



Salem Connection

May, 2023

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444
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It's one of the most quoted passages of Scripture – confirmation, graduations, weddings, and situations of all sorts. It brings comfort, knowing you're not alone through whatever may come and that God has a plan. Know what Scripture it is yet?

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Glorious, isn't it? Heartwarming, isn't it? Really something you can hold on to, isn't it? You'd really like me to stop there, wouldn't you? But there's more.

These comforting words were originally spoken to people who had fallen away from God and were living out their own plans. God had been calling them back repeatedly, and yet they chose their own way. God had a plan, but the people trusted their own plans and were led away by their enemies.

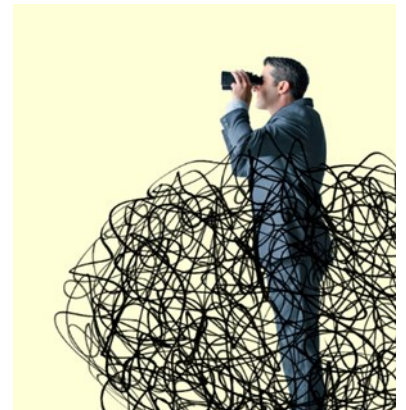
But there's hope on the horizon. Because the moment God's people turn around, God will be there. Jeremiah 29 continues, "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord..." (v 12-14).

It's easier to have a God who stays on the sidelines like a coach. When something goes wrong, or we're blindsided by an attack, or we're not sure what our next move should be, we can head to our coach and seek some guidance. We pray, we read the Bible and devotional books, we talk to other Christians, and eventually things get better in our lives. God is there – but only when we want or need God to be.

But what does it mean to seek God when we've got the plays down pat? After all, that was the problem with Jeremiah's audience; things went well and God disappeared from the radar. So how do we keep seeking God when things are moving along and we're confident and comfortable?

Well, we do the same things above but with different intent. Rather than "what can I get from God" when things are rough, shift to "how can I bless and encourage others". Our faith does not exist for us alone – God's plans are always bigger than that. So for a week this month, try to seek God. I invite you to read the book of Ephesians for one week in the month of May. Though you can do it in one sitting, I invite you to slow down and ponder what stands out to you. I'll post thoughts and quotes on social media and in the weekly news. Set a reminder, put your Bible in an in-the-way place. I invite you to shift your thinking and your heart along with it. Seek God and then watch how God's plans give us all hope and a future.

May God's plans guide you,
~Pastor Amanda



Special Notes at Salem

Thank you to those SERVING in May:

READERS

7 Ken Stebbins

14 Nancy Meyer

21 Tina Royer

28

USHERS

7 Joel Huntley, Ed & Sherri Godfrey

14 Randy Holmwig, Herb & Barb Schoon, Mark Boike

21 Roger & Marlene Prill, Clark & Joyce Marshall

28 Nory & Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz & Karla Peterson

COMMUNION SERVERS

7

14

21

28

OFFERING COUNTERS

Paul Tesdahl & Shirley Huxley

May Music Schedule



- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 7 | 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Bells during Worship |
| 14 | 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Choir during Worship |
| 21 | 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Volunteer Choir during Worship |
| 28 | 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice |

Raise Right Orders

Raise Right order forms can be picked up on Sunday, April 30 and must be returned by Sunday, May 7th to be received back in May!



Mustard Seed Thrift and Gift

New Location Grand Opening May 5-6th!

SALEM OUTREACH

GARAGE

SALE

May 19th and 20th

9am - 3pm

Weather permitting
22348 Hwy 6 Deerwood

Koffee Klatch at Heartwood

Salem's monthly Koffee Klatch Bible Study will be on Monday, May 8 at 1:00p.m.



Save the Date!

- ◇ June 18-21– Salem Camping trip
- ◇ July 11-13, Men's Retreat
- ◇ July 17-21, Vacation Bible School
- ◇ August 11-12– Summerfest!

Salem's Capital Appeal



It is with joy and gratitude this information comes to you, Salem Lutheran. Thank you for your diligent work to meet the goals set forth in our Capital Campaign. In the last 13 years we have made monthly payments of \$15,408 toward our mortgage, the required payment at the original rate of 6%. Since taking out the loan, we have rewritten the loan 3 times, reducing the interest rate and consequently the required payment each time. However, the church council had elected to continue paying the original payment amount. That decision has saved us approximately \$145,000 in interest charges.

Near the end of 2022, the Capital Appeal Team took stock of our giving trends and current funds available and made the decision to reduce our payment to \$9,000 per month, still paying \$372 over the minimum payment. This decision keeps our spending closer to the giving of the congregation. The Team will continue evaluating income and additional payments will be made when funds are available. Including April's payment, we have \$869,848.36 remaining on our 2.4 million dollar mortgage. What an accomplishment we have achieved together! Thank you for your faithful giving for Salem's future!

Heavenly Father, Thank you for your love and guidance in our journey so far. We acknowledge that all gifts are from You. Help us to continue to give generously with courage and gratitude for all that we have. Our gifts will make it possible for Salem Lutheran Church to continue to welcome, equip and send in Jesus' name. Bless our church family as we step forward in faith together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

THANK
YOU

Good Friday 2023
Dear Salem Lutheran,
Thank you for the Easter Lillie. It is a happy reminder that "Christ has Risen".
God bless you.
Barbara Abelson

Dear Salem Lutheran,

Thank you for the Easter Lillie. It is a happy reminder that "Christ is Risen"
God bless you,
Barbara Abelson

for the beauty of an Easter lily from the Friends at Salem and thanks to the two brave souls who delivered it on a poor weather day.
Doris C.

For the beauty of an Easter Lily from the friends at Salem and thanks to the two brave souls who delivered it on a poor weather day.

Doris Carlson



Dear Friends at Salem,
What a surprise when Pastor Amanda and her two sons came with a beautiful Easter lily. We had a nice visit and placed the lily right next to the poinsettia she had brought at Christmas. So we give "thanks" to all the warm wishes you send.
Love,
Donna Sanderson & family

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What a surprise when Pastor Amanda and her two sons came with a beautiful Easter lily. We had a nice visit and placed the lily right next to the poinsettia she had brought at Christmas. So we give "thanks" to all the warm wishes you send.

Love,
Donna Sanderson & family

Salem Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the Easter Lily. When my brother passed away. It was a bright spot in my day. We are so fortunate to be part of such a loving & caring church family.
Love, Kathy & Al Sharp

Salem Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the Easter Lily when my brother passed away. It was a bright spot in my day. We are so fortunate to be part of such a loving & caring church family.

Love,
Kathy & Al Sharp

Protect yourself from scams!

Another round of text scams is hitting Salem Lutheran. Remember - Pastor Amanda has a local 218 number and will never ask you for money/gift cards over text or email.

ANY TIME you receive a text message or an email claiming to be from someone you know, double check the phone number or email address the message came from. If you don't recognize it, it's best to call that person - do not reply via text or email!

Tips from the Federal Trade Commission

If you get an unwanted text message, there are three ways to report it:

1. Copy the message and forward it to 7726 (SPAM). This helps your wireless provider spot and block similar messages in the future.
2. Report it on the messaging app you use. Look in the text's menu for the option to report junk or spam.
3. Report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov (you will be asked for your name/address, any identifying information of the sender and the message(s) you received).

Volunteer

Appreciation Dinner

ALL VOLUNTEERS OF
SALEM INVITED

Date: May 10

Time: 5:00-7:00p.m.

Fellowship Hall

All ushers, readers, communion servers, decorators, treat bringers, shovelers, cleaners, teachers, council members, committee members! If you serve Salem as a volunteer in any capacity, please let your church honor your service!

Summer "Special Music/Talent" Signup

Look for the signup sheet on the kiosk in the narthex if you have something special to share with the congregation: a song to sing/play, poetry to read, art to display or other talent to offer for God's glory!

Special Celebrations in May



1	Delylah Voller	22	Ashley Meyer
4	David Steinke		Glenn Suess
5	April Novak	23	Jonathan Kempthorne
	Nancy Schmidt	25	Annette Larson
6	Jim Rude	27	Tim Coughlin
13	Jason Holmvg	28	Wendy Christenson
	Rick Johnson		Dawson Holmvg
16	Elaine Dahlquist	30	Glen Knutson
17	Joey Serfling		Peter MacKay
	Bruce Swanson		Donna Sanderson
18	Jean Shermock	31	Raye Cragun
20	Elizabeth Gavin		Nancy Johnson



7	Chuck & Char Hausker
8	Leslie & Shirley Taylor
16	Glenn Suess & Ruth Helgesen
17	Richard & Lois Hicks
20	Gregory & Jena Reed
21	Terry & Judy Fields

Salem Lutheran Church Operating Fund*

	Approved Budget 2023	YTD 2023*	YTD 2022
Building Fund Included			
Income	\$597,911.25	\$108,980.40	\$100,169.68
Expense	\$597,891.25	\$141,891.46	\$117,892.73
Net	\$20.00	\$ 32,911.06	\$ 17,723.05
Building Fund Excluded			
Income	\$597,911.25	\$ 77,662.86	\$100,169.68
Expense	\$597,891.25	\$105,891.46	\$117,892.73
Net	\$20.00	\$ 28,228.60	\$ 17,723.05

***NOTE:** Income/Expense included Building Fund effective 6/1/2022. While expenses remained almost flat, donations (income) fell by \$22,506.86 from the same quarter in 2022.

Salem Outreach

	Approved Budget 2023	YTD 2023*	YTD 2022
Income	\$450,210.24	\$ 54,188.46	\$ 41,988.68
Expense	\$450,210.24	\$ 98,549.14	\$ 63,074.39
Net*	\$0	\$ 44,360.68	\$ 21,085.71

***NOTE:** Net loss in 2023 attributable to \$41,887.95 in Building Improvement costs at Salem West.

Mortgage & Building Fund

Mortgage	
Original Mortgage Amount	\$2,379,964.75
Principal Balance on 03/31/2023	\$869,848.36
Monthly Mortgage Payment (Principal & Interest-effective 01/01/2023)	\$ 8,628.00
Additional Principal Payment	\$ 372.00
Building Fund	
Beginning Balance 01/01/23	\$166,279.24
Income	
Pledges Received	\$33,041.80
Gifts	\$0
Interest	\$204.74
Expense	
Mortgage Payment	\$(34,512.00)
Additional Principal	\$(1,488.00)
Capital Appeal	\$(0)
Ending Balance 03/31/2023	\$163,525.78

(The ending building balance is what we have in savings accounts dedicated to the building fund.)

Complete financials are available by contacting Ruth Blum at the church office. Questions can be directed to Council Treasurer Terry Tichenor.

Think Spring



Salem Outreach Governing Board March 21,2023

Present were Pastor Amanda, Jason Kempthorne, Sandy Kretlow, Diane and Mark Boike, Kay Bendorf, Jacob Walker, Randy Sykes and Cathy Aykens by zoom.

MSC: Motion, Seconded, Carried

Opened with prayer by Pastor Amanda.

Secretary's Report was sent out to board members. MSC

Financial Reports: Cathy review reports. MSC

Jason: Facebook has increased reaching new people and impressions. I have called the Courier to have a story written about our new store and advertise our move.

Grants: We are working with Common Goods on a grant for a bobcat and a bailer for clothing. We could get .24 a pound for clothing.

Loyalty program at the Mustard Seed has produced 400 new doners. We will use this for marketing. We have used up grants from Initiative Foundation, United Way, Brainerd Lake Community Foundation, Emergency Food & Shelter Program, and Hallet Trust (store move).

Jake: We are not putting any new merchandise out. Store items will be discounted over the next month as we prepare for the Mustard Seed and Salem West merge. Volunteers will have a meeting on March 28 & 30 at SW to see what the merge is looking like.

Bev Kunz is retiring as of May 1,2023. A party for her is being planned for Tuesday April, 25,2023.

Motion was made to increase line #1315 to \$600.00. This is the cash drawer amount to have on hand since we don't have a bank across the street anymore. MSC

Honduras: Don Hales has requested a donation for three ministries in Honduras. We table this until next month to see how he wanted the monies split. They are planning a trip in January 2024.

Construction updates: Talk to the previous electrical company about building 2's additional lighting. Will be getting bids for paving the parking lot. We will need to update the grading around the buildings. Move the fence, etc. Taking down the wall in building 2. Randy Sykes will work on wall.

Bridget is gone. We have posted a Driving position. We also have new person at Salem West, Holly Willert has been added. She will be the assistant manager for the store and client services.

Next meeting will be April 18,2023 at 1:00pm

Closed with prayer.

Submitted by Sandy Kretlow, Secretary.

**Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2023**

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: Pastor Amanda, Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Renee Voller, Peter MacKay, Terry Tichenor, Sherri Godfrey, Tina Royer and Jason Kempthorne. Don Hales present via Zoom/Phone

Absent: Al Schiffler

Call to Order

Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes of the February 23, 2023 Council meeting. **MSC**

Treasures Report:

Terry Tichenor explained the financial information provided for the month of February.

Motion: Approve the February 2023 Financial Reports. **MSC**

Pastor Amanda's Report

There were 2 funerals during the month. Mina Nystrom and Jerry Sanderson
There were 6 pastoral visits.
Led worship in afternoon with CRMC on 3/5 and Heartwood on 3/19.
Continuing Lenten Wednesday Rotations. Mid-day with Crosby area and evenings with Aitkin area
Preparing for Holy Week
Hosted Kids Club on March 1st with the next Kids Club scheduled for April 5th.
Summer children and youth ministry planning including parent's night out is underway.
Synod Assembly at Cragun's, April 28 – 30
Camp Hiawatha family camp, July 23 – 28
She will be serving as camp pastor for the week and will be leading adult bible study.

Outreach Report – Jason

Preparing for the move of Mustard Seed over to the Salem West property
They will not be putting new merchandise out at the Mustard Seed.
They will be having discounts at the Mustard Seed beginning April 3rd and continuing until they are fully moved into the Salem West building. Discount will begin at 25% and increase weekly.
There will be a soft opening on April 19th with both facilities being open through the 29th of April provided there is anything remaining in the Deerwood store.
Bridget is no longer employed at Salem West. Holly Wirt has been hired as the Assistant Manager for store and client Services. Bev Kunz will be retiring on May 1st and a party has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 25th in her honor. Debbie Olson is now Senior Team Lead.
The new software program has many capabilities that our previous system did not have. They now have the capability of tracking more information in detail. They are working on a loyalty program.
They are holding a "Get to Know Salem West" for volunteers on March 28th and 30th.

Old Business

Easter Services will be April 9th at 8:00 and 9:30
Graduation Recognition will be May 21st
April Date Night – A group of individuals will watch and entertain children at church so that parents can have a date night or perhaps even an evening of shopping.
After Easter we will get a group going to contact inactive members and home communion visitors.

New Business:

QuickBooks – Designate Pastor Amanda as Primary Administrator.

Motion: Designate Pastor Amanda as Primary Administrator for QuickBooks. **MSC**

Audit – We will be working on this once Ruth has returned.

Spring Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Jason will work with Kathi and Sherri to set a date in early May.

Goals that were discussed were to Improve communication and for stewardship to be all year and not just in the fall.

Honduras Mission Trip

Will be at some time during the first two weeks in January.

He currently has 12 people interested.

Those going on the mission trip fund their own trip. There was a discussion as to possible fundraisers to assist those that may not be able to fund their own trip.

Committee Reports

Capital Appeal – Lynn Hansen

Information will be the Newsletter.

Columbarium – Mark Boike – Nothing to Report

Facilities – Al Schiffler – No report

Faith Formation – Renee Voller

Kids Club April 5th: Chuck and Karla will be bringing their dogs.

Kids Club May 3rd will be plants/earth

VBS has been scheduled for July 17th through the 21st. Plans are underway and the theme this year is Stars/Constellation.

Planning Camp Sunday

Memorial - Pastor Amanda discussed graduation scholarships.

Stewardship – Sherri – Team discussed stewardship being all year and not just in the fall when we send out estimate of giving. Pastor Amanda mentioned that there are 4 opportunities throughout the year for worship to involve stewardship. We discussed that we could possibly do something on July 30th which is a 5th Sunday.

Technology - Terry - Nothing to Report

Welcome – Tina – Did not meet

Worship and Music – Tina – Holy Week

We are adding a component during lent worship. We will be singing the Kyrie.

Outreach – Mark – Jason covered everything in his report.

SOS – There were no SOS submissions since the February meeting.

The next Church Council Meeting is Thursday, April 27th at 5:00 p.m.

The next Executive Team Meeting is Tuesday, April 18th at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion: Motion to adjourn. **MSC**

Pastor Amanda closed in prayer

Prepared by: Sherri Godfrey



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 NE MN Synod Assembly 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship / Sunday School 2:00pm Worship at Heartwood	1 11:00am Staff Meeting	2 9:00am Piecemakers 10:00am Welcome Team Meeting 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting 6:00pm Parent's Night Off	3 6:30am Women's Bible Study 3:25pm Kids Club 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal 6:30pm End of Confirmation Party	4 National Day of Prayer	5 Grand Opening - New Mustard Seed 8:00am Men's Bible Study	6 Grand Opening - New Mustard Seed 8:00am Spring Cleanup
7 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship / Sunday School	8 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	9 9:00am Piecemakers 6:00pm Faith Formation	10 6:30am Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal 5:00pm Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	11	12 8:00am Men's Bible Study	13 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting
14 Mother's Day 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship/Sunday School	15 11:00am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution 11:00am Staff Meeting	16 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting 3:00pm Executive Team Meeting	17 6:30am Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal	18 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	19 Salem West RUMMAGE SALE 8:00am Men's Bible Study	20 Salem West RUMMAGE SALE
21 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship/Graduate Recognition	22 11:00am Staff Meeting	23 9:00am Piecemakers	24 6:30am Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal	25 5:00pm Council Meeting	26 8:00am Men's Bible Study	27
28 Pentecost 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship	29 Memorial Day	30 9:00am Piecemakers	31 6:30am Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Salem Ringers Rehearsal	1	2 8:00am Men's Bible Study	3 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting 1:30pm William Huisinga Graduation Party/Recital

STAFF

Pastor	Amanda Kempthorne	pastoramanda@salemdwd.org
Office Manager	Laura Martin	office@salemdwd.org
Financial Manager		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	Holly Willert	
Mustard Seed Asst Manager	Debbie Olson	
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