

# the Bugle

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**A**sower went out to sow..." Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell the story of the sower who does what he is supposed to do, sow seeds. The sower is not responsible for how that seed will grow or produce, only that the sower knows that the seed will not grow in the bag but must connect with soil before it can bring forth life and the opportunity of producing a harvest. Spring in the Midwest is time for sowing and plantings. Clouds of dust are rolling across open fields as tractors pull large implements to stir the soil and prepare the seed bed and then embed seed in long, straight rows as far as the eye can see. It is a regular pattern that occurs every spring. Planting in hope for a harvest. At the same time, home gardeners prepare soil for what they hope will produce fruit, vegetables, or areas of plants as a natural habitat to benefit pollinators and other wildlife. We are partners in God's creation, regardless how we dig in the dirt and for whatever life that takes root around us. It is an exciting time of life as we anticipate the possibilities of what is yet to come as new and abundant life.

From a resource I helped write over 30 years ago entitled, *Worship from the Ground Up*, "We frequently think of seedtime, planting, and prayers for an abundant harvest as the main emphasis of rogation, but the word 'rogation' actually takes its meaning from the Latin word 'rogare' which means 'to beseech'. From the 5th century, the bishop of France required a three-day observance consisting of forgiveness, protection, bountiful crops. Over the years, the penitent emphasis has fallen away leaving the focus on festivity including blessing of the fields with the hope of a bountiful harvest." Customarily, Rogation Sunday is the Sixth Sunday of Easter, but overtime, with advanced genetics for seeds, earlier spring conditions, planting takes place far earlier than decades ago. I invite us into a time of rogation on Sunday, May 4 where we will ask God's blessing on soil, seed and water as well as seek God's forgiveness where we have failed to partner with our Creator by neglect or abuse of the earth's resources and to beseech God to protect us from the risk of natural devastation.





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As the seasons of warmth unfold, I encourage you to reflect on how soil, seed and water remind of ways we can connect with our Creator, be rooted in the Easter promise and anticipate God's blessing as we once again sow with hope for what is yet to come. Blessings to you, good gardeners.

*Pastor Craig*



"...the one who sows sparingly  
will also reap sparingly,  
and the one who sows bountifully  
will also reap bountifully."

— 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 —



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, May 4th, 2025 at 10:15 AM**

After reviewing Salem's Constitution regarding management and procedural policies for the Endowment Fund, the Endowment Committee recommends the Council call a special congregational meeting on **May 4th** for the purpose of amending the by-law section Sec C5.05.1, Art. IV of the constitution. Attendance of 50 voting members are needed for this action.

If you have questions related to this amendment, please April's Bugle Newsletter for more information, or visit with Endowment members John Iverson, Larry Kotewa or Craig Young for clarification.

## FAIR TRADE SALE

**May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Supporting fair trade ensures that producers in developing countries receive fair wages and work under ethical conditions, empowering communities and promoting sustainability.  
Thank you for your support!

If you are in need of items, you are welcome to contact:

**Jennifer Gallas**  
(309) 256-5862  
[pew117@aol.com](mailto:pew117@aol.com)



# GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, MAY 11<sup>th</sup>**

Each spring, congregations reflect on Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and his care for his flock on Good Shepherd Sunday. Through generous giving, we support Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) programs that address vital needs like poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

Join us on **Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** (Good Shepherd Sunday) as we celebrate Salem Lutheran Church's partnership with LSSI.

## How You Can Participate: Noisy Can Collection

On **May 11<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a special Noisy Can offering to directly support the life-changing work of LSSI.

Your contributions will bring healing, justice, and wholeness to children, families, adults, and seniors across Illinois.



## About Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI):

**A Legacy of Service:** Since 1867, LSSI has served as a leading social service provider in Illinois.

**ELCA Affiliation:** LSSI is a nonprofit organization of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

**Rooted in Compassion:** Originating from an orphanage built in response to a cholera epidemic in Swedona, Illinois, LSSI's commitment to child welfare remains strong.

**Impactful Reach:** Last year, LSSI served over 50,000 Illinois residents, demonstrating the power of your support.

### Comprehensive Services

LSSI provides a wide range of essential programs:

- Foster care
- Mental health services
- Alcohol and drug treatment
- Affordable senior housing
- Residential programs for people with developmental disabilities
- Home care for seniors
- Services for families impacted by incarceration



**Let's work together to make a meaningful difference!**

# Birthday blessings!

<b>MAY 1</b> Karla Wegrzyn	<b>MAY 13</b> Alex Dickinson Andrew Kucginski	<b>MAY 25</b> Linnea Murray Brenna Salverson Eric Schroeder
<b>MAY 2</b> Rebecca Impens	<b>MAY 14</b> Janet Saylor Paul Wilczewski	<b>MAY 26</b> June Janssen Eric Ryberg
<b>MAY 3</b> Carter Aprahamian Tracy Daugherty Theresa Gustafson Karen Huxtable	<b>MAY 15</b> Florence Clark Michael Gallas Helen Reschenberg	<b>MAY 27</b> Sue Colloton Kayla Steele Nadine Willems
<b>MAY 7</b> Debra Knutson Bradley Mangan Lana Pasco	<b>MAY 16</b> Norman Anderson Helen Buerger	<b>MAY 28</b> Charles Aprahamian Kourtnei Brooke Larry Kotewa Paul O'Connor
<b>MAY 8</b> Tim Hickey Pam Machacek K. Michael Massey Deb Sanders Richard Thompson	<b>MAY 17</b> Kyle Dockery Marilyn Setterlund Claire Zapf	<b>MAY 29</b> Carol McGregor
<b>MAY 9</b> Calvin Janssen Cody Shoultz	<b>MAY 18</b> Zachary Grant	<b>MAY 30</b> Harleigh Mohr Keith Reimer
<b>MAY 10</b> Gary Bridges Jennifer Gallas Brittany Rogy	<b>MAY 19</b> Arlan Maier	<b>MAY 31</b> Micah Thompson
<b>MAY 11</b> Robert Middleton	<b>MAY 20</b> Elinor Wilczewski Oskar Wilczewski	
<b>MAY 12</b> Jeanette Egan Collin Swanson	<b>MAY 21</b> Magdalene Sipf	
	<b>MAY 23</b> Jason Lantz	
	<b>MAY 24</b> Leah Bachert Lindsey Janco Jeff Neltner	



# SORTING AND PACKING OF CANNED GOODS

Sunday, May 18th

Following the Education Hour at 11:15am, on Sunday, May 18th, we will gather for a service project to sort and box the canned goods and other food items we have been collecting. We will continue to collect items until then!

Everyone is invited to stay and help with this project. Following the sorting and boxing we will gather in the Social Hall for a pizza lunch (with salad and dessert). Everyone is invited to stay for the lunch! A sign up will be at the Welcome Center.

Please join your Salem family as we give thanks for the generous donations of food items, offerings, and prayers that have been shared to help our neighbors in the community. Even if packing is not possible for you to help with, you are invited to stay for fellowship, food, and fun together!



# FAITH FORMATION

## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH VBS

### Road Trip

The CYF group wants to invite all Salem members to come with us in an exciting Road Trip **July 7th-11th**. We will meet in the evenings at 5:30 pm for a light meal and hold our program from 6:00-7:30 pm. We will need a wealth of talent and volunteers ranging from help planning, cooking, leading groups, decorating and cleaning! Please reach out to Amy Schroeder or Rebbecca Sipf if you are available to volunteer during this exciting week of education, fun and fellowship!



# ROAD TRIP

BY COKEBURY

**On the Go with God!** Join us for an exciting adventure on the open road, where kids embark on thrilling journeys to fantastic destinations. Led by the Navigator and their adventurous pup, Scout, children will discover that God is always with them. They'll explore timeless stories from the Old and New Testaments, learning how to face challenges and find strength in God's presence.

## DAY 1

**BIBLE POINT**  
God is with us on the journey.

**BIBLE STORY**  
Abraham and Sarah Follow God (Genesis 12:1-9)

## DAY 2

**BIBLE POINT**  
God is with us when we go off course.

**BIBLE STORY**  
The Israelites Take the Scenic Route (Exodus 13:17-22)

## DAY 3

**BIBLE POINT**  
God is with us when we're joyful.

**BIBLE STORY**  
Mary & Elizabeth's Family Reunion (Luke 1:39-56)

## DAY 4

**BIBLE POINT**  
God is with us when we're lonely.

**BIBLE STORY**  
Jesus Visits Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

## DAY 5

**BIBLE POINT**  
God is with us near and far.

**BIBLE STORY**  
On the Road with Paul (Acts 18:1-11)

## PASTOR CRAIG'S 30 YEAR ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

You're invited to celebrate Pastor Craig's 30th Ordination Anniversary — a joyful milestone honoring three decades of faithful service, spiritual leadership, and unwavering dedication in ministry. Let's come together in gratitude and celebration as we reflect on his incredible journey and the many lives he has touched through his service.

Please stop by for cake and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, May 18th** following the service to offer congratulations for this blessed occasion.

# FAITH FORMATION


## FIRST COMMUNION →

Here are a few photos from First Communion Class on April 6th. Welcome to the Lord's Table!

### WOMEN'S CIRCLES

**REBECCA CIRCLE**  
Tuesday,  
May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM  
SLC Conference Room

**LYDIA CIRCLE**  
Wednesday,  
May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM  
Salem Lutheran Church



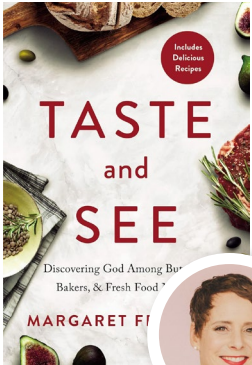


## SALEM BOOK CLUB

*Taste and See* by Margaret Feinberg

Salem's Bookclub will meet on **Wednesday, May 28th at 7:30pm** via Zoom. All are welcome to join us! Our book is "Taste and See - Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers, and Fresh Food Makers" by Margaret Feinberg.

This groundbreaking book provides a culinary exploration of Scripture. You'll descend 400 feet below ground into the frosty white caverns of a salt mine, fish on the Sea of Galilee, bake fresh matzo at Yale University, ferry to a remote island in Croatia to harvest olives, spend time with a Texas butcher known as "the meat apostle," and wander a California farm with one of the world's premier fig farmers. With each stop, Margaret asks, "How do you read these Scriptures, not as theologians, but in light of what you do every day?"



Taste and See teaches us that:

- As we break bread, we find the satisfaction of our deepest hungers in the community our souls crave
  - As we share our lives, we taste and see God's fruitfulness
  - When we're tempted to lose heart--and we all will be--we find courage in listening to and participating in stories of God's rescuing ways
    - In the midst of a busy life, we can all create space to taste and see God's goodness
- Taste and See is a delicious read that includes dozens of recipes for those who, like Margaret, believe some of life's richest moments are spent savoring a meal with those you love. See you around the table!

# FAITH FORMATION

## MORE THAN PINK

Salem is once again having a team for the More Thank Pink Walk this year. If you wish to join for the walk on **Saturday, May 10th** or make a donation, follow this link:  
[https://secure.info-komen.org/site/TR/RacefortheCure/MoreThanPinkWalk?team\\_id=498206&pg=team&fr\\_id=10680](https://secure.info-komen.org/site/TR/RacefortheCure/MoreThanPinkWalk?team_id=498206&pg=team&fr_id=10680)

The money raised will fund research to discover more effective treatments, as well as vital patient support to help connect people with things like breast cancer screenings, diagnostics, treatment assistance and so much more. Join us on May 10.



## YOUTH GAME NIGHT

**Sunday, May 4th**  
All 6th-12th grade youth are invited to a game night on **Sunday, May 4th** at **5:30 pm**. A pizza dinner will be served followed by an evening of fun games and fellowship. Bring a card, or board game to share. Friends are welcome!  
Please contact Kelly Brinkman if you are able to attend. We look forward to seeing you on the 4th!



## LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

On **Sunday, May 18th**, we celebrate all together the last day of Sunday School classes with learning about Moses. The middle school and high school students will offer a skit of the "Life of Moses" and will be telling stories of: Moses as a baby, the Plagues and Pharoah, Passover, God giving the people the 10 Commandments, Wandering in the Wilderness, death of Moses, crossing into the Promised Land, and Joshua at Jericho. This is a hand-on, interactive storytelling opportunity in which we continue to share from the Old Testament that testifies that God keeps God's promises to the people! All are invited to participate.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

- Dennis Rhoades
- Luan Borquist
- Butch Conard
- Joanie Creager
- Ron Hipple
- Maddy, friend of Julia Wallstedt
- Mike
- Tim, Jessica, Daniel Peterson
- Linda Peterson
- Sheryl Sattler

Jocette and Salih Arbeyi missionaries through CRU

### 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





1700 W. War Memorial Dr. • Peoria, IL 61614-6724

The Bugle  
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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



## JUNE 2025 BUGLE SUBMISSION

If you wish to submit an article for the May Bugle Newsletter, the deadline for submission is **Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**.