



the Bugle

I like the song, *Confidence* by Sanctus Reel that lifts up biblical leaders who faced challenges but also allowed themselves to be part of God's plan to use them for a greater good far greater than the challenges.

*Give me faith like Daniel in the lion's den
Give me hope like Moses in the wilderness
Give me a heart like David, Lord be my defense
So I can face my giants with confidence.*

Throughout the month of April and into May, for seven weeks, we will celebrate the season of Easter. The Lenten journey that has shaped us by the image of the cross now leads us to the season that highlights the empty tomb and the resurrected hope that now gives us the confidence to embrace all that life has to offer us, even the challenges. One of the servants who is not mentioned in the refrain of the song is the disciple who gets the attention on April 7. Known commonly as a doubter, I have come to appreciate him as a man of deep faith who longed for affirmation that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, as he had foretold. We commonly overlook the fact that ten of the disciples were gathered behind locked doors not because of faith but because of fear. Where was Thomas? He was out where it would have been more risky. Maybe he was looking for Jesus. Maybe he really did believe what Jesus had said and he was seeking the resurrected Jesus. Review earlier references to Thomas in John's gospel and see for yourself. Thomas had a bold and curious faith. (;) When facing the risk of returning to Bethany, near Jerusalem, and the threat that would have caused, it was Thomas who said to his fellow colleagues, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." John 11:16 When Jesus said he was going away, it was Thomas who said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" John 14:5. I am convinced that these two statements are questions formed from the faith of a man who knew Jesus to be Lord and wanted to know more about what that faith would mean in the face of the uncertainties and challenges they would encounter.

What are your challenges and fears? What keeps you awake at night? Are you hiding behind "locked doors" or are you boldly and confidently in search of where Jesus is calling you to serve and proclaim the resurrected promise of life from death? We are people of faith, conviction, confidence, and hope with hearts that long to know more about how to be living witnesses of what God alone provides. May we follow the command of Jesus "to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead." Acts 10:42

I would like to add an additional line to the refrain,

*Give me faith like Daniel in the lion's den
Give me hope like Moses in the wilderness
Give me a heart like David, Lord be my defense
So I can face my giants with confidence.
And grow like Thomas with deepened faith.*



April 1st - 30th

Fill the Crib for Crittenton Center throughout the month of April

Salem will be collecting the following items in the Atrium at church throughout the month of April: diapers (size 5-7), pull-ups (size 4T-5T), formula, wipes, and basic need baby supplies.

Or, you may visit any of these stores on-line to order and send your items directly to Crittenton: Walmart, Amazon, Target, and Amazon Smile For direct links the registries to do your shopping online, please visit: <https://crittentoncenters.org/donate/#inkind>

About Crittenton Centers:

Crittenton Centers believes strong families build strong communities. Each day they work to prevent child abuse and neglect while strengthening the family unit. Through providing crisis intervention and supportive parent education services, they are strengthening families. Crittenton Centers focus their work in three primary service areas including crisis nursery, child development center, and Family Services.

Salem Churchmen Meeting

Salem Churchmen will be meeting on **Monday, April 15 at 7pm** at Salem Lutheran Church.

Ladies Night

Ladies will be meeting on **Monday, April 15** at 6pm at Salem Lutheran Church.

Pray for the Cure and More Than Pink Walk™

Save the date for Pray for the Cure on **Thursday, May 9**. Salem has registered a team for the More Than Pink Walk™, the Salem Lutheran Saints. The walk will be on **Saturday, May 11**. If you want to register for the walk and join the team, or If you are unable to join, but wish to donate, go to secure.info-komen.org/.



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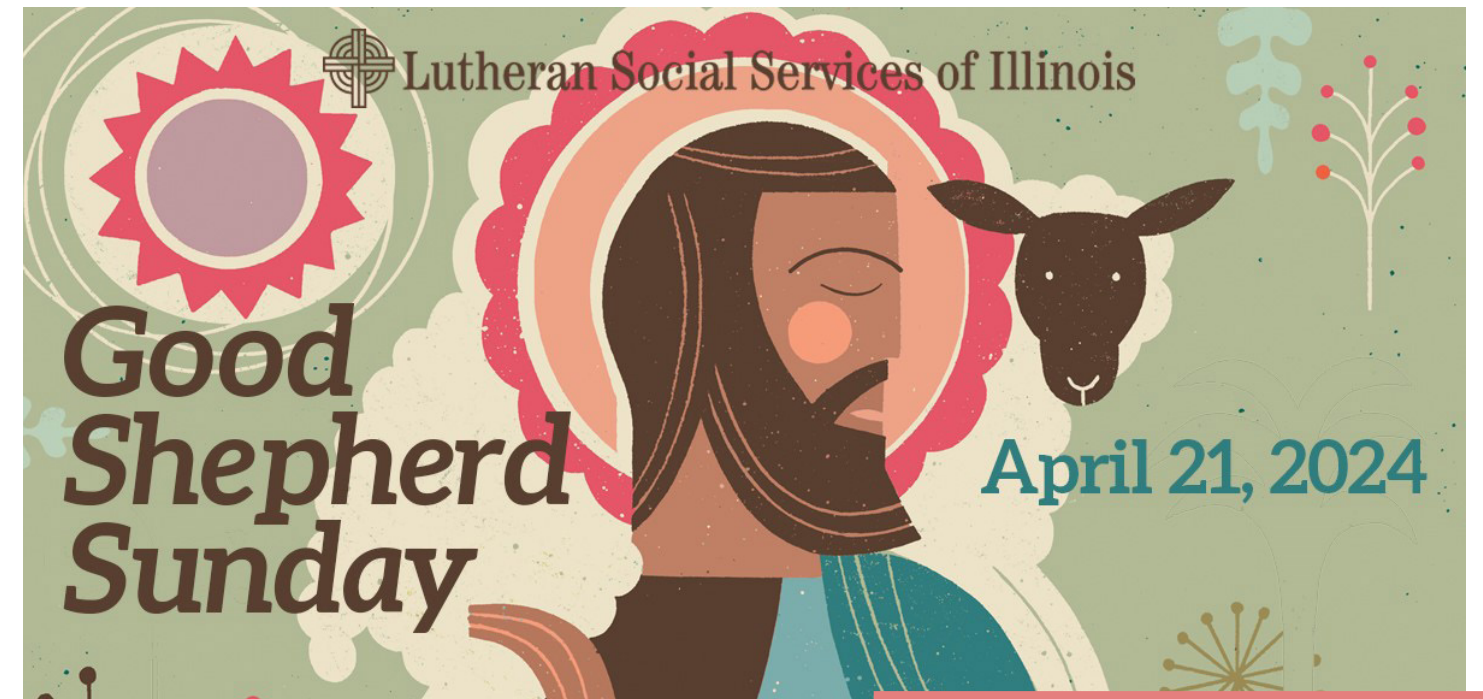
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Pastoral Emergency Number:

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



Good Shepherd Sunday is a dedicated Sunday each spring when congregations lift up Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) programs. Good Shepherd Sunday offers the opportunity to open hearts and arms to welcome all into Jesus' abundant life. On **Sunday, April 21, 2024**, Pastor Kelly Nieman Anderson from LSSI will share a message during worship and enable Salem Lutheran Church to learn more about LSSI and its impact on the community. As the Manager of Church and Community Engagement for LSSI, Pastor Kelly is passionate about sharing God's healing, justice, and wholeness with everyone she meets. She first learned about Lutheran Social Services from a nationwide perspective after becoming a licensed foster parent in Michigan, and since then she has been connected to this work in multiple states.

"My greatest passion is connecting more people to God's vision of healing, justice, and wholeness for the world—and LSSI lives out that vision every day," said Pastor Kelly. "I am so excited to invite even more people to learn about LSSI's programs and participate in our ministry across the state."

The generosity of ELCA members across Illinois improves thousands of lives every day through the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). Please plan to celebrate Salem Lutheran Church's partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois on Good Shepherd Sunday.

About Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Serving Illinois since 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is one of the largest statewide social service providers. LSSI is a nonprofit social service organization of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). LSSI's history is rooted in child welfare starting when a caring community in Berlin, now Swedona, Illinois built an orphanage for children left parentless by a cholera epidemic. Although LSSI's programming has expanded well beyond that first orphanage, child welfare remains one of the critical parts of LSSI's mission.

Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois brings healing, justice and wholeness to people and communities. LSSI served over 50,000 people last year, providing critical programs for Illinois residents each year, including foster care, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, home care for seniors, and services that help families who have been impacted by incarceration.

Share in Generosity on Good Shepherd Sunday

Salem Lutheran Church provides generous donations to Lutheran Social Services through Outreach and Endowment benevolence, the Christmas Sharing Tree and Noisy Can Offerings.

Offerings received on **Sunday, April 21** will support Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and in turn support children, families, adults, and seniors across Illinois.

Faith Formation Calendar

Sunday, April 7 at 9:30am: Way of the Cross

Sunday, April 21 at 8:15am: Youth participating in the 8:15am worship service

Saturday, April 27, 9am-11am: Midwest Food Bank Youth Service Opportunity

Sunday, May 12 at 8:15am: High School Graduation Sunday Recognition

June 10-June 14: Crossways Confirmation Camp at Augustana

Last Week of June, 5:30pm:
Cross-Generational Vacation Bible School
a meal will be provided at 5pm before Vacation Bible School



Sunday, February 11 was Scout Sunday. Scout Sunday is a day for scouts across the United States to practice their Duty to God within their home congregations. Worship participation, conversations, photos, and songs for the children's time were enjoyed. Thank you, Laura Hartman, and to all who participated to help make Scout Sunday a special day.

WAY OF THE CROSS



On **Sunday, April 7**, during the Education Hour, Salem youth will be sharing "The Way of the Cross." This is a re-enactment of the last days of Jesus—from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Junior High and High School youth will help re-enact these stories: Palm Sunday, Jesus in the Temple, Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, Peter Denies Jesus Three Times, Jesus Before Pontius Pilate,

Jesus Crucifixion, and Jesus' triumph over death... Easter! This re-enactment will take place in various locations around church. All are invited to join Salem's Sunday School classes as we walk in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in his last days and remember the promise that we are saved through the grace of God, with the power of the Holy Spirit, by Jesus death and resurrection.

Crossways Confirmation Camp

Registration closes on April 7 for the 2024 Crossways Confirmation Camp! This camp is a collaborative effort of several churches across the synod for confirmation-age students (completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.) It is an action-packed five days at Augustana College filled with worship, games, small group sessions, service projects, an interfaith experience, fun activities, and more.

This year's camp will meet **June 10-14** under the theme "Seasons of Love," a close look at the love of God in Jesus expressed in the second article of the Apostles Creed and the seasons of the church year. Please contact Amy Schroeder by **April 1** if you would like to attend. Scholarships are available.

Cross-Generational Vacation Bible School: Operation Restoration

Last Week of June, from 5:30pm-7:30pm

Summer is just around the corner, and here at Salem Lutheran Church plans are underway for an exciting Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience. Vacation Bible School 2024 Operation Restoration needs your help!

Operation Restoration is a cross-generational Vacation Bible School that invites participants to be menders in God's world. All generations can come together this summer to participate in faith formation activities together. Come help others make connections between Bible stories and mending actions. Discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life.

ADULT AND STUDENT VOLUNTEERS (6th Graders and up!)

It takes a great number of adult and student volunteers to provide Vacation Bible School to a large community event. Youth and adults are encouraged to invite a friend to help you help at Vacation Bible School.

Emily Jolliff and Jeanne Setterlund, Co-Directors of Vacation Bible School, are ready to help guide you through every step of your volunteer experience at Vacation Bible School. There are jobs of all sizes - every volunteer matters! Interested in volunteering, please contact Emily Jolliff at (309) 712-4979 or Jeanne Setterlund at (309) 369-1991.

Vacation Bible School participant registration will begin soon. Please watch for registration information.

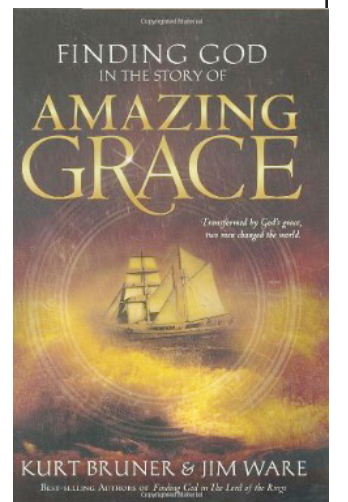


Salem Book Club

Salem Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, April 24 at 7:30pm-8:30pm** on Zoom and discuss, "Finding God in the Story of Amazing Grace," by Kurt Bruner and Jim Ware. Salem Book Club meets once a month and you are always invited to join – even if it's just once! Please contact Gretchen Petrakis if you have any questions.

About Finding God

The best-selling coauthors of the *Finding God* series explore the true story of how God's amazing grace ended the British slave trade. With profound reflections drawn from the lives of two men, William Wilberforce and John Newton, who wrote the beloved hymn, the authors reveal God's grace in our everyday struggles and show how God uses even the smallest of events and weakest of individuals to implement God's grander plan in this world. It was also the basis of a major motion picture.



FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER

The American Heart Association's "Life's Essential 8" are the key measures for improving and maintaining cardiovascular health. Better cardiovascular health helps lower the risk for heart disease, stroke, and other major health problems. These eight include:

- **Eat Better** – create a healthy eating pattern that includes whole foods, lots of fruits and vegetables, lean protein, nuts, and seeds.
- **Be More Active** – Adults need 2 ½ hours of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week, while kids should have at least an hour daily.
- **Quit Tobacco** – the use of inhaled nicotine delivery products is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. 40 % of U.S. children are exposed to second-hand smoke.
- **Get Healthy Sleep** - Most adults need 7-9 hours of sleep each night. Children's requirements vary according to age. Adequate sleep promotes healing, improves brain function, and reduces the risk for chronic diseases.
- **Manage Weight** – Being at a healthy weight has many benefits. A good gauge is knowing your body mass index (BMI), which represents your weight in relation to your height.
- **Control Cholesterol** – Cholesterol is a fat-like substance that comes from two sources - food and your body. High levels of LDL ("bad" cholesterol) can lead to heart disease.
- **Manage Blood Sugar** - Most of the food we eat is turned into glucose (or blood sugar) that our bodies use as energy. Over time, high levels of blood sugar can damage your heart, kidneys, eyes, and nerves.
- **Manage Blood Pressure** - Keeping your blood pressure within acceptable ranges can keep you healthier longer. High blood pressure, as well as unusually low, should be evaluated.



For more detailed information on these eight measures go to heart.org/lifes8 or stop by the Parish Nurse office for a copy.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS! APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| April 1
Randy Carlson
Michelle Hassel
Martin O'Connor | April 6
Sandra Salverson | April 12
Joyce Crone
Julie Hancock
Poppy Jolliff | April 22
Jody Adams
William Petrakis |
| April 2
Craig McGregor | April 7
Lynn Akers | April 13
John Gregg | April 24
Connie Iverson |
| April 3
Caleb Bradle
Susan Otten | April 8
Alexander Kelly | April 15
Julie Millman
Leslie Scott | April 25
Marlie Heider
Jacie Howard |
| April 4
Judy Cagle
Kevin Hodgkins | April 9
Amy Koepke
Gretchen Petrakis | April 16
Sienna Hopkins
Sydney Hopkins | April 26
Elyse Hickey |
| April 5
Michael Bohm
Brianna Schroeder
Sheryl Snider | April 10
Deana Collins | April 18
April Pierce | April 27
Makayla Schroeder |
| | April 11
Julia Kotewa | April 19
Caroline Ricketts | April 28
Kamryn Heider |
| | | April 20
David Sydow | April 30
Sarah Billington
Dennis Mitchelar |

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Salem's growing ministry

DIRECTION...

- Salem Congreg. Council
- Salem's Pastor and Staff

PRAYERS REQUESTS...

- The men and women of our armed forces
- Support for all caregivers when loved ones suffer
- Individuals suffering from depression
- Ulrich family in Malawi

- Jocette and Salih Arbeyi missionaries through CRU
- Families at Crittenton Center
- Midwest Food Bank
- Luan Borquist
- the family of Carl Buerger
- Butch Conard
- Crystal Grabel
- Rich Henz
- Ron Hipple
- Brenda and Mike Newcomb
- Jeff Olsen and family
- Tim, Jessica, Daniel Peterson
- Linda Peterson
- Rosy Park
- Phyllis

- Donita Lynn Purcell
- Bill Ricketts
- Debi Smith
- Jason Sterr
- friends and family of Fran Tinkham
- Brant Wegrzyn

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY...

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

NOISY CAN OFFERING



Noisy Can Offering

On Sunday, February 25 at both worship services a Noisy Can offering was received for Marian Medical Missions. Thanks for your generosity \$2,312.58 was collected and your gifts are designated for **Marion Medical Missions' Well Program**. Marion Medical Mission seeks to share the love of Christ with the extremely poor in Africa by providing all in

need with a sustainable source of clean, safe drinking water.

April Noisy Can Offering

The next Noisy Can Offering will be received on **Sunday, April 21** on Good Shepherd Sunday for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

Condolences - Carl Buerger, Jr.

Carl Buerger, Jr. joined the church triumphant on **February 28, 2024**. May the Lord grant peace and comfort to the family members and friends who mourn Carl and rejoice as he enters the church triumphant. Carl's celebration of life was on Sunday, March 10 in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24 at 8:15AM / 10:45AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28: 11AM / 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29: 11AM / 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL, MARCH 29: Noon-3PM

Easter MARCH 31 BREAKFAST

6AM (outdoors at the firepit) /
8:30AM (sanctuary) / 10:30AM (sanctuary)
Breakfast from 7AM-10:30AM

The Bugle
USPS 477-460



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