

Salem Lutheran
Church and School

Jacksonville, IL 62650 | 217-243-3419
salemjax.net | salemjaxschool.net

February 2023
Newsletter

INSIGHT FROM THE WORD OF GOD:

We will shortly celebrate **the Transfiguration of Jesus (February 19)**, when He revealed His divine shining glory to three of His disciples. Luke 9:31 records that on the mountain of the Transfiguration Jesus discussed with Moses and Elijah His imminent “departure.” Luke writes, “They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.” By “departure” Jesus meant His crucifixion. Three days after celebrating the Transfiguration of Jesus, the church observes **Ash Wednesday, February 22**, the beginning of **the Season of Lent**. Lent is an Old English word (“spring”) and is about preparing to focus on the “departure” of Jesus, His crucifixion, by living a season of repentance, that is, of turning from our sin habits to Christ for forgiveness, and then producing the fruit of that repentance in the good works that we do. Of course, since we are human beings with a sinful nature inherited from Adam, we are able to do this only by the power of the Holy Spirit working through Word and sacrament. We prepare for Christ’s return, for His Second Coming, for Judgment Day, in the same way—by living a life of repentance—of daily turning from our sin to Christ for forgiveness—and producing the fruit of that repentance, again by the power of the Holy Spirit through Word and sacrament. Since Christ can return at any time, this means that our whole life should be a life of repentance. We can live that repentant life only by faithfully focusing on God’s Word and receiving the sacrament of Christ’s body and blood. May God bless you in the upcoming Season of Lent and prepare you to focus on Jesus’ “departure” and imminent return! Pastor Brechbuhl

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry - lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article - February 2023

Don’t Replace “And” with “Or”

We’ve all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. As we confess in the Small

Catechism’s explanation of the First Article of the Apostle’s Creed, God gives us everything we have and enjoy. First we confess that God gives us “our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses” (SC II). Then we confess that He gives us material things. The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God’s fatherly, divine goodness and mercy. The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word and with the word or. It is always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolls that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents or treasure. Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God’s service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need. Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ’s holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors. For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents and treasure to our families, our society, our church and our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents and treasure together. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

**FEBRUARY BAPTISM
ANNIVERSARIES**

HILSABECK, Matthew H.	1-Feb
KORDING, Karis A.	1-Feb
LEINBERGER II, David A.	1-Feb
MURPHY, Olivia R.	1-Feb
VORTMAN, Kolina K.	1-Feb
VORTMAN, Melinda A.	1-Feb
SURRATT, Jenna E.	2-Feb
BROCKHOUSE, Cathi J.	3-Feb
CHUMLEY, Kylie A.	3-Feb
EDWARDS, Ryan D.	3-Feb
HADDEN,G, Lukas R.	3-Feb
MOODY Jr., Kawyn K. (Ken)	4-Feb
RUNYON, Scott A.	5-Feb
STINSON, Calvin L.	5-Feb
STURGEON, Caroline M. (Callie)	5-Feb
WALLACE, Marley L.	5-Feb
SCHAEFER, Steve H.	6-Feb
SCOBBI, Steven D.	6-Feb
WANKEL, Ashley J.	7-Feb
WANKEL, Brooke L.	7-Feb
HADDEN,G, Meghan E.	8-Feb
PHELPS, Dylan J.	8-Feb
RIEMER, Frederick M.	8-Feb
SPRADLIN, Robert O.	8-Feb
SPRADLIN, Vivian E.	8-Feb
BLANCHETTE, Daniel H.	9-Feb
SALCIDO, Elaina M.	10-Feb
SIEVING, Rosemary R.	11-Feb
TURNER, JoAnn (Jo)	12-Feb
BARTELHEIM, Roger B.	13-Feb
HANNEL, Brandon A.	13-Feb
WOHLERS, Brenda S.	13-Feb
SCHUMACHER, Millie G.	14-Feb
VanHyning, Ashley N.	14-Feb
ROEGGE, Gertrude T. (Trudy)	15-Feb
THORNLEY, Ethan E.	16-Feb
THORNLEY, Sarah R.	16-Feb
MCQUILLAN, Emily A.	17-Feb
LOWERY, Michael S.	18-Feb
NYBERG, Julia K. (Katie)	18-Feb
WILSON,B, Jacob A.	18-Feb
MIDDENDORF, Daniel M.	19-Feb
SCOBBI, Elizabeth C. (Betsy)	19-Feb
PETERSON, Maci N.	20-Feb
KORDING,B, Jakob K.	21-Feb
POCKLINGTON, Kendell A.	24-Feb

SIEVING, Michael S.	24-Feb
THIES, Melvin E.	25-Feb
CROW, Vickie L.	26-Feb
PRATT, Veronica E.	26-Feb
ZENTZ, Dalilah H.	26-Feb
GINDER, Kerry D.	28-Feb
HOOD, Cayden J. (Caden)	28-Feb
VORTMAN, Rosemary	28-Feb

NEW BABY: Darin and Emily Gehrke became new parents of a baby girl, Eden “Edie” Lorraine Gehrke on January 18th. Edie weighed 10 lbs. and 22 inches long. Edie joins siblings Ty, AJ, Quinton and Cashton. May the Lord Bless this new addition to the Gehrke family.

SWADDLING CLOTHES: Thank you to everyone who has donated to Swaddling Clothes! A huge thank you goes out to our volunteers who washed and folded clothes, assisted with the set up the temporary classroom, and assisted with our first shopping day! It is hard to believe that we opened for our first shopping day on January 10th. There is plenty to do before our next shopping day on February 14th. We are currently working on getting flyers to individuals who could use the services provided by Swaddling Clothes. If you know of anyone who is in need of this service, please help us spread the word. There are Swaddling Clothes flyers located in the narthex. This month we also applied for the LCMS Million Dollar Life Matching Grant, which is a grant offered through the synod for beginning of life ministries. Our greatest need at this time is matching funds for this grant. We will also continue to accept donations of diapers, wipes, formula, or other baby supplies. Current sizes needed are toddler size clothing (2T-5T). I will continue to keep the congregation updated on our progress, and our current needs. Thank you to everyone for supporting this ministry and keeping it in your prayers.

UPCOMING SALEM WORSHIP START TIMES:

Jan 22nd 9:00 am Pastor Riemer
Jan. 29th 8:30 am Pastor Strattman
 Feb. 5th 9:00 am Pastor Brechbuhl
Feb. 12th 8:30 am Pastor Strattman
 Feb. 19th 9:00 am Pastor Brechbuhl – The Transfiguration of Jesus
 Feb. 22nd 7:00 pm Pastor Brechbuhl – Ash Wednesday
 Feb. 26th 9:00 am Pastor Riemer – Lent 1

2023 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE TIMES:

Feb. 22nd 7:00 pm Pastor Brechbuhl
 Mar. 1st 7:00 pm Pastor Brechbuhl
 Mar. 8th 7:00 pm Pastor Keith Kettner, Beardstown
 Mar. 15th 7:00 pm Pastor Strattman, Chapin
 Mar. 22nd 7:00 pm Pastor Laux, Our Redeemer
 Mar. 29th 7:00 pm Pastor Lesemann, Bath

IN SYMPATHY: Mary Margaret Dufelmeier passed away at her home on Tuesday, January 17th. Mary is survived by two daughters, Wanitta (Carlin) Beck of Arenzville and Karen (Gary) Hanebrink of Charleston; five grandchildren, Travis (Kimberly) Hanebrink of Fair Oaks Ranch, TX, Jason (Alicia) Beck of Arenzville, Brandon (Lindsay) Beck of Concord, Shawn (Carrie) Beck of Arenzville and Sarah (Seth) Coulter of Fisher; 12 great-grandchildren; 3 sisters, Norma Lovekamp, Betty Essex, and Thelma Barrington; and 2 brothers, Ralph Wohlers and Gerald Wohlers. Mary was preceded in death by her husband; one daughter, Joyce Dufelmeier; 2 brothers, Owen Wohlers and Melvin Wohlers; and 4 sisters, Beulah Ginder, Lenora Lovekamp, Roberta Wohlers and Ruth Lucas. Funeral service was held on Friday, January 20th at Williamson Funeral Home in Jacksonville with burial at Arenzville North Cemetery. May the Lord Bless all who mourn the Loss of this Loved One!

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

NEW DESIGNED WEBSITE: Be sure to check out the new look of the Salem Lutheran Church website, salemjax.net.

The redesigned site includes:

- A calendar of events, including a list of worship times
- Worship information with our beliefs and what to expect in worship
- News and notes, including links to the monthly newsletter
- A resources page with links to many LCMS organizations
- Prayer request page
- A link to watch the Sunday worship service
- COMING SOON: Online giving In addition to the redesigned church website, the website for Salem Lutheran School, salemjaxschool.net, also has a new look.

EASTER BREAKFAST: We are planning an Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 9th. If you would like to donate items such as sweets, milk, juice. Please have your donations in by noon on Saturday April 8th. Planning on having Biscuits and gravy, sausage and pancakes and other items to be determined. Thank you

EASTER FLOWERS: Easter flowers this year will be Lilies. We haven't gotten the prices on them as of yet, but will post it here when we get it. Thank you.

PTL FUNDRAISER: Planning a Super Bowl Party? Salem PTL has your snacks covered! We are selling a variety of dips and dippers to add to your menu. Order forms are available in the Narthex or church office. All orders need to be in by February 1. For questions, please contact Christina Antemate at (217)371-0442.

LENTEN SUPPERS: Following is the schedule for Lenten Suppers to be held at 5:30 pm before the Wednesday evening Lenten services.

- Feb. 22nd - Danny and Karen Engebrecht** - Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Potato Salad, Baked Beans & Dessert.
- March 1st - Property Committee:** Spaghetti and Sauce and Dessert
- March 8th - PTL:** Tacos
- March 15th - Day School:** Ravoli, Salad, Bread Sticks and Dessert
- March 22nd - Finance:** TBD
- March 29th - Ladies Guild:** Cheesy Potato Soup, Vegetable Beef Soup, Ham & Bean Soup and dessert.

RADIO OPENING: Salem Lutheran is in search of volunteers that would like to learn how to broadcast our services. If you would be interested in the opportunity to do that or would just like to see if you would enjoy doing this, please see Kevin Eckhoff. He would be willing to let you sit in and check it out. Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. An opportunity to learn something new and help Salem out. Thank you

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Salem is back to having monthly committee meetings. With the COVID19 we all have become lacks and have taken a step back to being in meetings. We would like to invite all who are on committees back to the meetings and invite anyone new that would like to participate on a committee to come. Committee meetings are held the second Tuesday night at 6:30 pm here at Salem. All are welcome and everyone needs to come together and get involved. Thank you.

DEACONS: Listed below are the names of the Deacons for Salem Lutheran 2022. Please feel free to give your Deacon a call.

- Group 1: "AA-GARM" Wade Mathis 217-690-2693
 - Group 2: "GARR-MAN" Austin Tomhave 217-883-3461
 - Group 3: "MASS-SHE"
 - Group 4: "SHIR-ZIM" Dwayne Middendorf 217-248-2091
- Two Elders assisting Deacons:
Larry Baker (217)370-1480, Gerald Warcup (217)243-2620



PACK THE HOUSE: It's back! Come socialize with the Salem Lutheran family at Leo's Pizza every 3rd Thursday of the month! February 16th Dine-In or Carry out. Mention this event and Salem receives 15% of all sales for the night

**R FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
WORK PROGRAM**

**Fiscal Year 8/31/2022 – 07/31/2023
(from 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)**

**CURRENT FINANCIAL
INDEBTEDNESS**

7/31/20	11/30/22
Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$122,900.20	\$0.00
Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00	\$0.00
	LEAP
\$828,100.60	\$670,064.88

**Financial Status Report for
November 2022**

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 51,874.82
Our operating receipts November, 2022:	\$ 37,783.09
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$203,434.16
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$204,344.74
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	\$ 910.58

Upcoming School Events:

- Feb. 1- Super Bowl Fundraiser Orders are due
- Feb 4- Super Bowl Fundraiser pick-up 3-5 pm
- Feb. 5 Super Bowl Fundraiser pick-up 10am-12 pm
- Feb. 15- Open House 4-6 pm
- Feb. 16-Pack the House at Leo's Pizza
Open enrollment begins
- Feb. 17- NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day
- Feb. 20- NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day

SCHOOL NEWS

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA: This month we celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week. This is a time to celebrate with the 1,854 schools, 21,312 teachers in 35 districts around the world sharing with 180,000 students their families and communities the life changing message of Jesus' love. We train up the next generation of faithful Christian disciples to be the hands and feet of Jesus while providing excellent academics. YOU are a part of this ministry! Thank you for supporting our school! Fun events from the week included

student helpers and singing in church to kick off the week, Travel Day where we "visited" other countries to see how children around the world live, Family Fun Night with a Chili Cook-off and Giving Generously Day where the students helped with Swaddling Clothes Ministry and Jacksonville's Food Pantry. We also started re-enrollment of our current students as well as enrolling summer camp.



We were glad to celebrate Pastor Riemer's 92nd birthday in chapel with a big card and singing. Thank you Pastor for being a fantastic role model of a servant of the Lord to our students!

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN News from Mrs.

Lysaythong & Mrs. Wiegand: The students learned about the first man and women that God created and how it is important to listen and obey his words. In the story, God had a bigger plan for Adam and Eve but they could not see it. That is why God sent his only son to die on the cross to forgive our sins. Psalm 86:5 "You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you." Preschoolers are currently reviewing the phonics sound for each of the alphabet letters to enhance their memory retention and pre-reading skills. To encourage love for math, the students are applying their math skills into every day play and making sense of how math works in the real world. For science and sensory the preschoolers played with insta straws to explore the various textures and sizes of the straws. The kindergarteners are re-reading and writing their vowels: a, e, i, o, u family words to build a larger bank of vocabulary to improve their reading skills. For math, they are still practicing how to tell time with the hour and minute hand. In social studies both the preschoolers and kindergarteners are learning about the country Laos pronunciation "Lao".

They have been researching and acquiring knowledge about the Laotian's language, culture, and beautiful landmarks. For their National Lutheran Week, the students will decorate the classroom into Laos country side and make some grub snacks for the tourist who will be visiting them on the 23rd of January.



1st & 2ND GRADE NEWS from Mrs. Deborah

Steinacher: It's great being back at school! The students really enjoyed their time celebrating Christmas. Now they are excited about all the new songs that we are working on. The new songs make them ask the question, "Why are we learning this song?" They are excited to know that we are learning *Once Long, Long Time Ago* because it is for Lutheran School's Week. That leads to another question, "What is Lutheran School's Week?" Several students helped some of the others understand that this is a week of celebrating Lutheran schools. It is a week of fun activities. It is a wonderful way to celebrate our school and to show others what a special school we have where we get to learn about Jesus every day! We are also working on several songs for chapel. They are excited that we will be able to add to the chapel message later in the semester. Their message will be on giving thanks to Jesus for all of our blessings.

3rd, 4th & 5th GRADE NEWS from Mrs. Blayre Petri

The third and fourth grade have been working hard for our Lutheran School's Week coming up. This is a week that is fun for the students and teachers. We will be participating in dress up days, learn about other countries, and help Salem's very own Swaddling Clothes. It is fun when you can learn and work for the lord all at once. These kids truly do get a well-rounded Christian education here at Salem! God Bless, Mrs. Petri