



The Marvelous
month of

May!

My favorite month of the year! The earth is in bloom and a warm breeze gently touches sun-warmed skin. All is bliss! Well, mostly! The heavens also open, crackling, thundering and pouring out. And the warm breeze turns gusty, full-throated, even threatening. And while we may give thanks for all that is good, we also pray for

people and communities devastated by violent tornados and flooding. I say this as a reminder that the physical, emotional and financial turmoil in the aftermath of natural disasters lasts much longer than the current news-cycle. We may soon forget about the latest such disaster, but it will live in the broken hearts of those in the middle of it for years and decades. We can help in many ways. One of them is through Lutheran Disaster Response, an ELCA organization that provides short and long-term assistance to impacted communities. So, while we give thanks and praise to God for this life-giving springtime, we can also offer our thanks by helping out a stranger struggling to cope in the aftermath of disaster. Scan the QR code below for more information.



Relief today. Resilience tomorrow.

Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of the ELCA, provides support for communities recovering from devastating storms by responding to urgent needs, providing emotional and spiritual care, and supporting cleanup and long-term recovery.

We are church together, and together we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need.



Scan the QR code to give today.
Severe storms are one of the most common disasters in the United States. Your generosity supports survivors on the long road to recovery.



May is also extremely busy! Graduations, spring concerts, soccer and baseball games, holidays, the High Tea, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, vacation planning, gardening, spring-cleaning, final exams, flower planting and so much more! The list is exhausting!

And now for a word of pastoral advice. Take time to care for yourself, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically. We humans tend to be overachievers in many ways; and sometimes even "fun and entertaining" seasons can challenge our stamina. Give yourself a breather when you can. Rest. Know you are a child of God, loved more than you could ever imagine. God loves us in our imperfection and desires for us to trust in the promise of salvation; if it were not so, would Jesus have told his disciples, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also"? (John 14:3)

Peace be with you in this and all seasons,

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



Congregational Meeting

June 14, 2026

Immediately following worship

This meeting will be for the election of officers of the congregation and members of the Church Council.

Committee Reports are due to the office by Wednesday, May 20 to insure the report is done by June 1 for congregational review prior to the meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Council Meeting Minutes Summary 04/19/26

Excused/Absent: Pastor Sue, Mark Staes

Devotions: David Long

Nancy will do devotions for next council meeting

Council Minutes: Becky Potenberg

Miranda Motioned, Allison 2nd, unanimously approved

Treasurer's/Financial Reports: Nancy Patterson

To be sent

Pastor's Report: Pastor Sue

Staff Report: Sally Patterson

Safe Church Policy

Vote via email

Motioned by Rita, 2nd by Becky V, unanimously approved

Church Directory Update

Directory is now available in print for those who had photos taken

Online directory is now available but still being finalized

Elevator

Cable Fixed

Continued issues include: elevator going to lower level when called from other floors, requiring multiple button pushes

RIM and Pathways

RIM had a meeting with the bishop who reassured them she's not looking to close churches

Handout provided explaining differences between merging, consolidating, and closing churches

All churches will be asked to complete a five-week "energy audit" program

Audit (spiritual energy, financial energy, human energy)

Values bracket and timeline activities will be combined with the energy audit

Lenten Services Feedback

Positive feedback from other churches about the joint Lenten services

Suggestion to continue similar gatherings monthly (not necessarily weekly)

Suggestion to meet at Vibrant Coffee House to accommodate flexible group sizes

Approximately 100 people attended Lenten services (about 1/5 of the total congregation population)

Combined Calendar for RIM Churches

Church secretaries and pastors will have writing ability; everyone else can view only

Calendar will show major events that welcome people from other congregations

Upcoming events mentioned: High Tea (sold out), combined worship service in May, outdoor service and church-wide picnic in August

Sabbatical Policy

Need for an official written policy for Pastor Sue's sabbatical

Allison volunteered to draft the policy for Salem

Continued on page 4

Council minutes continued from page 3

Key points discussed:

One month sabbatical every three years (already approved), determine if 4

Sundays or 30 days

Pastor will need to submit a plan (purpose, outcomes, and ministry coverage) at least six months prior to sabbatical

Benefits will continue during sabbatical

Potential reimbursement for applicable expenses (books, research materials, etc.)

Church Picnic

Decision to have a Salem-only picnic as a complete potluck (no church-provided meat)

Members will bring their own drinks and tableware

RIM church service and picnic

Planned for August

Logistical considerations: need for larger space, parking, seating, sound system

Purpose is both fellowship among congregations and outreach to non-churched community

Culver's Fundraiser

Details: 5-8pm on a weekday (preferably Tuesday or Thursday), 10% of sales go to church, If target sales reached, percentage increases to 15%

Need volunteers (at least 14 years old) to greet at door and bus tables

July 23rd? Promote during VBS?

Miranda motioned, Kim 2nd

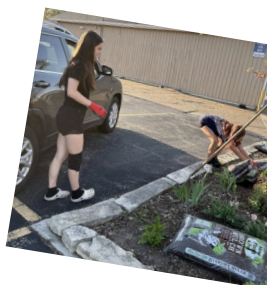
Adjourned at 11:33 AM

Lord's Prayer

Next council meeting 5/21/26 at 6 PM



Wednesday Night Teens help Thursday Morning Crew get some mulch put down. GOOD JOB ALL!!





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



Stewardship Corner:

We are approaching our halfway mark of the year and our stewardship for Salem is looking better than ever!

We have some fun events planned in the second half of the year so keep praying for what God is asking you to do in the church and your community.

Also, don't the flowers on the altar look beautiful every week? Well you could be the one who coordinates the receipt of those beautiful flowers. We are looking for someone to take up the position of Altar Flower Chairperson! Those duties include working with the secretary to line up sponsors for Sunday worship, communicate with the church secretary for when payments have come in for flowers, remind families of their commitment for flowers the week they are sponsoring, and communicate with the worship chair for adjustments on altar flowers as needed.

Please contact Becky VanErstvelde if you have questions or are interested.



**Class
Of
2026**

Congrats!



**Class
Of
2026**

Congrats!

Brody Thomas Billings

- * Graduate of Moline High School
- * Going to Black Hawk College for his Associates Degree
- * Planning to transfer to Illinois State University to become a middle school history or science teacher.
- * Parents are Jessica and David Billings

Peyton Kofoot

- *Graduate of North Iowa Area Community College
- *2 year degree in Farm Management and AG Sales and Service.
- *Completing his internship with AgVantage FS in Thornton IA, and then will work for them permanently.
- *Grandson of Steve and Kathy Hotchkiss



Good Shepherd Sunday April 26, 2026



Follow the
Good Shepherd

I want to
be a sheep

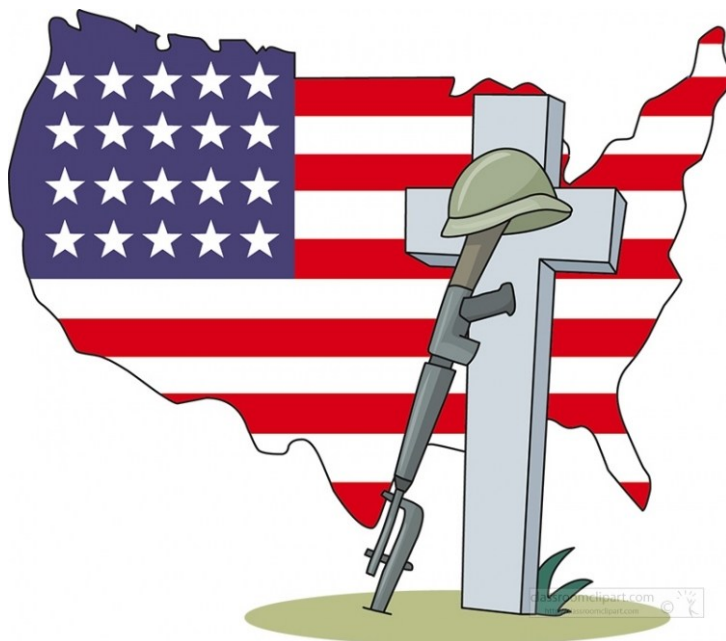


I want to be a
child of God





Tom VanErstvelde	5/2
Nate Gustafson	5/7
Brett Monnard	5/8
Chloe Fausett	5/9
Austin Engels	5/10
Kathy Hotchkiss	5/12
David Long	5/13
Deacon Stockhecke	5/14
Windsor Stockhecke	5/18
Buddy Wilgus	5/20
Laura Stockhecke Lynn	5/23
Wendy Hilton-Morrow	5/25
Camryn Flippo	5/26
Meg Simpson	5/27
Jessica Clark	5/28
Nadyne Stockhecke	5/30
Amber Hardin	5/31



*Remembering those that
gave their lives that
we may live free.
Have a safe, blessed, and
Happy Memorial Day.*

*Memorials Received -
April 2026*



In Loving Memory of Bernadette Chandler
Given by Serenity Circle

In Loving Memory of the following

Given by Jeff Lind:

Jim Kron
Harold and Mary Wicks
John and Marge Graflund
Jill Anderson
Ellen Whitcomb



SERENITY CIRCLE

Please join us
Monday, May 4
In the Lounge 12:30 PM
All the women of Salem
are welcome!

Stewardship Statistics

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Mar Actual	Mar Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income				
Expenses				
Net Income				

A T T E N D A N C E

Date	Sunday	Public	Private	YouTube	Total
Mar 1	67	72	38	5	182
Mar 8	57	96	32	10	195
Mar 15	60	52	34	2	148
Mar 22	69	78	39	9	195
Mar 29	102	41	57	2	202

Altar Flower Sponsor Schedule

May 2026

May 3	Roger & Linda Lundgren
May 10	David & Kim Luder
May 17	Beth Tagtmeier
May 24	Laura Crumbleholme
May 31	Augustana Service

Altar Guild / Worship

May 2026

Paraments - Darlene Hann

Communion Set up - Darlene Hann

Greeters

May 3	Rita Gustafson
May 10	Rick Jones
May 17	Marti Kernan
May 24	Becky VanErstvelde
May 31	Augustana Service

Assisting Ministers - May 2026

Sunday

Assistant

May 3	David Long
May 10	Nancy Patterson
May 17	Allison Senkbeil
May 24	Jim Kernan
May 31	Augustana Service

Salem Lutheran Church

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

Update on Fundraising for Rethabile

As you'll likely recall, our congregation has come together to support Rethabile, a biomedicine student from Lesotho whose family experienced financial hardship after her father lost his job in the textile industry.

We are grateful to share that \$7,500 has been raised and sent for her final year of tuition. Combined with last year's giving, Salem has contributed a total of \$10,625 toward her education. This is a remarkable expression of generosity, compassion, and shared commitment to supporting a young person's future.

Rethabile shared the following message of thanks:

Words cannot describe my gratitude for your donations towards my tuition. I may have not had the best start to the semester considering the exclusion, but I am grateful that this is the first and last time I will ever experience this, thanks to my donors—especially considering the challenges currently being faced in your country.

I am beyond grateful that even in this stressful time, you still extended a hand to help me and see me through my school year. I cannot thank any of my donors enough for their support in assisting me to continue with my studies. You have all blessed me with a lifetime of opportunities that I can freely pursue because of the stand my education has given me, and I am eternally grateful to all of you for that.

May the Lord bless you and your families with peace, abundance, and joy, that you may not lack in any area of your lives.

Thank you for your generosity and for the clear commitment you show to supporting young people and their futures.