



The Transfiguration of our Lord

Sunday, February 15, 2026

9 a.m. Divine Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class

Rev. Jonah J. A. Schultz, Pastor

Deaconess Linda Strubbe | Principal Joy Reitsma | Music Director Bruce Engebrecht

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The Feast of the Transfiguration

Matthew 17:8 – “And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.” Jesus is enough. Moses and Elijah point to Jesus and are happy to fade into the background. With our eyes focused on Him and Him alone, the rest of our lives come into focus. He is primary, all else secondary. When that order is right in our lives, things truly fall into place.

The Sacrament of the Altar

In the Divine Service, we eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and hell, and life everlasting. This meal is much more than a symbol or expression of faith. It’s the substantial Son of God giving Himself—His own body and blood—to His people. With deep thankfulness for Jesus Christ’s gifts to us here at Salem, we desire to celebrate the Holy Communion according to our heavenly Father’s Will. Because this includes oneness in the faith we confess (doctrine), guests who desire to commune and confess Christ’s Truth with us are asked to speak with Pastor before the service.

Alleluia, Song of Gladness – A Lenten Farewell to Alleluia

As we stand on the threshold of Lent, the weight of our sins calls us to lay aside that brightest word of praise—Alleluia. We remember the transgressions that nailed our Savior to the cross, and so we sing not triumph yet, but sorrowful repentance: “Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions” (Psalm 51:1).

This is the heart of Lent: tears of genuine grief over what our sins cost Him, mingled with quiet trust in the salvation He won through His death and resurrection. Along this somber road to Calvary, the Church buries her Alleluia. No joyful shouts ring out in our worship; they are silenced until the stone is rolled away.

Yet today—this final Sunday before Ash Wednesday—we get to sing our Alleluia one last glorious time. We bid it a fond, temporary farewell, knowing full well it will return even louder and sweeter.

For though Lent invites us to a subdued and penitential joy, Easter is coming. In just forty short days we will gather once more at the empty tomb and the silence will shatter:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Collect of the Day

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:8–18

⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8



Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name; *
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

Epistle

2 Peter 1:16–21

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

- Salem School Chapel at 9:20 a.m. Join us to sing, pray, and hear Christ's Word with our students.
- Today's Altar Flowers were given by Bruce & Ruth Engebrecht in Celebration of Transfiguration Sunday.
- Today's Radio Broadcast was Sponsored by Bruce & Ruth Engebrecht in Celebration of Transfiguration Sunday.
- Wednesday morning Bible Study with Pastor Schultz at 10am. Join us in building upon the solid rock of Christ together.
- Join your Salem family at Wednesday Evening Prayer services - 5:30 p.m.
- Voters Meeting will be held today after church in the cafeteria following the Sunday School opening.
- **MOVED TO SALEM LUTHERAN: Worship Institute: February 15th** Our Redeemer Jacksonville, IL. Pastor Dierks presents: "We do these things for a reason" Worship invites us to actively participate rather than simply watch. Liturgy and outward practices are designed to fully involve our hearts, souls, minds, bodies, and senses—uniting us with all of heaven. These traditions carry meaning that goes beyond mere routine. Join us February 15th: Divine service at 2pm, class from 3–4:30pm, potluck at 4:30pm, and Evening prayer at 5:30–6pm.

- Friendship Bible Study: is scheduled for Monday February 16th at 6pm
- Cajun Mission Meal – You are invited to celebrate “Fat Monday” with us on Monday, February 16, 4:30-7:00 at St. John's Lutheran, Bath. You are invited to enjoy a wide variety of Cajun food. and at the same time support our District's work with Spanish speaking people offering services at St. John's Lutheran Church of Beardstown, Illinois. The menu will include: jambalaya, gumbo, and a variety of Cajun food all for a free will offering. The church's address is: 10844 N Co Rd 1400E, Bath, IL 62617.)
- Burning of the Palms: Tuesday February 17th at 9:00am, we will have the burning of the palms. This is a tradition of burning the palm branches from Palm Sunday to create the ashes that will be used on Ash Wednesday. Please join us.
- LENTEN SUPPERS: We are planning on Lenten Suppers for the upcoming Lent season. The date for Lent starts on February 18th and runs through April 2nd. We have a sign sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you would like to participate, please sign up. Thank you.
- Elders Meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday February 24th at 6:30pm

- Lay Men's Confessions Study: Join us for a joint study of the Book of Concord led by Rev. Kettner of St. John's, Beardstown and Rev. Schultz. We meet monthly at the Mathis house in Arenzville for study and beer at 6:30pm. Our next meeting is Feb. 20th. Join brothers from area congregations as we learn what it means to stand firm in the faith and live Christ's truth in our vocations each day.
- Saturday, February 28th, we will be hosting a Preview Day at 10:00 a.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for prospective families to ask questions and learn more about our school community.
- Salem's Annual Spring Dinner & Auction: Salem Lutheran School is currently accepting donations for its Annual Spring Dinner & Auction, scheduled for Saturday, March 21st. All donated items should be dropped off by March 8th. For further information or questions, please contact David Hannel at (217) 491-0722.

Illinois Pro-Life March March 19, 2026 • Springfield, IL

- Matins at Trinity Lutheran at 11 AM (220 S Second St.)
- Lunch available between Matins and the Rally/March (at the Statehouse Inn). A donation will be collected to help cover the cost of the lunch.
- The Rally will be held at the Lincoln Statue in front of the Illinois Capitol Building at 1 PM
- The March begins following the Rally, at 2 PM, from the Lincoln Statue heading north on Second St.
- Attendees are encouraged to consider going to lobby their state legislator and senator following the March
- Automobile parking is available in the west parking lot of the Statehouse Inn (101 E Adams)

Our 2026 Elders Officers

Chairman – John Tomhave
Vice Chairman – Kevin Eckhoff
Treasure – Paul Reither
Secretary – David Hannel

Elders

Chris Haschemeyer
Steve Schaefer
Bruce Engebrecht
Wade Mathis
Dennis Jarman
Mike Krause
Roger Ward
Randy Lawson

SALEM LUTHERAN



CHURCH & SCHOOL

Week of February 8th

Attendance	118
Communion	98
Operating	\$12,119.00
Leap	\$ 570.00
Restricted	\$ 8,292.37

Prayer List

Members and friends in need of prayer: Stephanie Bezler, Anne Chelet, Behr (Theo) Haney, Kimberly Hendricks, David Monroe, Rosemary Vortman, Roberta Mckee, Carole Holt, Dwayne Middendorf, Evengeline Martin, Phil Carl, Bob Morris, Ron Hudec, Steve Bahney, Arliss Wenzel, Benjamin Elmore, Donna Moody, Mary Acton, Ben Edwards, Rick and Kristen Halsey.

Please contact the church office to be added/removed from the Prayer List.

Salem is a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. **lcms.org**

2026 February – March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>February 15</p> <p>Divine Service & Communion - 9:00am</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am</p> <p>Congregation Voters Meeting - 10:30am</p>	<p>February 16</p> <p>Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm</p>	<p>February 17</p> <p>Burning of the Palms 9:00am</p>	<p>February 18</p> <p>School Chapel - 9:20am</p> <p>Bible Study - 10:00am</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Meal - 5:30pm</p> <p>Service - 6:30pm</p>	<p>February 19</p> <p>Leo's Pack the House Night</p>	<p>February 20</p> <p>Lay Men's Confessions Study - 6:30pm</p>	<p>February 21</p>
<p>February 22</p> <p>Divine Service & Communion - 9:00am</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am</p>	<p>February 23</p>	<p>February 24</p> <p>Elders Meeting - 6:30pm</p>	<p>February 25</p> <p>School Chapel - 9:20am</p> <p>Bible Study - 10:00am</p> <p>Lenten</p> <p>Meal - 5:30pm</p> <p>Service - 6:30pm</p>	<p>February 26</p>	<p>February 27</p>	<p>February 28</p> <p>School Preview Day 10:00am</p>
<p>March 1</p> <p>Divine Service & Communion - 9:00am</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am</p>	<p>March 2</p> <p>Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm</p>	<p>March 3</p>	<p>March 4</p> <p>School Chapel - 9:20am</p> <p>Bible Study - 10:00am</p> <p>Lenten</p> <p>Meal - 5:30pm</p> <p>Service - 6:30pm</p>	<p>March 5</p>	<p>March 6</p>	<p>March 7</p>
<p>March 8</p> <p>Divine Service & Communion - 9:00am</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am</p>	<p>March 9</p>	<p>March 10</p>	<p>March 11</p> <p>School Chapel - 9:20am</p> <p>Bible Study - 10:00am</p> <p>Lenten</p> <p>Meal - 5:30pm</p> <p>Service - 6:30pm</p>	<p>March 12</p>	<p>March 13</p>	<p>March 14</p>
<p>March 15</p> <p>Divine Service & Communion - 9:00am</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am</p>	<p>March 16</p> <p>Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm</p> <p>LWML Meeting - 3:00pm</p>	<p>March 17</p>	<p>March 18</p> <p>School Chapel - 9:20am</p> <p>Bible Study - 10:00am</p> <p>Lenten</p> <p>Meal - 5:30pm</p> <p>Service - 6:30pm</p>	<p>March 19</p> <p>Illinois Pro Life March</p> <p>Leo's Pack the House Night</p>	<p>March 20</p>	<p>March 21</p> <p>Salem's Annual Spring Dinner & Auction 4-6pm</p>