



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

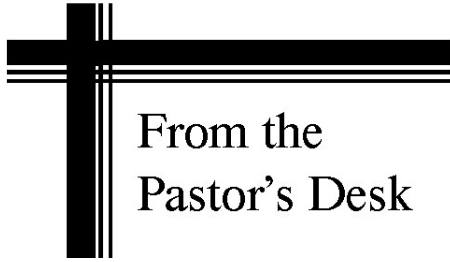
God's work. Our hands.

## The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

October 8, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 10



### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Be Awkward, So They Don't Have to Be.”

As a motto for hospitality, that is a pretty good one. I heard that phrase on a presentation for youth group leaders, and how we can guide them. Young people often are most comfortable gathering into cliques, with insiders and outsiders. They direct all of their attention and care within the group, and can be dismissive or hostile to those outside.

But if youth leaders want to make a difference for Jesus, they need to have eyes for more than just the clique of friends where they are comfortable. They need to see the ones on the outside, and engage with them. They need to broaden their circle of friends to include all those who want to be a part and learn more about Jesus. If they can “Be Awkward” to love and care for the outsiders as well as the insiders, the group will be transformed into something much more like what Jesus calls us to be.

The presenter even has her youth leaders call the kids who are missing from the group. They may be busy, or sick, or out of town, but they may also just not feel needed or welcomed. It makes an enormous difference in the lives of those kids to know that one of their peers knows them, cares about them, and reaches out to see how they are doing.

This is great advice for kids. But the thing is, it is also great advice for adults as well. We are not a highly organized youth group, with a clear covenant of expectations. But we are a part of the church of Jesus, and the same things apply to us.

What if we were to “Be Awkward” in care for each one as well? What if we come to church with our eyes open for someone new, or someone we don't talk to often, instead of just going to the comfortable circle of those we always talk to? Can we be hospitable hosts in the Lord's house, just as we would be in our own?

What if we make it abundantly clear that we are glad to see each person, and even call to check in with them if they miss? One of the big changes in church in recent years is not people dropping out, but “regular” attenders coming less often. We find many more things these days that pull us away from church and the worshipping community. We may travel, visit family, or go to an event, or just not feel like it that Sunday morning. And once we break the habit of regular worship, we find it easier to drift away more and more often.

So what would happen if we would “Be Awkward” and reach out to those who have not been here, and just check in and say that we missed them? Yes it might feel awkward, but they will also get the real feeling that we care about them and miss them. People often come to worship to be a part of the community of people who know and care for them as we share in Jesus together. And they drift away if they don't feel like they are connected or cared for in a way that matters to them.

*Continued on page 3*

# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Serving Christ!*

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

Phone: 815-786-9308

Email: [Salemilc@comcast.net](mailto:Salemilc@comcast.net)

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

## Pastor

Reverend John Rothfusz  
Phone: 779-901-0803  
[pastorjohnrothfusz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohnrothfusz@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant  
Financial Secretary, Etc.  
Bookkeeper  
Traditional Worship Coordinator  
Director of Contemporary Worship  
Organist/Pianist  
Organist/Pianist  
Maintenance

## Staff

Kelly Clason  
Gina Carlson  
Karen Wesson  
Nancy Rex  
Libby Welsch  
Gloria Gilbertson  
Connie Hanson  
Nancy Hayes

[salemilc@comcast.net](mailto:salemilc@comcast.net)  
[salem-gina@comcast.net](mailto:salem-gina@comcast.net)  
[salem-karen@comcast.net](mailto:salem-karen@comcast.net)  
[salem-rex@comcast.net](mailto:salem-rex@comcast.net)  
[salem-libby@comcast.net](mailto:salem-libby@comcast.net)

Staff Office Hours: Tues.—Thurs., 9 am—2 pm; Fri, 9 am-12 noon

*In our church family. . .*

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

**CURRENT**—Lisa Fisch, Tana Lee

**CONTINUING**— 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., 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, Bill McGing, Colleen McMahon, Pastor Steve Mindrup, 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, Carson Harris, 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.



Sunday, October 13  
Congregational Meeting  
following worship.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY, OCT 13

OCTOBER 13: Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90: 12-17;  
Hebrews 4: 12-16; Mark 10:17-31



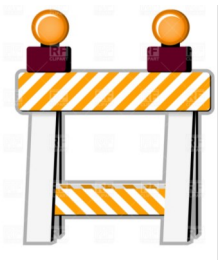
## OCTOBER "DIAMOND PLUS" BIRTHDAYS

October 3—Janet Kaiser  
October 11—Donna Fraley  
October 16—Ruth White  
October 27—Marlene Kee

I would go even further to say that we need to “Be Awkward” by inviting others we meet or know to come to worship and activities at church with us. If we go to them to make clear that they are invited, welcomed, and even expected, then people can break through their own awkwardness and come and see what God is doing among us. If we don’t invite someone, we leave all the awkwardness upon them, and they may never take the risk to come on their own. But if we invite them, and give them a warm welcome, perhaps they will decide that they might just fit in here with God’s people. You can “Be Awkward” and bring someone to Jesus, sharing the good news that will change their life and save them. With that at stake, why be stopped by a little awkwardness, considering all that God wants to do among us?

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John

### **Main Street Reconstruction in 2025**



Salem Lutheran received notice that Main Street will be reconstructed next year, including in front of the church. This is the same kind of thing that we experienced this year on Latham Street with significant shifting of traffic, and unplanned disruptions. There is not much that we can do to prepare for that project, except to be ready. We look forward to a beautiful new road in front of the church when the work is done!

### **Road Sign Team Update**

The Road Sign Team has slowed its work for a time. We don’t see much value in pushing to complete a sign along Main Street while travel there is disrupted. The team also wants to work to find agreement on a design before we rush ahead with plans, so we will probably not build a new sign along Main Street until the reconstruction is complete.

We may move quickly on a sign on the northeast wall by the parking lot. The goal here is much simpler – to have the name of the church clear for those who approach on Pleasant Ave. or park in the lot, so that people can be sure that they have come to the right place. This sign should be much simpler and less expensive.

### **Budget Requests**



The time has come for the Church Council to prepare the 2025 budget. Committees need to give their committee budget requests to Treasurer Bonnie Guyer or the church office at [salemlc@comcast.net](mailto:salemlc@comcast.net). Please get these requests in during October.



## OCTOBER 3, 2024, SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Thursday, October 3, 2024, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Jacqueline Beverage, Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton, Walter Farley, Donna Fraley, Bonnie Guyer, Durk Hellinga, Nancy Rex, and Pastor John Rothfusz attended this meeting. Connie Hanson was absent.

Following devotions led by Durk Hellinga, the minutes of the September 3, 2024, Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for August 2024. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances in the following accounts as of October 3, 2024.

General Fund: \$11,526.81      Designated Fund: \$30,760.83      Capital Fund: \$35,236.45

All bills are currently paid. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Pastor John Rothfusz presented his September 2024 report of activities including information about the Professional Leadership Conference he attended September 30 - October 2, 2024.

Council representatives serving on Salem Committees reported on work being done by the various committees.

Council members voted to nominate Dean Lundeen to be elected to the Memorial and Endowment Fund Board at the January 2025 Annual Meeting of Salem Congregation.

Council members spent some time reviewing plans for the meeting of Salem Congregation scheduled for Sunday, October 13, 2024, starting immediately following the worship service at approximately 10:00 a.m.

There was some discussion about Salem's policy on raffles and other fund raisers.

The motion was carried for Pastor Rothfusz to stay on the Portico Gold Plus Plan.

Pastor Rothfusz initiated some discussion about locking the building and keys to Salem.



On Sunday, October 6, **Brynnlee Bee Diggle** and **Grace Lee Diggle** were received as children of God and members of this congregation through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Brynnlee and Grace are the daughters of Haley Claxton and Daniel Diggle, sisters to Raelynn. Todd Claxton is their grandfather. We rejoice with Brynnlee and Grace and their family.



## Congregational Meeting is Sunday, October 13

The council has set the October Congregational Meeting for October 13 after worship. We will hold elections for council members and consider amendments to our Salem Constitution. Please put that date on your calendar, and be sure to share with your Salem Family as we work together.

### 1. Amendment for Endowment and Memorial Board terms

Current text: C5.05.01

....Members shall not be eligible for consecutive terms and may serve no more than 2 non-consecutive terms....

The proposed text C5.05.01

....*Members shall be eligible for two consecutive terms....*

Rationale: The Endowment and Memorial Board is concerned qualified and interested members would not be eligible to serve in this role. This would remove the restriction on serving more than one term at a time, or two terms ever. Instead, people could serve two terms in a row, and serve again at a later time, as we permit with the church council.

### 2. Call Committee Proposed Change

Current text: C13.05. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a **Call Committee** of six voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor. By seeking God's will for the congregation through prayer, interviews, consulting of references, and conversation with one another, this committee is to *unanimously* recommend a candidate to the Congregation Council for their consideration.

Proposed text: C13.05 ....this committee is to *find a consensus* to recommend a candidate to the Congregation Council for their consideration.

Rationale: The Call Committee has had difficulty reaching a unanimous vote. A consensus that everyone can accept should be sufficient.

### 3. Congregation Meeting Quorum proposed change

Current text: C10.04. *40 voting members* shall constitute a quorum.

Proposed text: C10.04. *10 percent of the voting members* shall constitute a quorum.

Rationale: The model constitution recommends setting a percentage instead of a fixed number for a quorum. Salem Lutheran has sometimes had difficulty reaching a quorum for a meeting, and it is safer to have it pegged to the actual membership and not as fixed number. The risk is that some churches have been unable to reach a quorum to do essential business. Salem's current confirmed (voting) membership is 398, so a current quorum would still be 40.



**GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY** PUBLIC INVITED!  
FREE admission

**Come... enjoy HARVEST DAY**  
Saturday OCTOBER 19 • 2024  
SANDWICH FAIRGROUNDS  
1401 Suydam Road • Sandwich, Illinois  
FOLLOW THE SIGNS



**10:30am Celebrating 25 Years**

Join us in celebrating 25 years of helping to make hunger unacceptable in our world. Take a horse drawn wagon ride, enjoy photos of years past, hear wfrom the new CEO of Growing Hope Globally, Kaitlyn Slate.



- Lunch Served
- Fun, family activities
- Auction — **HOMEMADE PIES & MORE**
- Displays & Demonstrations

**www. Growing Hope Globally.org**

**OVER \$1,991,000**  
equates to 36,200 people raised to food security since 2004  
40 Farmers + 33 Churches\* = \$ 70,000.00 (Projected 2024)  
from the Somonauk, Earlville, Twin Rivers/Barrington, and Western Springs/Mazon Growing Projects  
helping people in developing countries become self-sufficient in growing their own food  
More Info: [TJLundeen@gmail.com](mailto:TJLundeen@gmail.com)  
\*REPRESENTING 9 DENOMINATIONS WORKING TOGETHER

**See you there!**



Rain or Shine

## Northern Illinois Food Bank

### Sign up by Tuesday, November 5

The next opportunity to volunteer at the Northern Illinois Food Bank will be Tuesday, November 19, from 9:00-11:30 am. New volunteers are welcome! Sign up in the narthex by November 5, email Walt and Mickey Farley at [wmfarley@comcast.net](mailto:wmfarley@comcast.net), or send text to (815) 508-1265.

If you would like to car pool, meet at Salem that morning at 8:00 am on November 19.

The December date is Tuesday, December 17.



## Meals on Wheels

Salem volunteers delivered Meals on Wheels in September. The next opportunity is in May. Laura Caupert has organized our team of volunteers. Thank you to: Dean & Dori Burau, Ron Cunz, Jan Dunn, Kelly Clason, Steve & Bonnie Guyer, Pam Pescitelli, and Patty Farley, substitute.



## Our Sharing Pantry

Jan Dunn, and Donna Fraley work at Our Sharing Pantry in Somonauk every Thursday. The pantry is a resource for anyone in our area who is in need of help with feeding their family. The organization is the result of area churches providing a much needed resource. The Northern Illinois Food Bank is a cooperating partner.

Hours of distribution are: 8:30 to 10:30 on Thursday mornings and the third Monday of every month from 4:00—6:00 pm. Our Sharing Pantry is located at St. John Lutheran Church in Somonauk.



## STYROFOAM COLLECTION

The Green Team asked you to save your Styrofoam for recycling and you responded! We filled the Green Machine to the brim.

The next recycling day will be Sunday, November 17th in Salem's parking lot.

Bring your Styrofoam to Alan's green recycling machine (pick-up truck).

## Welcome to Sunday School!

Chase, Oakley, and Hallie have reached the age to join Salem's Sunday School.

It is also a favorite time for Sharon Wallis of the Christian Education Committee to give the three-year-olds their first story Bible.



(left) Chase Steven Klingberg showing off his gift of The Beginner's Bible. (Right photo) Oakley Anne VanPelt and Hallie Jo Hayes received their Bible from Sharon Wallis on Rally Day.



## SCHOOL KITS ARE PACKED!

Salem's Sunday School students recently packed 63 Lutheran World Relief School Kits. The kits are packed in special cloth bags made to LWR specifications. The Christian Education Committee and Sunday School are grateful to all those who contributed the school supplies and to Cheryl Carls and Paula Mueller who sewed the bags.

The kits have been boxed and are ready for delivery to the distribution warehouse.

**Gods work. Our hands.**



## Lunch Bunch

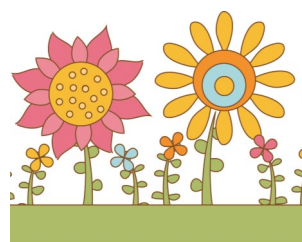
### Wednesday, October 16

The Lunch Bunch enjoyed food and fellowship at Cielito's in downtown Plano in September. Pat brought out-of-town guests, Bev and Bob Tarpey from River Grove. Enjoying the lunch together were Kelly, Sharon, Pastor John, Sandy, Donna, Doug (photographer), Dale, Ruth, Bonnie, Laura, Marilyn, Durk and Pat.

The next Lunch Bunch outing will be Wednesday, October 16 at 11:30 am at Letty Mae's Tea Room in Morris. Please sign up if you plan to go. Call Kelly Clason (815.325.4075) if you need a ride.



**Adopt-a-Road: Next date is  
Saturday, October 19 at 8:00 am.  
Meet at Prairie View Elementary School  
at 1201 N. Castle, Sandwich.**



### Church Flower Garden Update

Dean and Dori Burau have done an amazing job with the flower garden across the road from the front of the church. They made an eye-catching display of color and greenery that we all enjoyed. We appreciate all of the time and creativity that they have brought to this garden over the years.

But nothing stays the same forever. Dean and Dori are ready to step back from planting and tending this flower garden. We would love to find a team of people who will imagine what that flower garden could look like in the future, and work together to make it happen. If you are interested in working with that project, please let us know.

## Women's Retreat at LOMC 2025

Planning is starting for the Women's Retreat. LOMC Cabins are reserved for Friday, April 25, 2025 and all day Saturday, April 26. If God is calling you to help with this ministry, please talk with Sharon Wallis. Costs to be announced.



This picture shows the 3-bed rooms that are used during the retreat.

### Thank you for Making Salem Beautiful

Thank you to all the volunteers who beautify Salem's lawns and flowers! Special thanks to Lyle Anderson, Ron Cunz, Bonnie & Steve Guyer, Dean Lundeen, and Laverne Mattson for summer mowing and tree trimming and to Sandy & Dave Martens, Dori & Dean Burau, and Alan Deaton and Jan Dunn.





Sunday School CROP WALKERS.

These walkers/donors thank you all for your support! Not pictured: Bonnie Guyer and Walt Farley.





**GROWING  
HOPE**  
G L O B A L L Y

### Somonauk Area Growing Project

I am interested in becoming a "Farm Partner" with Growing Hope Globally Somonauk Area Growing Project. I am willing to help by donating the following:

- \$150 to sponsor the cash rent for ½ acre of land
- \$75 to sponsor the cash rent for ¼ acre of land
- \$200 to sponsor the input costs for ½ acre of land
- \$100 to sponsor the input costs for ¼ acre of land
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ cash donation

**Please make checks out to "Somonauk Area Growing Project" with Growing Hope Globally in the memo line.**

Yes, I would be willing to help with the following:

- Set-up on Friday, October 18 at 9:00am
- Registration
- Serve food
- Sell raffle tickets that day
- Help monitor children's activities
- Bake cookies
- Provide a pie for the pie auction
- Take-down/clean-up on Sat., Oct. 19 about 2pm

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

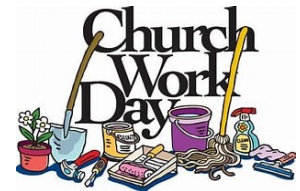
Please place the completed form in the offering plate, or mail to Jerry Lundeen, 2748 N. 4759<sup>th</sup> Rd., Sandwich, IL 60548.

### Many Hands Welcome

The Property Committee has scheduled a Salem Workday on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 am.

Projects will include: sanding & repainting the outside railing on the north side of church; window glazing; tree removal; window cleaning. Bring the tools you may need.

Come anytime. All helpers are welcome!



### Diaper Donations October 20

Diaper donations are accepted any Sunday, but especially on the third Sunday of the month. Diapers are passed along to the Sandwich Church of the Nazarene which hosts The Diaper Closet. Families are not required to be residents of Sandwich to receive diapers or other supplies.

### DONATION

Leigh-Leigh Kossman knows of a piano and piano organ that can be donated. If you are interested, let her know or call the office.



### Joy of Being Poured Out

The stewardship committee is planning this year's annual renewal campaign. To help with the mailing, please contact Kelly, Donna, or Sharon.

**Commitment Sunday is November 24**



Salem's  
21<sup>st</sup> Annual



# TRUNK OR TREAT

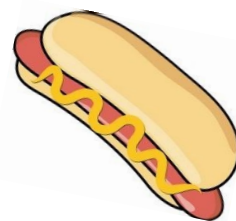
Saturday, October 26—2-3 pm

We invite all members and friends to park their decorated vehicles in the parking lot and hand out treats. Please sign-up if you plan to bring your vehicle. We have invited the children of the community to participate along with our own members. Please bring your children or your grandchildren and invite your friends and neighbors.

## Bonfire & Weenie Roast

3-5:00 pm

after Trunk or Treat



Immediately following Trunk or Treat the Fellowship Committee will host this fun-filled outing for EVERYONE, regardless of age. Come alone or bring the whole family! Invite friends. Bring lawn chairs & dress for the weather. If you can, consider bringing an extra chair or two for any guests. The committee will provide the hot dogs, the makings for s'mores, and beverages. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to pass.



Salem Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 105

Sandwich, IL 60548

### **Community Fellowship Feast**

Taco Tuesday, hosted by Salem, will be on Tuesday, October 22 from 4:30—6:00 pm. Many hands are needed to help and you may sign up in the narthex. This meal is open to the community.

### **Joni Knox Memorial Kickball Game**

The Fellowship Committee hosted a fun afternoon at the Sannauk Forest Preserve. Fourteen participants came to play, watch, and share a meal on a beautiful fall day.

