

Salem Lutheran Church and School

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

March 2024 Newsletter

“Lent”-- the Word and the Season



“Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten* meaning “spring” which comes from the Anglo-Saxon “long” indicating that the days of spring are getting longer.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday (the ashes are an Old Testament sign of grief and sorrow over our sins), the Season of Lent consists of the forty penitential days preceding Easter, pointing

back to our Lord Jesus fasting for forty days in the wilderness, as He was being tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:2). The forty-day period does not include the six Sundays, which are Sundays in Lent, not of Lent, and concludes on the day before Easter.

Lent approaches its climax in its closing days, as the passion (suffering) of Christ becomes more vivid in the consciousness of the Christian during the week leading up to Good Friday. Easter began as a season rather than a single day, including the remembrance of the death of Christ, as well as the celebration of His resurrection. The death and resurrection of Jesus assures us, as believers in Him, of the forgiveness of all our sins and our own resurrection to eternal life!

Lent is more than remembrance; it is preparation for our fuller appreciation of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our faithfulness to Him, empowered by our baptism into Him (Romans 6:3—8). The goal of our Lenten preparation is that the Holy Spirit may lead us to reflect on Christ’s suffering and death for the sins of the world, and our sins, and to rejoice in Christ’s victory for us through the cross, especially at Easter and every day of our lives. Pastor Brechbuhl

Adapted from the *Cross Bearers Lenten Series*, published by Lay Renewal Publications, Tucker, Georgia.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry –
lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article –
March 2024**

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 24th @ 9 AM
Maundy Thursday, March 28th @
 Noon and 6:30 pm
Good Friday, March 29th @ Noon
 and 6:30 pm
Easter Sunday, March 31st @ 9 AM
Breakfast 7- 9am

MARCH BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

MCCOMBS, Harrison H.	1-Mar
STEINACHER, Steven J.	1-Mar
SCHAEFER, Beth A.	2-Mar
EDDINGER, Kimberly S.	4-Mar
KLEINSCHMIDT, Daun E.	6-Mar
LOVEKAMP, Maci K.	6-Mar
KRAUSE, Michael A.	8-Mar
MASSEY, Nickole A.	8-Mar
HADDEN, Lauren E.	10-Mar
TOMHAVE, Sherri S.	10-Mar
WINTERS, Emily	10-Mar
DAVIS, Madison A.	12-Mar
ALEXANDER, Harrison C.	15-Mar
SHIREMAN, Crystal R.	15-Mar
BUMGARNER, Megan M.	16-Mar
KLOPPE, Thomas A.	16-Mar
BRODT, Kenneth	17-Mar
BROWN, Doris J.	17-Mar
BROWN, Emily I.	17-Mar
BROWN, Sarah M.	17-Mar
BROWN, Steven A.	17-Mar
ROBERTS, Thomas E.	18-Mar
LASHMET, Craig B.	20-Mar
ZACHARY, MORGAN	20-Mar
COOLEY, William R. (Billy)	21-Mar
OVERBY, Roberta A.	21-Mar
COX, Ruth L.	22-Mar
GILLIS, Alice M.	22-Mar
SPRADLIN, Robert A.	22-Mar
THIES, Michael E.	23-Mar
LUKEMAN, Shirley A.	26-Mar
OLIVER, James E. (Jim)	26-Mar
WYATT, Linda E.	26-Mar
WIEGAND Jr., James E. (Jamie)	27-Mar
ARING, Linda K.	28-Mar
DELONG Sr., William A. (Arnie)	28-Mar
SPRADLIN, Angela R.	29-Mar
WIEGAND, Jack A.	29-Mar
ZIMMER, Judith E.	29-Mar
RIVERS, Bonnie J.	30-Mar
ROBINSON, Isabella C. (Bella)	31-Mar
ROBINSON, Sophia	31-Mar
SCHUMACHER, Arthur M.	31-Mar

PREACHING SCHEDULE PASTORS

NOTE: ALL START TIMES ARE AT 9 AM & 6:30 PM

LENT SERVICES

Mar 03	9 am	Brechbuhl
Mar 06	6:30 pm	Dierks
Mar 10	9 am	Strattman
Mar 13	6:30 pm	Kettner
Mar 17	9 am	Theilen
Mar 20	6:30 pm	Lesemann
Mar 24	9 am	Theilen
Mar 28	Noon & 6:30 pm	Brechbuhl
Mar 29	Noon & 6:30 pm	Brechbuhl
Mar 31	9 am	Brechbuhl

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.

THANK YOU: Thank you to the congregation for keeping Griffin and our family in your prayers during his treatment for Leukemia. He completed his two-year treatment plan on February 3rd and is doing well. He will continue with regular checkups for another 8 years before he is considered cured, but we are grateful that he is in remission and is feeling good. We had some difficult times since he was diagnosed, and we drew strength from our faith and the knowledge that so many people were praying for his recovery. Thank you, Bruce, Sara and Griffin Roegge.

NEW BABY: Austin and Lauren Tomhave became parents to a baby girl on February 1st in Springfield. Vivian Rebecca weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. She has 4 siblings, Gracie, Caroline, Ashlyn, and Lance. Grandparents Mr. & Mrs. James Martin, Mr. & Mrs. John Tomhave and great-grandmother, Karen Tomhave. May God bless this new addition to the Tomhave family.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS are available for your pick-up in the narthex.

HANBELL PRACTICE: Handbell practice to begin February 18th at 6:00 pm. Every Sunday at 6:00 pm, February 25th and March 3rd, 10th, 17th. Playing March 24th (Palm Sunday) and March 31st (Easter). Plan on attending. Thank you! Bruce Engebrecht

SWADDLING CLOTHES IN-GATHERING: During the month of February, the Ladies Guild asks the congregation to join with us in-gathering items for Swaddling Clothes. The needed items include diapers, wipes, pull-ups, baby wash, 2T-5T clothing (new or gently used), socks, underwear. A shopping list for your convenience is clipped to the box in the narthex. Thank you

DOORBELL DINNERS: If you are available and interested in helping with Doorbell Dinners this spring, please call Rita Tendick (217)473-5017. Salem is assigned the weeks of April 1-5 and April 29-May 3rd. Your help is much needed and appreciated.

ANNUAL SALEM SPRING FESTIVAL: The auction committees are meeting and gearing up for the Spring Festival. There will be an Auction, Let's Make A Deal, and meal. The meal will consist of Spaghetti, Garlic Bread and desserts. Check out your basements, garages and storage sheds to see if you have anything to donate to the auction. If you do have something you would like to donate, please call David Hannel (217)492-0722. Thank you.

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S CONVENTION: Saturday, March 9th with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, to be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altamont, IL. Doors open at 8:00 am with convention beginning at 9:00 am. Registration fee is \$25 which includes lunch. Registration forms are in the narthex. You are invited!

GREETERS WANTED: The Evangelism committee is looking for volunteers to be Greeters at the Sunday morning Worship Service. You will need to be here by 8:30 am. If you would be interested, please contact Paul Reither, (217)-248-0550 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.

COMMITTEES: We are looking for individuals to be on our committees. We have several committees that are in

need of adding to the committee. If you would like to join a committee, please talk with David Hannel. He will provide you with the available committees and what openings Salem has. Please be a part of the solution at Salem. 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

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.

SCHOOL NEWS

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA: It is hard to believe that we are already reaching the end of the third quarter! Registration is now open to the public and we are adding students daily for the 2024-2025 school year. The students celebrated Valentines and Ash Wednesday with Pastor Brechbuhl sharing the imposition of ashes at chapel. What greater gift of love to share with our students than a Savior who gave up His life for theirs! We look forward to sharing Palm Sunday worship with the Salem family as the children will sing in church on that Sunday. The classes are now turning their attention to the auction and the projects that they will make for the live auction! We are looking forward to a night of fun and fellowship. We are currently seeking several positions for school staff starting immediately and going through the next school year. If you or someone you know might be interested in blessing the lives of our students in a staff position, please contact the office.

PRESCHOOL Pre-K2 News from Ms. Wilson,

Pre-k2 has been working hard on shapes, colors, and numbers. We can all count to 5, forwards and backwards. We know the colors red, blue and pink. We can identify a circle, triangle, heart and star. We are getting the morning routine down and understand how and why we pray. Not only do we have a monthly Bible story but we have a weekly one as well. My students and I love learning about Jesus and God. Prek2 had a great Lutheran's school week and a nice Valentine's Day party. All the artwork is displayed in the hallway, and they enjoy doing different types of art each day. We will be adding in one 'cooking' day a week where the children and I will make a food item each week to bring a different way of learning into the classroom. We are buckling down for the final push of the year. Stay tuned for what my students will be learning in March- Dr. Seuss is a hint!

PRESCHOOL Pre-K3 News from Ms. Martin,

Monthly Theme: Community Workers

Pre-k 3 has been working on a few different letters this week K, L, M, N and the numbers 6, 7, 8, & 9. We are also going over the shapes that have those numbered sides as well. The class enjoyed learning the hexagon because we were learning the Hexagon dinosaur dance! Talking about friendship, the children have colored and worked together in making their art for our hallways and classroom. We have an exciting Valentines party with the class and for them to express their friendship and love with each other. As we learn the Bible story about David & Goliath, we will be making our own satchel with stones.

PRESCHOOL Pre-K4 Mrs Lysaythong:

Monthly Theme: Friendship/Love Bible Story: David and Goliath The students listened to The Beginner's Bible story of, "David and Goliath" and they learned that it doesn't matter what body size you are God has a plan for everyone. In the story David was small but with one stone from his sling, he was able to defeat the giant Goliath without any help from the King's soldiers. One of the great lessons that the students learned was that if they trust and obey God, He will give them the courage and heart to conquer any challenges that they may face in

their daily lives! Preschool 4 In the month of February the student's focus is friendship and love. On Wednesday, February 5 the students led chapel, shared the message of having a good heart and sang a children's worship song "Looking at My Heart". Also they made friendship flowers for their play buddy, celebrated Valentine's Day with a party, and gained an understanding of what Ash Wednesday is, it is a time to repent and mark the holy season of Lent. In language and literacy the students are reading consonant, vowel, consonant (CVC) words, continued to practice counting in Spanish 1-15 without teacher's prompt and answering "Cómo estás with estoy bien". The students will end the month with the following focus: dental higiene and fairy tales!

Kindergarten News from Mrs. Audrey Sprinkel:

Happy February! This month we have been learning all about plants, flowers, and trees and what they need to survive and grow. In reading we have been reading about flowers, plants, and gardens. We are talking about what we can grow in gardens, and how we can grow not only flowers, but food to eat as well. In science, we are learning about how plants get their food and grow, as well as the effect that the sun has on water and our plant. We are working on putting together a self-sustaining terrarium as a project. In math, we have been working on addition, subtraction, and non-standard units of measurements in both capacity and length. Students have been measuring plants and comparing them and placing them in order from shortest to tallest, as well as working on the guess and check method in problem solving. We are talking about families in social studies, how people are alike and different, as well as traditions we have and how others may have different traditions. Easter is coming up, and in religion we are talking about Jesus' ministry until His death, and how He loves us so much that He died for our sins. We have an exciting month ahead of us, and we cannot wait to share all that we have learned and are doing with you!

1st & 2nd Grade News from Mrs. Deborah Steinacher:

We have been busy enjoying a variety of activities. We have been decorating the hall with lots of artwork. We have made a variety of heart paintings using stencils, sponges, paint daubers, and our handprints. We were excited to make a wall mural using our handprints. It was a fun way to spread the love of Jesus. We have

been in school over one hundred days. For 100 Day we wrote poems, used pennies in math, measured ourselves using giant clips, made pyramids with 100 cups, brought 100 things for show and tell, and much more! It was a wonderful way for the class to see that 100 comes in all shapes and sizes. Now we are starting to get ready for our next class chapel. We will be telling everyone about the joy of Easter. They are excited to be learning their parts. Soon we will be starting our class project for Salem's auction! Be sure to come check it out at the auction in April. Thank you so much for your support of the school! God's blessings to everyone.

3rd, 4th & 5th Grade News from Mrs. Jacqueline Steinacher

We have been enjoying our time in Grades 3-5 and are looking forward to Spring weather! The students are working hard in Social Studies as we learn the state capitals of the United States. I am amazed at how well they can remember them! In Science, we enjoy our monthly Ag in the Class lessons, and will soon take a trip to a farm to see how they operate! In Math, the students are learning how to use division in different ways. 3rd grade is learning the basic division facts and how to divide things into equal groups. 4th grade is knee-deep in long division, and are often heard singing our jingle "Divide, Multiply, Subtract, Bring Down!" In Language Arts, the students are working very hard to develop their writing skills, and will soon complete their first biographical research paper. We are starting to work on a class art project for the upcoming Spring Auction. Be on the lookout for our creation at the event! God Bless, Mrs. Jackie Steinacher.

6th & 8th Grade News from Ms. Joy Reitsma:

The middle school has been learning about diseases that invade the human body. It has been interesting to learn about God's wonderful design of our bodies and how it can protect against invading forces. We are learning about monochromatic paintings in art. We are expanding our algebraic topics in math and getting into some very complex problems. We are finishing up learning about ancient China and are seeing how they changed with the influences of the West that came due to trade routes such as the silk road. In Language Arts we are expanding our knowledge of poetry by reading and creating our own. **We are starting to work on our auction project and need buttons. If you have buttons that you no longer need, would you consider donating them to our auction project? Contact Joy**

Reitsma or bring them to the office labeled middle school project.

<u>WORK PROGRAM</u>	
Fiscal Year 8/31/2023 – 07/31/2024	
(From 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)	
CURRENT FINANCIAL INDEBTEDNESS	
7/31/23	12/31/23
Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$0.00	\$15000.00
Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00	\$0.00
	LEAP
\$677,802.80	\$540,475.09
Financial Status Report for December 2023	
Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 59,549.42
Our operating receipts December, 2023:	\$ 89,392.74
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$319,060.90
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$318,295.61
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	\$ (765.29)