



Salem Connection

January, 2023

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444
Phone: 218.534.3309 Email: office@salemdwd.org Website: www.salemdwd.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/salemlutheranchurchdeerwood



From days long gone of taking notes in class to current days of journaling and writing my prayers, there isn't much that gets me thinking like a fresh new piece of paper. Oh the possibilities! My mind is free to fill in whatever it would like: self-discovery, that nagging guilt, the hope of little improvements – the possibilities are endless.

I get the same kind of feeling when I flip a calendar, maybe you know what I mean. The possibilities! The opportunities! The things we'll learn about ourselves! The chances we'll have to make a difference!

Yet there's something different for me this year, and the only way I can describe it is like writing on the *back* of a page... like how the ink from the previous page bleeds through onto the current one.

The worries and bad news of violence and terror, super storms, racial tensions, and gender prejudice are all shadowing my hopeful new year. Listening will still be a battle in my house, bills will keep coming, appliances will still go on the fritz, and I'm sure I'll still be a little too tired. It's not the same "fresh page" feeling that my naive self years for.

My heart is somewhat settled by Ecclesiastes "for everything there is a season." Think of how one season blends into another – not with stark changes, but in small ways. Changes take time, patience, the right circumstances, intentional work, and rest. The same can be true of how God works new things in our lives.

But the good news of Christmas is that God is present in each of these seasons and in the changes in-between. God's work may not fit our timelines or our preferences, may not fit our expectations or what we feel we need, but God is able to "work all things into good for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose" (Romans 8:28).

The kids will still not listen, grief will still shadow us, the ups and downs of life will still happen, but even in the middle of these things, there will be moments of hope. People will still be targeted, we will still fight for equal rights and respectful talk, our nation will still be polarized, but even in the middle of these things, God still steps in to promise hope and new life, and begins to create abundant life in us and the world.

But like all creation and all new things, this too, takes time. My constant prayer these days is to catch glimpses of God's work to fuel my hope. I gather hope at Salem as we join together as a church and outreach to care for our community. I gather hope in the gifts people bring: compassion, art, construction, music, service, hospitality, and time. I gather hope when my boys apologize for poor behavior.

I gather hope, because God still steps in, and we can keep turning pages.

Thanks be to God,
~Pastor Amanda



Special Notes at Salem

Thank you to those SERVING in January:

READERS

Jan. 1, Ken Stebbins

Jan. 8, Jim Rude

Jan. 15,

Jan. 22,

Jan. 27

USHERS

Jan. 1 Ed & Sherri Godfrey, Joe Huntly

Jan. 8 Randy Holmvig, Herb & Barb Schoon & Mark Boike

Jan. 15 Roger & Marlene Prill, Clark & Joyce Marshall

Jan. 22 Nory & Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson

Jan. 27 Becky Zender, John & Raye Cragun

COMMUNION SERVERS

Jan. 1 Warren Balfany & Lynn Hansen

Jan. 8

Jan. 15

Jan. 22

Jan. 27

OFFERING COUNTERS for January

Lori Holmvig & Jeff Mitchell

January

Music Schedule

8	8:00a.m. Choir Practice 8:30a.m. Praise Singers Practice 9:00a.m. Choir during worship
15	8:00a.m. Choir Practice 8:30a.m. Praise Singers Practice 9:00a.m. Bells during worship
22	8:00a.m. Choir Practice 8:30a.m. Praise Singers Practice 9:00a.m. Choir during worship
29	8:00a.m. Choir Practice 8:30a.m. Praise Singers Practice 9:00a.m. Volunteer Choir during Worship



Men's Bible Study's New Shirts

Our Godly men who study the Bible together got new shirts! If you like studying the Bible, developing friendships and knowing other men of the Word, stop in on Friday mornings at 8a.m.



Koffee Klatch at Heartwood

Salem's monthly Koffee Klatch Bible Study will be on Monday, January 9 at 1:00p.m.



Special Celebrations in January



1	Mason DeCent	13	Gregory Reed		
3	Carla Barker	14	Marlene Raadt		
	Noah Coughlin		Joe Zender	1	Steve & Joan Haglund
4	Rick Blomberg	16	Kay Cooper	7	Greg & Diane Meyer
	Nathan Perpich	17	Elle Chileen	10	Tim & Cindy Foote
5	Jo Blanich		Carole Houghton	20	Rick & Carol Blomberg
8	Dylan Ficklin	19	Cindy Sykes		
	Laura Martin		Joseph Zontelli		
9	Tom Reek	23	Chuck Lubowitz		
10	Mariah Bodle	24	Ed Godfrey		
11	Peggy Hunze	25	Ron Meyer		
13	Mark Boike	29	Lenore McBroom		



December 11, 2022

Thank you Salem Lutheran Church for the beautiful poinsettia. It was very kind of you to remember me. I so appreciated that Judy Fields took time to deliver it. Thank you all and God bless you.
Barbara Abelson



The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office is Committed to Providing Public Service that is Beneficial to All Members of the Community through Leadership, Experience and Compassion.

crowwing.us

Salem West,
We want to thank you all for your generous donation of Target Gift Cards for our inmates to send to their children! 22 inmates filled out cards, totaling 70 gift cards being sent out! Thank you all again for making this possible! We hope you all have a Merry Christmas!

Bo - Jail Programs
Miranda Sheriff Scott Goddard TRAVIS



Kinship
Kinship Partners Inc.

**THANK
YOU!**

November 30, 2022

Salem Lutheran Church
Po Box 100
Deerwood, MN 56444-0100

Salem Lutheran Church,

You've made a difference! Your gift has already helped empower our community through safe and trusting mentor partnerships.

Thank you for your generous gift of \$100.00 to Kinship Partners on November 23, 2022 from your August Cause of the Month.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and families we serve, I would like to personally thank you for making our work possible. Your generous contribution enables us to continue our mission of providing intentional opportunities for meaningful connections - connections with our mentors, our donors, our greater community, and most importantly, with our kids.

For more information on how your financial support is making a difference in the lives of so many in our community, I invite you to visit our web site at www.kinshippartners.org. You can also find information there regarding our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Please use this letter as a receipt of your donation. No goods or services were provided by Kinship Partners in return for your contribution.

Thank you again for your charitable gift to Kinship Partners. You are truly making a difference!

Amy Thank you so much for your support!

Amy Gray
Executive Director

FOR YOUR TAX PURPOSES

Kinship Partners is a 501(c)(3) corporation, tax ID number is 36-3477485. In accordance with the IRS tax law, your gift is tax deductible.

www.kinshippartners.org
Brainerd Pequot Lakes Crosby Staples
Transforming our community through the power of mentoring.

Faith Formation

Congregation Class

Ever wondered about the odd names and ancient places found in the Old Testament of our Bibles? Have you been worried about God's judgmental tactics with humanity? Or confused about the two kingdoms and the constant battles? Have you been weighed down by the warnings of the prophets?

Better yet, wondered how these stories relate to us as Christ-followers?

It's time we get a handle on the Hebrew Scriptures – our Old Testament. Where it came from, what it tells us about God, and what it means for us as Christians. Join the Old Testament Overview class coming up this month!

Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45pm

January 18 – February 15

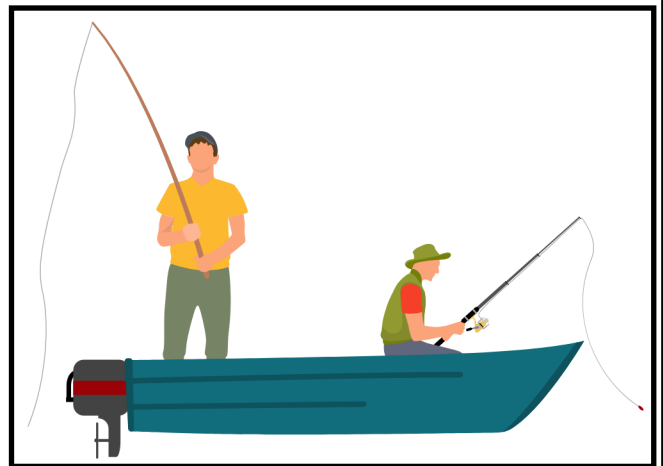
2023 MEN'S RETREAT UPDATE

As I sit inside where a propane furnace is keeping me fairly warm, I can't help thinking back to last summer and the great times that warm weather and soft water gave me. With temperatures forecast for 40 mile per hour winds and up to 8" of snow, it comforts me to think about launching my boat into the beautiful Kabetogema Lake and enjoying 80 degree temps while spending time with fellow Christians next July. That trip to "Kab" has been a wonderful time each year to catch up with old friends and make new ones, all the while enjoying some amazing scenery, fantastic fishing, wonderful meals and provocative bible studies. Last trip we studied Jacob, the conniver and learned all about this man of God.

Now that we all have our 2023 calendars and are making summer plans, take time to flip the pages to July and pencil (only God writes in ink) in the dates for the 2023 men's retreat. July 10th will be the day we depart Salem for four enjoyable days at Kec's Cove resort on beautiful Kabetogema Lake. The friendly crew at Kec's will once again be providing us fine dining, comfortable cabins and a room for our evening discussions. Our retreat planners would like to have the same problem that we had in 2011 when we had more men signed up than Kec's had cabins/bed for. Some last minute situations arose and a few had to cancel which left us with the correct number of guys so I didn't end up sleeping on my boat J.

Once again this year Larry and Vivian Kec would like to have a count of attendees by the later part of February so look for the registration forms in the narthex kiosk and get them filled out and turned in to the office so that you can reserve your place. A \$50.00 deposit will reserve your place on the trip. These cold winter days are also a good time to put new line on those fishing reels. Most of the boat captains will probably be running 6 pound test which will provide you with enough strength for Kab's wall-eyes but present a BIG challenge if you hook into one of those monster sturgeon. Gary Malek and Randy Holmwig would be happy to share their experiences with those prehistoric fish.

Until July then, stay warm and dream of keeper walleyes stretching your line. If you have questions you can give Ernie Erickson (678-2482, cell #218/839-0970) or Gary Guida (546-5794) a call.



Salem Outreach Governing Board Minutes

November 22,2022

Present were: Pastor Amanda, Jason Kempthorne. Jacob Walker, Chuck Lubowitz, Ron Martin, Sandy Kretlow, and Paul Tesdahl. Absent was Raye Cragun and Cathy Aykens.

MSC: Motion, Seconded, and Carried

Pastor Amanda led us with prayer.

Secretary's Report was e-mail to each one. MSC

Financial Report: Jason review the financials. Projection looks like we will exceed last year's total from the Mustard Seed sales. MSC

Jason Report: Facebook continues with great reviews.

ELCA Grant remains the same. Balance \$9,527.79

Initiative Foundation: Grant Balance is \$21,243.19

United Way: \$5,384.00

Brainerd Lakes Community Foundation: \$2457.00

Hallet Trust (Store Move) \$20,000.00

Emergency Food & Shelter Program awarded \$3000.00 for 2022 Lunch Bunch.

Mustard Seed Report: We just finished the Taste of Christmas. We did \$17,872.00 which was over \$2,000.00 more than last year. We are ahead of last year's total. Thanks to everyone who helped at the Mustard Seed to make this a great success.

New Business:

A special "Thank You" to Kathy Sharp and Sherri Godfrey for making the excellent Community meal. We served around 160 people.

Mn Teen Challenge: We will buy pizza for their December 6 Christmas Party. We will give them the 60 gifts cards this year. Review for next year. Possibly give white shirts and ties next year.

Jail Ministry: There is 60 people that we will give gifts cards too. Next year check with Aitkin County.

Interfaith Volunteer Trailer Storage has asked to store their tractor-trailer at SW. Motion was made to let them store their Tractor-trailer at SW. They will give a donation for storage. MSC

Nomination for Outreach Board:

We have 1- two -year terms, 2- 3year terms open. Cathy Aykens (Incumbent), Jerry Lerom, Diane Boike, Randy Sykes, Kay Bendorf. Ratify Ron Martin (currently serving) on the ballet.

Thank you to Julie Fritz summarizing the Salem Outreach Continuous Improvement Program Final Report.

Snow Plowing : review in 2023

Next Meeting will be December 20,2022 at 12:30.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Submitted by Sandy Kretlow, Secretary

Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2022

Council Mission Statement: *We exist, with God's help, to provide leadership for the Salem Lutheran Church Congregation*

MSC = The motion was seconded and carried.

Present: Al Schiffler, Paul Tesdahl, Warren Balfany, Don Hales, Mark Boike, Pastor Amanda, Jason Kempthorne, Jena Reed, Peter MacKay, Terry Tichenor

Absent: Renee Voller

Call to Order

Opening Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Salem's Insurance Sub-Committee Findings Report and Recommendations

- Recommend Church Mutual
 - Has higher coverages
 - Has lower cost
 - Has lower deductible
 - Has Blanket coverage

Motion: Agree with the sub-committee findings and sign with Church Mutual for our Insurance needs for the Church and Outreach. **MSC.**

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes of the October 27, 2022 Council meeting. **MSC.**

Treasurer's Report

Terry Tichenor presented basics of the treasurer's report.
The Brainerd Community Foundation and the Outreach Investment Fund are down due to the market.
Outreach and the Mustard Seed doing well.

Motion: Approve the October 2022 Financial Reports. **MSC.**

Pastor Amanda's Report

Trunks for Treats had 290 kids and gave away 244 hot dogs!!
Salem has been a great place of hospitality this past month!! Served over 150 in our community at the Thanksgiving Dinner!
There is a part-time Chaplain at Heartwood now who is organizing worship with area church pastors – Salem has 5th Sundays.
Funeral Saturday for Arlys Wanstrom.

Outreach Report - Jason

Completed the Continuous Improvement Program.
They are going to do a Fishbone Analysis – Analyze all moving parts – from workflow to volunteer time.
Received a grant from Hallett for \$20K for store move & fixtures.
First day of Taste of Christmas was down a little from last year, but it snowed today!
Volunteers are great and work great together!

Committee Reports

Columbarium: No update.

Technology: New computer in the workroom with general Salem account, facilities account, and Exec Team account. New speakerphone for Zoom meetings!

Capital Appeal: No update.

Facilities/Kitchen: No update.

Faith Formation/Youth: Pastor Amanda noted that they pulling together the Christmas Program. They are staying with the same curriculum that we have been using.

Memorial: Peter noted that they financed a person to go to Cragun's for the Confirmation Retreat.

Stewardship: No update.

Welcome: Don noted that they are going to quarterly meetings. Also, they would like more people to serve on the Welcome Team!

Worship & Music: Pastor Amanda noted that the Thanksgiving service will be on line this year. We will use the Holden Evening Prayer one Sunday. The Cantata doesn't have many people.

Unfinished Business

Reducing the cost of mattress disposal: Don noted that the County Commissioner put \$5K in for non-profits to utilize. We are approved for \$1K, but if the remainder isn't utilized by other non-profits, we can go back and ask for more at the end of the year. Don will continue to monitor.

Contract pastor update: The next step is for a small number of people to put together a job description (not a Call Process!!).

Sustainability Plan for Salem West and Mustard Seed updates: Met with a contractor regarding taking down the drop ceiling and putting it up again (so that the roof can be fixed).

Motion: Enter an Exec Session. **MSC.** Session was entered at 8:10pm. Sustainability was discussed.

Motion: Exit the Exec Session. **MSC.** Session was exited at 8:14pm.

Filling the Financial Manager position: Researching with other congregations on how they do their finances.

Looking at possible Agencies that we could contract with if we don't fill the position. Ruth's last day is 15 December.

Final Summerfest financial report: There was no specificity to the funds in the Summerfest Donation Box.

Motion: The money from the Donation box will be used to fund the Volunteer Dinner. Remainder will be split between the Church and Outreach. **MSC.**

Nominating Committee progress: We are set with candidates for all positions. Collecting Bios.

New Business

December Services:

Cantata – December 10th in the evening and December 11th during the service. The Cantata still needs men!

Christmas Eve Services – 3:00pm and 5:00pm Christmas – 9:00am service – wear your Christmas PJ's (if appropriate!).

Voting system for the Annual Meeting: We will be utilizing Zoom and Google Docs, Ballots will be available for Nominations, Budget and Motions.

Budget: Terry presented the Budget slides that he will be using for the Budget meetings on November 27th and December 4th.

Motion: Approve the Budget for 2023 with the changes that have been noted. **MSC.**

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting time will be decided by the new Council.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion: To adjourn. **MSC**

Pastor Amanda closed in prayer.

Prepared by: Jena Reed

STAFF

Pastor	Amanda Kempthorne	pastoramanda@salemdwd.org
Office Manager	Laura Martin	office@salemdwd.org
Financial Manager	Ruth Blum	finance@salemdwd.org
Praise Team Coordinators	Becky Klingelhofer and Noreen Steinbrecher	
Pianist/Organist	Becky Klingelhofer	
Salem Ringers & Choir Director	Kevin Edstrom	kevin7903@hotmail.com
Director of Outreach	Jason Kempthorne	outreach@salemdwd.org
Mustard Seed Manager	Jacob Walker	mustardseed@salemdwd.org
Mustard Seed Asst Manager	Bev Kunz	
Mustard Seed Asst Manager	Debbie Olson	
Salem WEST Manager		
Building & Grounds Manager	Dan Quinn	facilities@salemdwd.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mark Boike	218-349-2234
Don Hales	320-267-7770
Peter MacKay	218-851-2405
Terry Tichenor	781-223-0258
Renee Voller	763-242-6382
Lynn Hansen	218-851-8326
Sherri Godfrey	218-232-0266
Tina Royer	218-831-5126



January

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship / Sunday School	2 3:00pm Staff Meeting	3 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting	4 6:30am Women's Bible Study	5 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal	6 Epiphany 8:00am Men's Bible Study	7
8 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship / Sunday School	9 1:00pm Koffee Klatch at Heartwood 3:00pm Staff Meeting	10 9:00am Piecemakers	11 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation Classes	12 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal	13 8:00am Men's Bible Study	14 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting
15 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship / Sunday School	16 11:00am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution 3:00pm Staff Meeting	17 9:00am Piecemakers 12:30pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting 3:00pm Executive Team Meeting	18 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation Classes	19 5:00pm Council Meeting 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	20 8:00am Men's Bible Study	21
22 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship / Sunday School	23 3:00pm Staff Meeting	24 9:00am Piecemakers	25 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation Classes	26 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal	27 8:00am Men's Bible Study	28
29 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship / Sunday School	30 3:00pm Staff Meeting	31 9:00am Piecemakers	1 6:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation Classes	2 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal	3 8:00am Men's Bible Study	4