

*Thoughts from Pastor Paola...*

We are about to enter the season of Lent. It will start on February 18th, Ash Wednesday, and will last for 40 days since Christ suffered in the desert for 40 days.

Some people during Lent give up something they like or they are attached to. Some people choose to add things to their lives, such as prayer, devotion, acts of generosity....All of these disciplines help us to understand Jesus' sacrifice by getting closer to God, transforming our brokenness into new life, and finding deeper joy.

I would like to share with you what I decided to do this year in hopes that it may inspire or give you ideas. Each day, I will do a spiritual check-up, a chance for an honest self-reflection about my struggles, negative habits, but also my gifts and assets. It will be sort of a daily self-inventory to help me to grow spiritually.

Since my life, just like yours is already full and complicated, I will focus every day on one of the 9 fruits of the Spirit and walk through my day holding that fruit in front of me. This can be a very tangible and concrete way to let the Spirit grow that fruit in me. Let's take one that is hard for me: Patience. As I am driving and people go really slow in front of me or cut me off, I'll pray for patience. When I am at the store, if the line gets really long and the cashier is really slow, I'll try to think that he/she may be having a terrible day. If someone puts me on hold for a long time on the phone, I'll use that time to catch a break and breathe. I may even write "**patience**" on a piece of paper and put it in my pocket as a reminder...

You see where I am going with this. It can be simple and transforming. There are 9 fruits of the Spirit, so I will be able to go through each word at least 4 times through Lent.

The cool thing is that after 6 weeks this discipline can become a habit and truly transform my life. So instead of just *trying* harder to be more patient (which leads to frustration), I will *train myself* to become a little more like Jesus.

Please let me know if I can be of any help to you through your Lenten spiritual journey.

And of course, look inside this Tidings for many more opportunities for study, worship, discussion, and service to make this Lent a time of spiritual growth for you.

Have a blessed Lent,  
Pastor Paola

**LOVE**  
**JOY**  
**PEACE**  
**PATIENCE**  
**KINDNESS**  
**GOODNESS**  
**FAITHFULNESS**  
**GENTLENESS**  
**SELF-CONTROL**

**GALATIANS 5:22-33**



# How Can We Find the Good Life?

Led by the story of the people in the desert, we will dedicate the beginning of the New Year to discovering what we need to do to live the Good Life that God created us to have.

February 1st **Communion**

**Surround Yourself With A Great Community**

Exodus 17:8-16: *Moses is Supported*

February 8th **Slow Down in a Hurry Up World**

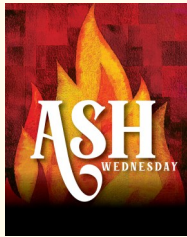
Exodus 35:1-3; Exodus 40: *Rest and Worship*

*Stand Alone Sunday*

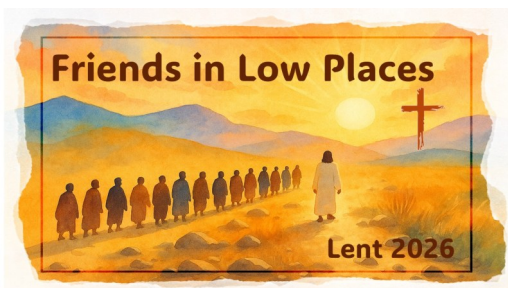
*Pastor Pete - Communion*

February 15th

**Transfiguration Sunday**



On Ash Wednesday, Feb 18th, ashes and a devotional will be available in the sanctuary for you throughout the day. You can also join us at New Perspective at 10:30 for an Ash Wednesday devotion and hymns.



## Friends in Low Places

Lent 2026

*Jesus loved and welcomed outsiders. So why is it so hard for us to do the same?*

We are dedicating this Lent to learn from Jesus' example of how to welcome and love all our neighbors as ourselves.

**February 22nd:** First Sunday of Lent  
**Haiti Malnutrition Fundraiser**

**March 1st:** Second Sunday of Lent – Communion  
**Samaritan Woman, The Impure Stranger**  
John 4:4-15

**March 8th:** Third Sunday of Lent  
**Leper, The Unclean Deformed**  
Luke 5:12-16

**March 15th:** Fourth Sunday of Lent  
**Centurion, The Non-Believer**  
Luke 7:1-10

**March 22nd:** Fifth Sunday of Lent  
**The Woman of Poor Morality**  
Luke 7:36-50

**March 29th:** Palm Sunday  
**Zacchaeus, The Dishonest Official**  
Luke 19:1-10



We are blessed to have the New Horizon Brass Group performing for us on Palm Sunday. They will bring lots of special music to worship.



**April 3rd at 7:00 PM:** Good Friday  
**Travel with us on**  
**The Way of the Cross**

**April 5th:** Easter Sunday  
**I Have Seen the Lord**  
John 20:1-18



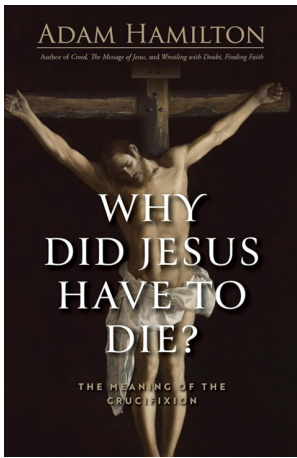
## Chapel Service Next Door

**February 18, 2026**  
10:30 AM Hymn Sing  
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Come worship with our neighbors at New Perspective! **Harriet Young** will lead a devotional in the chapel on the 3rd floor.

**Future services: March 18th and April 15th**

A special thanks to **Susie Brown** for playing the piano, **Dave Pauly** for playing flute, & **Bill Watt** for planning & leading the services at New Perspective!



**Lenten Bible Study:**  
***Why Did Jesus Have to Die?***

Join us this Lent for a meaningful Bible study based on Adam Hamilton's *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?*. Together we'll explore the significance of the cross and what Jesus' death reveals about God's love and grace. **All are welcome.**

**Study dates:** Sunday, March 1st, 8th, 22nd, & 29th.

**Time:** 10:20 am

**Cost of the Hardcover Book: \$21.00**

**Sign up in the Happenings Center**

## Confirmation Class

Please continue to pray for the confirmation class of 2025/26: Maura, Ava, and Josephine.

Next meeting is on March 1st at 10:30 am

***Why Should I Give Up Chocolate***

Lent and Easter



Salem's Knitting Ministry invites you to share a wrap of love. If you know someone who needs comfort, please take a hand-knit blanket from the right-side counter in front of the Sanctuary and sign the blessing book.

Interested in knitting?

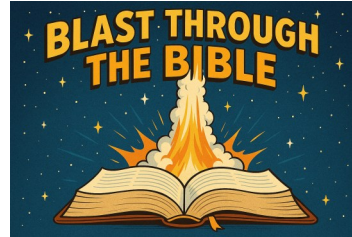
**Join us Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the library.**

If you enjoy singing we would love to have you as part of our **Church Choir**. Please contact Michelle Oberwise Lacock at (630) 336-2317 or by email at [mlacock54@gmail.com](mailto:mlacock54@gmail.com).



Handbell choir practices every Wednesday at 6:30pm. If you are interested in becoming a handbell choir member please reach out to Brenda Lindsay (262) 894-0644 or by email [blindsay001@wi.rr.com](mailto:blindsay001@wi.rr.com).

We would love to have you join us.



**SAVE THE DATE...**

**Sunday, March 15th**

**10:00 am Soup & Sandwiches in Fellowship Hall**

**10:30 am - 12:30 pm Program in the Sanctuary**

Join us for a special intergenerational event featuring guest speaker Mrs. Pattycake!

The Bible can often feel like one giant jigsaw puzzle—but Blast Through the Bible brings all the pieces together. This engaging, hands-on experience will help both young and old see the BIG picture and understand the Bible as ONE connected story from beginning to end.

Come be part of this fun, interactive learning adventure!

**Please sign up in the Happenings Center so that we have enough food and materials for you.**



**Having trouble hearing Pastor Paola's message?**

Salem offers hearing support through T-Coil (for compatible hearing aids) and over-the-ear assistive devices. T-Coil must be enabled in your hearing aid. For others, assistive units are available at the Sound Booth—just ask an usher for help. Thank you!



The **FOOD**  
**Pantry**  
SERVING WAUKESHA COUNTY

**Salem's Christmas Offering to the Food Pantry!**

Thank you Salem for your generosity.



January 13, 2026

Dear Salem United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County. Your gift of **\$4,087.00** during this time is truly appreciated.

**Your support is helping to keep our community healthy by providing our friends and neighbors with access to nutritious food.** During this time so many of our Waukesha County neighbors are being affected by inflationary pressures making it difficult to keep their home pantries stocked. With your donation, you are ensuring that vulnerable clients such as children, the elderly, and people with chronic health issues, have the food they need to stay healthy.

**Your generosity is a shining example of what is great about this community.**

**Thanks for stepping up and making a difference when we needed you most.**

Sincerely,  
Lyndsay Johnson  
Executive Director

**More Than A Meal**  
Annual Fundraiser

The Food Pantry's annual fundraiser is coming up. They are looking for silent auction items. Here are some ideas:

- Tickets to Local Attractions
- Garden Supplies (gloves, tools, potting soil or a gift card to garden center)
- Gift certificates to Waukesha County Restaurants \$25 or higher
- Sports Tickets
- Saturday Pancake Basket
- Family Game Night Basket
- Boat Rides
- Use of your cabin Up North

Be creative!

**Due by February 14th** so they have time to post on their website. Feel free to bring item to church and Debbi will take it to the pantry.

See Debbi Oswald for more information.

The annual Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 18th at the Golden Mast Inn, Okauchee.

**FOOD PANTRY UPCOMING FUNDRAISER EVENT**

**Join us for breakfast at Golden Mast Inn, Okauchee, WI**

- Doors open at 9:30 AM
- Breakfast is served at 10:30 AM
- Program and Awards begin at 11:15 AM
- Fund A Program starts at 11:45AM
- Raffle winner chosen at 12:00 PM

**Buy your tickets today!**

<https://cbo.io/app/public/bidapp/morethanameal>



**Coming Soon:  
International Dessert Bake-Off  
to support Haiti**

On **Sunday, February 22** we will be hosting our annual fundraiser to support Haiti.

During the church service, we will learn about the ongoing work at the clinic and the programs it supports including the Child Malnutrition program that provides Medika Mamba to enrolled children, a fortified peanut butter substance that has been shown to restore 90% of severely malnourished infants to health.

After the service, we will enjoy some delicious treats during our international dessert bake-off fundraiser! This year's theme is "international desserts. Thanks to all our mystery bakers! Come try some new treats, learn about all the great work going on at the clinic, and help support the children and families in Haiti.

***We look forward to hopefully seeing you all on Sunday, February 22, 2026***



**Coming March 2026**

**Cereal Domino Challenge: Fun with a Purpose!**



Our children and youth at Salem are gearing up for a fun and meaningful activity—the **Cereal Domino Challenge!**

During this challenge, they will be collecting boxes of cereal. They will work together to line up boxes of cereal in creative domino patterns and watch them tumble in a chain reaction of excitement.

But the fun doesn't stop there. All of the cereal used in the challenge will be donated to the **Waukesha Food Pantry** to help families in need.

This is a wonderful way for our children and youth to learn teamwork, generosity, and the joy of serving others—all while having a great time. We invite our congregation to support this effort by donating boxes of cereal and cheering on our youth as they turn fun into faith in action.

Together, we can make a small box of cereal make a big difference!



## Special Super Bowl Sunday - February 8th

**We will be serving NACHOS during fellowship hour after church.**

A sign up sheet to help with the food is available in the Happenings Center.

*See Sharon Seegers if you have any questions.*



LIFTING PEOPLE TO BETTER HEALTH



## STRONGBODIES

### NEW TO SALEM...COMING SOON!!!

**Who:** Women and Men ages 60+

**What:** Strength Training Class

**When:** Mondays and Wednesdays  
9:15-10:30AM; **starts on 2/2/2026**

**Runs for 4 months**

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Cost:** FREE

*More information is in the Happening Center.  
To register call Courtney at (262) 548-7835  
or by email at [cklepp@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:cklepp@waukeshacounty.gov)*



# ♥ HOSPITALITY ♥



Please consider signing up to to serve fellowship snacks and/or be a greeter during the winter months. Signing up is easy—just stop by The Happening Center and snack counter to add your name to the list.



Gas - Food - Car Wash

**Kwik  
TRIP**

## Fundraising CARD PROGRAM

Our February Kwik Trip card sale will run from  
**February 1st - February 15th.**

\$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200.

Car wash cards also available for the winter mess5 washes for \$36.

Sign up in the Happenings Center or see Kermit.  
Cards will be available for pick up on 2/22/26.  
**Make payment to Salem with KT Cards in memo.**

## Calling all book lovers!

We're looking to spend some of our book sale money on some new books. The librarians already have a list of books they hope you will enjoy. Do you have any books or authors whose works you'd like to see in Salem's library?  
Please let Carol Becher or Gladys Roskowski know.



# Getting to Know... Who's Who in the Pews

Thank you to Gladys Roszkowski for taking the time to write the "Getting to Know"...articles.



**Bill Hauenstine** was born in Indiana, as was his late wife JoAnn, whom he met in high school. Bill was in business and JoAnn taught elementary school. He was transferred to Milwaukee and eventually landed in Waukesha. They had three daughters, all of whom were confirmed at Salem. Bill had an insurance company and after the girls were all in school, JoAnn worked with him. He loves playing golf which he has more time for in retirement.



**Cory and Laurie Buxengard** – Cory was born in MN. He met Laurie, the youngest Hauenstine daughter, at Winona State in MN. After they graduated and married, (at Salem) she worked for her dad while Cory worked at a plastics company. Their family consists of **Aaron**, who is finishing his senior year at La Crosse majoring in Business Management, **Zach** who is in Flight Training through Spring City Aviation, and **Abigail** a junior in high school. Cory now works for Allied Plastics and enjoys hunting, working in his workshop, and working on cars, especially his Mustang. Laurie is employed by the Muskego-Norway School District and is the Ski/Snowboard Club advisor for the Muskego Lakes Middle School. She enjoys skiing, but has to try to keep up with her family on the slopes! She loves spending time with family and friends.



## An update from Restauración...

Dear community in Christ, it has been a year full of challenges and blessings. In 2025, God did wonderful things in our ministry, in addition to His continued care. As we know, the present very tense atmosphere has affected our Sunday attendance. Some of the brothers and sisters have been afraid to drive to church because of unfamiliar cars in the church parking lot. But all of this has further awakened the sense of service in the rest of the congregation. We maintain a line of communication for emergencies and basic instructions.

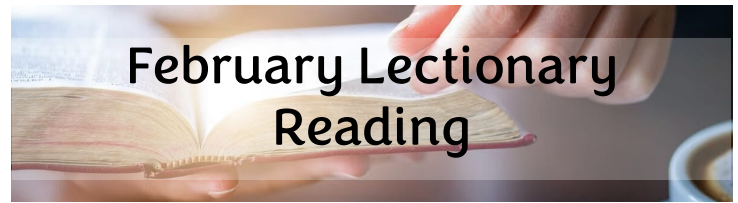
Despite all this, the ministry continues to move forward, and we are filled with more strength each day. This past year, approximately four new families have joined the ministry. They are committed to Christ and the church. Salem has been a wonderful place for us to gather; the brothers and sisters there have been very caring and supportive. In the past year, we have participated in several activities, such as: taking food to the Healing Hearts organization, the joint Christmas service, etc. Communication between us is excellent. We thank the brothers and sisters of Salem for their continued care and support. God is good and He takes care of His children. - Pastor Carlos Sandoval

IN LOVING  
MEMORY OF



**Susan Jael Dick**

July 1, 1931 - January 18, 2026



**February 1**

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

**February 8**

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

**February 15**

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

**February 18**

**Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**February 22**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

**TRUSTEE**

**News and Thank You's**

The building heating system was again the focus this month. We had TEKO Mechanical come in for a system review. The system was not operating very well and the technician found several thermostats had dirty orifices and two radiator valves that were stuck. It was a good learning experience which will allow us to be a little more self sufficient.

Dave Pauly continues to be our roof monitor. The heating tape in the down spouts that Dave installed last month is working well.

**Thank you Dave!**

A concern was voiced about the fieldstone boarder near the dumpster enclosure. The board is reviewing the concern in an attempt to find the best solution.

The lighting in the Narthex is in the estimating process. We are hoping to have perhaps two estimates and intend to move forward with the project this spring.

Respectively submitted,  
Jeff Seeboth



Pastor Paola will be leaving after church on Sunday, February 8th to go and visit her daughter Anna. She will be gone until Thursday, February 19th. During her absence, please contact Pastor Pete Peterson with any pastoral needs you may have. You can also contact the office via email at [office@salemonthehill.org](mailto:office@salemonthehill.org).



A big thank you to the Salem Family for a wonderful giving in December for the budget that allowed us to finish the year very strong.