



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 2



Dear friends in Christ,

It is so good to be with you at Salem Lutheran! I want to thank you for the warm welcome that I have received, and I am grateful that God has called me to serve among you. I am excited to see what God has in store for us as we follow Jesus and carry out his ministry together. It is a joy to share with you in worship and proclaim the faith that unites us.

Over the next few months one of my priorities is to become more acquainted with you as individuals and with the Salem community. The new directory is a great help to put names with faces, but it will still take me a while. While I look forward to seeing each of you in Sunday worship, that can be a pretty busy time. I really appreciate any opportunity to meet and talk with you in greater depth. I hope that you will take advantage of other times we gather so I can get to know you, or stop by the office to visit with me.

Please do let me know when you or a family member are in the hospital or would like a visit from me. Because of privacy rules, the hospitals will not let us know when you are admitted. You can text or call me on my phone at 779-901-0803 or email me at pastorjohnrothfusz@gmail.com. If you are in doubt, please know that I really do want to hear from you to help me understand what is going on in your life and in the Salem community. If no one lets me know, I might miss out on the chance to walk and pray with you in important times, so I will be glad to have you reach out.

I live in Mendota, where my wife, Pastor Elise, is serving St. John Lutheran Church. That places me at a greater distance than I am used to from the church. It may take more planning and a little more time, but I do intend to be present with you at Salem, and come when you have a need. I consider it a great privilege and responsibility to be your pastor, and I am committed to doing my best for you.

I will be taking Fridays as my day off. If you reach out to me on a Friday, please be patient for a reply. Tuesday through Thursday I expect to be in the office quite a bit, as I figure this out. Other times I might sometimes be working from home, or come to Salem for activities we share. We will work it out together in the coming months.

Thank you again for your warm welcome to Salem Lutheran. It is truly a blessing to be with you and begin a new life sharing with you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Rothfusz

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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Pastor

Reverend John Rothfus

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Staff

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary, Etc.

Bookkeeper

Traditional Worship Coordinator

Director of Contemporary Worship

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

Maintenance

Michele Farley

Gina Carlson

Karen Wesson

Nancy Rex

Libby Welsch

Gloria Gilbertson

Connie Hanson

Nancy Hayes

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

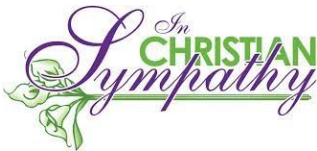
In our church family. . .

We extend our sincere Christian sympathy to the families and friends of :

Jim Claxton, father of Todd Claxton, who passed in California on January 21.

Sue Cunz, life partner and friend of Ron Cunz, who passed on January 31.

The grandmother of Bryan Wernli, who passed recently.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CURRENT— William Lein (Gloria Gilbertson's grandson), Mark Hanson

CONTINUING— Pastor Steve Mindrup, Jane Burkett*, Laura Caupert*, Pat Clason*, Jackie Cline*, Ruth Erickson*, Tom Glover*, Steve Guyer*, Shirley Hines*, Matthew Kee*, Mick Kimmey*, Baby Henry Ryan-Melchor, Marci Bluestone, Jerry Burd, Darwin Classon, 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, Sylvia and Cesar Hurtago, Walter Ihnatiuk, Pamela Isaacson, Dan Jackson, Steven Johnson, Jacob Kenyon, Tanya Kimmey, Colleen McMahan, 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.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT SALEM'S PRAYER CHAIN AND PRINTED PRAYER LIST

It is very important to remember to ask permission from the individual or their family before placing someone's name on either the Prayer Chain or the printed Prayer List. We realize that this is always done with compassion and with the best of intentions, but it is also important to respect the desire for privacy on the part of some individuals. Prayers are always appreciated, but some people would prefer that they not be done in a public way.

We also ask that when you request that a person be placed on the printed prayer list you also follow up and let us know when it is appropriate to remove that person from the list. Thank you for keeping these two things in mind.

FEBRUARY 6, 2024, SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



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

Following devotions led by Walter Farley, minutes of the December 17, 2023, special meeting of Salem Congregation, the January 2, 2024, meeting of Salem's Congregation Council, and the January 28, 2024, Annual Meeting of Salem Congregation as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for December 2023. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances as of February 6, 2024, for the following accounts.

General Fund: \$10,275.79; Designated Fund: \$33,112.26; Capital Fund: \$40,459.41
The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Reports were made by Pastor John Rothfusz and council members serving on Salem's committees.

Marilyn Wouda was elected to serve on Salem's Audit Committee for three years.

Council members voted to designate offerings from Lenten Soup Suppers for Our Sharing Pantry, offerings from Lenten envelopes and loose offerings from Lenten midweek worship services for Salem's benevolence commitment, and offerings from Easter Sunday envelopes and loose offerings for Salem's General Fund.

There was discussion about the need for a church credit card and discussion about formation of a tech team to explore electronic distribution of Salem's worship services for people not attending worship in person.

The upcoming Congregational Resourcing Event on March 16, 2024, was noted.

NEWLY ELECTED

The following persons were elected at the annual congregational meeting of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church on January 28, 2024.

Members of the Nominating Committee: Patty Farley, Doug Fraley and Dean Lundeen

Delegates to the 2024 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly: Durk Hellinga, Sharon Wallis, and Marilyn Wouda

Members of the Endowment and Memorial Funds Board: Lyle Anderson and Marisa Medgyesi

We extend our thanks and gratitude to these persons for their willingness to serve the congregation in these ways.



Pastor John Rothfusz will be formally installed as the pastor of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sandwich, Illinois on Sunday March 10 during the 9:00 am Traditional Service of Holy Communion. The Reverend Jen Beamsley, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA will preside at the installation.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes—1:00 & 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Soup Supper hosted by the Christian Education & Fellowship Committees—6:00 pm
Lenten Midweek Worship—7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Soup Supper hosted by the Ruth Unit—6:00 pm
Lenten Midweek Worship—7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Soup Supper hosted by the Property Committee & the Methuselah Group—6:00 pm
Lenten Midweek Worship—7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Soup Supper hosted by the Member Support Committee—6:00 pm
Lenten Midweek Worship—7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Soup Supper hosted by the Worship Committee—6:00 pm
Lenten Midweek Worship—7:00 pm

Wednesday Lenten Theme:

Road Signs on the Way of Salvation



Do you need a sign? Come to Salem Lutheran for our Wednesday Lenten services, starting with Ash Wednesday on February 14th at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The following weeks we will have a Lenten Soup Supper at 6 p.m., followed by Lenten services with the Holden Evening Prayer.

Each week we will look at a road sign, and how it gives us direction for our lives of faith. Ash Wednesday starts with a call for repentance, with the sign “U Turn allowed.”

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Salem’s Congregation Council has designated offerings as follows:

- Lenten Soup Suppers for Our Sharing Pantry
- Offerings from Lenten envelopes and loose offerings from Lenten midweek worship services for Salem's benevolence commitment
- Offerings from Easter Sunday envelopes and loose offerings for Salem's General Fund.



Sponsored by the Sandwich/Somonauk Ministerial Association
Hosted by The Federated Church of Sandwich—403 N Main St, Sandwich
Wednesdays, February 21—March 20, 9:00 a.m.

***THE ATONING SACRIFICE: MEDITATIONS ON
SIN, SACRIFICE AND THE SLAUGHTERED LAMB OF GOD***

Wednesday, February 21

Text—Genesis 4:1-16 (Cain Murders Abel)

Preacher— Rev. Chris Schoon

Breakfast Snack—St. John's Lutheran Church

Wednesday, February 28

Text—Leviticus 16:29-34 (Instructions for the Day of Atonement)

Preacher—Rev. Ted Englesdorfer

Breakfast Snack—The Congregational Church of Somonauk

Wednesday, March 6

Text—Isaiah 1:10-20 (God Rejects Sacrifice)

Preacher—Rev. John Rothfusz

Breakfast Snack—Sandwich Church of the Nazarene

Wednesday, March 13

Text—1 John 2:1-10 (John Writes to His Little Children)

Preacher—Rev. Hope Johnson

Breakfast Snack—Bethany Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 20

Text—Revelation 5:1-14 (The Lamb Who Is Worthy)

Preacher—Rev. Tom Bourke

Breakfast Snack—The United Church of Sandwich

GATHERED INTO ONE Devotions for Lent 2024

Salem's Worship Committee has provided these seasonal devotion books for all of our families. Copies will be available to pick up on or after Ash Wednesday. If you are unable to pick up your copy, please let us know, and the church office will see that you get one.

New Congregational Directory—Thanks to the Member Support Committee and the church office staff, we have a new directory complete with pictures. These were handed out to each family who was in attendance on January 28. Additional copies are now available in the narthex. If you are unable to pick up a copy, please let us know in the church office, and we will gladly see that you get one. Thanks to all who consented to be photographed or who submitted photos. There are also still copies of the Annual Bulletin of Reports for anyone who would like one.

Worship Tech Team Forming—We would like to put together a worship tech team to work on improving our capabilities. We hope to begin recording our worship services and posting them on the website so that people can easily find them if they are homebound, travelling, or checking Salem out before a visit. There may be other simple ways for us to improve our worship experience as well. If you would like to join a worship tech team to help work out some of these challenges, please talk to Pastor John. We need all the gifts that God gives us at Salem!

Synod Congregational Resourcing Event—You are invited to the Congregational Resourcing Event on March 16 at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, IL. This full day will be a time to gather together as we share ideas and inspiration for all the great ways that we are opening God's story together. Anyone from Salem is welcome to go and share with our group, and we would like to see our different committees represented. Registration is open now until March 2nd. The cost is \$35 for the event. We have a fund to cover those costs, or you may donate your own cost as you register. Please let the church office know if you can take part with the group from Salem and we will register together.

Souper Bowl of Caring—Feb 11: The soup kettle will be in place in the sanctuary to accept your extra donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit ELCA World Hunger. Don't forget an extra dollar—or two—or many!!! Checks should be written to Salem and noted WHA.

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, February 12 and 13 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 Salem's **Lunch Bunch** will gather at The Somonauk Pancake House, 740 East Market Street, Somonauk on Thursday, February 15 at 11:30 am. All are welcome to join them. If you want to be included, please sign up in the narthex. If you need a ride, please call Donna Fraley at 815-263-7227.

Northern Illinois Food Bank—Our February volunteer shift is set for Tuesday, February 20, 9:00—11:30 am. Registration for this shift is already closed. The next volunteer opportunity will be March 19. A sign-up sheet for March will be in the narthex later in the month.

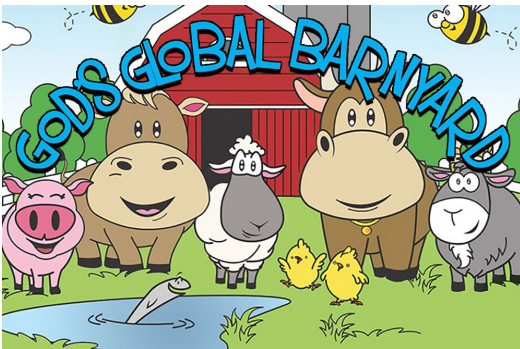
Sign Committee—Persons interested in renewing discussion about replacing Salem's outdoor sign are invited to meet on Monday, February 26, 6:00 pm.



**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) and Lutherdale Bible Camp at Elkhorn WI (www.lutherdale.org). For more information about camperships, please contact the church office.



Our Sunday School sharing project for Lent, 2024 is *God's Global Barnyard*. The congregation is invited to join them in their support of this project which is a program of ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Children will be filling piggy banks with their offerings, and the congregation may place their offerings in the ceramic pig in the narthex.



Young Lutherans have been gathering for more than 100 years! The Lutheran denominations that made up the ELCA each had rich traditions of bringing their young people together. We've gathered in places from Los Angeles to Boston under such themes as "Called to Freedom" and "Jesus, Justice, Jazz," with speakers from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Bishop Desmond Tutu.

Salem high school youth along with youth from St. John's Lutheran in Somonauk and Bethany Lutheran in Leland will attend the 2024 gathering in New Orleans in July. Kim and Jason Boczko are their leaders. The congregation supports this effort through our Servant Events Fund. The next meeting of 3N1, the combined youth group, will be a pizza party at St. John's at 5:00 pm on February 18.

JANUARY 21



JANUARY 28



Farewell to Pastor Steve and Kelley Mindrup and Welcome to Pastor John Rothfusz.



LEFT: On January 7, those people who were instrumental in accomplishing the renovation of our church kitchen were honored at a special coffee fellowship. They each received a GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. T-shirt to thank them for their efforts.

RIGHT: Seventeen people made up the volunteer team that processed 7,625 pounds of food at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on January 16.





SUNDAY SCHOOL DRUMMERS BEGAN THE WORSHIP SERVICE WITH SOME ENTHUSIASTIC DRUMMING ON JANUARY 14. THANK YOU, ALAN DEATON, FOR LEADING THE GROUP.



Left:
THE 3N1 YOUTH GROUP, LED BY KIM & JASON BOCZKO, HELD THEIR CHRISTMAS PIZZA PARTY AT SALEM.

Right:
MEMBERS OF THE SALEM FAMILY ENJOYED GAMES, SNACKS AND A DELICIOUS SUPPER OF SLOPPY JOES ON FEBRUARY 3 COURTESY OF THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.

