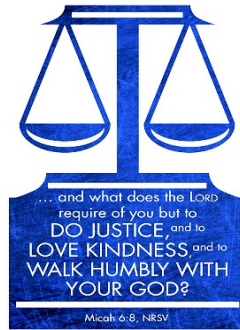


November 2018



the
SPIRIT

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
*A Reconciling in Christ
(RIC) Congregation*

In Everything Give Thanks

One of the many inspired things America did was to set aside a national Day of Thanksgiving, a day which has become the theme of the entire month of November as we give thanks to God not only for harvest and food but for all the blessings of our lives.

There are, of course, times when it is not easy to feel thankful. The voices of illness and pain, loss and grief, fear and uncertainty, conflict and hurt can be so strident that they threaten to drown out the song of thanks in our hearts. Life is seldom without its challenges.

And yet, even in the midst of suffering, the faithful give thanks. With full knowledge of the pain and death that was just around the corner, Jesus sat at table and gave thanks. From behind prison bars, Paul sang songs of thanks and praise. Even after they had lost over half of their family members and friends to hunger, disease and exposure, those early pilgrims celebrated a feast of thanksgiving. And no matter what trials and troubles we currently face in our lives, we, too, "surely ought to thank and praise..." (as Luther said in his explanation to the 1st article of the creed).

When Jesus took the bread and "gave thanks", the Greek word is "Eucharisteo". In an article, "Eucharisteo Conversation", Ann Voskamp writes, "The root word of 'eucharisteo' is 'charis', meaning 'grace'.... 'Eucharisteo', 'thanksgiving', envelopes the Greek word for 'grace', 'charis'. But it also holds its derivative, the Greek word 'chara', meaning 'joy'. Charis. Grace. Eucharisteo. Thanksgiving. Chara. Joy. "

This summer a friend a mine experienced one major set-back after another. It seemed like everything in his life was falling apart. And yet his faith never wavered and his joy never ceased. At the same time, I had none of his challenges and yet I was struggling with depression and was working with my doctor to find the right combination and levels of medication without much luck. After several months I realized something. I had gotten out of the habit of writing down 10 things for which I was thankful each day. I picked up my Gratitude Journal and started up the practice again and guess what – I started to feel better. In fact, as I gave thanks, I began to experience the grace of joy restored.

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In I Thessalonians 5:18 we are exhorted to "give thanks in all circumstances". We need to thank God not only for the good things, but for the challenging things as well, for it is in those challenges that our faith will grow.

As we count our blessings and give thanks for them, God will transform us, filling us with joy we can't wait to share. So don't wait – begin this month of Thanksgiving by giving thanks every day for...
...blessings abundant!

Pastor Marjo

*We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.
In response to God's transforming love, we share our JOY through praise and service.*

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3160 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604
Phone (203) 336-3300 ▪ Fax (203) 336-8813

Website - www.salembridgeport.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport/

Church Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Worship Services

9:30am Traditional Worship

4:30pm SNAC

Sunday Night Alive Dinner Church

Salem's Staff

The Rev. Marjo Anderson, Pastor
Cell Phone (203) 982-3441
marjoanderson@aol.com

Mark Adamy, Music Director
adameus7@aol.com

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
Office Phone (203) 336-3300
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

Jennifer Reyes, Sexton
Pablo, Cruz, Sexton
Office Phone (203) 336-3300, ext. 10

Elizabeth Frohrip, Deacon
Home Phone (203) 683-7460
salemaim123@sbcglobal.net
(on disability leave)

**Newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month
unless otherwise noted in the monthly
calendar.**

Next deadline date is **November 15th for the
December issue!**

**Email submissions to
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net**

LEADERSHIP AT SALEM

COUNCIL

Marjo Anderson, Pastor – marjoanderson@aol.com
Ray Lansing, President – raylansing@yahoo.com
Ray Anderson, Vice-President – andersray4@gmail.com
Nancy Headford, Secretary – nancy9881@att.net
Frank Dukenski, Treasurer – fdukenski@aol.com
Katie Adams – keadams333@gmail.com
Steve Kuczo, Staff Support – skuczo@aol.com
Noah Lansing, Youth – lansingnoah@yahoo.com
Cindy Roberts - robjcrb@gmail.com
Kaitlyn Rosa, Youth – krosa2000@gmail.com
Emily Sokoloski – emilysokoloski@gmail.com
Tracey Wilkins, Staff Support – traelwil@gmail.com
Bill Winter, Property – wjwinter@optonline.net

SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

Pastor Marjo Anderson – marjoanderson@aol.com
Frank Dukenski – fdukenski@aol.com
Ray Anderson – andersray4@gmail.com
Liz Bales – the2bales@gmail.com
Sandra Brown – sjbrown@snet.net
John Bryk – jbryk@znclaw.com
Richard Lansing – rlansing@optonline.net
Cliff LaRose – trevclif@att.net
Jean Larson – tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net
Bruce Tomasko – bltomasko@yahoo.com
John Wilkins – about2bike@gmail.com

LIGHT –

Leaders Inviting Growth through Hope for Tomorrow

Source Team:

Pastor Marjo Anderson – marjoanderson@aol.com
Ray Lansing – raylansing@yahoo.com
Tracey Wilkins – traelwil@gmail.com
Bill Winter – wjwinter@optonline.net
Tom Larson – tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net

Reflection Team:


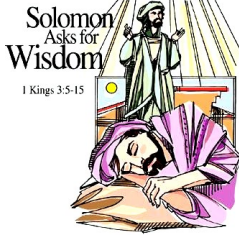
Katie Adams – keadams333@gmail.com
Jean Larson – tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net
Frank Dukenski – fdukenski@aol.com
Joel Hintz – brondle@aol.com



November 2018

Salem Lutheran Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Nov 1 All Saints Day 4:30pm Music Theatre Thursday 6pm Music Theatre Thursday Meal 7:30pm Choir	2	3 8am Fall Cleanup & Breakfast
4 All Saints 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am CPC 10:45am Adult Forum 12:30pm BHoW 4:30pm SNAC Dinner Church	5 6:30pm Social Ministry	6 9:30am Pastors' Text Study 12pm Book Club 6pm Stewardship 7pm Talk Tuesdays at Brewport	7 8:30am Pantry Setup 9:30am Bible Study	8 8:30am Pantry Setup 4pm Food Pantry 4:30pm Music Theatre Thursday 6pm Music Theatre Thursday Meal 7:30pm Choir	9 7pm Ladies Night Out	10 5pm Roast Beef Dinner
11 Pentecost 25 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am CPC 10:45am Adult Forum 12:30pm BHoW 4:30pm SNAC Dinner Church	12	13 9:30am Pastors' Text Study 11:30am Pastors' Book Group 7pm Talk Tuesdays at Brewport	14 9:30am Bible Study	15 4:30pm Music Theatre Thursday 6pm Music Theatre Thursday Meal 7:30pm Choir	16	17 11am Inner-View Chat n Chew
18 Pentecost 26 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am CPC 10:45am Adult Forum 12:30pm BHoW 4:30pm SNAC Dinner Church	19 8:30am Pantry Setup 6:30pm Finance Committee 7:30pm Executive Committee	20 8:30am Pantry Setup 9:30am Pastors' Text Study 4pm Food Pantry 7pm Talk Tuesdays at Brewport	21	22 Office Closed Thanksgiving	23	24
25 Christ the King 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am CPC 10:45am Adult Forum 12:30pm BHoW 4:30pm SNAC Dinner Church	26 7pm Council	27 9:30am Pastors' Text Study 7pm Talk Tuesdays at Brewport	28 9:30am Bible Study	29 4:30pm Music Theatre Thursday 6pm Music Theatre Thursday Meal 7:30pm Choir	30 Andrew, Apostle	<div> Community Room Sun 6:45 SLAA Mon 7:30 Boy Scouts Tue 7:00 STEP </div>



Worship Assistants

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

November, 2018

	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25
Assisting Minister				
Lector/Communion Minister				
Altar Prep Team	Anita Papp Cindy Roberts	Anita Papp Cindy Roberts	Bob Reichelt Chris Wolff	Bob Reichelt Chris Wolff
Ushers	Samantha Baronavski	Joe Bales John Bryk	Rich & Carol Lansing	Ray & Eileen Anderson
Flowers Given By	Dolores Kuczo	Cindy Roberts		
Coffee Hour	Dolores Kuczo			
Tellers	Katie Adams Rich Kenyon	Frank Dukenski Cindy Roberts	Steve Kuczo Bill Winter	Ray Anderson Dale Danowski

You can now signup online for Sunday morning Worship Assistants. You can signup to be the As-sisting Minister or Lector/Communion Minister. The signup sheet is for November to December, 2018.

[If you're reading this online click here for the signup sheet.](#)

You can also call the church office to signup

Coffee hour hosts are needed for **November 11th and after**. PLEASE contact Linda Bryk to secure a date for coffee hour. Coffee hour is a wonderful tradition at Salem. It gives all of us a chance for fellowship among our members. Thank you for your continued support. Contact Linda at (203) 268-8008, or email her at momryk@yahoo.com.

Steve Kuczo	1
Nancy Kidwell	2
Georgia Palmgren	5
Aidan Palmieri	7
Augustine Palmieri.....	7
Judy Goldbecker.....	8
Carl Horton	10
Larson Palmgren	13
Nicholas Roberts	13
Tiana Rose	14
Christoph Dow	15
Carter Gulyas	15
Katrina Cotter	16
Lauren Nordvall	17
Sienna Cotter.....	17
Jaxon Gulyas.....	18

Dorothy DeWalt	21
Morgan Peterson	23
Nicolas Mavilla	25
Justin Claus	27
Marjorie Steeves	29



BIRTHDAYS

What inspires you to give?

Here are some thoughts from various Salem members:

God has blessed us in many ways and we should share our blessings

Faith and finances

Outreach programs and Sunday Night Alive Church

God wants us to give from the heart, not from our excess

I know Salem will give to many other places

Responding to all God has given me

We are blessed to be a blessing to others

To inspire our youth and help the community

Gratitude for all that God has given to me

To help others in need

As you consider your pledge to Salem for the coming year, think about what inspires you to give. Please return your pledge card by November 18th when we will dedicate our pledges.

Salem Book Club

SALEM BOOK CLUB'S November Read: "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman will be discussed on Dec 4th in the Lounge at Noon.

Please bring your lunch. Everyone is welcome for the discussion.



2018

Blood Pressure
Screening Dates

Nov 11 Dec 9

Kitchen Dish Towels Reminder

If you've taken dish towels from the Fellowship Hall kitchen home to clean them, please return them to the kitchen. We're missing some and the Roast Beef Dinner is coming up on November 10th. Thank you.

The following people have asked for healing, help, guidance or comfort.

Joan B	William S
Marge S	Daphne B
Barbara B	Peter K
Sam B	Bobby W
Erick D	Anna
Grace D	Barbara
Hannah & Joseph	James S
Bob H	Sarah R
Dennis H	Brooks A
Sylvitha	Angie
Jay	Liz F.
Jinny L	
Derm L	
Mike R	
Jane M	
Jana B	
Maurena W	



We Are Grateful

Capital Improvements

Cliff LaRose, Sr.



Food Pantry

Sue Chrien (in memory of Robert Chrien), Gail Hill (in memory of her sister Holly), Sandra Brown, John & Linda Bryk, Joan Crossman, Dale Danowski, Barbara Davis, Frank & Grace Dukenski, Domenick & Nancy D'Andrea, Dolores Kuczo, Ann Martin, Jim & Bonnie McWain, John & Tracey Wilkins

Memorials

Sue Chrien (in memory of Robert Chrien), Dolores Kuczo (in memory of Pamela Kuczo)

Outreach

Esteban Sebourne

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Al & Dot DeWalt, Rich Lansing, Richard Lansing, III, and Bruce Tomasko.

2018 Hunger Action Month Results

The October Food Drives were extremely successful this year.
Here are the results:

Salem Team #1 - Drive run by Rich Lansing bringing in 2,345 pounds of food plus \$597.99 in cash donations.

Salem Team #2 - Drive run by Rich Lansing bringing in 2,834 pounds of food plus \$685.75 in cash donations.

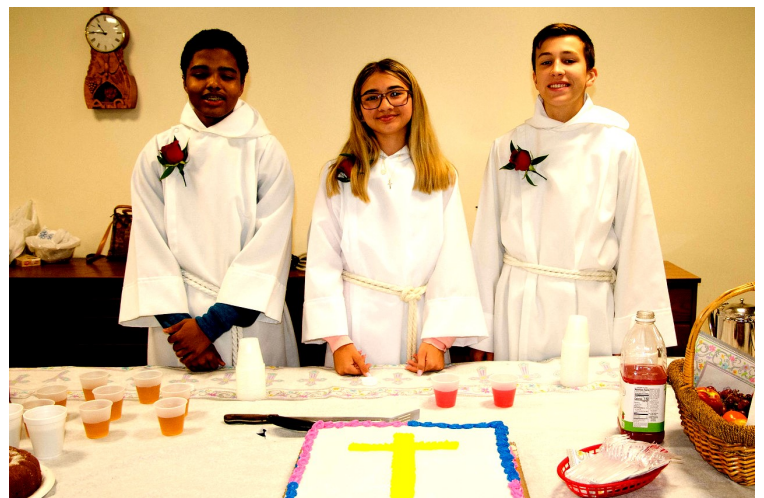
Salem Team #3 - Drive run by B'nai Israel Congregation bringing in 2,336 pounds of food to Salem's Pantry.

For a Grand Total of 7,515 pounds of food - sufficient to provide 6,263 meals to the hunger challenged individuals in our neighborhood. In addition, Thrivent has contributed \$1,500.00 to the overall effort, making an overall cash contribution of \$2,783.74 to Salem's pantry budget.

Thanks to everyone who participated in these drives - and especially to Rich Lansing and B'nai Israel's Judy Blumenthal for their overall leadership

Confirmation 2018

Elijah Caragol, Evan Lansing, Ashley Rosa



**BSA Troop 103 Hosts
The
Churchmen's
Roast Beef Dinner
November 10, 2018**

Dinner served 5 to 7 pm.

Served Family Style with Extra Helpings!

Vegetarian option available

**Proceeds to Benefit Boy Scout Troop 103
Camp and Activities Fund**



Bake Sale Hosted by Salem's Youth

Adults \$15. Children 5-12 Yrs \$7. Family \$40.

Salem Lutheran Church

3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport, CT

**Tickets available from Scouts, Churchmen,
the Church Office & at the Dinner.
Call 336-3300 for more information**

Seafarers

Christmas at Sea

Collection

Nov 4 - Dec 2

If questions, contact:
Carol Lansing
(203) 367-5040

Gift Suggestions:

Woolen caps
Sweatshirts (L-XL)
Thermal or White
Socks
Chocolate
Canned Nuts
Hard Candy



Please place items in marked box in Narthex/Gathering Place

8 Recommended Adult Immunizations

If you are 19 years of age or older please talk to your doctor about receiving the following vaccines.

1. **Influenza Vaccine** - Given annually usually in the fall. Consult your doctor about flu vaccine choices.
2. **Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis Vaccine (TDAP)** - Recommended for everyone especially with pregnancy. Tetanus and diphtheria (TD) booster is suggested every 10 years
3. **Varicella (Chicken Pox) Vaccine** - 2 doses given if you never had Chicken Pox.
4. **Zoster (Shingles) Vaccine** - given to adults age 60 and older who have had Chicken Pox. Ask your doctor about the new shingles shot called Shingrix
5. **Hepatitis B** - 3 doses given to health care workers, people with multiple sex partners, and those under age 60 with diabetes.
6. **Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine** - Given to those born in 1957 or later.
7. **Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine** - 3 doses recommended for females and males through the age of 26.
8. **Pneumococcal Vaccines** - Recommended for all adults 65 years of age and older. Also recommended if younger than 65 if smoke, have asthma, diabetes, or a weak immune system. Your doctor may rec-



From
Our
Parish
Nurses

Medicare Counseling

St. Vincent's Medical Center, 2800 Main St., Bridgeport, is offering free counseling to help people select the best Medicare plan to meet their needs. Everyone who currently has Medicare or who will turn 65 by Jan. 31, 2019 is urged to sign up for this free, unbiased counseling at St. Vincent's during Medicare's Annual Open Enrollment Period, which runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7.

This service can help individuals make an informed choice, find plans that best meet their needs and save money. The service can also help with claims, billing and other Medicare issues.

With 13 years of experience, certified Medicare and government benefits counselor Betty Brandt will help individuals learn about their options regarding Medicare Part D Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans. Brandt is available to discuss Medicare benefits, supplemental insurance, prescription plans, Medicare savings program, statements, bills, claims, appeals, and Medicaid.

This program, sponsored by St. Vincent's Mission Services, is a community outreach effort to help seniors and people with disabilities obtain the medical benefits they need, and to make the best decisions about health insurance coverage.

To schedule an appointment, or for more information, contact Betty Brandt at svmcmedicare@outlook.com or 475-210-5111.

The Pain of Shingles

People cringe just hearing the word “shingles.” It’s a painful skin and nerve condition that can last for weeks or longer. While it’s often associated with the elderly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tells us shingles is increasing among adults, with about 1 million cases reported annually. Here are some useful facts about shingles and what you can do.

A stealth virus reawakens

After a case of chickenpox, the virus, *Varicella zoster*, hides in nerves and can reappear decades later to cause shingles. Shingles can strike at any age, but people over age 50 are at greater risk. Patients with weakened immunity due to cancer, infections or medicines are at greatest risk.

The first symptoms of shingles may be burning, itching, tingling, mild to severe pain, sensitive skin, or numbness on one side of the body or face. Next, a rash with blisters in a

patch or band appears in one to five days. Scabs form in a week to 10 days and usually heal in two to four weeks. Other symptoms may include fever, headache, chills, light sensitivity, fatigue and upset stomach.

After the rash

The most common complication is severe nerve pain, called postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), that can last for months or years after the rash disappears. Nerve damage, vision and hearing problems, pneumonia, brain inflammation or death are reported rarely. Shingles usually occurs only once, but it can recur two or three times.

Prompt use of antivirals

If you suspect you have shingles, get prompt treatment with antiviral medicines to decrease the severity and length of the attack. Those with PHN may need medicines to reduce pain and inflammation.

Cool, wet compresses, calamine lotion and colloidal oatmeal baths may help reduce itching. Wear loose cotton clothing. Take good care of yourself with plenty of rest and a healthy diet. ■

Shingrix vaccine

Shingrix is a vaccine that was recently approved to prevent shingles.

Shingrix is given as a series of two shots administered two to six months apart, and is more than 90 percent effective

in preventing shingles and associated long-term nerve pain. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s advisory committee recommends Shingrix for all adults 50 and older, even if they have previously been vaccinated for shingles.

The vaccine can cause some pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, as well as fatigue, muscle pain or fever, which can last two to three days.

Shingrix is available at pharmacies. No appointment is needed.

"Mastering the Art of Crucial Conversations"

A Crucial Conversation is one in which:

1. stakes are high,
2. opinions vary, and
3. emotions run strong and the outcome has great impact.

From young age (3-4) we begin to subscribe to the belief that it's a choice between truth and friends (Brownie experiment) and we start ascribing to the "fool's choice"

As Christians, however, it is our call to "speak the truth in love".

If we don't "talk it out", we will "act it out",

meaning the relationship will be damaged through what we say and also through what we don't say.

There are 2 ways of "acting it out"

1. with "violence" (yelling, bullying, personal attacks, sarcasm, controlling, compelling, forcing one's opinion, cutting others off, overstating your facts, speaking in absolutes, dominating the conversation, labeling, stereotyping, categorizing, name-calling, generalizing, belittling, threatening, demonstrating lack of respect, etc.)
2. with "silence" (withdrawing, avoiding, withholding information, understating, downplaying, sugarcoating, changing the subject, shifting focus to another, exiting the conversation or room, passive aggressiveness, etc.)

The best decisions come out of the greatest pool of knowledge.

The more data we have in the "information pool", the better our decisions will be.

The greatest pool of knowledge is created when everyone contributes.

People need to feel safe in order to contribute information (their thoughts and feelings) to the pool

One of the ways we can stop ourselves from responding badly

is to realize that it's not the other person's behavior which is causing our response,
but the story we have told ourselves about that person and his/her behavior.

So it's not Action then Reaction, but Action, Story/Interpretation, Reaction

You have two tasks in the "hazardous half-minute," the first 30 seconds of a crucial conversation.

If you do them, there is a 97% chance that you will be heard -- not agreed with, but heard.

They are:

Help the other party/person know that you care about their interests & goals, almost as much as they do. This creates the condition of mutual purpose. (This won't work if you don't actually care.)

Create mutual respect--let them know that you care about them.

How do you create mutual respect when someone is behaving poorly?

Remember that people never get defensive about what you're saying;

they become defensive because of why they think you're saying it.

So take some time to purify your intent beforehand,

and remember that your half of the conversation is only about you.

Unfortunately human beings tend not to create a safe environment. We want to be right. We want to win.

We want our way. And so, without even being conscious of it we often act as bullies.

We think that if we speak loud enough and forcefully enough and passionately enough we will get our way. But we're not here to get our own way. We are here to follow the way of Jesus.

We are here to function as the body of Christ with Jesus as the head. Our mission is to do things God's way.

A commitment to crucial conversations is at the core of any organization, team, relationship, church, and so on.

As a leader, your job is to identify the areas where crucial conversations need to be had, to have them,

and to focus on allowing those conversations to move you forward rather than get you stuck.

Your individual influence is primarily a function of how well you are able to have crucial conversations.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

Christ's love served one bowl at a time

By Linda Masters

Not sisters by birth or blood, but sisters united through faith and service describes the Soup Sisters ministry of Christ by the Lake Lutheran Church in Bull Shoals, Ark.

With a mission to "spread Christ's love one bowl at a time," 12 to 15 church members chop, dice, sauté and simmer gallons of soup to distribute to those who can use a little support or just a reminder that someone cares.

The ministry is an offshoot of inspiration from Anna Mattson, a member of Christ by the Lake. She and three other members—all retirement age—formed the original Soup Sisters cooking group in June 2015 because most soup recipes make more than two people can eat.

The idea for the group was simple: One member made soup each week and delivered a quart of it to the other three. Sharing solved the problem of leftovers, and it was a great opportunity to try out new recipes.

In 2016, Mattson suggested they expand their soup-making into a ministry. All four original Soup Sisters are Bull Shoals Food Pantry volunteers, so they were aware of the prevalence of food insecurity in the area and were on board with the idea.

With financial help from the congregation council and donations such as stockpots, cutting boards, kitchen utensils and more from generous church members, the ministry was born.

A group of women met in April 2016 for the first soup-making session, which netted 14 quarts for the church freezer. The congregation then was invited to take a quart of soup to someone they thought needed it—a person recovering from illness or surgery, someone living alone, somebody experiencing grief or anyone who needed to be uplifted. The 14 quarts quickly disappeared.

"This ministry provides a variety of nutritious soups to anyone in need, no questions asked," said Ruby Kowalke, a Soup Sister.

Elaine Smith added, "What I enjoy the most about being part of the ministry is knowing that while my part in it may be small, the end result is big."

Since its first soup-making session, the ministry has added members, held three soup-tasting fundraisers, served lunches at two synod meetings, held an Easter brunch, purchased a small freezer to store their efforts, and made and distributed more than 250 quarts of soup throughout a two-county area.

And in summer 2017, the Soup Sisters partnered with the Bull Shoals Food Pantry to host cooking classes for its clients and the community. The classes included a session on canning

where attendees each went home with a pint of canned tomatoes.

"Jesus taught that when you have fed, clothed and visited the least, you have done it to him," said Sherman Gordius, pastor of Christ by the Lake. "There also are Scripture verses admonishing those who say to the needful 'be well,' then go on their way. The Soup Sisters take the time and put in the work, and, as a bonus, enjoy the fellowship of making their gifts and acting to distribute."

That fellowship even brought in a new church member when Paula Sheppard came to Christ by the Lake to help make soup and learned about Lutheran beliefs. "When I am with these women, I am happy," she said. "This is the best thing I've ever done."

The ministry has motivated others in an ecumenical way. Women from First Presbyterian in Mountain Home, Ark., about 20 miles away, attended a Soup Sisters' soup-making session, took ideas home to their congregation and began a similar ministry.

Although Christ by the Lake is a small congregation, the Soup Sisters think big. They recently received a \$2,500 grant from the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod's "Living God's Abundance" campaign and plan to take their soup on the road.

The grant will fund a six-month pilot program of delivering soup to surrounding communities. If the pilot is successful, the group will work toward obtaining a small food truck to make soup deliveries to those without access to transportation.

"If people can't come to us, our soup will go to them," said Bonnie Galvan, a Soup Sister who is also director of the food pantry.

Looking back at the past two years, Mattson said she is awed at how the ministry has spread: "The community has embraced the Soup Sisters and uses the ministry. They support our fundraisers and make donations. I've received calls from the community telling me someone is coming home from the hospital and asking the Soup Sisters to deliver soup. We are serving a need."

Linda Masters is a retired journalist and charter member of Christ by the Lake Lutheran Church, Bull Shoals, Ark.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

MALAYSIA: OUTREACH AMONG INDIGENOUS NEIGHBORS



THE NEED

Christian evangelism in Malaysia is permitted, by law, only among non-Malay and non-Muslim peoples.

For more than 60 years, the Lutheran Church in Malaysia has functioned primarily as an ethnic-Chinese church. With Malaysian laws prohibiting proselytism among Malay, who are presumed Muslim, and Muslim people, evangelism within the country is challenging. However, there are many groups to reach, including the Orang Asli indigenous peoples of West Malaysia.

The Orang Asli is a traditionally hunter-gatherer group. They live in isolated communities throughout Malaysia, which have often been left behind in the development of the country.

Through evangelism and outreach, as well as developing faithful leaders in ways that are appropriate for their own culture, we can build the Lutheran church and share the gospel with groups of the Orang Asli.



In addition to broadening and deepening the outreach of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia, the project also seeks to provide social ministry support with and for the Orang Asli people. Projects include education support for children, hostels for children who otherwise are too far from schools to attend, job training, food for those in isolated communities and much more. **Through Malaysia: Outreach Among Indigenous Neighbors, we can raise \$500,000 to share the love of God with our brothers and sisters in Malaysia.**



ELCA Global Church Sponsorship
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.