



# Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Sunday, April 26, 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

[saalemjax.net](http://saalemjax.net) | [saalemjaxschool.net](http://saalemjaxschool.net) | 217-243-3419

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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1 Peter 2:21 – “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” Our heavenly Father wants us to grow into the image of His Son and to follow in His steps. Jesus suffered for us not only to redeem us, but also to show us what love looks like and to leave us an example of self-giving, sacrificial generosity. “Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure.”

## **The Sacrament of the Altar**

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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.

## **Small Catechism: What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors**

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The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. 1 Cor. 9:14

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Gal. 6:6–7

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.” 1 Tim. 5:17–18

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 1 Thess. 5:12–13

Obeys your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Heb. 13:17



## Collect of the Day

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## First Reading

## Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## Gradual adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6



- c Christ has risen | from the dead.\*  
[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.  
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands,\*  
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

## Epistle

1 Peter 2:19–25

<sup>19</sup>This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## Holy Gospel

John 10:1–10

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

- Today's Altar Flowers were given by Bruce and Ruth Engebrecht in memory of Bruce's mother, Mary Ann Engebrecht.
- Salem Lutheran 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!
- 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!

## Meetings

- Elders Meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
- LWML Meeting: There will be an LWML meeting on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm here at Salem

## Bible Study

- 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 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

## Services

- Salem School Chapel at 9:20 a.m. Join us to sing, pray, and hear Christ's Word with our students.
- Join your Salem family at Wednesday Evening prayer services at 5:30pm

# SALEM LUTHERAN



## CHURCH & SCHOOL

Week of April 19th

Attendance	135
Communion	105
Operating	\$12,919.70
Leap	\$ 450.00
Restricted	\$ 247.27

## Prayer List

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Members and friends in need of prayer: John Werries, Rodney Havens, David Vortman, Stephanie Bezler, Roberta Mckee, Carole Holt, Dwayne Middendorf, Bob Morris, Ron Hudec, Donna Moody, Albert Musch, Jack Watkins.

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

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



# 2026 April – May



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
April 26 Divine Service -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am Salem Students Sing in Church Teaching Staff Recognitions at the end of Church Service	April 27 Coin Wars Begin  Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	April 28 Elders Meeting - 6:30pm	April 29 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am Wednesday Evening prayer services - 5:30pm	April 30	May 1 Coin Wars End	May 2
May 3 Divine Service -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	May 4	May 5	May 6 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am Wednesday Evening prayer services - 5:30pm	May 7	May 8 Lay Men's Confessions Study - 6:30pm	May 9
May 10 Mother's Day!  Divine Service -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	May 11 Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	May 12 Swaddling Clothes 12:30-2:30  Committee Meeting - 6:30pm	May 13 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am Wednesday Evening prayer services - 5:30pm	May 14	May 15	May 16
May 17 Divine Service -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am  8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation	May 18 LWML Meeting - 3:00pm	May 19	May 20 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am Wednesday Evening prayer services - 5:30pm	May 21 Leo's Pack the House Night	May 22	May 23
May 24 Divine Service -9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	May 25 Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	May 26	May 27 Bible Study - 10:00am Wednesday Evening prayer services - 5:30pm	May 28	May 29	May 30