



# the Bugle

**H**ave you ever considered what Jesus meant when he said, “When they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” – Mark 13:11

Does the Holy Spirit really work that way? Does the promise of Jesus through the Holy Spirit really fill us with responses to challenging times without our preparations? How does it really work? As Lutherans, we know that faith comes to us as a gift. There is nothing we can do to work for it, earn it or even grow it. Faith, trust in God’s promises, is entirely dependent on God. All we do is respond to what God provides through God’s Holy Word entrusted to us. So, what is the work of the Holy Spirit as we engage in hearing and learning God’s Word?

From *Desiring God* podcast, “Besides thinking that the promise gives us infallibility and sure-fire effectiveness, we also should avoid thinking that the promise implies that the Holy Spirit will give wisdom and grace and power to a mind that is habituated to foolishness, flesh, and self-reliance. The promise says we should *not be anxious*, not that we should be empty-headed. We should be free from fear, not free from truth and faith.” In other words, engagement is key to a life of confidence and assurance that God is actively working in our lives. We dwell in God’s Word through active lives of worship, reading, listening, dialog, study, and prayerful reflection. Together we are intentionally filling our hearts and minds with what God wants to tell us and then be open to serving as God’s human vessels whenever God’s Spirit stirs that Word into active witness and service to the world.

With September comes a return of numerous study opportunities through Salem: Man-to-Man, Women in the Word, Wednesday morning text study, Sunday school, Faith for Life to name a few. While there is a social aspect to these gatherings, the larger focus is to plant God’s Word in our hearts and heads so that there are numerous options available for the Spirit of God to draw upon when the need arises. What is filling your mind and heart? Worry? Doubt? Fear? Worldly and temporary hopes and dreams? Or are you drawn to grow deeper in God’s Word so that your life is more fully prepared to reflect God’s plan and purpose through your lives?

In response to Faith Formation’s request, Karen and I, along with many of you, have been doing some Bible passage searching over the past few weeks to consider verses and stories that are near and dear to us. The plan is to put together a booklet to give to students who will be receiving Bibles in worship on September 10 of numerous Bible passages that have and continue to shape faith as foundational building blocks from God’s Word. As students of the Word begin to create a collection of Bible passages, the promise of Jesus can be more fully available for the Spirit of God to draw forward when we face challenging times. When the Holy Spirit searches your life to bring forth words to speak, how developed is your collection of Bible passages? Salem’s website will soon host a page with numerous Bible passages that you can read to expand your Bible repertoire. If a printed version is desired, copies may be picked up at the reception counter on the first floor. The Bible verse I shared for a bookmark for the children is John 8:31-32. “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.” Be students of the Word and the truth of God’s Word will free you and empower you to fully love and serve in Jesus’ name.

## Thank you, Joanie

After nearly 40 years of serving as the Director for Senior Ministries at Salem, Joan Creager has determined it is time to close one chapter and focus on the next. *"The joy my experience has brought myself and my family is immeasurable. The memories, the prayers, the events, the friends made and the friends lost are plenty and priceless."* Salem has a growing number of senior members and efforts are being made to continue as well as expand offerings that support and enhance the lives of people of all ages, including this special group of people. Thank you, Joanie for leaving a legacy of memories and a path to follow as we strive to grow and serve Christ and his people together. You have touched the hearts and lives of many as God's servant. May God bless you on the journey yet to come.

## Nursery Attendant Position

If you know of anyone who might be interested in this paid position, please put them in contact with Kris Griffith (309) 370-2336 or griffdk@comcast.net.



SALEM FAMILY  
**PICNIC**  
SUNDAY, AUG 27  
AFTER 9:15AM WORSHIP

The graphic features a red and white striped border around the text. Below the text are three small photographs: one of two women smiling, one of a group of people at a picnic table, and one of a man in a white shirt serving food.

## SEPT 1 First Friday Families Back to School Bash, Sept 1, 6pm-8pm at Salem Lutheran

Come join as First Friday families start back up from the summer break. Kids will have pizza and activities in the Social Hall to relax after a great week of school and parents will be upstairs and have a light meal and fellowship about all things school (or everything but school, depending on how it's been going)! Please sign-up online or at the Welcome Center.



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

**Daily Bread**  
Quarterly devotional booklet for inspirational daily devotions available at the Welcome Center.

## SEPT 9 Peoria Chiefs Ball Game with Fireworks

Members and friends are invited to enjoy an evening together at the Peoria Chiefs ballpark for fun, fellowship with fireworks on **Saturday, September 9** (6:35pm game). Salem Churchmen are sponsoring the event contributing \$10 of the \$16 per person ticket price. This is an evening with fireworks after the game. Advance registration required for block ticket purchase.

## SEPT 10 Rally Sunday is September 10th!

Rally Day on **Sunday, September 10** is the perfect time for a new start. Worship services transition to two worship services: 8:15am and 10:45am and education hour resumes at 9:30am with an all ages service project. Join the cross-generational team to assemble the items collected into "kits" to assist Phoenix CDS in their work. **Adult classes will resume on Sunday, Sept 17.**

## Sunday School

Sunday School classes (ages 3 through High School) will kick-off the new school year by participating in the cross-generational service project and then parents and students will have time to go to the classrooms and meet teachers. There will be a shortened class time on **Sunday, September 10**. We will meet in the Atrium at 9:30am for a blessing and prayer for the people receiving the items we have collected. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Sunday School teachers will be helping, as well. When the "kits" have been assembled, we will dismiss to classrooms.

## SEPT 18 Ladies' Night Out, Sept 18 at 6pm

Ladies' Night Out will be at Salem Lutheran in the Social Hall on **Monday, September 18 at 6pm**. Cost is \$10/person. Enjoy the food and fellowship with a Mexican theme. Please sign-up in advance at the Welcome Center.

## SEPT 25 Salem Blood Drive

Salem's next blood drive is **September 25 from 1pm-6pm** and will be held in the social hall. Remember to use the Rapid Pass on the day of donation to minimize your time at the blood drive. For any questions or to sign up, contact Lori Reimer. You can also sign up at the Welcome Center or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and search for Salem Lutheran Church.

## SEPT 27 Midwest Food Bank Serving Opportunity

Midwest Food Bank is celebrating 20 years of service. Watch this video (<https://vimeo.com/826230206>) for a look back at their beginning. Serve at Midwest Food Bank on **Wednesday, September 27 at 9am** at the Peoria Division. Please sign-up in advance online at: <https://volunteer.midwestfoodbank.org/timeslots/gtgW9xMEIq> - be a part of sharing the blessings!

## September Book Club Night

Join Salem members for Book Club Night! We will be meeting via Zoom on **Wednesday, September 27 at 7:30pm - 8:30pm** to discuss "In His Image" by Jen Wilkin.

Sometimes we ask *What is God's will for my life?* when we should really be asking *Who should I be?* The Bible has an answer: *Be like the very image of God.* By exploring ten characteristics of who God is - holy, loving, just, good, merciful, gracious, faithful, patient, truthful, and wise - this book helps us understand who God intends for us to be. Through Christ, the perfect reflection of the image of God, we will discover how God's own attributes impact how we live, leading to freedom and purpose as we follow his will and are conformed to his image.

Learn more about September's author Jen Wilkin here: [www.jenwilkin.net](http://www.jenwilkin.net).





## Adult Small Group Opportunities

### SUNDAYS (resuming on September 17)

- **Women and the Word:** Meet in the third floor conference room at 9:30am. Women and the Word explore and discuss the Sunday readings. Contact Leah Grebner: [leah.grebner@icloud.com](mailto:leah.grebner@icloud.com)
- **Man-To-Man:** Meet in the first floor conference room at 9:30am. Man-to-Man is a men's small group that has fellowship and have book studies. Contact Leo Vandervlugt: [leovandervlugt@gmail.com](mailto:leovandervlugt@gmail.com)

### WEDNESDAYS (resuming on September 6)

#### Online Bible Study through Zoom at 10am

Contact Pastor Craig: [cswenson@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:cswenson@salemofpeoria.com)

Pastor Craig leads this online Bible study through the upcoming Sunday's readings and psalm.

### THURSDAYS (resuming on September 7)

#### Bible Study at 9:15am, first floor conference room

Contact Bill Ligon: [bligon1965@gmail.com](mailto:bligon1965@gmail.com)

Bill Ligon leads this Bible study. The group will be studying the book of Psalms.

### CIRCLES

Circles are women's groups that meet monthly for Bible study, mission outreach, and the opportunity to foster friendships within the church. All women are invited to try out more than one circle if they wish to find the one which is the best fit for them. Below are the circles and their meeting times.

#### Lydia Circle: Wednesday, Sept 13 at 2pm, first floor conference room

Contact Sandy Harvey, [harveysandy1025@gmail.com](mailto:harveysandy1025@gmail.com)

Meets the second Wednesday at Salem Lutheran Church and uses the Bible study from the *Gather* magazine.

#### Rebecca Circle: Tuesday, September 5 at 10am, second floor fellowship lounge

Contact Roxanne Vandervlugt, [roxannevandervlugt@gmail.com](mailto:roxannevandervlugt@gmail.com)

Meets the First Tuesday morning at Salem Lutheran Church and uses the Bible study from *Gather* magazine.

### Salem Churchmen

#### Next meeting is Monday, September 18 at 7pm

Contact Tim Hickey, [timhickey2017@gmail.com](mailto:timhickey2017@gmail.com)

Salem Churchmen meet on the third Monday each month at 7pm. Salem Churchmen are blessed to be able to give to both the community as well as the congregation. Through faith, fellowship and service Salem Churchmen organize the church picnic, spring and fall work days, and distribute the Bachman Scholarship.

### Online Book Club

#### Salem Book Club Contact: Gretchen Petrakis, [gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com)

Salem's Book Club meets via Zoom on the last Wednesday each month at 7:30pm. People join every month or join for a specific book.

## Lessons and Carols - Save the Date

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 3 at 3pm** to join us for a Lessons & Carols Event! We celebrate the beginning of the Advent season by sharing song and scripture. This will be a highly collaborative event, including many of our Salem members sharing their musical talents. Please join us to get into the Christmas spirit! Invite your friends and family to enjoy this immersive experience. Reception will follow in the Social Hall with light refreshments.

# C/S IL Synod Northern Conference Son-Flower Women's Gathering "For Such a Time As This"

**Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 9 a.m. to Noon**  
First English Lutheran Church

725 E. Forrest Hill Ave. Peoria, IL 61603

### Light Breakfast and Lunch

#### Special Guest Speaker:

Aimee Shinall,

Victim Services Coordinator,  
Peoria County Sheriff's Office

R.s.v.p. Bev Gross at  
[b.gross2649@icloud.com](mailto:b.gross2649@icloud.com)  
or 309-256-6650



**Suggested Cost:**  
\$8.00 per person

**In-Kind Donation to**  
**Center for the Prevention of**  
**Abuse Women's Shelter \***

**Doors open early at 8:30 a.m.**  
**for in-person registration on**  
**September 9**

**The Central/Southern Illinois Women of the ELCA's Northern Conference will gather on**  
**Saturday, September 9, at First English Lutheran Church in Peoria.**

**All women are invited!**

It's our time to gather again in fellowship and faith.

Program highlights: Share two meals and chat with sisters.  
Hear safety tips from Aimee Shinall. And, that's not all!

Find out the latest Conference happenings.  
Help celebrate long-time circle members from the Conference.

Register today or in person on September 9. \*New/unopened socks and toiletries are requested.

"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14 ESV



of the **Women ELCA**



## FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Blood is essential to help patients survive surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. The need for blood is constant. But only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. You can help the American Red Cross make sure that supply meets demand. At most blood drives, you can donate whole blood or Power Red. As the name implies, "whole blood" donation includes all of the contents within the blood. This includes red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and plasma. Whole blood donations are typically used to help patients fight cancer, blood disorders and traumatic injuries. The Power Red donation enables the donor to safely donate two units of red blood cells at just one appointment! The Power Red donation is similar to the whole blood donation, except a phlebotomist uses a special machine to ensure two units of exclusively red blood cells are collected. The machine returns the other blood components to you. The Red Cross highly encourages donors with O+, O-, A- and B- blood types to try a Power Red donation.



## Endowment Fund Thank You!

Salem's Gift and Endowment Fund is one of the ways Salem Lutheran Church reaches out in hope through the grace of Jesus Christ to share with others. This is done in response to the faith that stirs in the heart of believers to do as Jesus commands, "care for the least of these." Salem Lutheran Church's Gift and Endowment Committee distributed gifts in July as an expression of support for organization ministry efforts for the Peoria area, the country, and worldwide.

Thank you notes were received from:

**ELCA World Hunger:** through your gifts, you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

**Lutheran World Relief:** your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

**Salvation Army:** thanks to the incredible goodness and generosity your gift helps hungry families in the Peoria community.

Thank you for your gracious and generous gifts to the Endowment Fund. The glory of God shines through you.

## Thank You!

• Thank you to Pastor Craig for the wonderful service and for visiting mom (Nancy Owen) at the nursing home. Also thank you to the Salem volunteers for a beautiful luncheon.

-Suzann Neltner

• Thank you to all the wonderful people of Salem who cooked and served delicious food for the funeral luncheon for our mother, Marian Meinert. It was greatly appreciated. You provided us with time to visit with far-flung family and old friends, who came to honor and remember Mom.

She talked highly of the people of Salem. We can see why. You are caring and compassionate. You gave her a warm welcome after Zion Lutheran Church closed and that meant a lot - to her and to us.

-With gratitude - Dori McCormick, Danette Snopek and Mark Meinert (Marian's children)

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### September 1

Julie Doty

### September 3

Emily Jolliff

### September 4

Greg Grebner

Caidon Hickey

Talon Maki

### September 5

Diane Engfer

Carole Love

Robert Middleton, Sr.

David Swanson

### September 6

Katherine Hancock

Nancy Knobloch

### September 8

Suzanne Ligon

### September 9

Jamie Hancock

### September 10

Laura VanLaningham

### September 11

Paul Misselhorn

### September 12

Caleb Brinkman

### September 13

Jennifer Friberg

Donald Hamann

Jordyn Manning

David Thomasson

### September 14

Amy Hoffman

### September 15

Kadyn Cochran

Jeffrey Hamann

### September 15

Marlene Peterson

### September 16

Connor Kelly

Henry Noe

### September 17

David Rees

### September 18

Kevin Setterlund

### September 20

Ella Hartman

Tim Koeltzow

Kylee Lambie

Drew Swanson

### September 21

Karl Larson

### September 22

A.J. Bastian

### September 22

Nicole Vandervlugt

### September 23

Daniela Gonzales

Donna Siegrist

Alex Swanson

### September 24

Inez Norgard

### September 26

Alice Bahnfleth

Kelly Brinkman

Justin Machacek

## Condolences

Prayers are requested for the family of Gil Nolde as Gil joined the church triumphant on **Saturday, August 19**. Prayers for his wife, Jo, his daughters and their families, and all who mourn his passing. May they find comfort and strength in the promises of Jesus. Visitation will be at 10am and celebration of life will follow at 11am at Salem Lutheran Church on **Saturday, September 16**. Funeral luncheon will follow the service in Salem's Social Hall.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR...

• Salem's growing ministry

### DIRECTION...

• Salem Congreg. Council

• Salem's Pastor and Staff

### PRAYERS REQUESTS...

• Salem's Sister Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church (Olney)

• 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

• Jocette and Salih Arbeyi missionaries through CRU

• Families at Crittenton Center

• Midwest Food Bank

• Wally Bastian and his family

• Quentin Bathje

• Luan Borquist

• Jim Chelgren

• Butch Conard

• John Day

• John and Tanya's daughter-in-law and their family

• Ken Gulliford

• Rich Henz and family

• Ron Hipple

• Lesley Howard

• Walter Hulvey

• Helen Johnson

• Lizzie

• Marta

• Jo Nolde

• the family of Gil Nolde

• Willie Parker

• Linda Peterson

• Rosy Park

• the family of Jackie Ruthman

• Dick Serrahn

• Debi Smith

• the family of Georgia Sutherland

• Cathie Trent

• Brant Wegrzyn

• Allen Willers

• Jean Yancick

• Zachery

### 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



# FALL WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Two worship services  
resume on **Sunday, Sept. 10**

**8:15AM**

**10:45AM**