



THIS MONTH

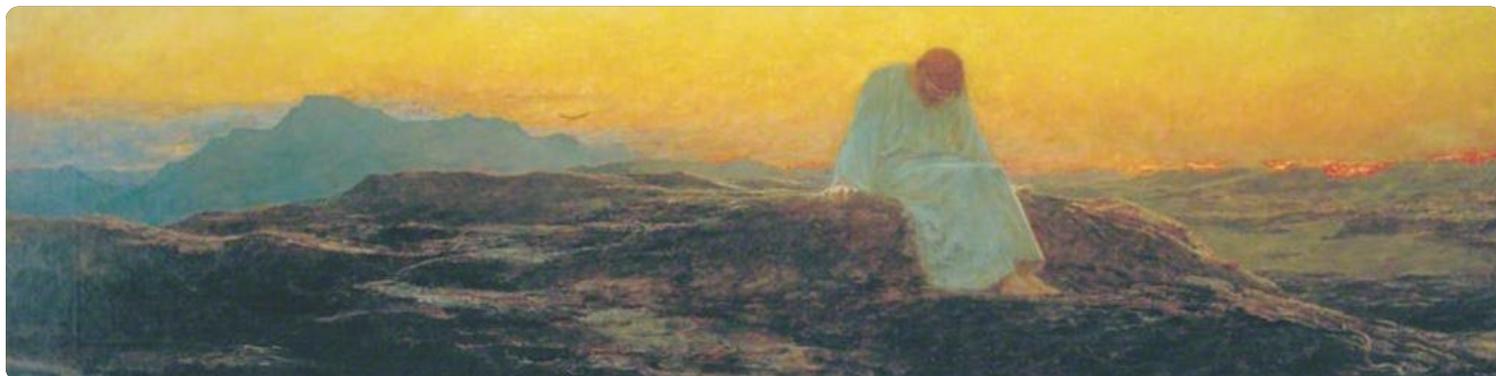
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From the ELCA 2026 Lenten Devotional *Beauty For Ashes*:

After he was baptized by John the Baptizer in the Jordan River, Jesus was led into the wilderness. He ate nothing for 40 days. The devil came and tempted Jesus in his severe hunger and thirst, offering him worldly wealth, power and fame if he would worship Satan. Jesus responded by hitting the devil with the words of Scripture: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him” (Luke 4:8).

Jesus represents all humanity. The devil still tempts us today. Let us imitate Jesus’ approach to responding to Satan’s temptations in our lives. Jesus overcomes the devil with the words of God from the Scriptures. As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we have been given a powerful example by our Savior and Lord. We have the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God to use against the devil. Let’s practice the habit of applying Scripture in times of temptation. Our worship has only one object, which is God alone.

Let us not allow ourselves to fall prey to the temptations of the devil in this world. We do not belong to Satan. We belong to Jesus. He has bought us through his suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection. We owe him our worship and devotion. Let us look to Jesus and his example during this season of Lent.





STAFF

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

Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski

Director of Youth & Young Adults
kjedrzejowski@salemofpeoria.com

Brandon Worner

Director of Communications
bworner@salemofpeoria.com

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please call
the church office: 309-688-9212

THANK YOU

“Karen and I offer our sincere thanks for the many expressions of love and well-wishes shared with us as the time with you has ended and we enter the new adventures of retirement. We received many written, verbal and monetary gifts for which we are truly grateful. We are adapting to this new chapter of life and pray you are adapting as well as we trust the presence of the Lord leads us forward to new possibilities for sharing the good news of Jesus. Our love and gratitude to you.” — Pastor Craig & Karen

“Dear Salem Friends and Sunday School - My sincere appreciation for your Valentines and treats delivered by Nadine Willems. It meant so much. Love is a condition where someone else’s happiness is essential to your own. Thank you for remembering me. Love, Bernice Kent.”

OFFERING FOR BREAKING BREAD

Breaking Bread is our cross+generational ministry program on selected Wednesday evenings in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Our time together is centered around delicious meals prepared by generous, and capable, hands at Salem. We offer these meals free of charge as our welcome and hospitality to all who attend. Our Salem budget provides funds to cover expenses for meals, but food costs continue to rise. If you feel called to serve this ministry with a monetary offering to help us continue to provide quality meals to our guests, please make your check payable to Salem Lutheran church with “Breaking Bread” in the memo line. You may place your offering in the offering plate during worship or turn it into the church office. Thanks so much for helping us create community here at Salem.

WOMEN’S CIRCLES

REBECCA CIRCLE

Tuesday, **March 10th** at
10:00 AM

LYDIA CIRCLE

Wednesday, **March 11th** at
1:00 PM

FAIR TRADE SALE

Fair Trade items will be available for purchase on **Sunday, March 1st** after worship. Sales in April will be moved to Sunday, April 12 since Easter falls on the first Sunday of April this year.

Please contact Jennifer Gallas at 309-256-5862 or at pew117@aol.com if you need Fair Trade

MEETINGS AT THE CHURCH REMINDER:

We are excited to have more groups utilizing our beautiful church building throughout the week! Please remember to contact the church office for any events that are not regularly scheduled so they can get on the calendar and heat can be scheduled. If you forget you may have a cold building when you arrive! Thank you for your help, and enjoy your time at Salem!!

HAPPENINGS

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2026

LENT WEDNESDAYS

February 25th - March 25th: 11 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary at Salem

Theme: “Listen, God is Calling” led by Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski

Lunch in the social hall will follow worship. All are welcome!

Please note that only 11 a.m. worship is available at Salem. Those preferring an evening worship experience are invited to join First English Lutheran at 7 p.m. The theme is “The Work of Imagination.”

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, **March 29th: 9 a.m.** Worship at Salem

Maundy Thursday, **April 2nd: 7 p.m.** Worship at Salem

Good Friday, **April 3rd: 7 p.m.** Worship at Salem

Join us this year for our Good Friday Tenebrae service featuring jazz styled music for worship. Special music will be provided for the service, and we will enjoy our favorite Lenten hymns.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5th: 9 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary at Salem

There will be one Easter Sunday service this year at 9 a.m. This festival Sunday service will include Choir sharing special music as well as our Salem Brass Quintet.

Join us in celebrating Easter!

EASTER BREAKFAST

Breakfast will be served between 8-9am and after the 9am Easter worship service from 10:15-11-15. Please sign up at the welcome center beginning March 1st.

GREATER PEORIA HONOR FLIGHT 2026

APRIL 7TH, MAY 26TH, SEPTEMBER 8TH, OCTOBER 20TH!

Their mission is to transport America’s Veterans from the Greater Peoria Regional Airport to Washington DC to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Veterans pay nothing for the trip. For more information about being a part of the flights contact the organization through these options.

The organization also offers Operation Penguin, name for the flightless bird, for those who are unable to do the traditional flight to DC and back. This “flightless” program provides a tour of local memorials & sites, breakfast and lunch, and lasts roughly 7 hours. The 2026 date is TBD.

Phone: 309-431-1280

Site: greaterpeoriahonorflight.org

Address: PO Box 5072; Peoria, IL 61601-5072



HAPPENINGS

Birthday blessings!

MAR 1 Janice Lambie	MAR 14 Julie Rogy	Natalie Breidel
MAR 3 Jason Ripper	MAR 16 Nicole Breidel Ava Salverson	MAR 28 Audrey Aprahamian Michael Friberg
MAR 4 Emily Arnold	MAR 17 Vicki Johnson Noah VanLaningham	MAR 30 Ruth Bock Michael Swanson
MAR 6 Thomas Oertley Matthew Zapf	MAR 18 Mia Dotty Clifford Shoemaker Pastor Craig Swenson	MAR 31 Michael DeGood Heidi Hainline
MAR 7 Donita Purcell	MAR 19 Melissa McCord	
MAR 9 Matthew Bennett Allan Perry Jennifer Zapf	MAR 21 Ann-Marree Anderson Todd Kelly Ward Ricketts	
MAR 10 Randall Blum Linda Sedgwick	MAR 23 Sarah Gonzales Karen Holmes John Young	
MAR 12 Joan Craeger	MAR 25 Kelsey Bastian	
MAR 13 Tanya Grabel Ronald Hartmann Benjamin Owen Jacob Owen	MAR 27	

If your name should have been on this list but wasn't, please call Salem's Office: (309)688-9212

SALEM PRESCHOOL

We are taking sign ups now for our three year old and pre-k programs for the 2026/27 school year.

MIDWEST FOOD BANK

A Cross-generational Midwest Food Bank Service Opportunity in March is coming. Please watch your Bugle Blast for information, as the date is not yet set.

CUDDLES WITH KINDNESS

Thanks so much for the donations of new stuffed animals for Cuddles with Kindness. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Our donations will add to those being collected by the Reimer family in memory of Lori and Allison. Thanks again for your willingness to serve the children in our local community.

SYMPATHIES

Former Salem members, Rita and Roger Dunn, both passed away on January 8 and January 11, respectively. They were longtime members of Salem until their retirement. They split their time between Montana and Arizona, eventually settling permanently in Clarkdale, Arizona. They are survived by their children, Amy Koepke of Peoria, Illinois, Valerie (Robbie) Musgrave of Pekin, Illinois, Denise Dunn of Peoria, Illinois, and Chris (Eric) Dunn of Los Angeles, California, as well as five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. A celebration of life for Rita and Roger was held at their church in February in Clarkdale, AZ. Please keep the family in your prayers.

FAITH FORMATION

BREWED THEOLOGY: VOCATION!

MARCH 12TH | 7 - 8:30 PM

This week we will be spending time in conversation around vocation! Using Brewed Theology's discussion guide, we will explore questions such as "What is vocation and calling?" and "What vocations do you have beyond careers?"



PEORIA RIVERMEN GAME

MARCH 29TH | 3:15 PM

The Peoria Rivermen take on the Evansville Thunderbolts in hockey! Join the Salem Young Adults for a match-up that is sure to be lots of fun! Please let Kaitlyn know by **March 15th** if you plan to attend so tickets can be purchased.

LENTEN SERVICES

MIDWEEK

"LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING!"

In his book *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer speaks frequently to the importance of listening. Describing it as a "ministry of listening," Bonhoeffer shares that "We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God." Amid the rush of a life filled with tasks and responsibilities pulling us in a multitude of directions, it can be difficult to take a moment to pause and just listen.

During this season of Lent, our theme will be "Listen, God is Calling!" Lent is a time when we are invited to slow down and listen for the ways in which God is calling us to our relationships, our vocations, and our faith. When we slow down and listen, we not only hear God's Word, but we grow into our calling as disciples.

This Lenten season, you are invited to the Lenten midweek services on Wednesday mornings at 11AM. If you have been feeling the weight of busy schedules or simply need some time each week to be fully present with God, this season is time to step away from the noisiness of life and to hear God's call that centers us

LEADERSHIP LAB!

Are you someone who is interested in further developing your leadership for the church and your communities? Are you passionate about being shaped and formed as a ministry leader and disciple? If you answered yes, then you should consider attending Leadership Lab this summer! From **June 22nd- 27th**, Leadership Lab is taking place at Augustana College! Available for high schoolers and adults, there are various leadership lab levels available to learn from one another and to develop leadership skills.



Please scan the QR code or visit leadershiplab.net for more information! If you are interested in attending Leadership Lab, please reach out to Kaitlyn. Registration for Leadership Lab is due by April 15th.

2026 SALEM COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

Dan Young

VICE PRESIDENT

Amy Hoffman

OTHER MEMBERS

Deb Sanders

Kelly Brinkman

Seth Uphoff

Matt Bidne

Amy Schroeder

Rebecca Sipf

Julia Kotewa

CONFIRMATION CAMP

REGISTER BY MARCH 15TH

Attention all 6th-8th graders! This summer from **June 8th to June 12th** is Crossways Confirmation at Augustana College! Crossways Camp is a time to “grow in faith and discipleship through engaging lessons, sermons, and Bible stories each day.” Crossways Camp is also an amazing opportunity to visit the home of a faith tradition different than our own to see the ways that other communities experience and connect with God!

As people of faith, we are called to love and care for our neighbors. Crossways Confirmation Camp spends time accompanying the surrounding community through mission work that reflects God’s love out into the world!

Crossways Camp also knows how to have lots of fun, whether it be skits, playing games, or going to the water park!

If you are interested in attending Confirmation Camp, you can register using the QR code. Registration is due by **March 15th**. If you plan to register for Crossways Camp, please email Kaitlyn and let her know by **March 8th**, as Salem will be submitting payment on behalf of all participants.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kaitlyn at kjedrzejowski@salemofpeoria.com. If you would like to hear more about what Crossways Camp is like, you are invited to reach out to Maggie Sipf or Gretchen Petrakis!



Welcome

PASTOR JENNIFER HARTWEG-BROWN

Interim Pastor



Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria



“Feed my lambs, tend my sheep”

LWGP is sponsoring a **SPRING FUNDRAISER** in conjunction with the Picket Fence Foundation in Chillicothe, a non-profit organization that provides employment and training to people with disabilities. Their strategy comes from “Good SOIL” values: **S**afety, **O**ptimism, **I**nclusivity, and **L**oyalty which produce a healthy, empowering workplace. Picket Fence also offers a gift shop, the **Ability Marketplace**, which is stocked with unique products made by persons with disabilities locally and across the country. They offer employment opportunities throughout their operation, from the gift shop, garden center, design studio, greenhouses, to the business office.

LWGP is offering \$25 Picket Fence Gift Cards, which can be used to purchase your spring plants or at the gift shop throughout the year.

To order \$25 gift cards, complete this order form and return it along with your check payable to **LWGP**. Money **must** accompany your order. **Deadline to order is Sunday, March 22nd**.

The gift cards will be delivered to your church by Friday, March 27th. Pick them up from your LWGP Delegate or your church secretary.

Mail your completed order and check to:

Mary Conrad
13511 N. Bridle Lane, Chillicothe, Illinois, 61523
OR give to your Church LWGP delegate by March 22nd.

YOUR NAME: _____

of Gift Cards: _____ @ \$25 each = \$ _____ enclosed

THANK YOU for your support of LWGP and the Picket Fence Foundation.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Organized by the
New and Renewing
Congregations Team
of C/SIS



GO. *Together!*

2026 Synod Relation-Trip

Make plans today to join in this one-day synod-wide relation trip to the Champaign-Urbana area where we will serve neighbors in need and build relationships across our communities of disciples. Projects include work at Sola Gratia Farm, a bike rodeo with St. Matthew's Lutheran, Urbana, work at a clothing distribution center, painting and building projects at St. Andrew's Campus Center, projects with LSSI, and more! You pick your projects when you register!



9 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday, April 18,
2026



**Meet at Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church, 2101 S.
Prospect Ave. Champaign**

What to Expect :



Cost:
**\$10 / person helps us plan
and provide snacks and water**

General Schedule:
9 AM Meet up at Good Shepherd
10-12 First project of the day
12-1:30 Lunch and travel
1:30-3:30 Second project of the day
3:45 PM Wrap-up at Good Shepherd

- All projects are within a 5 mile/15 minute drive of Good Shepherd.
- Many projects are accessible and open to folks of all ages.
- Lunch is on your own. Suggestions will be offered, but the C-U area is full of options.
- Refreshments will be available both beginning and end of the day.

Register Today!



CSIS-ELCA.org/gotogether

**Please register
before March 20.**

SYNOD RELATION TRIP

We are calling for a group of volunteers (all ages welcome!) for this important Synod-sponsored outreach opportunity. Please sign up online using the QR code or web address. Also, consider signing up at the Welcome Center, which will allow us to track who is participating. We may consider carpooling or use of the Salem bus - we will provide further details in the Bugle Blast.

Reach out to Emily Jolliff, (309) 712-4979, if you have any questions or would like assistance signing up online.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	3/1/2026	3/8/2026	3/15/2026	3/22/2026	3/29/2026
<u>Guest Pastor</u>					
<u>Ushers</u>	Jeff & Pam Machacek	Dave & Paula Sydow	Gary & Jeanne Setterlund	Leo & Roxanne Vandervlugt	Earl & Bonnie Gallas
<u>Welcome Team</u>	Gary & Jeanne Setterlund	Kammerer Family	Schroeder Family	Roberta Kessinger & Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski	Deb Sanders & Florence Clark
<u>Lector</u>	Helene Peterson	Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski	Amy Hoffman	Kirsten Kelly	Sandy Salverson
<u>Communion Assist.</u>	Leah Grebner & Sarah Gonzales	Leo & Roxanne Vandervlugt	Todd & Kirsten Kelly	Craig & Gayle Young	Peterson Family
<u>Livestream Operator</u>	Tim Hickey	Eric Schroeder	Meghan Peterson	Mark Hartman	Aaron Grebner
<u>PPT</u>	Matt Morateck	Dylan/Makayla Schroeder	Landon Peterson	Isaac Hartman	Matt Morateck

- Please review the schedule for the month.
- If you are scheduled and cannot serve, or if you are available and would like to volunteer, please contact Danielle.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Gary & Vicki Johnson (for their grandson)
- Jim Morose (friend of Earl Gallas)
- Dennis Rhoades
- Luan Borquist
- Joanie Creager
- Maddy, friend of Julia Wallstedt
- Mike
- Tim, Jessica, Daniel, Sarah Peterson
- Linda Peterson
- Kay Peterson
- Sheryl Sattler
- Jocette and Salih Arbeyi (missionaries through CRU)
- Tim Walters
- Greg Gebhards
- Thelma Neal
- Sally Smith
- Dennis Gustafson
- Crystal (daughter-in-law of John Grabel)
- Niki Keffer
- Allen Bidne

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

- Ian Borquist
- Gibson Gonzalez
- Emily Graff
- Barry Joyce
- Talon Maki
- Greg Miller
- Ashley Owen (deployed)
- Lucas Owen
- Jim Sterling
- Jason Sterr

BE A CAN-A-WEEKER TO FIGHT LOCAL HUNGER!

Be a "Can-a-Weeker" and make this Lent a season of meaningful generosity. As we reflect, simplify, and refocus during these forty days, donating one small gift each week can create a tremendous impact for neighbors facing food insecurity. By donating a single can/food item (or two or three) each week, you help keep shelves stocked, families supported, and hope alive in our community. One can, one week, one life touched at a time. Collected items can be placed on the metal shelf that is currently in the atrium near the front entrance. All proceeds will benefit Bethel United Methodist Church's food pantry. Reach out to Emily Jolliff if you have any questions (309) 712-4979.

The Bugle
USPS 477-460



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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America