



Salem Connection

August 2023

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Vacation Bible School was out of this world here at Salem!

Each morning, we would Blast Off to outer space with Di and Maggie to look for and discover God's wonders in this big universe. Our Bible Buddies... Cosmo, the Star, told us about the Stars, and how the same stars we see now, were in the sky when Jesus was born. Ringo, updated us on some of the other Planets, like earth. And we learned that Luna, our Moon is all ours, it's just for the earth, but there are many moons, way out there circling around other planets. Sol, the sun gives us dazzling warmth, and brightens our moods. And Halley, the comet, blast so fast all around the universe that we can't even see it very well. Most importantly, our Bible Buddies reminded us each day to "Shine God's light" on every situation that comes our way, right here on Earth, right now!! When life feels dark, try to listen and help someone, Shines Jesus' light...When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light by your actions. When good things happen, shine Jesus' light, to celebrate what's good. When people are sad, shine Jesus' light, listen and comfort them. And, when people need help, shine Jesus' light by helping them if you can.

During morning Blast Off, we got to know "Mickey," the mechanic from the "Solar Group," and together with Di and Maggie, we searched for God Sightings. We learned lots of new songs about God's light in our lives, and then wrapped up each day with an experiment at the Cosmic closing! They even surprised everyone one day with a visit from "Astro" their cute dog who played his part well.



A Bible Bank!!! It looked like a huge Bible, and it helped remind us that we could help other kids in foreign countries, receive Bibles that would be printed in their very own languages. Lori shared the importance of this World Vision project and told us we could all help by bringing a donation. Printing a bible costs about \$12 dollars, \$103.80 was donated, so our Space Explores are sending Jesus' light by providing, Eight Bibles, to kids in faraway countries. The Station leaders did a Stellar job every day, room decorations were fantastic and they were so well prepared: Chuck, Jane, Al, Sue, Peter, and Pastor Amanda. Debbie and Jena, our "Techie" volunteers kept music, videos, and great movies of the kids acting out the stories each day up on the big screen. Registration, attendance and paperwork volunteers kept tabs on everyone. And would you believe, homemade donuts were made by Sherri and Kathi, which went with Ringo's Galactic Snack of the Day. Each of the kids received a personal photo as a wonderful memory, thanks to Karla. Three groups of happy Pre-Schoolers kept Carol, Raye and all their crew leaders very busy each day with games, crafts, and all of VBS at their level of learning.

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A big "Thanks" goes to Becky who stepped in to cover for Whitney, during VBS week due to a family emergency. Becky was a trooper, doing whatever job that needed attention at the moment!!! We had many volunteers who were not available every day, so we were lucky to have some one-day volunteers, and every person was very much needed on the very day they were available. We felt God's help in much needed ways!! 33 Adult volunteers, 3 teen grandchildren volunteers and 2 new VBS teen volunteers cared for and surrounded 44 little Space Explorers with Jesus' love during the VBS week on various days, teaching them to "Shine Jesus' light", here on Earth, right now!

A huge "Thanks" goes out to all the Stellar volunteers that made this all happen, at the preparation workshops, and by the scenery crew, Jane, Sue, Jayme, Kris, Jill and Whitney. Thanks also to all of the help we received on Friday when we put VBS supplies away. Lots of kids and their parents carried materials out of the sanctuary, 10 members from the congregation show up at noon.... and with-in 1 ½ hours, all decorations were removed from hallways, classrooms, and the fellowship hall and moved to the double classroom where everything was sorted and boxed to go to basement ready for another year. Then, on Sunday after Worship, volunteers took down the scenery set and organized the materials, ready for another Church to pick up and start their VBS 2023. We thank the Deerwood Furniture store for always suppling us with plenty of cardboard boxes to make the scenery, and the Deerwood Auditorium for sharing their space, when needed due to bad weather.

Last and for sure the best...The grandparents in our church are doing a great job of passing on their faith too, by have grandkids visit them for a week so they can attend VBS, we had 14 grandchildren again this year, 6 kids that are members of Salem and 24 kids who came from the surrounding community.

Jesus is the Light of the World!!! The Universe!! And this wonderful place we live! Shine Jesus' light!!

Men's Retreat Thanks

Our Heartfelt Thanks!

The Men's Retreat Committee would like to express our thanks to Salem's Memorial Committee and members of Salem Lutheran for their continued support of our annual retreat. We were able to enjoy God's amazing creation in Minnesota's north country.

The backdrop of Kabetogama Lake's wonderful views put each participant in a frame of mind that gave our study of Moses extra emphasis. This year, as in the past years, we were able to fellowship with Christians from other denominations. Men from four different congregations attended as new insights on Moses were learned.

We also wish to thank Sherri Godfrey for her contribution to our retreat. Her gift of dozens of homemade cookies was enjoyed each day. Thank you Sherri!



Worship Notes at Salem

Thank you to those serving in August:

READERS

- 6** Tina Royer
- 13** Jim Rude
- 20** Erik Christenson
- 27** Ken Stebbins

USHERS

- 6** Joel Huntley, Ed & Sherri Godfrey
- 13** Nory Hunze, Herb & Barb Schoon, Mark Boike
- 20** Roger & Marlene Prill, Clark & Joyce Marshall
- 27** Nory & Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz & Karla Peterson

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 6** Peggy & Nory Hunze, Tina Royer
- 13** —> no communion, Sheltered Reality Worship
- 20**
- 27**

OFFERING COUNTERS

None signed up at this point. Please consider giving an hour on Monday to do this work. Training is provided.

August Worship Schedule

- 6** 8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Guest Pastor: Juli Borgstrom
Special music: Glenn Seuss
- 13** 9:00a.m. Parking Lot Worship
Sheltered Reality Drum Group
(bring chairs or blankets!)
- 20** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Choir Special Music
- 27** 8:50a.m. Hymn Sing
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Volunteer Choir

Fall Music Schedule:

Choir sings on 2nd and 4th Sundays
Handbells play on 3rd Sundays

These groups are open to anyone who would like to make music to the Lord!

Protect yourself from scams!

Pay careful attention to what lands in your inbox. Email addresses may look legitimate at first glance, but then you realize a capital “i” is actually a lower-case “l.” Or maybe that email has a familiar first name, but it didn’t come from their “domain.com” but “domain.co.” Catching these small differences helps you avoid being a phishing victim.

Also, Pastor Amanda has a local 218 number. Before responding to a text message or request, please make sure the message is actually from her! To make sure you’re not scammed, add her to your contact list: 218-670-5671. Then, if a text header doesn’t say “Pastor Amanda”, it’s not her!

Koffee Klatch

The monthly Bible study at Heartwood will meet August 14 at 1:00p.m.

These studies include Communion, so invite others along!



Faith Formation and Fun Opportunities!



Prayer Buddies, begin again

Help our children grow in faith and be part of the community that supports them by committing to pray for a child at Salem and write them notes throughout the year.

We will hold a training and idea meeting on August 20 after worship for anyone interested. Contact the church office to be included!

Women's Retreat & Organizer

This October 6-8, women from Salem and First Lutheran in St. Paul will gather on Bay Lake Island for spiritual rest and renewal. Registration forms will be available in the kiosk mid-August.

We are still looking for a detail-oriented organizer to gather information and prepare logistics for the retreat (room assignments, schedule, dietary needs, etc). There are plenty of records and helpful notes from past events at your disposal!

If this sounds like your skill set, please contact the church office or talk to Diane Meyer.



Parent's Night Off August 22 from 6:00 to 8:00p.m.

This evening is for the kids, but really, it's for the parents that need a break to do adult things (even if it's sitting at home and reading a book.) Take advantage of a couple hour break and let Salem entertain and care for your child! This no-cost event is open to the entire community, not just church members!

Thanks to Don Hales and Debra Flam, and Ed and Sherri Godfrey for hosting this evening!

Register on our website: salemldwd.org or a form is in the kiosk!

Lutheran Lounge Act Saturday August, 26 at 7:00p.m.

Join us for an evening of laughter and awe at the gifts God has given in the people of Salem! Talented folk, funny folk, and those who try. We will meet in the fellowship hall and enjoy one another's company and offerings for the delight of all!

Let Noreen know **NOW** if you'd like a spot to perform!



Around Salem

From the Salem Library

We have four additional books available for check out. *Last Circle of Love* by Lorna Landvik is the story of a women's Lutheran church circle. The reader gets acquainted with the members, their families, as well as the new pastor. Max Lucado fans will enjoy *It's Not About Me*. Lucado examines what it means to live a Christian life. *Simon Peter* by Adam Hamilton gives us insight into this famous disciple. *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers is a classic daily devotional with the language updated to resonate with today's readers.

There is still time for some vacation reading. If you do not have time to travel, books can take you to unexplored locations and different time periods for an enjoyable escape.

As families transition from summer vacation to "back-to-school" schedules, reading before bed is a great way to gradually move bedtime ahead as school approaches. Taking turns reading aloud helps regain word recognition and comprehension skills that may not have been used as often during the summer.

Happy August from the Salem Library Team

Deerwood's 2023 Summerfest is August 11-12!

Lefse, Meatballs, and treats, oh my! Many hands make light and joyful work!

Join us the week of August 7-10 to prepare for Summerfest.

- ♦ Lefse making: Monday at 5:30pm and Tuesday at 9:00am
- ♦ Meatball making: Thursday at 8:00am
- ♦ Silent Auction set-up and general set-up: Thursday at 9:00am
- ♦ There are openings for serving food and helping around the auction all weekend.



Proceeds from the food sales go to Salem Church, proceeds from the Silent Auction are split between Outreach and the church, with some church funds going toward the mortgage.



Lunch Bunch's last month!

We are coming down the home stretch of Lunch Bunch!

There are 5 weeks left of Fridays to prepare lunches for our community's children. Join us beginning at 9:00a.m. on Friday August 4, 11, 18, 25, and September 1.

So join the work and have fun caring for the community! Questions can be directed to Chuck Lubowitz and Karla Peterson.

Raise Right Orders

Purchase gift cards and "Raise Right" for Salem Outreach! Over 700 stores and restaurants donate a percentage of your purchase back to our ministries!

Order forms are due August 6!



Save the Date!

- ♦ August 22, Parent's Night Off
Salem members provide kid activities
- ♦ September 10, Rally Sunday
- ♦ Sunday school resumes
- ♦ Kids Club Resumes in October

Outreach Updates

Mustard Seed Needs

Small seeds of faith grow large, and small work impacts many!

Consider helping with these needs at the Mustard Seed:

- Read the paper? Donate used newspapers to wrap items. (box for these items is next to the kiosk at church, or bring directly to the Mustard Seed)
- Got an eye for design? Decorate the store Tuesday from 9-12
- Are you friendly? Scan and pack the items people purchase.
- Like stickers? Price an item as good/better/best.
- Enjoy arranging things? Help on the sales floor!
- Don't mind laundry? Wash, dry, hang, repeat.

Shifts are usually 9-1 or 1-5, but are flexible to what you can offer!

Salem West Renovations

We are nearly complete with the renovations to the Salem West/ Mustard Seed location! With the parking lot finished, a new fence will soon go up.

It was announced in worship that we are under contract for the building on Forest Drive and Joann will continue in the beauty shop.

It's been a busy year! Thank you for your input, support, questions, positivity, and for continuing this ministry to families in the community!

Special Celebrations in August



1 Barb Schmidt	17 Debbie MacKay
4 JoAnn Cordie	19 Karla Peterson
7 Carol Brezina	Rose Steinke
Ellen Uglem	23 Laurie Ogard
8 Pat Sylvester	25 Shirlee Bengston
9 Audrey Birkliid	25 Patty Kahnert
11 Noelle Jones	26 Joyce Marshall
Ron Martin	27 Jessica Jones
12 John Cragun	Sheila Mayne
Jason Jones	28 Audrey Anderson
13 Teddy Skattum	Mary Jo Schoenike
Greg Skeim	30 Carol Blomberg
14 Cecil Schmidt	Nancy Tighe
15 Megan Syrstad	31 Harry Kahnert
17 Donna Grunzke	



1 Jay and Sue Stromberg
4 Nory and Peggy Hunze
5 Peter and Debbie MacKay
Roger and Marlene Prill
6 LeRoy and Helen Ryan
7 Jeff and Heidi Mitchell
10 Brad and Kay Johnson
12 Jerry and Shirley Huxford
21 Paul and Diane Hein
Jason and Amber Holmvig
22 David and Rose Steinke
25 Jason and Jessica Jones

Remember Elaine Greene on August 17

Salem Outreach Governing Board Minutes

June 13, 2023

Present were: Randy Sykes, Jason Kempthorne, Pastor Amanda, Mark & Diane Boike, Kay Bendorf, Cathy Aykens and Sandy Kretlow. Don Hales as a special guest.

MSC: Motion, Seconded, Carried

Opened with prayer by Pastor Amanda

Secretary's Report: Reviewed, MSC

Financial Report: Reviewed, MSC

Don Hales had a presentation for the governing board. Executive meeting started at 1:15pm closed at 1:45pm.

Motion was made to accept the offer for Contract for Deed for the Forest Road Building. MSC

We were award EFSP Grant for \$2000.00. We received the first payment of \$1000.00. The EFSP 39 Grant Report Payment was received.

See Impact report on the wall on the way to fellowship hall. We had 71 referrals last month.

New Business: Garage Sale August 11-12.

Mark present two bids for gutters. They are to put gutters on one side of Building One, above door on building two, and both side of building three. Motion was made to accept Advantage Gutters for \$10,565.00 to be taken out of line # 7220. MSC

Next meeting will be July 18, 2023.

Submitted by Sandra Kretlow, Secretary

SALEM'S STAFF

Pastor	Amanda Kempthorne	pastoramanda@salemwd.org
Office Manager	Jasmine Siliznoff	office@salemwd.org
Financial Manager	Aimee Watson	finance@salemwd.org
Praise Team Coordinators	Becky Klingelhofer and Noreen Steinbrecher	
Pianist/Organist	Becky Klingelhofer	
Salem Ringers & Choir Director	Kevin Edstrom	kevin7903@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds	Dan Quinn	facilities@salemwd.org
Cleaning Team	4 & 47 Cleaners, Aitkin	
Director of Outreach	Jason Kempthorne	outreach@salemwd.org
Mustard Seed Manager	Jacob Walker	mustardseed@salemwd.org
Seed and Donation Manager	Holly Willert	west@salemwd.org
Mustard Seed Team Lead	Debbie Olson	

Salem Lutheran Church

Church Council Minutes

June 22, 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, Don Hales, Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Peter MacKay, Sherri Godfrey, Al Schiffler, Renee Voller and Jason Kempthorne.

Absent: Terry Tichenor, Tina Royer

Call to Order, Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes of the May 2023 Council meeting. **MSC**

Treasures Report:

Don presented a limited edition of the May financials. Lynn reported on the building fund.

Motion: Approve the May 2023 Financial Report as presented. **MSC**

Pastor Amanda's Report

- Hired Amiee Watson as the financial manager and has been training her. Amiee is doing a great job with organization, reconciling and catching up.
- Pastor Amanda has spent more time in the front office than normal with hiring, training and office manager jobs.
- Jazmine Siliznoff has offered to help out in the office 10 to 15 hours a week. She has another main job so she will assist in our office as her schedule permits.
- The website and email were down for a couple weeks which means that we have not been able to send or receive emails.
- Attended the church family camp at Trails RV Park in Walker, MN.

Outreach Report – Jason

- We have received a couple grants.
 - A \$2,000 grant from EFSP 40 for Lunch Bunch for 2023.
 - A grant from Common Goods for textile recycling equipment (bailer and bobcat). Once this is set up, we will recycle textiles in house for Salem West and Common Goods as opposed to paying an outside company to do this for us. We will be paid by the pound for bails of textiles.
- Sales at Mustard Seed continue to increase so it appears that the move has been beneficial. We have great access during the construction of the round a bout so don't expect that to be an issue.

Old Business

- Home Communion Visitors – No update at this time.
- Payroll Update – It is working well with Clergy Financial and will continue at least through the end of this year
- Music in the Park is July 13th. (Sponsor Table)
- Summerfest – Jason
 - The silent auction for Summerfest is looking pretty bleak at the moment as we have not received many donations.
 - There are 6 spots open for the dunk tank if we are interested in participating.
 - The Lion's Club is no longer holding their annual auction. Perhaps we can touch base with them in the event that they are aware of people wishing to part with items that are no longer wanted.

New Business:

- Under Church Calendar – Men's Fishing Retreat, VBS and Fall Worship.
- Sheltered Reality will be at Salem on August 13th.
- Be aware of budget planning coming soon as the annual meeting has been moved from December to November.

(New Business Continued)

- We need to update signers for Mission Investment Fund.
Motion: Signers for the Mission Investment Fund are Pastor Amanda, Mark Boike and Sherri Godfrey. **MSC**
- City of Deerwood Police Department sent a letter requesting funds. We will not participate at this time.
- Review goals for the year.
 - Pastor Amanda reported that we would like to have stewardship active all year as opposed to fall only when we work with the estimate of giving. There are many more opportunities for stewardship.
 - Building relationships
 - Updating records
 - Putting together a new photo directory
- Schedule the next Parent's night off for August 22nd – Don, Debra, Ed and Sherri will spend time with children that evening. We will plan some time with children so that parents can have a couple hours free.
- We received 9 new members into the church in June. We will have another new member orientation in the fall.
- We have received an offer on the Mustard Seed building in Deerwood.
 - We discussed the terms of the contract.
 - Resolution to vacate the alley on the east side of the Mustard Seed building.**Motion:** Adopt a resolution to vacate the alley on the east side of the Mustard Seed building. **MSC**

At 5:55 the meeting went into an executive session to discuss a binding contract on the Mustard Seed.

At 6:04 the executive session was closed and the regular meeting resumed.

Committee Reports

- Capital Appeal – Lynn Hansen – We are half way through the 3-year campaign. A report was presented to the council.
- Columbarium – Mark Boike – Planters are getting old and are in need of attention. Mark is going to work on rebuilding them.
- Facilities – Al Schiffler – Ernie has stepped down as the facilities chair and Randy Holmvgig will take on that position. Dan, our custodian is not able to keep up with his normal hours as his schedule at the school has changed. He will remain working on maintenance for 5 hours a week. 4 & 47 has been contracted to do the church cleaning. They have done the church cleaning previously. We are hoping to start working on weekly projects on Fridays from 9 – 12. Replace bulbs above the sanctuary. Painting as needed. Repair the wall by the columbarium.
- Faith Formation – Renee Voller – VBS supplies have been received. The theme this year is Stellar. A workshop will be held on Tuesday from 4:00 – 8:00 with Pizza being provided.
- Memorial – Nothing to report – We have 1 grad inquiring about church scholarship.
- Stewardship – Sherri – Nothing to report
- Technology - Amanda – Some services that Deerwood Technologies provide are free while others we pay for. We will be getting rid of computers that are not updating. Some hardware that was on Mustard Seed is being added to Salem West.
- Welcome – Amanda - We welcomed 9 new members in June. We celebrated with cupcakes during fellowship.
- Worship and Music – Amanda – We will be doing hymn sings on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month during the summer. The hymn sings begin 10 minutes prior to worship. There is an opportunity for special music during the summer months which can consist of music, art or poetry. Choir sings on the 3rd Sunday.

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

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

The next Executive Team Meeting is Tuesday, July 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 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am 5th Sunday Worship 2:00pm Heartwood Worship	31 11:00am Staff Meeting	1 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting	2 6:30am Women's Bible Study	3 10:45am Meals on Wheels Delivery	4 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch Meal Prep	5
6 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 1:00pm Sheltered Reality Drum Practice	7 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Lefse Making	8 9:00am Lefse Making 9:00am Piecemakers	9 6:30am Women's Bible Study	10 Summerfest Set up! 9:00am Meatball Making	11 Deerwood Summerfest Rummage Sale at Mustard Seed 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch Meal Prep 9:00am Salem West Rummage Sale 9:00am Summerfest Food Booths Open	12 Deerwood Summerfest Rummage Sale at Mustard Seed 9:00am Salem West Rummage Sale 9:00am Silent Auction Open 9:00am Summerfest Food Booths Open
13 9:00am Parking Lot Worship / Sheltered Reality Drumline 1:00pm Sheltered Reality Drum Practice	14 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	15 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting 3:00pm Executive Team Meeting 6:00pm Faith Formation	16 6:30am Women's Bible Study	17 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	18 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch Meal Prep	19
20 8:00am Choir Practice 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship	21 11:00am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	22 9:00am Piecemakers 6:00pm Parent's Night Off	23 6:30am Women's Bible Study	24 5:00pm Council Meeting	25 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch Meal Prep	26 7:00pm Lutheran Lounge Act
27 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 8:50am Hymn Sing 9:00am Worship	28 11:00am Staff Meeting	29 9:00am Piecemakers	30 6:30am Women's Bible Study	31	1 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch Meal Prep	2