



SALEM CHURCH

God is still speaking

435 S. 9th Street
Quincy, IL 62301
217.222.0601

November 2026

Mission Statement: Building a community around the love of Jesus, where all are welcome.

I Give God Thanks for You!



Rev. Matthew Hunt

As Thanksgiving approaches, I've been thinking about the many reasons I'm grateful for the people of Salem Church. I'm grateful for your kindness and compassion, and for your commitment to showing up, day after day and year after year.

I'm thankful for your willingness to help me when I need it, and for the patience you show me when I need that, too! Most of all, I'm grateful for the countless times I see the love of Jesus reflected in your words and actions.

I'm thankful for your commitment to ministry. Too many congregations never get to experience the joy of ministry because they become so caught up in disagreements, conflicts, and church drama. One of the things I appreciate most about Salem is that I see you delight in being God's people and doing God's work. I see it when you come together to care for one another and our community, when you're courageous enough to try something new, and when you follow the passions God has placed in your hearts.

I'm thankful for your commitment to being an inclusive congregation, where everyone is welcome, and for your recognition that there's always room to grow in how we extend God's love to others. I'm grateful for our small groups, our ministry teams, our musicians, and all those who faithfully take care of the behind-the-scenes responsibilities that often go unnoticed. Every one of you contributes something valuable to our life together.

Being part of your spiritual journeys is a privilege, and being your minister is something I never take for granted. Thank you for your friendship, your encouragement, your faithfulness, and your willingness to share this journey of faith with me. You remind me again and again of what a church can be when people genuinely care for one another and find joy in serving others.

I am thankful I get to be your minister. And I give God thanks for you!

Pastor Matt

SEMLER

ACOUSTIC SHOW

WITH ESTHER MOORE

LOADS OF LOVE FUNDRAISER

**STATE STREET THEATER
MONDAY NOV. 9 2026
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30
FAMILY FRIENDLY
OVER BY 8:30**

**QUINCY, IL
FREE SHOW
DONATIONS WELCOME**



SALEM CHURCH
God is still speaking

Pecans for Sale

(Should arrive in first half of November)

Sold by Former Salem Choristers Members

Plain Halves = \$14.00

Honey Roasted = \$15.00

Milk Chocolate = \$17.00

Dark Chocolate = \$20.00

Sugar Free Chocolate = \$19.00

These make great Christmas Gifts!

See or Call

Judy Bushaus (217-779-3007)

Sharon Higgins (217-440-9992)

Jeannie Kanauss (217-617-8450)

Annette Newquist (217-242-0101)

Coffee Hour Schedule

November

11/1 Linsey, Catherine V, Victoria

11/8 The Simmons Family

11/15 The Caring Ministry

11/22 Ric, Carol, Judy, and Connie

11/29 The Deege's and Goehl's

December

12/6 Debbie, Cindy, and Charlie

12/13 The Moran's and Helliges

12/20 The Spory's

12/27 The Edward's

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!!

***The Fall Congregational Meeting is 11/15 during
Fellowship Hour***



Dates To Remember

Sunday, November 1st

9:00 Salem Worship

~~Saturday, November 7th~~

8:00 Salem Holiday Bazaar

11:30 BJ's Cafe- Saturday Meals

Monday, November 9th

6:30pm Semler Acoustic Show @ State Street Theatre

Wednesday, November 11th

6:00pm Resource/Property Meeting

Thursday, November 12th

4:00pm Loads of Love

5:15pm Connections Ministry Meeting

Saturday, November 14th

10:30 Paws & Prayers Pet Food Distribution

11:30 BJ's Café- Saturday Meals

Sunday, November 15th

9:00 Salem Worship

10:00 Fall Congregational Meeting

10:30 Youth and Adult Re:Charge

Wednesday, November 18th

5:30pm Evening Guild Meeting

6:00pm VMST

Thursday, October 19th

7:00pm Informal gathering @ Quincy Brewing Company

Saturday, November 21st

11:30 Health Fair/Toiletry Distribution

11:30 BJ's Café- Saturday Meals

Sunday, November 22nd

9:00 Salem Worship

10:30 Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 28th

11:30 BJ's Cafe- Saturday Meals

Sunday, November 29th

9:00 Salem Worship

10:30 Youth and Adult RE:Charge



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 22nd at 10:30
Lunch will be provided for volunteers.

A festive Christmas garland featuring pine branches, red berries, pinecones, and warm white lights. The garland is composed of several strands of green pine needles, clusters of bright red berries, and several brown pinecones. Interspersed among the natural elements are warm white LED lights that are currently turned on, casting a soft glow. The entire decoration is set against a plain white background.

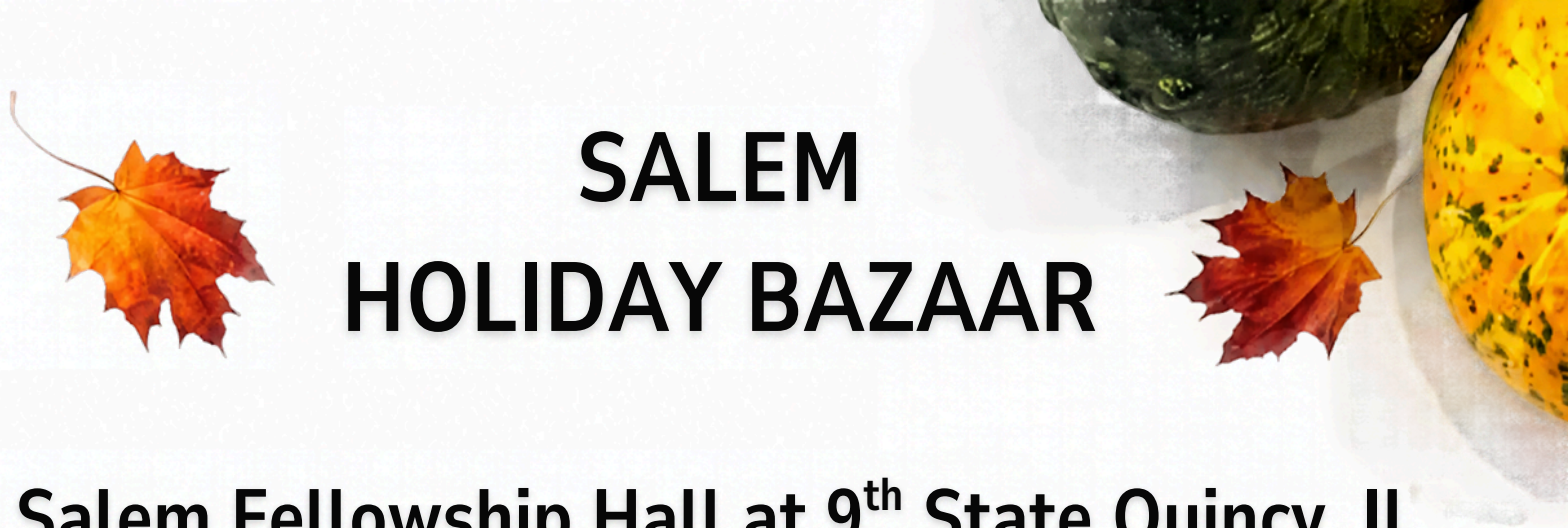
Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 22nd at 10:30

Lunch will be provided for volunteers.

11/20 Kim & Chad Akers
11/30 Linsey & Alicia Laughtin

11/30 Linsey & Alicia Laughtin



SALEM HOLIDAY BAZAAR

**Salem Fellowship Hall at 9th State Quincy, IL.
November 7, 2026 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**FREE ADMISSION
Coffee Available**

**Craft and Hand Made Items, Baked Goods
Homemade Candy, Jewelry, floral
arrangements & cemetery flowers,
Tupperware, Pecans, Fresh Green Grave
Covers and Pamper Chef**

Booth Space is available.

Call Wanda

217-222-3286



Semler Acoustic Show Coming to Quincy — A Benefit for Loads of Love!

On Monday, November 9, Salem Church is bringing nationally recognized recording artist Semler to the State Street Theater in Quincy for a special acoustic concert, joined by local musician Esther Moore. Admission is free, and all donations will benefit Salem's Loads of Love ministry.

Semler (Grace Baldridge) is an LGBTQ+ singer-songwriter whose music explores the intersection of faith, identity, love, and belonging. The child of an Episcopal priest, Semler grew up immersed in the Christian faith but also experienced the challenges of being LGBTQ+ within religious communities.

Rather than walking away from those difficult questions, Semler has made them central to their music, creating songs that are personal, sometimes challenging, and often deeply moving. In 2021, Semler made history when their EP *Preacher's Kid* reached No. 1 on the iTunes Christian music chart. Their music has connected with listeners who have struggled to reconcile their faith with their experiences of exclusion, as well as those who believe Christianity should be a place where everyone is welcomed and valued. Joining Semler will be Esther Moore, a local musician, making this an opportunity to celebrate both a nationally recognized artist and talent from our own community.

What makes this concert especially meaningful is its connection to Loads of Love. Salem Church applied for and received a \$5,000 Leonhart Grant through our UCC Conference/Western Association to help fund concerts benefiting Loads of Love. This generous grant is covering all the expenses associated with our concerts, which means something extraordinary: 100% of every donation received goes directly to Loads of Love!

For those unfamiliar with Loads of Love, this Salem ministry provides free laundry services twice each month at Washland in Quincy. Participants receive up to \$25 toward their laundry, along with detergent and dryer sheets. It is a practical expression of our congregation's commitment to loving our neighbors and helping meet everyday needs in our community.

The concert is Monday, November 9, at the State Street Theater in Quincy. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the evening will conclude by approximately 8:30 p.m. The concert is family-friendly, admission is free, and donations are welcome. We hope you'll join us, invite your friends and neighbors, and help spread the word. It's an opportunity to enjoy some wonderful music while supporting a ministry that directly benefits people in our community.

Everyone is welcome, and every dollar donated makes a difference!

Pastor Matt



Regular,
Informal,
Social
Gathering

Join us on the
3rd Thursday of every month
7:00 pm
Quincy Brew Co

*Non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase

Salem UCC

Questions?

|

AJ Simmons
(520) 705-3159

Totenfest Celebration at Salem Church: Honoring Our Saints

On Sunday, November 8, 2026, during our 9 a.m. worship service, Salem Church will celebrate Totenfest—a tradition deeply rooted in our Evangelical and Reformed heritage. Totenfest, which means "Festival of the Dead" in German, is a special time when we remember and honor the saints of our congregation who have passed away over the last year. This practice reflects Salem's historical German roots and the longstanding tradition of remembering those who have gone before us in faith.

During this meaningful part of our service, we will recognize each saint with a special tribute. For every loved one, a flower will be placed at the altar as a bell tolls. As their photograph is displayed on the screen, we will pause to remember the unique ways they touched our lives, shared their love, and helped shape our community. At the conclusion of the service, family members are welcome to take their loved one's flower home as a reminder of the love and memories that remain.

If you are new to Salem or unfamiliar with Totenfest, this is a sacred time for us to come together as a community of faith, acknowledging both the sorrow of loss and the gratitude we feel for lives that have blessed our own. Grief does not follow a calendar, and whether our losses are recent or many years behind us, the people we love remain part of our stories.

Totenfest also reminds us of the hope we share as followers of Jesus—that death does not have the final word, that God's love is greater than death, and that the lives of those who have gone before us continue to inspire and shape who we are today.

We invite you to join us for this meaningful celebration as we remember, reflect, give thanks, and honor those who have entered God's eternal embrace.

Pastor Matt

