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

Resurrection wasn't first proclaimed from a pulpit. It wasn't preached by the powerful or published by the priests. It was whispered by women, breathless and trembling, who had stood at the foot of the cross when others ran. It was preached by two women whose names and testimonies would have been dismissed by the systems around them. Yet God chose them — not as a footnote but as a headline. This is no accident. It's gospel. At the Dwelling, we see this divine pattern alive and well. The people our world pushes to the margins — people who are unhoused, living with addiction or impacted by the criminal justice system — are often the first to proclaim new life. Not with perfect words but with lives that refuse to stay buried. They've survived systems designed to break them. They've wept in the dark and still shown up to serve the meal. They've lost everything and still made room for someone else. When we say everyone has something to offer, we mean this: Resurrection needs every voice. Wholeness demands every witness. That's why their voices are sacred. That's why they get to preach it: because resurrection should always be proclaimed first by those who know what death tastes like. If we want to hear the good news in its truest form, we must turn our ears to the margins. That's where God spoke first — and where God is still speaking.

PRAYER

God of trembling joy and broken chains, thank you for choosing the margins to preach your power. Teach us to listen, to believe and to follow those who've lived resurrection. Let their witness make us whole. Amen.





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In case of emergency,
please call
the church office: 309-688-9212

NOISY CAN OFFERING

APRIL 26TH

Noisy Can Offering scheduled for Good Sheperd **Sunday, April 26** to support Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)

Salem's continued support of LSSI helps to provide support for their important work. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is one of the largest nonprofit social service providers in the state, serving people across Illinois since 1867. LSSI provides a wide range of community-focused programs designed to support children, adults, families, and seniors. LSSI offers counseling, therapy, and mental health support for individuals and families, addressing behavioral health needs across all ages. Programs support child welfare, foster care, adoption services, and family strengthening initiatives. LSSI provides support for older adults, including housing, care coordination, and additional resources for aging populations. They offer services that assist individuals and families in securing stable housing and addressing homelessness-related needs. LSSI delivers treatment and recovery programs for individuals affected by substance use disorders. LSSI serves more than 56,000 children, adults, and seniors each year, making a significant statewide impact.



CHURCH WORK DAY

Church workday is set for **Saturday, May 2nd** from 8 AM till noon. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center starting in April.

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

REBECCA CIRCLE

Tuesday, **April 14th** at 10:00 AM

LYDIA CIRCLE

Wednesday, **April 15th** at 1:00 PM

FAIR TRADE SALE

Fair Trade items will be available for purchase on **Sunday, April 12th** after worship.

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

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

MORE THAN PINK FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026, 5 TO 8 PM

Kentucky Derby Theme. Wear your favorite hat.

Gary/Jeanne Setterlund
220 Warrior Way
Germantown Hills

SUGGESTED MINIMUM OFFERING:

\$20 PER PERSON
Many Baskets up for bid.

Questions – Ask Leah Grebner, Gayle Young, Jeanne Setterlund, Merrill Hickey, or Helene Peterson



Susan G. Komen

MORE THAN PINK WALK®



2026 MORE THAN PINK WALK

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026 | 8 AM AT THE METRO CENTER

The Salem Lutheran Saints has been the TOP FUNDRAISING TEAM the last several years! Let's continue that tradition! Join the Salem Lutheran Saints team or make a donation at the link below:

<http://www.info-komen.org/goto/salemlutheranchurchsaints>

Questions – Ask Leah Grebner or Gayle Young.

23RD ANNUAL PRAY FOR THE CURE

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 | 6:30 P.M.

Join us for this community prayer service enhancing the breast cancer survivor's spiritual well-being in healing and recovery through special music, reflections and prayer.

The prayer service will be at Salem Lutheran Church and is open to all cancer survivors, families, friends, and the general public. The service will also be live-streamed on Salem Lutheran Church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SalemLutheranChurch>

For additional information, contact Leah Grebner at leah.grebner@icloud.com.



HAPPENINGS

Birthday blessings!

APR 1 Randy Carlson Michelle Hassel Martin O'Connor	Sydney Hopkins APR 18 April Pierce
APR 3 Susan Otten	APR 19 Caroline Ricketts
APR 4 Judy Cagle Kevin Hodgkins	APR 20 David Sydow
APR 5 Michael Bohm Brianna Schroeder Sheryl Snider	APR 22 William Petrakis
APR 6 Sandra Salverson	APR 24 Connie Iverson
APR 9 Amy Koepke Gretchen Petrakis	APR 25 Marlie Heider Jacie Howard
APR 10 Deanna Collins	APR 26 Elyse Hickey
APR 11 Julie Kotewa	APR 27 Makayla Schroeder
APR 12 Joyce Crone Julie Hancock Poppy Jolliff	APR 30 Sarah Billington
APR 13 John Gregg	
APR 15 Julie Millman Leslie Scott	
APR 16 Sienna Hopkins	

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

HOLY WEEK 2026

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday, **April 2nd: 7 p.m.** Worship at Salem
Good Friday, **April 3rd: 7 p.m.** Worship at Salem

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.

HOME COMMUNION

OFFERED APRIL 26TH

Home Communion is a program whereby the homebound members of Salem can participate in the sacramental life of the congregation by receiving Home Communion directly from the Communion Service held at Sunday worship. Visits are made quarterly by trained assistant members of our congregation. While we anticipate a permanent pastor for Salem to be named, the Home Communion committee will arrange this. Salem has a long tradition of home communion from Sunday service to those who request it when they are unable to attend church.

While we wait for a permanent pastor for Salem to be named, would you like home communion? If so, please call the church office (309) 688-9212 or Suzanne Ligon (309) 264-1237 cell or (309) 263-2128.

In addition, are there Salem members willing to be home communion assistants? There will be training in the sanctuary after service at 10:15 April 19th. If you would like to help, please call the office or Suzanne Ligon.

FAITH FORMATION

GATHER PEORIA OPEN MIC NIGHT

APRIL 16TH

Join us from 8-10pm for the Whisper & Shout open mic night hosted at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria! Bringing a diversity of artists from all different backgrounds, we will witness an extravagant array of pieces!



BREWED THEOLOGY

APRIL 30TH | 7 - 8:30 PM

From 7:00-8:30pm, we will gather for conversation around the individualism movement and what it looks like to be people of faith in the midst of our culture pushing more towards the "I." Hope to see you there!

A WEEKEND FILLED WITH GOD AND WATER SLIDES!

Back in February, 7 of our youth traveled up to Wisconsin Dells for a weekend at Quake. Quake events are retreats that happen across the country for youth in grades 6-12 that "encourage teens to become established in their faith, empowered for Christian living, and enabled to live a life of ministry and leadership." Keeping Christ at the center of it all, the weekend is filled with worship, workshop opportunities, community games and events, and discussion. Events like Quake transform lives – it is a space where teens can authentically be themselves, build community with teens from all over the country, and discover more about what their faith means to them. Having been around since 1966, Quake has been shaping many lives.

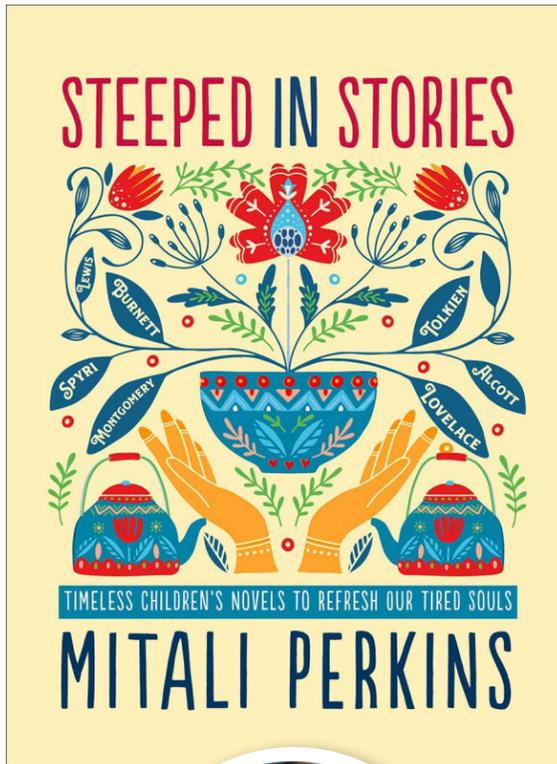
Our youth group had the opportunity to have lunch with the main speaker, Packer Dave, to hear more of his testimony and his love for sharing his faith. We also got to have dinner with "Little Tim" one of the workshop leaders who facilitated a workshop about making faithful decisions. We did the Church Clap dance more times than we could count. We learned about what it means to be anchored in our faith. We screamed our way down the Hurricane slide at the Wilderness Resort. But most importantly, we learned more about who God is and were transformed in powerful ways.

If you'd like to hear more about Quake, our youth would love to share their experience with you! Thank you all for the ways you support our youth and make transformational trips like this possible. Also, a big thank you to Scott Faulkner for driving the Salem bus for this trip and to Matt Morateck for helping chaperone!

If Quake sounds like a retreat you would like to experience, Kaitlyn would love to connect with you more to talk about it! Next year's Quake will be taking place from February 12-14, so mark your calendars now!



FAITH FORMATION



BOOK CORNER

MAY 6TH

“The stories we read as children shape us for the rest of our lives. But it is never too late to discover that transformative spark of hope that children’s classics can ignite within us. Award-winning children’s author Mitali Perkins ... invites us to explore the promise of seven timeless children’s novels for adults living in uncertain times: stories that provide mirrors to our innermost selves and open windows to other worlds. Blending personal narrative, accessible literary criticism, and spiritual and moral formation, Perkins delves into novels by Louisa May Alcott, C. S. Lewis, L. M. Montgomery, Frances Hodgson Burnett, and other literary “uncles” and “aunts” that illuminate the virtuous, abundant life we still desire. These novels are not perfect, and Perkins honestly assesses their critical frailties and flaws related to race, culture, and power. Yet reading or rereading these books as adults can help us build virtue, unmask our vices, and restore our hope...” ~ Summary From the Publisher

Review: “Ms. Perkins is at her best when interpreting and praising the books she loves, and her personal anecdotes are a delight ... her defense of classic novels ... is sincere and brave, for Ms. Perkins doesn’t merely describe the ‘heart-shaping’ effect that the books have had on her but also extols their value in fostering Christian virtues.” ~ Wall Street Journal

This book can be found in print, audio book, or e-book format (two print copies will be available for checkout at the Welcome Center). Join us for discussion on this thought-provoking work on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:30pm via Zoom. Please contact Kelly Brinkman, the church office, or sign up at the Welcome Center for the Zoom link.

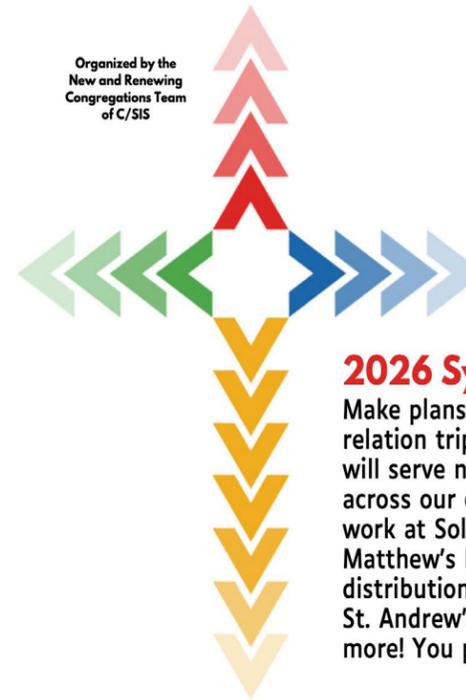
**STEEPED IN STORIES:
TIMELESS CHILDREN’S
NOVELS TO REFRESH OUR
TIRED SOULS**

**Book discussion Wednesday,
May 6 at 7:30 p.m. via zoom.**

Read and join the discussion.

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**

MIDWEST FOOD BANK

Join us for an evening volunteer opportunity on **Wednesday, April 29** from 6-8 p.m. Sign up information will be at the Welcome Center. Children ages 5-13 can participate when accompanied by an adult. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Jolliff 309-712-4979.

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 Gabel
- Niki Keffer
- Allen Bidne

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

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

The Bugle
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in America