



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

March 13, 2023

VOL. 50, NO. 3

From Pastor Steve



To recognize the 250th anniversary of the hymn “Amazing Grace”, here is a brief article about the author, John Newton, and the story of how he came to write what is probably the most well-known Christian song in the English language.

“Amazing Grace” is a Christian hymn penned by the English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton to accompany a sermon he preached on New Year’s Day, 1773. Over the last 250 years, it has become an immensely popular hymn, particularly in the United States where it is used for both religious and secular purposes. The text for the hymn is drawn from 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, in which King David responds to the prophet Nathan’s words that God intends to continue David’s royal line for eternity. The text reads:

Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, “Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And even this was a small thing in your sight, O God; you have also spoken of your servant’s house into the distant future. You regard me as someone of high rank, O LORD God!”

Newton wrote the words of “Amazing Grace” from his own personal experience. He was once a man far from faith who was brought near to God by a harrowing event in his life. In 1748, while Newton served as a sea captain of a ship in the Atlantic slave trade, a violent storm off the coast of Ireland struck his vessel so severely that he called out to God for mercy. This moment marked Newton’s turn toward God, what he called “the hour I first believed.” Eventually leaving sailing behind, Newton then began studying Christian theology and was ordained in the Church of England in 1764. He served as a minister in Olney, England, where he began writing hymns.

“Amazing Grace” was published in *Olney Hymns* in 1779 but was rarely sung in England. It was in the United States where the song would become widely known during the early 1800s. While the hymn was associated with more than 20 melodies over the years, in 1835, American composer William Walker set it to the tune known as “New Britain,” and the melody stuck. Today “Amazing Grace” remains one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world.

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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Traditional Worship Coordinator

Director of Contemporary Worship

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

Maintenance

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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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CURRENT— Jo Gehlbach, Deanne Novicki

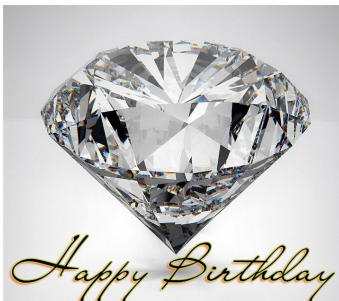
CONTINUING— Laura Caupert*, Jane Burkett*, Tom Glover*, Lila Mattson*, Shirley Hines*, Pat Clason*, Ruth Erickson*, Steve Guyer*, Ben Burkett*, Jackie Cline*, Mick Kimmey*, John Wilson, Art Kossman, Wanda Jirsa, Sam Meier, Muriel Scott, Dan Jackson, Augie Frietsch, Debi Clausen, Darwin Classon, Mike Clayton, Mary Gliszczynski, Martha Poggi, Jeanne McNish, Sylvia and Cesar Hurtago, 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—We now have a new format for our monthly calendar which will not lend itself to adding birthdays. We will be noting these significant birthdays for the month here in the Salem *LIFE*. Birthdays for March are:

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

MARCH 7, 2023 SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Salem's Congregation Council met on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Council members Jacqueline Beverage, Alan Deaton, Patricia Farley, Walter Farley, Bonnie Guyer, Durk Hellinga, Dean Lundeen, Pastor Steve Mindrup, and Nancy Rex attended this meeting.

Following devotions provided by Bonnie Guyer, minutes of the February 7, 2023, Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for January 2023. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported that all bills are currently paid and reported balances in the following accounts as of March 7, 2023.

General Fund: \$7869.32

Designated Fund: \$28,382.93

Capital Fund: \$43,923.93

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.

It was noted by members of Salem's Stewardship Committee that there is currently around \$11,000.00 available for the painting and blacktop projects scheduled for this spring. Dean Lundeen stated that the Property Committee will start getting bids on those projects.

Dean Lundeen noted that Ruth White has agreed to serve on the Auditing Committee for three years, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

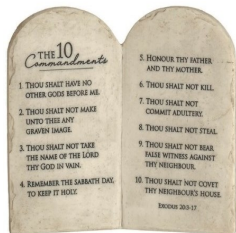
There was discussion about the work of Salem's Call Committee as the committee waits for a third candidate to interview for Salem's next pastor.



SPECIAL OFFERING UPDATES (as of March 8):

- LENT OFFERINGS FOR SALEM'S BENEVOLENCE COMMITMENT—\$2921
- SOUP SUPPER OFFERINGS FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK—\$317
- **Building on a Legacy of Faith** FOR SALEM RENOVATIONS - \$11,370

*"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.

MARCH:

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT: Remember the Sabbath Day, and keep it holy.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching or God's word, but instead keep that word holy and gladly hear and learn it.

Come Celebrate

Lutheran World Relief's

National Quilting Day

Celebrating 75 years of quilt making for people in need.

at:

Salem Lutheran Church

1022 N. Main St. Sandwich

Sat., March 18, 2023, 9:00am -noon

This Open House will include:

- Quilt Displays
- Demonstrations
- Hands on opportunities
- Info. On Salem's Quilt Ministry
- Quilt Ministry Guide
- Refreshments

All are welcome

MARCH QUILT GROUP MEETING

Salem's Quilt Group will hold one work day this month on Monday, March 13 from 9:00 am to noon. All are welcome to join them.



FRIDAY, MARCH 10—8AM-3PM:

Salem's Property Committee has set this date for an inside work day for some clean-up fix-up tasks in our building. You are welcome to come for all or any part of this time and choose a task to work on.

Anyone who is unable to come on Friday is welcome to check on what needs to be done and to come whenever convenient.



Some Fun Facts about "Amazing Grace"

- "Amazing Grace" is one of the most recorded hymns of all time. The Library of Congress has more than 3,000 recordings in its library. Popular versions have been sung by Judy Collins, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Aretha Franklin, Rod Stewart and Willie Nelson. —[How Sweet the Sound](#), p. 11
- Newton biographer Jonathan Aitken estimates that "Amazing Grace" is performed about 10 million times annually. —[How Sweet the Sound](#), p. 15
- "Amazing Grace" has been translated into more than 50 languages.
- "Amazing Grace" is commonly sung at funerals, often with bagpipes, because of his final stanzas that offer the message of peace and comfort after death.
- After Newton's ship survived the storm, it landed off the coast of Donegal, Ireland. In 2013, Ireland built a viewing platform at Lough Swilly, near Castle Bridge, County Donegal, to mark the spot where Newton began his conversion.
- Newton would become one of the most outspoken abolitionists in British history.

Credit: creativecommunications.com

Lenten Midweeks—Wednesday, March 15, 22, & 29



Supper—6:00 pm

- ◆ March 15 hosted by Christian Education & Outreach Committees
- ◆ March 22 hosted by Ruth Unit
- ◆ March 29 hosted by Stewardship & Finance Committees

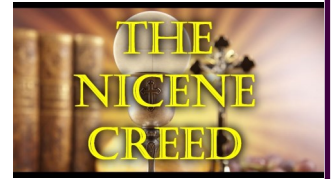
Supper offerings to N IL Food Bank

Worship—7:00 pm

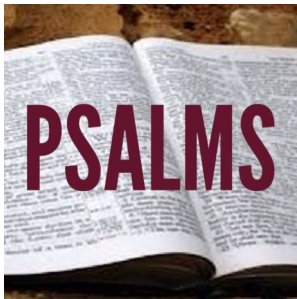
The theme of Pastor Mindrup's meditations each week will be: FROM THE NICENE CREED: "We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church."

- ◆ March 15 meditation will focus on **HOLY**.
- ◆ March 22 meditation will focus on **CATHOLIC**
- ◆ March 29 meditation will focus on **APOSTOLIC**

Lent offerings to Salem's Benevolence pledge



LENTEN BREAKFASTS AT FEDERATED CHURCH—March 15, 22 & 29—9:30 am



Each week will be hosted by a different congregation which will be responsible for providing the food, servers, worship and preacher. Each preacher will do a meditation on a Psalm of his/her choosing. Assigned host congregations are:

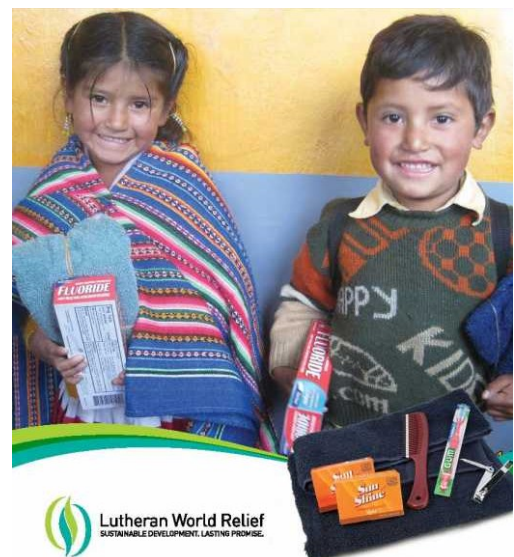
- March 15—Union Congregational Church, Rev. Ted Englesdorfer
- March 22—United Church of Sandwich, Rev. Tom Bourke
- March 29—Salem Lutheran Church, Rev. Steve Mindrup

Salem's Sharing Project for Lent

Salem's Sunday School and Christian Education Committee will sponsor the collection of the items listed below for Lutheran World Relief **PERSONAL CARE KITS**. These kits are essential in areas such as Ukraine and those affected by the recent earthquakes. Please consider helping! There are containers in the narthex all during Lent to receive your donations. If you can provide all of the items that make up a single kit, that would be great.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE** adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*
- ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



COMING SOON



NO LUNCH BUNCH OUTING IN MARCH

Salem's Lunch Bunch will not be meeting in March. The next gathering will be Thursday, April 20. Watch for details as they become available.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Registration has been submitted for our March 21st volunteer shift at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The next volunteer opportunity will be April 18th. NIFB requires registration two weeks in advance, so please sign up no later than April 4 if you plan to go in April. New volunteers are always welcome. The group meets in Salem's parking lot at 8:00 am to share rides as needed. The shift is from 9:00 to 11:30 am, and the group stops for lunch on the way home.



April 14-15, 2023

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Women who plan to attend are asked to reserve their spot as soon as possible by signing up in the narthex. Cost will be determined by the number attending, but should be in the \$100 range. If you have questions you may ask Sandy Martens, Kelly Clason or Sharon Wallis for more information.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY—APRIL 2:

9:00 am Contemporary Service of Holy Communion with Palm Procession

MAUNDY THURSDAY— APRIL 6:

12:00 noon Lunch Provided by the Worship Committee

1:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

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

GOOD FRIDAY— APRIL 7:

1:00 pm Service of Prayers and Readings

7:00 pm Service of Prayers and Readings with a Brief Cantata 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