



THIS MONTH

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The following prayer is one of the commonly used offertory prayers from the Lutheran Book of Worship.

**Merciful Father,**

**We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

It is a reminder that all we have and all we are come as gifts to us from a loving and generous God who entrusts us with the responsibilities of being good stewards in response to signs of God’s favor – selves, time and possessions. All are gifts and how we respond is a reflection of our relationship with the giver. Over the years, I have read several books about money/giving/stewardship but one stands out in particular that resonates with my beliefs about what is entrusted to my care and my response as it shapes my relationship with God and others. From a book entitled

*Giving to God* by Mark Allen Powell, Powell states,

“We give out of glad and generous hearts as an expression of love and devotion to the God who is so good to us. When we do this, we discover the very essence of Christianity: a heartfelt relationship with God in which joy and thanksgiving replace self-interest or guilt.”

With joy and thanksgiving are two words from the prayer we will focus on as this year’s Fall stewardship emphasis unfolds. Later this month, you will receive a letter along with pledge card responses to consider a response in support of ministry opportunities for the coming year. As you consider your gifts of support, I ask you to reflect on the following questions. What brings you joy? For what/who/why are you thankful? It is my prayer that the abundant love of Jesus is foundational to your joy and your thankfulness and if not, what needs changed so that he is? There are numerous worries, disappointments, challenges that try to steal our joy and thankfulness. Centered in God’s word



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please call  
Pastor Craig: 309-258-4759

and sustained through prayer, we can give our concerns to Jesus and when we do, we will realize the peace of God remains. That is real joy and reason for our thankfulness.

*Pastor Craig*



## 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. Deacon Jason will engage us in conversation during the education hour over coffee & cookies in the Social Hall. Jr. and Sr. High Youth as well as adults are encouraged to participate.



## JOB POSTING NURSERY ATTENDANT

Salem Lutheran Church in Peoria, IL is seeking to hire a Nursery Attendant. This is a paid position with an hourly wage of \$20 per hour. The Attendant will work to assure the early childhood nursery is well run, safe and welcoming for both parents and children. Must be available from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. There is an education hour after the service.

Potential applicants must pass a background check and have CPR/ First Aid Training. A complete job description is available at [www.salemofpeoria.com](http://www.salemofpeoria.com). For more information or to apply send an email to Gayle Young at [gyoung9194@gmail.com](mailto:gyoung9194@gmail.com) with Salem Nursery Attn: Gayle Young or send resumes to Salem Lutheran Church, Attn: Gayle Young, 1700 W. War Memorial Dr, Peoria, IL 61614.

## FAIR TRADE SALE October 5<sup>th</sup>

Fair Trade items will be available for purchase on Sunday, Sunday, **October 5th** after worship.

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

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



# HAPPENINGS

## FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP

Time to mark your calendars for the return of our Breaking Bread Family Nites. We are all Gods family and all are welcome. Join us on **Wednesdays, September 17th thru November 12th, 5:45 to 7:15pm** for:

Favorite hymns & Sunday School songs 5:45-6:00pm

Delicious family style dinner 6:00-6:30

Childrens faith message & activity 6:30-7:15

Adult Bible study 6:30-7:15 - Special thanks to Bill Ligon for leading our adult Bible study on the Book of Romans!

Sign up at the Welcome Center (not required but appreciated). See the weekly Bugle Blast for menus. Nursery available.

## YOUNG ADULT CARE PACKAGES

Salem will be sending care packages to our young adults near and far. Along with some small treats, we like to include a gift card to a store, or restaurant. If you would like to make a donation of a gift card to this ministry, please contact Kelly Brinkman for more information about types of cards and amounts requested. Thanks so much for your generosity!

## CUDDLES WITH KINDNESS

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.



## FALL SUNDAY WORSHIP AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE

**WORSHIP**  
9:00 AM  
(Fellowship to Follow)

**EDUCATION**  
10:15-11:15 AM

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**SUNDAYS**  
10:15am-11:15am  
(All ages)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Pre-school - High School

**MAN-TO-MAN**  
1st Floor Conference Room  
(Leo Vandervlugt)

**WOMEN IN THE WORD**  
3rd Floor Conference  
Room  
(Leah Grebner)

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**  
10-11  
(Pastor Craig via Zoom)

**THURSDAY MORNINGS**  
9:30-10:30 (Bill Ligon)



# REFRAMING OUR STORIES

## *Conversations with Kara Haug*

Kara Haug is an AASECT certified Sexuality Health Educator who also has her Masters in Theological Studies. She Co-Founded the company Reframing our Stories to change the narrative on how we talk about sexuality in the systems that greatly impact us: family, schools, and churches. She is a contributing author in the new book "Hungry for Hope: Letters to the Church from Young Adults."



### "THE STORY OF RELATIONSHIPS"

Sunday, October 19 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
at First English Lutheran Church, 725 Forrest Hill, Peoria  
A look at what, where, and who teaches us about healthy relationships.  
**For students in grades 6-8.** Parents and guardians welcome to attend.  
Please RSVP as a congregation by October 5 to Mrs Brown at First English.

### "TECHNOLOGY AND BELONGING"

Sunday, October 19 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM  
at First English Lutheran Church, 725 Forrest Hill, Peoria  
**All ages and generations** are invited to consider how we build communities and strengthen relationships in a world of AI technology and social media.

### "PARENTS ARE THE PRIMARY SEX EDUCATORS"

Monday, October 20 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
at Faith Lutheran Church, 2206 Washington Rd, Washington  
**Parents of pre-school through elementary children** are invited to learn more about how what they say or don't say about bodies matters.

### "GRANTING PERMISSION TO BE HUMAN"

Monday, October 20 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM  
at Grace and Peace Lutheran Church, 7611 Knoxville, Peoria  
**Parents of 5th-12th grade students** are invited to consider ongoing needs to build authentic connections amid pressures of AI and online relationships.

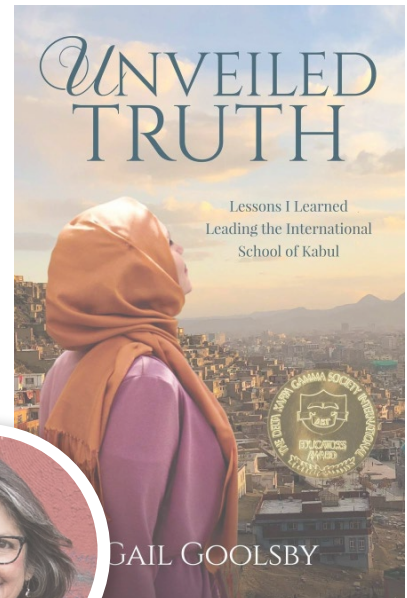
For more information about a specific event, please contact the church listed as host site

## Unveiled Truth:

LESSONS I LEARNED LEADING THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF KABUL

by Gail Goolsby (266 GOO)

What Woman Would Willingly Move to Afghanistan? No woman in her right mind would choose to live in war-ravaged, male-dominated Afghanistan unless she had the golden opportunity to lead the best school in the country. In 2005, following the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Gail Goolsby reluctantly found herself the founding principal of the International School of Kabul in Afghanistan. The how, when, and why make for a captivating and insightful story. Unveiled Truth pulls back the curtain of distant cultures and reveals the challenge of overseas living. With humor and transparency, Gail shares dramatic scenes from her seven years in Kabul and unveils the lessons she learned. Mortar blasts, campus lockdowns, work disputes, cultural restrictions, and the lack of daily conveniences are some of the many challenges she faced. Though her time in Afghanistan proved difficult, Gail chose to stay, hoping to improve the lives of young people caught up in a treacherous world. In this book, Gail encourages us to view Afghan culture in a new light, teaches us what she learned about responding to personal failures and relational difficulties, and inspires us to give of ourselves, so that in the process, we too can be irrevocably changed, just as Kabul forever changed her for the better.

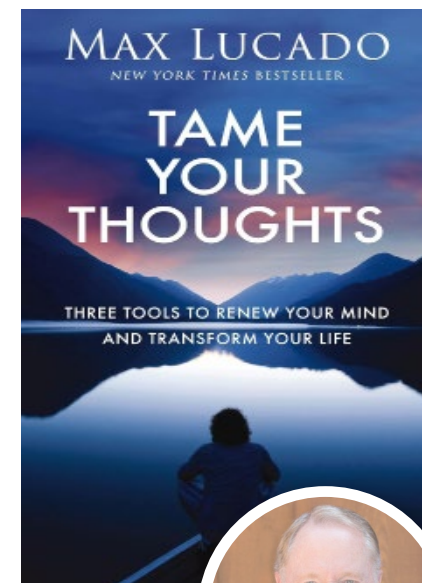


## Tame Your Thoughts:

THREE TOOLS TO RENEW YOUR MIND AND TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

by Max Lucado (248.4 LUC)

When was the last time you awakened to a swirl of out-of-control thoughts? Perhaps you were overwhelmed with the weight of worry, the fear of failing, or the grip of guilt. The way we think directly impacts our joy and peace. In Tame Your Thoughts, Max Lucado provides three biblical and practical tools to renew your mind and transform your life.



To access and view the library collection ([saalemofpeoria.com](http://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](http://saalemofpeoria.com/salem-lutheran-library)). Questions? Please contact: Karen Swenson 309-258-5708 | [klswen@hotmail.com](mailto:klswen@hotmail.com)



Birthday blessings!

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>OCT 1</b><br>Kim Ascherl<br>Zachary Ferrell                    | <b>OCT 12</b><br>Aaron Hartman<br>Brent Wallstedt  | <b>OCT 23</b><br>Joann Blum<br>John Grabel   |
| <b>OCT 2</b><br>Stephanie Dammann<br>Miles Janssen<br>John Sipf   | <b>OCT 13</b><br>Michael Newcomb   | <b>OCT 25</b><br>Brett Cooper<br>Faith Forkell<br>Erika Haedicke<br>Sandra Harvey<br>Celeste Woerner |
| <b>OCT 3</b><br>JR Runkel   | <b>OCT 15</b><br>Melissa Aprahamian<br>Sharon Coyner<br>Marilyn Oertley<br>Gavin Stenzel | <b>OCT 26</b><br>John Day  |
| <b>OCT 4</b><br>Jackson Grabel<br>Karsen Grabel<br>Collins Graves | <b>OCT 16</b><br>Roberta Kessinger   | <b>OCT 28</b><br>Mike Shadley  |
| <b>OCT 5</b><br>Allen Bidne                                       | <b>OCT 17</b><br>Daniel Young  | <b>OCT 29</b><br>Gail Serrahn  |
| <b>OCT 6</b><br>Alton Berg<br>Mary Alice Erickson<br>Elijah Sipf  | <b>OCT 18</b><br>James Ripper<br>Kelly Swanson   | <b>OCT 30</b><br>Aaron Grebner<br>Ann Sterr<br>Annie Swanson   |
| <b>OCT 7</b><br>Trenton Hainline<br>Meghan Peterson               | <b>OCT 19</b><br>Christa Taubert<br>Gayle Young  |  |
| <b>OCT 10</b><br>David Griffith<br>Maren Kelly<br>Ella Snyder     | <b>OCT 20</b><br>Matthew Kammerer  |  |
| <b>OCT 11</b><br>Terry Krus                                       | <b>OCT 21</b><br>Kelsi Gustafson<br>Jaxon Howard<br>Kathy Kalbacken                      |  |



SYNOD YOUTH GATHERING

NOVEMBER 21 - 23

Calling all 6th through 12th graders! Mark your calendars, because one of the best weekends of the year is coming up on **November 21st-23rd!**

Every fall, the Central/Southern Illinois Synod hosts the Synod Youth Gathering at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, IL. The best part is that you get to be a part of this experience! Whether you’re in junior high or senior high, this weekend is a time for all of us to gather as a synod!

Here’s what this weekend includes:

- A whole weekend away to intentionally focus on your relationship with God
- New synod friendships and strengthening friendships with other Salem youth
- Deepen your faith through prayer, large-group worship, and Bible studies
- Small groups that dive into the theme “Abide with Me” through games, projects, and conversations
- Free time for Lake Williamson’s fun activities like swimming and high ropes
- Dorm-style cabins for some late-night laughs

This gathering is a chance to deepen your faith, discover God’s love in new ways, and experience the kind of community that makes you want to come back the next year!

Registration is now open for the gathering, so if you are interested, **please connect with Kaitlyn by emailing [kjedrzejowski@saalemofpeoria.com](mailto:kjedrzejowski@saalemofpeoria.com)**. Registration forms can be found by the Welcome Center and will be available at the Parent Orientation meeting on September 14th. The cost per participant is \$70 and payment should be included with your registration. Payment can be made either by cash or check, with checks being made out to Salem Lutheran Church. Please submit registration and payment by September 24th at the latest.

Youth come back from this weekend not only with wonderful memories, but also with a stronger sense of faith and belonging in Jesus. Don’t miss the opportunity to be part of this life-giving experience!

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

WOMEN’S CIRCLES

**REBECCA CIRCLE**  
Tuesday, **October 7<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 AM

**LYDIA CIRCLE**  
Wednesday, **October 8<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 PM

# WORSHIP

## LESSONS AND CAROLS DECEMBER 7TH

Join us at Salem Lutheran Church to celebrate the beginning of the Advent Season with Lessons & Carols on **December 7 at 3pm** at Salem Lutheran Church.

The format for the Lessons and Carols service is simple: nine scripture readings following the fall of humanity, the promise of The Messiah, and the birth of Christ. Interspersed with traditional Christmas hymns, and musical offerings from Salem choirs, ensembles, as well as others within our Peoria community.

Interested in participating? All event rehearsals for Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir will take place during their regularly scheduled times on Thursdays at 6pm (Bells) and 7pm (Choir). All are welcome to start joining choir rehearsals – it is not too late!

Outreach Collection for the Center for Prevention of Abuse: Donations will be collected from December 1 – December 8 to support Adopt Our Families program for the Center for Prevention of Abuse.

New items being collected are items that keep people warm: throw blankets, robes, pajama sets, separate pajama tops and bottoms, footies/warm socks, skid-free slippers/socks, mittens, gloves, winter hats, scarves, cardigan sweaters, sweatpants, & sweatshirts. We will accept donations in all sizes, from infant – 4X.

Items will be collected in the Atrium from **November 23rd** until the event, **December 7th**. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to the Center for Prevention of Abuse. An offering box will be available during the event on Sunday, **December 7**.

The Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA) exists to help all people—women, men, and children—live free from violence and abuse. CFPA provides safety, counseling and therapy, advocacy for women, men, and children who have been affected by violence and abuse and works to prevent abuse from happening.

Invite your friends! This is an opportunity to invite friends and family to come together to celebrate the beginning of the Advent Season. A short reception with light refreshments is to follow the service. Come and join us for this immersive Advent activity on Sunday, **December 7 at 3pm!**

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM WANTS YOU!

The Worship and Music Ministry Team needs to add a couple new members!

Salem's Worship Team works behind the scenes to support Pastor Craig in creating worship services, to support Salem's director of music Maggie with various music and musician selections, and to provide new and updated services while maintaining Salem's vibrant traditions. We work well as a unit and meet once per month throughout the year. Currently we have been meeting via Zoom communications, which we have found to work well for us. The workload is minor, the majority is done during our monthly meeting which last about an hour.

The current members are:

Pastor Craig, Maggie Slotter, Nadine Willems, Karen Swenson, Leah Grebner, Deb Sanders, Kelly Brinkman, Julie Kotewa, Emily Jolliff and Leo Vandervlugt.

Please contact any of our members for more information. Let Leo Vandervlugt know if you are interested in strengthening Salem's amazing Team!

Leo Vandervlugt, chair person.  
309-657-7122  
leovandervlugt@gmail.com

# OUTREACH MINISTRY

## LSSI PROJECT ROOM AT THE INN FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' (LSSI's) Christmas giving program, Project Room at the Inn, is based on the Christmas Story from Luke's Gospel. The inn that Mary and Joseph first encountered seemed to have no room...but then a kind and generous stranger made room for them and blessed their family.

Many of the children in LSSI's programs encounter spaces that seem to have no room for them. Yet, we trust that God will bless these families through the kindness and generosity of others, reminding them of God's love.

Our congregation is partnering with LSSI to provide gifts for thirty children in foster care this holiday season through Project Room at the Inn. Your support will provide a Christmas gift to a child in the Peoria area who may otherwise go without.

Gift tags will be available starting Sunday November 2 at (lobby, church office, etc.) with the name and age of a child in care, and a suggested gift item worth about \$35-40 dollars. If you choose a gift tag, please bring the item unwrapped, with the tag attached, back to the (lobby, church office, etc.) by Sunday November 30. The gifts will be delivered to LSSI's Peoria Foster Care office soon after that. Foster parents will be asked to wrap the presents for the children in their care. Wrapping materials can be donated as desired.

If you choose to make a financial donation to support Project Room at the Inn, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/projectroomattheinn2025>

Thank you for being a blessing to others this Christmas!



# Lutheran Social Services of Illinois



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

The Bugle  
USPS 477-460

