



First Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 22, 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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Lent 1a

Matthew 4:7 – “Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written...’” Jesus defeats Satan in our place, not by using His power as God, but by His perfect obedience in His perfect humanity. Jesus defeats Satan not by miracles, but by quoting the Scriptures and living according to them. This should cause us great joy for two reasons. First, we see Jesus win the victory for us. Second, Jesus shows us how to stand in that victory: on the Word of God alone.

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.

What is Lent?

In the season of Lent, the Church's liturgy takes on a distinctly somber and repentant tone. Violet drapes the altar and Pastor, a hue long linked to sorrow, humility, and penance. The joyful Hymn of Praise (Gloria) falls silent, and the word "Alleluia"—that exuberant cry "Praise the Lord"—is set aside throughout these forty days. This deliberate absence creates a quiet void. The restraint builds anticipation, so that our "Alleluias" can resound with fresh, unrestrained Easter delight.

In the early Church, Lent served as an intense period of formation for those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil. The timing was no coincidence: the season's focus on Christ's death and rising mirrored the very mystery enacted in baptism, where believers die to sin and rise to new life in union with Christ (Romans 6:1–11).

Thus, Lent invites more than somber reflection on Christ's suffering for our sake. It also beckons every baptized Christian to return to the font—to ponder anew the meaning of their own baptism and what it truly calls them to as God's beloved children, living out that renewed life in daily faithfulness. May your Lent be full of prayer, repentance, and Christ drawing you ever closer to Himself.

Service Notes and Propers of the Day

Order of Service	LSB 184, Divine Service, Setting Three
Hymn of Invocation	521 Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken
Hymn of the Day	656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Offering	561 The Tree of Life
Distribution	424 O Christ, You Walked the Road
Hymns	602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives 746 Through Jesus' Blood and Merit
Hymn to Depart	418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Introit

Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16



When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;*
I will rescue him and | honor him.
With long life I will sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.
Because you have made the Lord your | dwelling place—*
the Most High, who is my | refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.
For he will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
On their hands they will | bear you up,*
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the | adder;*
the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Collect of the Day

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:1-21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat

all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of
all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of
skins and clothed them.

Gradual Hebrews 12:2



[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- |
ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle

Romans 5:12–19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,"

and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to

him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,
 "You shall worship the Lord your God
 and him only shall you serve."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

News and Notes

Feb. 22, 2026

- Salem School Chapel at 9:20 a.m. Join us to sing, pray, and hear Christ's Word with our students.
- 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 Lenten Meal – 5:30pm & Service - 6:30 p.m.
- THANK YOU: We would like to thank everyone at Salem for all the cards, flowers, food and prayers during our difficult time of losing Judy Riemer. You have been so thoughtful and caring, and to the Ladies Guild, thank you for the delicious dinner. We appreciate everybody and everything done for us. From the family of Judy Riemer
- Elders Meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday February 24th at 6:30pm
- 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. Please sign up to make a meal. Thank you.

- 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 Mar. 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.
- Friendship Bible Study: is scheduled for Monday March 2nd at 6pm
- LWML Meeting: There will be an LWML meeting on Monday, March 16th at 3:00 pm here at Salem.
- 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.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR LENT/EASTER

- Feb. 25th Meal -- 5:30 pm
Lenten Evening Prayer – 6:30 pm / Pastor Schultz
- Mar. 4th Meal – 5:30 pm
Lenten Evening Prayer – 6:30 pm / Pastor Kettner
- Mar. 11th Meal – 5:30 pm
Lenten Evening Prayer – 6:30 pm / Pastor Dierks
- Mar. 18th Meal – 5:30 pm
Lenten Evening Prayer – 6:30 pm / Pastor Heinze
- Mar. 25th Meal – 5:30 pm
Lenten Evening Prayer – 6:30 pm / Pastor Lesemann
- Mar. 29th Palm Sunday -- 9:00 am Divine Service
- Mar. 30th Prayer Service for St. Matthew's Passion – 12:00 pm
- Mar. 31st Prayer Service for St. Mark's Passion -- 12:00 pm
- Apr. 1st Prayer Service for St. Luke's Passion – 12:00 pm
- Apr. 2nd Closing Holy Week Chapel – 12:00 pm
Maundy Thursday – 6:30 pm
- Apr. 3rd Good Friday -- 6:30 pm
- Apr. 4th Cook Out, Fun, Fellowship --- 4:30 (starts)
Easter Vigil -- 6:30 pm
- Apr. 5th The Resurrection of our Lord 9:00 am Divine Service
- Apr. 8th Easter Wednesday Divine Service – 6:00 pm

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	121
Communion	96
Operating	\$ 12,873.15
Leap	\$ 125.00
Restricted	\$ 3,711.27

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)

Prayer List

Members and friends in need of prayer: Stephanie Bezler, Anne Chelet, Kimberly Hendricks, David Monroe, 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, Caroline Hadden.

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
February 22 Divine Service & Communion -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	February 23	February 24 Elders Meeting - 6:30pm	February 25 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am Lenten Meal - 5:30pm Service - 6:30pm	February 26	February 27	February 28 School Preview Day 10:00am
March 1 Divine Service & Communion -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	March 2 Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	March 3	March 4 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am Lenten Meal - 5:30pm Service - 6:30pm	March 5	March 6	March 7
March 8 Divine Service & Communion -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	March 9	March 10	March 11 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am Lenten Meal - 5:30pm Service - 6:30pm	March 12	March 13	March 14
March 15 Divine Service & Communion -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	March 16 LWML Meeting - 3:00pm Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	March 17	March 18 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am Lenten Meal - 5:30pm Service - 6:30pm	March 19 Illinois Pro Life March Leo's Pack the House Night	March 20	March 21 Salem's Annual Spring Dinner & Auction 4-6pm
March 22 Divine Service & Communion -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	March 23	March 24 PTL Meeting - 5:30pm	March 25 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am Lenten Meal - 5:30pm Service - 6:30pm	March 26	March 27	March 28 LWML prayer breakfast