



# Salem Connection

## April 2024

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The cross. It's the choice instrument for punishment by the Roman government, a cruel device of torture, and what waits for Jesus at the end of his life. It hangs in most Christian churches and adorns a number of necks. We even sing about it:

"Jesus keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain..."

"Beneath the cross of Jesus, I long to take my stand..."

"In the cross of Christ I glory..."

It seems like an awful and odd thing to embrace as the symbol of our faith. It'd be like wearing a tiny golden electric chair around our necks, or a lethal injection syringe. Everything about it is shameful and absurd and devoid of any hope.

Then again, it's not any of those things. Everything the world intended the cross to be is transformed because Jesus hung upon it. Here's how Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 1, "But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God."

The thing is, the cross isn't the end of the story. The cross doesn't have the last word. Shame, despair, betrayal, pain, hopelessness – none of those things have the last word. The cross is emptied both of Jesus' body and all the shame that went with it. The risen Christ has the last word.

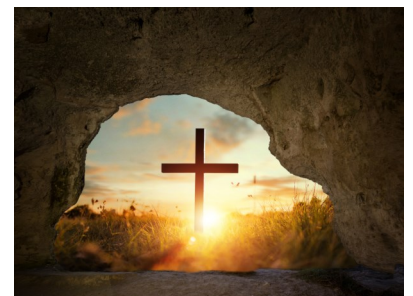
So we sing about the glory of the cross, how we need to be close to the hope it holds, how we find new life in the shadow (the effects) of God's grace shown there.

Jesus went willingly to that instrument of torture to transform all things that seem devoid of hope. Because if God can overcome death itself, God surely can transform our broken relationships, our battles within our hearts, our own fears and pain, our own deaths.

I leave you with the second verse of "In the Cross of Christ I Glory":

*When the woes of life o'er-take me,  
hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me,  
lo, it glows with peace and joy.*

May God give you hope in the cross that Christ endured. May you see God's love poured out for you and the power of God overcoming all that the world holds against us. May you glory in the cross.



Happy Easter!  
~Pastor Amanda

# Faith Formation!

## Kids Club April 10th!

Salem's after school program, "Kids Club" is for 3-6 graders and takes place the second Wednesday of each month. [Click here to register online!](#)

Kids joining us for the fun afternoon of April 10th will have the opportunity to create their own birdhouse! Just in time for spring! (hopefully soon!) If you would like to register your child, in grades 3-6, to come and have a fun afternoon use the link listed above to register! Only one more time after April 10th that Kids Club will be meeting before we go on summer break! Be sure to join in on the fun this month!



## Sunday School Schedule

Each Sunday at 9:50a.m.

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.

## VBS Dates!

Mark your calendars for  
Vacation Bible School!  
July 15th-18th, Monday-Thursday!



# New Member Information!

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member here at Salem Lutheran, we are so excited to have new members joining the congregation and here is some information for those interested!

The Welcome Team here at Salem has met and is working hard on planning the next round of new member orientation!

## What is new member orientation?

With any new experience it is important to know the history and what to look forward to when joining any group or congregation! The new member orientation is just that, getting to learn about Salem and its rich history and what you have to look forward to when becoming a member!

If you have been filling out the sheet that is in your bulletin Sunday mornings, we are excited to welcome you as new members come April! Those who have filled out the information have been contacted and we will continue to be in contact to ensure you are reminded of those dates as they get closer!

## When is new member orientation?

New member orientation will take place after all of the Easter festivities come to a close. This means that it will commence in April, there will be two dates of new member classes, or orientation, then a Sunday that is set for new member recognition.

**The dates for new member orientation are: April 14th and 21st, following directly after Worship**

**New Member Recognition Sunday: April 28th during 9:00a.m. worship**

More details to come, be sure to list your phone number or email for office contact use!

# Worship Notes at Salem

## Thank you to those serving in March:

### READERS

- 7** Ken Stebbins  
**14** Warren Balfany  
**21** Nancy Meyer  
**28** Glenn Suess

### USHERS

- 7** Ed & Sherri Godfrey, Curt and Sylvia Hoge  
**14** Randy Holmwig, Herb & Barb Schoon, Mark Boike  
**21** Roger & Marlene Prill, Clark and Joyce Marshall  
**28** Nory and Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson

### COMMUNION SERVERS

- 7** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
**14** Katie McCormick, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
**21** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
**28** Glenn Suess, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

### OFFERING COUNTERS

Tim Herberg and Kathi Sharp

## April Worship Schedule

- 7** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice  
 8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice  
 9:00a.m. Worship *Quilt Blessing*
- 14** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice  
 8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice  
 9:00a.m. Worship
- 21** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice  
 8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice  
 9:00a.m. Worship
- 28** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice  
 8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice  
 9:00a.m. Worship

### Music Schedule:

Choir sings on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
**practice Sundays at 8:00a.m.**

Handbells play on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
**practice Wednesdays at 5p.m.**

## Heartwood Bible Study

The monthly Bible study at Heartwood will take place on April 8th at 1:00p.m.

These studies include Communion, so invite others along!



## Message from Council!

In the March Connection, you were able to read the Strategic Plan that was developed with input from the congregational survey. We want to hear from you.

Please attend the Quarter 1 Listening Session after worship on April 7th.

At that session, the Church Council would like to share plans for a summer event, get feedback on the Strategic Plan, and present the budget update.

The Salem Church Council

### Meals on Wheels takes place on Thursdays

### CRMC Worship takes place on Sundays at 1:30p.m.

These events take place each Sunday and Thursday each week of the 12 months of the year, listed below are the times Salem is hosting.

| Month       | CRMC Worship | Meals on Wheels |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| March/April | Sunday 3/31  | Thursday 4/4    |
| May         | Sunday 5/19  | Thursday 5/23   |

# Faith and Fellowship

## Women's Bible Study

Each Wednesday at 3:00p.m.

This group would focus on studying the book titled, "When Women Pray." They will be meeting in the large classroom down the education wing. Any and all women are welcome and encouraged to join!



## Women's Retreat

Join us for a weekend of fun and getting to know other women in our congregation and some women from First Lutheran in St. Paul! We will be retreating to Bay Lake Retreat Center again this year. However, the dates have changed to the last weekend in **September – 27, 28 & 29!** Mark your calendars and watch for more information to come!

## Library Week is April 7 to 13, 2024.

This is a great time to browse the Salem Library and check out books, games, movies, and music.

April is the time that we are excited to get into the garden, watch leaves form on trees, and enjoy the blue water in the lakes.

There are books on display for gardening and lake shore improvement as well as books with a focus on Earth Day.

Earth Day began in 1970. This year we will celebrate on April 22nd. The initiative this year is a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. Consider ways that you and your family can reduce the amount of plastic that you use. Other ideas for Earth Day are: participating in a clean-up activity; planting trees; and wearing clothing longer, re-cycling fabrics, buying second hand, and repairing/mending clothing.

For more ideas, check the website - [earthday.org](https://earthday.org)

## Connect [Building networks. Sharing. Upcoming Events]

### 37TH ANNUAL **SYNOD ASSEMBLY** "MAKE US ONE" EPHESIANS 4:1-6

SATURDAY APRIL 27 2024 7:30-3:30 VIA ZOOM  
Zoom broadcast will originate from Trinity Lutheran in Brainerd

Peter and Debbie MacKay and Pastor Amanda  
will be attending at the church via Zoom



# Salem's Mission and Ministry

Thank you to all who brought offerings to our Lenten services. Your generosity helps our local food shelf and through Lutheran World Relief helps people around the globe with food and emergency supplies.

In the February 28, 2024, issue of the Brainerd Dispatch, Pastor Devlyn Brooks wrote "Christian vs. disciple". He states that the word "disciple" appears more than 250 times in the New Testament. the word "Christian" appears only three times. He suggests that being Jesus' disciples demands more of us than calling ourselves Christians.

Some of the long-time Salem members will be familiar with the MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP. Our congregation focused on one of these each month and we received bookmarks to remind us of our congregational focus. For those of you who were not here during that year or wish for a refresher summary, these are the six marks of discipleship:

1. PRACTICING THE GOOD IN DAILY LIFE - Daily Prayer
2. OUR HABIT OF WEEKLY RENEWAL - Weekly Worship
3. HEARING GOD'S VOICE - Daily Bible Reading
4. THE CALL TO CHRIST LIKE LIVING - Serving in & Beyond the Congregation
5. OUR CALL TO RELATIONSHIP WITH SPIRIT - Nurturing Relationship
6. GENEROSITY - REFLECTIONS OF GOD'S HEART IN OUR LIVES - Giving a Tithe and Beyond.

There is a book by Michael Foss that illustrates how each mark of discipleship enhances and supports the growth of a person's faith journey.

Our Spiritual Gifts Team is focused on numbers 4 and 6. We at Salem live out our mission to Welcome people to Jesus Christ, Equip them with a faith that works in their life, and to Send them into the world to serve in Jesus' name. Mark #4 calls us to serve others. We have so many dedicated volunteers who do so many things in our congregation and community. In June, we will have the opportunity to reflect on the ways that we serve in our church and in our community by placing coins in jars each time we do an act of service. Throughout the year, we have the opportunity to practice Mark #6 as we generously support Salem's mission and ministry with financial contributions. In August, we will ask each of you to consider ways that you can share your Time and Talents in our church and community. In the fall, we will each have a chance to plan our financial commitment to supporting Salem's mission and ministry for the coming year.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

Salem's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Tuesday, April 23, 2024

5:00p.m. Gathering

5:30p.m. Meal



# Special Celebrations in April



|    |                  |    |                 |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Laura Newton     | 11 | Clark Marshall  |
| 3  | Mike Shermock    |    | Conor Zender    |
| 5  | Samuel Coughlin  | 12 | Warren Balfany  |
|    | Easton DeCent    | 13 | Elsa Ray        |
|    | Carrie Johnson   | 14 | Jami Bodle      |
|    | Nate Novak       |    | Shelly Skeim    |
| 6  | Sandy Archibald  | 15 | Jena Reed       |
|    | Paul Hein        | 16 | Tina Royer      |
| 8  | Carol Bobich     | 17 | Jane Stromberg  |
|    | John Christenson | 19 | Hedi Mitchell   |
|    | Beth Lavan       | 20 | Abigail Chileen |
| 9  | Laura Hann       | 21 | Colin Barnett   |
| 10 | Joan Haglund     |    | Greg Meyer      |
|    | Stanley Kangas   | 25 | Roger Prill     |
|    | Bev Kunz         | 29 | John Davies     |



- 5 John and Nancy Pelant
- 18 Warren Balfany and Lynn Hansen
- Nathan and Jayme VanRisseghem
- 25 Rob and Kris Schmidt
- 26 John and Raye Cragun

## Save the Date!

- ◇ **7** Quarter 1 Listening Session
- ◇ **10** Kids Club
- ◇ **23** Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



# Caring for One Another

Thank you to those who delivered Easter Lilies to those needing a little extra love during this season. From those who received the Lilies we have heard nothing but gratitude for thinking of them!

Thank you to those who donated your time and talents in cooking dinners during the 2024 Lenten Season!

## Financial Updates

### Offerings Report for Financials

Information from the Church Office

Lenten Offering and Supper Total:

**\$1,471.00**

**\$735.50** to ELCA Disaster Relief

**\$735.50** to Cuyuna Range Food Shelf

Thank you for the continuous generosity shown through offering here at Salem Lutheran!

## Scholarships

The Salem Memorial committee offers scholarships for 1st year, post secondary education students attending either vocational/technical programs or college/university programs?

Scholarships are also available for non-traditional students.

Contact the church office for an application.

Email: [office@salemdwd.org](mailto:office@salemdwd.org)

Phone: (218) 534-3309

Salem Outreach Governing Board - February 20th , 2024

Present were, Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Jason Kempthorne, Kay Bendorf, Sherri Godfrey, Cathy Aykens, Diane Boike, Mark Boike, Randy Sykes, and Linda Sudman

MSC: Motion was made, seconded, motion carried.

Opened with a prayer by Pastor Amanda.

Secretary report was emailed to board members. MSC

Motion to close Emergency Food and Shelter Program Grant FY39 and move the remaining grant balance of \$629.48 to 2305 - Lunch Bunch Program. MSC

Motion made to transfer money from the Chocolate Extravaganza \$1,465.42 and move it to 2805 Honduras Gifts. MSC

Discussed to make changes on the Operating Funds Statement, from % of budget for the month to % of budget for the year. Also to reconcile at end of year vs monthly.

Financial report was approved. MSC

Mustard Seed: Mustard Seed Sales \$27,587.00 for January.

Salem West Impact Report For January, we had 75 referrals and completed 55 orders. A total of 120 individuals were helped.

In January there was \$37,093 in goods delivered to the community. The in kind impact for January was \$108,679.

Chocolate Extravaganza went well. Made \$1,465.42. Funds designated for Honduras. Noreen is stepping down from the lead organizer for this event. Discussion was made to discontinue the fundraiser or move the Chocolate Extravaganza to a church bake sale. Will be discussed again later.

Teen Challenge Pancake Breakfast will be held on the morning of March 10th after 9:00am Church service.

Mustard Seed Garage Sale dates : May 25th, Aug 17th and Sept 28th .

Volunteer Appreciation is looking to be scheduled on either April 20th or April 30th . Sheri will take this to council meeting to set the date. Council and OGB are expected to participate in hosting this event.

Next meeting will be March 19th .

Closing Prayer Adjourn

**COUNCIL DID NOT MEET  
MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE RELEASED ONCE  
APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING!**



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                                   | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| <b>31</b><br><b>Easter Sunday</b><br>8:00am Easter Service<br>9:30am Easter Service                                       | <b>1</b><br>Office Closed                                       | <b>2</b><br>9:00am<br>Piecemakers<br>5:00pm Worship and<br>Music Meeting  | <b>3</b><br>3:00pm Women's<br>Bible Study<br>5:00pm Salem<br>Ringers                      | <b>4</b><br>6:30pm Council<br>Meeting             | <b>5</b>                                 | <b>6</b>   |
| <b>7</b><br>8:00am Choir Practice<br>8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal<br>9:00am Worship                                    | <b>8</b><br>1:00pm Koffee<br>Klatch at<br>Heartwood             | <b>9</b><br>9:00am<br>Piecemakers<br>6:00pm Faith<br>Formation  | <b>10</b><br>3:00pm Women's<br>Bible Study<br>3:15pm Kids Club<br>5:00pm Salem<br>Ringers | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br>8:00am Men's Bible<br>Study | <b>13</b><br>9:00am Serpent<br>Lake Association<br>Meeting |
| <b>14</b><br>8:00am Choir Practice<br>8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal<br>9:00am Worship<br>10:00am New Member Orientation | <b>15</b><br>11:00am Catholic<br>Charities Meal<br>Distribution | <b>16</b><br>9:00am<br>Piecemakers<br>1:00pm Outreach<br>Governing Board<br>Meeting<br>3:00pm Executive<br>Team Meeting | <b>17</b><br>3:00pm Women's<br>Bible Study<br>5:00pm Salem<br>Ringers                     | <b>18</b><br>6:00pm Cuyuna<br>Range Lions Meeting | <b>19</b><br>8:00am Men's Bible<br>Study | <b>20</b>  |
| <b>21</b><br>8:00am Choir Practice<br>8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal<br>9:00am Worship<br>10:00am New Member Orientation | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b><br>9:00am<br>Piecemakers<br>5:00pm Volunteer<br>Appreciation Dinner   | <b>24</b><br>3:00pm Women's<br>Bible Study<br>5:00pm Salem<br>Ringers                     | <b>25</b><br>6:30pm Council<br>Meeting            | <b>26</b><br>8:00am Men's Bible<br>Study | <b>27</b><br>7:30am 37th Annual<br>Synod Assembly          |
| <b>28</b><br>8:00am Choir Practice<br>8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal<br>9:00am New Member Recognition<br>9:00am Worship  | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b><br>9:00am<br>Piecemakers  | <b>1</b><br>3:00pm Women's<br>Bible Study<br>5:00pm Salem<br>Ringers                      | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>8:00am Men's Bible<br>Study  | <b>4</b>   |