

# the Bugle

**T**here is an old joke that is not all that funny as it hits a bit closer to home perhaps than we might like. “How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?” *(long pause)* “CHANGE???” The implication is that Lutherans are steeped in tradition and are slow at best and resistant at worst to consider change. Few people can deny that the life many of us knew in the church has changed over time. Some people have moved away, some have died, some have entered a different stage of life, and some have stopped showing up and taking part in the life of the church and feel guilty about the changes and reluctant to re-engage again. Life has always been busy, but it feels there is more stress, more commitments for those who are working and less time for and even interest in life at the church these days.

As we turn the page on the calendar and many people consider resolutions to intentionally change some things and get the new year off to a good start. Eating less and exercising more is a common resolution. Here are a few other considerations: laugh more, make time for friends and family, devote time for prayer and bible reading, commit to attending worship, be more generous, be more kind, practice patience, learn something new, volunteer at a school or church, take a meal to someone, make phone calls, or drop notes of encouragement to a few people you do not know as well.

You see change does not have to discourage us nor does it mean life is falling apart. What we do about it is what is important. The way I see it, as long as change is taking place, make an effort to do something about the changes and make a positive difference for someone else.

The theme for Salem for the next three years will help us grow through and anticipate the changes. Engaging God’s Mission – Hope for the Future means we are making efforts to participate in what we believe God is doing and to realize there is hope for what is yet to come. I am excited for the changes that will unfold in the years before us and am eager to help connect us to new ways of sharing in life together. I ask for your partnership in this journey and invite you to consider where you feel most called to engage in God’s mission for our future together.

New Year’s blessings – Pastor Craig



## Congregational Annual Meeting

In accordance with Salem's constitution, this article, along with verbal announcement at worship, constitutes official notice of our annual meeting to be held on **Sunday, January 29 at 9:45am** in the sanctuary.

A Budget Question and Answer session will be provided on **Sunday, January 22 at 9:45am** in the sanctuary.

## Annual Reports Due January 3

Attention all Salem ministry committees and groups: please submit your annual reports to Toni Greving at [tgrevling@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:tgrevling@salemofpeoria.com) by **Tuesday, January 3**. Please let her know if you need any assistance in gathering information for your reports or if you need a copy of last year's report emailed to you.

### WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

Worship on **Sunday, January 1 will be at 10am**. The church office will be closed on **Monday, January 2** for observance of New Year's Day.

## Sanctuary Bells and Sanctuary Choir

Maggie Sloter, Director of Music, extends an invitation for you to consider sharing your musical talents. It is a wonderful opportunity to share your gifts through music, and all are welcome!

Sanctuary choir and bell rehearsal dates are as follows:

**Thursday, January 5-Thursday, January 26 - Sanctuary Bells at 6PM, Sanctuary Choir at 7PM**

**Thursday, 1/19 - NO REHEARSAL FOR BELLS AND SANCTUARY CHOIR**

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

## Ladies' Night Out, January 16 at 6pm

The Ladies' Night Out will be meeting at Jalapeno's (in the Metro Centre - 4700 N University St, Peoria) on **January 16 at 6pm**. Please rsvp by January 13 at the Welcome Center.

## Sunday Fellowship

Thank you to all who have contributed to fellowship time on Sundays whether it has been buying supplies, baking cookies, bringing treats or fruit, cleaning up, making donations, or simply sitting to share time with your Salem family. We continue to need volunteers to sign-up to bring fruit to supplement the cookies.

For those who want another way to contribute - please consider bringing in a case of bottled water. Water bottles may be placed on the rack outside the kitchen and will be put in the refrigerator as needed.



**Craig Swenson, Senior Pastor**  
[cswenson@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:cswenson@salemofpeoria.com)

**Jill Goldhammer, Deacon,**  
**Children, Youth & Family Ministries**  
[jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com)

**Joan Creager, Senior Ministries**

**Toni Greving**  
**Office Coordinator**  
[office@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:office@salemofpeoria.com)

**Meghan Peterson, Communications**  
[mpeterson@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:mpeterson@salemofpeoria.com)

**Gretchen Petrakis,**  
**Director of Sunday School**  
[gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com)

**Lori Reimer, Parish Nurse**  
[lreimer@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:lreimer@salemofpeoria.com)

**Maggie Sloter, Director of Music**  
**& Choir Director**  
[msloter@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:msloter@salemofpeoria.com)

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**Bugle content for February 2023 due by January 10**

**Pastoral Emergency Number:**  
In case of emergency please call:  
Pastor Craig: 309-258-4759 or  
Lori Reimer: 309-303-3808

## Capital Campaign and 2023-2024 Annual Giving Update

### 2022 Bridge Capital Giving Update

As of December 13, 2022, Salem has received approximately \$330,000 for the one-year Capital Bridge Appeal. There were total pledges of \$312,000 so receipts have exceeded pledges by over \$25,000.

Pledges for the second three-year capital appeal beginning in 2023 and going through 2025 total \$465,000. Several of those pledges were scheduled to be paid before the end of 2022. We are well on our way to our goal of \$600,000. You are encouraged to attend the annual meeting on **Sunday, January 29 at 9:30am** to receive an up-to-date report on capital appeal giving and what the balance is on the mortgage.

### Annual Giving for 2023-2024

While the commitments to the second capital campaign are on target to meet the goal of \$600,000, general giving commitments for the coming year are lower than expected, and we are facing a much larger deficit than in previous years.

With this information, please complete and return your annual giving commitment cards if you have not done so already. If you have already returned your cards, please consider increasing your annual commitment. An increase of even 5% would help to close the deficit and help sustain Salem's operating budget for 2023.

A budget meeting for questions preceding the annual meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 22, following the first service at 9:30am**.



### OUTREACH MINISTRY

## January Food Collection

To continue the non-perishable food collections for Bethel United Methodist's Food Pantry please donate anytime during the month.

## Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Serving Opportunity on Wed, Jan 25 from 9am-11am



Salem's volunteer serving opportunity at Midwest Food Bank has had about 4-6 dedicated volunteers (THANK YOU!), but would love to have a few more! Please register online to volunteer at: <https://portal.goldenvolunteer.com/timeslots/KMWigaHPot> (link will also be in the Bugle Blast.)

If interested please plan to meet at the Peoria Division (9005 N Industrial Rd, Peoria, IL 61615) at **9am on Wednesday, January 25**. If you have questions please contact John Grabel ([iron\\_man\\_46@yahoo.com](mailto:iron_man_46@yahoo.com)).

## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY STUDIES & ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION, EDUCATION HOUR: 9:45AM-10:45am

- **Women in the Word:** resumes Jan 8
- **Man-to-Man:** resumes Jan 8
- **Sunday School:** resumes Jan 8, Group Epiphany Celebration

### WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY STUDY THE WORD

- **Bible Study on Zoom:** Wednesdays at 10am led by Pastor Craig
- **Bible Study:** resumes Jan 12 led by Bill Ligon

### WOMEN CIRCLES STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

- **Rebecca Circle:** Tues, Jan 3 at 10am
- **Lydia Circle:** Wed, Jan 11 at 2pm

### WINTER BREAK YOUTH ACTIVITY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- **Grades 5th-High School:** Wed, Jan 3, 10am-2pm  
Pajama shopping for Center for Prevention of Abuse followed by lunch

### NYCB YOUTH GROUP CONFERENCE YOUTH ACTIVITY

- **Grades 6th-High School:** Sunday, Jan 22, 5pm-7pm  
Pizza & Painting at First English Lutheran, RSVP by Jan 11

### LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- **SUNDAY, JAN 22 - SUNDAY, JAN 29:** Learn more on page 5 about the collection and special events

### FAITH FOR LIFE CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

- **WEDNESDAY, JAN 25 at 6:30pm:** Faith for Life for grades 6-8 resumes on Wednesdays for four weeks

### SALEM BOOK CLUB BOOK DISCUSSION

- **WEDNESDAY, JAN 25 at 8pm:** Zoom discussion of *Miracles and Other Reasonable Things*

## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY



## bears all things

1 Corinthians 13:7

*In 2005, Salem's Parish Nurse, Lori Reimer and her family suffered what one might describe as an "unbearable" loss when Allison Reimer, Lori's daughter, died suddenly at the age of 20 of a brain aneurysm. Allison grew up at Salem and many remember her love of life, family, friends, Girl Scouts, Camp Tapawingo, and Greenville College. She loved Jesus and she loved her Salem family. She also loved teddy bears and had quite a collection of her own while growing up.*

*Lori, who has been faithful in keeping Allison's memory alive in a variety of ways over the years, started collecting teddy bears in January 2015. She collected 50 or so the first year and donated them to a local radio show who was hosting a Teddy Bear Drive for the Children's Hospital. The second year, family and friends joined in, and the effort snowballed from there. Lori's largest collection was in 2020 when almost 500 teddy bears were collected in Allison's memory. The radio station has stopped hosting its annual Teddy Bear Drive. Lori now donates the bears she collects directly to a local organization called "Cuddles with Kindness®."*

## Love Bears All Things

Learn more about our sister in Christ, Lori Reimer, her project and her faith story in January, as well as the organization **Cuddles for Kindness®**. The Salem Family will collect teddy bears and host other special activities this month as we remember that God's Love Bears All Things.



**SUNDAY, JAN 22: Love Bears All Things – Teddy Bear Drive Kick-Off:**  
Lori Reimer's faith story between services

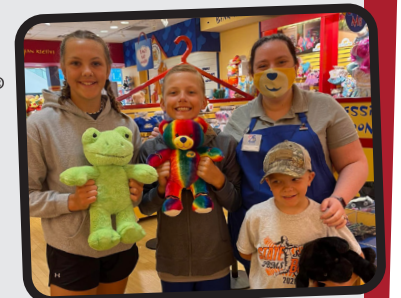


**WEDNESDAY, JAN 25: Cuddles for Kindness® Teddy Bear Picnic at Breaking Bread, 5PM-7PM at Salem**

- Catered boxed dinners
- Craft, music, story, and games
- Guest speaker: Taylor Larson, founder and CEO - Cuddles with Kindness®



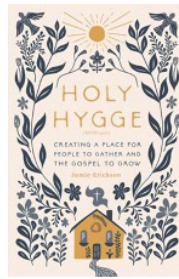
**SATURDAY, JAN 28 - Cuddles for Kindness® Event at Build-A-Bear Workshop, 10AM-11:30AM at Northwoods Mall**



### ABOUT CUDDLES WITH KINDNESS®

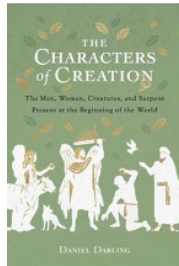
Cuddles with Kindness® is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing comfort to kids in need. Our mission is to provide comfort to children facing traumatic situations while amplifying our goal to inspire kindness and compassion, no matter your age. We do this by providing cuddly stuffed animals for them to hold on to. Founder, Taylor Larson spent 9 days in the OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois when she was a child. During her stay she received a bear on Valentine's Day. It changed her forever. Today, Taylor and the Cuddles with Kindness® organization delivers thousands of stuffed friends to children each year. Help us in our mission of "kindness."

## Salem Library



**Holy Hygge** by Jamie Erickson (248.4 ERI)

*Hygge* [HYOO-guh] has become a cultural buzzword. When many read about this Danish practice, their shoulders lift in excitement, then fall in exhale. In a culture of rush, *hygge* appeals to their desire for rest—for slow living, shared moments, and fostered friendships. *Hygge* has strong ties to beauty, contentment, and well-being. It's warm and inviting. *Hygge* is the opposite of hustle. It eschews abundance. It savors. It takes things slow and envelopes you in sanctuary. *Hygge* is home. When you sit in a comfy chair by the fire, that's *hygge*. When you arrange a fresh bouquet of wildflowers on a bedside table, that's *hygge* too. Candles, soft furnishings, natural light, fresh-baked pastries, intimate gatherings with friends—these are what come to mind when you think of *hygge*. But *hygge* can be so much more. In *Holy Hygge*, author Jamie Erickson unites the popular Danish practice with the deep, theological truths of the gospel. She unpacks the seven tenets of *hygge*: hospitality, relationships, well-being, atmosphere, comfort, contentment, and rest. In addition, Erickson shows how the external veneer of a lifestyle can create a life-giving home only when placed under the hope of the gospel. *Holy Hygge* provides practical ideas for using *hygge* to gather people and introduce them to faith in Christ.



**The Characters of Creation** by Daniel Darling (231.7 DAR)

Most Christians are familiar with the opening words of Genesis: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." But push beyond those iconic words, and sometimes the details get a little hazy. And strange. God walked around in a garden? Eve was made from Adam's rib? A talking serpent? And what in the world were the "Nephilim"? In *The Characters of Creation*, Daniel Darling re-introduces readers to the story they thought they knew. He explains the Bible's story of how we got here and how things got messed up, and gives fresh insights into the first people in God's unfolding plan of redemption—from Adam and Eve, The Serpent, Cain and Abel, and Noah.

To access and view the library collection ([salemofopeoria.com](http://salemofopeoria.com)), look for the Learn tab, click on Salem Lutheran Library, click again on Library Catalog and scroll through the online collection. Or search, ([salemofopeoria.com/salem-lutheran-library](http://salemofopeoria.com/salem-lutheran-library)).

Questions? Please contact Karen Swenson at 309-258-5708 or at [klswen@hotmail.com](mailto:klswen@hotmail.com).

NORTHERN CONFERENCE YOUTH BOARD

# PIZZA & PAINTING



Paint along with a Bob Ross video and enjoy pizza.  
RSVP by Jan 11

**SUNDAY, JAN 22**  
**5PM AT FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN**

Northern Conference Youth Board

## Pizza & Painting

Pizza and Painting on **Sunday, January 22 at 5pm-7:30pm** at First English Lutheran Church (725 Forrest Hill Ave., Peoria)

Sixth graders and older are invited to join area youth as we paint along with a Bob Ross video and enjoy pizza. All supplies are provided. Please sign-up by **January 11**.

## Salem Book Club: "Miracles and Other Reasonable Things," by Sarah Bessey

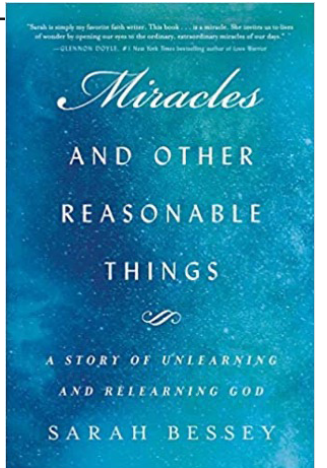
**Zoom Discussion, January 25 at 8pm-9pm**

A deeply moving and life-affirming account of wrestling with faith and God and finding miracles in the most unexpected places.

In the brief instant Sarah Bessey realized that her minivan was, inevitably, going to hit the car on the highway on the bright, clear day of the crash, she knew intuitively that it would have life-changing consequences. But as she navigated the winding path from her life before the accident—as a popular author, preacher, and loving wife and mother—to her new life after, inhabiting a body that no longer felt like her own, she found that the most unexpected result wasn't the way this shook her body, but how it shook her deeply rooted faith, upending everything she thought she knew and held so dearly.

Weaving together theology and memoir in her trademark narrative style, Sarah tells us the story of the moment that changed her body and how it ultimately changed her life. The road of healing leads to Rome where she met the Pope (it's complicated) and encountered the Holy Spirit in the last place she expected. She writes about her miraculous healing, learning to live with chronic pain, and the ways God makes us whole in the midst of suffering. She invites us to a path of knowing God that is filled with ordinary miracles, hope in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, and other completely reasonable things.

Insightful, profound, and unexpected, *Miracles and Other Reasonable Things* is a wild, spirit-filled story of what it means to live with both grief and faith, suffering and joy, as we wrestle with God.



## How Lutherans Interpret the Bible

Have you ever wanted to know more about the Bible and did not who to talk to about your questions and desire to learn? As an ELCA pastor and seminary professor, Mark Allen Powell created a resource that helps engage people in conversations about the Bible and its purpose to nurture faith conversations. How Lutherans Interpret the Bible is a six-week course that is useful for both those new in the study of scripture as well as seasoned learners who are

looking for opportunities to deepen and expand their engagement with the Bible. The study includes a video segment as well as outline materials that accompany the discussion. Pastor Craig will be leading two different times for these studies. **Sundays (February 19-March 26) on zoom at 6:30pm and Mondays (February 20-March 27) in person at 6:30pm.** Please register through the church office (office @ [salemofopeoria.com](http://salemofopeoria.com) or 309-688-9212) to receive the link to the Sunday sessions.

## Faith For Life

Faith for Life (6th-8th graders) will resume on **Wednesday, January 25 at 6:30pm** and meet for four weeks. Please watch for additional details.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER

## Salem Blood Drive, Jan 16 from 1pm-6pm

This time of year we are making New Year's resolutions. Take a moment and make a resolution to give the gift of life. The hour (or less) it takes you to donate blood could mean a lifetime to somebody else. Salem's next **Blood Drive is January 16, 2023 from 1pm-6pm**, and you are eligible to give if you haven't donated since November 21, 2022. Blood donors like you play an extremely important role to help ensure a safe and adequate blood supply. The winter season can be a tough time for blood collection at the Red Cross. A day or two of severe winter weather can cancel enough donations to impact blood product availability. Walk-ins are usually welcome but making an appointment helps to ensure adequate staffing, decreasing everyone's wait time. You can make an appointment by contacting Lori Reimer or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and look for Salem's drive. Save time on the day of the drive and finish the Rapid Pass before you come to donate. If unable to donate, you can help with registration or distributing snacks during the drive. Any questions, contact Lori Reimer.



Schedule a blood donation by visiting: [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time)  
Come to give January 1-31 for chance to win trip for two to Super Bowl LVII in AZ! ([rcblood.org/SuperBowl](http://rcblood.org/SuperBowl)).

## Save the Date: Bradley Men's Basketball Game - Sat, Jan 21

The Salem Churchmen are organizing a Bradley Men's Basketball Game Outing for members of all ages on **Saturday, January 21**. Details yet to come as the game time has not been published yet. There will be a meal at Salem before or after the game, depending on that determined time, and we will also be able to carpool to the Civic Center or take the bus.

## Thank You

• Thanks to your generosity \$1,102.41 was offered for pajamas for the Center for Prevention of Abuse, and \$2,377 for CT Vivian Gift Cards.

• Thank you to my Salem family for all the cards, food, phone calls, and concern while I was hospitalized. Thank you to Pastor Craig and Lori for their visits.

-Susie Bohm

• Thank you for the cards after my sister's passing.

- Janet Jones

## Condolences

Prayers for Mike Bohm and family as Susie Bohm joined the church triumphant on Monday, December 12. Prayers for comfort, peace, and strength for Mike and for all who will be mourning her passing. May God grant them the comfort and peace they need at this time.

A visitation and celebration of life for Susie was held at Salem Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 17, 2022. To read Susie's complete obituary please visit: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/peoria-il/susan-bohm-11057795>

## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS! JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

### January 1

David Mills  
Kylie Swanson  
Jennifer Wallstedt

### January 2

Eleonore Hansen

### January 4

Robert Arehart  
Adam Oertley  
Maryanne Rastatter

### January 5

Matthew Wiesehan

### January 8

Dorothy Strickler

### January 9

Jacklyn McKinty

### January 11

Liam Cochran  
John Petrakis  
Matthew Reimer

### January 12

Lynette Davis  
Dean Doughty  
Margaret Onyun  
Meghan Onyun  
Nathan Onyun

### January 13

Lesly Baumgartner

### January 17

Erinn Ambrosch  
Jazmyne Scoville

### January 18

Kelly Knobloch  
Anitra O'Connor  
Andrea Roberts

### January 19

Ann Roberts  
Brent Salverson  
Jason Sterr

### January 20

Gwyn O'Day  
Lauren Swanson

### January 21

Sharon Mollenhauer

### January 22

Matthew Grebner  
Dennis Gustafson

### January 23

Richard Nelson

### January 24

Betty Bennett  
Rachel Gonzales  
Rachel Malone

### January 25

JoAnn Misselhorn

### January 28

Jackie Ripper  
Marilyn Stamerjohn  
Kaylee Stenzel

### January 29

Jocyle Nolde

### January 30

Donald Swanson

### January 31

Gary Snider

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR...

• Salem's growing ministry

### DIRECTION...

• Salem Congreg. Council  
• Salem's Pastor, Deacon and Staff

### PRAYERS REQUESTS...

• Salem's Sister Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church (Olney)  
• All those affected with COVID-19  
• The men and women of our armed forces  
• Support for all caregivers when loved ones suffer  
• Individuals suffering from depression

• People of Guatemala  
• Ulrich family in Malawi  
• Families at Crittenton Center  
• Midwest Food Bank  
• Wally Bastian and his family  
• Lesly Baumgarten  
• the family of Susie Bohm

• Luan Borquist  
• Jim Chelgren  
• Butch Conard  
• John and Tanya's daughter-in-law and their family  
• Norma Hartman  
• Ron Hipple  
• Lesley Howard  
• Helen Johnson  
• Lizzie  
• Morgan Lott  
• Dave Mabee  
• Marta  
• Bill Mettam

• Bill Monckton and Deacon Jill  
• Jo and Gil Nolde  
• Linda Peterson  
• Rosy Park  
• the family of Lisa Schroeder  
• Debi Smith

### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

Stateside: Gibson Gonzalez, Emily Graff, Barry Joyce, Talon Maki  
Ashley Owen, Lucas Owen, Jim Sterling, Jason Sterr  
Overseas: Ian Borquist

The Bugle  
USPS 477-460



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



## Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday School offering their Christmas program during the **11am worship service on December 18**. Thank you for joining voices together in worship and praise for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the life everlasting he gives.