

**Salem Lutheran
Church and School**

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

MAY 2023 Newsletter

INSIGHT FROM THE WORD OF GOD:

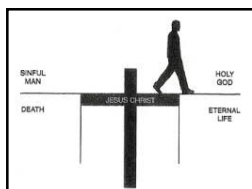
Christ, the Only Bridge Between Earth and Heaven



The Royal Gorge Suspension Bridge in Colorado is the highest bridge in the United States, spanning a deep gorge about 1,000 feet above the Arkansas River. I remember walking across it with my family when our kids were little. Looking over the guardrail down to the bottom is impressive and scary.

The Royal Gorge is the only place to cross over this deep canyon for miles in each direction.

Similarly, Jesus Christ is the only way to cross over from earth to heaven. Acts 4 says it this way, *“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* Think of Jesus as the only bridge between earth and heaven, as the Royal Gorge Bridge is the



only way to cross the Arkansas River. This bridge between earth and heaven is the blood of Christ which was shed on the cross for all sin and for all people. God has provided no other way to cross over from earth to heaven than through Christ, His suffering,

death and resurrection, which we just celebrated. Our good works will not work, because God’s standard is perfection, which no human can attain, because we are all born with the sinful nature inherited from Adam. So, God has provided His only Son, Jesus Christ, as the only way to cross between earth and heaven, gifted to all people to be received by faith in Him. Pastor Brechbuhl

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – May 2023

FOLLOW HIM IN GENEROSITY

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8). So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has

given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us. We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us! In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “indeed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus. Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy. Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

MAY BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

LOVEKAMP, Linda S.	1-May
STRUBBE, Janet K.	1-May
STUCKER, Caquista C.	1-May
DIETERLE, Christopher W.	3-May
JANES, Jillian L.	3-May
SULLIVAN, Terrance M.	4-May
DEVLIN, Tyler A.	5-May
BRADLEY, Stephanie A.	6-May
MANKER, Nicholas M.	7-May
BERRY, Dallas M.	9-May
STAAKE, Roger R.	9-May
THOMAS, Lillian R.	9-May
THOMAS, Mykenzie L.	9-May
WINCHESTER, Vicki L.	9-May
WINKELMAN, Sandra S. (Sandy)	10-May
FAIRFIELD, Ashley J.	11-May

GARRETT, Karen S.	12-May
HINDS, Darlene E.	12-May
FERRIS, Alexandra M.	13-May
MUSCH, Albert H.	13-May
LAWSON, Naomi C.	14-May
MCKEE, Olivia G.	14-May
WALKER, Timothy A.	14-May
BURGER, Sandra J. (Sandy)	15-May
HESS, Larry G.	16-May
WATKINS, Margene	16-May
DOLEN, MICHAEL	17-May
ELMORE, Zacheriah R.	17-May
ELMORE, Zion B.	17-May
REEVES, Brandon A.	17-May
SIEVING, Delaney J.	17-May
THIES, Myka B.	17-May
DE FRISCO Jr., Raymond J.	18-May
MAGELITZ, Jennifer E.	18-May
COOLEY, Jonathan W.	19-May
HART, Emily G.	19-May
HART, Jacob E.	19-May
HINDS, Randall E. (Randy)	19-May
PRATT, Shane A.	19-May
BUTLER, Dale L.	20-May
WARCUP, Karl A. (Allen)	20-May
WIEGAND, Jay W.	20-May
DOYLE, Kelly I.	22-May
JARMAN, Elizabeth E. (Elaine)	22-May
SHIREMAN, Andrew F.	22-May
VALENTINE, Jacob M.	23-May
BRUNE, Timothy N. (Tim)	24-May
COOLEY, Odin H.	24-May
COOLEY, Jackson P.	25-May
DE FRISCO, Aiden J.	25-May
DE FRISCO, Gemma A.	25-May
DE FRISCO, Peyton J.	25-May
DEFORD, Casey M.	25-May
MICHAELS, Brady W.	25-May
SWEETIN, Aaliyah F.	25-May
SWEETIN, Kiara F.	25-May
HANNANT, Brett L.	26-May
PHEBUS, Emily C.	26-May
MCCARTHY, Erin E.	27-May
TOLER, Jaymee L.	27-May
THIES, Meagan N.	28-May
WILLIAMS, Donald E. (Gene)	28-May
BAKER, Larry D.	29-May
MURPHY, Lisa G.	29-May

WARD, Kevin C.	29-May
WINTERS, Connor T.	29-May
MAGELITZ, Danny E.	30-May
BROWN, KORET	31-May
DAVIDSMEYER, Emrick W.	31-May
PERRY, Allison M.	31-May

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

REMINDERS: DON'T ASSUME that Pastor knows when you are hospitalized. Please call the Church Office 243-3419 to let us know when you enter the hospital.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS MEETING

RESULTS: A Special Congregational Voters meeting was held on Sunday, April 16th. It was voted upon and decided to give a pastoral call to Rev. Adam Steinbrenner. All the paperwork has been sent and now we need to be praying, hoping this is the one that the Good Lord wants here at Salem. Thank you.

NEW BABY: We rejoice with Tyler and Kaylie Devlin in the birth of a son on Thursday, April 20th. Grandparents are Keith and Karole (Hahn) Devlin. May the Lord bless this family.

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS: The window project was completed on Monday, April 17th. All the old windows removed, and the new ones were installed. Also, an update on paying for these windows. We have received 95% of the amount owed. We have \$676 left to raise and they will be totally paid for. We would like to thank all who contributed to the cause and thank the good Lord for all his blessings. Thank you.

DOORBELL DINNER VOLUNTEERS: We are looking for volunteers for the upcoming doorbell dinners deliveries. Salem's next assigned week is May 1st through 5th. If you can help, please contact Rita Tendick (217)473-5017

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, May 21st will be the next church and school potluck at the Steinacher's, 2629 Woodson Franklin Road, Franklin, Illinois. It will be a great time for everyone. Come early to visit, have supper, and stay for more visit time. Come out any time from 3 pm on. We will eat at 5:30. We will provide the main dish, table service, and drinks. Please bring a dish to share and a lawn chair. We will have the potluck rain or shine. We're looking forward to seeing everyone! If you have any questions, please call 370-0581.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: Confirmation Sunday will be May 7th. This year we have 4 confirmands. Jack Bezler, 242 Prospect, Jacksonville, IL; Phoenix Dertz, 218 Westminster, Jacksonville, IL; Millie Schumacher, 110 Country Place Drive, Jacksonville, IL; Kelly Turner, 695 Freedman, Jacksonville, IL. Please plan on attending. Thank you.

DOORBELL DINNERS THANK YOU: Thank you to the following who so generously gave of their time to deliver Doorbell Dinners during the week of April 3-7. Those driving and/or delivering food to the doors of our clients

were: Karen and Dan Engebrecht, Elaine Jarman, Danny Magelitz, JoAnne Campbell, Ruth Werries, Linda Strubbe, Lucille Hannel, Alisia Antemate, Alex Baker, Sophia Robinson, and Phoenix Dertz. If you are willing to join us in our next assigned week (May 1-5) please call Rita Tendick (217)473-5017. Thank you

JAYDEN UPTON UPDATE: Jayden Upton is progressing very nicely. He is at home. Jayden enjoys receiving cards, so if you would like to send him a card, his address is: Jayden Upton 8615 Ridge Wood Road, Rock Island, IL 61201 Thank you.

ADOPT A STUDENT: The Adopt a Student Fund is receiving requests for assistance from some of our students for the upcoming school year. We would like to assist these families, but we need the help from the Congregation. If you would you like to help, please mark your envelope "Family In Need". The money you donate will go directly to these family's account. If you would like to sponsor a student for a month, 3 months, 6 months, or a full year, please call the office. We would love to have such donors. Thank you.

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

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

**OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
WORK PROGRAM**

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

**CURRENT FINANCIAL
INDEBTEDNESS**

7/31/22	2/28/23
Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$122,900.20	\$0.00
Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00	\$0.00
	LEAP
\$677,802.80	\$644,683.96

**Financial Status Report for
FEBRUARY, 2023**

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 51,874.82
Our operating receipts February 2023:	\$ 37,215.84
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$359,368.66
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$373,056.09
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	\$ 13,678.43

Upcoming School Events:

Mark your calendars now!

- April 28- No School- Teacher Workday**
- April 29- Last day for Silent Auction Bidding!**
- LIVE AUCTION FAMILY NIGHT 4-7 pm**
- May 2- Girls Volleyball tournament at OSS 8pm**
- May 3- Girls Volleyball tournament at OSS 8pm**
- May 6- Girls Volleyball tournament at OSS 8:45am & 11:45am**
- May 18- Grades 1-2 Field Trip to Bowl Inn 12:40- 3pm**
- May 19- Pack the House – Last one!!!!!!**
- May 22- Grades 3-4 Field Trip to Wohlers Farm 8:30am- 3pm**
- May 24- End of 4th Quarter**
- May 25- No School- Teacher Workday**
- May 26- Closing Chapel/ Report Cards/ Awards Chapel- Dismissal immediately following**
- May 30- Summer Camp begins!!!**

SCHOOL NEWS



Enrollment for the coming year is now open to the community. If you have not returned your enrollment for next year do it today!



We are excited to already have children signing up for summer camp! If you need a payment plan in order to sign up early, please let the office know. The sooner we know how many children to expect

the better! Tell your friends too!



PACK THE HOUSE: It's back! Come socialize with the Salem Lutheran family at Leo's Pizza every 3rd Thursday of the month! May 18th. Dine-In or Carry out. Mention this event and Salem

receives 15% of all sales for the night

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA: It is hard to believe that the school year is winding down! This month we have been focusing on getting ready for the auction! We have finished standardized testing, have had 2 students chosen to represent Reynolds Consumer Products in the Design An Ad Contest, have had the preschool learn about Earth Day through the "Lorax" movie, and have seen another Pack the House come and go. Enrollment continues to go well with the 2K program filling up fast! Many new families are joining our school. We continue to ask for YOUR support! We will need people to help with workdays that are coming this summer, financial support for tuition assistance, and of course, your prayers.

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN News from Mrs. Lysaythong & Mrs. Wiegand: The students learned about the resurrection of Christ, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." 1 Corinthians 15:17. Jesus proved that he is both God and man. "That Christ dies for our sins in accordance with the scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3. Therefore if we do choose to celebrate Easter it is not all about eggs and gifts but the rise of Christ and how we can continue to honor him through our actions and kindness to people around us! Preschool 3 focuses was rainbow and the life cycle of a butterfly. The students participate in a Skittle rainbow science experiment and studied each cycle of a butterfly's life. They listened to stories, sang songs, and engaged in hands-on art to encourage love for learning. In the Preschool 4/Kindergarten classes the focus was all about the season spring. The students researched and learned about seeds, animals that come out of hibernation, and how the warmer weather makes the flowers and trees bloom. The students worked on a long-term project and created giant eggs and participated in an egg hunt to increase their cooperation, sharing, and kindness skills!



1st & 2ND GRADE NEWS from Mrs. Deborah Steinacher:

It's been a busy month for us. We have put the finishing touches on our last video. We learned lots of new Jesus' songs. Our message was called "Praising God Through Song." The class enjoyed being able to share the message that Salem is a special school because we get to learn about Jesus every day. They are excited to be able to have a copy to take home and share with their family. We also made Easter baskets. Everyone had a fun time using a hammer and nails to put their basket together. They were excited that they were going to be out for the Easter breakfast. We have several projects that we are trying to finish up. Our writing binders, art folders, and Thank You Books are some of their special treasures that they will be able to take home soon and share with their families. Thank you for all of your support! God's blessings.

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

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the school year. The students have been working hard as we just finished our standardized testing. Third and fourth grades will be going to Hadden Farms to visit and learn more about agriculture. When learning about agriculture and visiting the farm animals we always tie in the fact that God created all of these wonderful things. Without these animals and crops our lives would be a lot different! God is amazing! Mrs. Petri

6th, 7th & 8th GRADE NEWS from Ms. Joy Reitsma:

Middle school is winding down the school year. They are closing in on the end of their math book. They are continuing to work on writing skills. They are learning about the reconstruction era. We have spent the last month working on the stained-glass window for the auction. They have learned a lot and have enjoyed the process.