

Salem Lutheran
Church and School

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SEPTEMBER 2024

Newsletter

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

Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them. A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result. In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them. Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected. For this reason, the Lutheran Service Book has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads: Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness, For dull content with warmth and sheltered care, For songs of praise for food and harvest press, While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware. This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus! So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

On Psalm 146

- ³ *Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.*
- ⁴ *When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.*
- ⁵ *Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,*

Psalm 146:3–5 (ESV)

Psalm 146 is Salem Lutheran School’s focus for the month of September. Our goal is to pray this psalm every day, and by the end of the month, these words should begin to settle onto our hearts. I want to encourage you, our dear members, to join us in praying Psalm 146 each day. Watch as it settles onto your heart and God’s Word springs from your lips in moments that surprise you.

The three verses I shared at the start seem especially notable for me. How easy it can be, in an election year especially, to forget these wise words of encouragement. Even the discerning Christians, who place their hope and trust in Christ Jesus alone, find the power of the political process weighing them down. In our country today, the political rhetoric becomes so riling and ridiculous that your head can start spinning. So many conversations about politics today start with the question: “can you believe...!?”

In such a time and place, we need prayers like Psalm 146. Please, go and pray the whole psalm today. Let God’s Word remind you of who your Lord Jesus Christ is. This prayer will shape you not to ignore the political questions facing us, but instead to engage with our community and our culture in an entirely new way. Imagine an election where you cast your vote hoping not for the victory of a candidate but, instead, hoping in the Lord Jesus who promises His faithfulness to you forever.

Lastly, please consider attending Dr. Joel Biermann’s lecture on October 12th, “Christian Politics: Jesus is Lord.” You can find more details at the end of the newsletter or by talking to me. We’re hoping to gather a whole group of Salem-its to attend together. We will carpool, leaving the morning of 10/12 and returning that evening before dinner. The cost is \$25 per person. Please contact the office to let us know you plan to attend.

— Pastor Schultz

Greetings in Christ,
 I would like to like to thank everyone who attended the two workdays at Swaddling Clothes, as well as those who assisted with the set up for the special back-to-school shopping day, and those who worked the back-to-school event and the regular August shopping day. These events would not have been possible without your hard work. Our August numbers surpassed any of our previous monthly numbers. Throughout the two days, we assisted 28 families with 61 children being assisted. We gave away 26 packages of diapers, 25 packages of wipes, 10 hygiene products, 2 cans of formula, 1 toddler bed with mattress, 1 car seat, 1 booster seat, 1 noise machine, 1 bouncy seat, 1 toddler bed set, bottles, bottle brushes, hooded towels, and baby blankets. We revealed our new clothing sizes (up to children's size 12) during the back-to-school night. We gave away several pairs of shoes, packages of socks, packages of underwear, school uniforms, jeans, shorts, sweatshirts, tops, and dresses, for school aged children, and nap blankets for the preschool aged children. Swaddling Clothes is beginning to look forward to fall needs. After the September shopping day, we will begin purchasing winter coats to be featured at the October and November shopping days. We thank and praise God for the blessing of serving children in our community through our Swaddling Clothes mission. Thank you for your support, Deaconess Linda Strubbe

SEPTEMBER
BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| CROW, ABBY E. | 1-Sep |
| BEARD, Madisen P. | 4-Sep |
| DAVIDSMEYER, Lennox P. | 4-Sep |
| LOVEKAMP, Shawn M. | 4-Sep |
| BRUNE, Amy M. | 5-Sep |
| DAY, Carl S. | 6-Sep |
| DOYLE, Molly M. | 6-Sep |
| WHEELER, Dora K. (Dorrie) | 6-Sep |
| STINSON, Kayleigh N. | 7-Sep |
| PETERSON, Brynli | 9-Sep |
| GEHRKE, AJ E. | 10-Sep |
| MCKEE, Roberta L. | 10-Sep |
| GEHRKE, Darin R. | 11-Sep |
| LEISCHNER, Lauren M. | 12-Sep |
| MILLER, Tina M. | 12-Sep |
| MONROE, David A. | 12-Sep |
| MONROE, James C. (Clint) | 12-Sep |
| TOMHAVE, Ashlyn | 12-Sep |
| WERRIES, Ruth A. | 12-Sep |
| ARING, Martha I. | 15-Sep |
| HADDEN, Blake W. | 16-Sep |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| PATE, Jennifer L. | 16-Sep |
| WELCH, Kaitlyn E. | 16-Sep |
| HILSABECK, Abigail R. (Abby) | 17-Sep |
| STUCKER, Jeremy C. | 17-Sep |
| PRATT, Tyler A. | 18-Sep |
| GEERS, DAVID | 19-Sep |
| GEERS, KEALONI | 19-Sep |
| HASCHEMEYER, Matilda L. | 19-Sep |
| WITHEE, Adam R. | 19-Sep |
| SCHAEFER, Reid I. | 20-Sep |
| STRUBBE, Cheryl E. | 20-Sep |
| BEZLER, Steven C. | 21-Sep |
| BOEHS, Kenneth P. | 21-Sep |
| METCALF, Cheyenne K. | 21-Sep |
| WANKEL, Michael R. (Mike) | 21-Sep |
| MAYBERRY, Jordan D. | 22-Sep |
| MAYBERRY, Samuel Q. (Quinn) | 22-Sep |
| TOMHAVE, Caroline | 23-Sep |
| WARNECK, Robbe L. | 23-Sep |
| BARROW, Alyssa L. | 24-Sep |
| CLAUSSEN, Patricia L. | 24-Sep |
| DERTZ, Griffin M. | 24-Sep |
| MOORE, Charles A. (Chuck) | 24-Sep |
| SALCIDO, Amanda R. | 25-Sep |
| TENDICK, Ryan S. | 25-Sep |
| SNIDER, Daniel C. | 26-Sep |
| SHIREMAN, Pamela S. | 27-Sep |
| HAWORTH, Joyce D. | 28-Sep |
| Schultz, Mary | 28-Sep |
| MAGELITZ, Jessica S. | 29-Sep |
| JARMAN, Carol S. | 30-Sep |

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

IN SYMPATHY: Judith Zimmer of Jacksonville passed away Monday morning, August 26th at Cedarhurst of Jacksonville. Judie is survived by her daughter, Deborah Elizabeth (Don) Janssen of Flat Rock, AL; her grandson John Gerrit Janssen of Hoover, AL; one sister-in-law, Elaine (John) Brickey of Murrayville; and many nieces and nephews. Judie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Marlin; one sister, Patricia Grant and great-nephew, Michael Barbare. Graveside funeral service was held on August 30th at Diamond Grove Cemetery. May the Lord bless all those who mourn the loss of this Loved One!

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

CHOIR AND HANDBELL: I am looking to start up the singing choir and handbell choir again. If you like singing in the shower or in your car, you can sing in the choir. If you can count to 3 or 4, you can ring handbells. If enough people show interest, I am planning a special service on December 29th that would involve Congregation, Choir and Handbells with Pastor Schultz. It is also possible to sing or ring on Thanksgiving Eve, during the Advent season or Christmas Eve. If you are interested, please contact Bruce Engebrecht either at church on Sunday or call (217)886-2009 and leave a message. Thank you, Bruce Engebrecht

DOORBELL DINNERS: Our next assigned week is September 2-6. Call Rita Tendick at 217-473-5017 to volunteer.

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

BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Schultz is starting a weekly Bible Study. If you would like to bring your dinner and have fellowship it will start at 5:15 pm and Bible Study will start at 6:00 pm. The Bible study will start on Wednesday, September 4th and the class will be over at 7:00 pm This Bible Study will be on the gospel of Mark through the fall. Please plan on attending. Thank you

MARKETING ACCOUNT: The Marketing account is used for Facebook advertising to the Community for Salem Lutheran School. The account has a negative

balance of roughly \$13,000. Would you pray about it and maybe donate an amount you feel is right towards this deficiency? Thank You

ALTAR GUILD MEETING & TRAINING: There will be a meeting and training for the Altar Guild on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come!

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR: It's time to have another church and school potluck! Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 8th. The Steinacher potluck will be from 3:00 pm on. We will eat at 5:30 pm. We will be serving Roast, Sloppy Joe's, Hot Dogs, Brats, and Chips. Table service and drinks will be provided. Please bring a friend, a dish to share and a lawn chair for sitting outside, weather permitting. We will have the potluck rain or shine. This is a wonderful time for good food and great fellowship. 2629 Woodson Franklin Road, Franklin IL. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE NUT SALE: 2024 Illinois Valley Illinois Valley Lutherans for Life Annual Nut Sale will start September 15th and run through October 13th. Nationally, Lutherans for Life is celebrating 46 years as an organization. If you value life and wish to support our mission, please help by ordering some pecans and/or other nuts from Lutherans For Life. Order forms will be available soon. If you wish to order, please fill out a form along with your payment and give it to one of the Lutherans for Life volunteers--Ruth Werries, Karen Engebrecht, Karen Tomhave or you may leave it in the office. Illinois Valley Lutherans for Life appreciates all the support you have given them in the past. Nut sale proceeds are used to help support the Pregnancy Resource Centers in Jacksonville and Rushville, to provide funding for Students for Life events and to support our national LFL office. Locally, funds are used to provide age-appropriate books and educational materials for our Lutheran School. "Thanks for supporting Life" Life is Precious! The Lutherans for Life board--Jeanne Strubbe, Gayla Hornbeek and Ruth Werries.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 5th is the Oktoberfest at Trinity Arenzville. Plan on attending!

LWML FALL RALLY: Wednesday, September 11th is the Jacksonville Zone, Fall Rally. Being held at St. John's Lutheran Church Beardstown. Please contact Elaine Jarman for more information.

FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE: The Evangelism committee has announced the Friendship Bible Class Schedule. September 16th at 6:00 pm and September 30th at 6:00 pm.

SCHOOL NEWS

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA: We had a great kick-off to the school year. Our back-to-school ice cream social with the paw patrol characters was a HUGE success! Characters greeted everyone in the fellowship hall where sorbet, root beer floats, and ice cream sundaes were served. Students and parents could meet their teachers, see their classrooms, and greet friends. Our theme this year is Endure. It comes from Hebrews 12:1-3 where we are told to run with EDURANCE the race that is set before us. Please join us for chapel on Wednesdays; 8:15 am for K-8, and 9:00 am for preschool. We are looking forward to a terrific year!



PRESCHOOL Pre-K2 News from Ms. Bethany Malone, Mrs. Mary Schultz & Mrs. Ashley Smith:

Hello Salem families, Moving into a new month is very exciting for us! I've enjoyed getting to know each one of my students and their families. I cannot wait to see what September brings for us. Last month we learned about "The baby in the basket" "Moses and Pharaoh" and "Out of Egypt" Which all follow our theme of Enduring the race that God has set before us. We also learned about the 10 commandments, The Lord's Prayers and Apostle's Creed. In Circle Time we focused on the circle, the number one and the color Red. I was very impressed to see that most of these kids already knew this information! Moving on to September we will be learning about Adam and Eve. The Bible stories we will discuss will be "God creates the world" "The Beginning" "The sneaky snake" and "Adam and Eve leave the garden" We will be looking at the 1st of the 10 commandments, the 1st line of the Lord's prayer and the 1st line of Apostle's Creed. During circle time we will review the number 1, the circle, and the color red. I will also introduce them to the number 2, Letters A and B, the square and the color yellow. I would like to thank all the parents in my class for your patience and understanding the 1st month of school! I hope everyone has a fantastic September! Thank you, Ms. Malone

PRESCHOOL Pre-K3 News from Ms. Martin &

Mrs. Stephanie Bezler: It has been a pleasure to be back at school this year! Up in the Pre-K 3 we are learning how to share, keep our hands to ourselves, as well as using our kind words with our friends. We have been discussing the theme for the school year Endure Hebrews 12:1-3. As well as other amazing stories of our God. The class is working hard in learning the 10 commandments, Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles Creed. For our lessons we have talked about the letter S & M and the numbers 3 & 7. As we have worked on the letters and numbers the class has been learning about shapes and how many sides some of them have. We are looking forward to an amazing school year and watching the students grow and learn with the word of God.



PRESCHOOL Pre-K4 Ms. Candy West & Mrs.

Khristina Seaton: We are learning our classroom rules and getting down a back-to-school routine in these first few weeks of school. The students are learning the letter formation of their first names, the numbers 1, 2, and 3 and the letters A, B, and C. The proud group of nine students have all mastered the first commandment and earned a coconut on our class palm tree that we are growing through the year. We are learning the hymn, We Praise You, Oh God and understanding the words of the Lord's Prayer.



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

It is exciting to be starting another school year. The students are already learning lots of things. We have been learning our classroom procedures, how to read with a partner, and to use a variety of learning tools such as scissors and ruler. It has been fun for the class to learn our morning, lunch, snack, and end of the day prayers. Praying throughout the day is such a wonderful way to praise God all day long! We have also been learning about when God created the world. We looked at what God did on each day. It was fun to see the class understand that God made absolutely everything! Then we learned about the first sin and how that changed things. It was exciting to see that the class wanted to tell me how Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins. We are truly blessed to be able to teach so many students here at Salem so that they can go and tell others about Jesus! Thank you for your support! God's blessings.

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

We are excited to begin another school year in Grades 3-5! The students have been working hard and are doing a fantastic job of adjusting to a new grade and learning the procedures of the classroom. In Social Studies, we are discussing the geography of the United States, as well as the continents and oceans. We have begun our unit in Biology in Science class, and will talk about the structure of cells, as well as what are the characteristics of living things. In Language Arts, we will practice our weekly spelling of words, grammar and mechanics, as well as reading and writing skills. Math class is always fun, especially when we use manipulatives to relate math concepts to real-world situations. In Art, we have discussed the color wheel and how we can use color to convey tone and meaning in artwork. Religion and Memory work focuses on important parts of the Bible and Lutheran doctrine. By the end of the year, the students will know several psalms, prayers, the 10 Commandments, and the Apostle's Creed. We are looking forward to an amazing year! God Bless, Mrs. Jackie Steinacher.

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

Middle School is off and running for this school year. We are blessed to have 5 young people who are here to learn and grow. We are learning our language arts through a series of novels this year beginning with *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. In Social Studies, we are beginning the year focusing on the government and how elections work. In Science, we are learning and experimenting with Newton's Laws of Motion. In music, we are practicing for singing in church on September 8. We have already done our first week of

volunteering at the Jacksonville Food Center. We are looking forward to a great year!



WORK PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 8/31/2023 – 07/31/2024
(From 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)

**CURRENT FINANCIAL
INDEBTEDNESS**

| 7/31/23 | 6/30/2024 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Farmers State Bank Line of Credit | |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Internal Loan from Restricted | |
| \$63,725.00 | \$0.00 |
| | LEAP |
| \$621,483.94 | \$480,696.51 |

**Financial Status Report for
June, 2024**

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Our total operating needs monthly: | \$ 59,549.42 |
| Our operating receipts June 2024: | \$ 81,985.58 |
| Our total operating needs YTD: | \$704,640.77 |
| Our total operating receipts YTD: | \$669,522.13 |
| Our Shortfall or Excess YTD: | (\$35,118.64) |