

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:5-6)

How do you know when you're on the right path? Often times, before driving, I check Google Maps to figure out how to get where I hope to be going. Even then though, without a good navigator beside me, sometimes I make a wrong turn and get delayed a little. If I'm lucky, my wrong turn opens my eyes to something new, like discovering a Whitey's or a Country Style that I hadn't seen before. Other times I'm not so lucky and end up late for an appointment. But in the end does it matter if any of us take a wrong turn or two (hundred-thousand) in our lives? Arguably not. No joke.

The turns in our lives can be many things; they can be major intersections that head us out in a completely new direction; they can be forks in the road where we need to think about which way to go; they can be roads that lead to dead ends and force us to retrace our steps or re-think about where it is that we are going. They can be exciting exploratory adventures . . . chances to see and experience something wonderfully unexpected.

And they can be always a reason or an opportunity to ask for God's guidance; to ask for the direction of God's Holy Spirit; to have faith that Jesus abides with you, in you, at every turn of the corner; and to have courage, knowing that even a wrong turn may provide good learning or experience.

This is trust. It is trust in the God who knows you intimately; sees all of your flaws and inability to follow directions. It is trust in an unknown, yet known, future. And this trust allows us to step out of our comfort zones, so that we can do the things that God is calling us to do.

We are embarking on a new thing or two right now. The RIM (Rock Island / Moline ELCA Congregations) are continuing to work together to discern how we might follow God's call to serve our communities together. Salem is beginning a journey of discernment called "Pathways" to help us clarify our path as a congregation, asking the question, "Where is God leading us next?" And sometimes doing a new thing can be a bit intimidating or even scary. Yet, it is important to remember that we are not alone on this journey, no more than we are alone when we go anywhere, even by ourselves.



Travel in peace, my friends
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!



8/10/25 Summary of Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Rita Gustafson, David Long, Becky Potenberg, Nancy Patterson, Miranda Luder, Mark Staes, Becky VanErstvelde, Kim Luder, Ruby Clark, Pastor Sue Hoff

Absent: Jessica Clark, Ruby Clark, Allison Senkbeil

Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM

David provided a devotion.

Nancy emailed report. *Miranda motioned, Becky V seconded, unanimously approved.

Pastor Sue emailed report.

Becky emailed council minutes. *Pastor Sue motioned, Kim seconded, unanimously approved.

Student Scholarship Request from Lesotho

Wendy's colleague has a cousin in Lesotho (country in southern Africa) who needs financial assistance

Total need is approximately \$6,000 over the next two years to cover tuition costs

Proposed Support

Congregation members could make donations to the church earmarked for the student;

Salem would transfer money directly to the school in South Africa

Possibility of using endowment funds since there is no other scholarship recipient this year

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) statement update

The RIC organization requested an additional statement about anti-racism be added to the church's welcome statement

Plan to publish the updated statement in bulletins and newsletters for congregation awareness

Final vote on the statement will occur at next month's meeting

Pathways Discernment Update

August 13th: Salem Pathways team will meet to discuss questions

August 18th: Zoom call to discuss these questions with other congregations in cohort: First Lutheran in Monmouth, Messiah in Aledo, Salem Lutheran in Rockford, and Cambridge

RIM Task Force

Becky V volunteered to replace Deb during last council meeting

Building Maintenance Updates

AED (Automated External Defibrillator):

Cost is \$1,500-2,000

Training would be provided by Red Cross or Moline Fire Department at no cost

Air Conditioning Repairs:

JL Brady will replace three motors for \$3,999

Parts are expected in about two weeks

Insurance Requirements:

Insurance company requested photos of completed work and boiler room

Documentation of repairs may help prevent insurance rate increases

Generator Security:

Fence vs Ring Camera

Parking Lot

30 day notice letter was placed on cars in Salem's parking lot

Endowment Committee

Jon agreed to be added to the committee

Worship Time Change Discussion

Sunday School and Fellowship would begin at 9:00 AM

Motion made to change worship time to 10:00 AM starting on Rally Day, 9/21/25

*Pastor Sue motioned, Kim seconded, unanimously approved

Continued on page 5

Youth News



“We Dig Jesus!”

Sunday School, September 21st from 9:00-9:45AM

WE DIG JESUS!!!!!! Join us as Sunday School begins September 21st at 9:00AM. We are planning to “get messy” with worms and mud as we “dig” deeper in the Bible and discover more about Jesus. Each week we hope to plant seeds of faith and grow in our love for Jesus and others. All children/teens are welcome. Registration information out soon. Please note the NEW TIME of Sunday School 9:00-9:45AM and worship begins at 10:00AM.

Mark your calendars also for the following:

Wednesday Night Drop-In starts Wednesday, September 24 6:00PM

Confirmation starts Wednesday, September 24 7:00PM

Youth Groups will start in the fall - dates and times to be determined

8/10/25 Summary of Council Meeting Minutes (continued)

Pastor's Call Status

Pastor Sue is currently on a three-year call, now in her second year
Making the call permanent would require a congregational vote

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is understaffed and needs new members
Current council member is Nancy, Monica Luder agreed to continue
Council will check with Wayne to confirm current committee membership before making appointments

Safe Church Policy Initiative

Church Mutual doesn't currently require it but offers background check services
Background Checks for Sunday School teachers, VBS volunteers, youth leaders, nursery staff
Council decided to form a committee to investigate background check requirements and procedures

Pastor Sue volunteered to do devotion next month

Motion to Adjourn by Miranda, Mark seconded, unanimously approved

Lord's Prayer Recited

Meeting Adjourned 1:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Potenberg
Church Council Secretary

Happening around Salem

Pastor Sue visited Marilyn Ausherman and her family. If you would like to send her a card, please call the office for her address.



Tuesday Night Bible Study



Wednesday Morning Bible Study



Pathways Discernment Team



Discussing Schedule Changes



National ELCA Conference - Northern Illinois Representatives





Thank you Salem members for your generous donations of school supplies for Willard School. The supplies were delivered to the school on August 12 for the start of the school. THANK YOU!

Dear Salem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of school supplies. We are so grateful for your partnership in educating our students. These supplies will be put to good use.

Thanks again!
Willard Staff & Students



August 10th, Lizzie Dail was awarded Salem's Youngdahl Scholarship for her grade point average and participation at Salem. She will be attending Black Hawk College this Fall and continue studies at University of Wisconsin- Platteville. Congratulations and blessings! Carol Youngdahl Brown made the presentation.





Zeke Roseman	9/4
Hailey Fulkerson	9/8
Julie Geyer Miner	9/8
Maverick Hann	9/11
Colly Peterson	9/14
Richard Wood	9/15
Amy Jahn	9/16
Cullen Tillberg	9/16
Sydney Woomert	9/16
Emmett Kump	9/19
Ryan Curry	9/20
Bonnie Lartz	9/20
Alexis Clark	9/21
Pat Lundgren	9/22
Diane Kelly	9/23
Suzanne Witcher	9/24
Logan Curry	9/30

Thank you +
all the Helpers
at VBS

Charlie Mae +
Hannah Had a
wonderful time

Sue + Joe
"Thankful"



all anew
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

SERENITY CIRCLE

Please join us as we start a new year!
Monday, September 8
La Herradura Mexican Restaurant
201 W 2nd Ave Coal Valley IL
12:30 PM

All the women of Salem are welcome!

Stewardship Statistics

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$14,333.63	\$16,853.31	\$118,414.71	\$114,710.63
Expenses	\$18,431.07	\$24,990.48	\$150,338.44	\$161,836.52
Net Income	(\$4,097.44)	(\$8,137.17)	(\$31,923.73)	(\$47,125.89)

A T T E N D A N C E

Date	Sunday	Public	Private	YouTube	Total
July 6	58	100	32	11	201
July 13	84	0	0	0	84
July 20	58	66	32	12	168
July 27	40	62	22	2	126

Altar Flower Sponsor Schedule

September 2025

Sept 7	Rick Jones
Sept 14	Laura Crumbleholme
Sept 21	Nancy Lindstrom
Sept 28	Emily, Camryn, Chloe and Sarah

Altar Guild / Worship September 2025

Paraments -

Communion Set up - Gordon and Karri
Kinhead

Greeters

Sept 7	Rita Gustafson
Sept 14	Rick Jones
Sept 21	
Sept 28	Becky VanErstvelde

Assisting Ministers - September 2025

Sunday	Assistant
Sept 7	David Long
Sept 14	Allison Senkbeil
Sept 21	Jim Kernan
Sept 28	Becky Potenberg

Salem Lutheran Church

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

www.salemmoline.org

Worship: Sunday

Fellowship: 8:30AM

Service: 9:30AM

Office Hours:

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

September 21

Our new Sunday Schedule will start!

We heard you and thank you! Your feedback and opinions were of great value and are much appreciated. The majority agreed to the following schedule:

Fellowship: 9:00-9:45AM
Sunday School: 9:00-9:45AM
Worship Service: 10:00AM

Mark your calendars, set the alarm clocks and join us for our new early start to God's day.

EXTEND A HELPING HAND

Salem has an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the life of a young woman named **Rethabile** (her name means "*We are happy*"), who is from Lesotho in southern Africa. She is studying Biomedicine at Endovos College in South Africa, with two years remaining in her program. Her annual tuition is approximately **\$3,000**, which her family had been able to cover until recently.

Rethabile's father lost his job in a garment factory after steep U.S. tariffs led to massive layoffs in Lesotho's textile industry. These tariffs have had a devastating effect on the country's export-dependent economy, leaving thousands unemployed and families struggling to meet basic needs.

Her situation was brought to our attention by a member here at Salem, and we hope to help cover **as much of her tuition as we are able** so she can finish her studies. Donations collected will be paid **directly to the school** to ensure they are used for tuition.

You may give a **one-time gift** or **monthly support** toward this cause. To donate:

- Place your gift in the offering plate with "Lesotho family" written on the envelope.
- Drop donations off in the church office.

On **Sunday, September 28th at 9:15 a.m.**, during coffee/fellowship time, **Dr. Tšooane Molapo**—cousin to Rethabile's mother, originally from Lesotho and now working at Augustana College—will join us to share about life in Lesotho, the economic challenges people there are facing, and answer questions.

If you have questions before then, please feel free to contact **Wendy Hilton-Morrow**.

Please prayerfully consider how you might support this effort to help Rethabile continue her education and bring hope to her family during a very difficult time.

Last, But Not Least....

Attention Salem Golfers and volunteers!

As we are not having our golf outing this year, we want to throw our support behind the LSSI Golf Outing. Please see the information below, get your foursome registered, or sign up to volunteer, and have some fall fun!

Registration due by August 29.

Thank you!

 **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**



2nd Annual

Chip in Fore Children Charity Golf Outing

**Saturday, September 13, 2025
1 p.m. Shotgun Start**

Register your team by April 30, 2025 and receive 20 free raffle tickets for your team.

**Four-Person Scramble, \$300/Team
Golf Cart, Lunch, and Goodie Bag Included
Raffle Prizes & Games on Golf Course**

**Highland Springs Golf Course
9500 35th Street W, Rock Island, IL 61201**



Join fellow golfers, foster parents, and community members for a day of friendly competition for a cause. Funds raised will benefit local foster care programs.

Visit LSSI.org/Golf or scan the QR code to learn more and register.

Questions? Contact Andrea McClean at 309.373.3728