

the Bugle

One of the things I appreciate about winter is having more time to read, study, reflect, rest and plan for the months and years ahead. A time of rest was established by God at the beginning of creation to ensure that life is not all work and activities but also rest and relaxation, time to share with family and friends, lest we neglect to be healthy reflections of God's divine plan. But more often, it seems there is less time to pause as life pushes us forward with greater intensity and we fill our days, weeks, and months with less time to rest and renew. Life is on the move, and we are always in transition.

Over the month of March, we will encounter several transitions. The Lenten journey will help us focus on the words of Jesus to put faith into action by caring for the least of these and in so doing, we care for Jesus himself as the presence of God in the world. When we see those who are hungry, thirsty, estranged, naked, sick or imprisoned, are our hearts motivated to do something to help? The needs of the world are great and while we cannot do everything to help, we can do some things. We can make a difference through generous acts of kindness and thereby build up and extend the body of Christ.

Spring is coming and Daylight Saving Time will begin on March 10 making daylight hours extend further into the evenings. Migratory birds are returning to our feeders and garden plants are beginning to push through reaching out to welcome the warmer weather.

The month will end with days leading us to the cross and Easter's promise of new life in Christ and the anticipation of hopeful beginnings for our future together.

I know life is busy for many of us, but I urge you to make time each day to read, reflect, and pray on God's Word and its teaching. Take time to share with family and friends to renew relationships and discern where we experience God's activity among us. Protect your heart, mind, and soul from becoming preoccupied and distracted and thereby miss what God is doing in the stillness and transitions of life. We are blessed beyond measure because of God's divine love for us. I pray we savor the life we have been given and give thanks to God for the blessings that guide our way.

Today and always, we declare Easter's promise. ***Christ is risen! Christ risen indeed!***
That makes all the difference! – Pastor Craig



Wednesdays in Lent

11AM – Worship at Salem

7PM – Worship at First English Lutheran Church

Holy Week AT SALEM LUTHERAN

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

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

The Good Friday Prayer Vigil will be in Salem's Faith Chapel from **noon until 3pm on Good Friday, March 29**. This is open to all ages. You may pray silently alone or quietly in groups. There will be meditative music, devotional material, and prayer requests available. You do not need to sign up in advance.

Good Friday is the most somber day in the liturgical calendar, a day to remember Jesus' ultimate sacrifice of his life. Italian for "three hours", "tre ore" refers to the time while Christ was on the cross when darkness came over all the land - from noon until three in the afternoon. At about 3pm, he gave up His spirit.

As Jesus encouraged the disciples to watch and pray at the Garden of Gethsemane, so are we. As Simon of Cyrene is called to accompany Jesus on the road to Calvary, so are we. As those who do not know what they are doing are forgiven by Jesus, so are we. As those closest to Jesus witness these darkest hours, so do we. Good Friday marks the day when wrath and mercy met at the cross. That's why Good Friday is so dark and so Good. There will be opportunities to make prayer requests for the Prayer Vigil in advance.

Easter SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 31:

6AM (outdoors at the firepit) /

8:30AM / 10:30AM (sanctuary)

Breakfast from 7AM-10:30AM

Easter Flowers

Salem is purchasing Easter Lilies for the Easter services. Donations of \$15 will be accepted to help offset the cost of the lilies and to allow people to honor, memorialize, or celebrate their loved ones. Your order must be in the church office no later than **Monday, March 25**.



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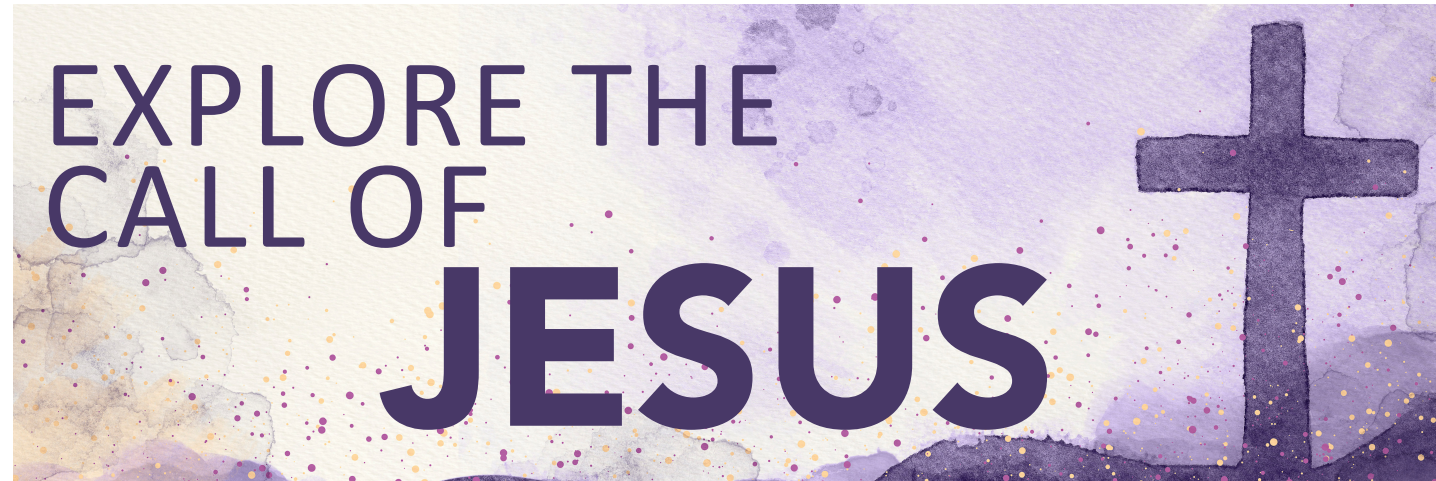
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Continue to journey through Lent through prayer, discernment, learning, and growth. Together ponder what role we are being called to serve in Christ's church by exploring themes from Matthew 25:31-40. Midweek Wednesday worship is available at 11am followed by lunch.

• WEEK 3: WELCOME FOR THE STRANGER (Who is my Neighbor/Hospitality)

Invite a friend to worship, sit with someone new during fellowship time, sit in a different place during worship. Make this an intentional invitation on **Sunday, March 3 or Wednesday, March 6**. Welcome new members or someone you might not know as well into conversation.

• WEEK 4, MARCH 13: CLOTHE THE NAKED

To clothe the naked means providing something to wear for someone who has none, or even very little. The Biblical sense of the term, however, also can mean bringing people out of darkness into the light. Phoenix Community Development Services strives to provide people with the opportunity to help themselves toward self-sufficiency. One way you can help clothe the naked is by donating new items for Phoenix Community Development Services' Homeless Outreach. **These items include socks, hand warmers, warm hats, and gloves. During March you may bring these items to the collection box in the atrium.**

• WEEK 5, MARCH 20: CARE FOR THE SICK, VISIT THE IMPRISONED

Some people are "sick" not from physical illness, but from social isolation. One thinks especially of the Salem members and friends that whether at home or in long-term care facilities, live in isolation from their loved ones and friends. Ask how to become involved with Home Communion, help provide a ride to church, write a Thinking of You card, or pray for those on the prayer chain. Most of all, do not forget that some of them may even be members of your own family.

Friendship and prayer can reform and heal. A true work of service is done by those who befriend those in correctional institutions in the name of Jesus Christ, thereby affirming their human dignity as persons made in God's image.

On Wednesdays during Lent, Salem Lutheran is partnering with First English Lutheran Church (725 E Forrest Hill Ave) to offer **evening worship at 7pm**. This Lent, intentionally reflect on the ways we, as a faith community, are welcoming-pushing ourselves to initiate more faith-filled interactions. Explore what it means in our daily lives to show hospitality the way Jesus does.

Welcoming Church

- Who do we welcome?
- What are we welcoming them into?
- What's the difference between friendly & welcoming?
- How do we make welcoming a daily spiritual discipline?
...and how such interactions transform our church and world.

Lent 2024
Wednesdays at 7pm





Help Clothe Others

Phoenix Community Development Services strives to provide people with the opportunity to help themselves toward self-sufficiency. One way you can help clothe the naked is by donating new items for Phoenix Community Development Services' Homeless Outreach. *These items include socks, hand warmers, warm hats, and gloves. During March you may bring these items to the collection box in the atrium.*

Midwest Food Bank Serving Opportunity on Wed, March 20 from 9am-11am

This project will be instrumental to helping Midwest Food Bank reduce hunger in our community. The project has the potential to impact large numbers of those in need! Come have fun together while making a difference for others. Please register online to volunteer at: <https://portal.goldenvolunteer.com/timeslots/KMWigaHP0t> (link will also be in the Bugle Blast.) Plan to meet at the Peoria Division (9005 N Industrial Rd, Peoria, 61615) at **9am on Wednesday, March 20**. If you have questions please contact John Grabel at (iron_man_46@yahoo.com).

CUDDLES WITH KINDNESS

Thank you for being a part of carrying on Allison Reimer's memory and providing comfort to children experiencing difficult situations. Through donations throughout the year, the January Outreach Collection and the Youth Group Build-a-Bear service project Salem Lutheran Church will have 128 stuffed animals donated in memory of Allison Reimer to Cuddles with Kindness®.

Cuddles with Kindness® is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing comfort to kids in need. Their mission is to comfort children facing traumatic situations while inspiring kindness and compassion.

Donating stuffed animals to Cuddles with Kindness is one of the ways to carry on Allison's legacy and honor her. Allison spent a lot of time in the hospital in the first several years of her life, was a Girl Scout leader, loved children, and had a big collection of cuddly friends when she was younger. Allison's loveable, happy, intelligent, and fun-loving legacy lives on each of these cuddly friends. With help from Salem Lutheran Church and others, Cuddles with Kindness® collects stuffed animals for the thousands of kids who need those extra snuggles for when they might be going through a hard time.



Lutheran Social Services: Sharing Tree Love and Support

Once again through your generous contributions, children in care were able to have a beautiful Christmas. The outpouring of love and support for the children is heartwarming to those of us at Lutheran Social Services that work with them daily. They have been through and seen more than most of us could ever imagine.

Through your time and donation they were made to feel like every other child waiting for Christmas morning. For some, this was a first time to ever receive gifts. We wish it was possible for you to see the light in their eyes as the gifts were delivered to their homes, and the tears our staff shed as we watched their excitement.

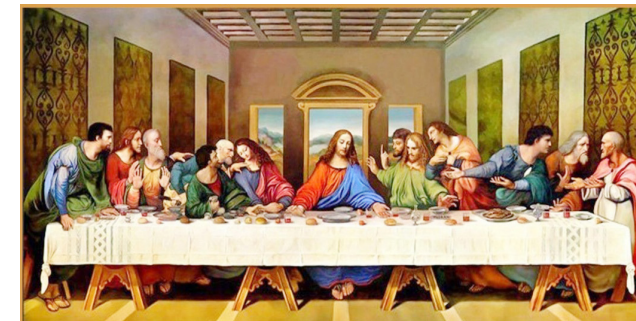
Again, thank you and may God bless you richly! The children and staff of Lutheran Social Services.

Easter Thinking of You Greetings

The Women in the Word Sunday School class is going to be providing Thinking of You bags for Easter. The bags will be available **Sunday, March 10 - Sunday, March 31** to put cards and treats into them for:

Lynn and Ed Akers, Nancy Bastian, Betty and Matthew Bennett, Alf Berg, Ruth Bock, Helen Buerger, Sue Colloton, Dolly Conley (Ruth Bock's sister), Marty and Joan Creager, Velma Crowley, John Day, MaryAlice Erickson, Ron and Norma Hartman, Ron Hipple, Janet Jones, Bea Kent, Clarence and Lois Knutson, Carol Love, Suzanne McMickle, Bob Middleton, David Mills, JoAnn and Paul Misselhorn, Carolyn and Henry Noe, Rosy Park, Kay Peterson, Linda Peterson, Marty Plunkett, Marjorie Ryberg, Marilyn Setterlund, Phyllis Shadley, Marilyn Smith, Fred Stamerjohn, and Wanita Van Scoyoc

There will be a sign up at the Welcome Center to deliver the bags to these individuals. Planned delivery for the bags is **Sunday, March 31**.



Living Last Supper at St. Paul Lutheran

St. Paul Lutheran (1427 W. Lake Ave) is offering a living portrayal of the Last Supper. All are welcome on **Wednesday, March 20 at 7pm** for a presentation of the Living Last Supper. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center to attend as a group from Salem.



Salem Churchmen Meeting

Salem Churchmen will be meeting on Monday, March 18 at 7pm 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 https://secure.infokomen.org/site/TRR/RacefortheCure/MoreThanPinkWalk?pg=tfnd&fr_id=10180.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY STUDIES & ACTIVITIES



1st Communion

First Communion instruction for children in 3rd grade and older is scheduled for **Saturday, March 16 at 10am**. If interested in participating, please contact the church office to express interest.



ABOVE: High School youth and leaders went to Build-a-Bear to make bears for Cuddles with Kindness.

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION, EDUCATION HOUR: 9:30AM-10:30am

- **Women in the Word**
- **Man-to-Man**
- **Sunday School for Preschool-High School**

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY STUDY THE WORD

- **Bible Study on Zoom:** Wednesdays at 9am during Lent led by Pastor Craig
- **Bible Study:** Thursdays at 9:15am led by Bill Ligon

WOMEN CIRCLES STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

- **Rebecca Circle:** Tuesday, March 12 at 10am
- **Lydia Circle:** Wednesday, March 13 at 2pm

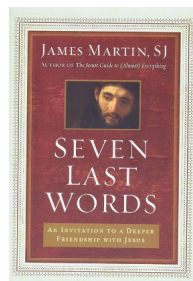
FAITH FOR LIFE CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

- **Sunday, March 10 from 2pm-4pm at First English Lutheran Church**

Salem Book Club

Salem Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30pm on Zoom**. The selection this month is *Seven Last Words – An Invitation to a Deeper Friendship with Jesus*, by James Martin, SJ. It is available in print, audio, and Kindle. We meet for an hour to discuss the book and what was meaningful to us. Sometimes we have specific discussion questions and other times we just share what we like and what we had questions about. Anyone is welcome to join!

New York Times bestselling author and editor at large of America magazine, Father James Martin, reveals how we can turn to Christ completely in mind, heart, and soul. Martin offers a portrait of Jesus, using his last words on the cross to reveal how deeply he understood our predicaments and shows us what it means to be fully human.



Each meditation is dedicated to one of the seven sayings:

- ***“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”***
- ***“Today you will be with me in Paradise.”***
- ***“Woman, this is your son” . . . “This is your mother.”***
- ***“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”***
- ***“I thirst.”***
- ***“It is finished.”***
- ***“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”***

With the warmth, wisdom, and grace that infuse his works, Father James Martin explains why Jesus’s crucifixion and death on the cross is an important teaching moment in the Gospels. Jesus’s final statements, words that are deeply cherished by his followers, exemplify the depth of his suffering but also provide a key to his empathy and why we can connect with him so deeply.

Thank You! Salem Sunday School

• Thank you so much for the Valentine greetings from Salem and especially thanks to the Sunday School children for the Valentine chocolates! - Blessings to you all! MaryAlice Erickson

• Thank you to the Salem Sunday School Classes for the attractive Valentine with a card and treats and cards from Salem friends. May the love and kindness you sent to me return to each one of you with my love and blessings. With love, Bea Kent

World Day of Prayer, March 2

World Day of Prayer 2024 promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships service and celebrations. The program is written by an ecumenical group of Palestinian women. The theme is “I Beg You... Bear with One Another in Love”.

Church Women United Peoria Area is hosting the event on **Saturday, March 2 at 10am** at Glen Oak Christian Church, 1115 E Republic, Peoria, IL 61603. The parking lot is around the corner on Atlantic St. Everyone is welcome! Please join us for this World Wide Celebration.



Crossways Confirmation Camp

Registration is open 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. For more information visit ***CrosswaysCamp.SquareSpace.com*** or contact Amy Schroeder or Pastor Craig.



Salem Lutheran Preschool

Openings for Fall 2023! Salem Lutheran Preschool currently has enrollment openings for three and four year olds. For over 45 years Salem Lutheran Preschool has prepared children for kindergarten in a fun and loving learning environment. Please contact Pam Machacek for a visit today at the church office or (309) 688-9212.

Church Basement Ladies

In Church Basement Ladies, we meet the pastor, three kitchen cooks and one daughter who run the kitchen and care for the congregation by preparing and serving the food through a *Lutefisk* dinner, a funeral, an Easter fundraiser and a wedding. They stave off potential disasters, have fun, share and debate recipes, instruct the young and keep the pastor on due course. And, at the center of it all, are your favorite Church Basement Ladies. ***Church Basement Ladies*** returning to Circa '21 Dinner Theater in Rock Island from **March 6 – April 27**. For more information visit [www. Circa21.com](http://www.Circa21.com)

FROM THE PARISH NURSE, LORI REIMER

What you drink can be just as important as what you eat. Choose options that are rich in nutrients and limited in amounts of sugars, saturated fats, and sodium. Some ways to help “re-think” what you drink include:

- Read the label. Don’t only look at calories but also look at the amounts of sugars and fats. Most ingredients are listed per serving size so be sure you also know how many servings you are consuming.
- Drinks are often labeled with a “healthy” claim but be sure to read the entire label. There is a requirement to put caffeine on the label but not the amount.
- Water is the best way to hydrate when participating in sports. Sports drinks usually have sugar and sodium, and energy drinks are high in caffeine.
- Cut coffee calories by skipping the whipped cream and chocolate or caramel drizzles.
- Carry a clean, reusable bottle to fill up with water throughout the day. You can perk up your water by adding fruit slices, fresh mint, or frozen berries.

For more information on making better beverage choices, go to **MyPlate.gov** (USDA Food and Nutrition Services) or **heart.org** (American Heart Association).

With Gratitude

The Gruber family would like to acknowledge how much appreciation they have for Pastor Craig, Lori Reimer, the children, the staff, and the Salem family. The time and effort, leadership, cards, and remembrances were much appreciated. Sometimes older people get neglected and that was not the case for Viola.

Viola's caring nature and love for nursing allowed her to care for many people and impact many lives throughout her career. A special thanks to Lori Reimer. Nurses are so important to the Salem community and the care of others.

Thank you all for your attentive care.
Randy Gruber and family

Condolences - Jo Nolde

Jo Nolde died peacefully Monday, January 22, at Lutheran Hillside Village. Prayers are requested on behalf of her family and in thanksgiving that Jo has joined Gil in the church triumphant. A celebration of life was on Sunday, February 18. Please pray for all who mourn Jo's passing.

Condolences - Ken Bundren

Ken Bundren died peacefully at his home on Thursday, February 15. Prayers are requested on behalf of her family and in thanksgiving that Ken has joined the church triumphant. A celebration of life was on Monday, February 19 at Faith Lutheran Church.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!
MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1

Janice Lambie

March 3

Jason Ripper

March 4

Emily Arnold

March 5

Jeanne Setterlund

March 6

Thomas Oertley
Matthew Zapf

March 7

Benjamin Cooper
Donita Purcell

March 8

Gary Setterlund

March 9

Matthew Bennett
Jennifer Zapf

March 10

Randall Blum
Linda Sedgwick

March 12

Joan Creager

March 13

Tanya Grabel
Ronald Hartman
Benjamin Owen
Jacob Owen

March 16

Nicole Breidel
Nancy Bridges
Ava Salverson

March 17

Vicki Johnson
Veronica Reimer
Noah VanLaningham

March 18

Mia Doty
Clifford Shoemaker
Pastor Craig Swenson

March 19

Melissa McCord

March 20

Drew Runkel
Mason Runkel

March 21

Ann-Marree
Anderson
Todd Kelly
Ward Ricketts

March 23

Sarah Gonzales
Karen Holmes

March 25

Kelsey Bastian

March 26

Colette Conard

March 27

Natalie Breidel

March 28

Audrey Aprahamian
Michael Friberg

March 30

Ruth Bock
Michael Swanson

March 31

Michael DeGood
Heidi Hainline
Howard Knobloch

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
- Betty Bennett
- Luan Borquist

- the family of Ken Bundren
- Butch Conard
- Crystal Grabel
- Ron Hipple
- Peggy Breaux Hupp
- Tim Isaac
- Katie (daughter of Mark Otten)
- Kenny and Shirley Lewis
- Brenda and Mike Newcomb
- the family of Jo Nolde
- Tim, Jessica, Daniel Peterson
- Linda Peterson
- Rosy Park

- Donita Lynn Purcell
- Bill Ricketts
- Sam's parents
- Debi Smith
- family and friends of Fran Tinkham
- Vickie and Russ
- 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



The Bugle
USPS 477-460



SUNDAY, MARCH 31:

6AM (by the firepit) /

8:30AM / 10:30AM

Breakfast from

7AM-10:30AM

Easter

AT SALEM LUTHERAN