



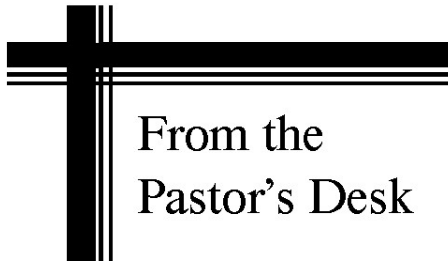
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

September 1, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 9



From the
Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

On your marks, get set, go!

When running a race, speed is only important if I follow the right route. The fastest runner stands no chance if he leaves the proper path!

Driving like a madman, rocketing past the speed limit, makes no sense if I have no idea where I am going. I simply get lost more quickly. (It isn't hard for me to get lost even at a normal speed!)

What we need is direction first, and speed later.

Ruben Duran, the ELCA senior adviser for new ministry development, put it this way. It's something he heard from his father years ago. Direction first...speed later.

Too often I am a person who relies on speed. Fall is right around the corner, and that means new programs, new activities, new leaders, and new excitement. The calendar year may begin in January, but church calendars tend to revolve around the school year. I have to get lots of things ready and moving all at once. I come into the office every morning and hit the ground running. I have the need...for speed!

Ruben's words struck a nerve with me. Have I been racing along so fast that I've forgotten to make sure that I have the direction right? Do I need to pause before 'hitting the gas' to make sure I'm on the right road?

I once saw a bumper sticker, saying, "Jesus is coming – look busy!" It made me laugh. We want to be found doing the Lord's work when he comes, faithfully loving and serving others in Jesus' name. But unlike your teacher or your boss, Jesus won't be fooled if you suddenly "look busy" when he returns. Jesus knows exactly what we do each day, whether we are going in the right direction, and at what speed.

"Looking busy," or going really fast is not God's goal for us. When I was a student, I could see that it was much more effective when classmates would make a plan, and work steadily and consistently to study and review the material, than when they would panic, pulling an all-nighter to cram when a paper or test was due.

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Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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In our church family. . .



Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of JIM WHITTEN who passed away on August 9, 2024. May the prayers of their Salem friends especially bring comfort and peace to his wife, Pat Whitten, and his son's family, Jeff & Tanja Whitten and their son Tyler.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CURRENT—The Family and Friends of Jim Whitten*

CONTINUING— 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., 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, 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

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY, SEPT 1 & 8

SEPTEMBER 1: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15;
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SEPTEMBER 8: Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146;
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 7:24-37



SEPTEMBER **"DIAMOND PLUS" BIRTHDAYS**

September 4—Lyle Anderson
September 4—Judy Eriksson
September 13—Jerry Davis
September 20—Ruth Erickson
September 29—Kent Wesson

Continued from page 1, written by Pastor John

Having the right sense of direction to study early and appropriately was far more important than proving your stamina and speed in the final stretch. I tried to be among those who got a good night's sleep before a test, knowing that I was going the right direction, as ready as I could be. Most of the time that paid off.

At church, it is easy to get caught up in the rush of the fall activities, revving up and burning rubber to get to full speed as quickly as possible. That is the nature of getting into the busy season. But in any season, we need to take the time to think about our direction. Does all this busyness and speed get us anywhere? Is it truly leading us to focus more on God and his call for our lives?

Jesus gives us our direction through the faithful practices of Christian discipleship: daily prayer, weekly worship, Bible reading, serving others, spiritual friendships, and giving generously. When we take time to incorporate these into our schedule, we begin to find a plan, a direction for our journey of faith. Living out these faithful practices changes our perspective and changes our heart, so that our direction is shaped by God's direction, and our goals are formed by God's goals in the world.

So before you start the race each day, running at full speed, take a moment to think about your direction. Are you willing to take some time reading the map, dwelling in God's Word? Are you prepared to talk to the guide, when you make a time for daily prayer? Are you willing to go with the team God gives you, by gathering for weekly worship, and nurturing special Christian friendships? Are you willing to follow the way that Jesus shows us, by serving others willingly, and giving generously to support God's work?

Direction first... Speed later. God is more concerned that we turn our hearts to follow him, and move in the right direction. Of course we want to work our hardest and do our best, but first we make sure we are running in the right direction.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John

Thanks to Pastor Peter Reuss for ideas that got me started.

Work Clothes Sunday for Labor Day – September 1

What are you doing every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. – or whenever your work schedule might be? What are you wearing? Our daily work is a way that we give glory to God and serve the needs of our neighbor. Let's celebrate that work by wearing our work clothes to church on Sunday, September 1st. Whether that might be scrubs to work in the hospital, suit and tie for the office, a uniform, or even the ratty clothes you wear to work in your garden, these are ways that we work to bless God's world. So celebrate that! Thank you for all that you do in Jesus' name!



Fair Sunday—Sunday, September 8

On September 8 our worship schedule will change for the day. Salem will hold a worship service at 10:30 am which allows for Pastor John to preach at the worship service at the Sandwich Fair at 8:30 am. The community worship service will be at the Ag Land stage and begin at 8:30 am. It is good to make time for worship whatever may be happening.

----- Food Ministry -----

Our Sharing Pantry

We want to thank you so much for your ongoing support. We are currently serving 45-50 families each month who are in need of food support. We are located at St. John's Lutheran Church at 235 S Green Street in Somonauk. We are open for distribution every Thursday morning from 8:30—10:30 am and the 3rd Monday of the month from 4:00—6:00 pm. We provide individual, personalized shopping experience for our neighbors in need. This includes fresh produce, as well as meat, dairy, dry shelf commodities, lightbulbs and personal toiletries for each family. We also provide special programs throughout the year such as school supplies and holiday dinner boxes.

How can YOU help?

1. Consider referring a family in need to our Pantry.
2. Make a financial donation to help us continue to provide help for all families. Make checks payable to Salem, Memo: Our Sharing Pantry.
3. Consider a donation of items we need, such as soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, canned fruit or vegetables, etc.
4. Consider becoming a volunteer in our Pantry! We welcome the chance to introduce you to our wonderful team and neighbors!

Check out Our Sharing Pantry on Facebook.

Salem volunteers, Donna Fraley and Jan Dunn, will be happy to answer your questions.

Northern Illinois Food Bank - Sign up by Tuesday, September 3

The next opportunity to volunteer at the Northern Illinois Food Bank will be Tuesday, September 17, from 9:00-11:30 am. New volunteers are welcome! Sign up in the narthex by September 3, email Walt and Mickey Farley at 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. October date is Tuesday, October 15.



CROP WALK—October 6

Would you like to be a walker or a donor or both to help Crop Walk fight hunger? Imagine the impact we can make by donating to eliminate hunger both locally and through Church World Service.

Our host church is the Congregational Church, and plans are to walk at the Somonauk Community Park. See Salem's coordinator, Jan Dunn, to get involved in this important ministry.



Donate while you dine! Visit Culver's of Plano on September 18th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, and they will donate a percentage of sales to Crop Hunger Walk. You MUST TELL them you are helping Crop Walk.

Meals on Wheels—Month of September

Salem is responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels in September. 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.





SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Salem's Congregation Council will meet Tuesday, September 3. Due to the early publication of the September issue of *The Salem Life*, a meeting summary is not included. A summary will be provided to the congregation via email on Tuesday, September 10.

Congregational Meeting 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.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

The Endowment and Memorial Committee has expressed a concern that our current requirements in the church constitution will make it too difficult to find members. The Church Council is recommending a change to the constitution to be voted on at the October 13 congregational meeting. If it passes with a majority, it would need to be ratified by a 2/3 vote at the January annual meeting.

The current text of the constitution says that Endowment and Memorial Committee
C5.05.01....Members shall not be eligible for consecutive terms and may serve no more than 2 non-consecutive terms....

The proposed text simplifies this to say:

C5.05.01....Members shall be eligible for two consecutive terms....

This matches our practice for council members, who may serve two terms, and may come back later to serve again. Please ask Pastor John or council members if you have any questions.

Additionally, at the September 3, 2024 Council meeting, the council will be considering other possible changes to the Constitution. We will send an email to you on September 10 regarding Constitutional amendments that the Salem Congregation Council has considered.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is beginning its work, praying and considering who God wants to have us call forth as leaders for the ministry of Salem Lutheran. Please pray that God will raise up the right people to energize and strengthen our ministry, and have an open heart to respond joyfully if you are called to serve.

Confirmation Classes to Begin

Confirmation is a time for our young people to claim the faith of their baptism for themselves, and think more deeply about what it means to live as a Christian in the world. Salem Lutheran will continue our shared confirmation program with St. John Lutheran in Somonauk. Confirmation classes will begin this fall with an organizational meeting on September 11 at 6:30 p.m. at St. John. Regular Wednesday classes will begin the following week on September 18 at 6:30 p.m. Please talk to Pastor John if you have any questions.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Thank you so much! to all our Salem Family members who attended and/or provided refreshments for the Celebration of Life we had for Shelly Claxton on July 27, 2024. The refreshments were fantastic, plentiful and very satisfying to all who came. It was great to have so many people there who loved Shelly as we did and to share their stories and memories of her with us. We cannot express in words how grateful we are or how much it meant to all of us to have you celebrate Shelly's life with us. Without a doubt, Salem has the best church family and we cherish being part of it.

We thank God for bringing our family to Salem so many years ago and are forever grateful for all the love and support Salem and our Salem Family have provided to us over the years. You have blessed us in so many ways and shown us God's love and grace in action in all you have done for us.

With all our love,

Todd Claxton and Family (Haley, Dan, Raelynn, Grace, Brynlee, Sara, & Jordan)

P.S. We have a few extra hot pink silicone wristbands with Shelly's name on them still available in child, adult, and extra-large sizes. If you weren't able to attend or missed picking one up when you were there, contact Todd and let him know you'd like one (or more).

Culver's
will help
CROP
WALK

DONATE WHILE *You Dine!*

Visit Culver's of Plano on September 18th from 5pm to 8pm and we will donate a percentage of sales to Crop Hunger Walk.

Give LOCAL
FOOD. FAMILY. FUTURE.
Culver's



Come on in to your local Culver's restaurant:

Culver's of Plano
6400 Lakeside Rd Plano, IL 60545
630-273-2491

Culver's

It's Time for Rally Day!



Make plans to attend Worship and Fun Festivities!

WORSHIP

Sunday, September 15 will be RALLY DAY at Salem. It is time to get back into our routine after the more casual days of summer. School is back in session, the Sandwich Fair will be behind us, and we anticipate crisp Fall days.

Join us on September 15 for worship at 9:00 am. The Christian Education Committee has invited three-year-olds to be present to receive their very own Bibles.

FOOD

All are invited to enjoy potluck brunch in the fellowship hall following worship. Please sign up to let us know what you plan to bring so we can be assured of a good variety of dishes.

QUILT FUNDRAISER KICK-OFF

Salem Quilters will be holding a Quilt Fundraiser beginning on Rally Day, Sept. 15th. You will have an opportunity to win one of 3 beautiful quilts! The purpose is to raise money for quilting supplies, sewing machine repairs and service; and shipping costs to send finished quilts to Lutheran World Relief. You can purchase 1 ticket for \$5 or 3 tickets for \$10 for a chance to win a beautiful quilt, which will be on display soon. Bonnie or other quilters will have tickets available. The drawing will be held October 13th after the Congregation Meeting. Thank you for supporting this wonderful ministry at Salem!

Diaper Donations—September 15

Diaper donations are accepted any Sunday, but especially on the third Sunday of the month, which in September is on Rally Day. 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.

SCHOOL KIT REMINDER

School kit supplies are due 9/15/24.

STYROFOAM COLLECTION

Bring your Styrofoam for recycling 9/15/24

- - - - - Important Upcoming Dates - - - - -

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, September 18

The Lunch Bunch enjoyed food and fellowship at Tap House Grill in downtown Oswego in August. The next Lunch Bunch outing will be Wednesday, September 18 at 11:30 am at Cielito Mexican Restaurant in Plano. Please sign up if you plan to go. Call Donna (815-263-7227) if you need a ride.



Adopt-a-Road

Saturday, October 19

Good Job! Volunteers completed road clean-up on August 24. Next date is Saturday, October 19 at 8:00 am.



Ruth Unit

Wednesday, September 25 at 1:00

The Ruth Unit started their year off with a luncheon at the Somonauk Pancake House on Wednesday, August 28th. Monthly meetings will be held at Salem at 1:00 pm for Bible Study and fellowship. All are welcome. For more details, talk with Ruth White.



and lastly.....

- **Quilting Days—Monday, September 9th and Tuesday, September 10th**
- **Diaper Collection—Sunday, September 15th**
- **Styrofoam containers and packing foam pick up at Salem—Sunday, September 15th**
- **Visit Culver's in Plano –Mention Crop Hunger Walk—Wednesday, September 18th**
- **Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center annual Autumn Fest—Saturday, October 12th.**
LOMC is combining it with their 50th Anniversary Celebration. Check out their website for details.
- **Adopt-a-Road October 19th**
- **Harvest Celebration at the fairgrounds for Growing Hope Globally—Saturday, October 19th.**
- **Community Dinner at Salem—Tuesday, October 22nd**
- **Trunk or Treat and Wienie Roast—Saturday, October 26th**