

# Salem Chimes



*SEPTEMBER 2010*



*Give  
Unto  
the  
Lord*



*VOLUME 59 ISSUE 29*

*SEPTEMBER 2010*

# PARISH NOTES

## CHIMES

Published monthly

### Salem Lutheran Church

4700 W. 72nd Street

Indianapolis, IN. 46268

317-291-5004

[office@SalemELCA.com](mailto:office@SalemELCA.com)

[www.SalemELCA.com](http://www.SalemELCA.com)

**Pastor:**

**Church Secretary:** Alter L. Collins

**Chimes Editor:** Alter L. Collins

### Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 a.m

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m

## The Sharing Place Wish List

Pantry and clothing bank supplies are low at The Sharing Place, Lutheran Child & Family Services' material assistance ministry for families in need. The current wish list includes: canned meats, canned vegetables and fruit, pasta and spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese mix, crackers, cereal, and underwear and socks, **especially adult sizes.**

Please deliver your donations to: Sharing Place East 7049 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. For directions or for additional information, please contact Mary Beth Trotter, Manager at 359-5467, ext. 215 or [mtrotter@lutheranfamily.org](mailto:mtrotter@lutheranfamily.org).

## Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*Created by God to make Christ known, and filled with the Holy Spirit,*

*Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a ministry of Jesus that, through word and sacrament:*

- † Strengthens and energizes individuals and families in the Christian faith;
- † Contributes to the growth of fellowship;
- † Equips and affirms individuals in their acts of ministry;
- † Encourages freedom of expression;
- † Encourages all members to participate in the tasks of common life; and
- † Is dedicated to bringing the strength of individual and collective Christian commitment to community involvement.

## Volunteering at The Sharing Place=Discipleship!

Now, more than ever, families are in need of assistance to help make ends meet. You can make a difference in the lives of others by donating your time and talent to The Sharing Place, a ministry of Lutheran Child & Family Services providing food and clothing to families in need. By helping "the least of these," you will discover new opportunities for discipleship as you outfit a family with gently used clothing or guide them through the pantry menu options.

**For more information or to volunteer, contact Leslie McCotry, Volunteer Resources Coordinator, at [volunteer@lutheranfamily.org](mailto:volunteer@lutheranfamily.org) or 359-5467, ext. 242.**

*(The following temple talk was presented by Charles Rader, during the sermon time of the Sunday Morning Worship Service on August 22, 2010.)*

## **Stewardship Temple Talk**

If I may, I'd like to reread part of today's first scripture lesson:

*"if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;" [Isa 58:10-12a]*

I love the book of Isaiah because the words are so dramatic.

When I was preparing to e-mail this week's bulletin to the Church Secretary and I came to the passage, *"Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;"* it suddenly reminded me of Salem. I certainly wasn't thinking about Salem when I started reading this scripture. When I read, *"offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,"* I naturally thought about the world *outside* the doors of our church. As Christians, we are taught that God has given us many blessings and if we are ever going to get to heaven, we must give away some of those blessings to others less fortunate than ourselves.

These days, however, as I look around our sanctuary on a Sunday morning, I find myself thinking of Salem as a little hungry, a little afflicted. Every so often I find myself thinking "What is it going to take to keep our doors open until the people come back?"

That's a pretty bleak thought for me because I try to be an optimistic person. After all, this church has been here through good and bad for a long time. Our building is 130 years old, and next year we celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of this congregation. This church has recovered from down times before and it will again, I always say. Hoping, if I say it often enough, it will block out those bleak thoughts that keep creeping back.

The actress, Laura Linney, who stars in a new show on the Showtime Network called *The Big C*, about a young woman who is suddenly diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer and finds she has only a few months to live, said recently in an interview about the show, "It's a privilege to live into old age because so many don't." If you discovered you were dying tomorrow, how much money would you pay if you could buy one more day of life? How much would you pay for one more week, or even one more year? Imagine this happening to your son, or your daughter, or even your spouse. Would you give up everything you own to keep them alive?

OK, so you know where I'm going with this. Sure, if Salem had to close its doors, you'd find another church and try to fit in. But would you blame yourself? Would you find yourself saying, "I *wish* I could have done more!"

Twenty-five years ago, when Salem had more than a hundred people attending every Sunday and a lot more income coming in every Sunday as well, I remember the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dave Jensen, standing before the congregation, reminding people that in order to meet budget expenses, we must keep our pledges up to date. How I wish we had Dave's problem now! We *never* know when we've got it good, do we?

Last month, in July, our budget expenses only totaled slightly less than \$3800.00, probably the lowest one-month total I've ever seen. This amount contained no full-time pastor expenses, nor even any expenses for our Vacancy Pastor, because Pastor Mel Schroeder hasn't submitted any mileage yet, or asked that the \$250.00 monthly fee be paid. We also didn't pay our monthly donation to the Synod, because the council, earlier, passed my motion to delay Synod Benevolence as long as possible, to avoid spending any more than the \$22,000.00 we have already taken from savings this year.

But guess what, we didn't receive enough income to cover even this meager expense. We only received \$3200.00! Multiply this amount by 12 and you get \$38,400.00. We can't even pay our yearly operating expenses, plus our organist and Church Secretary salaries, on this amount, let alone hire a full-time pastor. To put the reality of our situation into concrete terms for the council, I calculated, based on July income and expense amounts, that if we hired only a part-time Interim Pastor three days a week, our yearly deficit, which we would have to pay from savings, would be \$45,000.00! At this rate, in five years or *less*, probably, our savings would be gone. If, at some point in this downward slide, we risk hiring a full-time pastor, hoping that he or she will attract more income, it will have to happen very quickly, because we will be heading toward bankruptcy even faster, to the tune of at least \$64,000.00 per year.

I know this sounds pretty bad, but all is not lost, there is something we can do. We can cut expenses and increase income. As I have written in the *Chimes*, the Worship & Music Committee, to save money, has eliminated the *Celebrate* insert from our bulletins, and the *Christ In Our Home* devotional booklets, the *Children's Worship Bulletins*, and the preprinted bulletin covers have been canceled. We have also stopped ordering any extra, i.e. unpaid for, seasonal flowers such as Poinsettias and Lilies. For the summer, and perhaps longer, we are holding the worship service for the last Sunday of the month in the Fellowship Hall, to save on air-conditioning expense. This, plus a very generous substitute organist, will hopefully save us a few hundred dollars.

As you look around the church and other ideas occur to you about ways in which we might cut expenses, *please* let us know.

So how do we increase our income? By each of us prayerfully considering an increase in our current weekly, monthly, or yearly offering amount. Rosemary and I have already increased our pledge by 20%, and I appeal to you to please consider doing the same. With a concerted effort, we might be able to cover our monthly operating expenses.

Complicating our efforts to meet our monthly expenses is the fact that some of our families are significantly behind in their pledge. If you can catch up on your pledge, please do so because the church desperately needs your offerings. If there is financial hardship, we would appreciate it if you would call the Church Secretary and change your pledge to a more realistic amount that you can meet with a regular weekly or monthly offering. If you are able to give more at a later date, then you can increase your offering over and above the new pledge amount. There is absolutely no shame in changing your pledge to an amount you can meet, since we need to know as accurately as possible the amount of income we can expect on a monthly basis.

The church council will soon vote on a motion, part of which is to hire a Regular Supply Pastor for all of our worship services. This will be less expensive than hiring a Part-time, Interim Pastor. We are hoping that the regular presence of the same person, leading our worship service each week, will encourage visitors to return and increase our offerings. The council will present this plan after the worship service next Sunday, August 29, in order to gain some feedback from the members of the congregation who are present. If you would like to comment, please come to our worship service with Hymn Sing, to be followed by a pitch-in lunch. Please bring a dish to share.

For Salem to overcome its current low point, it is essential that everyone give as much as they can afford. Commitment is the glue that binds us, and it will make our efforts, to increase our attendance, succeed. God will see our commitment and reward us.

*"and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail."*

## **WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS for SEPTEMBER**

The Worship & Music Committee continues to supervise the planning of Salem's worship services during this interim period without a pastor in residence. Our summer worship schedule of *ELW Setting 3* on the first Sunday of the month, *With One Voice Setting 5* on the second Sunday of the month, *Chicago Folk Service* on the third Sunday of the month, and *ELW Setting 3* on the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, will continue through September.

Because of ballooning deficits, the Worship & Music Committee decided to return to an earlier Salem tradition, and serve communion only on the first and second Sundays of the month during the summer. This practice will continue in September unless the Congregation Council decides otherwise. Serving communion only twice a month will save on expense for communion supplies.

During July and August, the worship service for the final Sunday was held in the Salem Fellowship Hall, followed by a pitch-in luncheon. This was done to save the expense of cooling the church sanctuary. These special summer services were well received, not to mention the excellent food, highlighted by Rosemary Rader's delicious entrees. Starting in September, all Sunday worship services will again be held in the church sanctuary.

In a further effort to save expenses, the Worship & Music Committee has decided to hire Supply Pastors only for the first two Sundays of each month. On September 5 and 12, Pastor Bonnie Sparks will again lead our worship service and administer communion. Pastor Sparks led our worship services just two months ago, on July 4 and 11. On September 19 and 26, our very capable Lay Assistants, as they have done this summer, will lead the worship service, unless the Council approves a plan to hire a Regular Supply Pastor, who would lead the worship services every Sunday. Seeing a familiar face each week, it is hoped, would encourage visitors to return and increase income. It is also less expensive to hire a Regular Supply Pastor than to hire a Part-time Interim Pastor, as was done in the past.

Our Organist, George Karst, has announced that he has accepted a position at another church, and his last Sunday will be September 5. We wish him success in his new job!

The Worship & Music Committee has adopted the current worship schedule in the belief that making sacrifices to work within the limits of our current reduced monthly income is the best way to keep our church afloat. Congregations across the country, in our Synod, and in the Indianapolis Conference, are doing as we are doing to avoid the closure that has befallen many churches in these difficult times. Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church is now the oldest Lutheran congregation in Indianapolis. Next year we will be celebrating our one hundred and seventy-fifth year as a House of God.

We hope you will enjoy the worship services and music planned by the Worship & Music Committee. If you have questions or concerns about the worship services, please let us know. Our sole mission is that you come to worship with us again and again to hear God's word and sing His praises. May God bless us as we seek His will for our lives and for our congregation.

Charles Rader, Chairman  
Worship & Music Committee





**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Reuben Gooderum	9/5
Eldon Forthum	9/11
Dee Warriner	9/11
Isabel Hedlund	9/17
Richard Sceniak	9/18
Francesco Varela	9/19
Barbara Agresti	9/20
David Brandenburg	9/20
Angelina Grimme	9/25
Cecil Van Note	9/27
Cynthia Haverstick	9/29

AUGUST VISITORS	
RETURN VISITS	VISITORS
	5





**Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving**

Our church offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are writing checks and preparing envelopes every week, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church.

**How to get started**

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form on the right and return it to the church office. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account.

**AUTHORIZATION FORM**

Church name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to make the following contribution(s):**

General Operating Fund	\$ _____	Date of first contribution: ___/___/___
Building Fund	\$ _____	Frequency of contribution (check one):
Other	\$ _____	Weekly – Mondays
Other	\$ _____	Semi-monthly – 1st and 15th
<i>Total</i>	\$ _____	Monthly on the 1st
		Monthly on the 15th

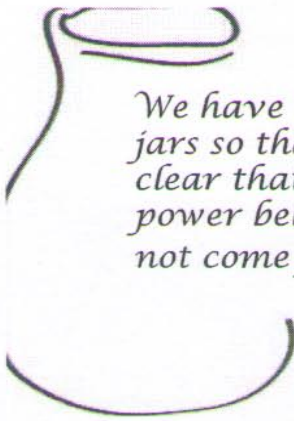
*Complete this section if using your checking or savings account*

Please debit my (check one):

Checking account— <i>attach voided check</i>	Savings account— <i>attach voided deposit slip</i>
Routing #: _____	Account #: _____
<i>Valid routing # must start with 0,1,2 or 3</i>	

**I authorize the above organization and Vanco Services to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.**

Authorized signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: //



*We have this treasure in clay jars so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.*

*-II Corinthians 4:7*

On behalf of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council, we invite your prayers and presence at the installation of the Rev. Dr. William O. Gafkjen as the third bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA September 11, 2010, 11:00 a.m. St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis

***In addition to inviting you to the installation, the I-K Synod Council also invites your financial support to help us transition to new leadership and ministry.***

I wish to share the gifts that God sends me! I will make a gift to offset the costs of the new bishop's installation. Enclosed is my check or:

\$10       \$25       \$50       \$100       \$500

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, and send it to: 911 E. 86th St., Suite 200 Indianapolis, IN 46240

Please write "Installation gift" in the memo line. *Thank you.*

# I-K Lutheran

*Where mission meets the road*

## ***Empowering, Equipping and Encouraging the People of God to make Christ Known***

Sept. 2010

**From Bishop Bill Gafkjen**

.....  
**Dear Friends in Christ,**

When Bishop Jim Stuck was first elected and called twelve years ago, he initiated a process of conversation, exploration and discernment throughout the synod that resulted in clarification of our mission, vision, core values, and operating principles. (The resulting document is available at [www.iksynod.org/resourcesmain.asp](http://www.iksynod.org/resourcesmain.asp).) That process revealed that the operational foundation for our life together as the I-K Synod is our baptismal mission to empower, equip and encourage one another to make Christ known. As we move through a time of transition to new leadership in the bishop's office and the other transitions that accompany that change, this mission continues to provide energy and direction for our work together, even as we face challenges and opportunities that very few folks had in mind twelve years ago.

Over the next few months we will explore this mission as intentionally and as deeply and broadly as we can in a wide variety of arenas to discern what God is up to and calling us to in the next chapters of our life as the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the ELCA. We will also explore what is needed in terms of structure, processes and resources for us to live faithfully into that mission in every nook and cranny of this synod.

Right now is a good time to begin that conversation wherever you are. Why not place that mission statement at the center of your next Bible study or congregation council meeting or conversation over a cup of coffee? Look through the "empowering, equipping and encouraging one another" lens to explore what God is up to and what God is calling your community of faith to in your part of the synod and what you need to do, change or share to make that happen. Take a moment to share what you learn or explore with someone beyond your usual circle of contacts as a way to broaden the conversation and take one small step forward in empowering, equipping and encouraging each other to make Christ known throughout this synod and beyond its borders.

**Peace be with you, Bishop Bill Gafkjen**

## **ELCA News - ELCA Details 2010 Budget Reductions**

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CHICAGO -- Recent actions by the ELCA Church Council to reduce the 2010 current fund spending authorization for the churchwide organization affected a variety of ministries. The council reduced this year's churchwide current fund by \$4.2 million to \$65.1 million, a reduction of 6.1 percent from the previously authorized \$69.3 million.

Nearly three-fourths of the churchwide organization's funding is assigned to its five program units. Funding in those units reduced by the council action is as follows: Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, \$400,000; Global Mission, \$448,000; Multicultural Ministries, \$94,870; Church in Society, \$131,000; Vocation and Education, \$592,000.

Ministries and programs affected by the reductions in these units were international scholarship grants, the elimination of some unassigned funding for starting new congregations, reductions in grants to colleges and universities, and decreases in seminary and campus ministry grants. Other reductions include decreases in program activities, general office, administrative costs, and position vacancies.

The Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Secretary, Office of the Treasurer, plus the service units, communications and development were reduced a combined total of nearly \$627,000.

Other reductions were \$1.7 million from the general treasury and \$200,000 in a strategic initiative fund.

Nearly all of the reductions came from a decline in mission support funds, which are provided by congregations through synods to churchwide ministries, said Christina Jackson-Skelton, ELCA treasurer. She reported that through June 30 mission support income declined about \$3.7 million or about 15 percent from the same period in 2009.

# Around the I-K Synod



**On July 18, Bishop Bill Gafkjen preached at the annual summer *Friends of Lutherwald Hog Roast*.**

**Typically, the gathering begins with worship in the morning followed by the barbecue meal and camp tours. This year the camp tours included an open house of the new Lake Village youth cabin.**



**Enter the Bible  
from Luther Seminary**

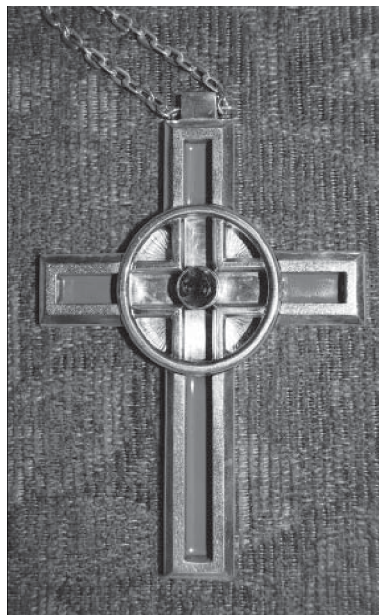
Expansive, free online Bible resource to help you understand and use Scripture

Commentary and study guides written by Luther Seminary's expert faculty.

**[www.EntertheBible.org](http://www.EntertheBible.org)**

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## About Your Synod: The Bishop's Pectoral Cross



Bishops wear a pectoral cross necklace when presiding over ordinations or other worship-related events. A bishop also wears this cross when attending meetings or events unrelated to worship. The name for this cross comes from the Latin word *pectus*, which means to be near the breast. When a new bishop is installed, the presiding bishop places it around the new bishop's neck and says, "Receive this cross and wear it as a sign of your calling to serve Christ and his people, and as an emblem of the office to which you have been elected." Typically the chain brings the cross to the center of the chest, near the heart.

The color violet traditionally represents the office of bishop. Some ELCA bishops wear a purple shirt, clerical collar and suit to non-worship events and for practical purposes, he/she can place the cross in the left shirt pocket so that the chain is visible, but the cross is safely tucked away.

Abbots, cardinals and popes have been wearing pectoral crosses for centuries. In museums or special collections are crosses made with compartments that contain relics, such as fragments of the cross of Jesus Christ or the bones of saints. The I-K Synod pectoral cross does not have such a compartment for relics

The I-K Synod pectoral cross is made of silver and has a violet stone in the center. The body of the cross is inset with red enamel. On the back are engraved the names and dates of office of each Indiana-Kentucky Synod bishop: Bishop Ralph Kempinski, Bishop James Stuck and now Bishop William Gafkjen.

**The Indiana-Kentucky Synod bishop wears a pectoral cross made of silver. On the back are engraved the names and dates of each of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod bishops since the formation of the ELCA..**

## 2010 I-K Synod Events & Opportunities

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### Annual Freed to Lead Fund Golf Outing September 30, 2010 Bear Chase Golf Club Shelbyville, Indiana

**This event will benefit pastors and lay rostered leaders of the I-K Synod who are struggling with the financial burden of seminary education costs, low compensation and pension contributions.**

Hole sponsors include Lutheran Child and Family Services, California Connection Catering and the Fort Wayne Visitors and Convention Bureau

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is the sponsor for the awards dinner.

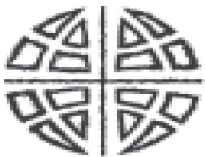
**Contact Joe Skvarenina at (317)  
253-3522 or [joes@iksynod.org](mailto:joes@iksynod.org)**

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### **Do you belong to a congregation whose office does not have access to the Internet?**

If so, please encourage members to subscribe to the weekly I-K Synod email by calling Danielle at (317) 253-3522 or by visiting the home page of [www.iksynod.org](http://www.iksynod.org) and using the subscriber box.

Since we no longer print and mail synod news on a regular basis, the Lutheran Center wants to connect with you electronically. It is one of our goals and core values to be interconnected and we are committed to communicating with you as much as we can.



**Indiana-Kentucky Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# September Worship Serving Schedule

SEPTEMBER	LAY ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	NURSERY	USHER	GREETER
5	Laura Morgan	Rosemary Rader			Harry Bowden	
12	Sean Rice	Devoe Slisher			Julie Rice	Julie Rice
19	Laura Morgan	Diann Ryan			Burt Hall	Bel Hedlund
26	Ralph Oberlander	Charles Rader				

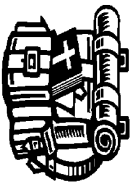
Please make a note in your personal calendar so that we may count on your availability to serve. If for some reason you are unable to serve, please call the church office (291-5004) so that we can find a replacement.



# SEPTEMBER 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Eldon & Betty Forthum	2 Jason & Nancy Garlie	3 Henry Gerdom	4 David & Patricia Gooderum
5 Reuben & Anita Gooderum	6 Keith & Angelina Grimme; Karl	7 David & Rhunell Gruender	8 Richard & Susan Grymonpre	9 Karin & Enrique Guarneros; Xavier, Sebastian	10 Burton & Janet Hall	11 Daniel & Candace Harcourt; Lindsay
12 Kitty Hart	13 Cynthia Haverstick	14 Isabel Hedlund	15 Kenneth Hendrickson	16 Bethel Hendrix	17 James & Madge Hightshue	18 Rosanne Iles
19 Sara Jacobs	20 John & Emily Jervis; Lily, Noah	21 Constance Kadyole; Blessing	22 Nancy Kampovsky	23 George & Stephanie Karst; Theodora	24 Sherman & Margie King	25 Lee & Jack Kolumbus
26 Joshua & Jessica Kunze	27 Keith & Susan Kunze	28 Raymond Lamb	29 Nathan & Stacie Littlefield	30 Treva Marks		



# SEPTEMBER 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 10:30 am	6 Labor Day	7	8	9 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	10	11 Installation of the Rev. Dr. William O Gafken, St. Luke's United Methodist Church 11:00 am
12 Worship 10:30 am Worship & Music Committee Meeting After Woeship	13	14	15	16	17	18 Game Night 5:30 - Food 6:00 - Games
19 Worship 10:30 am	20	21	22	23 Chimes Deadline	24	25
26 Worship 10:30 am	27	28	29	30		

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# SEPTEMBER 2010

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## CHURCH STAFF

George Karst, Choir Director/Organist  
Alter L. Collins, Secretary

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Jennifer Christie, President  
Keith Kunze, Vice President  
Bill Christie, Secretary  
Devoe Slisher, Treasurer  
Barbara Agresti  
Burt Hall  
Cynthia Haverstick  
Constance Kadyole  
Charles Rader  
Johnathon Rice

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday  
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church  
4700 West 72nd Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

**Address Service Requested**

**GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH**

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