Monthly News from Salem Lutheran Church November 2026

the Bugle

THIS MONTH

For All the Saints	2
Thanksgiving Dinner	3
Faith Formation	5
November Birthdays	5
Lessons & Carols	6
Congregational Care	7
Prayer Requests	7

Pastor's Ponderings



Two weeks ago we began a book study on Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell's excellent book, "Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life." You may have even heard me say during announcements a couple Sundays ago the study is "just in time for stewardship season."

I regretted the words not long after they left my mouth. Because, as one of the book study participants shared just days later, "we should be thinking about stewardship all year long!"

Yes! Trusting that God created us, all people, and all creation, we believe everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. Therefore, stewardship (giving to God) isn't a season. Stewardship is a way of life.

So often we are told there is not enough: not enough time, not enough resources, not enough money, not enough of, well, anything. So we focus on making sure we have enough for ourselves and our loved ones, sometimes as the expense of other beloveds of God. Fear and scarcity are sneaky, and they do their best to eat away at God's promises of abundance.

The good news is that when we look to Jesus, we discover the promise that we ARE enough, exactly as we are. Each and every person is made in God's diverse and divine image, and through Christ all are called and claimed as blessed and beloved people of God. God chooses us, over and over again, to participate in the in-breaking of God's reign here and now, sharing God's love with every person in all we say and do. God chooses us to be stewards of all God has given us, not just for a season, but every day of our lives. And this is good news.

"Stewardship is not just a way of life; it is a good way of life," Dr. Powell writes. "In fact, for many, it is a way to a better life. Think of it this way: stewardship means belonging to God. It means allowing God to rule our lives, putting God in charge of everything, including our time and our money."

I get it…that might sound a little threatening. I'll be the first to admit that I like to have at least some semblance of control of my life, and what happens in my life. But again, Dr. Powell speaks truth: "God is good at ruling people's lives. If we really do belong to God (we do!) and if we really do put God in charge of everything (we can!) we will not be the worse for it" (italics mine).

As the leaves begin to fall and temperatures begin to cool, I invite us to look at stewardship not as a season, but as a way of life. Indeed, a good way of life, filled with God's promises of abundance, goodness, and grace.

God's Peace,

Pastor Jen

Salem Lutheran Church
Growing People in Christ… to Love & Serve!

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please call
the church office: 309-688-9212

NOISY CAN OFFERING



The Noisy Can offering on September 27 for Marion Medical Mission totaled $343.16.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

THOSE REMEMBERED THIS YEAR



- Lynn Akers - 12/27/25
- Alf Berg - 10/4/26
- Dennis Gustafson - 4/12/26
- Robert Middleton Sr. - 12/14/25
- Henry Noe - 8/3/26
- Marjorie Ryberg - 1/3/26
- Donald Swanson - 12/30/25

CHURCHMEN WORKDAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

The Salem Churchmen Fall Workday will be **Saturday, November 7th at 8:00 am**.

FAIR TRADE SALE

Fair Trade items will be available for purchase on **Sunday, November 8th** after worship.

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

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME FOR STUDY & LAUGHTER, CAMARADERIE & PRAYER.



REBECCA CIRCLE

Tuesday, **November 10th** at 10:00 AM
in the Salem conference room.

LYDIA CIRCLE

Tuesday, **November 10th** at 1:00 PM

HAPPENINGS



HAPPENINGS

ELCA NORTHERN CONFERENCE

There are a number of ways to connect with other Lutherans in the Northern Conference during the holiday season:



• **GriefShare**: Surviving the Holidays—Navigating the first holidays after a loss can be one of the most difficult parts of a grief journey. A special 2-hour GriefShare seminar, "Surviving the Holidays," will be offered at First English Lutheran Church, in Peoria, on Tuesday, November 17, from 4-6pm. Please call First English to register.

• **Thanksgiving Worship and Pie at First English**: First English Lutheran Church will host a traditional Thanksgiving Worship service on Wednesday, November 25 at 7pm. Trefzger's pies will be served after the service!

• **Bethel Peace Concert, Dec. 3**: Bethel Lutheran in Bartonville will be hosting their annual Peace Concert on Dec. 3, featuring soloists and ensembles from the local community. If you or a musician you know would like to participate, reach out to Pastor Kara Weichmann at pastorkaraw@gmail.com

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 8TH

Salem will recognize and celebrate our Veterans and their families on **Sunday, November 8th**. We are grateful for each Veteran and each family for their service to our country.

Please join us after the morning service for refreshments in the Social Hall. Please also take the opportunity to enjoy the displays in the Social Hall and the video. There will also be information provided by Veterans organizations describing available services and benefits.

Each year we add photos to the displays – share those memories! If you have not added a photo to our collection please do so. Photos can be placed in the mailbox marked "Military Support" at Salem. They will be copied and returned to you. Photos may also be shared electronically.

FAITH FORMATION

SAVE THE DATE(S)

January 17, 2027 - Dinner Church at Bethel Lutheran, Bartonville.

January 24, 2027 - Peoria Rivermen game and after-skate, Peoria Civic Center.

February 20, 2027 — Be Like Jesus Day of Service for Kindergarten - 8th grade students with High School and Adult leaders appreciated! Will be held at First English Church, Peoria.

April 24, 2027 - Confirmation Co-op Excursion to Midwest Food Bank, Peoria.

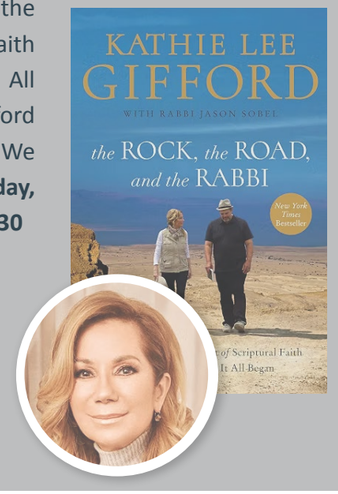
June 7-11, 2027 - Crossways Confirmation Camp for students who have completed 6th-8th grades at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.

June 21-26, 2027 - Leadership Lab for High School and Adult learners, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.

BOOK DISCUSSION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH AT 7:30 PM ON ZOOM

Join us for a conversation about our fall book selection, The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi: My Journey into the Heart of Scriptural Faith and the Land Where It All Began by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel. We will meet on **Wednesday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m.** on Zoom. Contact Kelly Brinkman or the church office to receive the Zoom link for the discussion.



Birthday blessings!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOV 3
Mark Janco
Linda Wragge

NOV 5
Kris Griffith
Lois Knutson
Suzanne Neltner

NOV 6
Richard Serrahn

NOV 7
David Sterr

NOV 8
Evan Lott

NOV 9
Lachlan Kelly

NOV 10
Jennifer Gregg

NOV 12
Quade Ashby
Tyler Blum
Benjamin Uphoff
Julia Wallstedt

NOV 15
Peyton Manning

NOV 16
Barbara Ricketts

NOV 17
Kirsten Kelly

NOV 19
Emily Ferrell

NOV 20
Susan Faulkner

NOV 21
Isabel Gonzales

NOV 22
Jerome Sokolowski

NOV 23
Lynette Christensen

NOV 24
Andrew Ferrell
Emma Uphoff

NOV 25
Megan Faulkner
Heather Hopkins

NOV 26
Catherine Setterlund

NOV 27
Martin Creager
Gary Johnson
Aaron Kotewa

If your name should have been on this list but it wasn't, please call Salem's Office:

(309)688-9212

WORSHIP MINISTRY



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN
HOPE • PEACE • JOY • LOVE

SUNDAY, DEC 6 • 3PM
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

LESSONS AND CAROLS 2026
DECEMBER 6TH

Join us at Salem Lutheran Church to celebrate the beginning of the Advent Season with Lessons & Carols on **Sunday, December 6 at 3pm**. Pre-service music will begin around 2:45pm. 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 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!

A free will offering will be taken at the service for the Center for Prevention of Abuse. 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.

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 6 at 3pm!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS
LSSI PROJECT ROOM AT THE INN

This holiday season, Salem is partnering with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) through Project Room at the Inn to provide gifts for 20 children in foster care. With your support, we can help make Christmas brighter for a child in the Peoria area who might otherwise go without a gift.

Gift tags will be available in November and will include the name and age of a child in care, along with a suggested gift valued at approximately 40. If you select a tag, please return the wrapped gift with the tag attached to the lobby or church office by **Sunday, November 29**. The gifts will then be delivered to LSSI's Peoria Foster Care office.

You are also welcome to donate wrapping materials. If you prefer to make a financial contribution to support Project Room at the Inn, please visit: www.lssi.org/giving/christmas.

The winter months can bring added challenges for the families served by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Whether you purchase a gift, donate wrapping supplies, or make a financial contribution, your generosity will bring hope, joy, and holiday blessings to a child and their loved ones. Thank you for helping make this season a little brighter.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MEETING
Congregational Care is changing the date of the November Congregational Care to Monday, November 30.

It will be a combination November/December meeting and we don't plan to meet in December at this time.

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
- Crystal Grabel
- Niki Keffer
- Allen Bidne
- Merrell Hickey
- Katherine (Joyce Crone's daughter's sister-in-law)
- Florence Clark
- Gina Sackman
- Dee Basfield
- Niki Keefer
- Ruth Bock and family
- Lesley Howard
- Blake Mueller
- Jason, Carolyn and family of Don Lantz
- Julie Kotewa
- Helene Peterson's cousin Shari

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

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

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USPS 477-460

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

Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America