

Salem Lutheran
Church and School

Jacksonville, IL 62650 | 217-243-3419
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DECEMBER, 2024

Newsletter

“Rejoice: The Lord Is at Hand”

When was the last time you felt like rejoicing? In society today, we don't always feel like we have a lot to celebrate. Our newsfeeds are constantly filled with stories of wars, disasters, strife in our neighborhoods, illness among our loved ones. Most of us carry this conduit of “bad news” around in our pocket all day every day, and we're quick to look every time our phone dings. We even invented a new word, “doomscroll,” to describe how it feels to spend a lot of time scrolling through social media. It's no wonder that rates of anxiety and depression are skyrocketing, especially among young people.

Things were not perfect during the apostle Paul's time, either. In the Book of 2 Corinthians, Paul wrote of “a thorn ... given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me” (2 Corinthians 12:7). Later, he would be martyred for the faith in Rome. Even so, he wrote to the Christians in Philippi: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ... The Lord is at hand” (Philippians 4:4–5).

This Advent season, we rejoice because the Lord is at hand — even for us today. Jesus Christ came to earth as a baby born to the Virgin Mary some 2,000 years ago. Even though He was the Son of God, He took on human flesh and blood in order to also take on the sins of every person who would ever be born. By dying on the cross on Good Friday and rising again on Easter Sunday, He conquered sin, death and the devil — for us.

That's something truly worth celebrating! Because Jesus came, we have the assurance that God loves us and keeps us in the palm of His hand, no matter what may come. That's also why we take time during the busy month of December to study God's Word in the Bible. Take a break from doomscrolling and join us in reflecting on the enormity of what it means that God sent His Son to earth — for us. We call the Gospel message of salvation in Jesus Christ the “Good News,” but it's really the best news in the world, and it's worth sharing with everyone.

Come to your church this Advent and Christmas. While there, you'll hear the truth about God and His Son,

Jesus Christ. You will also learn about why Christians can rejoice, even amid trial and hardship. “The Lord is at hand” for us today, tomorrow and always.
In Christ Jesus,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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

Repenting of “Yours” and “Mine”

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over. But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely! The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response. Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine, that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it. But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself. That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,” assured that only what's withheld is lost.

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as

Psalm 24:1 asserts, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us. We are led to repent of the "yours" and "mine" and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.

Greetings in Christ,

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with the November shopping day, Lucille Hannel, Leta Malcott, Donna Moody, and Laretta Scheller. We had another great turnout. We assisted 25 families, with 49 children being assisted. We gave away 40 packages of diapers, 42 packages of wipes, and 15 baby hygiene items. We gave away 2 cans of formula and various food items. We gave away multiple clothing items, shoes, underwear, socks, winter coats, hats, gloves, sippy cups, blankets, toothpaste, bottles, bottle rack, and car seat mirror. This month we featured Christmas attire and dresses. We need winter baby boys clothing sizes newborn to 9 months. If you wish to donate any new or lightly used winter attire, please contact me. I will be working on finishing the paperwork for the LCMS Million Dollar Life Matching Grant this month. The final report must be in no later than December 7, 2024. We currently do not have any grant funding available to us. Please continue to keep the Swaddling Clothes Ministry in your prayers as we continue seeking grants for next year. If you are aware of grants that we can apply for, please contact me. Thank you for your support, Deaconess Linda Strubbe

DECEMBER

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

ARING, Brandon N.	1-Dec
HASCHEMEYER, Christopher	1-Dec
MCCLELLAN, Bailey E.	1-Dec
MICHAELS, Catherine I.	1-Dec
LAIR, Allison M.	3-Dec
KING, Stephen M.	5-Dec
SNIDER, Doris D.	5-Dec
STEINACHER, HENRY	5-Dec
WHITE, Erika K.	5-Dec
SIEVING, Stephanie O.	7-Dec
STEINACHER, John H.	8-Dec
BAKER, Carol A.	9-Dec
ERIXON, Brenda L.	10-Dec
FREED, Michelle B.	10-Dec

GARRETT, Michael D.	10-Dec
PETERSON, Alli B.	10-Dec
STRUBBE, Aaron C.	10-Dec
HAYNES, EMBRY T.	12-Dec
LEUTZ, Benjamin J.	12-Dec
CARL, Carol A.	13-Dec
MCCLELLAN, Rebecca S.	14-Dec
SANDERS, Zachory J.	15-Dec
CASEY, Ashley A.	17-Dec
WIEGAND, Amber N.	17-Dec
WIEGAND, Audra L.	17-Dec
BAKER, Heather	18-Dec
BAKER, Heather L.	18-Dec
BUMGARNER, Joseph M.	18-Dec
DERGES, Sarah M.	18-Dec
O'HARA, Kristy N.	18-Dec
WANKEL, Caleb M.	18-Dec
MCFADDEN, Robin L.	19-Dec
REEVES Jr., Robert W.	19-Dec
GARMAN, Nicholas A.	20-Dec
SCHAEFER, Blake R.	22-Dec
STRUBBE, W, Dalton W.	22-Dec
BLANCHETTE, Joshua P.	23-Dec
DERTZ, Jonathan M.	25-Dec
SHERRILL, Susanna L.	25-Dec
WILLIAMS-B-EDWARDS, Amy	26-Dec
CLEMONS, Tyler R.	27-Dec
CROW, Kelsie L.	27-Dec
SIEVING, Kameron A.	28-Dec
SLAVENS, Kristel N.	28-Dec
JACKSON, Donna M.	29-Dec
MATHIAS, Alexandra V.	29-Dec
GREGORY, Deborah A.	30-Dec

IN SYMPATHY: LCDR Marshall "Marty" Austin passed away Thursday, October 31st at Concordia Village Care Center, Springfield. Marty is survived by his wife Vickie, three sons; Christopher (Julie) Austin of Sherwood, OR, Alan (Jackie) Austin of Eugene, OR and Christopher (Anne) Terio of Alexandria, VA. Marty is survived by 5 grandchildren, Andrew Austin, A.J. Terio, Paige Austin, Emma Austin, and Hannah Austin. Also surviving are his brother, Robert (Cindy) Austin of Carmichael, CA and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Funeral services will be held at Concordia Village Chapel on Friday, November 8th. Burial will follow in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield where full military honors will be accorded by the U.S. Navy. May the Lord Bless all who mourn the Loss of this Loved One!

IN SYMPATHY: George Allen “Doc” Roegge passed away Saturday, November 9th at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Jacksonville. George is survived by four children, Niels (Claire) Herlevsen of Delray Beach, FL, Theresa (Marc Kahan) Herlevsen of Chicago, Michelle (Mark) Moeller and Bruce (Sara) Roegge, both of Jacksonville; six grandchildren, Zachary Roegge, Benjamin Herlevsen, Gavin Roegge, Max Moeller, Griffin Roegge, and Jack Kahan, a sister, Joy Schnitker, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by eight siblings: Lorraine Quigg (deceased husband Baird); Kenneth Roegge (surviving wife Pat); Harlan Roegge; Vera Patterson (deceased husband Bill); Frieda Hines (deceased husband Larry); Charlie Roegge; Martha Phelps (surviving husband Kenneth); David Roegge (deceased wife, Judy). Funeral service was held at 10 am on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at Salem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville with burial at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Arenzville, IL. May the Lord Bless all who mourn the Loss of this Loved One!

IN SYMPATHY: Thomas “Tom” Turley passed away on Thursday, October 10th in Pace, FL formerly of Loami. Tom is survived by his wife, Debbie; sons, Tom (Sarah) Turley and Tim (Rachel) “Tom’s Bestie”) Turley; grandchildren Breanna (Daniel) Hale, Taylor Turley, and Trenton Turley; one great-granddaughter on the way; step-grandchildren, Rick and Parker; siblings, James (Jacqui) Turley, Margaret (Charles) Baumgardner, Diana Crow, Deon (Theresa) Nation, Letha (James) Jessie, and Wally (Johna) Nation; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Memorial Gathering and Ceremony was held on Saturday, November 9th at Butler Funeral Home – Chatham. Private family funeral will be held at a later date. May the Lord Bless all who mourn the Loss of this Loved One!

IN SYMPATHY: Jacklyn Sue Becker passed away Thursday, October 31st. Jacklyn is survived by her husband, Reece Becker and her son Warner Alan Becker; her parent, Rebecca (James) Stocker of Jacksonville. Her grandparents, Shirley Cook and James and Pat Robson all of Jacksonville and Ray and Ellen Stocker of Arenzville; her father and mother-in-law, Marc and Vikkie Becker of Alexander, several aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father, Bruce Robson and her grandfather, Charles Cook. Memorial service was held on Wednesday, November 6th at Williamson Funeral Home. May the Lord Bless all who mourn the Loss of this Loved One!

A Note from the Music Director: Happy New Year! December 1st is the beginning of a new Church Year with the 1st Sunday in Advent. During the month of December, worship will be on Sunday with special music on December 8th by the Handbell Choir and December 15th by the Voice Choir. On Wednesday

night at 6:00 pm, we will have Advent Services with December 4th theme on Zechariah and on December 11th theme on Elizabeth. December 18th at 6:00 pm will be the School Christmas Service. On Christmas Eve we will have 2 services at 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm with a 12 minute extended prelude of Christmas Music before each service. On Christmas Day, come join us at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall for coffee, hot chocolate and cookies as we welcome our Savior birth. At 9:45 am we will have a sing along of your favorite Christmas Hymns before processing to the church for the Christmas Day Worship service. On December 29th, the Handbell and Voice Choir will join with the congregation for a Service of Lessons and Carols. Have a blessed holiday season as we welcome the birth of our Savior.

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.

COOKIE WALK: The Salem Lutheran annual cookie walk will be held Saturday, December 7th from 10-12. Please plan on attending.

DRIVE THRU NATIVITY: Zion Lutheran Church in Pleasant Plains will be hosting a Drive-thru Living Nativity. It will be held the first Sunday in Advent, Sunday, Dec 1, 5:00-7:00. Please bring your family and friends and help us usher in Advent Season.

ELDERS GENERAL RESULTS: The results of last week’s Elders general election are as follows: Randy Lawson, David Hannel, Roger Ward and Wade Mathis. We want to thank you for your votes and these men serving as our newly elected Elders. Thank you

SPECIAL THANK OFFERING-MATCHING GIFT: WOW! Salem Lutheran you met the match and went over! Great. As of Sunday, November 10th we have collected \$41,105.55. Great job, Praise the Lord!

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

FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE: The Evangelism committee has announced the Friendship Bible Class Schedule. December 2nd at 6:00 pm and December 16th Christmas Party at 6:30 pm.

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.

FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE: The Evangelism committee has announced the Friendship Bible Class Schedule. December 2nd at 6:00 pm and December 16th Christmas Party at 6:30 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.

DESSERTS NEEDED: We are in need of desserts for the upcoming Deck the Halls and Luncheon Too! which will be held December 8th from 11:30 – 2:00 pm. If you can make a dessert for the event, please contact the office or Jackie Steinacher at (217)461-0096. Thank You

LWML CID MISSION GRANT #4: Bibles for All - \$5,000. Lutheran High School in Springfield wants to provide a Concordia Self-Study Bible for each of their students. In daily use, the variety of Bibles now used leads to confusion and many potential misinterpretations. These fund will be used to purchase 125 Bibles through CPH for the Lutheran High School students.

SCHOOL NEWS

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JOY REITSMA: What a busy time of year! Our students are always on the go! Preschool went on a field trip to Market 6 Farms. They had a great time meeting the animals, painting pumpkins and learning about the farm. We are now co-oping with ISD for boy's basketball. Be sure to check out the school newsletters for game times! The school's chapel ministry for 2nd quarter is the Food Center. We collected food for the Christmas boxes they give out. On Nov. 20, we had a building contest with the food we got, and then walked over as a school to deliver the food to the center. We also were gifted with Beginner Bibles for our new preschool students. We gave them out at the Nov. 20 chapel

service. It was a busy but fun day! Middle School has begun work on their auction project. They are working with Gold Leaf Gallery to make the clay parts of the project. They went on a field trip to begin work this month. We were also blessed to sing in church on Nov. 24. What a blessing to share our song with the congregation! There was signing of the song by the 3-year-olds and showing of what they are thankful for by the k-8 grade students. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we are SOOOO thankful for YOU- our Salem Lutheran Family!



PRESCHOOL Pre-K2 News from Ms. Bethany Malone, Mrs. Mary Schultz: Hello Salem families, Welcome to December! We are very excited to be learning new topics this month like the color Green, the number 5, the letter E, the Rectangle, and our new bible story theme "The Birth of Christ" This month we will be putting on a school led Christmas Advent Service on Dec. 18th at 6p.m! Ms. Malone's class will be angels so please try to plan for a white outfit. We are learning the songs "Emmanuel" "Jesus means Christmas to me" "While Shepherds Watched Their Flock" "Angels from the Realm of Glory" and "Sing we now of Christmas" for our program! We had so much fun learning "I Am Thankful" which makes me very excited to see how they perform for this event! Lastly Ms. Malone's 2K class would like to wish Carson Sipes a very Happy Birthday on 12/6/2024 I hope you all have a blessed December! Thank you, Ms. Malone

PRESCHOOL Pre-K3 News from Ms. Martin & Mrs. Stephanie Bezler: This school year is flying by! We've already finished November, and we've been learning about thankfulness and who and what we're thankful for. The kids did a fantastic job collecting non-perishable food items for the Jacksonville Food Center before Thanksgiving break. Our class collected the most items and won doughnuts and juice for a Friday morning snack! We've been discussing the Bible stories "A Fisherman's Net" and "Jesus Feeds Thousands" from our Children's Bible. The kids

have learned that caring means sharing and being thankful for what we have. They've also enjoyed learning the song "I am thankful" by Angie Killian and the sign language to perform for the church congregation. During free time, the students have been using our scissor sensory tub to practice cutting paper and develop their fine motor skills. We've also done some creative art projects, including rolling ball painting, pom-pom ball painting, and putting together a pig face to go with the "If You Give a Pig a..." books. We have some exciting plans for December, including lessons on the birth of Christ.

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

Deborah Steinacher: November is a wonderful month! The weather is perfect for being outside and enjoying God's wonderful creation. We have been busy looking around us and thinking of so many things we are thankful for. The class made pictures and wrote in their journals about what they were thankful for. It was great to see that they were thankful for their family and friends, church, Salem, Pastor, their teachers, food, their house, a warm place to sleep, and that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. They have also been decorating the halls with lots of fall projects. They love expressing their ideas through art! They are getting excited for the children's Christmas service. They like being able to tell everyone the Good News about the birth of Jesus. Thank you for your support. God's blessings.

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

Steinacher Greetings from Grades 3-5! We prepare for the upcoming Christmas season by singing songs of joy and anticipation for the birth of our Lord! The students recently performed Reader's Theatre in Language Arts. They recited poetry readings as well as an entertaining skit about a pirate. We related the skits to the literary elements we have learned in class. In Social Studies, we are learning about the economy. The students have learned how to differentiate between needs and wants and goods and services. At the end of the unit, the students will create a mock business plan and present their plan to the class. We continue to have fun in French class. This month, we will learn to count to 20, the months of the year, and how to form questions in French. Thus far, they have learned the French alphabet, days of the week, basic colors, and how to greet people and answer basic questions. The students are doing well with their religion recitations, and can recite the 10 commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Luther's Morning Prayer. God Bless, Mrs. Jackie Steinacher.

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

Middle School is busy as usual. They started a new novel study: *Little Women* in Language Arts. They are also learning to diagram sentences to better learn the parts of speech in the English language. They continue to delve deeper into abstract math and algebraic thinking in math class. In Science, they concluded their unit on electromagnets and are getting ready for the next unit. In Social Studies, they are working through the Middle Ages. In art, they have worked on shading and vortex patterns. In music, they are focused on learning music and parts for the Christmas Advent Service. They continue to volunteer at the Food Center every Tuesday.

<u>WORK PROGRAM</u>	
Fiscal Year 8/31/2024 – 07/31/2025	
(From 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)	
CURRENT FINANCIAL	
INDEBTEDNESS	
8/31/24	7/31/2025
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	
September, 2024	
Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 63,963.20
Our operating receipts September 2024:	\$ 51,029.40
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$ 136,281.80
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$ 104,238.04
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	(\$ 18,338.35)

