



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

VOL. 50, NO. 11

*From Pastor Steve*



### ***I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. Psalm 9:1***

A long time ago, a good friend, now deceased, realized that her drinking had become a problem. She reached out for help and began to attend AA meetings.

Her sponsor suggested that, every night before bedtime she should write out a “gratitude list” – at least ten things for which she was thankful. She was told that giving thanks was a way to take her focus off of quitting drinking and to center on the presence of God.

The first time she tried to do it, she spent almost two hours staring at a blank sheet of paper. So depressed and angry over her alcoholism, so unhappy with the state her life was in, she could find nothing for which she was grateful.

What’s on your gratitude list this Thanksgiving? I hope that it goes beyond wealth, status, possessions – the creature comforts we usually call “blessings” – and moves toward gratitude that you are a forgiven sinner and have been given a place in God’s eternal kingdom. I hope that you are grateful for opportunities to serve others and to allow the love of Christ to become real in your life. If resentment and anger are poisoning your thankfulness, I hope that you know that God is present with you and is ready to be gracious and make a way for you.

As we prepare to conclude this year's stewardship campaign, I hope that our gratitude to God for all that we have and all that we are will translate into generous support for the work of Salem and the work of the church throughout the world. Your annual gifts reach into hundreds of places both locally and globally. What better way to give thanks?

And what of my friend? As she recovered her sobriety and her sense of God’s work in her life, her gratitude list began to grow. Almost to the end of her days she wrote out that list every night. It had expanded to well over ten things, and took only minutes.

In that spirit, and with thanks to God for all that God has given, I wish you all a happy and peaceful Thanksgiving.

*- Steve Mindrup*

# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Serving Christ!*

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## Interim Pastor

Reverend Steven Mindrup

Phone: 815-988-4992

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

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary, Etc.

Bookkeeper

Traditional Worship Coordinator

Director of Contemporary Worship

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

Maintenance

## Staff

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

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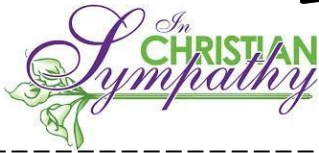
Gloria Gilbertson

Connie Hanson

Nancy Hayes

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

*In our church family. . .*



*We extend our prayers to Ernie Stumbo and his family on the recent death of Ernie's brother-in-law, John Strukel of Yorkville.*

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

**CURRENT**—Judy Anderson\*, Pastor Steve Mindrup, Robert Perales, Gloria Simpkins

**CONTINUING**— Jason Boczko, Jane Burkett\*, Laura Caupert\*, Pat Clason\*, Jackie Cline\*, Ruth Erickson\*, Elin Frietsch, Tom Glover\*, Steve Guyer\*, Jean Hanson\*, Shirley Hines\*, Matthew Kee\*, Mick Kimmey\*, LaVerne Mattson\*, Baby Henry Ryan-Melchor, Marci Bluestone, Jerry Burd, Darwin Classon, Debi Clausen, Darlene Comiskey, Connie Comer, Julie Cook, Rayden Davis, Shandol Dulin, Bobby E., Brad Engle, Sally Ferko, Kate Gage, Jo Gehlbach, Mary Gliszczynski, Mike Guzzardo, Ava Hawbaker, Debbie (White) Hinnah, Sylvia and Cesar Hurtago, Dan Jackson, Steven Johnson, Jacob Kenyon, Tanya Kimmey, Colleen McMahon, Nick Morgan, Carol Peisker, Joe Petit, Martha Poggi, Laurie Jacobson Rappa, Alphonse Somé, Erin Stiver, Joanne Sumner, Leslie Trettenero, John Wilson, Pearl Undesser, Carol Wilhelm, Tom Wysoglad, and Bridget Yaeger

**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 re-**



**On Sunday, November 5 we remembered with thanksgiving those members of Salem who have passed to the church eternal during the past year.**

**MARJORIE MEYER**

**VIRGINIA GRIMES**

**LUANN LADWIG**

**JANET KLOTZ**

**RUTH TUFTEE**

## NOVEMBER 7, 2023, SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Nine of ten council members attended this meeting. Council members elect Ron Cunz and Connie Hanson also attended this meeting.

Following devotions provided by Nancy Rex, the minutes of the October 3, 2023, Salem Congregation Council meeting and the October 22, 2023, meeting of Salem Congregation as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for September 2023. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances as of November 7, 2023, for the following accounts.

General Fund: \$8477.20

Designated Fund: \$28,990.56

Capital Fund: \$33,433.32

Treasurer Bonnie Guyer noted that although no additional transfer of funds was necessary to pay current bills, the transfer of \$7000.00 from the Capital Fund to the General Fund made last month has not been repaid. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Regular monthly reports were made by Pastor Mindrup and committee representatives. More details about committee work are available in the Salem Life, weekly news, or by talking with any congregation council member.

Thanksgiving envelope offerings were designated to the Middle East crisis and Christmas Envelope offerings and loose offering on Christmas Eve were designated to Salem's General Fund.

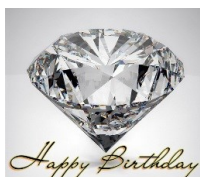
Installation of 2024 Salem Congregation Council members was set for Sunday, December 31, 2023, during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

### NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED OCTOBER 22

At the congregational meeting held on Sunday, October 22, Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton and Connie Hanson were elected to serve three year terms on Salem's Congregation Council beginning in January, 2024. Ron and Connie were newly elected, and Alan was re-elected to serve a second three-year term. We thank them for their willingness to serve in this very important way. Thanks also to those voting members who stayed after the worship service to ensure that a quorum was present to conduct the business of the congregation.

### ONE OF LIBBY WELSCH'S FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:12*



**DIAMOND PLUS (75th +) BIRTHDAY FOR NOVEMBER:**  
November 1—Shirley Hines



**VETERANS  
APPRECIATION DAY**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023**

**SALEM SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**HONORS:**

JIM BERNHARDT	DEAN BURAU
DARWIN CLASSON	RONALD CUNZ
RONALD GENGLER	THOMAS GLOVER
VERDELL "ACE" HANSON	BOB HARPSTER
JAMES KEE	MICHAEL "MICK" KIMMEY
MARTIN MUELLER	WILLIAM NEGLEY
GEORGE WEBSTER	KENT WESSON



*Thanksgiving Service*  
A Community Worship Celebration

The Sandwich-Somonauk Ministerial Alliance has set a Community Thanksgiving Worship Service for Sunday evening, November 19, 6:30 pm at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 320 South Depot Street, Somonauk.

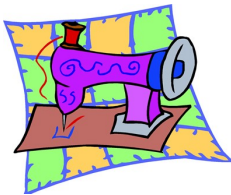


**You're Invited to a POT LUCK BRUNCH!**

**Sunday, November 12, 2023  
immediately following 9:00 am Worship with  
Veterans Appreciation**

**Pastor Dennis Heaney, Guest Speaker**

**Please bring something to share. Note: There is room for you and your family even if you have not previously signed-up.**



Salem's Quilt Group meets on Monday and Tuesday of the second week of each month to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Their next work days will be Monday and Tuesday, November 13 and 14, from 9 am to noon. Anyone who is interested would be welcome to come for any or all of the time. There is a variety of jobs—something for everyone. You do not have to have sewing experience. There are also take-home kits in the narthex for anyone who prefers to work at home.



The November gathering of Salem's Lunch Bunch will be on Thursday, November 16 at Sunfield's Restaurant in Yorkville. Meet at Salem at 11:00 am if you want to share rides, or meet at the restaurant at 11:30 am. Please sign up in the narthex.



Our November volunteer shift is set for Tuesday, November 21, 9:00-11:30 am. Registration for this shift is already closed. The next volunteer opportunity will be December 19. A sign-up sheet for December will be in the narthex later in November.

# Looking ahead to Advent & Christmas

THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

## DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Salem's Worship Committee has purchased copies of ***Come, Emmanuel: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2023—2024***. Copies of this devotional will be available soon to those who would like to explore the Advent season and celebrate the joy of the twelve days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany.

## FESTIVAL OF TREES

Salem will once again be represented at the Sandwich Park District's Festival of Trees held on December 2 & 3 in the lobby of Classic Cinema. Our Sunday School will share a tree decorated with their handmade ornaments.

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Sunday School students will present "The Sounds of Christmas" on Sunday, December 3 during the education hour beginning at 10:15 a.m. This is a delightful program written by Deb Brammer and adapted for Salem by Sharon Wallis. There are program parts for our children of all ages as they help the congregation to hear the Christmas Story in a new way.

## ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES—TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 5, 12 & 19, 6:00 pm

This midweek worship series has been planned to offer brief and reflective worship experiences to help us prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING & COOKIE DELIVERY

Salem's Fellowship Committee will coordinate Christmas Caroling and delivery of the Christmas cookies prepared by the Member Support Committee. This will be on Sunday, December 17 beginning at 2:00 pm.

## DECEMBER 24: ADVENT 4 & CHRISTMAS EVE

The 2023 calendar places both Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve on Sunday, December 24. Salem's worship schedule will be as follows:

**9:00 am—The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**5:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion**

ENV # \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ HOW MANY PLANTS? \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my plant(s) listed as follows: (i.e., in memory of, in honor of, etc.)



Will you pick up your plant(s)

after December 25th?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Please enclose \$13.00 per plant.

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

Please return your order form to Salem in person or by mail to PO Box 105, Sandwich IL 60548.



*Members of Salem Lutheran Church are blessed with many opportunities to share their time and talents and resources. Below are a few “Thank You’s” and a reminder about ongoing sharing opportunities.*

**Thank you for the great job everyone did in supporting CROP Walk 2023!**

We had 19 walkers including our Sunday School’s parking lot walkers who did a great job! Together we raised \$3,344.00. The total funds raised by all the churches in our Community Inter-faith CROP Hunger Walk totaled \$16,902.12. Hunger is such an overwhelming problem and this is a great way to show our commitment to fighting it. Our communities may be small, but with **God’s Work** to do, and **Our Hands**, we are mighty. To every donor, every walker, and every spiritual supporter, Church World Service says a huge **THANK YOU!**

Another tremendous event is in the books for **Growing Hope Globally!** We certainly chose the right Saturday for the **Harvest Celebration** considering the weather of the weekend before and after it! It was an absolutely gorgeous day!!!! Thank you to everyone who really pitched in even more than usual this year. Now what you all really want to know.....these are tentative figures, but they should be pretty close. Total raised that day was \$13,977.12.....right in line with our previous years even though our attendance was down. **Well done, good and faithful servants!** Once again thanks to generous donors, Culvers, Thrivent, Walmart and Dollar General all expenses were covered.

**COAT COLLECTION** for Hope Haven shelter in DeKalb - There are boxes in place to accept donations of good, clean winter coats, hats, mittens, and gloves for all ages. We would like to wrap this up by the first week of December.

**HATS & MITTENS/GLOVES**—The Sunday School has chosen as their sharing project children’s hats and mittens or gloves to help supplement the Hope Haven coat collection. They invite the congregation to help. If you would like to donate these items, please bring them on or before December 3, the day of the Sunday School Christmas program. They can be placed in the Hope Haven boxes.

**FRANKLIN MALL**—We will once again be a drop off location for non-perishable foods for the Sandwich Lions Club’s Franklin Mall Christmas Project. Collection bins are in place at east and west entrances.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** our ongoing collection of food for our own Blessing Box and diapers for The Diaper Closet at the Nazarene Church.

**MIDDLE EAST CRISIS**—Salem’s congregation Council has designated our Thanksgiving envelope offering to the Middle East Crisis. For those who may want to donate directly please check the websites for the following organizations: Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, or Church World Service. These are just a few of many organizations you may choose to support individually.

# October fun



**Lunch Bunch enjoyed fine food and beautiful scenery at Starved Rock.**



**This faithful crew braved a brisk Saturday morning chill to complete our final Adopt-a-Road walk of the season.**



**These Salem friends walked at Silver Springs to view the changing fall colors.**



**Sunday Schoolers joined Salem's Praise Team for a heartfelt rendition of "Jesus Loves Me" (of course, wearing their "Jesus Loves Me" T-shirts!).**

# October 28—Trunk or Treat & Bonfire/Hot Dog Roast





