



Salem Connection

February 2025

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444
Phone: 218.534.3309 Email: office@salemdwd.org Website: www.salemdwd.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/salemlutheranchurchdeerwood



At the heart of the Christian faith is Jesus' command to: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-39)

This radical love isn't reserved for those who share our beliefs, our culture, or our skin color, it is a call to extend compassion and care to every person we encounter, especially those who have been marginalized and oppressed. In this month dedicated to Black history, we are invited to reflect on the ways we can live out this command by confronting the hate, prejudice, and discrimination that too often divide us.

The teachings of Jesus remind us that empathy is not passive, it has the power to transform ourselves and our community. Empathy is not just about feeling sorry for someone; it's about entering into their experience, understanding their pain, and allowing what we learn to change our perspective and our world. Empathy is not, and can never be, a sin.

If you need some help to cultivate empathy in your life, or wonder how you can make a difference amidst all this hate, follow these tips from Scripture:

- "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus," Philippians 2:3-5
- "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32
- Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34
- "You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;" James 1:19
- Jesus said, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31
- "Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit." Psalm 34:13
- "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear." Ephesians 4:29
- "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." Romans 12:9-10

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:12-14

Lord, help us to see with your eyes, to hear with your ears, and to love with your heart. Teach us to empathize with those who suffer and to take action in the face of injustice. May we be instruments of healing, reconciliation, and love in a world that so desperately needs your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

~ Pastor Amanda

Faith Formation!

Sunday School Schedule

Each Sunday at 9:50a.m.



Kids Club: February 19th 3:15-5:00p.m.

This month we will be focusing on spreading warmth and care to those we love while learning the ministry of the Piecemakers!

Those who are in grades 3-6 are welcome to join us on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 3:15p.m. as we celebrate how special friendship is!

Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays at 3:00p.m.

Men's Bible Study, Fridays at 8:00a.m.

Both of these are still taking place weekly! If you are looking to join a Bible Study, there is always room for one more at the table!

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS 2025

It's that time of year again. Your Thrivent Choice Dollars will become available to you February 1st. Thrivent will no longer notify you; you must contact them. It's a very easy procedure and costs you nothing. Just call Thrivent Financial 800-847-4836 say Choice Dollars or visit Thrivent.com. If you have funds available you can designate at that time. There is a time frame in which you must call or you could lose the availability of those funds. That deadline is March 31st. This is a great benefit for Salem. Some of the projects your Choice Dollars contributed to are, The Building Fund, Music Ministry, Memorial Garden, Barberry Coast Band Concert, New Speaker System for the organ, Electronic Sign, and purchased Christmas Trees to name a few. If you have questions, contact Lois Hicks @ 218-232-2628



"The Multi-Generational Church: Declaring our Identity, Purpose & Belonging"

ABOUT THE FEBRUARY SEMINAR

Energize your faith and service for reimagining the multi –generational church reconnect with your spiritual gifts and others!

In-person at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd, MN

February 22nd, 2025 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

\$15.00 registration fee (Zoom Available)



Scan the QR Code to Register Online!

<https://nemnsynod.org/lay-leader-network/february-seminar/>



Worship Notes at Salem

Thank you to those serving in February:

READERS

- 2 Glenn Suess
9 Ken Stebbins
16 _____
23 _____

USHERS

- 2 Mark and Cindy Larson, Nory & Peggy Hunze
9 Randy Holmwig, Herb and Barb Schoon, Mark Boike
16 Roger and Marlene Prill, Clark and Joyce Marshall
23 Nory and Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz and Karla Peterson

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 2 Randy & Lori Holmwig, Shelly Skeim
9 Glenn Suess, Kay Bendorf, Even Kempthorne
16 Barb & Herb Schoon, Tom Wiedell
23 Kathy Dauer, Marlys Orr, Glenn Suess

OFFERING COUNTERS

Julie Fritz & Jeff Mitchell

February Worship Schedule

- 2 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Volunteer Choir
- 9 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Choir
- 16 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Bell Choir
- 23 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Choir

Music Schedule:

Choir sings on the 2nd & 4th Sunday
practice Wednesdays at 6p.m.

Bells play on the 3rd Sunday
practice Wednesdays at 5p.m.

Hymn Sing before worship
2nd and 4th Sundays

Volunteer Choir
1st Sunday of each month

February All-Church Learning Opportunity!

Join us as we talk about Communion, about God's work in Baptism, about why we do worship the way we do. There's got to be questions burning in your minds, so let's talk about them! Now through mid-February we will work our way through as many as we can! Tuesday nights at 6:30 through February 18!

Join Tuesday night via Zoom! Go to zoom.com and click on "join" in the upper right. Enter the following information:

Meeting ID: 991 3435 5520 Passcode: 864408 and you'll be connected to Pastor Amanda's laptop for the evening!

Heartwood Bible Study

The monthly Bible study at Heartwood will take place on February 10th at 1:00p.m.

Pastor Amanda has a previous engagement this day, please let us know if you would like to lead the Bible Study!

Materials Provided!



Lenten Services & Meals!

The season of Lent will be upon us before we know it and we are looking for individuals who are willing to serve a meal on the evenings that we will have a Lenten Worship Service! Sign-Ups are available on the Kiosk, each evening will need an individual to bring bread, a main dish, and a dessert! Be sure to check the kiosk and sign-up for the Wednesday that works best for you!

Ash Wednesday is March 5th: There is no meal but a service at 6:30p.m.

Church Council News

Dear Salem Family,

On January 11th, the Salem Church Council met for a Retreat to plan for the year. Many of you may remember completing a survey more than a year ago on advantages and challenges for Salem.

From the surveys, twelve Long Term Strategy Objectives were identified.

Member/Community

1. Increase church visibility in community.
2. Engage individuals in ministry needs.
3. Improve music participation & quality.

Stewardship

4. Reduce organizational risk.
5. Increase financial revenue.
6. Present a united vision and articulated mission.

Ministry Offerings

7. Develop Congregational Care Ministry.
8. Activate Lay-led volunteer teams.
9. Develop Adult Education Opportunities.
10. Develop Creative Worship Experiences.

Leadership and Growth

11. Improve internal communication of Council Activities.
12. Strengthen Leadership.

The Salem Council will be using the book, *Unlocking Your Church's Invite Culture: Strategies for Church Growth That Work Today* by Rich Birch to help us focus on reaching out to our community. This is one of the ways for the Council to strengthen leadership.

We will share ideas with you in the coming months.

Lynn Hansen

President, Salem Lutheran Church Council

The High Priority Objectives for 2025 are:

- Congregation Care Teams/ Home Visits
- Praise Team, separate worship style
- New Member Connections
- Capital Appeal / Mortgage refinance 2026
- Other income sources

Financial Updates

Benevolences for December

\$2,948.58 Synod ELCA
 \$161.25 Missionary Support
 \$161.25 Voyagers Lutheran Ministry
 \$945.00 Thanksgiving Offering
 To World Hunger
 \$4,225.08 Total

Thank you for the continuous generosity.

Salem Lutheran Church Profit & Loss December 2024

	100 Church	150 Building	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · Offerings	46,105.84	0.00	46,105.84
4100 · Building Fund	0.00	17,081.56	17,081.56
4900 · Other Income	1,038.09	129.64	1,167.73
Total Income	47,143.93	17,211.20	64,355.13
Gross Profit	47,143.93	17,211.20	64,355.13
Expense	34,961.95	13,173.67	48,135.62
Net Ordinary Income	12,181.98	4,037.53	16,219.51
Net Income	12,181.98	4,037.53	16,219.51

Special Celebrations in February



- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Ethan Kunz | 19 | Kyle Bartels |
| 3 | Kay Bendorf | 22 | Hunter Brix |
| | Brent Fields | | Claire Pelant |
| | Ilean Moore | 25 | Mark Houghton |
| 5 | Jasmine Siliznoff | 26 | Doris Carlson |
| | Linda Stebbins | | Wayne Kohlen |
| 8 | Curt Bordwell | | Lee Midthun |
| | Ernie Erickson | 28 | Hunter Johnson |
| 10 | Cal Midthun | | Jayne VanRisseghem |
| | Grace Reininger | | |
| 12 | Nancy Meyer | | |
| 13 | Joey Stromberg | | |
| 14 | Nory Hunze | | |
| | Jan Rude | | |
| 16 | Paul Erickson | | |
| | Cindy Larson | | |

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Sue & Rick Johnson |
| 11 | Kyle & Devan Bartels |
| 22 | Joel & Mary Huntley |
| 26 | Jon & Shirley Ross |
| 28 | Mike & Jami Bodle |

Looking to strengthen your connection with fellow members of the congregation? Send a Birthday or Anniversary card and celebrate another year with them!



Mission Trip to Honduras

Honduras Mission Trip Fundraiser

Valentine's Dinner

Enjoy an evening with your sweetheart or gather a group of your dearest friends!

Friday, February 14th
Purchase Tickets at Salem Church Office

Doors Open at 5:30; Dinner Service at 6:00
Live Music & Plated Dinner
Ticket Sales
Now - February 7th

\$35 per person or fill a table of 6 for \$180

Bring your sweetheart or gather your dearest friends and enjoy live music while you indulge in a multicourse gourmet meal prepared by Sherri Godfrey and Kathi Sharp!

Tickets are available in the front office! \$35.00 per person or fill a 6 person table for \$180.00!

All proceeds are going to the purchase of materials and goods to help the members of the trip build houses as they travel south this spring!

Breakdown of Building Costs in Honduras

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Cement: \$115 | - Roofing Supports: \$170 |
| - Sand: \$145 | - Long Walls (need 2): \$285 |
| - Roofing Tin: \$200 | - Short Walls (need 2): \$220 |
| - Paint: \$100 | - Door Hardware: \$20 |

If you would like to support a particular portion of the house, when making a donation specify what you would like the funds to be used for!

Thank You for the continuous support through everything!

Salem Lutheran Church Council

November 26, 2024 @ 6:30pm

We exist with God's help, to provide Leadership for Salem Lutheran Church.

Call to Order:

Members Present: Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Sherri Godfrey, Don Hales, Jason Kempthorne, Nate VanRisseghem, Sylvia Hoge, Julie Fritz, Alan Niemann, Tina Royer.

Opening Devotion by Pastor Amanda

- Every Council member read and signed the Salem Lutheran Church Code of Conduct.

Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Executive Committee Roles and Officer Elections:

- President: Lynn Hansen MSC
- Vice President: Don Hales MSC
- Treasurer: Mark Boike MSC
- Secretary: Julie Fritz MSC
- Motion to approve the selection of Church Council Members to serve in their respective roles for 2025.

These members of the Executive Committee are authorized as signers on the congregation's checking account.

Approval of October 24, 2024, minutes:

- Motion to approve the October 2024 meeting minutes, seconded. MSC

Financial Report:

- Sherri stated there is an issue with coding on the Operating Funds statement. Line 7620, Event meals money received should be coded as 4907, an income category. This is a change to help clarify financials for the future.
- Motion to add 4907 to Other Income, Event meals and deactivate 7620, Event meals. MSC
- Motion to approve October 2024 financial report. MSC

Pastor Amanda's Report:

- Every-Door-Direct-Mail (EDDM), a card designed by Jason, was delivered to service area communities, inviting households to the Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve Services at Salem.
- Completing the plan to train and implement Home Communion Visitors.
- Baptism of Hudson Holmwig in Early December.
- Working on Advent worship, candle lighting, special order for worship (December 8, 15, 29)
- Considering ideas for congregation education event January-February.

Outreach Report – Jason:

- The Mustard Seed continues to grow.
- There are 3 more days of Taste of Christmas.
- Outreach service to others for this year is about \$1,000,000.00!
- Outreach personnel is comprised of 44% staff, 56% volunteers.

Committee Reports: Church Council members will serve on committees as follows (names in parentheses are council members new to the committee):

- Capital Appeal – Lynn (Sherri): Consultants to send follow-up letter to get people to pledge. 42% of members responded with pledges. The consultants will offer different visuals of progress throughout the campaign.
- Columbarium – Don (Al): Committee will meet at least 1x per year.
- Facilities – Nate: Lights purchased for the Fellowship Hall have replaced old ones. 21 still needing to be replaced.
 - Motion made and seconded to purchase the 21 lights needed for the Fellowship Hall @ \$165. MSC

Continued on the next page.

- Faith Formation – Sylvia: The children are preparing to present the Sunday School Christmas program.
- Memorial – (Don): A meeting will be held, TBD.
- Stewardship – Lynn (AI): The committee will keep the congregation informed of activities and information through the Bulletin, Connection, and when appropriate, weekly news.
- Technology – Julie: Deerwood Technology plans to give Salem a contract specifying responsibilities and costs.
- Welcome – Tina: 4 households, (6 individuals) joined this month.
- Worship and Music – Julie (Sherri, Tina) Planning for Christmas.
- Outreach – Mark

Unfinished Business:

- Review of Annual Meeting – Discussed whether deer hunting negatively impacts attendance. Decided to continue holding the annual meeting in November
- Parent’s Night Off – revisit – After discussion, decided to offer Saturday, December 14 from 9:00am to 12:00pm as the next “night” off. Don, Julie, and others will volunteer their time and talents for the event.
- Global Mission 3.5% designated giving option – What areas do we want to support? O
 - Motion was made and seconded that 3.5% will be sent to support YAGM – Young Adults in Global Mission.

New Business:

- Council Dates 2025 (handout and discussion, plan for December meeting).
- There will be no December 2024 meetings.
- Membership Changes – Welcome new members: Kathy Dauer, Ann Zillmer, Don and Karen Ritter, Karen Savick and Kent Savick. Release from membership: Cecil and Barb Schmidt, permanent membership in Wayzata.
 - Motion made and seconded to accept the membership changes as listed on the agenda. MSC
- January Retreat/Council Meeting – Saturday, January 11, 2025. 9:00am – 2:00pm.
 - Review current goals, set new goals, and review November numbers.
 - Executive Team meeting, January 14.
 - Council meeting, January 23.
- Christmas – Staff – 14 staff members. All will receive a card with a Raise Right gift card in it.
- Publish end of year donation totals in the January Connection. This information will also be included in the worship bulletin and newsletter.
- Church credit card for Honduras preparation purposes – Don requested a credit card for purchases related to the mission trip to Honduras.
 - Motion made and seconded to set-up a church credit card for Don to use for all related expenses prior to the trip and while in Honduras. MSC

SOS: No submissions

Announcements:

- The Council has set meetings for the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.
- The Executive board will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 3:00pm.

Meeting Adjourned: MSC

Closed in Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Royer

There was no December Council Meeting due to the Holiday.

Salem Outreach Governing Board – December 17, 2024

Present were: Cathy Aykens, Randy Sykes, Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Jason Kempthorne, Kay Bendorf, Nancy Tighe and Linda Sudman.

Guest: Don Hales , Julie Fritz and Mark Boike

Absent: Sherri Godfrey

MSC: Motion was made, seconded, motion carried to start meeting.

Opened with a prayer by Pastor Amanda

Secretary report was emailed to board members. Approval of minutes was made by Cathy Aykens and second by Linda Sudman

Financial report was approved. MSC Motion of approval was made by Kay Bendorf and second by Cathy Aykens.

Mustard Seed: Mustard Seed Sales for November, \$52,119 .

Salem West Impact Report for the Month of November we had 47 referrals and completed 62 orders. A total of 151 individuals were helped.

There has been \$446,890 in goods delivered to the community year to date.

The In Kind impact YTD is \$1,040,915.50.

New Business:

Don Hales and Julie Fritz were at OBG meeting to talk about a Honduras Mission trip. Don Hales is proposing a group of 8 to 15 individuals who will be going on a mission trip to Honduras from April 2 to April 12, 2025. This group plans to build 2 to 3 small houses.

The Honduras Mission group is asking the board to release and write a check from item #2805 Honduras gift \$8,988, item #2806 Honduras gift- Special \$805.13, and item #2807 Habitat for Humanity- Honduras \$5.00. This will be a total of \$9,798.26 . The Honduras group will be helping 3 different organizations when they are over there. The organizations are; House of Blessings, Kids Ark International and Camino (Central America Ministry Outreach). The OGB board will table this request until February 2025 when all the fundraising is complete for this Mission trip.

Mustard Seed: Christmas Break – We will be closed Dec 21 to Jan 2nd, 2025

The Mustard Seed has stopped all radio advertisement for now. Will start up again in June 2025.

Teen Challenge Pancake Breakfast will be postponed until May.

Old Business:

A motion was made by Cathy Aykens to move the Dedicated Account #2755 Misc Outreach \$827.94 to Lunch Bunch Program Item #2302. Linda Sudman seconded the motion.

Next OGB Meeting will be January 21, 2025

Closing Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Adjourn



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	27	28 9:00am Piecemakers	29 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	30	31 8:00am Men's Bible Study	1
2 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	3	4 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting 6:00pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Faith Questions Class	5 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	6 11:30am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	7 8:00am Men's Bible Study	8 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting
9 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	10 1:00pm Bible Study at Heartwood	11 9:00am Piecemakers 6:30pm Faith Questions Class	12 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	13	14 8:00am Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Honduras Fundraiser Valentine's Dinner! 	15
16 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	17	18 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting 3:00pm Executive Team Meeting 6:30pm Faith Questions Class	19 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 3:20pm Kids Club 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	20 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	21 8:00am Men's Bible Study	22
23 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	24 4:00pm Drum Group Practice	25 9:00am Piecemakers	26 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	27 6:30pm Council Meeting	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study	1