



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

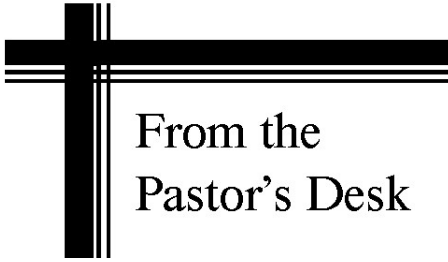
God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

November 7, 2024

VOL. 51, NO. 11



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

One time some friends invited us over for dinner. It was a joy to be seated at their table, beautifully set, and enjoy a delightful meal together. We had a delicious variety of food set before us, everything we could want. It was obvious that they had gone all out to make us feel welcome and appreciated.

You can imagine it would have been a wholly different experience if we had been invited over to their house, sat down together, and then had them ask one another, "Well, what do you think? Do we have anything for them to eat?" It would have been strange to have them pull out the leftovers from the fridge, in cold, plastic containers. Perhaps a smidgeon of rice left over from a week ago. A piece of chicken that no one had wanted. Stale cookies from the cupboard.

That would be unheard of, wouldn't it? We were given a wonderful dinner. Now mind you, it was not caviar, or lobster, or a porterhouse steak, but our friends were generous in sharing with us a good meal from what they had.

God does not give us leftovers. To draw us back into his family, God gives us his very best, his only Son, Jesus. We have been invited into a relationship where we are offered forgiveness when we do not deserve it. We are offered a place at the Lord's Table, as we share in the meal of salvation, Jesus' own body and blood given for you and for me.

God gives us what we need each and every day. Everything we value comes as a gift of God, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Luther identifies what we receive as we pray for our Daily Bread: "Daily Bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food and clothing, home and property, work and income, a devoted family, an orderly community, good government, favorable weather, peace and health, a good name, and true friends and neighbors." On top of these, God gives us the church, where we live with God's family, are filled with God's Word and sent out to live lives of meaning and purpose. In so many ways, even in difficult times, we are truly blessed.

What will we give to the Lord who generously gives us every good thing? What would be an appropriate gift to show our thanks and praise, our gratitude for God's boundless generosity to us? Will we give God our very

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Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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In our church family. . .

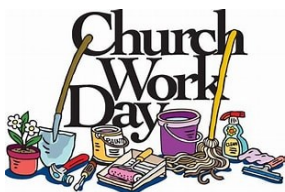
PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

CONTINUING— 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, Lisa Fisch, 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, Bill McGing, Colleen McMahon, Pastor Steve Mindrup, 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.

MILITARY—All people serving in the military, especially: Danny Cassidy, Carson Harris, 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.



Thanks to all who
came to work on
Friday, October 25!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44



NOVEMBER
"DIAMOND PLUS" BIRTHDAY

11-1 Shirley Hines

Happy Birthday

best, or will we start rooting for the leftovers, whatever might be left in our wallet when the offering comes around?

As Christians, we give because we have a need to give. Faithful giving reminds us who we are, and where our lives and all that we have come from. When we learn generosity, our hearts are opened to love and care for the world that God places us in, and we see the ways that God gives us to help and share.

Salem Lutheran certainly needs your generous giving so that we can continue and extend our ministry in this place. We all know how hard it often is for the church to meet its budget. But God doesn't want us to give with bills or budgets in mind. God wants us to give because we trust in him. God wants us to give so that we can learn more each day what it means to walk as his disciples. Our pledge to give is not a chain binding us, but a commitment to a relationship with God. Each time that we receive from God, we give, joining in God's work of saving and renewing our world. We can give thanks for that opportunity to share with Jesus, and make a faith commitment to give a proportion or a tithe of what God gives us.

Giving a good dinner takes planning, preparation, and a generous commitment. Our offering to the Lord requires the same thing. A pattern of faithful stewardship doesn't just happen, it takes planning, preparation, and a generous commitment to grow in generous giving. I challenge you to plan your gift to the Lord, as a faithful percentage of what God has first given you. I call you to prepare your heart and your budget to offer your gift joyfully. And I invite you to make and live out your commitment with joy, knowing that you are giving your very best to the Lord who gives his best for you. What will you offer to the Lord – leftovers, or your very best?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John



ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 WE REMEMBERED WITH THANKSGIVING THOSE MEMBERS OF SALEM WHO HAVE PASSED TO THE CHURCH ETHERNAL DURING THE PAST YEAR.

JUDITH ANDERSON
JAMES WHITTEN

PHILLIP HOFFMAN
BRIAN CLASON

WANDA FEDRO
BOBBY HARPSTER



NOVEMBER 5, 2024, SALEM CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Salem's Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, November 5, 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. Council member elect Sharon Wallis also attended.

Following devotions led by Nancy Rex, the minutes of the October 3, 2024, Congregation Council meeting as prepared by Secretary Jacqueline Beverage were accepted.

The minutes of the October 13, 2024, meeting of Salem Congregation as prepared by Substitute Secretary Bonnie Guyer were accepted with the revision noting that all motions made and seconded at that meeting were passed with no dissenting votes.

Council members studied the financial reports for September 2024. Treasurer Bonnie Guyer reported balances in the following accounts as of November 5, 2024.

General Fund: \$5683.92 Capital Fund: \$35,314.11 Designated Fund: \$34,960.07

All bills are currently paid. The treasurer's report as presented by Treasurer Bonnie Guyer was accepted.

Pastor John Rothfusz commented on his written report for the month of October and added that he, other pastors, and workers of the Northern Illinois Synod will be attending a workshop on boundaries on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Council members serving on Salem committees reported on work being done by the various committees.

Council members voted to designate offerings made for Thanksgiving to Our Sharing Pantry, and to designate offerings made for Christmas to Salem's General Fund.

The next Salem Congregation Council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, following the Advent Midweek Worship Service that begins at 6:00 p.m. Council members are responsible for snacks following that worship service before the meeting begins.

Highlights from the Congregation Meeting

At the congregation meeting held on Sunday, October 13, 2024, Jacqueline Beverage, Bonnie Guyer, Walter Farley and Sharon Wallis were elected for a 3-year term on the Congregation Council beginning in January 2025. Jackie, Bonnie, and Walter were re-elected to serve a second three-year term. Sharon was newly elected and her previous council experience will serve Salem well. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in the leadership role at our church. Please talk to any council member to learn how you can serve in a committee.

Salem members voted without dissent to accept the proposed changes to Salem's Constitution.

- ◆ Members shall be eligible for two consecutive terms on the Endowment Fund Board.
- ◆ A Call Committee is to find a consensus to recommend a candidate to the Congregation Council for their consideration.
- ◆ The Congregation Meeting quorum has been changed to 10% of the voting members.



Joy of Being Poured Out

On November 24th, for our Stewardship Commitment Sunday, we will gather in worship to give thanks to God for all the ways that he blesses our lives. As a part of our worship, we will offer to God our Intent for Giving Cards for the next year. We ask that you be in prayer about what God is calling you to give for the ministries that we share here at Salem Lutheran Church. Below is a copy of the Intent for Giving Card that will be handed out in worship, so that you can be prepared to respond prayerfully and faithfully. This copy is for planning, and you don't need to turn it in, but we want you to be prepared for your commitment time on that day.

Why Intent Cards?

Our stewardship team has been learning from some experts in giving. They tell us that they have learned that people give more, and give more often if they fill out an intent card. The act of putting your intentions in writing and offering it to the Lord is a powerful tool to shape your generosity. You can make up your mind, and you can carry out what you intend to do.

We try not to use the language of pledge cards, however. This is not a legal commitment. We are asking for your prayerful intents that you offer to God. No one will come after you or shame you if your income, health, or other circumstances change and you can't do what you intended. Likewise no one will stop you if you feel able to give even more than you wrote down from God's blessings in your life.

Please do help us by filling out an intent card and sharing it as a part of our annual Stewardship drive. It will make a difference to you, to God, to the church, and to all those that we can bless together.

Many Ways to Give


People have choices in how much to give, to which fund to give, and how to give. Traditionally, people have received envelopes in the mail and put cash or a check in the envelope. The offering is then placed in the offering plate. For several years, Salem has enrolled people who want their gift to come out automatically from their savings or checking account and be sent electronically to Salem. Others who use bill pay have chosen to set up their gift through their own financial institution and those offerings come through the mail by paper check. New this year is setting up a one-time or recurring gift on the website (wearesalemlutheran.org/offering). If you need help in setting up how you wish to give and have questions, please contact Kelly or Gina in the office.



Salem website:
wearesalemlutheran.org

Salem Lutheran Church - 2025 Statement of Intent

In gratitude to God and in thanksgiving for the on-going ministry of Salem Lutheran Church, I/we intend to give the following offering:



Joy of Being Poured Out

GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL FUND
\$ _____ to be given weekly OR	\$ _____ to be given weekly OR
\$ _____ to be given monthly OR	\$ _____ to be given monthly OR
\$ _____ to be given annually.	\$ _____ to be given annually.

I/we understand that this offering may be adjusted if necessary by notifying the church office.

- I/we will begin this new level of generosity starting now.
- I have included the congregation in my estate plans.
- I am interested in including the congregation in my estate plans.

Name _____ Email _____

Please include your name, or we can't count your commitment!



CROP WALK REPORT

The Crop Hunger Walk leaders met recently to review 2024 efforts.

Fifteen churches with 87 walkers participated this year. The total amount raised was \$21,254.02. It's been over 10 years since we've raised this much money to help end hunger! Of this total, Salem brought in \$4007 with help from Sunday School students who turned in \$376.

Kudos to everyone who walked, raised funds and prayed with us through this year's campaign. Thank you to Jan Dunn for serving as co-chair.

Styrofoam Recycling Opportunity

Don't forget to bring your Styrofoam to church next Sunday, November 17. Alan's "Green Team" pick-up truck will be in the parking lot ready for any recycling materials you bring. We will take them to the Dart Container Corp. in North Aurora for recycling.

Be good stewards of God's creation!



Growing Hope Globally's Harvest Celebration had a very successful fundraising day. Jerry and Toni Lundeen let us know that \$20,523.91 for raised!! This will be sent to GHG to support the program in Tanzania Arusha as determined by the voting that was done that day.

QUIZ #3

The Stewardship Committee will be testing your knowledge of Salem history and finances. This quiz is the third of four quizzes. Turn page upside down to see answers.

1. Salem is paying on a loan taken for our expansion project. What is the monthly payment?
 - a) \$2111.69
 - b) \$4111.69
 - c) \$6111.69
 - d) \$8111.69
2. When interest rates dipped in 2020, the loan was re-financed for a lower payment. What decision did Salem's council make?
 - a) Have a party with the difference every month.
 - b) Pay down the principal by paying the difference in addition to the new monthly payment.
 - c) Pay only the minimum required monthly payment.
 - d) Cancel the loan.
3. What was the most recent upgrade to the church property?
 - a) Roof
 - b) Boiler
 - c) Kitchen
 - d) Social Hall
4. How many lots does Salem own across the street (west of church)?
 - a) six
 - b) two
 - c) one
 - d) five
5. Does Salem have an annual contract with a landscaping company for lawn mowing?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch had a fun experience at Letty Mae's Tea Room in Morris. The decorations reminded us of being at Grandma's house with tea pots, apron and hankie décor. Enjoying the lunch together were Bonnie, Sharon, Pat and her out-of-town guests, Bev and Bob, Kelly, Laura and Sandy.

The next Lunch Bunch outing will be the second week of November, on Wednesday, November 13 at 11:30 am at Last Chance Saloon in Millington. Please sign up if you plan to go. Call Donna Fraley at (815) 263-7227 if you need a ride.



The November volunteer shift is set for Tuesday, November 19. Registration is at full capacity—Thank you!

In October, our volunteers packed 4890 pounds of potatoes and 1950 pounds in back packs.

Sign up for Wednesday, November 13



Quilts & School Kits

Thank you Cheryl Carls and Ernie Stumbo for delivering 70 quilts and 62 school kits to Elgin.

The Quilting Group next meets on November 11 & 12 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon.



Adopt-a-Road:

The last clean up for 2024 happened on Saturday, October 19. The weather was good to us! Thanks to Durk, Bonnie, Sami, Libby, Kelly, Evan, Marilyn & Jerri for spending a little over an hour to clean up West Sandwich Road. Mickey and Walter Farley assist our teams with vests, garbage bags and rides back to our cars.

PHOTO CREDIT: Mickey Farley.

Community Fellowship Feast

Salem hosted the Community Fellowship Feast on October 22 and served 90 meals. All involved seemed to enjoy the Taco Tuesday! Thank you to Marilyn Wouda for spear heading this event and all the workers who greeted, set up, cleaned up and served the meal for neighbors.

Salem will donate the desserts for the November Community Fellowship Feast at United Church of Sandwich. Please sign up in the narthex if you can help in this way.



Trunk or Treat & Weenie Roast

Thanks to Christian Education and Fellowship Committees for hosting a fun afternoon and family-friendly activities. Thank you Jay Knox for monitoring the campfire where we roasted hot dogs and marshmallows.

NEW COFFEE BAR

A talented carpenter, who wishes to remain anonymous, has turned the old piano which was sitting unused in a storage room into a Coffee Bar. Its new home is in the Fellowship Hall.

Salem Inquirers Class

We will hold our periodic Salem Inquirers Class in the weeks ahead. This is for new members who would like to join Salem Lutheran, current members who would like to gain a better understanding of the faith we share, and anyone else who might like to learn more about our church with no strings attached.

We will talk together about some of the basics of our faith, and the various ways that the Lord has brought us here. We will meet after worship and the Veterans Program on Sunday, November 10, and talk about what times will work for those taking part.

Please invite anyone you think might be interested, and talk to Pastor John with any questions.



- ◆ **Winter Wear for Hope Haven in DeKalb...**Laura Caupert reminds us it is time to look at home for gently worn coats, hats, scarves, mittens or gloves to donate to those in need. New items are also welcome.
- ◆ **Franklin Mall...**We will once again be a drop off location for non-perishable foods for the Sandwich Lion Club's Franklin Mall Christmas Project.
- ◆ **Our Sharing Pantry...**The Salem Church Council designated Thanksgiving offerings to Our Sharing Pantry. Our Sharing Pantry is serving double the number of people they served last year and the need is great. Christmas offerings are designated to Salem's General Fund.

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

November Community Fellowship Feast

United Church of Sandwich is hosting the Community Fellowship Feast from 4:30—6:00 pm. All community members are welcome to share in a free meal and fellowship with neighbors.

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

The Community Thanksgiving Worship Service is on Sunday, November 24 at 6:00 pm. It will be at the United Church of Sandwich, 512 Lions Road. This is sponsored by the Sandwich-Somonauk Ministerial Association.



The Season of Advent Begins December 1

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Advent services are scheduled on Tuesdays, December 3, 10, & 17, at 6:00 pm. Join us and bring a friend!

Good News, Great Joy Devotional Books

The Worship Committee will provide advent books for your reading pleasure and devotions.

Festival of Trees

Salem's Sunday School will be making ornaments to put on the Salem Christmas tree. Visit Classic Cinema on December 7 & 8. Thank you Libby Welsch for coordinating our participation in Festival of Trees.

Sunday School Program

The Christian Education Committee is working with our Sunday School students to present a program on Sunday, December 15 during the education hour beginning at 10:15 am.

Christmas Caroling & Cookie Delivery

The Fellowship Committee has scheduled caroling on Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 pm. The Member Support Committee will pack cookies on Saturday, December 14 for the carolers to deliver to Salem shut-ins.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24.

ENV # _____

YOUR NAME(S) _____

_____ HOW MANY PLANTS? _____

I would like my plant(s) listed as follows: (i.e., in memory of, in honor of, etc.)

Will you pick up your plant(s)
after December 24th?
 YES NO

Please enclose \$13.00 per plant.
Amount enclosed \$ _____



Please return your order form to Salem in person or by mail to PO Box 105, Sandwich IL 60548.

Salem Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 105

Sandwich, IL 60548