

SALEM'S MESSAGE

To love God, to love people & to spread God's word

91 W. Main St. Springville, NY 14141

716-592-4893

www.salemspringville.org



Facebook: [SalemLutheranChurch&Preschool, Springville](https://www.facebook.com/SalemLutheranChurch&Preschool,Springville)

Weekend Worship

Saturday at 4:00 pm

Sunday at 10:30 am

Sunday School at 9:00 am



PASTOR GOODWIN

"Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua 24:14-15

Joshua, the son of Nun, lived in a time of rampant polytheism. There were multiple religious systems embattled in the struggle to become the preferred religion of the Promised Land. Although Israel had overthrown

most of the false pagan religions throughout Joshua's leadership, there were still unrelenting remnants of their evil striving for supremacy in the hearts and minds of the people. Child sacrifice and temple prostitution are two examples of the evils that tempted and ensnared too many of God's chosen people in Joshua's day. The Scripture reading above is from Joshua at the end of his life. He is preparing to enter eternity and has one more proclamation of leadership for the people of God. "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, ... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Through Joshua's leadership, the LORD had given His people great victories over their enemies, both physical enemies in the land and spiritual enemies seeking their soul. Now, Joshua's life was coming to an end, and it was time for the people of God to decide whom they would fear, love, and trust without him as their leader. Would they choose to continue

in the path that Joshua had led them in by embracing the only true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Would they choose to embrace the One who created them, saved them, and guided them into a good and beautiful life, or would they turn from Him to another system of belief that would lead to evil and death? Regardless of whom the people would choose, Joshua declared that His decision was clear, he would choose the LORD. In our world today, we in the United States, unlike the children of Israel in Joshua's day, have not seen many idols of stone, wood or gold. However, there are still several false religions and gods vying for our mind, service and love. We may not see a statue sitting in a prominent place within Springville or one of our other communities, but there is a particular idol that our citizens look at every morning in their

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bathroom mirror, that idol is themselves. Unfortunately, it is often the result of self-worship that leads to evils entering into our life and society. The evils of child sacrifice and sexual deviance are not exclusively the struggles of the past for the children of Israel in Joshua's day, but even today the children of God struggle to choose the LORD as the one they will serve, love, and honor in regard to these very issues. Believing the lies of secular humanism that claim we will attain peace and joy by worshiping ourselves and following its false religious teachings, too many of God's people choose child sacrifice and sexual deviance and tragically find that they only lead to evil and death. May the LORD have mercy on us, rescue us from sin and shame, and bring us back to Himself each day as our only Savior and God. Each day we face the same question that Joshua posed to God's people in his day, "Whom will you serve?" Who will we serve as our LORD, as our Savior, as our God? By the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through His Word and Sacraments, may we rise up each day and declare with Joshua, "... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." May the LORD guide us in accordance with his Word. May He bless us with the certainty of our salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ shed for us on the cross of Calvary. May He give us the conviction to choose Him each day guiding our heart and mind to live in a worshipful life unto eternity.

Save the Date

**July 9th
Church Picnic!**



COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI DINNER

March 16th
April 20th

4:30-6:00 pm



Drive Thru Living Nativity

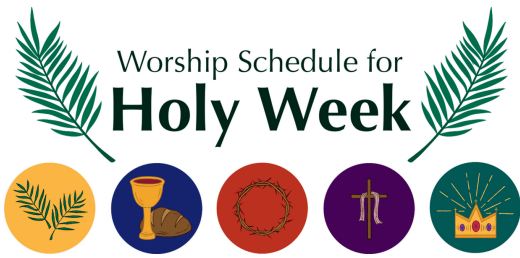


thank you

Preschool News

Thank you so much to all of the parents, Preschool employees and Church Congregation for all of your help with donations for Ceairah Fuller. We were able to donate over \$4,000 to her family. They are very grateful for our support and hope to move into their new apartment in March.





PALM SUNDAY- April 2nd
-10:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY- April 6th
-First Communion for our confirmands.
7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY- April 7th
7:00 PM

NO SERVICE SATURDAY- April 8th

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE- April 9th
-7:30 AM

EASTER BREAKFAST- April 9th
-9:00 AM

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE- April 9th
-10:30 AM

Bible Study

- *Men's Bible Study- 33 The Series - Tuesdays @ 6pm
- *Women's Bible Study- 12 Women of the Bible- Tuesdays @ 6pm
- *Mid week/day Bible Study- Thursdays @ 1pm

Marriage Builders

- * "Love Busters"
- *"His Needs Her Needs"
- "Keep your marriage strong and the romance alive"
- Thursdays @ 6:30pm

Grace-Based Parenting

- PART I - "Creating An Atmosphere Of Grace"
- *Sundays after Church service.
- *Contact Matt Fanton if interested.

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

GALATIANS 5:22-23

OFFICIAL ACTS

FUNERAL

† Nancy King
-Entered into rest on December 17, 2022
-Service was held on December 29, 2022 here at Salem.
-Pastor Eric Goodwin officiated.

† Roy Hansen
-Entered into rest on January 17, 2023
-Service was held on January 28, 2023 here at Salem.
-Pastor Eric Goodwin officiated.

† Craig Langhans
-Entered into rest on February 18, 2023
-Service was held on February 24, 2023 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Orchard Park

RELEASED PER REQUEST
-Rich & Jacquie Glenn



Christmas Pageant Symbols of Salvation.

Easter Flower Sale



Order your Lilies, Mums, Tulips and Hyacinths for the altar on Easter Sunday. Please call the church office at 716-592-4893 to place an order. Money is due when order is placed. Proceeds will benefit the Youth going to Kingdom Bound this summer. Thank you for your support!



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Things happening around Salem by Lois Kenyon

LWML (Lutheran Women Missionary League). This is a group I joined in November of 2022, representing Salem. I had a call from Sharon Wolff, now our zone president, asking me to attend. Salem had been very active with this group years ago but interest waned over time. Our church is a part of the Buffalo Zone, which includes churches in the Cattaraugus, Erie, Buffalo, Allegheny, and Rochester regions. The one benefit is that LWML helps with all the advertising in our Zone for any church activities we may have. They will be backing us for our Stephen Ministry Event in April and will advertise throughout our area. Women from the LWML will also join us that day to learn about Stephen Ministry and its use in the church. Many in this group know very little about our churches ministry. Mites are also collected to contribute to grants appropriated each year. You will see mite boxes in the back of the church on the Stephen Ministry table to use and collect change if God is calling you to help. Money is sent by me to LWML. Grants last year and through 2024 go towards missionary work, damage to churches caused by earthquakes in Haiti, purchases to aid Pioneer on the Lake for camp and retreat furnishings, and many more. As I learn more about LWML, I will share this information with you. Check them out on Google. There is a lot of good information, a store to buy goods, and devotionals to enjoy!

Stephen Ministry will be having an informative event/rally Saturday, April 29th, from 9 am to 12 pm, here at Salem. It will include a light breakfast, music, a speaker, devotionals, and a time for discussion. Our Stephen Ministers will be there, along with Pastor Eric. Congregations in this area will be invited to attend, along with LWML members. As with most activities this event has grown from last year. Praise be to God!! RSVPs are appreciated, to plan for food, and materials. For our congregation, Fall of 2023 is a definite start of a new member class. If you feel God is calling you to be a part of this ministry, feel free to come. It will give you answers to many questions you may have. It is also a good way to let people here at Salem understand this God based ministry. Anyone interested in this please contact Lois Kenyon or Melissa Fanton Stephen Ministry leaders. May God continue to bless this ministry. Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."

As of this newsletter we will have had two painting and maintenance meetings. The purpose is to make the church as a whole become aware of the issues and repairs needed in the church. Much progress has been made. The ladies bathroom in the basement had an issue with toilets leaking and not flushing, and now the toilets are fixed, and daycare toilets fixed!! Pastors church office sink and fixtures replaced. Men's social room urinals are being fixed. New faucet added to kitchen in basement, which was leaking. Also new flooring in our entranceway off the parking lot. A huge amount of thanks to Bob Beach and Ted Bateman for their hours of work. May God bless your hard work and dedication.

-In the service of Jesus, Lois Kenyon