

Look at the background of this page. It hints of what is to come. It anticipates a wondrous changing of the colors and invites us into a new season. It reminds me of the wonder of what is to come. It reminds me that our earthly seasons, like our days on earth, are fleeting.

But it's blurry.

It reminds me that we cannot see into the future.

But we can look with hope.

We cannot tell what will happen here tomorrow.

But we trust the One who knows.

"In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at God's reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see God in God's completeness, face-to-face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now." (1 Corinthians 13:12, Living Bible Translation)

Future here

Blurry, hazy, filled with discontent and worry

God's future

Overwhelming, all-consuming . . . *peace*

God gives us a choice

to sit in the discontent and worry about the incoming and upcoming

or

to march to a different drummer and not succumb to the blurry and the worry

not

be overwhelmed and consumed or made inert

but

to follow the lead of the One who teaches justice

and makes us righteous by God's grace alone

the

One who loves us beyond the blur and into comprehension

so that we can share God's love in this confused and blurry world

May you find some peace today,

Pastor Sue



PRESIDENT
Rita Gustafson

VICE PRESIDENT
David Long

TREASURER
Nancy Patterson

SECRETARY
Becky Potenberg

LEARNING
Miranda Luder

PROPERTY
Mark Staes

WORSHIP
Becky VanErstvelde

SERVICE
Kim Luder

YOUTH
Ruby Clark

WITNESS
Jessica Clark

STEWARDSHIP
Allison Senkbeil

PASTOR
Sue Hoff



October 25, 2025 6:00-7:00PM

It will be SPOOKTACULAR!

If you would like to decorate a trunk to participate, please call 309-764-5614 to sign up. Please have your trunk ready by 5:45PM.

Otherwise, come and enjoy the fun and goodies!



SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, MOLINE, ILLINOIS
RRO Congregational Council meeting - September 14, 2025

Meeting called to order at 12:06

Present: Rita Gustafson, David Long, Becky Potenberg, Nancy Patterson, Miranda Luder, Becky VanErstvelde, Pastor Sue Hoff, Wayne

Excused/Absent: Kim Luder, Miranda Luder, Jessica Clark, Ruby Clark, Mark Staes*

*Wayne attended in lieu of Mark

Devotion: Rita

Council Minutes: Dave motioned, Becky V. seconded, unanimously approved

Notes:

- Financial Report from Nancy:
 - Money was transferred from mission investments to help cover bills
 - The church has not yet paid off their loan as they need the funds for current expenses
 - The church received a gift from Myron Yockel's estate designated for the general fund
- Pastor Sue reported:
 - Planning a potluck lunch and showing of "Sound of Hope" on October 19th
- Worship Committee report from Becky V:
 - Church decorating scheduled for November 30th with volunteers needed
 - Christmas decorations will be taken down on January 4th
 - Bell choir practice has begun under Laura's direction
- Property Committee updates from Wayne:
 - Discussion about the aging AC units (29 years old) and whether to repair or replace
 - Council decided to continue with current repairs but add replacement to long-range planning
 - Brady will be paid \$1,839.00 to repair 2 rooftop units, unanimously approved via email on 9/22/25
- Old Business:
 - Pastor Sue's call: Discussion about changing from three-year term call (started November 26, 2023) to a permanent call
 - Pathways program: Council needs to develop framing questions to guide the discernment process
 - Pastor Joshua's request to use the building for worship: Insurance company advised they won't cover another congregation without their own insurance
 - Council decided they cannot offer space without proper insurance coverage (TULIP Insurance)
 - Church tech updates
 - Bids requested from three vendors for sound/streaming system
 - Sally has purchased a new laptop for Sunday School
- Safe Church Policies:
 - Subcommittee formed to develop comprehensive policies
 - Mark's daughter offered to provide active shooter training for the congregation
- New Business:
 - Hosting Blood Drive
 - Gender-neutral restrooms: Council approved motion to replace "Boys" and "Girls" signs on two downstairs restrooms with "Gender Neutral Restroom" signs
 - * Pastor Sue motioned, Dave seconded, unanimously voted
 - Discussion about using more inclusive language used during services

Adjournment/Lord's Prayer

*Motion to adjourn by Becky V., Allison seconded, unanimously approved

What have we been discussing at the Rock Island Moline (RIM) Task Force Meetings?

June 19th

- Goal is not to get rid of everyone's buildings but to spur conversation between the 8 congregations within our 4 mile radius
- Common thoughts included:
 - Churches are aging out - may run out of people before money
 - Name the concerns to get them in the open (hold them close but address them)
 - "Where are we going and what are we being asked to do?"
 - We might not all move in the same direction as each other
 - We can disagree and that can be okay
- Common concerns brought up included:
 - Many buildings are home to the majority of congregations
 - Loss of closeness to people
 - Accommodations of different cultures
 - Community needs - where will the community go if we don't exist
 - Will we feel like we failed or let anyone down?

July 17th Small Group Discussions

- Discussed Hospitality, Christian Education, Social Ministry, Evangelism, and Worship/Music in small groups
- Discussed what we are doing well and what we can improve on
- Common ideas included:
 - Joint ministry with First Communion, VBS, Confirmation, etc.
 - Social Ministry of each church discussed
- Wish List included:
 - More volunteers/new volunteers needed from congregation
 - Awareness of what other churches do
 - Increase/investigate social media presence for younger generations
 - Look into AV System usage for worship
 - Contemporary vs traditional services
 - Combined worship services?

July 24th - Meeting with Bishop Fidler

- Bishop is excited about the conversations we are having and are opening up for discussion but we may not like what we hear and decision that might have to be made
- "I don't have the power to take your building. But I can walk with you and aid you in this journey and stand with you in your uncomfortable place. Throw your spaghetti at the wall first and we will figure out the implications later."
- Question posed: Are you aware of other congregations in the synod (137 parishes) or other congregations in the ELCA who have gone through a discovery process and how they have gone through it? How many churches have closed in the last 10 years within our synod?
- Can probably count on one hand how many have closed. All places are working at different ways of sharing, consolidating, partnering, etc. There are places that have done consolidations even in other parts of our own synod but they have not involved lay people in their conversations. We are having conversations and building the road together without a rostered leader voice in the room. The **people** are doing it. It will go through with more integrity.
- The church is not growing in the current culture and likely won't. The mission is to come up with more affordable options. We need to actually start doing something. It is better to do this now when we have a say rather than when we are forced to. Is the money spent on these buildings good stewardship of our resources or can we use those resources for the community?
- Bishop Stacie: "What if biblically, we are in a season of pruning? We might not be able to make every change, but it can lead to new life. We all have to pick it up together."

Continued on Page 6

What have we been discussing at the Rock Island Moline (RIM) Task Force Meetings?

Continued from page 5

August 21st

- To what are we being called?
- Two sides of questions: sustaining question and new things (what God is doing)
- How can we streamline our sustainability to grow what God is doing?
- Setting Priorities
- We are trying to plug three things into an outlet and keep blowing a fuse:
- **Collaborative ministry**
- Concerns: we don't have enough people or we don't have enough resources
- **Experimental Initiative** - just as important as collaborative ministry
- **Reality stewardship** - how can we use the above and go further
- We don't know where we are going but that doesn't mean we just stand still
- Explore your why (why are you a member of your church)
- We can show a sense of curiosity to someone else's why

September 18th Focus Groups for meeting:

- **Collaborative ministry:** how are we able to bring ourselves together and combine our resources in ways that still keep us independent but allow us to better serve each other and our community. How can the members of all congregations get to know each other better?
- **Experimental initiative:** We realize that no matter what decisions this group makes, we need to be thinking of what new thing the Holy Spirit is doing and might do through our work. Through these congregations, what is the Spirit up to.
- **Reality Stewardship:** these are the congregations that brought us together. We have 8 congregations in 7 buildings. Is this good stewardship to be doing this or can we better serve our community. What should we be looking at in our congregations in terms of finances and the realities we are facing?

Rally Day 2025



Youth News



Sunday School and Youth Groups

Sunday School begins at 9:00AM

Beginner's Department – Children will be participating in activities designed specifically for this tender age. Ages 0-PreK meet in the Nursery.

Kindergarten to 6th grade – With a rotation curriculum, children will experience the Bible story with a hands-on approach. Meets on 1st floor.

Jr. High/High School SUNDAY'S COOL! – Come for a great time of fellowship and hands-on learning of God's word. Meets in Youth Room. (Grades 7-12)

Wednesday Nights

Teen Drop In (6:00-7:00PM)- 6th grade & Up. Laid back, come as you are environment to play games, shoot some Pool, and just hang out with friends.

Confirmation Class (7:00-8:00PM) 7&8th Grades. Takes place on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:00PM in the library. Participants will study God's Word using Re:form and Collaborate Curriculum. This is a 2-year program that culminates in the public Affirmation of their Baptism. We meet in the Library.

Youth Groups: (meet monthly)

Jr. High/High Youth Group (Youtherans) - Programs are once a month and filled with high energy activities designed to encourage fellowship and create a friendly environment. We also do service projects at the church and in the Quad City community to show that serving the Lord can be fun and exciting! These meetings are a great way to comfortably introduce someone to the group.

God Stars (3rd-6th grades) Programs are once a month on a Sunday afternoon and contain a game time (you know -- unwind, relax, chill, hang out), a lesson time (Bible-based and useful in our daily lives), a fully loaded activity time (service projects and activities that stimulate our minds and bodies), and sometimes a "field trip" just for kicks.

FISH -(age 3-2nd grade). Programs meet bi-monthly - TBD



New paint job in the Sunday School Room! It's awesome!



This is it!

SUNDAY, Sept 21

Fellowship 9:00-9:45AM

Sunday School

9:00-9:45AM

Worship 10:00AM

We changed our times!



Blessing of the Backpacks



Summer happenings and getting ready for fall programming

**CONFIRMATION
ORIENTATION**



Time to get your “sneaks” on and join us for the
2025 CROP Walk

Sunday, October 5th **2:00PM**

Meet at Caxton Building / Bethany for Children and Families
1701 River Drive Moline



Walk * Donate * Make a Difference



Marlea Clark	10/1
Steve Morford	10/1
John Anderson	10/3
Audee Porter	10/3
Julie Smith	10/3
Jennifer Garnant	10/5
Parry Gustafson	10/10
Amy Hillyer	10/10
Hannah Oswald	10/12
Deb Kronfeld	10/14
Joanne Halverson	10/17
Mia Hillyer	10/17
Julie Dean-McCurdy	10/20
Susan Ketelaar	10/20
Bonnie Yuuvan	10/23
Corri Curry	10/23
James Kernan	10/24
Hadley Maertens	10/24
Leah Michel	10/31

Thank you for hosting
LSSI to speak about our
services + the need for
foster homes in a community.
A huge thank you for
supporting our golf outing
as well + partnering
with us for The Sound of
Hope. We look forward
to continue our partnership!
Kindest Regards
Andrea McLean
Lutheran Social
Services of Illinois



all anew
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

SERENITY CIRCLE

Please join us as we start a new year!
Monday, October 6

In the Lounge on 2nd floor
12:30 PM

All the women of Salem are welcome!

Stewardship Statistics

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Aug Actual	Aug Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$16,684.12	\$12,772.02	\$135,023.83	\$127,482.65
Expenses	\$34,418.19	\$22,297.58	\$183,756.63	\$184,134.10
Net Income	(\$16,734.07)	(\$9,525.56)	(\$48,732.80)	(\$56,651.45)

A T T E N D A N C E

Date	Sunday	Public	Private	YouTube	Total
Aug 3	39	107	22	1	169
Aug 10	53	180	30	4	267
Aug 17	50	151	28	5	234
Aug 24	50	184	28	5	267
Aug 31	56	43	31	4	134

Altar Flower Sponsor Schedule

October 2025

Oct 5	Cathie Anderson
Oct 12	Dick & Margaret Castle
Oct 19	Richard & Sally Krantz
Oct 26	Deb Kronfeld

Altar Guild / Worship October 2025

Paraments - Suzanne Witcher

Communion Set up - Bob & Naydne
Stockhecke

Greeters

Oct 5	Rita Gustafson
Oct 12	Allison Senkbeil
Oct 19	Darlene Hann
Oct 26	Becky VanErstvelde

Assisting Ministers - October 2025

Sunday	Assistant
Oct 5	Nancy Patterson
Oct 12	Jon Gustafson
Oct 19	Lizzie Dail
Oct 26	David Long

Salem Lutheran Church

1724 15th Street
Moline, IL 61265
309-764-5614

www.salemmoline.org

Worship:

Sunday

Fellowship: 9:00AM

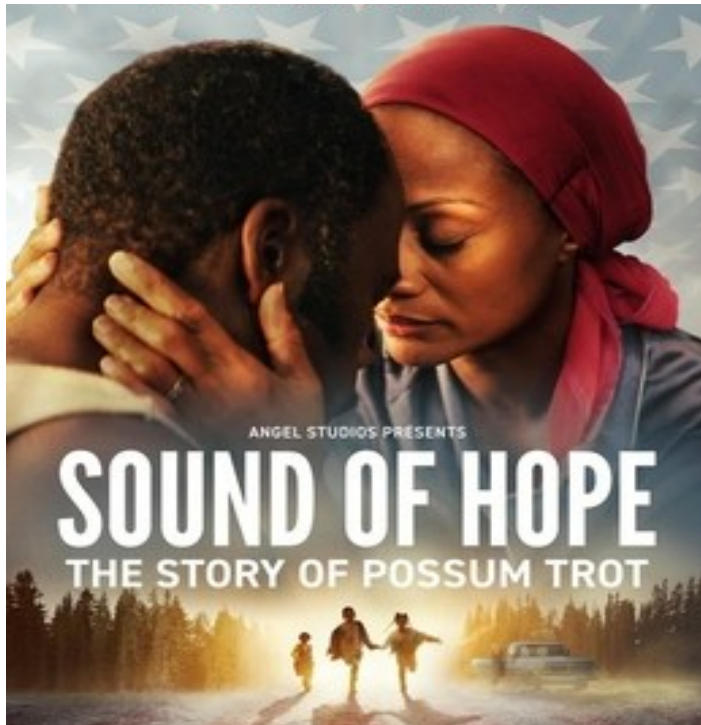
Sunday School: 9:00AM

Worship: 10:00AM

Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday
8:00AM to 12:00PM

Last, But Not Least....



Sunday, October 19, 2025

Salem Lutheran Church

1724 15th Street Moline IL

Potluck: 11:15AM-12:15PM

Movie: 12:30PM

This is a FREE event

Please call 309-764-5614 to make a reservation to insure we have enough

Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (also simply known as ***Possum Trot***) is a [biographical film](#) about Donna and Reverend Martin.

Plot

After her mother's death in 1996, Donna felt a calling to care for children without parents. After researching, she learned about the plight of many other children. Along with her husband, Reverend Martin, and the Bennett Chapel Missionary [Baptist Church](#) in [Possum Trot, Texas](#), she invited families to adopt or foster children from the local foster system.

“Inspired by the powerful true story, Donna and Reverend Martin ignite a fire in their rural church to embrace kids in the foster system that nobody else would take. By doing the impossible – adopting 77 children – this East Texas community proved that with real, determined loved, the battle for America’s most vulnerable can be won.” Join us on October 19th to “love like momma” and “fight for the kids” in our community!

Presented in conjunction with



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois