



THIS SUMMER

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**WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN,
WHATE’ER THE GIFT MAY BE; ALL
THAT WE HAVE IS THINE ALONE, A
TRUST, O LORD, FROM THEE**



With the turn of the calendar, change is underway and seems to be happening quickly. School is back in session, fall sporting events are taking place, the harvest season is upon us.

At Salem, it is time for the annual picnic (September 7), educational programming, choir practices pus midweek Wednesday meals. It is a time for re-engagement and re-connecting to a more structured pattern of life with people and activities that have taken a break for the summer.

It is also time to begin counting the costs of ministry for the next year. The gospel passage for September 7 is a pointed one as Jesus addresses the crowd following him to inform them of the cost of following him as a disciple. While there are no membership fees to be a disciple of Jesus, there is a great cost involved to which some might consider too great of a sacrifice. “You cannot become my disciple without giving up all you own.” If you want to swim, you have to get in the water. If you want to live, you have to have air. If you want friends, you need to be

a friend. If you want to be a disciple, there is a cost, place Jesus first and all else as secondary. It sounds simple but depending on the way one’s identity and value is tied to “people, places and stuff” it can be difficult follow Jesus. This edition of the Bugle highlights many ways to connect more fully and engage in the discipleship journey with others. You might want to get involved as a worship leader, join a study group, serve on a ministry team, sing in the choir, ring a handbell, mentor a confirmation student. If any of these opportunities are of interest, please contact Danielle in the office and she will pass along your desire to the appropriate contact person. Additionally, information will be forthcoming to request a financial pledge in support of funding ministry efforts for the 2026 calendar year.

I love the stewardship song from the former, Lutheran Book of Worship. It encourages us to remember that all we have belongs to God. We are simply stewards of what God has entrusted to us to serve the Lord with gladness. Perhaps we should dust it off and sing it again as a theme for the fall pledging process.

STAFF

Craig Swenson
Senior Pastor
cswenson@salemofpeoria.com

Danielle Worsham
Office Coordinator
office@salemofpeoria.com

Maggie Slotter
Director of Music & Choir Director
mslotter@salemofpeoria.com

Gretchen Petrakis
Director of Sunday School
gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com

Kaitlyn Jedrzejewski
Director of Youth & Young Adults
kjedrzejewski@salemofpeoria.com

Brandon Worner
Director of Communications
bworner@salemofpeoria.com

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"We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee." We could then sing one from the current ELW. "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we are an offering."

Pastor Craig



Welcome, Kaitlyn!

Kaitlyn joins Salem's staff as a part-time position relating to Jr. & Sr. High youth, as well as college and post-college adults. Kaitlyn is a Candidate for ministry enrolled as a student with Luther Seminary in S. Paul, MN.

Turn to p. 7 for a word from Kaitlyn!

SALEM PRAYER MINISTRY

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

Max Lucado

Salem has had a strong Prayer Ministry emphasis for decades. Norma Hartman and Bonnie Gallas have been the contacts for the prayer chain for ever so long. Norma feels that it is time for her to step down.

At the same time, Sue Colloton has agreed to step forward and take on the position and forward prayer requests. Please send prayer requests to Sue. skcolloton@gmail.com.

Thank you, Norma and thank you, Sue for your leadership in this important ministry. Thanks also to Bonne Gallas who agreed to continue as an alternate contact.

FAIR TRADE SALE September 7th

Fair Trade items will be available for purchase on Sunday, Sunday, **September 7th** after worship.

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

Jennifer Gallas
(309) 256-5862
pew117@aol.com



Cuddles with Kindness® Stuffed Animal Collection

CUDDLES WITH KINDNESS

In Memory of Lori Reimer

The Reimer family, in memory of Nathan's mom, Lori, and sister, Allison, are continuing to carry on their stuffed animal collection for "Cuddles with Kindness". "Cuddles with Kindness" is a nonprofit dedicated to providing comfort to kids facing traumatic situations. The Reimer family is collecting stuffed animals all year on behalf of "Cuddles with Kindness" for a large donation event to the Children's Hospital of Illinois in February.

You are welcome to join their efforts this year by bringing any new stuffed animals, with the tag still on, to Salem. A collection bin labeled "Cuddles with Kindness" will be in the youth room on the third floor. Donations may be placed in the bin any time between now and the end of January. Drop a stuffed animal off once, or occasionally throughout the coming months, and the Reimer family will pick them up each time the bin is filled.

As you shop in stores, or online, in the next six months, take a look at the adorable new stuffed animals available and consider making a purchase for the collection. It's a wonderful way to honor Lori and Allison's memory and to share God's love with children in need.



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. With help from Salem Lutheran Church and others, Cuddles with Kindness® hopes to collect thousands of stuffed animals for the thousands of kids who need those extra snuggles for when they might be going through a hard time. Founder, Taylor Larson spent 9 days in the OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois when she was a child. During her stay, she received a bear on Valentine's Day. It changed her forever. Today, Taylor and the Cuddles with Kindness® organization delivers thousands of stuffed friends to children each year. Children receiving the cuddly teddy bears could be sick in the hospital, kids who have lost everything in a house fire, are in a children's home or maybe have been through a natural disaster. The need for these fuzzy friends is endless. It may be something small, but it can mean a lot. Help us in our mission of "kindness."



CUDDLES WITH KINDNESS CORE VALUES

- C – Compassionate to others
- U – Understanding of all backgrounds and situations
- D – Dependable to the community and those we serve
- D – Dedicated to service of others
- L – Leadership
- E – Ethically minded
- S – Spread kindness

HAPPENINGS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Salem welcomes Robert and Verna Bergsrom as Associate Members as of Council action, July 1. They reside at Lutheran Hillside Village, are members of Augustana Lutheran Church in Andover, Illinois and now formally connected in mission as associated members of Salem.

CONFIRMATION CO-OP

Students in grades 6-8 are encouraged to participate in a multi-congregation learning experience as part of their faith journey. Classes will be held at First English Lutheran Church in Peoria with shared leadership by area Pastors and Youth Leaders. Classes are 2-4pm on the **second Sundays each month**: September-November, January-April. The focus for this year is an overview of the Bible. Pastor Craig and Kaitlyn will also supplement teaching these students from time to time during the education hour at Salem.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAYS
10:15am-11:15am (Education for all ages)

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Pre-school through High School

MAN-TO-MAN
First Floor Conference Room (Leo Vandervlugt, facilitator)

WOMEN IN THE WORD
Third Floor Conference Room (Leah Grebner, facilitator)

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
10-11 (Pastor Craig, facilitator - contact Pastor Craig to be added to the email list and Zoom link)

THURSDAY MORNINGS
9:30-10:30 (Bill Ligon, facilitator)



NEW ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMUNITIES

The Synod Council gladly shared that the **Reverend Kristen Schmid** has been called to serve as the synod’s new full-time Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Communities and will work collaboratively with current synod staff and leaders in cultivating an ecclesiological transformation in small town and rural communities across the synod, focused on baptismal renewal and mission. Since 2021, Pastor Kristen has been serving as pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Logansport, Indiana, and St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Camden, Indiana.

Kristen was Salem’s Intern for the 2019-20 academic year. Salem is proud to have played a small part in the unfolding of the Spirit’s work through Kristen. May God’s blessing be upon this new and exciting ministry opportunity through our synod. Welcome back, Kristen!





FALL SUNDAY WORSHIP AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE

WORSHIP
9:00 AM
(Fellowship to Follow)

EDUCATION
10:15-11:15 AM

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them.”
- MATTHEW 18:20 -

FAITH FORMATION

Salem Library

Practicing the Way:

BE WITH JESUS. BECOME LIKE HIM. DO AS HE DID.

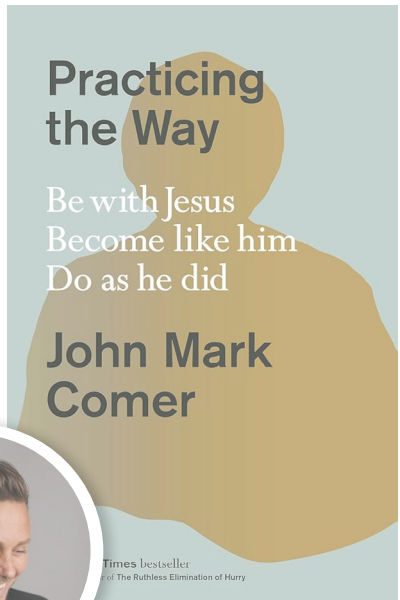
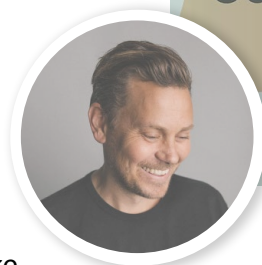
by John Mark Comer (232 COM)

We are constantly being formed by the world around us. To be formed by Jesus will require us to become his apprentice.

To live by what the first Christian disciples called a Rule of Life—a set of practices and relational rhythms that slow us down and open up space in our daily lives for God to do what only God can do—transforms the deepest parts of us to become like him.

This introduction to spiritual formation is full of John Mark Comer’s trademark mix of theological substance and cultural insight as well as practical wisdom on developing your own Rule of Life.

These ancient practices have much to offer us. By learning to rearrange our days, we can follow the Way of Jesus. We can be with him. Become like him. And do as he did.



The Mediterranean Sea Rules:

10 GOD-GIVEN STRATEGIES FOR NAVIGATING LIFE’S TEMPESTUOUS SEA

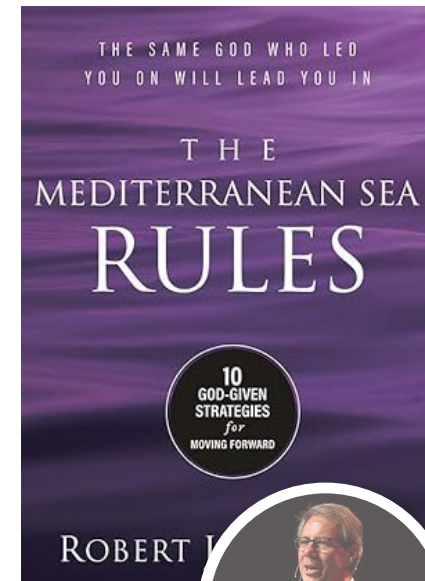
by Robert J. Morgan (248 MOR)

We often don’t know why God allows storms to disturb the weather patterns of our lives, but we have a Savior who knows how to manage storms and can get us through them.

The most vivid description of a storm in Scripture is the typhoon that brings the book of Acts to its climactic close. The Apostle Paul and his companions were caught in a storm of hurricane strength, so fierce and ferocious that all hope for survival vanished.

But God had His purposes, and He imparted to Paul an amazing measure of grace that turned the storm into a story for the ages. In The Mediterranean Sea Rules, Robert J. Morgan traces every detail of the voyage and shipwreck of the apostle Paul, drawing out ten lessons that will equip you to come out of stormy weather stronger than ever.

Atmospheric disturbances come to us all. But the Lord pilots His people over rough waters, imparting the nautical skills necessary for spiritual buoyancy. He will do that for you!

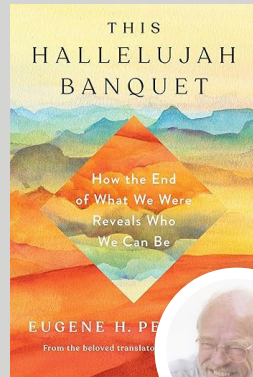


To access and view the library collection (saalemofpeoria.com), look for the Learn tab, click on Salem Lutheran Library, click again on Library Catalog and scroll through the online collection. Or search, (saalemofpeoria.com/salem-lutheran-library).Questions? Please contact: Karen Swenson 309-258-5708 | klswen@hotmail.com

SALEM BOOK CLUB

The Hallelujah Banquet by Eugene Peterson

Salem Book Club will meet on Wednesday, **September 24th at 8pm** on Zoom to discuss Eugene Peterson's, *This Hallelujah Banquet*. Eugene Peterson is the translator of The Message Bible and author of numerous books. You are invited to join! Let Gretchen (gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com) know that you are interested and you will receive the Zoom link.



This Hallelujah Banquet is your personal invitation to grow deep and begin living now in a generous, abundant, and hopeful reality in Christ. The book of Revelation is filled with angels and dragons, fantastic beasts and golden cities, bottomless pits and mysterious numbers. It's dramatic, sure—but what exactly does that have to do with the tests we face today? Actually, a lot. When the apostle John penned the book of Revelation, believers lived in a time of deception and injustice. But his message doesn't just reflect their cries for things to be made right; it reveals heaven's perspective of the bigger picture.

Eugene Peterson traces the dramatic symbolism found in John's letters to the seven churches, uncovering Christ's instructions to these ancient communities. Along the way, encounter seven key tests, of our love, suffering, truth, holiness, reality, witness, and commitment, tests from Christ that can deepen our faith and even shape our future.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

The women's Sunday morning study group will be doing the Max Lucado book study, *Life Lessons from Philippians: A Guide to Joy*. The books have arrived and are \$9 each to be paid to Leah Grebner. It is also available in Kindle version. We will be meeting on the third floor again this year, starting **Sunday September 14th**.

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

The Man to Man Study Group will resume on **Sunday September 14th**. We meet every Sunday from 10:15 till 11:15am in the Conference room on the lower floor.

We plan to continue the study book of the life of Joshua, Moses first assistant to lead his people through the wilderness and lead them across the Jordan River into the New Land. This book is part of the series "Men of Character" by author Gene Getz.

All Men are welcome to participate in this wonderful study and camaraderie. For additional information contact Leo Vandervlugt at 309-657-7122 or leovandervlugt@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

REBECCA CIRCLE

Tuesday, **September 9th** at 10:00 AM

LYDIA CIRCLE

Wednesday, **September 10th** at 2:00 PM

KAITLYN JEDRZEJOWSKI

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Hiya!

My name is Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski and I am so excited to be joining the Salem team as the Director of Youth and Young Adults! I just recently moved to Peoria from Valparaiso, Indiana, to be with my fiancé Matt (and two cats, Milo and Mini Donut). It is wonderful to be returning to my home state after being in Indiana for the past six years and to be in a location that has such a beautiful landscape!

I graduated from Valparaiso University in 2023 with degrees in Theology/Ministry and General Economics. Upon graduating, I began working at Christ Lutheran Church as their Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. It is such a joy working with young folks and witnessing the ways they live out their faith and connect with God!

Currently, I am an M.Div student at Luther Seminary and am working toward ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. I absolutely love learning and firmly believe that lifelong learning is so important!

In my free time, you will likely find me curled up with a book and coffee! I love exploring different coffee shops and have found a few favorites in the Peoria area since moving here. I also enjoy cooking and am always excited to try out a new recipe! You can also likely find me outside in nature either walking or biking.

I look forward to meeting you all and always welcome a conversation! My door is always open!

- Kaitlyn



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

Sunday School classes for children ages 2 year-old through 8th grade will begin on **Sunday, September 7th**. We are excited to have the opportunity to gather and learn and sing with one another. Summer has flown by and we have missed being together.

On September 7th we will gather at 10:15am - parents are invited to join - and work together on a project for "God's Work. Our Hands" that is being coordinated by the Outreach Committee. We will then go to our classrooms with Sunday School teachers for a lesson and activity.

Every Sunday after September 7th, Sunday School class is from 10:15am - 11:15am and we will begin with singing in the Choir Room (right off the Second Floor Lounge) led by Kelly and Jason Brinkman. Children will then go to classrooms for the remainder of the Education Hour.

YOU are always welcome in Sunday School! We hope to see you this year as we learn about stories and people in the Bible that always point us to the promises of God that are revealed to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. YOU are a beloved child of God and God's promises are for you! Come and join us!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Gretchen Petrakis, Sunday School Coordinator, at gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

HOLY BAPTISM

Welcome to the family of faith, Grace Elizabeth Miller, child of God as of Sunday, June 29. Daughter of Sara Billington and Greg Miller.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

JoAnn Misselhorn joined the church triumphant, July 5. Funeral and burial took place July 12. Prayers of comfort to Paul Misselhorn and family.

THANK YOU

- Karen and I express heartfelt thanks for the many ways we have received expressions of love and support following the death of my mom in July. Your kindness helped comfort our loss. Thank you. – Pastor Craig
- Gretchen Petrakis, Sunday School Coordinator and volunteer adult leader/chaperone, and Poppy Jolliff, a rising 7th grader, attended Crossways Confirmation Camp at Augustana College in Rock Island from June 9-13. This was the second year that Salem participated in this amazing faith building experience – for youth and adults. Last year, Gretchen and Maggie Sipf attended from Salem for the first time. Thank you, Salem, for helping to underwrite the cost of a youth camper to attend this Spirit-filled experience – this year and last year. Our youth appreciate your generosity! – Gretchen Petrakis

Birthday blessings!

SEPT 1 Julie Doty April Eckhardt Jessica Egan Andrew Rehn	SEPT 6 Katherine Hancock Nancy Knobloch Rachel Sides	SEPT 12 Caleb Brinkman	SEPT 20 Ella Hartman Tim Koeltzow Kylee Lambie Drew Swanson	SEPT 26 Alice Bahnfleth Kelly Brinkman Cooper Hughbanks Justin Machacek
SEPT 2 Susan Brunsmann-Friedman	SEPT 7 Steve Johnson	SEPT 13 Jennifer Friberg Donald Hamann Jordyn Manning David Thomasson	SEPT 21 Karl Larson	SEPT 28 Gretchen Moon
SEPT 3 Joshua Dowell Emily Jolliff Christopher Lehmann	SEPT 8 Mary Gibson Suzanne Ligon Julie McCammon	SEPT 14 Amy Hoffman	SEPT 22 Haley Aubrey A.J. Bastian Rebecca Glawe Nicole Vandervlugt	SEPT 29 Christine Dunkel Alyssa Glawe
SEPT 4 Saskia Courtney Morgan Dockery Greg Grebner Caidon Hickey Talon Maki Kate Uphoff	SEPT 9 Joshua Eastwood Jamie Hancock	SEPT 15 Kadyn Cochran Jeffrey Hamann Marlene Peterson	SEPT 30 James Patterson Ethan Westart	
SEPT 5 Diane Engfer Robert Middleton Sr. David Swanson	SEPT 10 Laura VanLaningham Christopher Wragge	SEPT 16 Colson Cowser Connor Kelly Henry Noe	SEPT 23 Daniela Gonzales Shane Serfling Alex Swanson	
	SEPT 11 Paige Consigny John Grant Melissa Graves Paul Misselhorn Kurt Oehlwein	SEPT 17 David Rees	SEPT 24 Inez Norgard Mike Ott Jody Storks	
		SEPT 18 Kevin Setterlund Danielle Worsham	SEPT 25 Katrina Berchtold	

OUTREACH MINISTRY

MIDWEST FOOD BANK

September 24th | 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 at: iron_man_46@yahoo.com

BETHEL FOOD PANTRY

Salem partners with the Bethel United Methodist Church food ministry by collecting non-perishable goods for their pantry. Suggested items for donation: Canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned beans, canned meat, cereal, peanut butter, dry noodles, mac and cheese, stuffing, spaghetti, rice, instant potatoes, paper towels and toilet paper. You can help feed others by bringing your donation to Salem at any time.

GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS

“God’s Work. Our Hands” is **September 7, 2025** - the annual day of service to celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The Salem Family will be assembling various kits (cleaning, hygiene, preschool, cold weather, birthday) to be donated to programs at the Salvation Army as part of the activities at our annual picnic. All supplies will be provided. Come and join in the fun and service that day.



SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

Deacon Jason Fisher, CSIS Director for Evangelical Mission, will be at Salem on **Sunday, October 5** to preach and engage youth and adults in conversation following worship around ways to grow Salem’s reach among members but also the greater Peoria area.

More information will be shared in the October Bugle.

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)

- Tim Walters
- Greg Gebhards
- Thelma Neal
- Sally Smith

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
USPS 477-460



Bring Your Favorite Cup to the
C/SIS Women of the ELCA

Fall Gathering

Speaker

Pastor Jon Fry,
St. Andrew's
Lutheran Church,
will share stories
of Ministry on
the U of I Campus.



Speaker

Pastor Amy Zietlow,
Assistant to the Bishop,
will share a program
based on Joyce Rupp's
devotion book,
The Cup of Our Life.

My Cup Overflows

Saturday, September 20, 2025 • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect Ave., Champaign

Registration Fee of \$20 includes morning snack & lunch

Scan the QR code for more information and to register:

Or call Nancy Schmidt at 217-556-0682.



Door Prizes, Silent Auction and Fair-Trade Market

Bring a non-perishable food item
for Good Shepherd and Grace Lutheran food pantries

You prepare a table before me. My cup overflows.

Psalm 23:5