



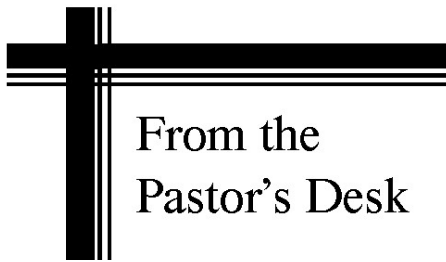
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Salem *LIFE*

Newsletter of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sandwich, Illinois

September 11, 2025

VOL. 52, NO. 9



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy. ²Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. Luke 12:1b-2

We live in a wonderful time, when we have the ability to share our thoughts and our lives widely. We live in a terrifying time, when all of our words and deeds can easily be exposed to the world.

People used to think that they could have places and times that were not observed. "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas," became a marketing slogan for a place where people could go and cut loose, bending a few rules along the way. Sometimes people want to have secret lives that their family and friends don't know about, or hold secret beliefs that would not be acceptable in polite society.

But it is increasingly clear in our world today that nearly everything that we do outside of our front door can be observed and recorded. And everything that we post or read or watch online is probably recorded as well.

Just think of all of the cases we have heard where someone's private conversation was recorded, either intentionally by the other person, or picked up on another microphone. Video cameras could be located outside any business or home, and if a crime happens, the police will get that video to see who was involved.

Many things about ourselves we like to share on social media, like our pictures, our thoughts of the moment, our favorite memes or cat videos. But an offhand comment will be there forever. An email or a message can follow us wherever we go. Would you be happy if your mother or grandmother read everything that you posted? Would you be pleased and proud for the whole world to see if it shows up on the nightly news?

I don't think that we should behave *only* because someone might be watching. But that new reality does give us more reason to behave in a way that we can be proud of. How many politicians have gotten in trouble as their words, their secret meetings, and their shady financial deals are revealed to the world? How many teachers, pastors, or business leaders are shamed as an unsavory part of their life is revealed? Many lose their job as the truth is revealed.

In our text, Jesus points out that the Pharisees insist that everyone should strictly follow the rules, but they evade those very rules in secret. They are hypocrites, demanding something of others that they don't live out themselves. And Jesus says that their hypocrisy will be made known to everyone.

How should we live, knowing that everything secret may be revealed? The only good answer is to live as a person of integrity, wholeness. All of our words and deeds should be honorable and good, and then we will have no concern that someone else will hear or see them.

Continued on page 3

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving Christ!

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Reverend John Rothfusz
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Nancy Hayes

Staff Office Hours: Tues.—Thurs., 9 am—2 pm; Fri, 9 am-12 noon

Happening this week...

Sunday, September 14

9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Heritage Brunch with Trivia and
Dessert Raffle to Follow

Monday, September 15

4:00 pm—6:00 pm Our Sharing Pantry
Distribution

Tuesday, September 16

8:00 am Leave for No IL Food Bank
7:00 pm Worship Committee

Wednesday, September 17

10:00 am Methuselah Coffee Group
10:00 am Member Support Committee
6:30 pm Confirmation at Salem

Thursday, September 18

8:30 -10:30 am Our Sharing Pantry Distribution
5:00 pm Praise Team
6:00 pm Handchimes
7:00 pm Salem Choir
7:00 pm AA

Friday, September 19

8:00—2:30 Church Work Day #1
7:30 pm AA

Saturday, September 20

8:00—2:30 Church Work Day #2

Sunday, September 21

9:00 am Worship/Kids Church
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship
10:10 am Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
10:15 am Fellowship Committee

In Our Church Family.....

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

- ⇒ George Webster*
- ⇒ Marlene Kee*
- ⇒ Laverne Mattson*
- ⇒ Nicholas Kulbartz (*son of Paul Kulbartz*)
- ⇒ Sue Peuler (*friend of Laura Caupert*)
- ⇒ Ellie Allen (*friend of Dori Burau*)
- ⇒ Eileen Negley*
- ⇒ Stan Benson*



*Indicates Salem member

SEPTEMBER "DIAMOND PLUS" BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday

9/4 Lyle Anderson
9/13 Jerry Davis
9/20 Ruth Erickson
9/24 Patty Farley
9/29 Kent Wesson

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: Exodus 32:7-14;
Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: Amos 8:4-7;
Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13



RALLY DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Celebrating our Heritage as Children of God at Salem Lutheran Church

Rally Day at Salem will take a slightly different tone this year. On Sunday, September 14, we invite everyone—adults and children, lifelong members and those who have joined us recently—to join in celebrating our shared relationship as Children of the Heavenly Father. It will be a time to refresh memories or to gain new insights into Salem Lutheran Church. We begin with a joyful worship service at 9:00 a.m. sharing Word and Sacrament, Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving.

As is our usual custom, Food and Fellowship will follow worship. We are planning a festive potluck brunch with a bit of a twist. Our adventurous cooks are invited to try their hands at some of the dishes featured at Salem’s famous Smorgasbords/Scandinavian Dinners. Who remembers meat balls, lemon rice, prune cream, sand tarts, and so many more? Suggested recipes were posted on a display in the narthex and all have been selected by members who will prepare a dish to help bring back those memories. Of course, regular brunch options will be appreciated as well.

There will be a display featuring some of Salem’s history and a lively trivia tournament for all ages (no peeking at the historical display during the game). After a year’s absence, we will bring back the Dessert Raffle to benefit our Sunday School program. Donations of sweets for the raffle will also be appreciated. Bring cash that day! You won’t want to miss taking a chance to go home with a baked good!

Certainly within the church we know that all of us are forgiven sinners, and we each will fail and do things that we are not proud of. But we know that we live always in forgiveness, for ourselves and others. We don't write people off because they have done foolish or sinful things. Yet we do confess those things before God, and resolve to turn away from them to a better way of life.

And we heed the words of St. Paul, who encourages us to shape our lives around things that are honorable and good. If we do these things, we will never have cause to be ashamed. God wants the very best for us, and we want to live lives that give glory to God and bring honor to the people of God in the church.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Rothfus



Opportunity to help Nicholas Kulbartz ♦ Tuesday, September 16 from 5 pm to 9 pm

Salem member Paul Kulbartz's son was in a horrific traffic accident and needs financial help. Culver's of Yorkville will host a fundraising night to assist with recovery and medical expenses. Mention Nick Kulbartz Fundraiser at the time of ordering. Culver's is donating 15% of the group's sales during this time. Come out and support while you dine! **Culver's of Yorkville, 1745 Marketview Dr, Yorkville**

September 2, 2025 Salem Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Congregation Council met at Salem on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, starting at 6:30 p.m. Council members Jacqueline Beverage, Ron Cunz, Alan Deaton, Walter Farley, Donna Fraley, Bonnie Guyer, Connie Hanson, Durk Hellinga, Sharon Wallis and Pastor John Rothfus were present.

Donna did a devotion on the verse from Matthew 6 "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven." A mirror can reflect light into the darkest, most inaccessible places. We are not the source of the light, but we can reflect God's light into the dark places of the world, and make Jesus' way known.

The council voted to accept the minutes of the August 5 Congregation Council meeting, as prepared by Alan Deaton.

The Financial reports for July were examined. These are the following balances as of the meeting.

General Fund:	\$ 4715.00	Loan Balance \$ 393,282.26
Designated Fund:	\$ 37,500.49	
Capital Fund:	\$ 27,575.24	

Council members heard monthly reports from Pastor John Rothfus and from council members representing Salem's committees. They reviewed the calendar to highlight events coming up in September and look for conflicts.

The Christian Education Committee is ready for Rally Day, on September 14. We will start off the Sunday School year, and appreciate the ministry of Jason and Kim Boczko with 3N1 as they step down from that. Our theme is Children of the Heavenly Father, celebrating our history and heritage.

The sign facing the parking lot is completed and will be installed after the fair.

A motion was made and passed to send all funds from Cans for a Cause to Our Sharing Pantry regularly until a new motion is made.

The group heard council comments from each member.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:10 p.m.

New Sunday School Opportunity

Beginning Sunday, September 21, the Christian Education Committee will be offering “Children’s Church” for our youngsters age 3-7. Children will sit with their parents until the Children’s Sermon, after which they will take part in a Sunday School class just for their age group during the sermon and prayer time.

Children will return to the sanctuary during the offering. We hope this will provide our youngest Sunday Schoolers with age-appropriate activities and allow their parents time and quiet to take in the message. Please talk to Sharon Wallis if you have questions.

Confirmation Classes to Begin

Confirmation is a time for our young people to claim the faith of their baptism for themselves, and think more deeply about what it means to live as a Christian in the world.

Salem Lutheran will continue our shared confirmation program with St. John Lutheran in Somonauk. Confirmation classes began this fall with an organizational meeting on September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Salem. Regular Wednesday classes will continue each week at 6:30, alternating monthly between the churches. Please talk to Pastor John if you have any questions.

Prayer Garden Bricks

We have a lovely prayer garden outside the office door to the church. If you would like to add a brick in memory of a loved one, that is available. Engraved bricks cost \$150 for a 4 x 8 inch brick or \$225 for a 8 x 8 inch brick. The office can make the arrangements.

A new brick has been donated in memory of Sharon Foster. Come visit and sit in quiet conversation with our Lord.



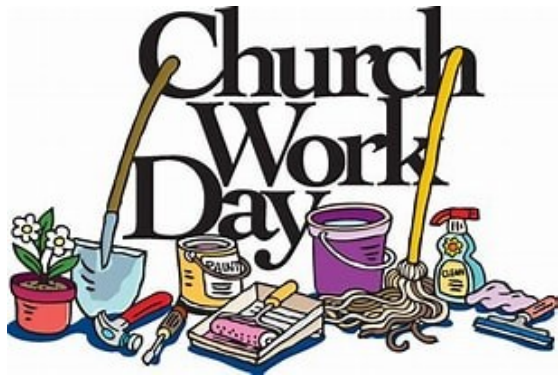
Fall Barn & Garden Walk

You are invited to join the Fellowship Committee in a new fall activity. We are going for a Fall Barn & Garden Walk on Sunday, September 28. Meet at Salem to car pool at 2:00 pm.

A pot luck at Pescitelli’s will end our adventure at approximately 3:30 pm. Please sign up for the walk, and/or the pot luck in the narthex.



- 9/21: Children Church begins
- 9/21: Sunday School kicks off
- 9/21: Styrofoam Recycling
- 9/21: Diaper Sunday
- 9/24: Ruth Unit Bible Study
- 9/28: Barn & Garden Walk
- 10/5: Crop Walk @ Sandwich Fairgrounds
- 10/8: Adopt-a-Road
- 10/25: Trunk or Treat & weenie roast



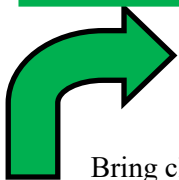
Mark Your Calendars!

Church Work Days are scheduled for Friday, September 19th and Saturday, September 20th from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm. Come when you are able and stay for as long as you can.

We will work on indoor and outdoor projects. Depending on what you choose to do, you might want your gloves, cleaning supplies and yard tools.

Jobs the Property Committee has identified includes:

- Tree & bush trimming
- Garden maintenance
- Junk removal
- Caulking of sidewalk cracks
- Weather stripping doors
- Stair treads
- Washing windows
- Removing spider webs, *and*
- *whatever else we see that needs attention.*



Sunday, September 21
Styrofoam Recycling Day

Bring clean Styrofoam to Alan's Green Machine.

Our Sharing Pantry Update

Jan Dunn reports that Our Sharing Pantry is running low on food staples this month. Please consider donating one or a few of the items listed here. There is a collection basket in the church hallway. The need is greater than ever. Thanks for helping!

Donna Fraley continues to serve as Salem's representative of the Our Sharing Pantry Board. Jan Dunn, Alan Deaton, and Donna Fraley are regular Our Sharing Pantry volunteers.

As you shop for your own groceries, if you see a good bargain on any of these items, you may consider picking them up for a pantry donation. There are lists near the basket outside the sanctuary. Thank you for all you do for our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet.

Our Sharing Pantry: New Donation List

Market List

Tuna

Rice

Cereal

Baked Beans

Kleenex

Toothpaste

Diced Tomatoes

Canned Corn

Canned Green Beans

Instant Oatmeal

Honey

Instant Potatoes





Northern Illinois Food Bank

Say Potato!

Volunteers packed 1047 bags of potatoes in August. We packed 5,235 pounds of potatoes, providing 4,363 meals.

Those who have already signed up will be packing food on September 16.



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch destination in August was Tapa La Luna in DeKalb. We choose to skip September and will announce the October destination in the October Life.

Salem Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 105

Sandwich, IL 60548

CROP HUNGER WALK 2025

This year's CROP Walk will be at the
Sandwich Fairgrounds on Sunday, October 5th



Registration is at 1:15 Walk starts at 2:00

CROP Walk is a major fundraiser for Church World Service (CWS). Salem supports CWS along with 13 other local churches with our Community Interfaith Walk every October. 25% of all the funds raised will be donated to our local food pantries. The balance will be used by CWS to support disaster relief, refugee assistance and grassroots development to all parts of the globe.

PLEASE JOIN US to walk and raise money for this cause. See Jan Dunn to walk, pick up a donations envelope or make a contribution.

Star 34 Fundraiser: Easy, fun, & delicious!

Star 34 Cafe has generously offered to host a fundraising day for us on **Wednesday, September 17th**. They will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner that day and a portion of all the money they make that day will be donated to our CROP Hunger Walk. Flyers are available to pick up at Salem as a reminder to go to Star 34, 336 W Church St, Sandwich. Customers do not need to present it.

Our Culver's fundraiser night was a huge success with over \$400 raised! Let's pass the word to our congregations, friends and family to head out to Star 34 for a delicious meal on Wednesday and make this event a winner too!

Thanks for all you do to make our walk a success!

God's peace,

Jan Dunn and Cindy Fraser, CROP Walk Co-coordinators