



Salem Connection

May 2024

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444
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Think for a moment of the many kinds of tables have you been invited to eat at. Friends' houses when you were growing up, picnics in a park, formal dinners, parties, family kitchen tables – what made those moments memorable? Was it the meal itself, the company, the setting? Have you ever been to a table where you didn't feel like you belonged?

It has long been the teachings of the ELCA that all are welcome at God's Table; no one is turned away. Those who worship on Christmas and Easter only, those who gather every Sunday, those who aren't quite sure what they believe, those whose faith cannot be put into words – we are all invited by Jesus to share in Holy Communion.

All that's required to participate is believing the words "for you" in Christ's words of institution: "This is my body, given for you; this is my blood, shed for you." Luther wrote, "The treasure is opened and placed at everyone's door, yes, upon the table, but it is also your responsibility to take it and confidently believe that it is just as the words tell you." (Large Catechism 470.35)

And what is it we're receiving? Exactly what Jesus promised: the forgiveness of sins. Those things that sit as stones in our hearts are melted away by faith that God gives us mercy. And in eating together, we are joined with Christ and in community with one another and the saints who have gone before us.

What a gift! What a glorious gift God showers on all of us! And what an honor to preside over this gift – it is my duty and delight to do so among you, Salem!

But there has been some conversation around the church and at council about children serving Holy Communion in worship and some whispers about the age we commune. Let me remind you, it does not matter who puts this gift into your hand. God's Word has already been spoken over the meal. The words "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" have been spoken in everyone's hearing. Trust in the promise of that meal and receive it in faith – whether you receive it from someone you had a disagreement with, someone you know is sinful, or a small hand bearing this great gift.

Luther wrote, "Even though a scoundrel receives or administers the sacrament, it is the true sacrament (that is, Christ's body and blood), just as truly as when one uses it most worthily. For it is not founded on human holiness but on the Word of God."

For our practice, you are welcome to select whatever distribution line is fitting for you. I will continue instructing our servers in best practices, including the clear statements, "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." We will ask children to serve Communion with an adult – and that adult may say "The body and blood of Christ, given for you," in reference to both elements.

Encouraging children to participate in leading the service as acolytes, ushers, greeters, or communion servers helps bridge the gap between generations, better embodying the family of God. This participation nurtures our children's spiritual journey, and our support guides them toward a deeper understanding of this sacred meal.

Whomever you may receive Holy Communion from, may your faith be solid in the God who makes promises and feeds us at the Table.

Peace,

Faith Formation!

Kids Club May 8th!

Salem's after school program, "Kids Club" is for 3-6 graders and takes place the second Wednesday of each month. Registration can be found on our website www.salemdwd.org

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! This will be the final Kids Club 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.

May 19th-Last Day of Sunday School!



VBS Training Meeting

Join us Wednesday, May 29th at 6:00p.m. for an informal meeting to go over programming for our under the sea adventure! All volunteers are encouraged to come!



Volunteers Needed for VBS!

We are still in need of 6-10 volunteers to be involved with VBS this year!

- ◇ Crew Leaders/Small Group Leaders
- ◇ Scripture Activity Leader
- ◇ Volunteers who can be here a day or two out of the week to round out our crew!

If this is something you are interested in helping with, sign up with the link below or on our website!

Register Online

www.salemdwd.org

Vacation Bible School 2024



Ages 3-12 • July 15-18 • Free for All!

9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

Register and Learn More at www.Salemdwd.org

May 19th! Senior Recognition Sunday!

Be sure to join us on May 19th as we recognize the graduating seniors in our congregation here at Salem!

If you are a graduating senior and would like to be recognized on Sunday, May 19th, be sure to let the church office know!

Congratulations Class of 2024!



Worship Notes at Salem

Thank you to those serving in May:

READERS

- 5** Jim Rude
12 Nancy Meyer
19 Ken Stebbins
26 _____

USHERS

- 5** Ed & Sherri Godfrey, Curt and Sylvia Hoge
12 Randy Holmvig, Nory and Peggy Hunze, Mark Boike
19 Roger & Marlene Prill, Clark and Joyce Marshall
26 Barb and Herb Schoon, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 5** Shirley and Myron Midthun, Shelly Skeim
12 Nancy Meyer, Ron Meyers, _____
19 _____, _____, _____
26 _____, _____, _____

OFFERING COUNTERS

Shirley Huxford and _____

May Worship Schedule

- 5** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
 8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
 9:00a.m. Worship
- 12** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
 8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
 9:00a.m. Worship
- 19** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
 8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
 9:00a.m. Worship
- 26** 8:00a.m. Choir Practice
 8:30a.m. Praise Team Practice
 9:00a.m. Worship

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.

Heartwood Bible Study

The monthly Bible study at Heartwood will take place on May 13th at 1:00p.m.

These studies include Communion, so invite others along!



Calling all Liturgical Decorators!

Interested in serving in the Church in a new way?

We are looking for individuals to help decorate the sanctuary, liturgical decorations are those that help to represent what season of the church year we are presently in! If this is something that you are interested in learning how to become apart of, contact the Church Office for more information!



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
May	Sunday 5/19	Thursday 5/23

We will need delivery drivers for our next date of July 11th!

Faith and Fellowship

May is



Knowing the signs and symptoms of a stroke could help in saving someone's life! A stroke could happen to anyone at anytime, acting quickly is the most important thing a person can do for an individual experiencing a stroke. Our office manager, Grace, experienced a stroke back in November of 2022 and believes that it was the speed in which action was taken during her stroke that allowed her to recover as well as she did.

To learn more about the signs and symptoms to look for visit www.cdc.gov/stroke



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!

Message from the Library!

Screen-Free Week is celebrated every year in the first week of May and takes place from May 6 to 12 this year. This week, celebrated all over the world, is an invitation for everyone — children, adults, and entire communities — to switch off completely from staring at screens and take a well-deserved break.

Millions of people participate in Screen-Free Week as part of the initiative to "turn off screens and turn on life." A growing number of people have been observing Screen-Free Week every year to allow themselves a break away from the digital world. By doing this, they get to experience the wonders of life beyond screens.

Screen-Free Week began as TV-Turnoff Week to get U.S. children away from their televisions and out into the world around them. People have become increasingly concerned about the lack of physical exercise among children in the U.S. since the advent of television.

Additionally, the organizers of Screen-Free Week recognize the importance of play for children. Play is scientifically proven to be a great way to learn about the world around us and how things work.

You may want to build on April's Earth Day and do a nature walk to look for changes in plants, trees, nests and observe birds and animals.



Mark Your Calendars!

Join us on Saturday, July 20th for a Block Party! Battle of the Bands, Kids Activities, Food and More!

Special Celebrations in May



1	Delylah Voller	20	Elizabeth Gavin
3	Finley Syrstad	22	Ashley Meyer
4	Chris Kobberdahl		Glenn Suess
	David Steinke	23	Jon Kempthorne
5	April Novak	24	Tom Wiedell
	Nancy Schmidt	25	Annette Larson
6	Jim Rude	27	Tim Coughlin
8	Janine Mattfield	28	Wendy Christenson
13	Blake Barnett		Dawson Holmwig
	Jason Holmwig	30	Glen Knutson
	Rick Johnson		Peter MacKay
16	Elaine Dahlquist		Donna Sanderson
17	Joey Serfling	31	Raye Cragun
	Bruce Swanson		Nancy Johnson
18	Jean Shermock		



7	Chuck and Char Hausker
8	Les and Shirley Taylor
15	Tom and Marilyn Wiedell
16	Glenn Suess and Ruth Helgesen
17	Dick and Lois Hicks
20	Greg and Jena Reed
28	Terry and Judy Fields

Caring for One Another

A sincere Thank You to all of Salem for the lovely Easter Lily. Blessings to all.

- Donna Sanderson



We are grateful for your prayers, love, and concern during Dad's remaining days on this Earth and since his passing. We feel he was in God's loving hands and he went to His arms of peace. Now that peace is rippling out to us all. Thanks be to God!

- Family of Clayton Carstensen

Offerings Report for Financials

Information from the Church Office

Benevolences for March

\$1,874.38 Synod ELCA

\$225.75 Missionary Support

\$225.75 Voyagers Lutheran Ministry

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

Save the Date!

◇	8	Kids Club
◇	19	Senior Recognition
		Last Day of Sunday School
◇	23	Meals on Wheels @10:30a.m.
◇	27	Office Closed



Salem Outreach Governing Board - March 19th , 2024

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

MSC: Motion was made, seconded, motion carried.

Opened with a prayer by Pastor Amanda.

Secretary report was emailed to board members. MSC

Financial report was approved. MSC

Mustard Seed: Mustard Seed Sales \$30,162 for January.

Salem West Impact Report For January, we had 44 referrals and completed 37 orders. A total of 94 individuals were helped.

Year to date was \$64,088 in goods delivered to the community. The in kind impact YTD is \$198,931.

Jake spent some time mystery shopping local thrift stores ahead of his trip to the thrift conference. Suggested we do this quarterly in the future. A standard form will be made to record pricing structure at these stores for next time.

We have applicants for the summer positions. Hope to hire by May 1st.

Motion was made to accept Brainerd Glass replacement for the front door on the Mustard Seed. Two bids were sent to OGB members by email. Email vote was conducted. Motion to ratify this decision was made. MSC

Teen Challenge Pancake Breakfast was held on March 10th. Offering and the breakfast netted 230.50. Motion was made to send \$750 to MN Teen Challenge from the breakfast and mission support # 7865 MSC

Grant was applied for through the Initiative Foundation to combat loneliness and social isolation. Request was made for Salem to host 10 lunch community meals. Fellowship hall would then remain open for fellowship, conversation, and card games until the office closes. Grant in the amount of \$7500 was requested.

Volunteer Appreciation is scheduled on April 23th. Council and OGB are expected to participate in hosting this event. 1PM Setup.

Next meeting will be March 19th.

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2024, 6:30 pm

We exist with God's help, to provide leadership for the Salem Lutheran Church Congregation.

MSC=The motion was seconded and carried.

Call to Order

Members present: Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Jason Kempthorne, Nathan VanRisseghem, Peter MacKay, Julie Fritz, Sherri Godfrey, Tina Royer

Members absent: Sylvia Hoge, Don Hales

Opening Prayer by Pastor Amanda

SOS Announcement: None

Approval of Agenda: MSC

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of February 22, 2024. MSC

Approve February Financials:

Motion to approve February 2024 Treasurer's Report. MSC.

Pastor's Report:

New AED arrived and is installed.

Within the realm of administrative tasks, on March 18, a discovery of an IT hack and bank fraud was made. All appropriate steps were taken with Deerwood Bank to stop additional transactions from occurring.

Aimee is updating the Church financials to Quickbooks online. Pastor Amanda is supporting all her efforts!

The Easter season was busy and successful. Easter Sunday worship services had: 8:00am – 55 and 9:30am – 195.

The Church Directory is in its final stages of updates. The release date will be the end of May.

Thank you, Aimee! The Council wishes to extend kudos, a shout out, spot on, what would we do without you, and on and on to our Salem Financial Manager, Aimee Watson. Throughout all the challenges and changes the church has endured, Aimee has approached every task and responsibility with a can-do attitude, an open mind, special expertise, great problem solving and critical thinking skills, and warmth and smiles that make her so very easy to work with! No small feat when money and how it's handled is at stake! Thank you, Aimee.

Outreach Report:

Salem Pancake Breakfast: Breakfast followed the Adult/Teen Challenge worship service.

Expenses were covered and a small profit was made. Loose offering from the service =\$244.00, which was given to the organization, along with a donation from Salem Outreach for a total of \$750.00 in support.

The front door is contracted to be replaced.

Garage Sales: the sales are set for May, August and September. Specific dates TBD.

Old Business

Audit: A motion was made and seconded to hire the accounting firm, Clasen & Scheissl, CPAs, Ltd. of Pequot Lakes, to perform the church audit. An amendment was made to add that no more than \$15,000 will be spent to cover audit requirements. MSC

The audit will be conducted this summer (June, July or August). The council is hopeful that auditors will set us up so we are able to conduct internal audits on our yearly budget.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Tuesday, April 23. We will ask the congregation to donate gift baskets as door prizes and will investigate getting other prizes. Doors open at 5:00 pm, dinner is served at 5:30 pm. Stations will be set up to serve dinner. We need council and OGB members to help set-up and clean-up.

Block Party Report: Date-Saturday, July 20, 2024. Time-11:00 am til 6:00 pm. Battle of the Bands is the main attraction with a \$500 grand prize donated by Roth RV. A variety of games and activities will be available for all ages. Food options will be available for purchase, as will soft drinks and water. A variety of games and activities will be available for kids of all ages! Discussion was held regarding inclusion of a beer garden, but the idea was dropped due to so many potential legal issues and most importantly, that the focus of the day is on family fun. More information will be available as planning details progress.

Motion was made and seconded to refrain from any engagement in community plans to replace Summerfest. MSC

New Business

Schwanke Trust proceeds transfer to Initiative Foundation Fund - The Salem Church Council is the Trustee of this fund, and all financial decisions are made by this group. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the \$11,000 dividend from 2023 be delegated to the Memorial Committee to distribute funds as appropriate that support the mission and strategic plan of Salem. MSC.

The stipulations of the remaining funds are that no money can be withdrawn from the principal amount and only the interest can be accessed after 3 years due to the money being in the Initiative Foundation investment portfolio.

Donor Thank You policy approval - A motion was made and seconded to approve the policy as written. MSC.

Capital Appeal discussion - The mortgage looks positive with the caveat that some donate once per year in January.

Aimee Watson's authorization as an internet banking user for Deerwood Bank, and Amanda Kempthorne's authorization to request information from Deerwood Bank – A motion was made and seconded to authorize Aimee Watson, Salem Church Finance Manager, authority to conduct church business as an internet banking user; and authorize Pastor Amanda Kempthorne to request Salem information from Deerwood Bank. MSC.

BLACF Award. Request for another table - Salem is receiving the International Philanthropy Award for its missionary work in Honduras. Don Hales is requesting funds to reserve a second table of 10 for the celebration. The cost is \$1,250 for a table of 10. Adding another table will enable Pastor Amanda and Jason, Director of Outreach, to attend along with 8 more participants. The Council directed this to the Memorial Committee for consideration.

NEMN Synod event: The "Walking Together" synod event requested Salem to host the event on October 12th. The council determined that our facilities can't handle the amount of rooms and space that is needed.

Committee Reports:

Capital Appeal – Lynn Hansen. An April 9th meeting is planned to build a presentation on Planned Giving in July.

Columbarium – The committee will plant flowers in the courtyard in May.

Facilities – Nate VanRisseghem. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Facilities committee purchase of a water softener for the kitchen cost up to \$2,950. MSC with 1 abstain.

1 bid has been received for striping the parking lot and sealing cracks. The committee will wait a while longer to see if other bids come in and check with Deerwood Bank on their possible investment of the maintenance expenses.

Lighting options and issues – The Sanctuary lighting is good. The Fellowship Hall remains a problem. It's dark with the LED's that are currently in use. It was suggested that the committee consult with Ernie Erickson and another Master Electrician for guidance.

Church clean-up is Saturday, April 20th.

The Salem West leach field is failing and will need to be replaced. The OGB is looking at ways to obliterate the problem, and has ceased washing clothing. The cost for replacement is estimated \$50,000 to \$100,000. Note: The church council has fiduciary responsibility for all Salem West buildings.

Faith Formation – The committee is gathering information on what people want to study in the next session of Women's Bible Study.

This year VBS will be free of charge for all students.

There are 5 boys ready to start confirmation.

The final day of Sunday School is May 19th.

We have 2 high school graduates this year. Sherri will make a cake for the grads as we honor them for their achievement.

Memorial – Peter MacKay. The committee is focused on bringing activities/events to Salem. They are generating ideas and encourage church members to do the same and share them with the committee. \$30,000 was pulled from the Memorial account savings and invested in a 12-month CD.

Stewardship – Lynn Hansen. The committee is planning to remind members of the different kinds of stewardship that exist in the church. A presentation is planned that visually shows the impact that volunteering and other forms of stewardship has in our community.

Technology – Julie Fritz. NR

Welcome – Tina Royer. New Member Orientation is presently underway, and New Member Sunday is scheduled for April 28th.

We have a New Member meal and information gathering session planned for May 15th, to ask if the Orientation was helpful, if there are still lingering questions about Salem membership and expectations. Also, has Salem met the members' expectations? Where can we improve, what are we doing well, what things could be done to bring in more members? And so on. This event is designed for those who have joined in the last 1-2 years, and those who have joined in the past 7 months.

More Visitor Bags are needed for Sunday mornings.

It is suggested that a training and operating guide on how to operate the Fetch system, our sound and visual system, so more people can help with the services.

Worship and Music – Julie Fritz. Wednesday night Lenten meals and services had a solid 30 people each week. Positive comments were offered for both the Lenten and Easter services. Easter service attendance was: 8:00 am – 55, 9:30 am – 195.

The committee is researching the idea of offering an outdoor service at Serpent Lake. The service would be west from the Serpent and the public access.

The committee is also generating ideas to add some freshness/different approaches to the church service.

Outreach – Sherri Godfrey/Jason Kempthorne. The Board consented to installing a new door for Salem West.

Hiring is underway for summer employment. 37 have submitted applications.

For additional information, please see the Outreach report given earlier.

Discussion on a Suggestion: A request was made to install a refrigerator next to the Food Pantry, so people have access to perishable foods. The Board determined that this is too problematic for several reasons: 1). High risk of being stolen, 2). The need to get electrical services to the appliance, 3). High risk of food spoilage, and 4). Who assumes oversight? The Board respectfully declined the request.

Announcements:

Executive Team meeting- April 16 at 3:00 pm

Council meeting- April 25 at 6:30 pm

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:07pm. MSC

Close in the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Royer

SALEM'S STAFF

Pastor	Amanda Kempthorne	pastoramanda@salemddwd.org
Office Manager	Grace Reininger	office@salemddwd.org
Financial Manager	Aimee Watson	finance@salemddwd.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@salemddwd.org
Cleaning Team	4 & 47 Cleaners, Aitkin	
Director of Outreach	Jason Kempthorne	outreach@salemddwd.org
Mustard Seed Manager	Jacob Walker	mustardseed@salemddwd.org
Seed and Donation Manager	Holly Willert	west@salemddwd.org
Mustard Seed Team Lead	Debbie Olson	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Choir Practice 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am New Member Recognition 9:00am Worship	29	30 9:00am Piecemakers	1 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Salem Ringers 5:30pm Beginner Ringer	2	3 8:00am Men's Bible Study	4
5 8:00am Choir Practice 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship	6 5:30pm Spiritual Gifts Committee Meeting	7 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting	8 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Salem Ringers 5:30pm Beginner Ringer	9	10 8:00am Men's Bible Study	11 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting
12 8:00am Choir Practice 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship	13 1:00pm Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	14 9:00am Piecemakers 6:00pm Faith Formation	15 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Salem Ringers 5:30pm Beginner Ringer 6:00pm New Member Dinner	16 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	17 8:00am Men's Bible Study	18
19 Pentecost 8:00am Choir Practice 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship with Senior Recognition 9:50am Last Day of Sunday School 1:30pm CRMC Care Center Worship	20 11:00am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	21 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting 3:00pm Executive Team Meeting	22 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Salem Ringers	23 10:30am Meals on Wheels Delivery 6:30pm Council Meeting	24 8:00am Men's Bible Study	25
26 Trinity Sunday 8:00am Choir Practice 8:30am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 9:00am Piecemakers	29 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Salem Ringers 6:00pm VBS Volunteer Meeting	30	31 8:00am Men's Bible Study	1