

# May 2024 Newsletter

## Insight from God's Word: Endure Hardship For Christ!

"Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus!" (2 Timothy 2:3) To endure hardship is a strange concept for us living in our hedonistic society with its enormous material blessings. So, it's important for us to understand what the Holy Spirit meant through the pen of St. Paul, when He wrote this verse long ago.

The Greek word translated "soldier" is "stratiotes," meaning a Roman legionary, the ancient foot soldier of the Roman Empire. Central to the life of a Roman soldier was enduring hardship. Roman soldiers regularly marched hundreds of miles, often on forced marches. On the distant frontiers of the Roman Empire, they endured chronic shortages of supplies and frequent fighting against more numerous hostile local tribes. When they weren't marching or fighting, they were building: camps, roads, bridges and fortifications, some of which still stand today.



Discipline in the army was harsh. The general had life-and-death power over his soldiers. The most lenient sentences, for minor offences, involved food rationing, hitting with the centurion's staff, or public flogging. For the most serious offences, such as desertion, a soldier could be immediately executed. The life of an ancient Roman soldier was truly a life of enduring hardship for the sake of an earthly empire.

Even more, the Holy Spirit in 2 Timothy 2:3 is calling on us who believe in and follow Christ to endure great hardship like a good Roman soldier, not for the sake of an earthly empire, but for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom. And the Holy Spirit empowers us through Christ to live sacrificially for Christ and others, to resist temptations, to do the good, to go the extra mile for others, to turn the other cheek, to love others, as God has first loved us.

And when we fail, as we do every day, because of our inherited sinful nature, we always find complete forgiveness by God's grace through the death and resurrection of Christ, our living Savior and Lord: "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace!" (Ephesians 1:7) Pastor Brechbuhl

## More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie? Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by. We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line. But in our heart of hearts, we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor. For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way. Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back. But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

## 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 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  
 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 (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, KOERT 31-May  
 DAVIDSMEYER, Emrick W. 31-May  
 PERRY, Allison M. 31-May

### WORSHIP/PREACHING SCHEDULE

DATE	PASTOR	THEME
May 5	Brechbuhl	Easter 6
May 9	Brechbuhl	Ascension
May 12	Schurb	Easter 7
May 19	Brechbuhl	Easter 8 & Salem School Graduation
May 26	Strattman	Trinity Sunday

**CELEBRATE!** At the Call Day service on Tuesday, Candidate Jonah Schultz was assigned by Concordia Seminary, St Louis for Salem to call as Pastor of Salem. We were able to meet for a few moments with Jonah and his wife, Mary. They are personable and excited about coming to Salem, particularly since we have a school, as they are trained teachers. They have a son who is 4 years old. They will likely be visiting in the next month, prior to graduation in late May. Jonah stated "I'm so thankful the Lord is sending me to you. What a gracious God we have! His steadfast love endures forever." Welcome cards may be sent to: Seminarian Jonah Schultz, 17 Founders Way, Unit C, St Louis, MO 63105.

**IN SYMPATHY:** Brent Frederick Adler passed away on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Brent leaves behind, his wife, Denise (Gehrke) Adler and his children; Ethan (Olivia), Faith Victoria, Isabella (Fiance' William Brazgel), and Lacey, Dear son of Laurel (Chester) Buchanan and the late Frederick Adler, Brother to Clint (Kristen) Adler and Katie (Dan) Menzel, Son-in-law of Dennis and Dorothy Gehrke. Brother-in-law of Dan (Kristin) and Darin (Emily) Gehrke, Beloved uncle to 15 nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hartland, WI from 10:00 am until the time of the service at 1:00 pm. May the Lord Bless all who mourn the Loss of this Loved One!

**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 6:30 PM:** JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR LORD JESUS' ASCENSION TO THE RIGHT HAND OF HIS HEAVENLY FATHER AND THE BEGINNING OF HIS INTERCESSION FOR US , THE CHURCH!

## 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 everyone who helped with the planning and those who helped at the dinner for our Spring Fundraiser. I would like to thank our staff members who worked on their class projects for the auction, these were a great success. Thank you to all who donated items. We were able to raise more than \$12,000 for the Church and School and the fellowship on Saturday was very nice.

**90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY:** The family of Martha Aring are having a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion here in Jacksonville. Family and friends are invited from 2-4 pm to visit and wish Martha a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. No gifts, please, cards are welcome. Please plan on attending

**PICNIC AT STEINACHERS:** It is a wonderful time to have a get together! We would like to invite the church and school to a cookout at our house (2629 Woodson Franklin Road, Franklin, Illinois) on Saturday, May 18, from 4:00 on. Come early and stay late and enjoy lots of good fellowship. We will eat at 6. Please bring a dish to share and a lawn chair. Table service will be provided. We will be having sloppy Joe's, hot dogs, brats, and chips. Be sure to mark it on your calendar! If you have any questions, please feel free to call 217-370-0581.

**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

**PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER:** Thank you for your time and dedication in supporting PRC this year through our Change for Hope. Salem Lutheran donated \$346.62. The total amount raised this year through this program is \$19,949.55. PRC is encouraged when our local churches support them through their prayers as well as financially! Thanks again.

**DOORBELL DINNERS THANK YOU:** A huge thank you goes out to the following Salem volunteers who delivered Doorbell Dinners the week of April 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. The weather didn't stop our attempts to help those in need in our community. Lauretta Scheller, Elaine Jarman, Danny Magelitz, Joanne Campbell, Ruth Werries, Linda Strubbe, Joy Reitsma, Phoenix Dertz, Alex Baker, Alisia Antemate, and Sophia Robinson. If you would like to be a volunteer with us during the week of April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>, please contact Rita Tendick at 217-473-5017

## SCHOOL NEWS

**NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA:** April was a busy month here at Salem Lutheran School. Our middle school students helped church members with Doorbell Dinners. We all were part of viewing the solar eclipse! The middle school went to the northern edge of the path of totality in Okawville, Illinois. They went to Immanuel Lutheran and watched with three other sister schools from around the state as darkness descended. The oohs and ahhs as the temperature dropped and we waited to take off our glasses to see the ring was palpable. When that moment came, the gasps and the recognition of book learning and what they saw God created coming together was well worth the 2-hour drive. When the people in the field joined in with the doxology, in harmony, our students took notice and understood that to God be the glory for this amazing event. Later that week it was time for the Spring into Salem event featuring Let's make a Deal and the Live Auction! It was a wonderful night of fun, fellowship and raising money to help the church and school. We had standardized testing for grades K-8 the following week. The students have been preparing for Salem's Fine Arts Night coming May 16 at 6pm in the cafeteria and gym. Plan to come out and watch the play: *Mission Calling* as well as seeing the beautiful

artwork that will be on display. Dessert will be served during intermission.

### **PRESCHOOL Pre-K2 News from Ms. Wilson:**

Pre-k 2 has been focused on creating the most beautiful auction piece for April 13<sup>th</sup> ; and my how well that night went! We are now practicing for the fine arts night and can't wait to show off our artwork. As for academics, pre-k 2 is now focusing on numbers 11-15, the rest of the colors and the months of the year. This month is all about the true meaning of Easter and learning about all the types of weather. So far their favorite type of weather is a storm; they have got to make their own in a cup! We are enjoying the nice weather outside when she shows up and can't wait to use more outside toys. We look forward to seeing you at the play.

### **PRESCHOOL Pre-K3 News from Ms. Martin:**

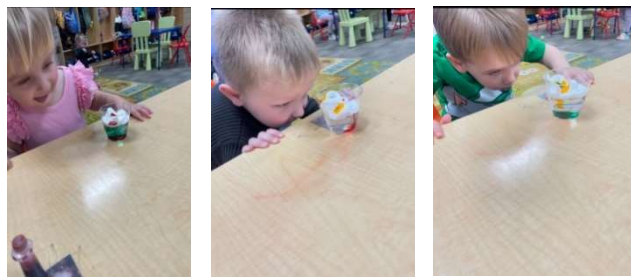
Pre-K 3 has been focusing on the letters R, S, T, & U, numbers 11, 12, 13, 14 and revisiting other numbers as well. Our Bible story is the Easter Story. Learning about all what happen and the things that Jesus did after he was risen from the dead. Our learning focus is the weather and all the things that have to do with it. Discussing a lot about the wind and what comes with the wind. Learning all the different types of clouds and what it means when the clouds are dark. We discussed and learned facts about the solar eclipse and that why it was important to not look directly at the sun without special glasses. So, much more we are talking about in PreK 3. We are with all the other students with practicing our play and the lines that we do have as a class. We look forward to our Fine Arts night in May!

celestial bodies such as planets and moons, and eagerly anticipated witnessing a solar eclipse. Equipped with special glasses, they marveled as the sun disappeared behind the moon, marking their first encounter with this celestial event. Engaging in hands-on activities, the children embarked on special projects, crafting homemade rice crispy pops. Meanwhile, their academic pursuits encompassed the recognition and identification of numbers 1 through 30, along with practice in reading CVC words and short sentences and honing their writing skills.



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

Happy April! We are doing so much in kindergarten! Students had Spring break at the end of March and have come back ready to learn and grow! We have been studying animals in reading and learning about how they are alike and how they are different. In science, we are learning about living and nonliving things and how we are able to identify if they are living or nonliving! In history we are talking about our personal history and how every person has a past! In math, students have been learning about writing additional sentences, dividing solids in half and working with pictographs! In religion, we are talking about how we can connect with others to spread the Good News. We are talking about serving others, and how we can share about how God has helped and been with us. We are so excited to continue to share with everyone what we are learning and doing in the classroom as the school year winds down. Thank you for your continued support and prayer! God Bless!



### **PRESCHOOL Pre-K4 Mrs Lysaythong:**

Monthly Theme: Weather; Bible Story: Easter Story; The students recalled that Jesus was a very special person who taught people to love each other and be kind. Some people didn't like Him and hurt Him, but Jesus still loved them. He died on a cross, but three days later, He came back to life! Jesus showed His friends that He was alive again, and they were very happy. That's why we celebrated Easter, to remember that Jesus loves us and gives us hope. The students delved into a diverse array of meteorological phenomena, from thunderstorms and tornadoes to snow blizzards, and beyond. Their curiosity led them to the library, where they explored the intricacies of

### **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News from Mrs. Deborah Steinacher**

Wow! We have been doing so many things! It is fun to learn in new ways. The class really enjoyed learning how to sand and stain their auction project. They liked it so much they wanted to know when we could sand and stain something else. We also did a chapel message that took us from Jesus' birth, through His death on the cross, and to His resurrection on Easter. They enjoyed sharing the chapel message with everyone, learning some special songs, and taking some pictures to share with their families. Now we are all working hard to know our parts for the fine arts night on May 16. All the school students are getting excited to perform "Mission Calling." Thank you for

