

These Forty Days

In this season of Lent we are invited into contemplation, prayer and reflection on the life, ministry and death of Jesus. We seek to understand the mystery of God's great love and sacrifice for the sake of God's people. We seek to see ourselves reflected in this life of grace and redemption as those blessed by God's great mercy and, as disciples, called to carry out the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

This season itself is a journey; part of the path we follow as disciples trying to understand the call God has placed on our lives; individually and collectively as the body of Christ.

As we seek to understand, as we are reaching out to God, crying with empathy for this great sacrifice and for understanding . . . God reaches out, touches our hearts . . . and we are connected.

*Peace to you in all These Forty Days,
Pastor Sue*





PRESIDENT
Jon Gustafson

VICE PRESIDENT
David Long

TREASURER
Nancy Patterson

SECRETARY
Deb Kronfeld

LEARNING
Miranda Luder

PROPERTY
Steve Morford

WORSHIP
Becky VanErstvelde

SERVICE
Kim Luder

YOUTH
Camiel VanErstvelde

WITNESS
Jessica Clark

STEWARDSHIP
Mandy Bergeson

PASTOR
Sue Hoff



Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

Services at 11:00AM and 7:00PM

Wednesday Night Services

March 12, 19, 26 April 2, 9

6:15PM Sharing God's Abundance

Bring your own meal

We will provide cookies and refreshments

7:00PM Service

7:45PM Bible Study

Please join us!

RRO Summary of Congregational Meeting Minutes 01/26/25

Meeting was called to order at 11:54AM by David Long, filling in for Jon Gustafson

Pastor led the congregation in prayer

Quorum was achieved.

Minutes from June 23, 2024 meeting – approved as published

Nominating Committee presented the slate of openings for the upcoming June Congregational meeting.

New Business

Profit and Loss Statement from December 2024 approved

2025 Proposed Budget approved

Reconciling In Christ Presentation

Motion to adjourn meeting was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:27PM

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Kronfeld
Church Council Secretary



RRO Summary of Church Council EMail Meeting Minutes 02/09/25

Attending via email: Jon Gustafson, Mandy Bergeson, Becky VanErstvelde, Camiel VanErstvelde, Kim Luder, Nancy Patterson, Miranda Luder, Pastor Sue Hoff, David Long, Deb Kronfeld

Absent: Steve Morford, Jessica Clark

Meeting was called to order on February 11, 2025. Note: this meeting was done via email.

Mandy Bergeson provided the devotions

Pastor's Report: No report

President's Report: Cleaning prep. Illinois QC ELCA Meeting at Augustana

Vice President's Report: No report

Treasurer's Report: No report

Administration Report: 2026 Giving Envelopes

Committee Reports:

Worship: Sanctuary Candles

Service: No report

Youth: Meetings. Super Bowl Trivia. Autism event.

Learning: No report

Stewardship: No report

Property: No report

Witness: No report

Meeting was adjourned on February 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Kronfeld
Council Secretary

Youth News



Our Wednesday Youth Group did a trip to participate in the WQPT PBS Autistic and Loved event.

Looks like everyone had a good time!

GREAT JOB KIDS!!



My thoughts.....

I've been thinking a great deal about our meeting on Sunday with the other Illinois ELCA congregations. Our conversations were so complicated by talk about legacy, tradition and history, such a sense of loss and fear. So, if you'll indulge me, I feel compelled to share some of my reflections on the meeting.

My aunt and uncle lived next door to my grandmother. When Grandma died in 1992, my uncle could not bear the thought of someone else living in his childhood home. So, he bought and maintained the house, but it has remained largely vacant for the past thirty-plus years. My aunt and uncle have since passed on and ownership of the house has now transferred to my cousin. It's a lovely home, full of character and beauty and warmth, and we have such fond memories of that house. But now, it's just a museum to what used to be.

When my parents died, my siblings and I all recognized that we could not, nor did we want to, keep the house. So, we set about preparing the house for sale. On the last day, I walked through the newly empty house, standing in what once had been my bedroom, sitting under the big oak tree that had been only a sapling when we moved in, and running my hands over the kitchen cupboards that had been custom-built by my father. In that moment, I realized that without my parents and siblings, this was only a building. A few years later, when I heard from a friend-of-a-friend, that a huge limb from that same oak tree fell through the roof during a storm, I was sad but not devastated. It wasn't my home any more.

I think of my husband, Jon, who spent one long, cold winter afternoon, sitting in his truck in the parking lot of a nearby apartment complex, watching his own childhood home being torn down to make way for a medical facility. What a difficult day!

Jon and I are now in our sixties. We have begun the conversation about whether or not we remain in our house or move to another, safer, one-level home. It's tough! I love our house and I don't want to leave. This is the home that holds over forty years of our family milestones, celebrations, losses, and myriad other treasured memories. But we are no longer young, and one day soon, the stairs, the size, the yard will be too much for us.

As I reflect, however, I realize that though we've lost places, we've lost none of our memories, traditions, legacy or history. If I close my eyes, I can still smell my grandmother's kitchen. I can still hear Jon's father answering the phone with a line from a random hymn rather than simply saying "hello." Jon and his siblings still eat Bondost and herring and lefse at the holidays. My grandkids still get new toothbrushes in their Easter baskets... as did my children... as did I. The buildings may be gone, but the legacy, the love, the tradition – it's all still there, alive in our memories, in our behavior and in our hearts.

God often uses tough situations to create something new and wonderful. The new owners of what used to be my parents' home repaired the roof and the house is better than ever. My cousin is preparing to sell our grandmother's house and, God willing, the laughter of children and the love of a family will soon fill that home once again. And even while acknowledging and respecting Jon's

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loss, we both recognize that the dialysis center that now sits on the plot of earth where my husband grew up has extended the lives of countless patients, enabling them to have one more birthday, attend one more wedding, meet one more grandchild. Thanks be to God.

So, as we all think about the path forward for our eight congregations in seven church buildings, I would implore all of my brothers and sisters to move forward together and make the hard decisions. Yes, mourn your losses, relish your memories, hold fast to your traditions. But don't let them trap you. Deep in our hearts, we all know that we either take action ourselves or time and circumstances will inevitably take action for us. So, let us move forward in confidence, leaving room for God to work new miracles through and among us all.

Rita Gustafson

Memorials Received - February 2025

In Loving Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Almgren

Given by.....Michael and Marianne Yount

IN LOVING
memory

In Loving Memory of Carla Benson

Given by.....Linda Graflund, Melody Schnell, Chuck and Nancy Barbaro, Marilyn Morley, Bonnie Casper

In Loving Memory of Pete Davidson

Given by.....Arthur and Louann Bodenbender, Bob and Eileen Prusator, Pete and Betty Coopman, Larry and Jane Hipple, Cheryl Dubben-Brooks, Mark and Deborah Vanderbeke, Lola Behrens, Judith Rullman, Dean and Darlene Sutton, Sharon Wilson, Kathryn White and Edward McKenna, Bobby Jones, Marvel Green, Sherry Williams, Doug and Laura Lambert, Dale and Alice Loff, Lana Johnson, Steve and Eileen Pyevich, Paula Christiansen, Terrill Johnson, Frank and Karen Ege, Dick and Margaret Castle, Darlene Hann, Ben and Becky Leuck, Becky VanErstvelde, Dave and Kim Luder, Loryann Eis, Jon Whitcomb, Jim and Marti Kernan, Jay Morrow and Wendy Hilton-Morrow, Rodney and Nancy Lindstrom, Richard and Sally Krantz, Jacqueline Naylor, Brian and Carol Mahan, Nancy Pyevich, Antonia and John Stotts, Virginia Sevenandt, Mary Dowsett, Karen Leibovitz, Ruth Juenger, Andrea Laermans, Dianne Guldenpfennig and Traci Devries, Gary and Janet Hoff, Greg and Janet Chrickris, Jack and Angie Ashcraft, Jerry and Margie Hulsbrink, Sara and Brian Brahm, Bob and Nadyne Stockhecke, Brett and Julie Monnard, Theresa Rasche, Ernie Huston, Jim and Sue Wesselmann, Robert and Ellen Greene, Molly Newell, David Hulsbrink, Millie Longbons, Bonnie Lawhorn, Nancy Swanson, Sharon Whitney, Chris and Dave Jagger, Nancy and Bill Keller, Dr. Mike and Mary Cullen, Fred and Penny Segura, Nancy Polios, Linda Graflund, Larry and Cathy Bigelow, Wayne and Debb Thompson, Steve and Kathy Hotchkiss, Deb Kronfeld, Melody Schnell, Roger and Linda Lundgren, Mike and Betty Pyevich, Bonnie Casper, Mary Ellen Bergstrom, Terry Heyer, Connie Wilson



2025 CRE Growing Disciples

March 22, 2025

Sauk Valley Community College

The theme for our synod for 2025 is *Growing Disciples*. We will be focusing on practices that we can do as individuals, congregations, and communities to grow in faith.

Registration Information

Registration is now open until March 10th. The registration fee is \$35 for the event. This includes breakfast treats, coffee, and lunch. All registrations must be paid with a credit card. If this is not possible, please contact the Synod Office at 309-794-4004. The link to register is:
<https://nis.elvanto.net/form/a8827e11-ae0e-4417-8d14-a41b070b82d7>

Guest Speakers

Our guest speakers are from ELCA Innovation. Designed for church leaders, the ELCA Innovation Lab provides collaborative workshops, resources and tools that explore new and useful ways to experience community, justice and love, together. Rebecca Payne (she/her), Program Director for the Congregations Lead Initiative, will provide an engaging presentation titled, "Innovation Starts with Empathy." Together, we will explore how cultivating empathy can transform ministry and help leaders grow as disciples who make disciples. Using real-world examples and practical insights, we will:

- Illustrate how getting to know your community and actively listening to their needs lays a foundation for new ministry experiments.
- Highlight how connecting with others builds trust and opens pathways for collaboration.
- Discuss how reflecting on vitality and aligning our capacity and assets with community needs fosters sustainable and meaningful engagement.

Participants will leave inspired and equipped to approach their ministries with fresh perspectives rooted in empathy and connection.

The Workshops

Following lunch, we will have time for two workshops hosted by both lay and rostered members of our synod. Many presenters are here on behalf of a synod committee or a ministry of the ELCA. Others are providing innovative ideas that they have practiced in their context. These workshops will be experiential and a time for sharing resources. Along with the description for each workshops, this year we have added an intended audience and the discipleship practice the workshop fits.

CRE+ Workshops

We have had so many workshop requests that some will be offered throughout the year! CRE+ workshops will be available in May, August, and October. There is no additional fee to attend these workshops.



Shelly Wood	3/1
Kevin Mital	3/6
Camiel VanErstvelde	3/6
Drew Luder	3/8
Bob Prusator	3/9
Rene Robinson-Morford	3/10
Trevor Staes	3/10
Macy McCurdy	3/11
Karen Ege	3/12
Bob Castle	3/13
Karen Staes	3/16
Bruce Skoglund	3/17
Melissa McChesney	3/18
Stephanie Prince	3/19
Darla Smith	3/24
Todd McCurdy	3/25
Jase Maertens	3/26
Mark Staes	3/27
Emily Flippo	3/28
Chris Beierlein	3/31



SERENITY CIRCLE
 will meet Monday, February 3
 at 1:00PM in
 The Lounge

All ladies of Salem are welcome!

VBS - July 7-11 Get Ready!!

Stewardship Statistics

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Jan Actual	Jan Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$13,491.28	\$13,432.54	\$13,491.28	\$13,432.54
Expenses	\$23,907.12	\$21,506.72	\$23,907.12	\$21,506.72
Net Income	(\$10,415.84)	(8,074.18)	(\$10,415.84)	(\$8,074.18)

A T T E N D A N C E

Date	Sunday	Public	Private	YouTube	Total
Jan 5	57	35	32	2	126
Jan 12	61	49	34	15	159
Jan 19	45	49	25	6	125
Jan 26	70	65	39	3	177

Altar Flower Sponsor Schedule March 2025

Mar 2	David / Bobbi Luken
Mar 9	Chris Castle
Mar 16	Steve / Rene' Morford
Mar 23	Deb Kronfeld
Mar 30	Open

Altar Guild / Worship March 2025

Paraments - Becky VanErstvelde

Communion Set up - Sunday School

Greeters

Mar 2	Chris Castle
Mar 9	Suzanne Witcher
Mar 16	Kim Luder
Mar 23	Deb Kronfeld
Mar 30	Allison Senkbeil

Assisting Ministers - March 2025

Sunday	Assistant
Mar 2	David Long
Mar 9	Jon Gustafson
Mar 16	Jim Kernan
Mar 23	David Long
Mar 30	Cathy Bigelow

Salem Lutheran Church

1724 15th Street
Moline, IL 61265
309-764-5614
www.salemmoline.org

Worship: Sunday

Fellowship: 9:45am
Service: 10:45

Office Hours:

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

Last, But Not Least....



Save the date!

Saturday, May 10

2:00PM

*You are cordially invited to attend the 2025
Salem Lutheran Church High Tea -
Ladies Day at the Derby!*

Cost is \$20.00 per person

Tables of 8

Reservation is required, payment is due at reservation.

You can register individually, or as a table of 8.

*There will be a three course meal, live entertainment, raffle items,
and a Derby Day photo op.*

*To make a reservation, please contact the church office at
309-764-5614*

*Make checks payable to Salem Lutheran Church
with the memo "High Tea"*

Reservations are due by May 3, 2025.

Hope you can join us!

Looking forward to seeing you in your favorite hat!

No Refunds

Proceeds go toward Sanctuary Sound System