



April 2026 Salem Lutheran Church Newsletter

The Great 50 Days

BY REV. JONAH SCHULTZ

The season of Easter dawns this month. The Resurrection of our Lord does not remain alone, but the great celebration of Christ's victory over death begins an entire 50 days of joy, feasting, and celebration. Notice, the feast extends longer than the 40 day fast of Lent. In the same way, our Easter hope looks forward to a feast that never ends—much longer than this poor life of labor.

The Easter season extends from the Resurrection festival all the way to Pentecost. Along the way, we observe the Ascension of our Lord 40 days after the resurrection.

(This year we will again join with our brothers and sisters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Arenzville to celebrate together.) During this season of Easter, the gold and white of life and majesty adorn the altar, chancel, and pastor. The liturgy blossoms with the “Alleluias” we fasted from throughout our Lenten preparation. Our songs ring with joy as our present and future come together in the victorious Jesus Christ who continues to give of Himself for His people—you!

Perhaps the world will take the witness of the church more seriously if we let this Easter triumph and joy seep into more of our lives. Through these great 50 days of celebration, do not leave your “Alleluias” in the sanctuary. Keep the resurrection hope a constant in the music you hum, sing, and listen to.

There is no better time of the year to bring your Sunday morning experience into your Monday reality. Easter is not just one day in the Spring. The Resurrection of our Lord is the Christian's every day reality. Grab hold of your hope in Jesus Christ and let the world see how we Christians celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb and His Kingdom which has no end! Let us pray in gratitude to our heavenly Father together:
O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Swaddling Clothes

Next Shopping Day
April 14, 12:30-2:30



Greetings in Christ,

Thank you to Rita Tendick, Ruth Engebrecht, Mike Krause, Mary Krause, Leta Mallicott, Lucille Hannel, and Cheri Haney who volunteered to assist with the Swaddling Clothes March shopping day. We will be hosting our April shopping day on April 14th. Please let me know if you are available to assist in April.

We had a workday on March 24th from 12:30pm – 2:30pm to complete the seasonal change out. We put out the spring and summer clothing and boxed up some of the fall and winter items. Thank you to Leta Mallicott, Lucille Hannel, and Cheri Haney for assisting with that.

We still have some general straightening to complete before the April shopping day.

We had seven new clients sign up at our March shopping day. We assisted 41 families, with 95 children being assisted. We gave away 66 packages of diapers, and 66 packages of wipes. We also gave away formula and various food items. We gave away multiple clothing items, shoes, boots, underwear, socks, spring jackets, crib sheets, blankets, toothpaste, bottles, and pacifiers. We gave away several “big items” which included: a toddler bed and mattress, 2 diaper bags, and 2 car seats.

We are still seeking someone who speaks French who would be

willing to assist us with translation at our shopping days. Approximately one-third of our clients are French speaking, and it is difficult for us to communicate with them. We would like to survey their physical and spiritual needs. If you know of anyone who speaks French and is willing to assist, please contact me. I have contacted Illinois College to see if they have any students who are studying French who may be able to assist and am waiting on a response. Please continue to keep the Swaddling Clothes Ministry and the families who use this service in your prayers.

Thank you for your support,
Deaconess Linda Strubbe

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH BIBLE STUDIES, MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meetings

Committee Meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday April 14th at 6:30pm

PTL Meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday April 21st at 5:30pm

Elders Meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday April 28th at 6:30pm

LWML Meeting: There will be an LWML meeting on Monday, May 18th at 3:00pm here at Salem

Bible Studies

Wednesday morning Bible Study with Pastor Schultz at 10am. Join us in building upon the solid rock of Christ together.

Friendship Bible Study is scheduled for Monday April 13th & 27th at 6pm

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 Apr. 17th. 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.

Thank you to all who donated and helped with the auction this year. We raised an estimated \$10,000, with \$1,800 of that going toward the PTL

LWML District Convention

The 81st Annual Convention of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) will be held Saturday, April 25th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1 Bachrach Dr, Decatur. The theme is based on Isaiah 60:20 - 'for the Lord will be your Everlasting Light'. Speakers will be Martha Dahlke, LCML Mission Advancement and Linda Guterres, LWML Vice President of Communications. Important voting will concern convention timing, a mite mission goal & grants, officers and bylaws changes. Additional invitation information may be found at www.lwmlid.org or from your local LWML group.

Come Join us April 4th for a Cookout, Fun, & Fellowship at 4:30pm and the Easter Vigil at 6:30pm

Renewal Time

It is time to renew/subscribe to the Lutheran Witness. The June/July issue will be combined so there will only be 11 magazines mailed. The yearly price for 2026 is \$23.50 per year. If you would like to renew/subscribe, please let the office know. We will need payment and your mailing address by May 1st. Thank you!

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5th from 7:30 am to 9:00 am will be our Easter Breakfast. Serving Biscuits and Gravy, Egg Casserole, Sausage. Donation for sweets gratefully accepted, please bring your donation to the cafeteria on Saturday, April 4th from 4:30pm - 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending. Thank you

We Are Fearless With Jesus!

Vacation Bible School will be taking place on July 8-10 from 8-11 am each day and we need your help. If you are able to help in any of the following roles, please talk to Joely Dolen or Mary Schultz

- Group leader (supervising children and taking them to each station)
- Game leader (materials and game instructions provided)
- Craft leader (materials and craft instructions provided)
- Signing children in and out
- Taking pictures

SALEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Little Hoopers

Our first Little Hoopers program was a success, and students enjoyed learning the fundamentals of basketball while having fun each week. Thank you Darin Gehrke and Wade Mathis for bringing this fun Program to Salem Lutheran School.



Donuts with Dad

Donuts with Dad was a wonderful success, bringing smiles, conversations, and meaningful moments for our students and their families.



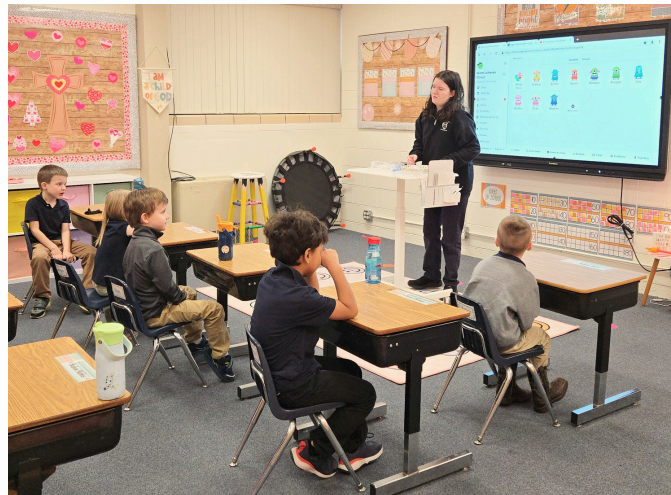
Isaiah 54:13

"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children."



Student Teaching

Our 3rd-8th grade students shared a Bible lesson and a fun, hands-on activity with our kindergarten and Pre-K4 classes. They did a wonderful job leading and serving our younger students.



KINDERGARTEN SIGNING DAY

Kindergarten Signing Day was a success, and we look forward to nurturing our new kindergarten students as they grow in faith, knowledge, and confidence here at Salem Lutheran School.



Lunch with a Cop

Our 1st-5th grade students have had the opportunity to enjoy Lunch with a Cop throughout February and March, with a few more scheduled in April. This has been a meaningful and memorable experience for our students.

Message from the Principal

What a blessing it is to be at Salem! The growth we are experiencing in our school shows that following the Lord, planning, and working together as a church and school community pays off! We are blessed to be welcoming 85 students at present onto our campus next year. We can still add 13 more preschool students. We have 38 K-8th grade students and can welcome more in grades 1-8. Our kindergarten is already full! The gift that this congregation is giving students to attend regular school at a discount is amazing! THANK YOU for your willingness to share God's love with these children and make it available to all those who desire a Christian education. Please continue to lift our students and teachers up in prayer as we complete our school year.

- Principal Joy Reitsma

SALEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

Leos Pack the House

Pack the House Night is **Thursday, April 16!** Join us at Leo's Pizza—dine in or order to go—and be sure to let them know you're with Salem Lutheran Church & School when you order. A portion of all sales will be donated back to Salem, so come enjoy great food while supporting our school!



Coin Wars

Salem Lutheran School Coin Wars is kicking off **April 27** and runs through **May 1!** We invite everyone to join the fun and support our school by donating coins. Please drop off your coin donations in the main hallway. Thank you for your generosity and support!



Come and see our individual and classroom talent showcase, along with our display of students' themed artwork on **Thursday, April 23rd, at 6:00 PM.** Join us for an evening filled with creativity, music, and artistic expression as we celebrate the diverse talents of our students. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the performances and view the unique art pieces created.



Spring Break

Spring Break Reminder: School will begin Spring Break on **Thursday, April 2,** with an **early dismissal at 12:00 p.m.** Students will return to school on **Monday, April 13.** We hope everyone enjoys a safe and restful break!

Prayer

*Lord, be the one who
teaches and shapes
my child's heart.
Fill their life with
Your perfect peace.*

Salem Students Sing in Church

Come join us for service on **Sunday, April 26th,** where our school students will sing in church. We look forward to welcoming everyone to this special occasion and sharing the joy of music together.





Those Who Serve

LECTORS

April 5th

9:00AM
Kevin Eckhoff

April 12th

9:00AM
Darin Gehrke

April 19th

9:00AM
Paul Reither

April 26th

9:00AM
Mike Krause

SERVERS

April 5th

Randy Lawson
Kevin Eckhoff

April 12th

Mike Krause
Paul Reither

April 19th

Dennis Jarman
Kyle Schumacher

April 26th

Mike Krause
Paul Reither

ALTAR GUILD

April 5th - Set up

Lydia Mathis

Clean up

Michelle Moeller

April 12th - Set up

Audrey Brown

Clean up

Monika Warcup

Bonnie Gain

April 19th - Set up

Vicki Middendorf

Clean up

Vicki Middendorf

April 26th - Set up

Angie Havens

Clean up

Angie Havens

CANDLES

Diana Monroe

LINENS

Lucille Hannel

RADIO TECHNICIAN

April 5th

Roger Ward

April 12th

Kevin Eckhoff

April 19th

Kevin Eckhoff

April 26th

Roger Ward

KEY MAN

April 5th - April 11th

Richard Aring

April 12th - April 18th

Darin Gehrke

April 19th - April 25th

Chris Haschemeyer

April 26th - May 2nd

Randy Lawson



2026 April



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 Palm Sunday Divine Service -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am PTL Easter Egg Hunt	30 Prayer Service for St. Matthew's Passion - 12:00pm Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	31 Prayer Service for St. Mark's Passion - 12:00pm	1 Prayer Service for St. Luke's Passion - 12:00pm	2 Maundy Thursday - 6:30pm	3 Good Friday - 6:30pm	4 Cook out, Fun, Fellowship - 4:30pm Easter Vigil - 6:30pm
5 Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast 7:30am-9:00am Divine Service -9:00am	6	7	8 Bible Study - 10:00am	9	10	11
12 Divine Service -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	13 Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	14 Swaddling Clothes 12:30-2:30 Committee Meeting - 6:30pm	15 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am	16 Leo's Pack the House Night	17 Lay Men's Confessions Study - 6:30pm	18
19 Divine Service -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	20	21 PTL Meeting - 5:30pm	22 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am	23 Fine Arts Night 6:00pm	24	25
26 Divine Service -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am Salem Students Sing in Church	27 Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm Coin Wars Begin	28 Elders Meeting - 6:30pm	29 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am	30	1 Coin Wars End	2

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Sundays

Divine Service &
Communion - 9:00am
Sunday School &
Bible Class - 10:30am

Wednesday

School Chapel - 9:20am
Bible Study - 10:00am
Prayer Services -
5:30pm



Rev. Jonah J.A. Schultz, Pastor



Newsletter Sign-Up

222 E. Beecher Ave.
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