

Salem Lutheran  
Church and School

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# February 2024 Newsletter

**Insight from God's Word: The "Judas" Goat,  
Straying Sheep, and Jesus, the Lamb of God who  
takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)**



A television documentary showed a lot about the behavior of sheep--and of people! One scene was of a packing house where sheep were slaughtered. The sheep had to walk

from their large pen up a narrow ramp and then turn right to their death. In order to get the sheep to move up the ramp, a "Judas" goat was trained to lead the sheep up the ramp to their slaughter. The "Judas" goat was placed among the sheep and then walked confidently to the ramp, as the nervous sheep watched. After the goat got about five feet up the ramp, he stopped and confidently looked back at the nervous sheep, who then began to follow him. Near the top of the ramp the goat turned left, as a gate was opened only for him and then closed. The sheep, however, continued up the ramp and turned right to their death.

The "Judas" goat tactic works, because sheep have the habit of foolishly straying away and following others into danger. Isaiah says that human beings as they wander away from God into sin, are like straying sheep: "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way." (53:6-7) Like straying sheep, we follow "Judas" goats, temptations of every kind, which, but for God's grace in Christ, will eventually lead us to hell. prophecy, because it depicts the atoning suffering of Jesus as the Lamb who takes away our sin and the sin of the world!

We will shortly celebrate **the Transfiguration of Jesus (February 11)**, when He revealed His divine shining glory to three of His disciples on the mountain. Three days after celebrating the Transfiguration of Jesus, the church observes **Ash Wednesday, February 14**, the beginning of **the Season of Lent**. Lent is an Old English word ("spring") and is about preparing to focus on His suffering, crucifixion, and death, 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. May God bless you in the upcoming Season of Lent as you turn away from the "Judas" goats in your life, and focus on Jesus,

"the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"  
Pastor Brechbuhl

## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship) Newsletter Article – February 2024

**Caring for My Neighbor:** If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that! But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, "you shall not murder," goes much deeper — down to the heart. You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22) Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth. In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every "do not" in the commandments also includes a "do this:" "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need" (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added). We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good. So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us. We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church's work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church's alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

Greetings in Christ,

I would like to give you an update on Swaddling Clothes. We have been open for one year now. We have established a few regular clients, and we continue to have new ones show up each month. Please continue to spread the word to those who may not know about us. In December we held our monthly shopping day on the 12th. We assisted 13 families with 28 children. In January we held our monthly shopping day on the 9th. We assisted 12 families with 21 children. In January we received \$1,000 from Swaddling Clothes for assistance with our program.

We also received a \$200 grant from Dorothy's Market (DOT Foods). Swaddling Clothes posted the nationwide results for the program. They currently have 26 Swaddling Clothes centers across the country. In 2023 they/we helped 439 families a month, and they/we gave away 7,238 packages of diapers. As you can see our center is about average in the number of children helped per month. I appreciate those who help with Swaddling Clothes. I especially want to thank Laretta Scheller, Donna Moody, Sharon Delong, Jim Turley, Michelle Moeller, Leta Malcott, Kevin Eckhoff, and Danny Magelitz for help with washing and folding donated clothing items, packaging diapers, working at the shopping days, advertising, website changes, and planning repairs and improvements. I believe we are making a difference in the lives of children in our community with this service. We can continue to make a difference with your help. If you wish to donate or volunteer, you may contact me through the church office. Please keep Swaddling Clothes in your prayers. Thank you, Deaconess Linda Strubbe

## 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
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
SCOBBIIE, 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
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
SCOBBIIE, 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

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### PREACHING SCHEDULE PASTORS

NOTE: ALL START TIMES ARE AT 9 AM

Feb. 04	9 am	Brechbuhl
Feb. 11	9 am	Dr. Ken Schurb
Feb. 14	6:30 pm	Brechbuhl
Feb. 18	9 am	Brechbuhl
Feb. 21	9 am	Ian Heinze
Feb. 25	9 am	Strattman
Feb. 28	6:30 pm	Phillips

**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.

**CONGREGATION VOTERS MEETING:** The Annual Congregational Voters meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The time has been changed from 1:30 pm to following the Church Service. Please plan on attending. Thank you

**HANBELL PRACTICE:** Handbell practice to begin

February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Every Sunday at 6:00 pm, February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>. Playing March 24<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) and March 31<sup>st</sup> (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

**CID LLL Convention:** Join the Central Illinois LLL District at their annual convention hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altamont, Illinois on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Our guest speaker is Rev. Dr Michael Zeigler, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour® focusing on Energizing Mission. Other highlights will include 4 breakout sessions. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. with the convention beginning at 9:00 a.m. The registration fee is \$25 which includes lunch meal.. Complete the registration form and return with your registration fee to Deloris Blessman, CID LLL Treasurer, 24204 CR 1850N, Topeka, IL 61567 or if you have any questions or need more information you can contact Deloris by phone: 309.361.1461 email: delorisblessman@yahoo.com.

**Cajun Mission Meal** – Monday, February 12, 4:30-7:00 at St. John's Lutheran, Bath. You are invited to enjoy a wide variety of Cajun food and at the same time help raise funds for Jacksonville Circuit Hispanic Mission in Beardstown. The menu will include: jambalaya, etouffee, gumbo, muffuletta, red beans and rice, beignets, cold spinach salad, virgin hurricanes, and a wide variety of desserts all for a free will offering.

**LWML UPDATE:** The LWML Ladies Guild met on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Update on the cookie walk they raised \$2,456.25 thanks to your contribution and donations. This will allow them \$600 to be donated to Orphan Grain Train, Jacksonville Food Center, Salem Swaddling Clothes and Salem Adopt-A-Student. Thanks to all who participated.

**ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** With the upcoming winter weather, we would like to ask for assistance in cleaning the sidewalks. Please contact David Hannel (217)-491-0722. Thank you.

**Capital Campaign - Continue to pray for the Capital Campaign that the Lord would send the money to pay the "LEAP" loan in full.**

**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:** We have had a busy month in the school. Basketball season began and is in full swing! Come out and cheer on YOUR Cyclones! National Lutheran Schools Week went well. We enjoyed exploring the theme CONNECTED. We learned many ways that we are connected to God and connected to each other. Students helped at the Food Center, Swadling Clothes, drawing pictures for our shut-ins, and writing to our comfort dogs. We had Family Fun Night- Big Screen Movie Night. We enjoyed sharing Sunday morning worship with the congregation and singing for them. We have had several inquiries from our student population about how they can get baptized! We look forward to celebrating this milestone with them!

**PRE-SCHOOL Pre-K2 News from Ms. Hathaway /Ms. Wilson,** Monthly Theme: Community Workers  
Bible Story: The Good Samaritan

The students listened to the parable, "The Good Samaritan" and discussed about what it means to be a good samaritan. Good Samaritan is a story to illustrate how we "love our neighbors as ourselves." When someone needs our help the most like the man on the road in the story, is when our love for our neighbor is truly tested. Pre k 2 is working hard to learn all about numbers 1, 2 and 3. We have learned how to read them, write them and count to each one. They have also learned all about shapes around us especially the circle and triangle. They have learned how to cut each one, make each one and pick them out of a group. We are learning all about community helpers and how beneficial they are. We have guest speakers coming to the room, reading books about community helpers and writing thank you cards to some community helpers.

**Pre-K3 News from Ms. Martin,**  
Monthly Theme: Community Workers  
Bible Story: The Good Samaritan

The students listened to the parable, "The Good Samaritan" and discussed about what it means to be a good samaritan. Good Samaritan is a story to illustrate how we "love our neighbors as ourselves." When someone needs our help the most like the man on the road in the story, is when our love for our neighbor is truly tested.

We are excited to start the second half of the school year and start our 2024 year off with a learning bang!! For the month of January we are learning what community helpers are and what they do for our community. As well as what it means to do a good deed and be a good samaritan like in our Bible story. We will be making a list of things that we can do as good deeds and to be helpful in our community. The pre-k 3 class will be making a variety of community worker puppets, hats, cars, as well as creating our own town and drawing out our community and its helpers for our expressive art each day. The letters we are focusing on this month are H, I, J, 7 K and the numbers we are working on are 3, 4, 5, & 6. For our fine motor skills we are writing our letters and numbers with pencils now so that they can work on their finger grip and being able to trace and write. We are working on the shapes triangle, rectangle, pentagon, & hexagon for their number of sides to go with our number of the week, as well as comparing the sizes of the shapes. National Lutheran Schools week is coming up Monday January 22nd, through Sunday January 18th. Our class is starting to learn our song to prepare for our church service on Sunday the 28th. We have a variety of fun dress up days and activities for our class to participate in.

**Pre-K4 Mrs Lysaythong:**

Monthly Theme: Community Workers  
Bible Story: The Good Samaritan

The students listened to the parable, "The Good Samaritan" and discussed about what it means to be a good samaritan. Good Samaritan is a story to illustrate how we "love our neighbors as ourselves." When someone needs our help the most like the man on the road in the story, is when our love for our neighbor is truly tested. The students learned how they can be a Good Samaritan themselves by -helping a friend who dropped his/her books – helping a mommy or daddy who's having to clean up a big mess – praying for a friend that has been ill Just to mention a few skills that our students are learning at school. In addition, this month the students are exploring the field of community workers, what they would like to be when they grow up, and how community worker serve the community. Moreover, the students are continuing to perfect their writing skills with their first and last names, identifying/writing numbers 1-20, uppercase/lowercase letter identification and its phonics sounds, and reading sight words as we move one step closer to learning how to read!

**Kindergarten News from Mrs. Audrey Sprinkel:**

This month we are learning so much in kindergarten! In reading, we are working on sight words, and doing more independent and parrot reads to work on our reading skills. We are talking about how we and others can make our community better. In math we are working with money, our seasons and learning all about length. Students are learning about seasons, weather patterns, and how we use our Earth's resources in Social Studies. In science we are talking about buoyancy and what objects float and sink. Next week is National Lutheran Schools Week! Students should have come home with a flyer detailing all the events we have going on next week to celebrate! Just a reminder, we are singing in church January 28th! I will be sending out more reminders and details as we get closer! Thank you! Have a great week! God Bless!

**1st & 2nd Grade News from Mrs. Deborah**

**Steinacher:** We have been busy doing lots of exciting things! The class has been counting to 100 Day! It is quite a milestone for us! The 100th Day was filled with all sorts of special activities centered around the theme of one hundred. Throughout the week we wrote a 100 Day poem about kindness and painted our hands for a class mural. Then we did math using 100 pennies to add and multiply, measured with 100 linking cubes, stacked 100 cups, and much more! 100 Day learning is always exciting! We also celebrated Lutheran School's Week. Everyone had a great time celebrating with other Lutheran schools and what makes them so special. We helped Deaconess Strubbe preparing items for Swaddling Clothes, made cards for the comfort dogs, and celebrated our baptism birthdays. We ended the week with a family movie night in the

gym. A great time was had by everyone. Thank you so much for your support of our school! We have a wonderful mission here telling our students and their families about Jesus every day! God's blessings to everyone.

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News from Mrs. Jacqueline Steinacher:**

It is always wonderful to come back to school after a long break and see the students eager to learn! We are working hard in grades 3-5 by studying the amazing Earth God created in our Geography lessons. The students enjoy learning about different cultures and where they are located on the map. In Science, we are continuing our unit on Meteorology by studying weather patterns. The students are enjoying visualizing the weather in real-time by looking at the snow outside! In Math, the students love to visualize concepts by using hands-on manipulatives and comparing math to real-world problems. It is always great as a teacher to see their "lightbulb" moments. In Language Arts, the students continue to develop their language skills by reading and discussing text selections with small groups or partners. They are learning important life skills, such as how to work as a team and respect others' ideas. We have a lot of fun in Performance Arts! We are learning about dance and will be practicing how to waltz and square dance! As always, I enjoy being able to in an environment where I can share God's love with my students. God bless, Mrs. Jackie Steinacher

**6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade News from Ms. Joy Reitsma:**

Middle School will begin tackling some important things in science such as how smoking, alcohol and drugs can impact their bodies. We also will be discussing peer pressure and how to deal with that. We are in China and learning about ancient dynasties in history. In art we are learning about the history of the gargyle and making our own.

<b><u>WORK PROGRAM</u></b>	
<b>Fiscal Year 8/31/2023 – 07/31/2024</b>	
<b>(From 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)</b>	
<b>CURRENT FINANCIAL INDEBTEDNESS</b>	
<b>7/31/23</b>	<b>11/30/23</b>
Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00	\$0.00
	LEAP
\$677,802.80	\$610,297.87
<b>Financial Status Report for</b>	
<b>November, 2023</b>	
Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 59,549.42
Our operating receipts November 2023:	\$ 68,688.97
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$258,936.63
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$225,902.87
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	\$(30,033.76)