



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

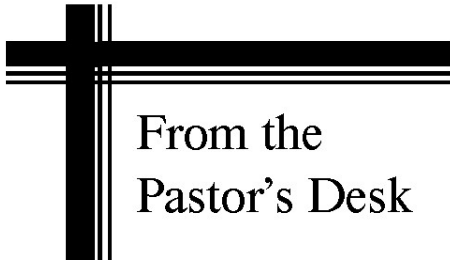
God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

JUNE 7, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 6



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear friends in Christ,

Memorial Day is a time to remember. Many people remember only to get out the grill and take a day off of work. But our country first set aside this day to remember those who gave their lives in defense of our nation. Their sacrifice helped to preserve our freedom and our values, and we promised that we would never forget what they have done. Each year on Memorial

Day we continue to remember those who have died, counting the cost of our wars and military commitments. As citizens of this great land, we never want to forget the great personal sacrifice that soldiers and their families make even today for our nation.

What would Jesus have us remember? As Christians, we can remember many of the ways that God works in our lives to make us new.

We remember that we are baptized into Christ Jesus, united in his death and his resurrection. Each day we can return to our baptism, and Jesus will wash away our sins and give us a fresh start in him. God has claimed us in our baptism and called us by name, and we can remember that we belong to him forever. We are reminded of our own baptism each time that we baptize a new child of God into our church family. And we can each be reminded of our baptism every time that we shower or splash our hands in water.

We remember our first communion, and every meal since that time, when we gather to share the body and blood of Jesus who died for us. Our Lord calls us to share in this meal with our family of faith, to grow closer to God and one another as we share his presence and “do this for the remembrance of me.” In this meal we are united with Jesus and with all the saints, both the living and those who are with the Lord.

We remember that we are dust, and to dust we will return. On Ash Wednesday, we get a visible reminder of our sin and mortality when we receive ashes on our foreheads. We are all sinners, and we need to remember that we depend on our savior, Jesus. Only he can save us from sin and raise us from death to new life.

We remember our confirmation day, and the promises we made, claiming this faith of our baptism for ourselves, and committing ourselves to walk with the Lord, gather to worship, and serve with his people for all our days.

We remember our graduation, when friends and family praised us, and sent us off to begin a new chapter of our lives. They asked us to remember who we are and where we come from.

If we are married, we remember our marriage vows, our promises to love, honor, and cherish our spouse as long as we both shall live. We remember those vows of love and faithfulness whenever we see a wedding ring on our finger, or shape our lives to fit with the life of our loved one.

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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

Pastor

Reverend John Rothfusz

Phone: 779-901-0803

Email: pastorjohnrothfusz@gmail.com

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

salem-mickey@comcast.net

salem-gina@comcast.net

salem-karen@comcast.net

salem-rex@comcast.net

salem-libby@comcast.net

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

In our church family. . .

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

Wanda Scents Fedro passed away on May 20. Wanda was a long-time member of Salem, who had resided in Willowbrook IL for a number of years. We send our sincere sympathy to Wanda's son Jeff "Buck" Scents, her daughters Stephanie Scents and Lori Frieders, and all of Wanda's friends and family members. Her funeral service was held on May 25.

Andy Krafft, the brother of Nancy Hayes and former member of Salem, passed away last week. There are no services planned at this time. We send our prayers to all of his family members and friends.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CURRENT—Jim Whitten*, Mark Rothfusz

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 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.

JUNE "DIAMOND PLUS" BIRTHDAYS:

June 9—Bill Negley June 11—Darlene Bastian June 19—Pat Whitten June 23—Nancy Rex

June 25—LaVerne Mattson June 27—Cindy Webster June 30—Pat Clason



From the Pastor's Desk—*continued from page 1*

Jesus calls us to remember that our work is a vocation, a way that we are given to serve our neighbor and give glory to God. We each have many roles where we serve, in work, family, church, and community. Each one of these roles can be an opportunity for us to touch someone's life with God's love.

God calls us to remember that everything we are and everything we have is a gift. Our life, our health, our family, our property and income are all a trust from God, given so that we can be partners in his work of spreading hope and life in the world. We are blessed when we understand that and use our gifts to be a blessing to others in Jesus' name. We get to do God's work together as the church, and be proud of all that we do as Salem Lutheran.

We remember that Jesus has sent us out to tell the good news to all people everywhere. His Great Commission sends us to make disciples, baptize, and teach wherever we go.

Finally, we remember Jesus' closing words in the gospel of Matthew. "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What we remember shapes who we are. I pray that we can each remember the many ways that God enriches our lives, as he blesses us to be a blessing to others.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Rothfus

God is Faithful – How about You?

"I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens." Psalm 89:2

God cares for us every day, making the sun to rise, and giving us daily bread without fail. As you enter the summer season of rest and outdoor activity, how will you maintain your habits of faithfulness to the God who watches over you in every season? Whatever changes in your life, please be sure to share with us each week in worship at Salem. If you travel, be sure to worship wherever you go, sharing in community with new brothers and sisters in faith. As we change our patterns for the summer, let's hold onto the patterns of faith that give us life in every season.

Synod Assembly June 14-15

The Northern Illinois Synod Assembly will be held at Augustana College, Rock Island on June 14-15. Pastor John will be attending, along with voting members Sharon Wallis, Durk Hellinga and Marilyn Wouda. We will gather with fellow disciples from churches across the synod for worship, building relationships, learning, and doing the work of the Synod, like voting on elections, budgets and resolutions. Please keep our synod and our voting members in your prayers as we do this essential work together.



JUNE 4, 2024. CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, starting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton, Walter Farley, Donna Fraley, Bonnie Guyer, Connie Hanson, Nancy Rex, and Pastor John Rothfusz attended this meeting.

Following devotions led by Connie Hanson, the minutes from the May 7, 2024, Salem Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Substitute Secretary Bonnie Guyer were accepted.

Council members studied the financial reports for April 2024. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances as of June 4, 2024, for the following accounts.

General Fund: \$17,793.27 Capital Fund: \$30,755.56 Designated Fund: \$29,828.96

Treasurer Bonnie Guyer noted that all current bills have been paid, but that \$10,000.00 transferred from the Capital Fund to the General Fund earlier in the year 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 that had meetings since the last council meeting. A couple of new activities were noted by committees. Kelly Clason, working with Salem's Member Support Committee, is organizing Second Saturdays, a group for young adults to get together for activities and support. Nancy Rex noted that Salem's Worship Committee is offering three midweek opportunities for food, worship, and fun during the summer on June 19, July 17, and August 7, 2024.

Pastor Rothfusz noted that Salem's Tech Team is working on improving internet access to the entire church building.

Pastor Rothfusz and Nancy Rex interviewed Kelly Clason for the job of Administrative Assistant when Michele Farley retires. Salem's Executive Committee approved offering the job to Kelly Clason.

THREE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOOD, WORSHIP, AND FUN

Salem's Worship Committee is planning 3 midweek opportunities to get together for a supper, a brief worship time, and a fun activity involving an outreach or service project. The first event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2024, starting at 6:00 PM.

- Supper: provided by Salem's Worship Committee
- Worship/Devotion Time following supper
- Activity: prepare items for Salem's entry in the Freedom Days Parade

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.

Salem's Outdoor Sign—The Salem Sign Committee is seeking your input. Pictures of many different styles of signs have been posted on the hall bulletin board. You are invited to check them over and respond to the committee with your thoughts. You may leave a note on the bulletin board or contact Pam Pescitelli (email: ppescitelli@comcast.net or text 815-786-4881). The committee will meet next on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00 pm.



Congratulations to Our Graduates

SANDWICH HIGH SCHOOL ~

**JOHN CARLSON—Sandwich High School and IVVC/Waubonsee Fire Science
further study for EMT & Paramedic**

**JILLIAN ASHLEY—Sandwich High School
Aurora University for Athletic Training and Exercise Science**

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION ~

BRANDON BEVERAGE—Sandwich Middle School

AMELIA MICHELS—Somonauk Middle School

PRE-SCHOOL ~

CAROLINE KLINGBERG

***May God bless each of them as they move on
to the next chapters in their lives.***



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

June 5, 2024

Dear church,

For eight horrific months war has raged in Gaza. Thousands of people have died, and thousands more are suffering. In recent days we have seen unspeakable images of violence in Rafah and escalating violence in the West Bank. Like the prophet Isaiah, we lament, “How long, O Lord?” (Isaiah 6:11).

At times a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis doesn’t seem possible, yet as Christians we believe that it is. The psalmist assures us that God “makes wars cease to the end of the earth” (Psalm 46:9). At times it seems that there is nothing we can do, yet through baptism God calls us to be peacemakers. We live out this calling in many ways, including through prayer, advocacy and accompaniment.

As a church, we continue to:

- **Pray** for all people who are suffering and grieving, and for this war to end diplomatically in a lasting peace, rooted in justice and human rights for Palestinians and Israelis.
- **Advocate** for an immediate, bilateral cease-fire and a halt in U.S. arms transfers to Israel, to prevent further loss of life; the release of all hostages and uncharged prisoners; and unimpeded humanitarian aid for all in need. We will continue to advocate for these priorities with the Biden administration and the U.S. Congress.
- **Walk with** all who long for a just peace, including especially our Palestinian siblings in the ELCA, as well as Christian, Muslim and Jewish partners here in the U.S. and in the Holy Land.

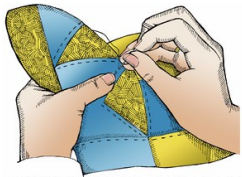
As Christ taught, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). Let us continue to hope and to live our faith.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA



3N1 Youth Group is busy preparing for their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Kim and Jason Boczko are the adult leaders who will accompany the youth to the Gathering. The group includes two of Salem's young people, Joshua Schaefer and Pacey Wyant, along with youth from St. John's Lutheran Church of Somonauk and Bethany Lutheran Church of Leland. They will meet at Salem Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 9 at 5:00 pm for their monthly meeting and pizza party.



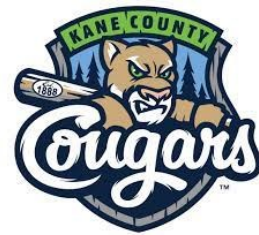
QUILTING GROUP

Salem's Quilt Group will hold their monthly work days on Monday & Tuesday, June 10 & 11, from 9:00 am to 12 noon. All helpers are welcome. No experience is necessary.



The Christian Education Committee invites YOU to help celebrate ALL FATHERS with a delicious brunch of biscuits and gravy, fruit, coffee and juice on Sunday, June 16th (Father's Day), 10:00 am. Please join us!

Let's have a little fun with this! Please bring along a photo of a father. We will display them all and play an identification game.



**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.**

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)

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

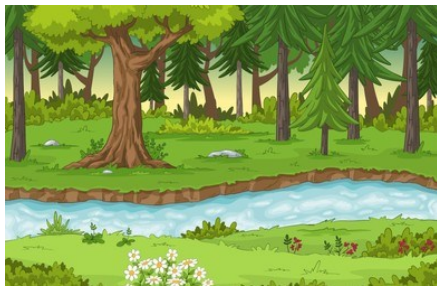
Free to all who attend

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.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL
ADVENTURES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

(right after Sunday worship)



**JUNE 23—HIKE & PICNIC AT
SANNAUK FOREST PRESERVE**



**JULY 14—VISIT TO HAYES
FAMILY FARM**



**AUGUST 11—WATER GAMES
ON SALEM'S SOUTH LAWN**

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

Salem Lutheran Church Sunday School students, families and friends visited Pavilion On Main after worship on Sunday, June 2 to sing and visit with the residents.



The Property Committee invited members to come help with yard work on Friday, May 31 at Salem to clear the church lawn of sticks.

Thanks to all who came to pick up branches of all sizes! A special thanks to Dean Lundeen for hauling away a trailer full of branches.



**Thanks to all
from the Green Team!**

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!



Our May NIFB team of 18 volunteers bagged 2,400 heads of cabbage. Total weight was 13,800 pounds. Registration is closed for the June 18 volunteer shift at Northern Illinois Food Bank. The next opportunity to volunteer will be Tuesday, July 16, 9-11:30 am. Remember that this will be during school summer break, so young people 9 and older will be eligible to sign up. New volunteers are welcome. Please check with Walt or Mickey Farley if you have questions.



The May **Lunch Bunch** shown above enjoyed food and fellowship at Open Range Southwest Grill. Lunch Bunch will be going to Pokanoka's Docksides Café, 4100 Bluebird Lane, Shabbona, on Wednesday, June 19th, 11:30 am. Meet at church at 10:30 am for anyone who wants to carpool. Please call Donna (815-263-7227) if you need a ride.



The 2023-24 Sunday School year closed with a picnic on Sunday, May 19th. Children and adults alike enjoyed a beautiful Pentecost Day. Thank you for all who donated picnic supplies and to Mickey Farley for grilling hot dogs!

