

Salem Lutheran
Church and School

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salemjax.net | salemjaxschool.net

OCTOBER, 2024

Newsletter

What is a Deaconess?

LCMS deaconesses are women who are professional church-workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith.

“Deaconess,” from the Greek word diakonos, means “servant.” Phoebe, named in Rom. 16:1-2, was a helper to Paul and others. She often is considered the first deaconess.

Where do deaconesses serve?

Deaconesses serve primarily in three settings:

Missions — both foreign and domestic;

Congregations — teaching, visiting the sick and imprisoned, or serving in family or other caring ministry; and

Institutions — serving as chaplains in hospitals, prisons, retirement communities, and facilities that care for people with developmental disabilities. In order for a deaconess to be endorsed as an LCMS institutional chaplain, she first must complete a master’s degree in theology along with four units of clinical pastoral education (CPE). As an institutional chaplain, a deaconess provides valuable spiritual care to those she encounters, complementing the Word and Sacrament ministry of an ordained pastor.

-- From **LCMS.org**

If you have ever wondered what a deaconess is and what they do, the explanation above shows how our church body thinks about the diaconal ministry. Salem finds this especially relevant since we have been blessed by Deaconess Linda Strubbe for ___ years now. Deaconess Strubbe embodies the spirit of the diaconal ministry in many ways, and I want to highlight the many wonderful ways her ministry here continues to serve our church and community. You ought to know how Christ’s name keeps being glorified through her merciful service in the Kingdom of God. And I pray you might join me in imitating her Christian faith and life. You probably already know how Deaconess Strubbe started and continues to steward our Swaddling Clothes ministry here at Salem. Each month the needy families of our area receive clothing, food, diapers, wipes, and so much more. Through Deaconess Strubbe’s unwavering commitment to Christ’s command to care for the poor, she continues to find new ways to fund this mission separately from Salem’s

yearly budget. The hours and effort she expends to fund, organize, and prepare for each month’s distribution can easily go unnoticed. What a blessing Deaconess Strubbe is to us and our Swaddling Clothes ministry. And Deaconess Strubbe does much more than this. She serves our congregation by visiting our sick and homebound members, bringing them the comforting Word of Christ and praying with our brothers and sisters. She continues to encourage the faith of our beloved members who cannot join us on Sundays. With conversation, devotions, prayers, and joy, Deaconess Strubbe brings the beautiful life of our Christian community at Salem to every visit.

And still, yes, Deaconess Strubbe does more than this. She teaches religion at our day school twice a week, instructing our students in the Christian Faith and the story of salvation told in the scriptures. She has trained and certified her lovely dog, Ellie, as a Pawprints Ministry Comfort Dog. This means that Deaconess Strubbe is always ready and available to respond to emergency situations in the area, bringing her pup to provide a source of comfort for those who struggle through emotional upheaval while she speaks the comforting Words of Christ. Deaconess Strubbe further has volunteered her time as a chaplain to the State Police. In this role, she will build relationships with Troopers and seek opportunities to provide spiritual care, comfort, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do you see? Our Deaconess has done and continues to do so much for the ministry of Jesus Christ here on earth. I am quite serious when I tell you: we all ought to follow her lead! Let me encourage you all as well. Pray for Deaconess Strubbe as she serves Christ and His church. May the Father of all mercies grant her the strength to deliver the merciful ministry of Christ and His Word to all who need Him. Grant her courage and wisdom as she serves Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. And may we all follow her just as she follows Christ. Amen! Pastor Schultz

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – October 2024

“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”¹ Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation. But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church

shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them. This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two: Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace for life and vision, for a purpose clear, For Christ Your Son, and for each human face

that shows Your message ever new and near. The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren't actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful? The LCMS defines stewardship as "the free and joyous activity of God's family — the church — in managing life's resources for His purposes." God's love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus! The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord's House. At the Lord's Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

Greetings in Christ, Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with the September shopping day. We had another good turnout. We assisted 18 families, with 36 children being assisted. We gave away 30 packages of diapers, 30 packages of wipes, 12 baby hygiene products, 1 toddler bed set, 1 car seat, 1 diaper genie, 1 potty seat, and multiple clothing items, shoes, socks, underwear, toddler plates, toddler bowls, baby utensils, sippie cups, and blankets. It is hard to believe we are getting ready for the fall/winter clothing change over. We have started shopping for winter coats, hats, gloves, and boots. We will feature winter items beginning with the October shopping day. If you wish to donate any new or lightly used winter attire, please contact me. The current grant will expire at the end of November, with the grant paperwork due no later than December 7, 2024. I will be applying for the LWML CID grant in October. Please continue to keep the Swaddling Clothes Ministry in your prayers as we move into fall and winter season. Thank you for your support, Deaconess Linda Strubbe

OCTOBER BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

GAIN, Bonnie V.	1-Oct
PRICE, ANDREA	1-Oct
PRICE, ANDREA L.	1-Oct
SCHAEFER, Reimi	2-Oct
WILSON, Megan K.	3-Oct
HANNEL, Matthew A.	4-Oct
PICKENS, Retta J.	4-Oct
LAWSON, Mary A.	5-Oct
KRICK, Brian D.	6-Oct
GARMAN, Alicia A.	7-Oct
Steinacher, Owen L.	8-Oct
CROW, LACY KAY	9-Oct
BRUNE, Debra E.	10-Oct
BRUNE, Kylie M.	10-Oct
BRUNE, Sarah N.	10-Oct
FREED, Landon A.	10-Oct
GEERS, Andrea N.	10-Oct
HANNEL, David B.	10-Oct
THIES, Linda J.	10-Oct
BAKER, Alan D.	11-Oct
AUSTIN, Vickie M.	13-Oct
CARLS, Trenton J.	13-Oct
CAMPBELL, Whitney L.	15-Oct
EVANS, Patrick M.	15-Oct
MORRIS, Robert A.	15-Oct
WELLENKAMP, Lucas	15-Oct
NAGY, MARILYN	16-Oct
RIEMER, Judith A.	16-Oct
SIEVING, Ashley J.	16-Oct
STURGEON, Matthew E.	16-Oct
FARMER, James	17-Oct
KRAUSE, Mary L.	18-Oct
PETERSON, Ryder K.	18-Oct
HOOD, Liam C. (Liam)	19-Oct
BARTLOW, Kelsey A.	20-Oct
PRATT, Logan W.	20-Oct
Shaughnessy, Evan J.	20-Oct
ENGBRECHT, Kara L.	21-Oct
LOWERY, Justin E.	22-Oct
SMITH, Bretta A.	22-Oct
SCOBIE, John A. (Alex)	23-Oct
SHIREMAN, Abigail S.	23-Oct
CHUMLEY, Ella G.	24-Oct
KING, Barbara A.	24-Oct

STRUBBE,W, Sabre M.	25-Oct
WARCUP, Karl W.	25-Oct
SCHUMACHER, Sara E.	26-Oct
WHEELER, Brittany L.	28-Oct
WILSON,B, Joshua A.	28-Oct
BEZLER, Anna G.	29-Oct
BEZLER, Emilie R.	29-Oct
FAIRFIELD, Katelyn E.	29-Oct
GREGORY, Clay	29-Oct
DAY, Elizabeth M.	30-Oct
ENGBRECHT, Bruce A.	30-Oct
TOMHAVE, Lance W.	30-Oct
MICHAEL Sr., Robert K.	31-Oct

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: 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

THANK YOU: Thank you so much for coming to the church and school potluck!!! It was so much fun seeing all of the kids playing. They were having such a great time swinging, climbing, sliding, and chasing each other. It was great to see everyone sitting around and enjoying the day, visiting, and catching up. Thanks to everyone for coming out and relaxing. It was a great way to get ready for the week.

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, October 2nd 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 \$10,000. Would you pray about if and maybe donate an amount you feel is right towards this deficiency? Thank You

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. 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 are attached to this email. 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. Nut sale proceeds are used to help support the Pregnancy Resource Centers in Jacksonville and Rushville. "Thanks for supporting Life" Life is Precious! The Lutherans for Life board--Jeanne Strubbe, Gayla Hornbeek and Ruth Werries.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY- In October, we consider why every human life is valuable and reflect on how to build a culture that protects all human life. Our annual **LIFE CHAIN** will be held on **RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY**, October 6, 2024. All pro-lifers are asked to prayerfully gather by the Ferris Wheel at the corner of Main and Morton from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Bring your lawn chair.

LLL Octoberfest: Saturday, October 5th from 4:30-6:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Arenzville. Menu includes Brats, Hot Dogs, Sauerkraut, Red Cabbage, German Potato Salad, Desserts and Homemade Root Beer. Free Will Offering. Mark your calendar.

FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE: The Evangelism committee has announced the Friendship Bible Class Schedule. October 14th at 6:00 pm and October 28th at 6:00 pm.

SCHOOL NEWS

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA: What a busy month we have had! The students enjoyed singing in church on September 8. Thank you for all the kind words for their efforts! The church and school picnic was a HUGE success! It was so fun sharing the afternoon and evening with so many people connected through Salem. Thank you to all who Packed the House at Leo's Pizza this month. It was great to see everyone enjoying fellowship after our summer break. Our character dinner was a fun night as well. We were able to raise over \$600 for the school. Our next big event will be Trunk or Treat. It would be great if some church members would decorate a "trunk/booth" in the gym for this event. The theme is "Night at the Movies." Contact the church office with the theme for your space.



PRESCHOOL Pre-K2 News from Ms. Bethany Malone, Mrs. Mary Schultz: 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" "Adam and Eve" "The sneaky snake" and "Adam and Eve leave the garden" We will be breaking down the 10 commandments, The Lord's prayer and 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 of 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: Can you believe that we are almost through the first quarter of school year already? Time is moving very fast for us here in Pre-K 3. We

have learned the letters of SALEM in sign language as we were learning the letters and their sounds in class each week. We have focused on the numbers 3, 5, & 8 for they are the most common numbers that can get confusing on young minds. With our bible story of the Beginning, we had a day of learning lead by GODs light. We did not use any overhead lights for the day and used only candlelight and the sunlight through the windows. The children have loved the discussing the first 6 days of creation and understanding what GOD created for us to enjoy each day. As a class we have started on the story of Adam & Eve and have been creating our own little Garden of Eden with the children's free art and coloring on our wall. The class was able to make their first trip of the year to our library and enjoy stories, dancing, and art with Ms. Courtney. We are having a great start to the school year and look forward to what is to come for the rest of the school year.



Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade News from Mrs. Deborah Steinacher School is going great! We are all learning so very much. This week we took a walking field trip around the church and school. We have been learning about the plants that God created for us in science. We were able to learn about some very small roots of some weeds and look at some very big roots of one of the playground trees. We were able to learn that not all leaves are the same shape or size. We also noticed that the bark of trees is home to many bugs. They also found out that the plants give off oxygen for us! They were all excited to learn about the plants! It was such fun for the class to see part of God's creation up close. Thank you for supporting our school so that our students can spread the Good News about Jesus. God's blessings to everyone.

3rd, 4th & 5th Grade News from Mrs. Jacqueline Steinacher: Greetings from Grades 3-5! We are excited for the upcoming Fall season and all of the cozy joy it brings! We have been busy working away in our class! In Social Studies, we are learning about the fascinating history of the United States. We learned about how and why the Constitution and Declaration of Independence were written and are also learning the Presidents of the United States in order. Our science unit focuses on Botany, or the study of plants. The students completed an experiment on the effect of saltwater on plant growth. Fall is the perfect season to learn about how plants change as we see these

changes in real-time with the falling leaves. In Language Arts, we continue to develop our reading comprehension skills, and the students have begun their first book report. Math class gives the students the opportunity to think critically, as we often take math concepts and relate them to real-world problems. I am excited to add French class to the curriculum this year! The students know most of the French alphabet, can count to 10, and they greet each other and ask how one another is doing in French. 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. It is amazing to see how much they have progressed in their short time in school. God Bless, Mrs. Jackie Steinacher.

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

Middle school has been busy this month! They have helped on Thursdays at the Jacksonville Food Center. They did Doorbell Dinners with Salem. They built cars using a mousetrap for a motor and raced them in front of the school and guests. This helped them to understand Newton's Laws of motion. They are learning about our government and how elections work. They have finished their first novel. They are watching the movie that was made from it and doing a comparison paper about the book verses the movie. We manage to fit in music and art as well.



WORK PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 8/31/2023 – 07/31/2024

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

CURRENT FINANCIAL

INDEBTEDNESS

7/31/23	7/31/2024
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
July, 2024**

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 59,549.42
Our operating receipts July 2024:	\$ 45,089.47
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$779,409.85
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$714,611.60
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	(\$29,679.61)