



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 8, 2023

VOL. 50, NO. 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SPECIAL MEETING OF SALEM CONGREGATION
FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CALLING A FULL-TIME PASTOR
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023—10:00 AM
FOLLOWING 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

MEET & GREET THE PASTORAL CANDIDATE
AT A POTLUCK
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023—4:30 PM.

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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

Phone: 815-786-9308

Email: SalemLC@comcast.net

Web site: wearesalemlutheran.org

Interim Pastor

Reverend Steven Mindrup
Phone: 815-988-4992
Email: 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
Gina Carlson salem-gina@comcast.net
Karen Wesson salem-karen@comcast.net
Nancy Rex salem-rex@comcast.net
Libby Welsch salem-libby@comcast.net
Gloria Gilbertson
Connie Hanson
Nancy Hayes

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

In our church family. . .



Please remember in your prayers the families and the friends of:

- Salem member, JUDY ANDERSON. Judy passed on November 14. Her funeral was held at Salem on December 2.
- Salem member, PHIL HOFFMAN, who passed on November 15.
- HAZEL (Jeanne) BAKER, Grandmother of Kelsey Mattson and Brent Baker, who passed on December 4. Arrangements are pending.

May the prayers of their Salem friends bring them comfort and peace.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CURRENT—Sue Cunz, Susan & Linda

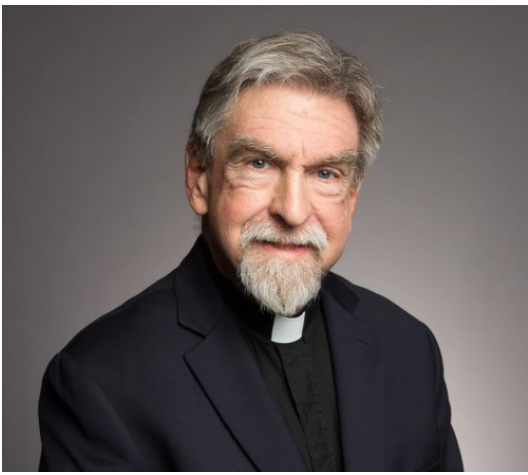
CONTINUING—Pastor Steve Mindrup, Jason Boczko*, Jane Burkett*, Laura Caupert*, Pat Clason*, Jackie Cline*, Ruth Erickson*, Tom Glover*, Steve Guyer*, Jean Hanson*, Shirley Hines*, Matthew Kee*, Mick Kimmey*, LaVerne Mattson*, Baby Henry Ryan-Melchor, Marci Bluestone, Jerry Burd, Darwin Classon, Debi Clausen, Darlene Comiskey, Connie Comer, Julie Cook, Rayden Davis, Shandol Dulin, Bobby E., Brad Engle, Sally Ferko, Elin Frietsch, 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, Robert Perales, Martha Poggi, Laurie Jacobson Rappa, Gloria Simpkins, 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 referred.



Pastor's Page

J. STEVEN MINDRUP, INTERIM PASTOR - Phone 815-988-4992 - Email: pastormindrup@gmail.com

From Pastor Steve

RISING ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES

“Pastor, I’m worth nothing. I’m finished. If you’re going to pray, just ask God to let me die.”

Pete was the first member I visited in a church that I served long ago. He was mostly confined to his bed. His mobility was limited. Any energy that was left in his tired body faded quickly. “Welcome to my little world”, he said the first time we met, gesturing at the room that had become the boundary of his life.

When Pete and I explored his life – what he had been and what he now was – we asked: What does it really mean to be alive? Can I embrace the world and live well even when I have given up so many things that have given me pleasure and meaning? Is my worth defined only by what I can do? Can I just be who I am and know that I am loved and valued?

One day Pete suddenly asked me, “Do you have a list of folks in our church who are in the same fix as me?” I said that of course I did. “Bring it to me,” Pete replied. “I was a salesman. I can talk to anyone about anything. I may not be able to do much, but I can dial the phone.”

Thus began a journey of caring that lasted almost a year. Practically until the day he died, Pete made a point of calling other home bound church members every day. I began to hear from these others how they looked forward to his calls. A few weeks before he died, I asked him how he was coping with his failing health, he said, “I’ve given all that business to the great Healer of Men.”

Open to God’s grace and God’s Spirit, Pete was able to transcend his circumstances and live fully and with dignity to the last. As we face the uncertainties of aging, I pray that all of us might have the same experience of transcendence and hope.

- Steve Mindrup

DECEMBER 5, 2023, SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, starting at approximately 6:40 p.m. following the Advent Midweek Worship Service and snacks. All ten council members and two council members elect attended this meeting.

The minutes of the November 7, 2023, Salem Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for October 2023. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances as of December 5, 2023, for the following accounts.

General Fund: \$11,197.30; Designated Fund: \$28,959.35; Capital Fund: \$29,513.66

Treasurer Bonnie Guyer also noted that the transfer of \$7000.00 from the Capital Fund to the General Fund to pay current bills has not been transferred back to the Capital Fund. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Regular reports were made by Pastor Mindrup and committee representatives.

Council members noted the pastoral compensation package that was prepared by Salem's Finance Committee and Salem's full time pastoral candidate. This compensation package will be presented to the congregation for a vote as part of the call process.

Upcoming dates for the call process were reviewed. There is a meet and greet set for Sunday, December 10, 2023, starting at 4:30 p.m. The first announcement of a special meeting of Salem Congregation on Sunday, December 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of calling a full time pastor was announced last Sunday, December 3, 2023, and will be announced a second time this coming Sunday, December 10, 2023. Written notice of this special meeting has also been made.

The date for the 2024 proposed annual budget review was set for Sunday, January 21, 2024, starting at approximately 10:15 a.m. and the date for the Annual Meeting of Salem Congregation was set for Sunday, January 28, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m.

The following officers were elected for Salem Congregation for 2024.

President: Nancy Rex

Vice President: Alan Deaton

Secretary: Jacqueline Beverage

Treasurer: vacant at this time

ONE OF JERRU KUHN'S FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. - Matthew 5:12



DIAMOND PLUS (75th +) BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER:

December 22—Jim Whitten

December 24—Michele Farley



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

The midweek worship series has begun. Pastor Mindrup has prepared meditations as follows: December 5— “He Came” (John 1:1-5,9-14); December 12—”He Comes” (John 14:15-21); and December 19—”He Is Coming” (John 14: 1-6). Advent devotional books provided by the Worship Committee are still available.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING & COOKIE DELIVERY

Salem’s Fellowship Committee is planning Christmas Caroling to our homebound members and delivery of the Christmas cookies prepared by the Member Support Committee. This will be on Sunday, December 17 beginning at 2:00 pm. The group will return to the church about 4:00 pm for a chili supper. All are welcome, but sign-up would be appreciated.

Sunday, December 24

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM

Traditional Service of Holy Communion

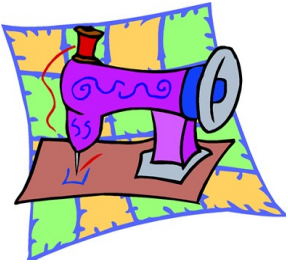
**Coffee Fellowship to Follow
No Sunday School Classes**



Christmas Eve

5:00 PM

Candlelight Carol Service of Holy Communion



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, December 11 and 12, 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.



Our December volunteer shift is set for Tuesday, December 19, 9:00-11:30 am. Registration for this shift is already closed. The next volunteer opportunity will be January 16. A sign-up sheet for January will be in the narthex later in December.



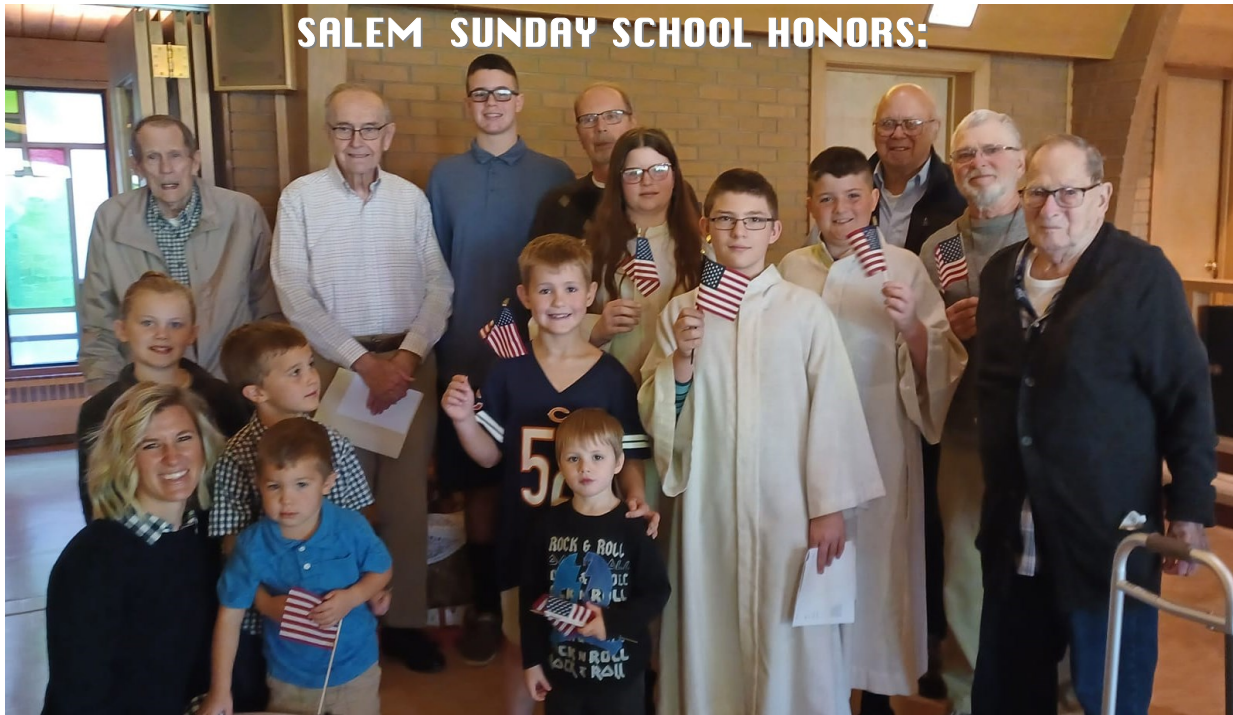
THANK YOU for your generous donations of:

- Winter clothing for Hope Haven Homeless Shelter in DeKalb. Thanks also to Laura Caupert for coordinating this effort and to Dean Lundeen for delivering the donations.
- Hat and mittens/gloves to add to the Hope Haven collection.
- Non-perishable food for the Sandwich Lions' Franklin Mall Project. There is still time to donate. Sunday, December 10 will be the final day of collection at Salem.
- Thanksgiving offerings which have been designated for humanitarian aid to the Middle East crisis. We will have a final total for you at a later date as offerings are still coming in.
- PLEASE REMEMBER our ongoing collection of food for our own Blessing Box and diapers for The Diaper Closet at the Nazarene Church.



This group of 17 volunteers packed 9,756 pounds of food into Holiday Boxes at Northern Illinois Food Bank on November 21. Since schools were on Thanksgiving break, we were fortunate enough to include some of our students.

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, AND KENT WESSON.
(*NOTES THOSE PRESENT FOR THE CEREMONY.)

What shall we bring?



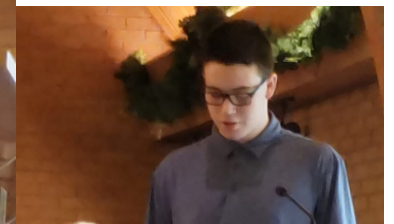
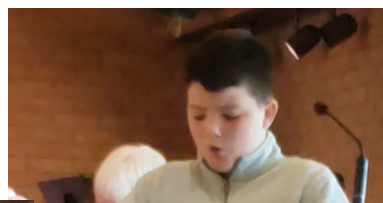
As a highlight of our fall stewardship campaign, "What shall we bring?", Salem folks enjoyed an inspirational stewardship message from our friend, Pastor Dennis Heaney. A typical Salem potluck brunch was then enjoyed by all.



The Sounds of
CHRISTMAS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 3, 2023—10:15 AM**

NARRATORS





**Joseph & Mary
Easton & Kinley**



**Angels & Star
Helena, Elena & EmmaLee**



**Shepherd
Tyler**

**Wisemen
Hunter, Wyatt & Truitt**

**Stable Animals
Ryker, Grant & Caroline**

