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Read Acts 2:1-21

**DEVOTION**

“I’m on fire for God!” is perhaps not something we hear often in mainline churches. Yet the story of Pentecost tells of the Holy Spirit poured out upon people with imagery of wind and fire. In a church that I served, on Pentecost, the sacristans would hang dozens of flames made of felt above the pews as visible reminders that Pentecost is not just an ancient story. It is a story for today and ongoing, into the future God has in mind. God is doing a new thing, providing what is needed for each day.

Perhaps we are distracted with weariness, anxiety, busyness, conflict? How about resting from all that distracts us, pausing in silence, imagining this story happening anew in our communities of faith? Then let’s put our trust in the God who never gives up on us. Trust that the Holy Spirit is still stirring in, among, and around us, to empower us for God’s mission to heal and restore all.

**PRAYER**

Empowering God, forgive us for putting our focus and trust in things that are not you. We ask that your Holy Spirit stir in, around, and among us and your church. Set our hearts on fire to follow your will alone. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*From Luther Seminary’s “God Pause” devotional.*



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**POSTAL INFO**

The Bugle is published monthly for \$10/year by:

Salem Lutheran Church

Periodicals Postage Paid at:  
Peoria, IL 61601

POSTMASTER:  
Send Address Changes to:

Salem Lutheran Church,  
1700 W. War Memorial Dr.,  
Peoria, IL 61614-6724

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

**GATHER peoria**

*Gather Peoria*

**Picnic Hangout**

JOIN US FOR SOME YUMMY FOOD, CONVERSATION, AND TIME IN THE BEAUTIFUL OUTDOORS! FEEL FREE TO BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

**05.23.26**  
2-4PM

DETWEILLER PARK  
(MEETING AT THE PARKING LOT RIGHT OFF OF GALENA RD.)

**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, **May 12<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 AM

**LYDIA CIRCLE**

Wednesday, **May 13<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 PM

**FAIR TRADE SALE**

Fair Trade items will be available for purchase on **Sunday, May 3rd** after worship.

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



**HAPPENINGS**

**GRADUATION RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

**MAY 3RD**



Graduation Recognition Sunday is coming up! On **May 3rd**, we will be celebrating the seniors as they prepare to embark on the next stage of their journeys! We will have a special time of recognition and prayer for the graduating students during the service. Following the service, there will be a reception to continue our celebration of the seniors! We invite you to not only join us on May 3rd, but to also consider bringing cards for the seniors! Card baskets will be placed out at the Welcome Center a few weeks prior to the May 3rd service. Our seniors graduating this year are:

Emily Arnold  
Madeline Kammerer

Sydney Hopkins  
Brianna Schroeder

Sienna Hopkins  
Brent Wallstedt

**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](mailto:leah.grebner@icloud.com).



# HAPPENINGS

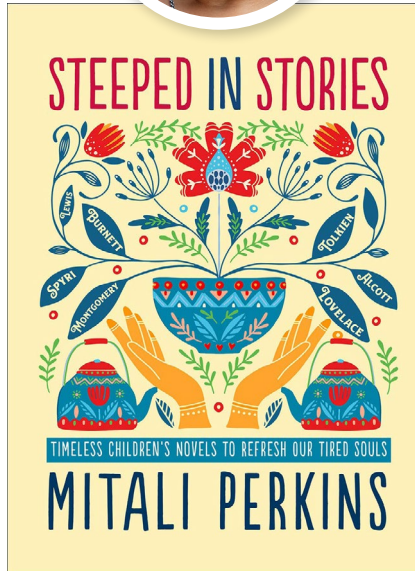
## Birthday blessings!

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>MAY 1</b><br>Karla Wegrzyn   | <b>MAY 23</b><br>Jason Lantz   |
| <b>MAY 3</b><br>Carter Aprahamian<br>Tracy Daugherty<br>Theresa Gustafson | <b>MAY 24</b><br>Lindsey Janco<br>Jeff Neltner                       |
| <b>MAY 7</b><br>Debra Knutson<br>Bradley Mangan<br>Lana Pasco             | <b>MAY 25</b><br>Brenna Salverson<br>Eric Schroeder                  |
| <b>MAY 8</b><br>Tim Hickey<br>Pam Machacek<br>Deb Sanders                 | <b>MAY 26</b><br>June Janssen  |
| <b>MAY 9</b><br>Calvin Janssen  | <b>MAY 27</b><br>Sue Colloton<br>Nadine Willems                      |
| <b>MAY 10</b><br>Jennifer Gallas  | <b>MAY 28</b><br>Charles Aprahamian<br>Larry Kotewa<br>Paul O'Connor |
| <b>MAY 12</b><br>Jeanette Egan<br>Collin Swanson                          | <b>MAY 30</b><br>Keith Reimer  |
| <b>MAY 14</b><br>Janet Saylor   | <b>MAY 31</b><br>Micah Thompson                                      |
| <b>MAY 15</b><br>Florence Clark   |  |
| <b>MAY 16</b><br>Helen Buerger  |  |
| <b>MAY 17</b><br>Marilyn Setterlund<br>Claire Zapf                        |  |
| <b>MAY 19</b><br>Arlan Maier  |  |
| <b>MAY 21</b><br>Magdalene Sipf   |  |

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

## BOOK DISCUSSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6  
7:30P.M.



“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 that provide mirrors to our innermost selves. Blending personal narrative, accessible literary criticism, and spiritual and moral formation, Perkins describes the “heart-shaping effect that these books have had on her” and “their value in fostering Christian virtues.”

Join the 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.

# FAITH FORMATION

## GATHER PEORIA PICNIC GATHERING

MAY 23RD

Join Gather Peoria from 2-4pm for a fun picnic, beautiful outdoor nature, and conversation! Feel free to bring a dish to share! Bring a friend and come join as we celebrate God’s beautiful creation and the community we have with one another!



## BREWED THEOLOGY

MAY 21ST | 7 - 8:30 PM

From 7:00-8:30pm, we will gather for some Brewed Theology! We will be meeting at Analytical Brewing in Peoria for some conversation about creation care. In what ways are we called to be good stewards of God’s creation? How are future generations impacted by our creation care? What are our responsibilities in caring for creation? If these are questions you find yourself thinking about, we would love to see you!

## Rainforest Falls VBS

July 6-9, 6-8 pm

PARTICIPANT  
REGISTRATION:



Hosted at Glen Oak  
Christian Church  
Staff Dinners at 5pm



## Staff Training:

June 17, 6:30-8pm  
at Glen Oak Christian Church

## Prop Pick Up:

June 21 (time TBA)  
at Woodland Baptist Church

## VOLUNTEER

## SIGN UP:



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

RAINFOREST FALLS JULY 6-9

Faith Formation Ministry at Salem invites children to attend Vacation Bible School at Glen Oak Christian Church. This program is sponsored by Glen Oak Christian and First English Lutheran churches and is **July 6-9 from 6-8 p.m.** Volunteer help is needed, and youth and adults from sister congregations are encouraged to sign up and support this amazing faith forming ministry happening in the heart of Peoria. Please contact Kaitlyn at [kjedrzejewski@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:kjedrzejewski@salemofpeoria.com), or Gretchen Petrakis at [gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com) if you have any questions.

# FAITH FORMATION

## CHURCH LOCK-IN

**WHEN:** MAY 22-23 | 6PM-7AM

**WHERE:** SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

**WHO:** 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

**COST:** \$25

IT'S TIME FOR AN END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR LOCK-IN! WITH OTHER CONGREGATIONS FROM THE AREA, WE WILL HAVE A FUN NIGHT FILLED WITH GAMES, MOVIES, AND OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT KAITLYN, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS. FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT THE WELCOME CENTER OR CAN BE EMAILED.



## YOUTH GROUP DINNER HELP NEEDED!

One Sunday each month, our middle and high school youth gather from 6-8PM for a time of fellowship and conversation! This has become a very meaningful time for our youth to connect with one another and to grow in their faith as a community. Part of this time includes sharing a delicious meal together! As exemplified by Jesus, shared meals are sacred; we connect with others and come to know God in a deeper way. In the book of Luke, there are 19 meals that take place. In Luke and Acts combined, there are more than 100 references to food and drink. Jesus shared a meal with the two men on their way to Emmaus. Right before his death on the cross, Jesus shared a meal with the disciples. Jesus fed thousands with loaves of bread and fish. Jesus teaches us that shared meals are holy spaces!

Our youth would love to connect with others in the congregation and to share these meals together. If you, your family, or your church committee are interested in helping make these meals possible, we would love for you to join us for Sunday youth group! We currently need dinner help for the following upcoming months:

May 17, 2026

September 13, 2026

November 8, 2026

August 23, 2026

October 11, 2026

December 13, 2026

Please reach out to Kaitlyn at [kjedrzejowski@salemofpeoria.com](mailto:kjedrzejowski@salemofpeoria.com) if you are interested and would like more information. Thank you for prayerfully considering and for supporting our youth ministries here at Salem!

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## May Worship Volunteer Schedule

Date	Ushers	Welcome Team	Lector	Communion Assist.	Livestream Operator	PPT
5/3	Dave & Paula Sydow	Roberta Kessinger & Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski	Sarah Gonzales	Craig & Gayle Young	Aaron Grebner	Matt Morateck
5/10	<b>Salem Youth will be our Volunteers</b>					
5/17	Earl & Bonnie Gallas	Dave & Paula Sydow	Sandy Salverson	Leo & Roxanne Vandervlugt	Eric Schroeder	Dylan/Makayla Schroeder
5/24	Jeff & Pam Machacek	Peterson Family	Amy Hoffman	Leah Grebner & Sarah Gonzales	Meghan Peterson	Landon Peterson
5/31	Leo & Roxanne Vandervlugt	Kammerer Family	Inez Norgard	Todd & Kirsten Kelly	Mark Hartman	Isaac Hartman

If you are scheduled to volunteer and can not, please contact Danielle

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 Gabel
- Niki Keffer
- Allen Bidne
- Pastor Joel Brown
- Merrell Hickey
- Katherine (Joyce Crone's daughter's sister-in-law)
- Florence Clark

### 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  
USPS 477-460



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Lutheran Church  
in America