



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

January 5, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 1

AS YOU RECEIVE YOUR NEW PASTOR . . .

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Salem,

This will probably be my last pastoral letter to you.

I hope that you will come out with great joy and anticipation on Sunday January 28 to welcome Pastor John Rothfusz as he becomes Salem's next full time pastor.

Here is what I know about this congregation as you prepare for this new venture together:

You are a generous people! Never in the 2/ ½ years that I have served here have I heard an angry squabble, about money or most any other decision you have had to make. When asked to contribute to a ministry, you respond. You contribute to the benevolence budget of the ELCA without hesitation. You care for the church's property and give to numerous local needs.

You are a welcoming people! And you are about to welcome a new pastor. Some new directions and new forms of service will likely develop as that relationship grows, but:

Funding a full time pastor will be a challenge. Since I came to you semi-retired, you didn't have to pay for pension, health insurance, or a full time salary. Now you will have to commit extra resources to meet these new requirements.

The Christmas offering was a great first step. All of the money given through that appeal, totaling \$8755 as I write this, has gone into the church's general fund. Your generous faithfulness has helped get 2024 off to a good start.

I know that your generosity and faithfulness will grow and will bear fruit. I know that Salem will continue to witness to the power and presence of God. I expect to hear of exciting, even miraculous news about what Salem is doing to make Christ known.

Receive your new shepherd with the same love and willingness with which you received me.

Pray for your new shepherd as he seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit to serve you faithfully.

Partner with your new shepherd to continue the work of Christ, which is, as the Great Thanksgiving prayer at the altar says, "Our duty and our joy."

Christ be our light and our peace. May we all know his perfect love.

- Pastor Steve Mindrup

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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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. . .

We are pleased to announce the birth of twin daughters to Haley Claxton and Dan Diggle. Grace Lee and Brynnlee Bee were born on December 20, both weighing in at nearly 7 pounds. In addition to their parents, they were welcomed home by proud big sister Raelynn and grandpa Todd Claxton. We ask God's blessing on these precious children and their family.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CURRENT— Walter Ihnatiuk

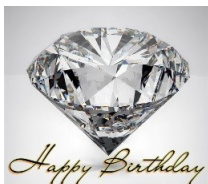
CONTINUING— Pastor Steve Mindrup, Jane Burkett*, Laura Caupert*, Pat Clason*, Jackie Cline*, Ruth Erickson*, Tom Glover*, Steve Guyer*, Jean Hanson*, Shirley Hines*, Matthew Kee*, Mick Kimmey*, LaVerne Mattson*, Baby Henry Ryan-Melchor, Marci Bluestone, Jerry Burd, Darwin Classon, Darlene Comiskey, Connie Comer, Julie Cook, Sue Cunz, 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, Pamela Isaacson, Dan Jackson, Steven Johnson, Jacob Kenyon, Tanya Kimmey, 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.



DIAMOND PLUS (75th +) BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY:

January 8—Nancy Shehorn

January 9—Eileen Negley

January 22—Verdell "Ace" Hanson

January 25—Betty Scofield

ONE OF MICHELE FARLEY'S FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES—

.....and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?. - Micah 6: 8b

JANUARY 2, 2024, SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Council members Jacqueline Beverage, Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton, Walter Farley, Donna Fraley, Bonnie Guyer, Durk Hellinga, Pastor Steve Mindrup, and Nancy Rex attended this meeting. Connie Hanson was absent.

Following devotions provided by Bonnie Guyer, council members accepted the minutes of the November 26, 2023, special meeting of Salem Congregation Council and the December 5, 2023, Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage.

Council members studied the financial reports for November 2023. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances as of January 2, 2024, for the following accounts.

General Fund: \$6035.73; Designated Fund: \$32,273.45; Capital Fund: \$36,111.64

Treasurer Bonnie Guyer also noted that the money transferred from the Capital Fund to the General Fund has been returned to the Capital Fund thanks to generous end of the year offerings. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Pastor Steve Mindrup presented his final report to Salem's Congregation Council noting how gratifying it has been for him to serve as Salem's interim pastor. Council members thanked him for his faithful work at Salem.

Several of Salem's committees had no actual meeting in December but carried out committee work as planned. During the Finance Committee report time Salem's Congregation Council voted to present the 2024 budget proposal prepared by Salem's Finance Committee to the congregation at Salem's Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 28, 2024. There will be a time for congregation members to review that proposed budget on Sunday, January 21, 2024, following the worship service and coffee fellowship time.

During the Property Committee report time, the motion was made and carried to purchase shelving for the lower level classroom used for storage of blessing box items and to clean and organize that area.

As part of unfinished business, Bonnie Guyer was elected as Salem's treasurer for 2024.

Council members approved the agenda and resolutions for the Annual Meeting of Salem Congregation on Sunday, January 28, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m. following the 9:00 a.m. worship service and made other plans for that meeting.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM

A potluck meal will follow the meeting.

Copies of the Annual Bulletin of Reports will be available
to pick up for your review no later than January 21.

The 2024 Budget Review is set for Sunday, January 21—10:15 am.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available on January 14.

2024 SALEM CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President: Nancy Rex

Vice President: Alan Deaton

Secretary: Jacqueline Beverage

Treasurer: Bonnie Guyer

2024 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES FOR SALEM COMMITTEES

Christian Education Committee: Bonnie Guyer

Fellowship Committee: Durk Hellinga

Finance Committee: Bonnie Guyer

Member Support Committee: Donna Fraley

Mission Committee: Alan Deaton

Outreach Committee: Jacqueline Beverage and Connie Hanson

Property Committee: Ron Cunz and Walter Farley

Stewardship Committee: Donna Fraley

Worship Committee: Walter Farley, Connie Hanson and Nancy Rex

What shall we bring? **UPDATE**

Since Commitment Sunday on November 19, a total of \$204,284 was pledged by 36 people/couples to date. Thank you for your generosity! Those who have not yet pledged are asked to prayerfully consider your weekly, biweekly, or monthly gift to Salem and your quarterly statement will help you track your giving. Know that if life changes, your gifts can also change. Pledges are just estimates of your giving. Typically, pledge amounts plus non-pledged giving covers Salem's annual budget without extra fundraising, however it is always a possibility.

Please talk to the Office Staff if you would like to give electronically which is how several families give so their offerings come to Salem whether or not they are here to worship. For others, weekly envelopes are mailed to the home periodically as a reminder of supporting your home church.



WINTER WEATHER IS UPON US:

If you have concerns about cancellation of worship services or meetings, please check your email or tune in to WSPY 107.1 FM radio for cancellation announcements. The health and safety of our members is our primary concern; so please use your judgement about whether or not to venture out in severe weather.

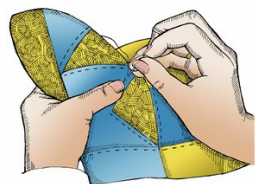
JANUARY

PASTOR STEVE'S LAST SUNDAY

**PLEASE JOIN US ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 – 10:00 AM
FOR EXTENDED COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
HOSTED BY THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL
AS WE BID FAREWELL AND EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION
FOR PASTOR STEVE MINDRUP'S SERVICE AS OUR INTERIM PASTOR.**

A NEW PASTOR FOR SALEM

**PASTOR JOHN ROTHFUSZ
HAS ACCEPTED THE CALL TO SALEM
AND WILL OFFICIALLY BEGIN HIS DUTIES
AS SALEM'S PASTOR ON JANUARY 25.
HIS FIRST SUNDAY LEADING WORSHIP
AT SALEM WILL BE JANUARY 28.**



QUILTING GROUP

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, January 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 anyone who prefers to work at home.



Our December volunteer shift is set for Tuesday, January 16, 9:00—11:30 am. Registration for this shift is already closed. The next volunteer opportunity will be February 20. A sign-up sheet for February will be in the narthex later in January.



Salem's Lunch Bunch will gather at The Exquisite Skillet, 1180 US RT 34, Plano on Thursday, January 18 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.

December at Salem

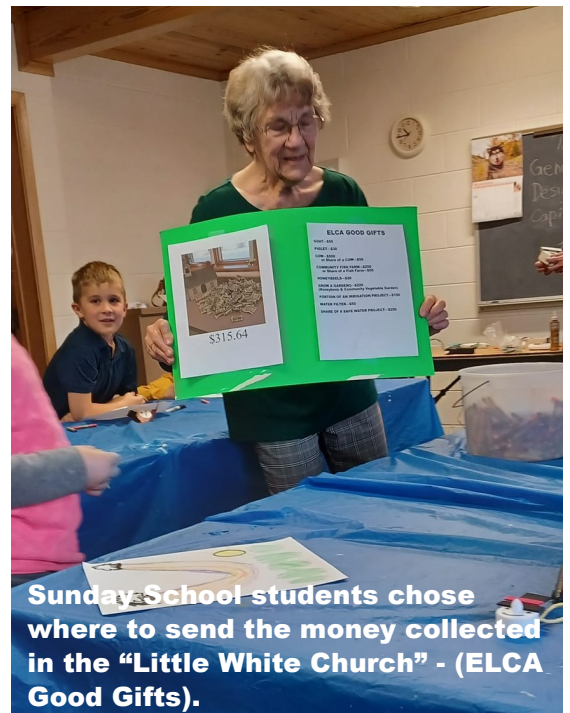


Ruth Unit Christmas Party

Sunday School Birthday Party for Jesus



December NIFB Volunteer Crew



Sunday School students chose where to send the money collected in the "Little White Church" - (ELCA Good Gifts).



Sharon led us in a Litany for Burning of the Advent wreath.



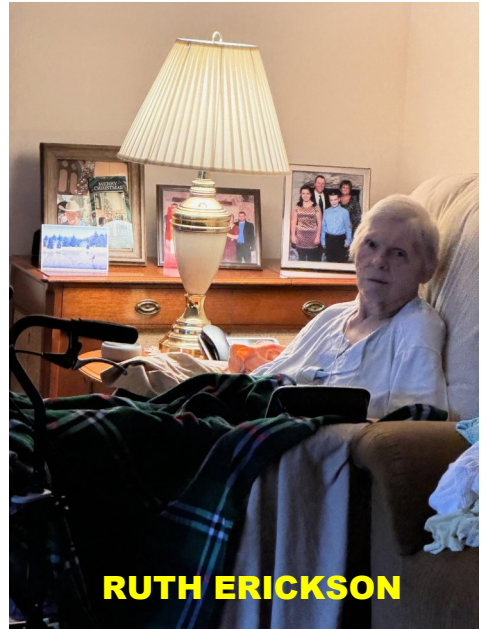
Libby helped the Sunday School students make a snowman ornament.

Let's Go
Caroling

Salem's Fellowship
Committee arranged
caroling to Salem's
homebound members
on December 17.



PAT CLASON



RUTH ERICKSON



TOM AND MARLYN GLOVER



MARLENE AND JIM KEE



ACE AND JEAN HANSON



MICK AND DONNA KIMMEY



The group enjoyed a chili
supper after caroling.