



Salem Lutheran Church

11 West Bernard Street
West St. Paul, MN 55118-1409
SalemLuth.org

Spring/Summer 2026



**ALL ARE WELCOME TO
EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
SERVICE AND BREAKFAST!**

Grounded in Scripture, we seek to Nurture the Faith and to Proclaim Christ's Love in Word and Deed to each other and our neighbors near and far.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

Be sure to check your e-mail on Wednesdays for a video message from Pastor Aaron and to stay in the loop with the announcements. There's always something happening at Salem and we want everyone to be a part of it! Please call the church office at (651) 457-6661 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Sunday Worship - 9:30 am (In person & via livestream)

Adult Forums - Sundays at 10:40 am in the Fellowship Hall
(no forums Ash Wed.-Easter Sunday)

Tuesday Bible Study - Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room

Faith Formation - Wednesdays at 5:30 pm (2nd Wednesday Activity Night) (Sep. - May) *(Meeting place dependent on construction schedule at St. Stephen's)*

Elizabeth Circle - Second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room (Summer break Jun. - Aug.)

Men's Renewal Group - Every other Friday at 8:00 am (Hosted by St. Salem and St. Stephen's at Gallaghers, West. St. Paul)

Women's Bible Study Breakfast - Every other Friday at 8:00 am
(Lay-led by St. Stephen's at Gallaghers, West. St. Paul)

Jubilee Ringers - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary (Sep. - May)

Senior Choir - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month at 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary (Sep. - May)

Learner Bells - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month at 7:15 pm in the Choir Room (Sep. - May)

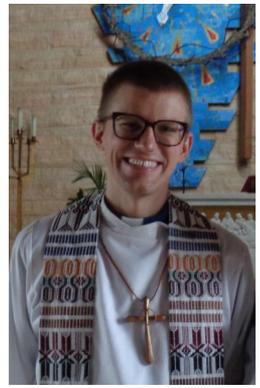
Centering Prayer - Every other Saturday at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room

To stay current on all events/programs at Salem, please visit the church calendar at: www.salemluth.org/calendar-2

A Message from Pastor Aaron:

Siblings in Christ,

Thanks be to God for the gift of new life promised through the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. We bask in the glory of God's grace through these fifty days of Easter and pray that the Spirit of Pentecost fills our hearts and drives us into the streets and to all the corners of the world.



What does it look like for us to translate the Gospel to our neighbors near and far? The beauty of translation is it allows this process to be fluid as the gift of grace is translated into mutual aid, advocacy, testimony, bedside care, worship, charity, prayer and more! I encourage you to look through the articles and events provided in this newsletter to see how Salem is active in this work of witness and prayerfully consider where you can join. But I also want you to ponder where we may be missing an opportunity to share the Gospel with our neighbors near and far, because we can always try something new and I would love to hear from you!

With that in mind, I want to highlight a few events with you all that I will be working on in these next few months. Our next **Beer, Burgers, and Hymns** will be April 27th at 6 pm, but I encourage you to come early to get in your orders and perhaps a few bites of food before the singing begins.

Summer Faith Fest is a new collaborative effort with St. Stephen's as a re-envisioning of our shared Vacation Bible School programs. This new family-focused event will take place over three days (June 22-24) at St. Stephen's from 5:30-7 pm with three distinct ways of exploring our faith together. The first night will kick off with a grill-out and games celebrating the family of Christ through fun and fellowship. The second night will have a meal followed by a service activity, reminding us that God's work is done through our hands and feet. The last night will begin with a meal and end with a vibrant child-friendly worship as we give praise and thanks to our God who gives us life!

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The hope of this is to engage all members of the family and enable all members of either congregation to feel invited to this festive faith-filled experience. We also intentionally planned for these events to take place outside (weather permitting) so neighbors feel more inclined to pop by and share in the meals or join in the activities. The education committees of both churches made it a goal to get these dates and times out to all as soon as possible with the hope that you would add it to your calendars and prioritize joining us for this VBS inspired event. Details as to which church will host which events are still being decided. More info coming soon!

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the fact that several folks in our congregation are dealing with major health issues and life changes. As the body of Christ, we have several opportunities to practice care, grace, and hospitality with those in our congregation. So, if talking with strangers or acquaintances is not a strength of yours, there are still many beautiful ways we can minister to one another, to family members and friends in this church body. For as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12, “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” Let us never forget to suffer and rejoice together as often as we gather; making time for the members of this community so no one is lost and all experience the love of Christ.

In Love,
Pastor Aaron

FOR
THE
BODY IS
NOT
ONE
MEMBER,
BUT
MANY.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14 (KJV) -





HOW ARE YOU... REALLY?

My family recently found out that my sister had been diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness in 2015. She recently had stopped taking her medications and we started to see signs that things were not right. She ended up in the emergency room after sending text messages to her family saying goodbye. We didn't know that she had attempted suicide before. She has experienced a lot of chronic stressors and traumas in her life including the loss of her daughter to an overdose in 2015, divorce, job stress, career changes and other chronic stressors. It's very important to know the signs to look for in your friends and loved ones that may indicate help is needed.

How are you...really? Let's face it, it's a stressful world. We listen to the news and feel scared and angry. We feel frustrated at the sharp divisions in our communities and country. While we find comfort and hope in our faith, the truth is that many of us are struggling both emotionally and spiritually.

Depression and anxiety are at record levels for all age groups. One in five Americans experiences a mental health disorder in any given year and almost all of us have a close relative or friend who is affected. Yet, we often suffer in silence or answer the question, "How are you?" with "Fine." Most persons with emotional issues don't get help... and suffer needlessly.

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If you have these signs of depression or anxiety, talk with your spiritual leader, your faith community nurse, your health care provider or ask for a referral to a professional counselor.

- Persistent feelings of sadness, tearfulness, emptiness, hopelessness
- Angry outbursts, irritability or frustration even over small matters
- Loss of interest or pleasure in most normal activities such as hobbies or sports
- Sleep disturbances including insomnia or sleeping too much
- Unable to relax, unable to stop worrying, trouble concentrating
- Having a sense of impending danger or doom
- Feeling separated from God and your faith

Getting help with your emotional and spiritual well-being is just as critical as getting help for your physical body. Our congregation can be a caring place for those of any age who are struggling with emotional pain. Asking “How are you, really?” and listening with compassion and love (without trying to “fix” things) is one way we can lessen the stress of these days.

Here is a great resource that was recommended by a friend as well as emergency contacts to call in times of crisis:

NAMI-National Alliance for Mental Illness

<https://www.nami.org/>

Text or call 988 to reach a live crisis counselor if you are considering suicide

<https://988lifeline.org/>

To your health and wellbeing,
Debbie Lee, Parish Nurse



UPCOMING EVENTS!

EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM



Everyone is invited to Salem's Easter Family Fun Day on Saturday, April 4 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. Invite your friends and family to hunt for Easter eggs filled with goodies and have fun making crafts! All are welcome!



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
APRIL 5, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Everyone is invited to attend the Easter Sunday Service on April 5, 2026 at 9:30 am. Bring your family and friends to celebrate Christ's glorious victory over death!!

ALLELUIA, HE IS RISEN!

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST
APRIL 5, 2026 (AFTER WORSHIP)



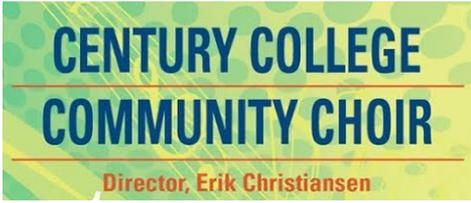
Everyone is invited to participate in the Easter Sunday Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on April 5, 2026 following the worship service. All are welcome!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026 - 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Everyone is invited to participate at the Feed My Starving Children event (990 Lone Oak Rd., #136, Eagan, MN., 55121) on Friday, April 17 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. There are 11 volunteer spots available. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex soon!



UPCOMING EVENTS!



**CENTURY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY CHOIR
FREE CONCERT
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026
4:00 PM - SANCTUARY**

Everyone is invited to a free concert offered by the Century College Community Choir on Saturday, April 18 at 4:00 pm. Invite your friends and family and help us support this amazing choir!



**THE RIVER HEIGHTS CHORALE - FREE CONCERT
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 - 4:00 PM - SANCTUARY**

Everyone is invited to a free concert offered by The River Heights Chorale on Sunday, April 19 at 4:00 pm. Invite your friends and family and help us support this amazing choir that's home to several Salem members.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP EVENT!
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**



Everyone is invited to join this year's Spring Clean-Up! Come out and help us get the building, and grounds in great shape! We'll have projects that everyone can participate in. Many hands make light work! We hope to see you all there!

UPCOMING EVENTS!



INFORMATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 10:45 AM - FIRESIDE ROOM

Have you wondered about ways to be involved, what goes on, or perhaps a potential membership? Come and participate in an informational meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 10:45 am in the Fireside Room to learn more and get answers to your questions!

Hope to see you,
Diane Hueller (Membership)



BEER, BURGERS & HYMNS MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM AT GALLAGHER'S

Everyone is invited to Gallagher's (888 Ohio St.) on Monday, April 27, 2026 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm for a great evening of Beer, Burgers and Hymns! Bring your family out for a fun evening with Pastor Aaron, Salem members and St. Stephen's folks in a well-loved community outing!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL



Everyone is invited to participate in the Red Cross Blood Drive at Salem on Wednesday, May 6 from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Pre-registration is strongly recommended. The registration link is available on the "sign-up" page of the website. Please speak with Debbie Lee if you need help registering. Help us to fill all the donations spots! Your contribution is life saving!! Thank you for your support!

UPCOMING EVENTS!



PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 24, 2026 NEIGHBORHOOD GERANIUMS AND RED ATTIRE

Salem will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday on May 24. Our tradition is to purchase 40 red plants (typically geraniums) and deliver them to our surrounding neighbors to share God's love and to express our gratitude for allowing us to park in front of their homes on Sunday mornings and other days of the year that services are held. Look for an email with details about making a donation for a plant soon! The cost will be around \$5.50 per plant.

The other Salem tradition for Pentecost Sunday is to **WEAR RED!** If you're able to, please wear something red on May 24 to represent the pouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP DATE & TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED!

Look for details coming soon about a Neighborhood Clean-Up event this spring. Salem adopted sections of the streets that surround the building (Hall, Humboldt, and Bernard) and made a commitment to carry out Neighborhood Clean-Up events twice per year. We look forward to gathering as a community and spending 1-2 hours connecting with neighbors and helping to keep the neighborhood looking good!



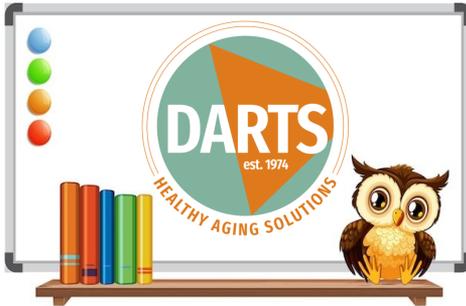
OWLS (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS AT SALEM)

Everyone is invited to these upcoming OWLS events, as always, ALL ages are welcome to participate!



**THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026
1:00 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL
MUSICAL VENTRILOQUIST,
KEVIN DOELY WILL PRESENT:
“LAUGH FOR LIFE”**

Invite your friends and family to a fun presentation that will include music and professional ventriloquy! No fee to attend, free will offering suggested to help cover the event cost.



**THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026
1:00 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL
“ALL ABOUT DARTS”**

A member of the DARTS staff will join the OWLS on Thursday, June 11 to talk about all of the services that they offer for older adults in Dakota County! DARTS is a community organization that received funding from Salem’s Endowment Fund this year. Come learn more about their programming and ways we can support them and they can support Salem members!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

We want to wish all graduates a wonderful graduation this spring! Congratulations on your accomplishments and we also wish you the very best in all your future endeavors!



Hailey French

Graduating from Two Rivers High School
Will be attending the U of M Duluth
Biology of Life Sciences (pre-vet program)
Daughter of Vickie and Bill French



Markus Linscheid

Graduating from Eastview High School
Will be attending the U of St. Thomas
Grandson of Kay Tellekson



Dylan Matthews

Graduating from
Chippewa Valley Technical College
in Digital Marketing
Grandson of the Belland's



Vinny Nesdahl

Graduating from Park High School
Plans to pursue trade school in the fall
Son of Jake and Sarah Nesdahl
Grandson of Louise and Milt Nesdahl

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Steve Anderl
- 3 Jacob Taulman
- 9 Samuel Taulman
- 10 Audrey Klegin
- 10 Lana Pemberton
- 11 Debra Lee
- 14 Keith Olson
- 15 Ivory Giles
- 16 Jonathan Pemberton
- 18 Christopher Figueroa
- 18 Robert French
- 19 John Wakeen
- 23 Faye Gibis
- 25 Daniel Nesdahl
- 26 Jennifer Burket
- 26 Hailey French
- 29 Loraligh McMurray

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Cheryl Emeott
- 4 Diane Mayo
- 6 Debra Hofbauer
- 8 Lori Gustafson
- 9 Sandra Bollinger
- 9 Ginny Hanson
- 10 Adolph Degler
- 12 Susan Figueroa
- 13 Russell Artwohl
- 16 Evalynn Hernandez
- 16 Beverly Woken
- 26 David Johnson
- 26 Matthew Burket
- 27 Deven Taterka
- 28 Joshua Wareham
- 29 Arlene Christiansen



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jacob Nesdahl
- 2 Mary French
- 2 James Momberger
- 3 Marianne Seng
- 7 Diana Thron
- 10 Jim Hanson
- 10 Jack Wakeen
- 14 Derek Hernadez
- 15 Julie Reed
- 18 Richard Neafus
- 20 Leanne Schmiesing
- 26 Ronald Albrecht
- 27 Harold Pahr
- 28 Ada Holmgren
- 28 Mark Schmidt
- 29 Alice Graves
- 30 Susan Ablan
- 31 LeAnn Anderl
- 31 Diane Hueller

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Russell and Cheryl Emeott
- 11 Ivory and Cori Giles
- 17 Ginny and Jim Hanson
- 30 Lawrence and Faye Gibis

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Rebekah and Chad Elling
- 5 John and Pam Wakeen
- 22 Ronald and Lonna Albrecht

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Kathleen & Kenneth L. Hanson
- 18 William and Vickie French
- 22 Lori and Robert French
- 22 Paul and Norma Johannsen
- 23 Keith and Carol Olson





FINANCE & SOLAR UPDATE

We will be including finance and solar updates in the newsletters! Thank you to everyone for giving so generously!

Every Dollar Helps Salem:

- Continue it's mission to serve neighbors near and far!
- Keep the building running so we can keep worshipping, gathering and serving!
- Keep our promise to be great stewards of God's creation!

Summary of January and February Giving 2026	
General Fund	\$ 28,623.00
Expenses	\$ 38,232.00
Net loss for first two months	\$ (9,609.00)
Restricted Donations	
Neighbors	\$ 150.00
Solar	\$ 8,305.00
Faith Formation	\$ 189.00
Pastor Emergency Fund	\$ 1,635.00
Flowers	\$ 260.00
Total restricted donations	\$ 10,539.00
Building Fund Donations	\$ 1,150.00
Total January & February Donations	\$ 40,312.00
Transferred from Endowment Fund	\$ 8,267.00

Solar Project Update

Solar Payback Fund: \$38,030.10
<p>January & February 2026 Usage: 5290 kWh (2025's=8160 kWh)</p>
<p>January & February System Production: 2639 kWh</p>
YTD Net Usage: ~ 2,651 kWh

Summer Faith Fest

June 22-24

Hosted by St Stephens and Salem
Lutheran
5:30-7pm at St Stephens Lutheran Church

**Come join this all ages bash! We'll
have food, service projects,
worship, and FUN!**

Scan for more information and registration!

1575 Charlton St
West Saint Paul, MN
55118

**All
Ages**

**HELPERS
WILL
BE
NEEDED!**

**MORE
DETAILS
COMING
SOON!**

OFFICE CLOSED, VACATIONS & SUMMER BREAK

Holidays Office Closed:

Monday, April 6 &
Monday, May 25

Pastor Aaron - Vacation: April
7-10, June 12-19

Michelle Rodriguez -
Vacation: May 12-15

ON SUMMER BREAK (JUNE-AUGUST)

SENIOR CHOIR
HANDBELL CHOIRS
ELIZABETH CIRCLE
QUILTERS
FAITH FORMATION

LIFE AT SALEM!

Don't forget to visit the "Life at Salem" page of the website to see pictures and videos of Salem events!

LENTEN SEASON 2026—SUPPER FELLOWSHIP & WORSHIP



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
TEJON WILLIAMS-HOFBAUER!
GENE SELL SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENT!**

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK AND MAKE FULFILLING CONNECTIONS!

Michelle Rodriguez, Salem’s Administrative Secretary is currently interning at DARTS as part of her Masters of Social Work program. The internship includes spending time at “The Breathing Space”, a program that gives caregivers of loved ones with low to mid-level dementia 4 hours of respite. The Appley Valley location has recently reached its capacity of 10 care receivers and they are in need of additional program volunteers. Please see the flyer below for more details. The Apple Valley program meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 10 am - 2 pm. Please reach out to Michelle at secretary@salemluth.org with any questions!

DARTS Breathing Space
Apple Valley

Looking to give back on weekdays?
Retired and wanting to stay involved in our community?
This volunteer opportunity may be right for you!

Give caregivers a break through the Breathing Space!
Spend time with a care receiver with mid- to low level dementia doing fun activities while DARTS staff facilitate.
Join us bi-weekly, monthly, or when it works for you!

DETAILS

Where: Grace Lutheran Church
7800 150th St W
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Occurs: 2nd & 4th Mondays
Time: 10:00AM - 2:00PM

To learn more:
Visit dartsconnects.org/volunteer
Email volunteer@darts1.org
Call 651-455-1560

The Breathing Space is supported by a Dementia grant from the MN Board on Aging & Trellis through the Older Americans Act.



FREE & DISCOUNTED COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FREE GREETING CARDS AT SALEM!

Please check out the FREE greeting card display available in the Narthex and help yourself to as many as you would like! Thank you to Carol Olson for arranging the display!



FREE TECHNOLOGY HELP THOMPSON PARK ACTIVITY CENTER

(1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul)
MONDAYS FROM 9AM-12PM
No registration needed, just walk in
For older adults by older adults

At this drop-in service, TPAC volunteer mentors will assist you with any technology questions you may have. Come with your device and receive friendly, patient, 1-1 assistance.



GATEWAY DISCOUNT TICKET PROGRAM

Did you know that you might be eligible to get \$5 tickets to performances at the Guthrie Theatre through their “Gateway” program?

Gateway Tickets are available to patrons with limited income for \$5. To qualify, patrons must be at least 18 years old and enrolled in one or more of the following: TANF, MFIP, WIC, General Assistance, Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Benefits, SNAP or Section 8.

Up to four tickets per production may be purchased for select performances by phone or in person at the Box Office. Valid performance dates are posted on the Wednesday prior to the first performance of each production. To enroll, please visit the Box Office in person or call at 612-377-2224.

FREE & DISCOUNTED COMMUNITY RESOURCES

DISCOUNT

NEIGHBORS, INC. THRIFT STORE

A sign for Neighbors Thrift Store with a blue logo featuring a stylized 'N' and a red hanger. The sign is set against a background of various clothing items like hats, shirts, and dresses.

Thrift Store

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

EXPANDED STORE HOURS:
TUES-FRI: 10am - 7pm
SATURDAY: 10am - 3pm

222 Grand Avenue West
South St. Paul, MN 55075
651-455-0447

 Neighbors Thrift Store  @neighborsthiftstore

 www.neighborsmn.org/thriftstore

Why pay full price for clothing items, home goods and gifts if you don't have to? Be sure to visit the Neighbors, Inc. thrift store (222 Grand Ave W) for great discounts on all of the above! Your purchases help support a wonderful local non-profit that has partnered with Salem for decades to support Dakota County residents!

DISCOUNTED HOME REPAIRS - NOW THROUGH APRIL 15!

An advertisement for DARTS home repairs. It features two photos: one of a man painting a wall and another of a man working on a door. A map of the Twin Cities area is in the center. A starburst graphic contains text about a 10% discount for new clients aged 55+.

New clients age 55+ can receive 10% off their 1st appointment!

Spring cleaning is just around the corner - and when cleaning leads to repairing, DARTS can help! New clients age 55+ in the

Twin Cities southeast metro that call between now and April 15, 2026 can get **10% off the cost of their first repair**. From bathroom fixes to smoke alarms and beyond, DARTS has you covered. Call 651-455-1560 and mention **“FACEBOOK POST”** to redeem!



Salem Lutheran Church

11 West Bernard Street, West St. Paul, MN 55118-1409

Phone: (651) 457-6661

E-mail: secretary@salemluth.org • Website: salemluth.org

✝ NEED PRAYER ✝

Diane Hueller.....651-451-0307

Louise Nesdahl.....651-280-9678

Church Office651-457-6661

If you or a member of your family are in need of prayer and would like us to pray for you, please call the prayer chain coordinator or the church office and we will place you on the prayer chain. *All calls are kept confidential.*

SALEM STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Aaron Holmgren
Handbell Director.....Keith Irwin
Organist/Choir Director.....Judy Belland
Parish Nurse.....Debbie Lee
Admin. Secretary.....Michelle Rodriguez



FREE CONCERTS!

CENTURY COLLEGE CHOIR
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

&

THE RIVER HEIGHTS CHORALE
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026
(Details on pg. 8)

The *Salem Newsletter* is a publication of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are located on Bernard Street, three blocks west of Robert Street between Humboldt and Hall. ***Deadline for the Summer/Fall newsletter is noon, Monday, June 8th.*** Please submit articles typed or printed clearly, by mail or email, including your name and phone number.

OWLS EVENT WITH
SPECIAL GUEST:
KEVIN DOELY

MUSICAL VENTRILOQUIST
“LAUGH FOR LIFE”
(Details on pg. 11)



DONATE
BLOOD



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
(Details on pg. 9)