

Salem Lutheran  
Church and School

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# NOVEMBER, 2024

## Newsletter

### “Even the Gates of Hell Will Not Prevail Against It”

Imagine a world where the Bible was locked away in a language few could read, where salvation was thought to be earned through good works and indulgences, and where the true Gospel of Jesus Christ was obscured by human traditions. This was the world Martin Luther faced and began to upend in 1517. On October 31<sup>st</sup> of that year, Luther nailed his 95 Theses against the selling of indulgences to the Wittenberg Castle Church door.

Why the church door? The main door to a city's church was often used as a bulletin board. Just as we might hang up flyers in a coffee shop or in a school hallway, the church door was an essential place for sharing news and information. Luther hung these 95 Theses to ask for a disputation—a kind of academic debate—on the topic of selling forgiveness through Papal Indulgences. But here's what is strange: nobody really cared about Luther's 95 Theses. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1517—All Saint's Day—no one saw Luther's challenge as all that inflammatory. It was only later, when the 95 Theses had been printed and distributed around Germany and all of Europe, that Luther's stand against the abuse of the Pope's authority started causing problems.

Truly, October 31<sup>st</sup> isn't as dramatic of a day for the Reformation as we think. If you ever get a chance to read the 95 Theses, you'll quickly see that Luther had not yet even grasped the Gospel of Christ he would soon come to cherish above all else. The more dramatic day of Reformation came June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1530. Seven Lutheran princes came to Augsburg, Germany to present the 28 Articles of the Lutheran Confession of Faith. These seven laymen and their subjects faced death for their confession. By signing the Augsburg Confession and presenting it to the Emperor, they put their lives in his hands. These laymen held to the Word of Psalm 119:46, “I will also speak of Your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame.” Still today, the Augsburg Confession—a proposal for uniting the Roman and Lutheran Churches under the pure doctrine of Christ—has not been withdrawn. We pray and wait earnestly for our separated brothers to return. These brave men—not pastors or theologians, but faithful men of God—held fast to the Word of God. They clung to faith in Christ as the most gracious gift of

God, and they would never allow the Pope, an Emperor, or any devilish doctrine of man to strip from them the pure Gospel of Christ. Never underestimate your role in the church. The church of Jesus Christ relies on much more than preachers and over-educated theologians. Jesus Christ's church relies on Jesus. Jesus will preserve His church and the preaching of His pure Gospel until He comes again. And, in His work to preserve the church here on earth, he may just use you. One day, you may be called upon to make a confession. You may be asked to recant Christ or die. May God grant each of us the grace to holdfast to the confession of our fathers. May the testimony we give glorify the Son of God, by whose wounds we are healed.

Celebrate the Reformation on October 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm over at Our Redeemer here in Jacksonville. Pastor Kettner (St. John's in Beardstown) and his father—the other Pastor Kettner—will lead us in celebrating the Gospel of Christ still being preached today.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

Newsletter Article – November 2024

### THE CONSEQUENCES OF SHALLOW THANKFULNESS

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship. Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, “Tell grandma thank you.” This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: “Look at me! Aren't I special?” No thought at all is given to the fact that the

Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or

following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways unmindful of a broken brother's need ...

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

## **Greetings in Christ,**

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with the October shopping day. We had a great turnout. We assisted 25 families, with 52 children being assisted. We gave away 41 packages of diapers, 41 packages of wipes, and 17 baby hygiene items. We gave away 4 cans of formula, baby water, and various food items. We gave away multiple clothing items, shoes, underwear, socks, sippie cups, pacifiers, blankets, stuffed animals, spoons, sheets, toothpaste, bottles, Halloween costumes, and books. We gave away several big items including: 1 bouncer seat, 2 diaper bags, 1 bedding set, 1 stroller, and 2 digital thermometers. This month we featured winter coats, hats, and gloves. We gave away 35 winter coats.

We completed the spring/summer to winter/fall change over. We are now featuring winter clothes and will feature winter coats and seasonal clothing in November. If you wish to donate any new or lightly used winter attire, please contact me.

A reminder that the current grant will expire at the end of November, with the grant paperwork due no later than December 7, 2024. I have sent in the paperwork for the LWML CID grant. Please continue to keep the Swaddling Clothes Ministry in your prayers as we begin seeking grants for next year. If you are aware of the grants that we can apply for, please contact me. Thank you for your support, Deaconess Linda Strubbe

## **NOVEMBER** **BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES**

LAKAMP, Jason B.	1-Nov
WARCUP, Monika C.	1-Nov
BECKWITH, Brevyn A.	2-Nov
BOWMAN, Seth N.	2-Nov
HADDEN, D, Paige O.	2-Nov
MEAD, Bryson J.	2-Nov
SMITH, Amy E.	2-Nov
GEHRKE, Quinton T.	3-Nov
HART, Elizabeth G.	3-Nov
POCKLINGTON, Izabel A.	3-Nov
ROBINSON Jr., David E.	3-Nov
ROEGGE, Bruce A.	3-Nov
BERGSCHNEIDER, Sarah	4-Nov
KUNZEMAN, Brandon D.	5-Nov
MOODY, Donna J.	5-Nov
WITHEE, Breckin T.	7-Nov
WITHEE, Sophia J.	7-Nov
DAVIDSMEYER, Ryan W.	8-Nov
MOELLER, Max A.	8-Nov
RUNYON, Damon L.	8-Nov
TROWBRIDGE, Craig E.	9-Nov

WINKELMAN, Phillip J. 9-Nov  
 CROW, Kyle A. 10-Nov  
 STRUBBE, Chad E. 10-Nov  
 GOODING, Cheznie 11-Nov  
 TURNER, Dallas J. 11-Nov  
 TURNER, Dawson A. 11-Nov  
 MEFFORD, Jaime L. 12-Nov  
 REHG, Lester E. 12-Nov  
 MEFFORD, Brody M. 13-Nov  
 NIX, Josie M. 13-Nov  
 TOMHAVE, Gracie 13-Nov  
 LAKAMP, Austyn E. 14-Nov  
 MAGELITZ, R, Rachel F. 14-Nov  
 PRATT, GAIGE 14-Nov  
 RIVERS, Kelly L. 14-Nov  
 SALCIDO, John M. 14-Nov  
 VALENTINE, Stacy M. 14-Nov  
 FAIRFIELD, Sue E. 15-Nov  
 MIDDENDORF, Dwayne D. 16-Nov  
 SALCIDO, David A. 16-Nov  
 VINCENT, Retha M. 17-Nov  
 WATKINS, Jack S. 17-Nov  
 HAVENS, Abigail L. 18-Nov  
 MULLENS, PATRICIA 18-Nov  
 WATKINS, Kelsey M. 18-Nov  
 HYMES, Darryl D. 19-Nov  
 STURGEON, Charlotte V. 19-Nov  
 VINYARD, Emily A. 19-Nov  
 JARMAN, Sarah B. 20-Nov  
 PHEBUS, Laurie A. 20-Nov  
 REDD, Alyssa 20-Nov  
 DOYLE, Jason C. 21-Nov  
 MORTHOLE, Layken M. 21-Nov  
 NEWINGHAM, Linda S. 21-Nov  
 SHIREMAN, Charles H. 21-Nov  
 WINKELMAN, John C. 21-Nov  
 MOORE, Hailey D. 22-Nov  
 NORTHROP, Michael T. 22-Nov  
 GAIGE, Carson L. 25-Nov  
 LEUTZ, Jonathan M. 25-Nov  
 ALEXANDER, Myles B. 26-Nov  
 HACKER, Corey M. 26-Nov  
 WALLACE, Eric W. 26-Nov  
 DAVIDSMEYER, Michael P. 27-Nov  
 MATHIS, Vera R. 27-Nov  
 TENDICK, Randall 27-Nov  
 EVANS, Brenden T. 29-Nov  
 EVANS, Madaline M. 29-Nov

ROBINSON Jr., Edgar E. 29-Nov  
 MORROW, Macyn E. 30-Nov  
 MORROW, William D. 30-Nov

**IN SYMPATHY:** Thomas Edmond Roberts passed away Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. John's Hospital in Springfield. Thomas is survived by his wife, Cheryl Price Carl; three daughters, Shelby(Kyle) Chumley, Jennifer (Seth Smith) Evans, and Sarah (Luke Poore) Bergschneider all of Jacksonville; thirteen grandchildren, Kylie Chumley, Ella Chumley, Madaline Evans, Brenden Evans, Oliver Smith, Owen Smith, Ava Bergschneider, Charley Poore, Callan Vaniter, Jayse Vaniter, Britton Vaniter, Marnie Carl, and Waylon Carl; and two siblings, Dennis (Trudy) Roberts and Linda (deceased husband, Danny) Maddox. Graveside services was held on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at Diamond Grove Cemetery. May the Lord bless all who mourn the loss of this Loved One!

**IN SYMPATHY:** John Richard "Jack" Lukeman passed away, Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> Jack is survived by his wife, Shirley, his son (Chris (Anne) Lukeman of Champaign, sister Jane (Reg) Ankrom of Quincy, niece Alice, (Tony) Garavalia and nephew Jud (Danielle) Ankrom, both of Troy, IL. Funeral service was held on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at Church of Our Saviour in Jacksonville. Private interment will be in Calvary Cemetery in Jacksonville. May the Lord Bless those who mourn the loss of this Loved One.

## **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

**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:** If enough people show interest, I am planning a special service on December 29<sup>th</sup> 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. I want to start practice on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Bruce Engebrecht

**SPECIAL THANK OFFERING-MATCHING GIFT:** The Elders have approved a special thank offering praising God for his 166 years of blessings to Salem Lutheran Church and School. Envelopes for this Thank Offering will be available as inserts in the News and Notes from Reformation Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> through the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 24<sup>th</sup>. An anonymous member has pledged to match all gifts to the Thank Offering up to \$25,000. Therefore, the hope and prayer of the Board of Elders is that Salem's members contribute to the Thank Offering over and above their

normal weekly contributions. These contributions are designated to the General Fund. Anyone who would feel so motivated to add to the matching part of this gift is urged to contact Paula in the church office. God's Blessings to all of you during this Reformation and Thanksgiving season as we thankfully respond to all the blessings God has provided to Salem over these past 166 years. Thank you.

**DOORBELL DINNERS:** Our next assigned week is December 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 evenings 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

**FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE:** The Evangelism committee has announced the Friendship Bible Class Schedule. November 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm and November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE:** Salem Lutheran has an elderly couple looking to find someone willing to do some light housekeeping duties. They are having issues keeping up with everything. If you would like to find out more, please let the office know. Thank you.

**SALEM PTL:** Salem PTL is selling 2025 St. Louis Cardinals wall calendars again this fall. They are selling for \$20.00 each this year. Anyone interested in

ordering any let Paula know in the office or any of the Salem students.

**REFORMATION SERVICE:** There will be a joint Reformation Service on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm. Please plan on joining us. Thank you

## SCHOOL NEWS

**NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA:** October at the school saw our middle school girls playing volleyball. We partnered with ISD and were able to form a team with the two schools. They had a great experience. The first quarter ended with a fall party where students and their families bobbed for apples, had sack races and three-legged races, played hopscotch, and tic tac toe. We celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day by giving Pastor a card with all the Salem school family represented. The teachers attended the CID/SID teacher conference in Bloomington. Another successful pack the House at Leo's Pizza is in the books as well.



**PRESCHOOL Pre-K2 News from Ms. Bethany Malone, Mrs. Mary Schultz:** Hello Salem families, Welcome to October! We are very excited to be learning new topics this month like the color orange, the number 3, the letter B, the triangle, and our new bible story "David and Goliath" This month we had a visit from the local fire department for fire safety week. Our class got to see what the firemen look like in full equipment and we were able to tour the fire truck! We are learning the song "I Am Thankful" so sing in church before thanksgiving and we have started walking to the library every other Thursday! By the end of October we will have learned all 10 commandments!! We are very excited to take our 1 st fieldtrip to Market 6 at the end of this month as well as participate in our annual trunk or treat! Remember if you would like to set up a booth please contact Paula in the office! Lastly Ms. Malone's 2K class would like to wish Henry Steinacher a very Happy Birthday on 10/29/24 I hope you all have a blessed October! Thank you, Ms. Malone

### **PRESCHOOL Pre-K3 News from Ms. Martin & Mrs.**

**Stephanie Bezler:** We have finished off the first quarter of the year and we are ready rearing to keep going to learn more about God's word as well as the skills that 3-year-olds are tackling. October started off with Fire Safety week and we had a planned visit from our local Jacksonville Fire Department. With the visit the students learned about the trucks that are used in different emergency calls. The firefighters stressed that when there is a fire to get out and if you see a firefighter in all of his turn-out gear, do not be afraid for they are they to help them to safety. Our Bible stories this month are about Israel's First King, A Good Heart, David & Goliath. Learning about how God is always with us and assist in showing us the right way in life. Along with our stories the students have painted their own rocks, created their own satchel bag, watercolor painted their gift given to them by God. So far this year we have learned to recognize and write the letters to SALEM and GOD. We have started with these letters for they represent our school and the faith that leads us each and every day. Along with the alphabet the students are learning their numbers, shapes, and colors. We have planned out our first field trip as a group in Pre-k and look forward to going to visit the Market Six pumpkin patch in Concord, IL. They have so much to teach and show our students is should be a wonderful trip!!



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

**Deborah Steinacher:** October was a very busy month! We finished the first quarter of school. The quarter just flew by. We did so many exciting things. The whole school got to learn about fire safety. It was exciting for the students to see the fire house, the fire trucks, and to use the fire hose. We thank the Jacksonville Fire Department for your dedication to our safety. We also had a fall festival. The students and parents enjoyed playing a variety of games. It was fun seeing the parents and kids doing the three legged race, the sack race, hopscotch, and tic-tac-toe. The class also decorated pumpkins. We looked at a variety of funny faces and then they drew them on their pumpkins. We have also been busy decorating the halls. We have been painting with sponges, aluminum foil, and toothpicks. Each adds a different effect to their artwork. They have enjoyed looking outside at God's handiwork and then using that for their fall tree paintings. The class enjoys looking around them to notice God at work in such beautiful ways. Thank you

for your support. God's blessings.

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

**Steinacher:** Greetings from Grades 3-5! We are already in the second quarter of school! Time has flown by as we continue to learn and grow. In Social Studies, we are learning about the government and are following along with the presidential election as it comes near. We have talked about what makes a good president and why voting is important. The students have had a wonderful time learning about animals in science. We have covered a variety of different animals and how they are the same and different from each other. In Language Arts, the students have begun their second book report; this time covering a biography of a historical figure. They will also put together an accompanying slide show and give a presentation to the class. We continue to have fun in French class. This month, we talked about families and how family life is somewhat different in France. The students put together family trees to present their families to the class, all in French, of course! The students are doing well with their religion recitations, and many can recite the 10 commandments and the Apostle's Creed with little to no help. God Bless, Mrs. Jackie Steinacher.

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

Middle school is busy working on a new novel: *A Wrinkle in Time*. They are comparing the Presidential Candidates and talking points to write a persuasive essay of who people should vote for and why. They are studying electromagnetics in science. They have been working on color blending in art. In music, they are working on reading the notes of the treble clef scale and practicing the song we will sing in church in November.

**WORK PROGRAM**

**Fiscal Year 8/31/2024 – 07/31/2025**

(From 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)

**CURRENT FINANCIAL**

**INDEBTEDNESS**

<b>8/31/24</b>	<b>7/31/2025</b>
Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$0.00	\$54,693.52
Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00	\$0.00
LEAP	
\$621,483.94	\$478,203.40

**Financial Status Report for  
August, 2024**

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 63,963.20
Our operating receipts August 2024:	\$ 53,208.64
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$ 66,914.05
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$ 53,208.64
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	(\$13,705.41)