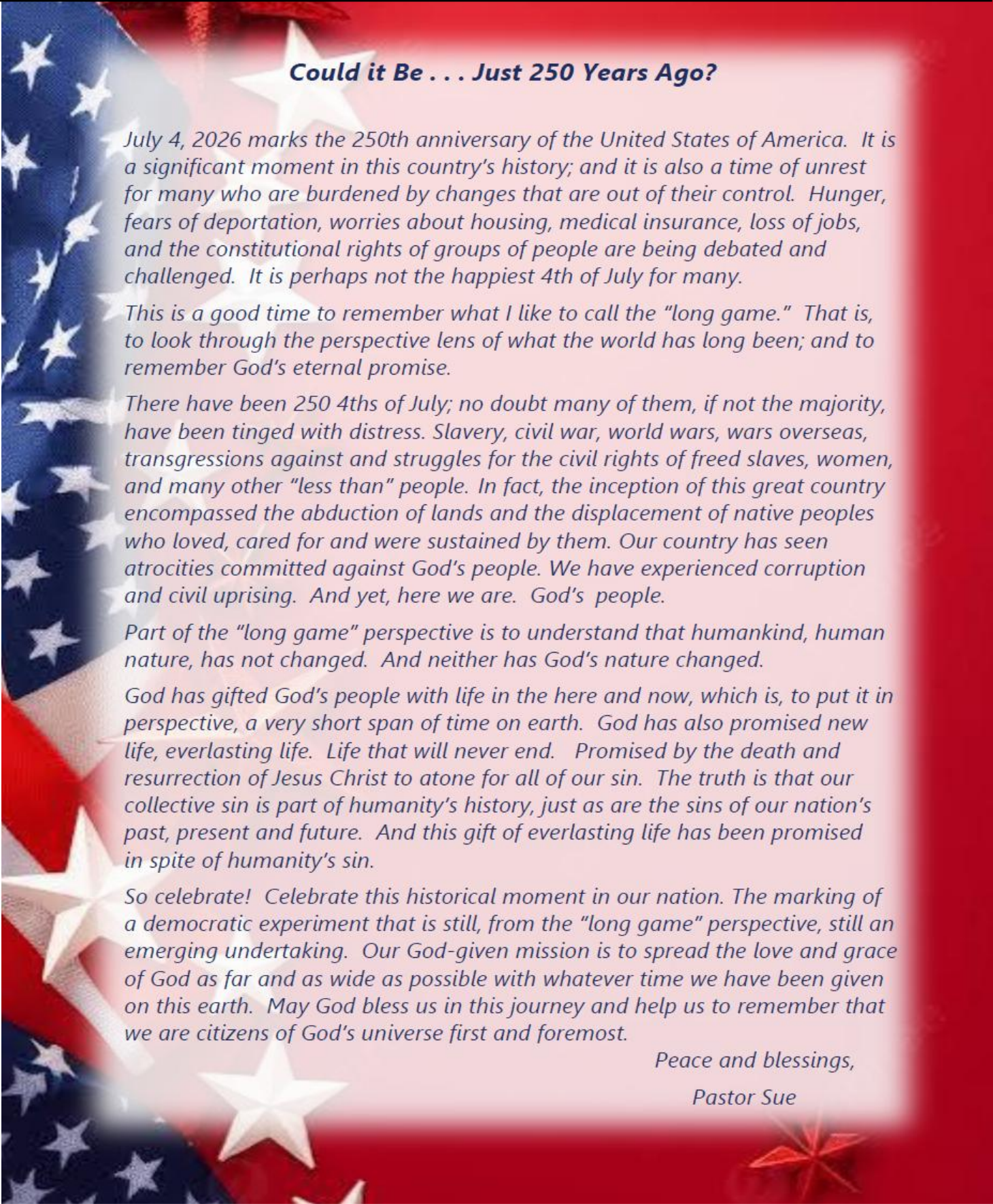




Could it Be . . . Just 250 Years Ago?

July 4, 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. It is a significant moment in this country's history; and it is also a time of unrest for many who are burdened by changes that are out of their control. Hunger, fears of deportation, worries about housing, medical insurance, loss of jobs, and the constitutional rights of groups of people are being debated and challenged. It is perhaps not the happiest 4th of July for many.

This is a good time to remember what I like to call the "long game." That is, to look through the perspective lens of what the world has long been; and to remember God's eternal promise.

There have been 250 4ths of July; no doubt many of them, if not the majority, have been tinged with distress. Slavery, civil war, world wars, wars overseas, transgressions against and struggles for the civil rights of freed slaves, women, and many other "less than" people. In fact, the inception of this great country encompassed the abduction of lands and the displacement of native peoples who loved, cared for and were sustained by them. Our country has seen atrocities committed against God's people. We have experienced corruption and civil uprising. And yet, here we are. God's people.

Part of the "long game" perspective is to understand that humankind, human nature, has not changed. And neither has God's nature changed.

God has gifted God's people with life in the here and now, which is, to put it in perspective, a very short span of time on earth. God has also promised new life, everlasting life. Life that will never end. Promised by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to atone for all of our sin. The truth is that our collective sin is part of humanity's history, just as are the sins of our nation's past, present and future. And this gift of everlasting life has been promised in spite of humanity's sin.

So celebrate! Celebrate this historical moment in our nation. The marking of a democratic experiment that is still, from the "long game" perspective, still an emerging undertaking. Our God-given mission is to spread the love and grace of God as far and as wide as possible with whatever time we have been given on this earth. May God bless us in this journey and help us to remember that we are citizens of God's universe first and foremost.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Sue



CHURCH COUNCIL

President

Rita Gustafson

Vice President

Steve Morford

Treasurer

Nancy Patterson

Secretary

Deb Kronfeld

Learning

Becky Potenberg

Property

Mark Staes

Worship

Becky VanErstvelde

Youth

Camiel VanErstvelde

Stewardship

Allison Senkbeil

Service

Witness

Pastor

Sue Hoff

Registration is now open!

**Scan the QR Code, or forms are
available on Facebook or
website: salemmoline.org**



It's coming!!
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 20 - 24, 2026
9:00AM - 12:00Noon
Ages 3 - 7th Grade

Council Meeting Minutes

RRO Congregational Meeting Minutes June 14, 2026

Rita Gustafson called the meeting to order.

Pastor Sue gave an opening prayer and explanation about the gift cards for LSSI and the color envelopes for RIC annual partner gift.

A quorum of 47 was accepted.

Congregational meeting minutes February 8, 2026. Moved, seconded and approved.

Old business – Nancy gave an update on the budget.

New business – Rita gave an update on Pathways and RIC.

Capital Campaign for boiler and sound system. Endowment would like congregation to raise half the amount needed for these two projects.

Wayne Thompson presented the Nominees for new Council officers and members. There are several openings so we are in need of your help.

Becky VanErstvelde gave a report on Worship – we need more volunteers.

Vote for new Council / Committee members. Moved, seconded and approved.

Recognize retiring Council / Committee Members: Dave Long, Miranda Luder, Jessica Clark, Ruby Clark, Kim Luder, Dick and Margaret Castle, Linda Lundgren. Pastor Sue gave a special prayer for those people.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Sue.

Motion to adjourn. Moved, seconded, approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Kronfeld

Council Secretary

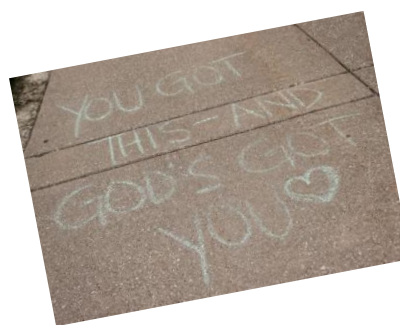


Blood Drive
Tuesday July 14
3:00-6:00PM
We Need You!!



Leadership Lab 2026

Lizzie, Miranda, Aiden, Monika, Camiel and Sally



Stewardship Corner:

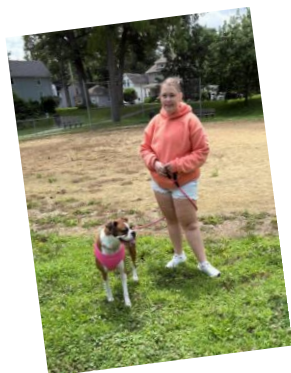
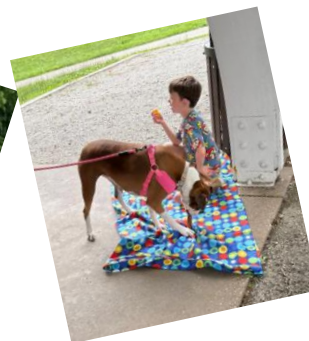
Hi everyone!

Thank you to all who volunteered for Church Council and Committee calls. Salem truly cannot do what it does without its volunteers and we are forever grateful for all of you.

We have a busy July ahead with VBS, a Blood Drive, and a Culver's fundraising night (more info to come!).

If anyone is still interested or feels called to fill our Service, Witness, or positions on several committees, please do not hesitate to reach out to volunteer or even to get more information. We are always willing to share the highlights of what is expected from being on council or committees and, you never know, maybe you can bring exactly what is needed to Salem.

Thanks!
Allison



Church Picnic was held at
Prospect Park
Chilly Weather, Good Food,
Good Fellowship



Walker Smith	7/1
Marianne Moore	7/2
Sarah Fausett	7/3
Larry Bigelow	7/4
Cathy Bigelow	7/6
Bianca Yuuvan	7/9
Linda Czupka	7/13
Darlene Hann	7/13
Gordon Kinhead	7/15
William Peterson	7/20
Emma Beierlein	7/21
Mike Lawyer	7/22
Steve Hotchkiss	7/23
Linda Ontiveros	7/23
Blake Tillberg	7/23
Austin VanScoy	7/24
Chris Castle	7/26
Summer Keenan	7/27
Natalie Hoff	7/29
Tim Stockhecke	7/30

Memorials Received - June 2026

In Loving Memory of Eric Black
Given by.....Darlene Hann

Culver's Fundraiser
Thursday, July 23
5:00PM-8:00PM
Watch eNews for more

Information



SERENITY CIRCLE

**will start up again
in the fall.**

**Watch this space
for more information.**

Financial Information	May Actual	May Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$22,592.12	\$13,275.43	\$97,139.72	\$80,157.77
Expenses	\$19,451.61	\$24,004.96	\$120,423.14	\$120,654.75
Net Income	\$3,140.51	(\$10,729.53)	(\$23,283.42)	(\$40,496.98)

Date	Sunday	Public	Private	YouTube	Total
May 3	57	55	32	1	145
May 10	69	75	39	6	189
May 17	47	64	26	12	149
May 24	57	81	32	7	177
May 31	38	0	0	0	38

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Altar Flower Sponsor Schedule

July 2026

July 5	Laura Crumbleholme
July 12	Karin Martin
July 19	Linda Ontiveros & Annette Dietz
July 26	Jay and Wendy Morrow

Altar Guild / Worship

July 2026

Paraments - Patti Tollerud
Communion Set up – Rick Jones

Greeters

July 5	Rita Gustafson
July 12	Becky VanErstvelde
July 19	Rick Jones
July 26	Allison Senkbeil

Assisting Ministers – July 2026

Sunday	Assistant
July 5	Jim Kernan
July 12	Becky Potenberg
July 19	Nancy Patterson
July 26	Jon Gustafson

Salem Lutheran Church

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

salem@salemmoline.org www.salemmoline.org

Sunday Worship:

Fellowship: 9:00AM
Sunday School: 9:00AM (Sept-May)
Worship: 10:00AM

Office Hours:

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

Last, But Not Least.....



The Salem-Willard Outreach Committee will be collecting school supplies during the summer months for the Willard School students' 2026-27 school year. Below are items the teachers have indicated will help the students at Willard. The items may be placed in the Willard barrel. **Deadline will be August 9.**

THANK YOU for your support.

2026-27 School Year Willard School Items

Expo Dry Erase Markers

Expo Dry Erase Markers Fine Tip (Black)

Wipes Disinfectant

Boxes of Kleenex

Box of Washable Markers (Classic Colors)

Crayons – 24 count **Crayola brand only please.**

Plastic Boxes for Crayons

Zip Lock Bags – Quart, Gallon and Sandwich size

Glue Sticks

Plain color two pocket folders with and without prongs

Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks