



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

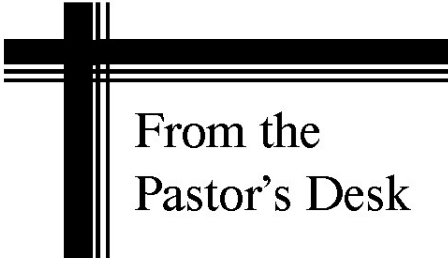
God's work. Our hands.

## The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

JULY 5, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 7



### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Lutheran Church is a singing church, which is how I often love to express my own faith. We had fun with a Hymn Sing recently, as a way to celebrate those songs that speak most deeply to our hearts. Singing together draws us together as community, and reminds us of who we are as the words express the faith that unites us in Jesus name.

July is a season when we think a great deal about freedom, with our Independence Day and Sandwich Freedom Day celebrations. We remember and give thanks for the ways that we fought for freedom and advanced it over our nation's history. We fought the Revolutionary war to declare our independence and assert our freedom from Great Britain. We have fought an extended battle, including the Civil War, to assert the freedom, rights, and dignity of all people in our land. People of color, women, and LGBTQ people have all claimed their freedom, often with a long struggle to be taken seriously.

The hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing" has often been called the Black National Anthem. It comes out of the African American tradition, and speaks with moving poetry of the ways that they sustained hope through long and difficult times, looking for a better future in God's care. It was written for a chorus of school children to honor Abraham Lincoln and his Emancipation Proclamation. This song speaks powerfully to the African American experience in our nation.

Yet it is also a gift to the rest of the church. My ancestors were not enslaved in America, and didn't face the same discrimination. But the experience of facing great struggle and suffering, of enduring through long, weary years is one that many of us can relate to. The poetry of this hymn is a call to faithfulness and trust in the God who is faithful to us in every generation, through every challenge that will come. It is a song of hope and joy, recognizing the saving work of our God who does not abandon us when times are hard, but bears us up with strength and steadfast love. We will sing that hymn on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

The story of the Bible bears witness to generations of struggle as well. The story of God's people becomes our story as we see how God walks with them, delivers them, and creates a future of hope for them. When God sent Moses to lead the people of Israel out of their slavery in Egypt, that exodus story became the central story of hope in a God who delivers his people, Israel. We see God's saving work for all people in the gift of Jesus, who gives his life to deliver us from sin, death, and the devil. In Jesus, God sets us free and invites us to walk in his way of life and hope for all people.

*Continued on page 3*

# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Serving Christ!*

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## Pastor

Reverend John Rothfusz

Phone: 779-901-0803

Email: [pastorjohnrothfusz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohnrothfusz@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary, Etc.

Bookkeeper

Traditional Worship Coordinator

Director of Contemporary Worship

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

Maintenance

## Staff

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. . .*

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

**CURRENT**—Mark Rothfusz, Chuck Frieders

**CONTINUING**— Pastor Steve Mindrup, Laura Caupert\*, 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, 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.**



### JULY "DIAMOND PLUS" BIRTHDAYS:

July 8—Mick Kimmey    July 25—Leonard Johnson

THE  
DIAPER  
CLOSET

THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS

10AM– 2PM

205 W College Street

Sandwich

Church of the Nazarene

### DON'T FORGET SALEM'S BLESSING BOX

The box is always busy; the need is always there! Your donations of nonperishable food items are always welcomed.

*Continued from page 1*

“God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way... Keep us forever in the path we pray.” The poetry of those words is used in the prayer we will use to prepare for communion this month. It points to the ways that God brings liberation to all who are captive to sin and oppressed by the evil one. God shows us a better way to walk in faith, a way that can lead us into the light of God’s salvation. We sing this song with jubilant hope to the Lord who delivers us from all that holds us captive and raises us to the freedom of the people of God. What a wonderful way to express the hope we find in Jesus who gives us life.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Rothfus

### **Synod Assembly Highlights**

Pastor John Rothfus, Sharon Wallis, Durk Hellinga and Marilyn Wouda attended the Synod Assembly on June 14-15 at Augustana College, Rock Island. They represented Salem Lutheran church and served as voting members.

Pastor John was elected to the Synod Council at his first assembly in the synod. This is a little surprising, but he provided biographical information, and the other candidate did not.

Several resolutions were considered and passed by the assembly. These were: R-1: Celebrating and Supporting the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger; R-2: Northern Illinois Synod to Consider Becoming Reconciling in Christ; R-3: Reject Christian Nationalism.

On Sunday, July 7, immediately following the Sundaes on Sunday, we will have a short forum with the voting members to discuss the Synod Assembly and the actions taken. You are welcome to come to learn and discuss the event with us.



The ELCA Youth Gathering will resume this month after a long break starting with the Covid time. We are excited to send a group from our 3N1 churches, including Josh Schaefer and Pacey Wyant from Salem Lutheran. We will have a sending at worship on July 14, and they will drive to New Orleans to share in the gathering on July 16-20. Please pray for our young people and Jason and Kim Boczko as they travel and share in this powerful experience of gathering in faith for worship and service.



# 2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

*"And being so fed, we will lean into the grace and grit of our vocation to Be the Body, to live into the called life"*

## RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed by the assembly:

- **R-1: Celebrating and Supporting the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger**
- **R-2: Northern Illinois Synod to Consider Becoming Reconciling in Christ**
- **R-3: Reject Christian Nationalism**

## ELECTIONS

**Synod Council Offices**

Treasurer, Ms. Nancy Lillevold

**Synod Council**

Mr. Trace Gallagher, Ms. Leann Heimerdinger, Mr. Dave Kromphardt, Rev. Chris Lee, Rev. John Rothfusz

**Congregational Life Committee**

Ms. Carol Johnson, Mr. David Crippen

**Global Missions Committee**

Dr. Alan Esker, Rev. Makayla Dahleen, Rev. Jonathan Black

**Ministry Support Committee**

Ms. Julie Eshleman, Mr. Jason Gustafson, Rev. Matt Kamprath

**Outreach Committee**

Rev. Sarah Wilson, Rev. Dr. Eric Lemonholm

**Social Ministry Committee**

Mr. John Gustafson, Rev. Patrick Fish

**2025 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members**

Ms. Clara Solak, Mr. Luke Snyder, Ms. Paula Ebener, Mr. George Sanchez, Mr. Brandon Graves, Rev. Chad McKenna, Bishop Stacie Fidlar, Ms. Minnette Willard, Mr. Mel Ehrler, Ms. Rita Gustafson, Rev. Jamie Gallagher, Rev. Julane Nease, Mr. Bill Wescott, Ms. Merianne Morris, Rev. Preston Fields, Deacon Shari Simon

## ACTIONS TAKEN

- blessed a new synod banner
- heard from Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta, Senior Director for New Ministry Development and Evangelism at ELCA Churchwide
- passed the Fiscal Year 2026 Northern Illinois Synod Budget
- passed the 2025 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines
- passed three resolutions brought to the assembly
- elected several members to serve on Synod Council, committees, and 2025 Churchwide Assembly.
- heard from Bishop Fidlar about a new development project.
- heard from Becoming, a new Synod Authorized Worshipping Community in Oswego



## JULY 2, 2024. CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. All ten council members attended this meeting.

Following devotions led by Donna Fraley, the minutes of the June 4, 2024, Salem Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Substitute Secretary Bonnie Guyer were accepted.

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

General Fund: \$18,454.34

Capital Fund: \$29,248.83

Designated Fund: \$29,977.03

Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported that all current bills are paid, but that the transfer of \$10,000.00 from the Capital Fund to the General Fund has not yet been returned to the Capital Fund. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Regular monthly reports were given by Pastor John Rothfusz and council members representing Salem Committees. Committees are mostly working on plans previously made. No motions were made regarding committee work.

A celebration for Michele Farley's retirement and many years of service to Salem as Administrative Assistant was discussed.

Following discussion, it was decided by consensus to leave the outer Main Street doors by the circular driveway unlocked all the time. Only the inside doors will be locked when the building is not being used.

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOOD, WORSHIP, AND FUN

Salem's Worship Committee planned 3 midweek opportunities to get together for a supper, a brief worship time, and a fun activity involving an outreach or service project. The July event is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2024, starting at 6:00 PM.

- Supper: provided by Salem's Worship Committee
- Worship/Devotion Time following supper
- Activity: prepare treat bags for AA members meeting at Salem

## Retirement Celebration for Michele Farley

**Sunday, August 4, 2024**

Come for worship at 9:00 am,  
and stay for a potluck celebrating  
fifty years of service as Salem's Administrative Assistant.

If you have photos of "Mickey" at work at Salem from 1973—2024,  
please get them to Salem by July 21.



# Sandwich 4th of July Parade

**Saturday, July 6—10:00 am**

Line-up starts at 9:00 am at the Sandwich Fairgrounds.

Salem will be entering a float. The Outreach and Christian Education Committees are coordinating this project. The theme will be "I am the vine. You are the branches".

All are welcome to help with float preparation at the goat barn at the fairgrounds at 6pm on July 5 and to join in on Saturday morning to walk or ride in the parade.



**SUNDAYS**

**JULY 7 & AUGUST 11  
10:00 AM**

**Join Salem's  
Worship Committee  
for Ice Cream Sundaes  
during  
Coffee Fellowship Time.**

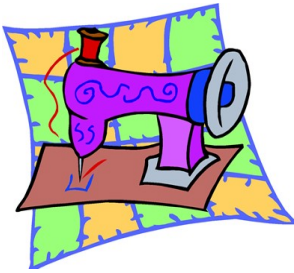
## GARDEN WALK

**Saturday, July 13**

**Meet at Salem at 2:00 pm to carpool or caravan.**



Salem's Fellowship Committee invites all to join them for a tour of local gardens. The group will conclude at the Hellinga-Wouda home for a potluck meal. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to participate.



Salem's Quilt Group meets on the second Monday and Tuesday of each month. They will hold their July work days on Monday & Tuesday, July 8 & 9, from 9:00 am to 12 noon. They work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. There are a variety of jobs; sewing experience is NOT a requirement. All helpers are welcome.

There are also pre-cut pieces for quilt tops for anyone who would like to take them home to put together. Please talk with Cheryl Carls or Patty Farley if you have questions.

### **Cookies are not just for Christmas!**



Members of Salem's Member Support Committee will be baking and packing cookies for our homebound members on Saturday, July 13. They will be delivering the cookies along with a cheerful visit.

## **SALEM'S FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR**



**KANE COUNTY COUGARS BASEBALL GAME**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 2—6:30 PM**

**\$9.00 PER TICKET**

**ADVANCE PURCHASE PARKING ALSO AVAILABLE**

**@ \$6 GENERAL OR \$10 PREMIUM**

**CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO SALEM.**

**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE**

**SIGN-UP IN NARTHEX!**

### **More Fellowship Opportunities**

The Fellowship Committee has the following activities planned for this year. We hope you can join us. Please feel free to invite your friends and other family members.

- ◆ Joni Knox Memorial Softball Game (date tbd)
- ◆ Golf Scramble (date tbd)

## Back-to-School???

Students and teachers are probably not ready to hear this, but bargain priced school supplies are beginning to appear in the store aisles. It's not too early to think about purchasing school supplies for our Lutheran World Relief School Kits. The needs are quite specific, so please be aware of the items that are required to complete the kits. These are:

- 70 sheet notebooks, either wide or college ruled, approx. 8 X 10 1/2"
- 30 centimeter ruler, or one with both cm and inches
- pencil sharpener
- blunt scissors
- unsharpened #2 pencils
- black or blue ballpoint pens, no gel ink
- box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 1/2" eraser

Please watch for collection boxes in the narthex coming soon.

## SALEM SUNDAY SCHOOL & FRIENDS



**SUMMER ADVENTURE  
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY  
VISIT TO  
HAYES FAMILY FARM—JULY 14  
leaving right after Sunday worship**

**ANYONE (NO AGE LIMIT) IS WELCOME TO JOIN IN. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE TEXT YOUR RSVP TO BONNIE AT 815-970-4753 A WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT.**

### Community Vacation Bible School St. John's Lutheran Church—235 S Green St, Somonauk



Come join us for Vacation Bible School  
July 22nd-25th, 9am—11:30 am

Bible Stories, Crafts, Fun & Games, Snack Time  
for children 3 years old (must be potty trained)  
and on up to those completing 5th grade

Free to all who attend

Registration forms are available from the church  
office. Please contact the church office at  
815-498-3667 for more information.

*Registration forms are available on the bulletin board at Salem. There is also information for adults and older youth who may want to volunteer to help with VBS at St. John's. Please check it out.*

# Celebration of Life

## Save the Date, Saturday, July 27, 2024 Celebration of Life & Birthday Party for Shelly Claxton

This information was shared on Shelly's Caring Bridge page online last month, and it's being shared here too to ensure all Salem's members see it.

It's hard to believe that it has been just over 4 years now since Shelly Claxton passed away. The COVID-19 pandemic took away the opportunity to gather together to share stories and memories of Shelly soon after she passed. The pandemic lasted longer than expected and this event is long overdue.

One of Shelly's last wishes was to have a celebration with rock-n-roll music playing, incredible food, people drinking beer, dancing, sharing memories, and toasting the wonderful life we shared with her. Since Shelly's birthday falls on a Saturday this year, that's when Todd's planning to have a Celebration of Life for her and to celebrate her birthday too.

This event will be held at the Fox Valley Community Center, 1406 Suydam Road, Sandwich, Illinois 60548 on Saturday, July 27, 2024, 1:00—5:00 pm. This center is owned and operated by Fox Valley Community Services (<https://fvoas.org/>). All the details haven't been finalized yet, but they will be shared once they come together.

Everyone is welcome and invited to attend.

Please share this information with others who knew and cared about Shelly who might not yet know about this event.

## Second Saturday



The Member Support Committee planned fellowship outings for the second Saturdays of the summer. Parents of Sunday School youth and young adults attended the first of three social outings on June 8. Kurt Mattson, a Salem member from DeKalb Mechanical, invited several young families and adults to picnic and watch the Cougars play in Geneva.

Salem members and friends are invited to the next event, a Garden Walk followed by a

potluck dinner, on Saturday, July 13. The Garden Walk starts at 2:00 pm by gathering at Salem to carpool.

Plans for the third Second Saturday are underway for a Chinese Dinner on August 10 organized by Kelly Clason. Watch for details to follow.



Our June NIFB team of 18 volunteers repackaged 7,533 pounds of fettuccine pasta providing 6,278 meals to our hungry neighbors. Registration is closed for the July 16 volunteer shift at Northern Illinois Food Bank. The next opportunity to volunteer will be Tuesday, August 20, 9-11:30 am. New volunteers are welcome. Please check with Walt or Mickey Farley if you have questions.



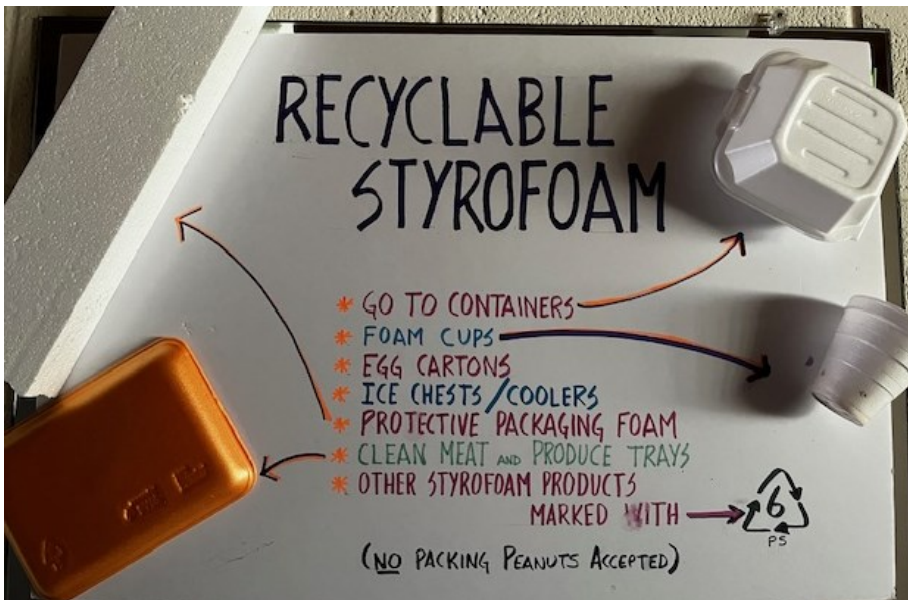
The June **Lunch Bunch** shown above enjoyed food and fellowship at Pokanoka's Dockside Café at Lake Shabbona. The next Lunch Bunch outing will be Wednesday, July 17, 11:30 am at The Vault, 220 South Bridge Street in downtown Yorkville. Please sign up if you plan to go. Call Donna Farley (815-263-7227) if you need a ride.



**Adopt a Road**  
PROGRAM

These smiling walkers needed a cold drink of water after picking up many pounds of litter on a hot and windy Saturday morning in June. Our next volunteer opportunity is set for August 24. Plan to join them!

## HOORAY! We now have a source and a plan for recycling Styrofoam!



We had a great response to our first Styrofoam collection on June 1st and 2nd. It has already been delivered to the recycling center. Please start saving your Styrofoam containers and packing foam now for our fall pick-up date - **Sunday, September 15th.**

Pass the word on to your friends and neighbors too. We'd love to need a bigger Green Machine to hold it all!