



Salem Connection

December 2023

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444
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“Be still and know that I am God.”

This sentence of Psalm 46 has rolled into my head and my heart this season – and I thank God for it. The list of decorations and meals and worship and celebrations and gifts and shipping dates can be a bit overwhelming. That call to “be still” is a welcome reprieve from all the things that plead to be taken care of.

For all its work, the church hasn’t gotten the message across that some things are worth waiting for. It’s not the destination, faith is about the journey. So while everything around us is jingle-belling, reduced-pricing, already celebrating, we are called to hold back, to wait, to focus on how we are to be rather than what we are doing. And that is exactly what we do in church during this season we call “Advent.” We are waiting for the (second) coming of Christ into our world and into our lives.

“But Pastor... I already have my Christmas tree up! I’m singing the carols! Don’t make me give this up!” I hear ya, and I won’t. My tree is already up, maybe around December 20th I’ll tune in to the Christmas music (only because the radio stops playing it on December 26th.) It’s not about what you do. It’s about how you are as you do it.

“Be still and know that I am God.”

As we wait in this season of Advent, we will try out the practice of statio – taking a moment between moments as we enter worship together, time to just breathe before going onto the next thing. Then we’ll hear common, complimentary themes: staying awake (or aware) is joined with hope. The call to order our lives by God’s standards goes hand-in-and with finding God’s peace in our lives. There is even joy in waiting, as we learn more about ourselves and focus in on this God whom we wait for. And finally, we find God’s love for all those who wait in the dark, hoping for justice, hungry, hurting, broken. You will hear these themes in worship throughout the month of December, but they will all come back to Psalm 46:

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Be still and know.

Be.

May God bless you as you rest in God’s presence,
as you look for God all around you, and wait with
hope for God to come again.

In Christ’s Peace,
~Pastor Amanda

just be.

Faith Formation!

Kids Club December 13th!

Salem's after school program, "Kids Club" is for 3-6 graders and takes place the second Wednesday of each month. The event planned for December 13th, which is our next kids club day, the kids will be doing a make and take crafting activity. Making Christmas crafts to be taken home as gifts for loved ones in their lives!

We are looking for adults to share their hobbies, skills, or crafts with these upper-elementary age children in January through May. Consider sharing your knowledge of baking, beekeeping, dog training, quilting, bird houses, woodworking, syrup making, snow shoeing, and much more. Additional enthusiastic adults are needed to help with supervision and to serve snacks. Please check your calendars and let us know when you are available.



Free Child Care! December 16th from 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

This 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 Peter and Debbie MacKay and Chrissy Swanson for hosting!

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

Women's Bible Study

There is interest in starting an additional women's Bible study in the afternoon or evening.

If this is something that you would like to be apart of, please send an email to the church office, office@salemdwd.org

Include your name, contact information and time(s) and day(s) that would work best for you. We will be working with those interested to set up a time that works for the group as a whole we will begin meeting in January!



Sunday School is in full swing!

Sunday School materials will be emailed at the end of each week for families who may not be able to attend on Sunday morning. Sunday school gathers at the conclusion of worship which not only helps children experience all of worship (they absorb more than you know!) but to also give their parents some precious time to connect with other adults.

Sunday School Schedule

December 3, 10 prep for the 17th

Christmas Program is December 17

Worship Notes at Salem

Thank you to those serving in December:

READERS

- 3** Georgie Walsh
17 Erik Christenson
24 Janine Mattfield

Christmas Eve 3:00p.m. _____

Christmas Eve 5:00p.m. Glenn Suess

31 _____

USHERS

- 3** Joel Huntley, Ed & Sherri Godfrey
10 Randy Holmwig, Herb & Barb Schoon, Mark Boike
17 Roger & Marlene Prill, Clark & Joyce Marshall
24 Nory & Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson

Christmas Eve Services

3:00p.m.

5:00p.m.

31 Becki Zender, John and Raye Cragun

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 3** Ken Stebbins, Glenn Swanson, _____
10 _____, _____, _____
17 _____, _____, _____
24 _____, _____, _____

Christmas Eve Services

3:00p.m. _____, _____, _____

5:00p.m. _____, _____, _____

31 _____, _____, _____

OFFERING COUNTERS

Lori Holmwig and Jeff Mitchell

December Worship Schedule

- 3** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
- 10** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Christmas Cantata
Worship
- 17** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Children Lead Worship

- 24** 9:00a.m. Holden Prayer Worship
1:30p.m. Worship at CRMC

Christmas Eve Services

3:00p.m. & 5:00p.m.

- 31** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
8:50a.m. Hymn Sing
9:00a.m. Worship with Choir

Music Schedule:

Choir sings on 2nd and 4th Sundays
practice Sundays at 8:00a.m.

Handbells play on 3rd Sundays
practice Wednesdays at 5p.m.

Koffee Klatch

The monthly Bible study at Heartwood will take place on December 11th at 1:00p.m.

These studies include Communion, so invite others along!



CRMC Worship

Pastor Amanda will be leading worship with Holy Communion at CRMC on December 24th, at 1:30p.m.

Heartwood Sunday Worship

Pastor Amanda leads worship at Heartwood on Sunday, December 31st at 2:00pm. Come join the saints in worship!

Serving the Community

Interested in quilting and new friendships?

The Piecemakers meet every Tuesday at 9:00a.m. for quilting, coffee and fellowship. They are the individuals who make the beautiful quilts for those in need as well as the special baptism quilts, that those who are recently baptized into the congregation receive. They are welcoming all those who would like to join on Tuesdays!

All are welcome and we hope to see you next week!

HOW much like a patchwork quilt we are; some of us are bright and gay, some are quieter, more delicate and subdued. YET how well we blend together, the quieter ones set off the colorful. The brighter ones accentuate the pastels. OFTEN, the more fragile pieces hold the sturdy ones together; blessed are we to be varied. ALL OF US ARE STITCHED WITH LOVE AND TIED TO ONE ANOTHER!

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE *Worship*

Pastor Amanda Kempthorne
21276 Archibald Rd
Deerwood, MN 56444
(218) 534-3309

Dec. 24th at 3:00pm

Dec. 24th at 5:00pm

New Council, New Goals

As your council begins this new year of work, we are looking for the congregation's input about some key aspects of Salem's ministries: welcome, worship, communication, and mission in our community. The easiest way is through a simple survey that is completely anonymous and may take up to 10 minutes to complete. There are paper surveys available at the usher stand, there is also an online version linked in the emailed weekly news sent out on Tuesday mornings!

Take the survey here: <https://forms.gle/zadHZztw3LNW8gJx5>

We will collect responses through Tuesday, December 19 and compile your answers for discussion, prayer, and goal-setting during the January 6 council retreat.

Thank you for being part of Salem in this unique way, and helping us listen for God's call in 2024!

Special Projects

Memorial Committee Scholarships

It is with great joy that the Memorial Committee invites members of Salem to dream big and start something new! We have a significant amount of funds to be used for secondary school scholarships and camper scholarships (camperships), but we also support men's and women's retreats, special projects, and new ministry ideas for Salem.

If you would like to take us up on the challenge to create something at Salem, write up your plan or idea and request an amount and send it to office@salemdwd.org. The Memorial Committee will take it up with prayer and be happy to get you started. We're glad to put these funds to work for the glory of God!

Save the Date!

- ◇ Decorating Salem, December 7
- ◇ Christmas Cantata Performances, December 9 & 10
- ◇ Kids Club, December 13
- ◇ Free Child Care, December 16



Decorating Salem for Christmas!

December 7th at 8:00a.m.

All Are Welcome!



Christmas Cantata Performance

Presented By Salem Lutheran Church



Telling the Christmas story through six dynamic choral settings, join us as we celebrate the joys of the season in song!

Saturday, December 9th
7:00p.m.

Sunday, December 10th
9:00a.m.

Ordering Poinsettias

It is that time of year to start thinking about purchasing poinsettias in honor or in memory of your loved ones.

Watch your bulletins at the beginning of December for order forms.

Special Celebrations in December



1 Kristy Tesdahl	20 Peter Bartels
5 Sandra Kretlow	Michael Serfling
6 Judy Fields	21 John Pelant
7 Carson Holmwig	Amanda Spatafore
Jerry Huxford	22 Jay Stromberg
Rob Schmidt	23 Brenda Stirewalt
Arnita Zierke	24 Steve Haglund
9 Anna Coughlin	Rick Hann
11 Madison Bordwell	25 Jeff Mitchell
12 Barbara Call	26 Sue Johnson
Jacqueline Brix	28 Whitney Fischer
13 Amber Holmwig	Edna Sosensen
17 Dick Muggli	29 Bob Erickson
18 Joel Huntley	Diane Hein
Pete Newton	30 Tim Herberg
Bryan Syrstad	Tony Kimball
	31 Myron Midthun



10 Wayne and Carol Brezina
11 Josh and Renee Voller
13 Jim and Shelia Mayne
18 Curt and Krista Bordwell

Faith and Coffee?

Sunday morning fellowship is a perfect time to talk through what God brought to your attention in worship. Grab a cup, a treat, and finish this sentence, "Today I noticed..."



Caring for One Another

Wonderful friends, Bible study group,
Pastor Amanda,
I miss you all! Miss Arlys - has been a year now.
She was born on Nov 27, Thanksgiving Day and
was buried on Nov 27, 2022.
Life goes on! Lynnae visits on Saturday pm.
My dog Sozo comforts me and loves me
and I return it!
Tennis keeps me going! I will try Bible study
tomorrow 8am - so early - after walking Sozo.
Breakfast & 12 mile drive to church! Must try!
Love to all. In Christ, DeMar Wanstrom

Note from DeMar Wanstrom!

Raise Right Orders

Support Salem Outreach with the
purchases you already make!
Purchase a gift card for many local
businesses and a percentage comes
to Outreach.

Order forms are due December 3rd!

There will not be a collection in
January so if you are looking to
order, order this week!



Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 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, Terry Tichenor, Lynn Hansen, Renee Voller, Mark Boike, Al Schiffler, Tina Royer, Peter Mackay and Jason Kempthorne.

Absent: Sherri Godfrey

Call to Order

Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda for the October Council meeting. **MS**

Approval of Minutes

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

Approval of September Financials:

Terry presented the financial report as of September.

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

Pastor Amanda's Report

* Led Women's Retreat on Bay Lake Island – 19 participants

- Re-connecting with area clergy 1/month (Immanuel, Assembly of God, LifeSpring, Heartwood chaplain)
- Training- more supportive per Laura Martin's eval. (only 2 weeks with Debbi)
- Heartwood Bible Study
- Kid's club kick-off event and Nov. 8 plan
- Nomination Team – and clarification of positions open
- Columbarium Team – reactivating the team and updating policies
- Continued training of Grace – learning well and doing excellent work
- Reformation Sunday worship plan, games (prepare and set up after funeral)
- New member orientation classes and welcome on 10/29
- Connect with Ellen Uglem and preparing for Lee's funeral on 10/28

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- All Saint's Sunday – Nov 5: help setting up candle stations?
- Salem's Photo Directory – photo make-up dates, correcting information (Nov. 2 retakes)
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Cascade hosted at Heartwood, Nov. 22 6 pm
- Prayer Buddies – calling adults and matching with Salem's children
- Employee Policies Update – typing final changes to present to new council in December
- Annual meeting preparation – write reports!
- Continuing Education November 13-16 at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, WI – Benedictine spiritual practices and congregational invitation
- Baptism at end of November
- Care Center Worship at 4 locations in Aitkin
- Advent worship planning, Christmas worship services
- 12 days of Christmas – faith formation activities for families
- New Confirmation Class begins January/February

Pastoral Acts At-a-Glance: 0 baptisms, 0 weddings, 0 funerals, 12 pastoral visits

Outreach Report – Jason

- Skid steer arrived and is being put to use.
- Bailer will arrive Nov. 6
- May need to cancel the community Thanksgiving dinner due to health and availability issues of the Kitchen Team

Old Business:

* Church /Budget Presentation – Terry: Discussion and clarification of information.

Motion: To approve the presentation with the changes. MSC

- **Motion:** To approve the 2024 budget as prepared. MSC
- Nominating Committee – Pastor A sample ballot was distributed with some blank spaces. Pastor Amanda and the Nominating Committee are still calling people to try to fill the slots on the ballot. Please encourage people to run for Council, Outreach Governing Board and VLM delegates.
- Parents Night Off 11/14 6 to 8 PM Tina and Rad Royer, Lynn Hansen and Warren Balfany. We are seeking volunteers for a Saturday morning in December.
- Fall Clean-up 10/28 8AM to noon

New Business:

- Annual Meeting 11/12
- November Council Meeting, election of officers and potluck dinner 6:30 PM 11/21
- Columbarium – **Motion:** To approve updated policies and increased costs as presented. **MSC**

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- a. No more than two urns shall be placed in any double niche: or more than one in a single niche. The fee for a double niche is \$2000 and the fee for a single niche is \$1000. There shall be no additional charge for the urn, which will be supplied by Salem Lutheran Church. The fee shall be uniform regardless of the location of the niche. The church will determine the location of the niche based on the order in which the payment is received and preferred location, if any, specified by the applicant. Salem Lutheran Church shall attempt to honor application requests for contiguous niches, provided that all fees for such niches are paid in full.
- Thank you to Terry, Renee, and Al for their service on the council.
- A motion was made to bring the payroll back in house beginning in January, since we have a financial manager here. This will save time and money for our church. **MSC.**
- **SOS** - The topic of the SOS was discussed, and Don will get back to the person regarding concerns and the need to respect confidentiality.

Committee Reports

- Capital Appeal – Lynn: The team will meet on January 23, 2024, to look at pledges and end of year giving to determine if the mortgage payments will continue at \$9000 per month. The next regular meeting will be April 9, 2024.
- Columbarium – Mark: Was covered in New Business.
- Facilities – Al: Church cleanup on Saturday. Lighting changes are being done.
- Faith Formation – Renee: Instead of a Sunday School Christmas program, the students will participate in the service. Confirmation classes will begin again this winter because of small numbers and difficulty scheduling. There will not be a Nov. meeting.
- Memorial Committee – Peter: The Women's Retreat received \$650.
- Stewardship – Pastor Amanda: In January, focus will be on sharing time & talents, resources throughout the year. Consider sharing monthly or quarterly statements showing how the budget is doing.
- Technology – Terry: No report
- Welcome – Tina: Six new members (2 couples and 2 singles) will be welcomed on Oct. 29. Activity is being planned for winter.
- Worship and Music – Tina: No report

Next Church Council Meeting is Tuesday, November 21st at 6:30 PM with a potluck to welcome new members.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion: Motion to adjourn. **MSC**

Pastor Amanda closed in prayer

Prepared by Lynn Hansen

Salem Outreach Governing Board October 17, 2023

Present were Pastor Amanda, Jason Kempthorne, Cathy Aykens, Sandy Kretlow, and Mark & Diane Boike. Absent Kay Bendorf and Randy Sykes.

MSC: Motion, Seconded, Carried

Opened with prayer by Pastor Amanda.

Secretary's Report was emailed to board members. MSC

Financial Report was over viewed. MSC

Jason: Facebook continues to be with strong engagements.

Grants: Still waiting to hear about Lunch Bunch program award. Sourcewell -Bailer will be installed November 6. Also waiting for EFSP 40 Lunch Bunch payment of \$1000.00.

Mustard Seed: Sales have already hit \$290,000.00 which is just shy of the \$300,000.00 budget. We will be starting to price Christmas the beginning of November. We will let the merchandise run down through November to be ready for Christmas items.

Salem West Impact Report: We had 52 referrals, filled 36 orders in September. Total of \$608,281.36 for the year of goods given to clients.

Thank you was given to Sandy Kretlow for serving on the Outreach Governing Board. She has been a part of this committee for the past 13 years.

Food Packing event will be November 19 from 10:30 am till noon.

Motion was made to give \$10.00 Target gift cards and greeting card to Jail Ministry. MSC

Motion was made to give Adult Teen Challenge a pizza party only. MSC

Snow plowing will continue with Hutchison for 2024.

Volunteer appreciation will be in the spring.

Next meeting will be November 28 at 1 pm.

Closed with prayer. Submitted Sandy Kretlow, Secretary

SALEM'S STAFF

Pastor	Amanda Kempthorne	pastoramanda@salemwd.org
Office Manager	Grace Reininger	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	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 8:50am Hymn Sing 9:00am Worship 3:00pm Cantata Practice	27 9:00am Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed 11:00am Staff Meeting	28 9:00am Piecemakers 9:00am Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting	29 6:30am Women's Bible Study 9:00am Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed 5:00pm Salem Ringers Practice	30 9:00am Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed	1 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed	2 9:00am Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed
3 Advent 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	4 11:00am Staff Meeting	5 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting	6 6:30am Women's Bible Study	7	8 8:00am Men's Bible Study	9 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting 7:00pm Cantata Performance
10 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 8:50am Hymn Sing 9:00am Cantata Musical Worship 9:50am Sunday School	11 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	12 9:00am Piecemakers 6:00pm Faith Formation	13 6:30am Women's Bible Study 3:15pm Kids Club	14	15 8:00am Men's Bible Study	16 9:00am Free Child Care
17 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship with Children's Program	18 11:00am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	19 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting 3:00pm Executive Team Meeting	20 6:30am Women's Bible Study	21 First Day of Winter 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	22 8:00am Men's Bible Study	23
24 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 8:50am Hymn Sing 9:00am Worship 3:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day	26	27 6:30am Women's Bible Study	28 6:30pm Council Meeting	29 8:00am Men's Bible Study	30
31 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship	1 New Year's Day	2 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting	3 6:30am Women's Bible Study	4	5 8:00am Men's Bible Study	6 Epiphany