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Each year I apply gypsum to our lawn. It adds calcium and sulfur to the soil, breaks down compacted clay (a common soil type in our neighborhood) and thereby increases the absorption of water and nutrients to the root system and ultimately improves the color and density of the lawn. Tending a garden/lawn is more than working with what can be seen above the surface but also what is beneath what can be seen. For the past few years we noticed that our magnolia shrubs had scaly fungus growing on the bark and the edges of the leaves were curling and turning brown. Karen invested in a fungicide, sprayed the leaves and branches with neem oil but was unsuccessful and the conditioned worsened. At the end of the year in 2023, we decided to cut the branches to the ground and eventually we would dig out the roots and replace them. Much to our surprise last spring, green shoots sprouted from the lifeless looking stumps and eventually, leaves emerged and new growth took place. This spring there were blossoms that opened and even survived the late April freeze. From what we can tell, they are not dying at all but doing just fine.

We are entering the longest season of the church – Pentecost. It begins June 8, The Day of Pentecost, and ends November 23, Christ the King. The liturgical color between those dates is green as we focus on the growth of Christ’s church. We often think of growth numerically: worship, Sunday school, VBS attendance, financial contributions, etc. – things we can measure. It is common to rank health and vitality of churches, organizations, communities, businesses based on these kinds of statistics and when numbers drop or plateau, we begin to wonder, are we growing or are we dying? Are there branches that need pruning? Do we need to tend to the roots of our faith, add spiritual nourishment to our souls so we can weather the droughts and storms of life?

At a recent Council meeting, we were processing monthly ministry reports and the reality that at least two of our standard ministries are not meeting. This does not mean there is no ministry taking place but that it is not as intentional as it has been and could be.

STAFF

Craig Swenson
Senior Pastor
cswenson@salemofpeoria.com

Danielle Worsham
Office Coordinator
office@salemofpeoria.com

Maggie Sloter
Director of Music & Choir Director
msloter@salemofpeoria.com

Gretchen Petrakis
Director of Sunday School
gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com

Brandon Worner
Director of Communications
bworner@salemofpeoria.com

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Pastor Craig: 309-258-4759

It was suggested that this Bugle issue include an article that highlights Salem's ministries and invites you to consider if there are opportunities you notice where you would like to get more involved. Are there ways we can invest in nurturing the roots of our faith community prayerfully anticipating new growth? Are we growing or are we dying? Whether we notice or not, scripture reminds us that in Christ we are a new creation. Everything old has died. Everything has become new. As we proceed into the season of Pentecost, the season of growth, I pray we eagerly anticipate the new life that we are promised in Jesus and live in it joyfully together.

Pastor Craig



NOISY CAN OFFERING June 8th

In support of the synod's partnership with the Malagasy Synod, Salem Lutheran Church will have a Noisy Can Offering on **Sunday, June 8th**.

The Malagasy Lutheran Church trains both pastors and catechists for ministry in congregations. The catechists are lay people who help preach, teach, evangelize, and organize in congregations and who receive their training at Bible schools located in each synod. Our synod's partnership support makes it possible to pay faculty and support the living costs of students at the Bible Schools. Students who train to be pastors must travel outside our companion synods to a seminary. Our synod support also assists with the seminarians' living expenses and seminary operations.

The **May 12** Noisy Can offering for LSSI (Lutheran Social Services of Illinois) total was \$570.92.



FAIR TRADE SALE June 1st

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



MINISTRY GROUPS

At a recent Council meeting, it was suggested that in order to refresh ideas and renew support for these ministry groups, an article be shared in the Bugle. Additionally, a three-ring binder is at the welcome center which contains this and other information. Perhaps you have gifts to share and wish to engage in one of these ministry groups. Please express your interest or questions with one of the Ministry Chairs or Danielle, Salem's Office Coordinator, who would be glad to guide you.

SALEM MINISTRY GROUPS

Congregational Care Ministry Summary – Currently Without a Chair

The Congregational Care Ministry Group provides and helps oversee ministries that bring support, encouragement, and fellowship to the Salem congregation. This ministry group is responsible for ensuring we care about one another! The scope of this ministry group is wide: parish nursing, seniors ministry, friendly visitors and home Communion, prayer ministry and prayer chain, bus ministry, funeral luncheons, Sunday fellowship hour, fellowship activities, military ministry, and welcoming new disciples at Salem.

Faith Formation Ministry Summary – Amy Schroeder, Chair

Faith Formation seeks to fulfill the first part of our congregation's purpose ("Growing People in Christ") by planting and nurturing the seeds of faith through learning, relationships, and service. This begins with Salem's youngest children and continues throughout their lives. Salem's witnesses share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, pass on faith stories, and develop relationships that last a lifetime. Faith Formation's passion comes from the love that the Holy Spirit has instilled in us and the saints that inspired us.

Outreach Ministry Summary – Emily Joliff, Interim Chair

Outreach fosters and provides oversight of local and international outreach opportunities to the Salem Congregation.

Property and Finance Ministry Summary – Eric Schroeder, Chair

Property and Finance maintains the Salem property with a combination of volunteers and paid services, coordinates the annual budgeting process, manages the facilities budget and the capital account, and reviews the Salem finances monthly.

Worship and Music Ministry Summary – Leo Vandervlugt, Chair

Worship & Music Ministry enhances the worship and music experience during services held throughout the year. The ministry group offers new ideas while maintaining longstanding traditions.



ARTICLE 13

Salem's Constitution defines the purpose and structure of Salem's work and identity as a congregation in the ELCA. Article 13 is specific to Ministry Groups.

C13.06.A17. Congregation Ministry Groups

There shall be five ministry groups of the congregation, in addition to the Audit, Nominating, and Mutual Ministry committees. These ministry groups shall be: Property & Finance, Education, Community Outreach, Congregational Care and Worship.

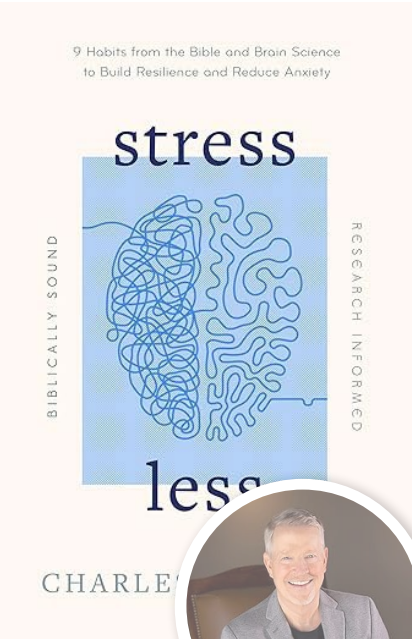
Declutter Your Heart
and Your Home

HOW A MINIMALIST LIFE YIELDS MAXIMUM JOY

by Julia Ubbenga (248.8 UBB)

Do you long for a richer life? One with meaning, purpose, and simplicity? One that’s more focused on who and what matters? God wants us to experience abundant life--and it all starts with clearing clutter, first in our hearts, then in our homes. Her book will help you:

- Identify the unhealthy habits and addictions that disorder your life
- Redefine your relationship with money and the stuff it buys
- Find freedom from hurry, chaos, and consumerism
- Reclaim God’s peace in your heart and your home



Stress Less

9 HABITS FROM THE BIBLE AND BRAIN SCIENCE TO BUILD
RESILIENCE AND REDUCE ANXIETY

by Charles Stone (242.4 STO)

Blending brain science, biblical truth, and best practices, Stress Less provides hope and healing. From his PhD research, pastor Charles Stone presents nine actionable insights for those battling stress or who have friends or family with fear and anxiety. Stone writes about biblical characters who successfully and unsuccessfully navigated stress and shares how he’s responded to the stresses in his life. Stone answers the questions: What is Stress? What does stress do to the body and brain? How do we build resistance to stress? He shows how changes in thinking, feeling, sleep, spiritual practices, and relationships can help us thrive through life’s stresses. Readers learn how gratitude and soaking your soul in Jesus can cultivate a life of greater well-being and joy. While we can’t eliminate the stressors of life, we can learn to navigate them with courage and grace.

To access and view the library collection, visit: salemofopeoria.com/salem-lutheran-library
Questions? Please contact: Karen Swenson 309-258-5708 | klswen@hotmail.com

WOMEN’S CIRCLES

REBECCA CIRCLE

Rebecca Circle is touring OSF Almost Home Kids at 10:15am on Tuesday, June 10 (meet at Salem at 10am if you wish to carpool) followed by an 11am lunch at Olive Garden.

LYDIA CIRCLE

Wednesday, June 11th at 2:00PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Thank You to our Sunday School Teachers!

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and light to my path.”*

Psalm 119:105

Thank you to Salem’s Sunday School teachers - good and faithful servants! We give thanks for the teachers who have shepherded Salem’s youth this past year. They are dedicated to the faith formation of our children and youth. Thank you for your devotion to being present every Sunday to share God’s Word and the promise God of eternal that is assured for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you also to Becky Hagen and Gretchen Petrakis for preparing hands-on activities for Sunday School classes.

You have demonstrated God’s love for each and every one of God’s beloved children that have been in your classroom this year. We give thanks for you!

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 2-year-old — 4-year-old: | Karen Holmes |
| Kindergarten — 3rd Grade: | Becky Hagen |
| 4th — 5th Grade: | Rebecca Sipf |
| 6th — 8th Grade: | Amy Schroeder and
Maren Thompson |
| High School: | Kelly & Jason Brinkman
and Maggie Slotter |

Birthday blessings!

- | | |
|---|--|
| JUNE 1
Sophia Doty | Clarence Knutson
Stacy Lantz
Rod Pyles |
| JUNE 2
Dawn Koeltzow | JUNE 19
Earl Gallas
Donna Miller |
| JUNE 3
Sophia Adams
John Ford
Scott Kalbacken | JUNE 21
Edell Berg
William Flanders |
| JUNE 4
Jane Topel | JUNE 22
Jeffrey Bastian
Timothy Hamann
Shane Snyder |
| JUNE 5
Kathleen Crittenden | JUNE 23
Christine Harvey
Morgan Lott
Logan Roberts
Jennifer Swanson |
| JUNE 6
Nathan Adams
Alan Reschenberg
Robert Suelter | JUNE 24
Walker Koeltzow
Caleb Lott |
| JUNE 7
Sis Gavin
Robert Petrakis | JUNE 25
Marilyn Smith |
| JUNE 8
Bradley Durst | JUNE 26
Shawn Blum
Amy Boland
Ashley Shoemaker |
| JUNE 9
Rebecca Snyder | JUNE 27
Carl Courtney
Paula Sydow
Maxwell Thompson |
| JUNE 10
Mildred Collins
Clayton Unes | JUNE 30
Julianna Dunkel
Brant Wegrzyn |
| JUNE 11
Mark Hartman | |
| JUNE 14
Tatum Dierking | |
| JUNE 15
Mary Luan Borquist
Ryan Brooke
Chloe Steele | |
| JUNE 17
Travis Janco
Jeff Machacek | |
| JUNE 18
Morgan Baumgarten | |



FAITH FORMATION



BOXING UP THE CANNED GOODS

Thank you Salem Family!!

Thank you for your prayers, donated items, and monetary gifts to our Lenten service project of collecting 5,000 canned and non-perishable items for our neighbors. We collected slightly over 5,100 items. This service project hopefully reminded us to contemplate the story of “Jesus Feeding the 5,000” that is found in all four Gospels.

We read in the Gospel of Mark 14:13-21 that Jesus saw a great crowd when he came ashore and “had compassion for them and cured their sick.” The people stayed and when it was evening the disciples told Jesus that the people were hungry and thought they should be sent away and go into the villages to find food. But Jesus told the disciples, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” The disciples told Jesus that they didn’t have enough food for the people and all they could find were five loaves and two fish. Jesus looked up to heaven and took what was offered, blessed it, broke the loaves and gave it to the disciples to give to the people. We read, “And all were filled...and all those that ate were about 5,000, besides the women and children.”

With our faith and trust in God, Jesus shows us that what we have to offer our neighbor is enough. God takes what we give and God provides. What do you have to give to your neighbor that God can work for good for our neighbors? We all have gifts we can offer! And look what we can when we work together!! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the love of your neighbor.

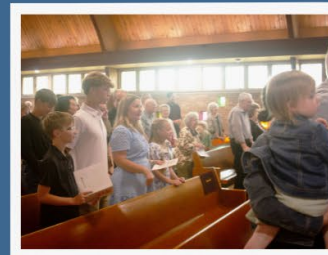
It took this group around an hour to pack up all the food items you donated. We had a fun time working together! We were very excited when we saw the wall behind all the food items again. Someone said, “Look! We see the wall!” It was a wonderful to see everyone working together. Thank you to everyone who stayed and helped!

Before we started our work, we took a moment to give thanks to the farmers who grew the food, the people that packaged and delivered it to the stores, for all of you that helped us reach our goal and we asked for a blessing for our neighbors that they would be nourished by the food and that they would know God’s love for them.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY

We had a truly wonderful time as a church family celebrating and honoring Pastor Craig for 30 years of faithful church ministry. The atmosphere was filled with love, gratitude, and heartfelt appreciation for his unwavering dedication and service. It was a beautiful morning to reflect on God’s goodness and the lasting impact of our pastor’s leadership over the years.

Here are a few pictures to commemorate the morning.



FAITH FORMATION

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025 VBS, ROAD TRIP

Monday, July 7 – Friday, July 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

ROAD TRIPPERS (PREK -5th GRADE)

Join us for an exciting adventure on the open road, where children embark on thrilling journeys to fantastic destinations. As kids experience these stories through music, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, and science, they'll discover God is always with them.

We will meet in the evenings at 5:30 for a light meal and hold our program from 6:00-7:30pm.

ADULT AND STUDENT VOLUNTEERS (6TH GRADERS AND UP!)

Vacation Bible School is an outreach serving event for the Peoria Community. We have big jobs and small jobs – every volunteer matters! Please contact Rebbecca Sipf (beccagurl1@hotmail.com) or Amy Schroeder (amy.angela.schroeder@gmail.com) with any questions.



REGISTRATION FORM FOR VBS

Please use the following link to register for Salem's Vacation Bible School 2025, Road Trip

<https://form.jotform.com/251334174237150>

OUTREACH MINISTRY

VBS School Supply Drive for Dr. C.T. Vivian School

The Outreach Committee and the Faith Formation Committee are co-sponsoring a school supply drive to benefit Salem's partner school, Dr. C.T. Vivian Primary School. During the week of Vacation Bible School (July 7-11), participants will be asked to bring a school supply daily as a donation to the school. The Outreach Committee will support the effort with the purchase of additional supplies, and the entire congregation is invited to participate by bringing their own donations. Dr. C.T. Vivian's school supply list can be found on their website, but suggested items include dry erase markers, headphones, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, paper towels, Ziploc bags, and hand sanitizer (ideally 12 oz pump bottles – please no extra-large bottles). The school would also benefit from donations of new or gently used uniform pants, shorts, or skirts (colors: navy blue, khaki, or black) and collared shirts, sweatshirts, or sweaters (colors: solid navy blue, red, white, or cream). Youth sizes 5-8 are especially in demand.

A donation box will be placed near the nursery in the atrium, and donations will be accepted until Friday, July 11. The school's complete supply list will be posted next to the donation box; all donations are greatly appreciated.

Please contact Emily Jolliff at 309-712-4979 if you have any questions.

REMAINING MIDWEST FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

July 30th | 9:00-11:00 AM

9005 N Industrial Rd, Peoria, IL 61615

Salem's volunteer team at Midwest Food Bank is growing, and we'd love to have a few more hands! If you're interested, please register online <https://portal.goldenvolunteer.com/timeslots/KMWigaHPot> (link also available through the Bugle Blast). Volunteers should plan to meet at the Peoria location. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers! For questions, contact:

John Grabel
iron_man_46@yahoo.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Future dates for volunteering
at the Midwest Food Bank:

July 30
September 24
November 19



PRAYER REQUESTS

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

- Dennis Rhoades
- Luan Borquist
- Butch Conard
- Joanie Creager
- 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





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The Bugle
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