



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

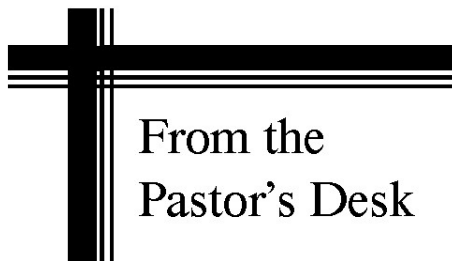
God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

MAY 10, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 5



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27

For a number of years, St. John Lutheran in Springfield has made an intentional change in the language that they use. Rather than speaking of members of the church, they now refer to everyone as disciples of Jesus. These are both good biblical images, but one is much more pointed.

St. Paul says that we are members of the Body of Christ together, like parts of the body united as one with Jesus as the head. It is a great image for how we are united and must work together as one to do the work of God's kingdom. But too many people overlook that image, and just say, "I have been a member of that church for years." They think of membership as putting your name on the church roll, coming to worship occasionally, and giving an offering to support the budget. They assume that if they do the minimum to be members, then the church owes them when they need care. That is far too limited an understanding of how we are called to follow Jesus.

Jesus calls us to be disciples, meaning learners and followers. Jesus shows us his way of life and salvation, and invites us to travel that road with him all through life. It is a difficult road, a way of walking with Jesus as he goes toward suffering and death. We each take up our cross and follow Jesus as we shape our lives to his way and his priorities.

Being a disciple of Christ calls each person to a sense of mission, commitment, and even sacrifice to do the work that God gives us to do together. It challenges us not to be stagnant in our faith, but to actively learn and grow. How is your faith shaping you, changing you from what you have been before?

Disciples will make worship a regular part of their week, without excuses. They will spend time in Bible study, individually or in groups, to listen to God's Word for us. They will develop habits of prayer, to open their hearts to God and deepen their relationship of trust with the Lord. They will find ways to serve God's people in the church and the neighbors we are given in the world around us. They will give generously of their time, their abilities, and their money to move the mission of Jesus forward.

Following Jesus as a disciple is demanding. It is life-altering, because it declares that Jesus is our Lord, and we should listen and obey his call for our lives. It is the way to be transformed in faith to truly make a difference.

I feel blessed by each of you who shares in worship and discipleship with us at Salem Lutheran. Sharing in that journey with Jesus, learning and growing together in community is what we are all about. It is not my highest priority to make sure that everyone becomes an official member right away, neatly recording their commitment on the rolls. Much more important is whether we are each living as disciples of Jesus, in worship, service, study, prayer, and mutual care.

I hope you will ponder with me what it means to be disciples of Jesus rather than simply members of the church. How might that change how we look at Salem Lutheran and what we do together?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John

What is your Favorite Hymn or Song?

You may have noticed that I love to sing. It is one of my favorite ways to share with others and express my faith in Jesus. Singing draws us together in faith and community, and fills us with joy.

I would like to ask each of you to think about your favorite hymns or songs. Flip through the red book at church and make note of the name and number of those that mean the most to you.

I would like to collect a list of favorite songs, to be sure that we include them in our worship from time to time. If there is a song that moves you and draws you close to Jesus, that is something we want to be sure to celebrate together.

I will put out a sheet in the fellowship area for people to write the number and name of a favorite song. You could also make your own list and give it to me directly. We can use those suggestions for worship planning.

Looking ahead, we will also plan to have a hymn sing in worship on June 23. I will ask you to raise your hand and call out the number of your favorite hymn, and we will sing a few verses of several hymns together. This is just another way to share our favorites with one another and will be lots of fun.

Synod Assembly In-Kind Offering

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, the Social Ministry Committee encourages the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod to have a food drive for local food pantries during the time that an in-kind offering would have been collected for Synod Assembly.

Congregations are encouraged to send pictures of your food drive. These pictures will then be shared throughout our time at Synod Assembly.

Planning for your Final Stewardship with your Will or Life Insurance

God calls us to be good stewards through all of our lives. Just as God gives us our lives, our relationships, and all that we possess, we are privileged to give back to the Lord a share of what God gives us in trust. All through life we seek to be good stewards of God's gifts, giving back a percentage of what God first gives us as our offering in faith.

When we die, we know very well that we can't take it with us. All that we leave behind will be directed somewhere, by some plan. If you were to die without a will, the State of Illinois would be happy to make those decisions for you, but I doubt you would like the outcome. So every Christian, whether affluent or not, should have a will, a plan for their final stewardship of what God gives them. After our kids were older, Elise and I redid our wills, which had gotten out of date.

In the same way, we may also have life insurance policies, directed to pay out to a beneficiary. During our working years, our family usually depends on us for financial support, and life insurance protects that. Later on, when they are more independent, we can reconsider how we would want to direct the funds from life insurance.

Have you made a will, or looked at it in recent years? Does it truly reflect what is most important to you? It is appropriate for our wills and life insurance to reflect what we value most in life, including our faith. I hope that you will consider including a gift to Salem Lutheran Church in your will, as your final stewardship. This can demonstrate the faith by which you live all your life, and give a witness to those left behind.

What is an appropriate gift to the Lord? I would recommend a percentage gift of your estate, such as a tithe (10%). Another way that people have thought about it is to treat the church equally as another child would be treated in your estate. This makes sense especially when children are grown and well-established, and don't really need a significant inheritance.

If you wish to consider a gift to Salem Lutheran, you may direct it without a designation, to the Capital Campaign, or to the Salem Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to talk to Pastor John or to the Endowment Committee. The ELCA also has a gift planning professional who can help if you wish. Your intentional gift planning can make a significant difference to the health and vitality of Salem Lutheran for the future. Thank you for your witness of good stewardship of all that God gives you!

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

1022 North Main Street—PO Box 105—Sandwich, IL 60548

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Pastor

Reverend John Rothfusz

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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

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

In our church family. . .

We are saddened to report the death of Judy Mayer, wife of former Salem Pastor Gregory Mayer. Judy passed in Rock Island on April 26. Her funeral service was held Saturday, May 4 in Rock Island. We extend our Christian sympathy to Pastor Greg, Allen, Kristine and all of their family and friends. A full obituary was forwarded to Salem members earlier via an email from Bishop Stacie Fidler.

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CURRENT—The Family and Friends of Judy Mayer

CONTINUING— Pastor Steve Mindrup, Jane Burkett*, Laura Caupert*, 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., Brad Engle, 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, 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.



Thank you Pastor John for the visits while I was in the hospital and to all my friends who sent cards and brought food to me on my return home. Also thank you for the lovely greetings on my return to church! I am truly blessed. - Laura Caupert



ONLY ONE DIAMOND BIRTHDAY TO REPORT THIS MONTH:

Dori Burau—May 16



On Sunday, April 14
Lila Rizzy Mattson
 was received as a child of God
 and a member of this
 congregation through the
 Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
 Lila is the daughter of Kurt and
 Kelsey Mattson. Laverne Mattson
 is her grandfather, and her
 grandmother is Candy Baker.
 Seth and Shawna Hoffman
 are her sponsors. We rejoice with
 Lila and her family.



Brandon Edward Beverage
 affirmed his baptismal vows
 through the Rite of Confirmation
 on Sunday, May 5 .

We celebrate with Brandon
 and his family
 on this important step
 in his faith journey.

MAY 7, 2024. CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton, Walter Farley, Bonnie Guyer, Connie Hanson, Durk Hellenga, Nancy Rex, and Pastor John Rothfusz attended this meeting.

Following devotions led by Ron Cunz, the minutes from the April 2, 2024, Salem Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for March 2024. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances as of May 7, 2024, for the following accounts.

General Fund: \$12,833.70; Capital Fund: \$27,958.87; Designated Fund: \$33,182.48

Treasurer Bonnie Guyer noted that all current bills are paid, and that it was necessary to transfer \$10,000.00 from the Capital Fund to the General Fund in order to pay our current obligations.

Regular monthly reports were given by Pastor Rothfusz and council members representing committees that had meetings since the last council meeting.

Council members voted to affirm Brandon Beverage as an adult voting member of Salem following the Rite of Confirmation.

Three motions carried concerning the job of Salem's Administrative Assistant: a motion accepting a job description for Salem's Administrative Assistant, a motion authorizing the hiring of a person for Salem's Administrative Assistant, and a motion empowering the pastor and executive committee to hire an administrative assistant when there is a need.

Alan Deaton reviewed progress made by Salem's Outdoor Sign Committee.



*Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it. Guided by the truth we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world. We invite the congregation to wear **RED** to worship on May 19, the Day of Pentecost.*

Confirmation Picture Display—In 1909 the first class of young people was confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church. We have a pictorial record of most of the classes confirmed in more than a century since then. The display has been in storage since our addition was built in 2007. The display has recently been re-installed in the fellowship hall. We could use some help with identification. Pictures are labeled with names in alphabetical order, not in the order students appear in the pictures. If you think you might be able to help identify family members, friends or even yourself, please take a few minutes to look through the pictures. There are post-it notes by each picture to write in names. Enjoy browsing, and thank you for any help you can give.

Salem's Outdoor Sign—The Salem Sign Committee is seeking your input. Pictures of many different styles of signs have been posted on the hall bulletin board. You are invited to check them over and respond to the committee with your thoughts. You may leave a note on the bulletin board or contact Pam Pescitelli (email: ppescitelli@comcast.net or text 815-786-4881). The committee will meet next on Thursday, May 16 at 6:00 pm.

Tell us about your graduates! May is graduation month. Do you have graduates in your family—middle school, high school, or college? We would also be glad to hear about any special awards and/or accomplishments. Please don't assume that we know! Get their information to us so we can recognize them in the June issue of the Salem *LIFE*.

Please help! Coffee fellowship hosts are needed for the remainder of the month of May. Please sign-up if you can help.

Thank you, Meals-on-Wheels Volunteers!—Salem volunteers delivering Meals-on-Wheels during the month of May are Holly Ballas, Kelly Clason, Ron Cunz, Jan Dunn, Deb Haag, Jerri Kuhn, Pam Pescitelli, George Webster and Dale & Ruth White. Steve & Bonnie Guyer and Dean & Dori Burau are available to substitute. Bonnie Guyer filled in for Laura Caupert as schedule coordinator. **Thanks to all these volunteers!**

Quilting—Salem's Quilt Group will hold their monthly work days on Monday & Tuesday, May 13 & 14 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. All helpers are welcome. No experience is necessary.

Lunch Bunch—The Lunch Bunch will be going to Open Range, 1 Golf View Road, Sugar Grove on Thursday, May 16. The group will meet at the church at 10:50 am and carpool to the restaurant. Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend. If you need a ride, please call Donna Fraley at 815-263-7227.

Sunday School Picnic—We will celebrate with an end-of-the-year picnic on Sunday, May 19 beginning at 11:00 am. They would like the congregation to join them for hot dogs, chips, fruit, cookies and beverages. They are hoping for a beautiful late spring day so that we can all enjoy our lovely church grounds. If you and your family would like to join us, please sign-up in the narthex to help us plan. There is also opportunity to sign-up to help supply food.

3N1 Youth Group is busy preparing for their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Kim and Jason Boczko are the adult leaders who will accompany the youth to the Gathering. The group includes two of Salem's young people, Joshua Schaefer and Pacey Wyant, along with youth from St. John's Lutheran Church of Somonauk and Bethany Lutheran Church of Leland. They will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 19 at 5:00 pm for their monthly meeting and pizza party.

Northern Illinois Food Bank— Registration is closed for the May 21st volunteer shift at Northern Illinois Food Bank. The next opportunity to volunteer will be Tuesday, June 18, 9-11:30 am. Remember that this will be during school summer break, so young people 9 and older will be eligible to sign up beginning May 26. New volunteers are welcome. Please check with Walt or Mickey Farley if you have questions.

Visit to Pavilion on Main—The Christian Education Committee is planning to take a group of children and adults to Pavilion on Main Street (formerly Willowcrest) for a short visit and sing-along with residents. We will leave right after worship on Sunday, June 2. All are invited to join us.

Father's Day Brunch—If you ARE a father. . . HAVE a father . . . or HAD a father, the Christian Education Committee invites YOU to help celebrate ALL FATHERS with a delicious brunch of biscuits and gravy, fruit, coffee and juice on Sunday, June 16th (Father's Day), 10:00 am. Please join us!

Annual Rummage & Bake Sale—United Church of Sandwich, 512 E Lions Rd, will hold its Annual Rummage and Bake Sale on June 7 and 8, 2024. Sale times are 9 AM to 5 PM on Friday, June 7, and 9 AM to 12 Noon on Saturday, June 8. Donations - clean, usable, good condition household items (please, no electronics and no furniture) - are being accepted beginning Monday, May 20 through Friday, May 31, 9 AM to 1 PM (please do not bring items after May 31st; thanks). For information, call the church office at 815-786-9243, 9 AM to 1 PM weekdays.

Community Vacation Bible School
St. John's Lutheran Church—235 S Green St, Somonauk



Come join us for Vacation Bible School

July 22nd-25th, 9am—11:30 am

Bible Stories, Crafts, Fun & Games, Snack Time
for children 3 years old (must be potty trained)
and on up to those completing 5th grade

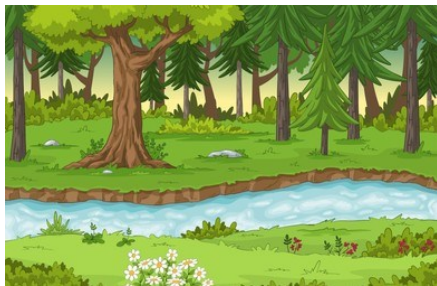
Free to all who attend

Registration forms are available from the church
office. Please contact the church office at
815-498-3667 for more information

Registration forms are available on the bulletin board at Salem. There is also information for adults and older youth who may want to volunteer to help with VBS at St. John's. Please check it out.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL
ADVENTURES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

(right after Sunday worship)



**JUNE 23—HIKE & PICNIC AT
SANNAUK FOREST PRESERVE**



**JULY 14—VISIT TO HAYES
FAMILY FARM**



**AUGUST 11—WATER GAMES
ON SALEM'S SOUTH LAWN**

**ANYONE (NO AGE LIMIT) IS WELCOME TO JOIN IN THESE ACTIVITIES.
IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE TEXT YOUR RSVP TO BONNIE AT 815-970-4753
A WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT.**

FELLOWSHIP FUN



The Fellowship Committee sponsored a trip to Cantigny Park in Wheaton on May 4. This group toured the lovely grounds and museum and enjoyed a picnic lunch together.



Above:

Donna Fraley and her grandson Michael enjoyed working on reverse glass painting at the Mother's Day Project sponsored by the Fellowship Committee and led by Libby Welsch.

More Fellowship Opportunities

The Fellowship Committee has the following activities planned for this year. We hope you can join us. Please feel free to invite your friends and other family members.

7-13 Garden Walk (meet at church parking lot at 2 pm)

8-2 Kane County Cougar baseball game (details to follow)

Joni Knox Memorial Softball Game (date tbd)

Golf Scramble (date tbd)

Christmas Caroling (date tbd)



Lunch Bunch enjoyed a meal and fellowship at Two Partners Café on April 18. You could join them on May 16.

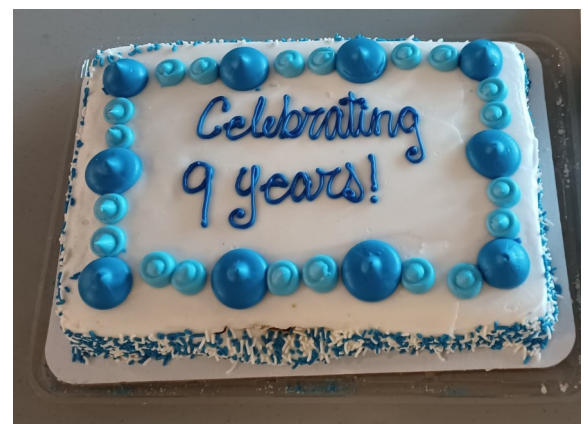


During the volunteer shift at Northern Illinois Food Bank on April 16 this group celebrated the completion of nine years of monthly volunteer shifts



Left:
Some of the original
volunteers who began
serving in 2015

Right:
Anniversary cake



Good Shepherd Sunday—April 21



During worship, Sunday School students shared the *Books of the Bible* song that Pastor John taught them.



Doug, Sharon, Bonnie & Libby, accompanied by Connie, offered *Gentle Shepherd*.



Right:
Sunday School children
did their part to help
clean up the environment.

Below:

On our first road clean-up of the season these volunteers braved chilly temperatures and strong winds to clean our assigned section of West Sandwich Road. There will be more opportunities in June, August & October.

