



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

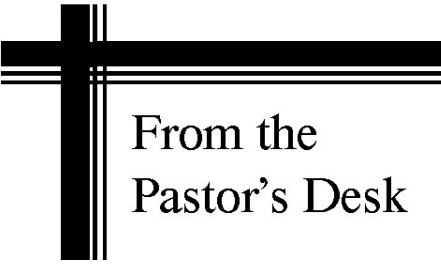
God's work. Our hands.

## The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

APRIL 5, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 4



### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is Risen! We will spend the entire month of April and half of May in the season of Easter. Resurrection and its implications for our lives will permeate each worship service. This is a challenge for pastors because people typically think of Easter as a one day event. After sitting quiet and somber all through Lent we fire off all our guns on Easter Sunday morning – the sanctuary full of banners, colors

and lilies, the music unrestrained and joyful, the Easter dresses flowering with colors of spring. We hunt Easter eggs and share an Easter feast. And then life goes on as if nothing has changed.

Pastors often notice that church attendance tends to drop off after Easter, in spite of the nicer weather. The first Sunday after Easter is famous among pastors as being one of the most poorly attended worship services of the year. No wonder that many pastors take vacation right after the press of Holy Week and Easter. Is this the new life in Jesus we expect?

Easter is the central event in the church year, and the center of our faith. Because Jesus has died and risen again, everything is now different. Through our baptism we have died and risen with our Lord, so that his new reality is ours as well. As Christians, our life is not our own. We have died and risen with Christ, and our new life is bound to the Lord Jesus forever.

Paul puts it this way in Galatians 2. "I have been crucified with Christ; <sup>20</sup>and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

For Paul – and now, for us – the death and resurrection of Christ are, in a sense, almost like one event. They are inextricably bound together – you can't talk about one without leading directly to the other one. The Easter event is Christ's story, and our story, as we live in Christ.

This changes everything. We are people of the resurrection. In our baptism we have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection, dying to sin every day so that God may raise us up to a new life each day. This repeated action stands at the center of our life together. So when we neglect the new resurrection life that belongs to the baptized children of God, we hold God's very best gift in contempt and our faith truly is for nothing.

But now Christ is risen! And this is not just a one day celebration; it is the event that defines our whole lives each new day. Because of this event that you have been joined to in the waters of baptism you now abide in newness of life each and every day of the year.

But let's just start with the season of Easter, the fifty days following the Day of Resurrection. That's right, our Easter celebration is ten days longer than our Lenten repentance. And let's carry the celebration of Easter into every Sunday of the year, because that's the day of the week when we discovered the tomb was empty. So come to church for all of this Easter season and celebrate with all the saints the resurrection life we share in Christ Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Rothfus

# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Serving Christ!*

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## Staff

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary, Etc.

Bookkeeper

Traditional Worship Coordinator

Director of Contemporary Worship

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

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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. . .*

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:**

**CURRENT**—Laura Caupert\*, Nancy Fatland\*, the Family and Friends of Gloria Fry (mother-in-law of Todd Claxton & grandmother of Haley and Abbey)

**CONTINUING**—Pastor Steve Mindrup, Jane Burkett\*, Pat Clason\*, Jackie Cline\*, Ruth Erickson\*, 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, 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.**

*Dear Salem friends,*

*Thank you so much for your generous retirement gift, and for all the good wishes you sent our way. We think you all know how much both of us loved being at Salem. We miss you all very much. We pray that Salem will continue to bring Christ to Sandwich for many years to come. Know that you profoundly touched our hearts and strengthened our spirits.*

*Peace be with you!*

*Steve and Kelley Mindrup*



## APRIL 2, 2024. CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Jacqueline Beverage, Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton, Walter Farley, Bonnie Guyer, Connie Hanson, Durk Hellinga, Nancy Rex, and Pastor John Rothfusz attended this meeting.

The meeting started with council members noting memorable things about the 2024 Season of Lent and Easter Sunday. Good comments were made about the Sunday worship services, midweek worship services, and other events during Lent.

Following devotions provided by Bonnie Guyer, council members accepted the minutes of the March 3, 2024, Salem Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage.

Council members studied the financial reports for January and February 2024. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances as of April 2, 2024, for the following accounts.

General Fund: \$15,871.95

Designated Fund: \$31,556.50

Capital Fund: \$33,928.86

Treasurer Bonnie Guyer noted that it was not necessary to borrow from other funds to pay our regular bills although some payments were held until after receiving the generous Easter Sunday offerings. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

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

Representatives from the recently formed Salem Job Description Committee, Salem Outdoor Sign Committee, and Salem Tech Committee reported on progress made with the startup of those committees.

**Adult Class**—Most Sundays after worship and a little time for coffee, Pastor John will lead an adult class in the main conference room. We read together the readings for the next Sunday and discuss what we hear, so that we can think about these texts and be better prepared to hear them in worship the following weekend. We have had a great group and would love to have you share with us.

**Lutheran Identity/New Member Class**—Are you interested in becoming a member of Salem Lutheran? Or are you a member, but would like to know more about the faith that we share? If there is an interest, Pastor John will lead a class to go over some basics about our Lutheran faith and who we are as God's church. Please let Pastor John know if you are interested in taking part.

**Summer Camp Opportunities**—Salem's Finance Committee made the decision a few years ago to provide camperships/scholarships for Salem's young people who plan to attend church camps. You are encouraged to explore the program offerings for the two ELCA supported camps—Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center at Oregon IL ([www.lomc.org](http://www.lomc.org)) and Lutherdale Bible Camp at Elkhorn WI ([www.lutherdale.org](http://www.lutherdale.org)). For more information about camperships, please contact the church office. Both camps are holding special events on April 20. Please see the attached flyers if you are interested.

# April

**Salem's Outdoor Sign**—The Salem Sign Committee is seeking your input. When you see an attractive sign, please take a picture and send it to Pam (email: ppescitellii@comcast.net or text 815-786-4881). If you have any suggestions or ideas, please share them also. The committee will be meeting on Tuesdays, April 9 & 23 at 6:00 pm.

**3N1 Youth Group** is busy preparing for their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. The group will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, April 13. They will meet at Bethany Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 14 at 5:00 pm for their monthly meeting and pizza party.

**Northern Illinois Food Bank**—Registration for the April 16 volunteer shift is closed. In April we begin our tenth year of regular monthly volunteering. The next opportunity to volunteer is Tuesday, May 21. Sign-ups for May will begin in coming weeks.

**April Lunch Bunch** is set for Thursday, April 18, 11:30 am at Two Partners Café, 212 Mitchell Drive, Plano. Please sign up in the narthex. If you need a ride, please call Donna Fraley at 815-263-7227

**Adopt-a-Road** - Our first road clean-up walk is set for 8:00 am Saturday, April 20, starting at Prairie View School. Walkers of all ages are welcome. Please wear boots or sturdy shoes, long pants and sleeves, and work gloves. Safety vests and bags will be provided. The walk takes approximately one hour. We will save April 27 as a rain date.

**Mother's Day Project**—The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a painting project for adults and children on Saturday, April 27 at 1:00 pm. Libby Welsch will offer all materials to paint your choice of several items for a \$5.00 charge. Choices are a mug, tea cup, clear plate, clear vase, or mason jar with lights. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to be included.

**Meals-on-Wheels for May**—Now is the time to volunteer to help deliver Meals-on-Wheels during the month of May. Bonnie Guyer is filling in for Laura Caupert as schedule coordinator. She will be contacting persons who have previously volunteered. New helpers would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Bonnie to offer your help or to have questions answered.

**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.



**Cantigny Trip**—The Fellowship Committee is hosting a visit to Cantigny Park in Wheaton on Saturday, May 4. The group plans to meet at the church at 9:00 am and car pool together. Please watch for further information.

# INSTALLATION OF PASTOR JOHN ROTHFUSZ AS PASTOR OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH 10, 2024



The Reverend Jennifer Beamsley, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA, was the officiant.



Sunday School students sang "We Are the Church".



In true Salem tradition, a delicious potluck brunch and fellowship followed the worship service.

Welcome,



Pastor John.



Above: Diners enjoyed five soup suppers on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Suppers were hosted by various committees.



Left: This group of 17 volunteers packed 4,228 pounds of canned corn at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on March 19.



### National Quilting Day

Salem's quilters celebrated by hosting coffee hour on March 16 complete with demonstrations of the work they do. Some of the quilters are pictured on the left showing how they cut, sew, and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They currently have 56 quilts packed and ready for delivery to the warehouse in Elgin.

Quilters meet on Monday and Tuesday of the second week of each month. Their next work days will be Monday and Tuesday, April 8 and 9 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 those who prefer to work at home.





**EASTER BRUNCH: "Be present at our table, Lord..."**



**Ready for the egg hunt**

