Food Pantry still going strong amid the Corona Virus

Liz Ezell and Sabrina Ezell with Jan Kuntz. Salem Food Pantry was one of the lucky recipients of Stage Coach Players recent food drive. They received groceries that filled up a car!
A huge thank you to our incredible group of confirmation guides!
Jen Docherty, Brenda Jones, Krysten Jones, Phil Klein, Adam Swedberg
There are many people longing for the world before pandemic, but I disagree. When this is all over, if we return to the world just as it was, we have failed. The truth is not that this virus broke our world, the world was already broken. If you are like me, these current events have highlighted the ways in which many of the systems of society were not as steady as we once assumed. The ways in which we have disregarded, and dare I say even looked down upon, many of our neighbors who we now understand as essential to our food chain, our medical infrastructure, and our essential needs have come to light. The, frankly, low level of inconvenience that some members of our society are willing to endure for the common good has made me see a need for a revival of Christian values and empathy. The fragility of our economic system and the ways in which people are left out of food security and access to basic needs, call out to us for Christian witness and action. No, going back is not an option.

So, the question is, what shall we become? And what is our role as a church in this rebuilding? Because the Gospel of Jesus Christ has a lot to say on how we treat our neighbors in every aspect of our life together, I believe the community of Salem can play a role as we establish our new reality. Within our membership we have strong, righteous business owners who treat their employees well. We have agricultural professionals who know the value of our farm labor and work for their good. We have nurses and mental health experts who work daily to advocate for the most vulnerable among us. We have so many caring, loving, and grace-filled people willing to serve.

I have a vision of Salem Lutheran Church being a voice for morality and reason in this time of confusion and uncertainty. May we not just be private Christians, but public theologians of God’s hopes for our world. While we have a beloved home-base on DeKalb Avenue, may we continue to be a church without walls as we move toward a new future and work to bring the Kingdom of God just a little closer to Sycamore, Illinois.

Pastor Preston
Tackle A Tab Is Back!

Some people have expressed interest in participating in Tackle-A-Tab virtually. Thank you for your generous offer! Each weekend on the SLC Community Page, in the monthly newsletter, and on our app we will post the cost of a few of our upcoming bills. If you’d like to participate follow these steps:

(1) Choose a bill to sponsor
(2) Call Salem’s office and tell us your choice (815/895-9171)
(3) Write a check to Salem Lutheran, put the vendor name in the Memo Line and mail it to the church (1145 DeKalb Avenue, Sycamore)

As before, the gift will be added to your giving statement.

Salem Sesquicentennial Book

The 150th Committee’s book of Salem’s history is ready for printing. The actual cost is $20. You can still sign up for a copy by calling the office and sending in a check.

If you have already ordered but have not yet paid, you may send your payment in at anytime with “150th Anniversary Book” marked in the Memo Line.
Throwback Thursdays

Since Salem is celebrating its 150th anniversary we want to hear from our congregation regarding stories about the church.

These stories can be about people of the church, programs of the church, the church building, or memorials. If you have a photo that you want to include all the better, but if you don’t have a photo and the story is about a part of the building, then we can take a picture to augment the story. Short stories would be best. The stories will be put on Facebook and the Website on Thursdays. Hence the name Throwback Thursdays!

Please send your story via email to:
lynn@slcsycamore.org

Beginners:
Krysten Jones
Rita Johnson

Kindergarten/1st Grade:
Dan Docherty
Wendy Rhodes

2nd/3rd Grades:
Tammy Riebe
Kim Simmons

4th/5th Grades:
Ellie Larson
Michelle Golub

Middle School:
Rachel Sauber

Superintendent:
Kathy Vickers

Assistant Superintendent:
Wendy Rhodes

THANK YOU!
WE LOVE OUR TEACHERS!
If you give a recurring gift through Pushpay, remember that you have the power to edit your recurring gift through these steps:

1. Open one of electronic receipts you receive in your email after each gift.
2. Scroll to the bottom of the email and click the box that says “Manage recurring gift.”
3. If you are not signed-in, sign-in using your phone number.
4. If asked for security purposes, provide the 6-digit security number texted to you.
5. After successful security verification you will be presented with a screen showing your current level of giving and schedule. Scroll down and click the red box that says “Edit Recurring.”
6. Next, edit the gift amount or schedule as needed.
7. Finally, don’t forget to hit “Save” at the bottom.

These instructions will be shown with visual aids on Facebook. Of course, if you need any help please contact Salem staff.

Keep Salem with you!
The best way to contact us is through the Salem App.

Text: “SalemLutheran App”
To: 77977
to download our app!

To give your offering electronically, text: “Salemlutherangive” to 77977
This Creative Arts season ended rather abruptly mid-March with the Corona Virus Pandemic and Shelter in Place order. We were mid-Lent and looking forward to Palm Sunday/Salem’s 150th Anniversary, Holy Week and Easter, and the Spring Children’s Musical, “Livin’ Inside Out.” Perhaps that’s what it feels like now, “Livin’ Inside Out” as we either stay home to keep ourselves and others safe or take our place as essential workers. We remain grateful for the many gifts of time, talent, and faith shared in worship this year and look forward to the time we can be together again safely. Remember:

Jesus love you S’more than you know!

Carla & Ron Vanatta, Ministers of Music

(continued)
Appreciation to all 2019-20 Creative Arts Participants!
(Continued)

**Salem Children’s Choir**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jack Daskal</th>
<th>Natalie Daskal</th>
<th>Anna Docherty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellie Ferro</td>
<td>Benji Gehrig</td>
<td>Emma Herrmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayley Herrmann</td>
<td>Beckett Jackson</td>
<td>Asher Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamden Johnson</td>
<td>Myles Johnson</td>
<td>Ellie Myer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adeline Wyruchowski</td>
<td></td>
<td>Naomi Young</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additional Voices: John Gehrig / Lily Roodhouse*

**Best Attendance:**

Naomi Young

**Superior Attendance:**

Anna Docherty  Ellie Ferro  Asher Johnson  Kamden Johnson  Myles Johnson

**Children’s Choir Graduate:**

Jack Daskal

*All Children’s Choir voices as well as Krista Cobb and Lila Ezell were rehearsing for the “Livin’ Inside Out” Musical scheduled April 18-19, 2020 with Kathy Cain as Stage Director and Katy Kingren as choreographer. It promised to be another great musical!*

*Kathy Cain / Ron Vanatta, Accompanists*

*Lila Ezell, Youth Assistant*

*Carla Vanatta, Director*

**Celebration Voices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kathy Cain</th>
<th>Edie Eklund</th>
<th>Jim Eklund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jodi Leonhard</td>
<td>Susan Lorence</td>
<td>Kirk Lundbeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Lundberg</td>
<td>Erin Rowland</td>
<td>Mary Safford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Safford</td>
<td>Connie Seraphine</td>
<td>Kathy Sheahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Denny Vaupel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additional Voices: Sue Herrmann / Jenna Hoffman*

**Choir Milestones:**

- Erin Rowland - 1st Year / Connie Seraphine - 10 Yrs.
- Jodi Leonhard - 15 Yrs. / Mary Safford - 55 Yrs.

*Ron Vanatta, Accompanist*

*Carla Vanatta, Director*
Sounds of Grace Bells
Sabrina Ezell       Jenna Hoffman       Sue Herrmann
MaryKate Iaccino    Janelle Johnson    Rita Johnson
Diane Lundbeck     Larry Schlawin     Merideth Weber
Terry Weber

Additional Ringer: Jen Docherty

Bell Choir Milestones: Diane Lundbeck - 5 Yrs.
                      Janelle Johnson - 20 Yrs.

Ron Vanatta, Director

Puppet Praise Team
Kathy Cain          Krista Cobb        Lila Ezell
Sabrina Ezell       Peter Gehrig       Kristin Gehrig
MaryKate Iaccino    Katy Kingren       Diane Lundbeck
Luke Martin         Eroica Young

Puppet Milestones: Ken Reinhardt - 5 Yrs. Sound Tech
                   Kathy Cain - 20 Yrs. Puppeteer

Ken Reinhardt, Sound Tech
Chris Welander, Puppet Wardrobe
Carla Vanatta, Director

Creative Arts Support
Singing Memorials in memory of Bonnie Nelson (Carla Vanatta’s sister)
by Celebration Voices / Arlene Ehlers / Diane White / Richard Hall /
Lois Christensen / Connie Brown / George & Jan Holland

Singing Memorial in honor of Ron & Carla Vanatta by
Bill & Kay Tallyn / Neal Schinske / Ann Schinske and their Families

Additional Support
Mary Safford / Kathy Cain - Music Librarians
Summer Choir Participants / Festival of Carols Participants
Kirk Lundbeck - Christmas Brass Coordinator
Michael Graddy - Saturday Pianist
Steve Latimer - Saturday Cantor
and all other soloists and instrumentalists.
Each gift of time and talent is so appreciated ... to God be the Glory!

Ron & Carla Vanatta, Ministers of Music
Audrey Boyle plans to attend Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in the Fall, majoring in Psychology.

Grant McConkey from Sycamore High School plans to attend Kishwaukee Community College, but hasn’t decided on a major.

Blake Ross plans to attend the University of Minnesota - Duluth in the Fall, majoring in Environment, Sustainability & Geography.
Garrett Rubis plans to attend Kishwaukee College in the fall. He is excited to start his career in Law Enforcement.

Kylie Feuerbach is grateful to say that she plans on going to Iowa State to play basketball. She has decided to major in Diet & Exercise as well. She is excited to see what her future will bring, knowing that God will always be next to her.
Pray for the family of Sue Dewey at the death of her husband, Jerry Dewey, who died on May 3.

May Council Highlights

- The Council approved the contract to C&H Plumbing to repair a water leak in the furnace area on the lower level near the kitchen.
- The Council discussed options for continuing online worship long-term, even after we are able to congregate in the church building again.

Happy Father's Day June 21
Chris and Nicole Judkins *(Salem Youth Leader)* are expecting a baby boy about July 9, 2020.

So ... we’re planning a VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER anytime the week of June 14. They are registered at Target:

https://www.target.com/gift-registry/giftgiver?registryId=baf91bd724bc4af396739c91435cf3cd&type=BABY

if you’d like to choose a specific gift from their registry and have it delivered to their home you have that option at checkout. Gift cards of any type or size would also be welcomed and can also be sent to their home (430 Jasmine, DeKalb). Anyone is welcome to participate as you are interested and able. Thank you for sharing in their joy!

Salem Staff

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*Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live in every experience, painful or joyous, to live in gratitude for every moment, to live abundantly.*

- Dorothy Thompson -
Everyone is invited to try out a new, experimental Northern Illinois Online Bible Study. This study is off the ground and going very well. Our course meets Mondays at 7:00 p.m. for about an hour. We will utilize the excellent, free, online materials at Yale Divinity Bible Study. Check them out at https://yalebiblestudy.org/. Feel free to check out the rich set of materials at the site, especially the videos. But remember, we will use these resources as a starting point, but discuss them at our online Zoom meetings.

Please contact John Seraphine at heatherhope@gmail.com to find out what session of what course we will be studying next, and to receive an invitation and link for the Zoom sessions by computer or telephone.

Our aim is to use this time of social distancing to build enthusiasm for reading the Bible as a doorway into a living faith in a community that strives not to judge others, but to bring them together in Christ.
## Salem Couples

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries of 25 Years or More

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Matt &amp; Kimberly Woodstrup</td>
<td>35 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Kerry &amp; Janice Severson</td>
<td>41 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Susan King</td>
<td>46 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mark &amp; Renee Lawson</td>
<td>31 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ron &amp; Carla Vanatta</td>
<td>44 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Kathy Cain</td>
<td>40 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Laura Gilmore</td>
<td>36 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Joe &amp; Janeen Edwards</td>
<td>26 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Mary Kasper</td>
<td>38 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Rod &amp; Marty Oehlert</td>
<td>50 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Rich &amp; Kathy Sheahan</td>
<td>40 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Terry &amp; Karen Morris</td>
<td>57 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Randy &amp; Jana Haeffner</td>
<td>29 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Dale &amp; Linda Swedberg</td>
<td>58 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Kirk &amp; Diane Lundbeck</td>
<td>36 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Jim &amp; Karla Sauber</td>
<td>37 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Gerald &amp; Nancy Brantner</td>
<td>46 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Clifford &amp; Elizabeth Mueller</td>
<td>64 yrs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**From a church worship bulletin . . .**

"The Church of God Cannot Be Found"

But it’s *bound* to be recognized wherever people share Christ’s love!
Thank you Salem community for your strong support, we were able to place a large order from the Food Bank this past month.

If anyone is going shopping, we still need canned vegetables and fruit. Food donations can be dropped off at Salem, anytime inside the front door on the benches or coordinated with Liz (815-501-5369).

Thank you for your continued support!

Here Are a couple of pictures of the May order from the Northern IL Food Bank.

A huge thank you to our incredible group of Confirmation Guides!

Jen Docherty
Brenda Jones
Krysten Jones
Phil Klein
Adam Swedberg
Salem,
Although we are not members, we follow your community work through our daughter, Melissa Buys. Please accept this small addition to your Food Pantry.
Gratefully yours,
Ed & Linda Bellerage

Salem,
I would like to thank our Salem Church Family for all the prayers and cards during my illness and surgery. I continue to get better each day and have better balance. Judy says my voice and speech are recovering too fast! Back to normal.
Sincerely,
Wally Sundberg

These willing hands will be weeding, trimming, and mowing the church grounds this summer.

Outside Choir Room .................. Steve Safford
Large Island .......................... Mike Gilmore
West Small Island ............ Bill & Lorna Schmidt
Plot Behind F. H. .......... Gary & Joan Hanson
Playground Area ................. Brandon Graves
Under Salem Sign ..................... Liz Ezell
Entrances and Church Front ............. Jim Sauber/Steve Feuerbach
Lawn Mowing .................................. Jenny Ruff

“Thank you” to all who are volunteering to help keep Salem’s campus looking good!
Welcome to Salem where you can be a part of a community to grow in faith and serve God. In this community of faith we value worship, hospitality, education, community outreach and service, diversity, and everyone’s faith journey. All are welcome. We embrace people of all ages, abilities, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities. Whoever you are, there is a place for you here as a precious Child of God. You’re invited to worship and Salem activities as we seek to live Christ’s love together.