



THIS SUMMER

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BREATHE. PRAY. ASK. TRUST



If you've been wondering "What's next?" here at Salem, you're not alone. Perhaps you've been hearing me talk about discernment, leaning in to the Holy Spirit, transition, and change. Maybe you have been wondering what is involved in filling out Salem's Ministry Site Profile (MSP) to move forward with calling Salem's next pastor. Maybe you have questions and concerns...that's natural! Perhaps you are excited, or worried, or anxious, or all of the above. That's normal...all feelings are valid! This is a transitional time in the life of Salem, filled with uncertainty AND opportunity. More than that, God is present, God's love is ours, and the Spirit is moving in our midst.

So, what can we do in the mean time?

Breathe. Pray. Ask. Trust.

Breathe. Breathe deeply, intentionally, mindfully. Acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit already among us, and continue to invite the Spirit into this space, into our lives, into our hearts. Come, Holy Spirit.

Pray. Pray for the Spirit to surround us with a sense of trust, peace, and presence. Pray for the Spirit to guide the church council, the Transition Team, the Bishop and synod staff, the future call committee, and future potential candidates for the next pastor of Salem. Pray for calm in the midst of anxiety, hope in the midst of uncertainty, patience in the midst of waiting, and the assurance of God's faithfulness.

Ask. If you have a question, please ask! Ask me, a council member, or a member for the Transition Team (more on this team a bit later in the Bugle). I am happy to engage in conversation, listen to concerns, answer questions, and pray with you! Open, honest, respectful communication is so very important in this time of transition, and we are striving to build and nurture relationships, continue in mission and ministry, and discern the Spirit's will in this time of waiting.

Trust. God has not once given up on the people of Salem, and God certainly isn't through with the body of Christ in this place. Trust that God's got this...and us! God's faithfulness is certain. Take heart in knowing that God is already at work guiding and preparing Salem's next called pastor.

No one knows how short or long the process will be. But do not fear: God is present, and God's love is ours. So I invite you, dear brothers and sisters and siblings in Christ, to join me: breathe, pray, ask, and trust.

God's Peace,

Pastor Jen



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please call
the church office: 309-688-9212

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

REBECCA CIRCLE & LYDIA CIRCLE

The women's circles will take a break for the Summer months of July and August. Check back in September for meeting times and locations.

FAIR TRADE SALE

Fair Trade items will be available for purchase on **Sunday, July 12th, Sunday, August 2nd, & Sunday, September 6th** after worship.

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



HAPPENINGS

THANK YOU!

Thank you all for celebrating our graduation with us! Thanks for your the kind wishes and lovely cards, we really appreciate it!

-Madeline Kammerer and Emily Arnold

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 kmorateck@salemofpeoria.com, or Gretchen Petrakis at gpetrakis@salemofpeoria.com if you have any questions.

PEORIA CHIEFS GAME

JOIN US ON JULY 24TH AT THE BALLPARK!

The Salem Churchmen and Faith Formation will be sponsoring a Chief's game on July 24th with more information and a sign-up sheet available later in June.

CONTACT JEFF MACHACEK FOR MORE INFO

NOISY CAN OFFERING

The Noisy Can offering on **June 14** for Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar was \$465.27.



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:



HAPPENINGS

INTRODUCING THE TRANSITION TEAM!

At the June council meeting, council members approved the formation of the Transition Team. This team of folks will spend time together in prayer, gather data about Salem and the wider community, discern the movement of the Spirit, engage the congregation, and compile all this information to fill out Salem's Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The Transition Team will be utilizing a cutting-edge, asset-based curriculum called "Discover & Invite: Telling the story of your congregation using the Ministry Site Profile." It may sound boring, or daunting, but there is so much goodness packed into 7 sessions, complete with ample opportunities to involve the entire congregation in this process!

A huge thank you to Kelly Brinkman, Sarah Gonzales, Bill Ligon, Matt Morateck, Inez Norgard, and Amanda Young for serving as Salem's Transition Team. Please keep them in prayer as they begin their work, praying that the Spirit will guide them and God will sustain them as they work with the congregation in this important ministry.

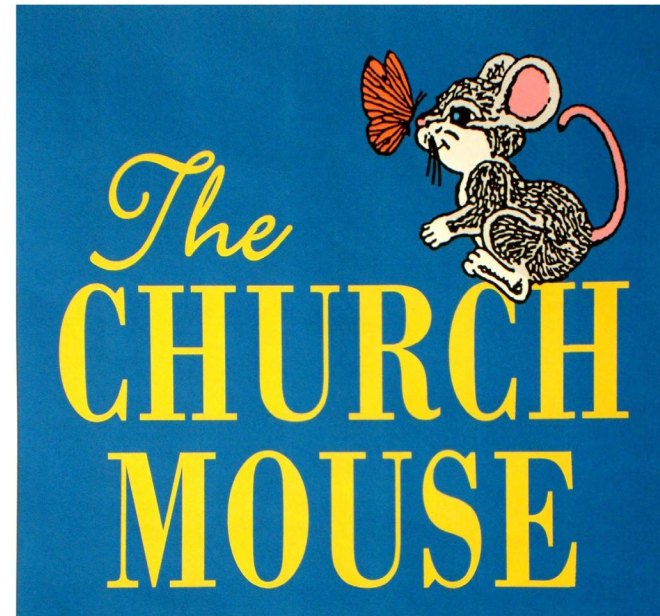
CHURCH MOUSE IS HIRING

The Church Mouse Thrift Store is hiring part-time people for the warehouse or as backup for the store. There are opportunities for part-time work or call-as-needed work.

This type of job is great for retirees, college students, or people who want to help with our long-time ministry. The Church Mouse is owned and operated by Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria, and its profits support Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and Lutheran Hillside Village.

If interested, call 309-657-5726 for further information or an application. The Church Mouse could also use donations, especially clothing and furniture.

Volunteers are also needed.



PEORIA MUNICIPAL BAND

The Peoria Municipal Band will be presenting free concerts at 7 PM on Sunday and Wednesday evenings from **May 31 to August 9**.

Sunday concerts are at Glen Oak Park and Wednesday concerts are downtown on Water Street.

Come enjoy the music!

For more information go to peoriamunicipalband.com

FREE
Concerts
7:00 p.m.

May 31 to August 9, 2026

Sundays @ Glen Oak Park
Wednesdays @ Water Street

Complete schedule @ peoriamunicipalband.com

HAPPENINGS

Birthday blessings!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- JULY 2**
Matt Bidne
Chris Cozadd
- JULY 3**
Tamara Lott
Ashley Owen
- JULY 4**
Helene Peterson
Jordan Snider
- JULY 6**
Bradley Hamann
Heather Hodgkins
- JULY 8**
Caleb Kotewa
Karen Swenson
- JULY 9**
Linda Peterson
- JULY 10**
Nancy Bastian
Kyle Griffith
- JULY 11**
Joey Ghazanfari
Chris Janssen
Karen Norman Rees
Jean Yancick
- JULY 12**
Monica Dockery
Laurie Seidel
Elaine Sokolowski
- JULY 13**
Jason Brinkman
Ellen Forkell
- JULY 15**
Bill Cox
Sydney Neltner
Brenda Newcomb

- JULY 16**
Kayla DeGood
- JULY 17**
Sharon Couden
Cynthia Fischer
- JULY 18**
Scott Faulkner
Leah Grebner
- JULY 19**
Megan Thomasson
Craig Young
- JULY 20**
Jonathan Arnold
- JULY 21**
Caroline Hurlbut Rampy
- JULY 25**
Kay Peterson
- JULY 27**
Richard Huxtable
- JULY 28**
Merrell Hickey
Abigail Monahan
Avery Uphoff
- JULY 29**
Mary Starzynski
- JULY 30**
Rod Topel
- JULY 31**
Rebecca Hagen

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- AUG 1**
Adeline Young
- AUG 2**
Maggie Slotter
- AUG 3**
Paul Bahnfleth
Cadence Forkell
- AUG 4**
Idan Ghazanfari
- AUG 8**
Patricia Arehart
Rebecca Sipf
- AUG 9**
Nicholas Doty
Kaitlyn Morateck
Quinn Salverson
- AUG 13**
Gayle Carrillo
- AUG 14**
Henry DeGood
Justin Gabel
- AUG 15**
Jaedyn Grebner
Riley Neltner
- AUG 16**
Heather MacIver-Arnold
Jon Ripper
- AUG 19**
Liam Dammann
Dylan Schroeder
- AUG 21**
Evelyn Aprahamian
Sandra Carlson

- AUG 22**
Kirk Cooper
- AUG 25**
Leo Vandervlugt
- AUG 27**
Joy Anderson
Amy Schroeder
- AUG 28**
Ellen Mangan
- AUG 30**
Levi Salverson
- AUG 31**
Donald Graves

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

FAITH FORMATION

BOOK DISCUSSION

Join us as we read, gather, and discuss this summer selection recommended by Faith Formation Ministry.



The Story of a Soul is the autobiography of Therese of Lisieux who died at the age of 24 and was a cloistered Carmelite nun. She wrote it by direction of the Superiors of her order - one being her own sister. She was canonized only 17 years after her death and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1997. Pope St Pius X called her "the greatest saint of modern times." Her autobiography was first published in 1899 and today ranks with the greatest of the spiritual classics. It has been translated into practically every language and has had worldwide influence. People are caught by the vivid clarity and simple truths contained in her writing. She continually shows the reader how her "little way of love and confidence" come straight from Scripture. Her writing demonstrates her faith in God and "her secrets of great holiness achieved in ordinary living."

We invite you to refresh your soul and strengthen your faith through the autobiographical story of St. Therese. Come share in discussion on **Wednesday, July 15th at 7 p.m. in person at Salem.** (Refreshments will be provided.) This book is available in print, ebook format, and on audio. (Two copies will be available for checkout at the Welcome Center.) If you have any questions, please reach out to Gretchen Petrakis, Kelly Brinkman, or the church office. Happy reading!

WORSHIP MINISTRY

CROSS+GENERATIONAL CHOIR

Our Annual Cross+Generational Choir event is coming up soon!

Salem's Faith Formation and Worship and Music Ministry Teams are once again partnering together to provide an exciting music ministry opportunity. You are invited to join our Cross+Generational Choir for elementary age young readers through adults. This special group will hold one rehearsal on **Sunday, August 14th** following worship 10:30-11:15 AM following worship, and focus on learning one song accessible to various ages and musical skills. The choir will then share this song for Special Music during worship the following **Sunday, August 23rd.** This short-term commitment is a great way for many to experience the joy of choir while enhancing our worship with beautiful music.

Mark your calendars with these dates and invite your friends to participate! You can contact Director of Music, Maggie Slotter (mslotter@salemofpeoria.com) if you are interested, or sign up is available at the Welcome Center. Music and practice tracks will be available ahead of time.

Please consider joining us to make a joyful noise!

CENTRAL/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD

A WORD TO SUMMER

"Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:5-6a).

It was a season of transition for God's people. Having just been rescued by God out of their slavery in Egypt, God's people had now entered the wilderness of Sinai and were camping in front of the mountain. Moses goes up the mountain where God speaks to him.

First, God commands Moses to remind God's people of everything God had done for them: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself" (19:4). **Second**, having reminded them of God's promise, God calls God's people to a new way of living: "Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples ... you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation" (19:5-6a). **Third**, having heard both God's promise and God's command, God's people affirm their new calling: "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do" (19:8a).

As we enter these summer months, we, too, find ourselves in a season of transition. The first half of the liturgical year that stretches from Advent through the Day of Pentecost celebrates who God is and all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The second half of the liturgical year, the Season after Pentecost, that stretches from Holy Trinity Sunday all the way through Christ the King Sunday at the end of November, focuses on who we are as God's people and how God calls us to live as Jesus' disciples in the world. Having heard the promises of all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus, we now turn our attention to who Christ calls us to be and what Christ calls us to do.

It is a transition that is descriptive of the life of Christian discipleship. In the water and Word of our baptism, God has acted to rescue us from our bondage to sin, death, and evil, joining us to the death and resurrection of Christ. At the same time, in and through our baptism into Christ, God calls us into a new way of living as we follow Christ's commands and live as Jesus' disciples in the world. As we daily return to the promises of our baptism, confessing our sin and opening ourselves up to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, we, through the gift of the Spirit at work in our lives, affirm our identity as baptized children of God and recommit ourselves to following in Christ's ways. First, promise. Then, command. Then, affirmation.

The mission statement of our Central/Southern Illinois Synod is **Nurturing communities of disciples, equipped for Christ's mission.** Our identity as communities of disciples always begins at the font of baptism where God's gracious promise in Christ is made real for us. However, our identity as communities of disciples does not end at the font. The promise of baptism sends us out into the world to bear witness to God's love for all, a witness that becomes flesh for others through both our words and our actions.

In his work *Just Beyond Our Grasp*, theologian and author Frederick Buechner writes, "Faith is the direction our feet start moving when we find that we are loved." For many years, I had this quote taped to my office door. As we live into the season of transition in which we find ourselves, may each of us be reminded of the promise that we, God's people, are loved, carried on the wings of eagles into God's very self and may that promise daily move our feet in the direction of faith as we live as Jesus' disciples in the world. Empowered by the Spirit, may we join our voices in boldly affirming, "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do."

Called in baptism +

Bishop Greg

SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT FAITH EDUCATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path!"

Psalm 119:105

Mark your calendars as Sunday School classes for all ages — 2-year-olds through High School — and Adult Faith Education Classes will begin following worship on **Sunday, August 23rd.**

We are looking forward to kicking-off our Faith Education opportunities a little earlier this year! Please watch the BugleBlast (for Adult Formation) and emails from Gretchen and Kaitlyn (for Sunday School classes) as we move through summer for additional information.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer but we are looking forward to being together again in August as we continue to walk together in the footsteps of Jesus. Dwelling in God's Word is a lifelong journey and sharing our faith among others is named good and awe-some by God.



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

The Bugle
USPS 477-460



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
- Sally Smith
- Dennis Gustafson
- Crystal Grabel
- Niki Keffer
- Allen Bidne
- Pastor Joel Brown
- Merrell Hickey
- Katherine (Joyce Crone's daughter's sister-in-law)
- Florence Clark
- Gina Sackman
- Dee Basfield
- Niki Keefer
- Ruth Bock and son Ricky
- Lesley Howard

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