastor Steve Mindrup, Jane Burkett\*, Laura Caupert\*, Pat Clason\*, Jackie Cline\*, Ruth Erickson\*, Tom Glover\*, Steve Guyer\*, Shirley Hines\*, Mick Kimmey\*, Baby Henry Ryan-Melchor, Marci Bluestone, Jerry Burd, Darlene Comiskey, Julie Cook, Rayden Davis, Shandol Dulin, Bobby E., Brad Engle, Sally Ferko, 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, Colleen McMahon, 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.**



### **DIAMOND PLUS (75th +) BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH:**

March 6 Doug Fraley

March 8 Marlyn Glover

March 16 Irene Yingling

March 30 Laura Caupert

March 7 Bob Harpster

March 13 Dale White

March 23 Darwin Classon

March 31 Dean Burau

# *Installation of Pastor John Rothfusz*



On Sunday, March 10 during worship, Salem Lutheran Church will install the Rev. John Rothfusz as pastor. Pastor Jen Beamsley will come share with us for that day of celebration and will preach. Many of our musical groups will help make the day special.

After worship there will be a potluck in the basement, and we hope that you will share with us in food and community. Please plan to be a part of this special day with your family in Christ at Salem Lutheran Church!



## **MARCH 5, 2024. CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. All ten council members were present.

Following devotions sung by Alan Deaton, minutes of the February 6, 2024, meeting of Salem's Congregation Council as prepared by Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for January 2024. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances as of March 5, 2024, for the following accounts.

General Fund: \$6873.75   Designated Fund: \$30,602.00;   Capital Fund: \$36,069.65

The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

In addition to a written report prepared by Pastor Rothfusz, he initiated discussion about the need for job descriptions for Salem employees. An ad hoc committee consisting of Pastor Rothfusz, Nancy Rex, and Connie Hanson was formed to work on creating job descriptions for Salem employees.

During the report of the Finance Committee a motion carried to obtain two credit cards for Salem.

During the report of the Property Committee, Alan Deaton noted that a Sign Committee of eight interested people has met to resume work on purchase of a new yard sign for Salem.

Council members serving on other Salem committees gave regular monthly reports.

During the Unfinished Business part of the meeting, Pastor Rothfusz commented on ideas for the Tech Committee to consider.

Under New Business a motion carried to pay Sarah Wernli for directing Salem's Praise Team the same amount per rehearsal as other accompanists and the director of Salem's Handchime Ensemble receive per rehearsal.

The meeting concluded with prayer followed by fellowship and snacks provided by Alan Deaton.



# Lent 2024



## LENTEN MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

9:00 am Community Lenten Breakfast at Federated Church—The Atoning Sacrifice  
Text: 1 John 2:1-10 (John writes to His Little Children); Pastor Hope Johnson  
Breakfast served by Bethany Lutheran Church  
Offerings will go to the Community Good Samaritan Fund

6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper at Salem  
Served by the Member Support Committee

7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship at Salem – “Road Signs on the Way of Salvation”  
Two Way Traffic (Prayer) - Genesis 18:22-33; Matthew 26:36-46



### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

9:00 am Community Lenten Breakfast at Federated Church—The Atoning Sacrifice  
Text: Revelation 5:1-14 (The Lamb Who Is Worthy); Rev. Tom Bourke  
Breakfast served by The United Church of Sandwich  
Offerings will go to the Community Good Samaritan Fund

6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper at Salem  
Served by the Worship Committee

7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship at Salem – “Road Signs on the Way of Salvation”  
Rough Road Ahead (Christian Life) - Deuteronomy 28:1-8a,15-20; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-30



## HOLY WEEK

### SUNDAY OF THE PASION/PALM SUNDAY. MARCH 24

9:00 am Traditional Service of Holy Communion with Procession with Palms

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

12:00 pm Lunch hosted by the Worship Committee—All are welcome.  
1:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion  
7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion and Symbolic Stripping of the Chancel Area

### GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

1:00 pm Worship  
7:00 pm Worship including the cantata *Stations of the Cross* by Lani Smith sung by Salem's  
Traditional Choir



# CHRIST IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024



9:00 am



10:00 am



10:15 am

Please complete this form and return to Salem to reserve Easter lily plants to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter worship services. Order deadline is Sunday, March 24.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ How Many? \_\_\_\_\_

How shall we list in the bulletin?

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my plant(s) after Easter: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose payment of \$12.00 per plant with your order.



**Adult Class**—Most Sundays after worship and a little time for coffee, Pastor John will lead an adult class in the main conference room. We read together the readings for the next Sunday and discuss what we hear, so that we can think about these texts and be better prepared to hear them in worship the following weekend. We have had a great group and would love to have you share with us.

**First Communion Preparation**—Pastor John will lead a class after Easter for children who are ready to receive Holy Communion. At Salem Lutheran, we allow parents to decide when a child is ready to share in the gift of Holy Communion with a spirit of reverence and understanding. (None of us fully understand the mystery of the sacrament, but we want to recognize and give thanks for the gift that Jesus gives us.) If you have a child interested in taking part in this class, please let Pastor John know.

**Lutheran Identity/New Member Class**—Are you interested in becoming a member of Salem Lutheran? Or are you a member, but would like to know more about the faith that we share? If there is an interest, Pastor John will lead a class to go over some basics about our Lutheran faith and who we are as God's church. Please let Pastor John know if you are interested in taking part.

**Worship Tech Team Forming**—We would like to put together a worship tech team to work on improving our capabilities. We hope to begin recording our worship services and posting them on the website so that people can easily find them if they are homebound, travelling, or checking Salem out before a visit. There may be other simple ways for us to improve our worship experience as well. If you would like to join a worship tech team to help work out some of these challenges, please talk to Pastor John. We need all the gifts that God gives us at Salem!

**National Quilting Day—March 16:** In 1991 the National Quilting Association decided to declare an official holiday for quilting. Over the years, National Quilting Day has attracted people to celebrate from all over the world and participate in helping to build and maintain the global heritage of quilting. Salem's quilting group meets monthly on the second Monday and Tuesday. Their next scheduled work days are March 11 and 12. All volunteers are welcome to join them. This month, they will celebrate National Quilting Day by hosting coffee fellowship together with the Outreach Committee on Sunday, March 17. Coffee will be served in the fellowship hall, and the group will offer displays and demonstrations of their work of producing quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

**Salem's Outdoor Sign**—The Salem Sign Committee is seeking your input. When you see an attractive sign, please take a picture and send it to Pam (email: [ppescitellii@comcast.net](mailto:ppescitellii@comcast.net) or text 815-786-4881). If you have any suggestions or ideas, please share them also. The committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 6:00 pm and Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 pm.

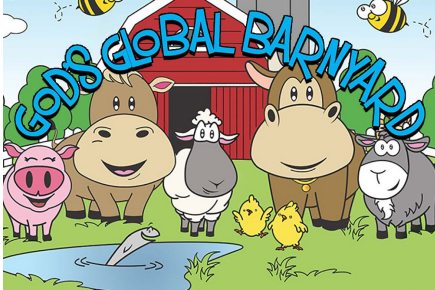
**April Lunch Bunch** is set for Thursday, March 21, 11:30 am at Ivana's Restaurant, 12 West Main Street, Plano. Please sign up in the narthex. Please call Donna Fraley at 815-263-7227 if you need a ride.

**Northern Illinois Food Bank**—Registration for the March 19th volunteer shift is closed. The next opportunity to volunteer is Tuesday, April 16. Sign-ups for April will begin in coming weeks.



## Summer Camp Opportunities

Salem's Finance Committee made the decision a few years ago to provide camperships/scholarships for Salem's young people who plan to attend church camps. You are encouraged to explore the program offerings for the two ELCA supported camps—Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center at Oregon IL ([www.lomc.org](http://www.lomc.org)) and Lutherdale Bible Camp at Elkhorn WI ([www.lutherdale.org](http://www.lutherdale.org)). For more information about camperships, please contact the church office.



Our Sunday School sharing project for Lent, 2024 is God's Global Barnyard. The congregation is invited to join them in their support of this project which is a program of ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Children will be filling piggy banks with their offerings, and the congregation may place their offerings in the ceramic pig in the narthex.



*Above:* Young worshippers listen intently to Pastor John's children's sermon.



*Above:* Acolytes assist with saying "Farewell to Alleluia" prior to the beginning of Lent.

*Below:* Sunday School students enjoyed a Mardi Gras party complete with decorated masks and games on February 11.







***Above:*** Seventeen members of the Salem volunteer team packed 5,500 pounds of onions at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on February 20.



***Above:*** Salem's Lunch Bunch enjoyed food and fellowship at the Somonauk Pancake House on February 15.



***Above:*** Helpful confirmation students, Brandon and Wyatt, have been serving soup at the Lenten Soup Suppers.

***Below:*** Many Salem members have attended the Community Lenten Breakfast Series at the Federated Church on Wednesday mornings during Lent.

