



# Salem Connection

## May 2025

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444  
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Who is worship for?

Have you ever thought about that before?

Many of us would say that worship is for God. We gather to adore God, to honor God's faithfulness, to thank God for the many blessings we receive, and to offer our gifts to God in gratitude.

Many of us act like worship is for us. We scan the songs hoping to see our favorites, we listen for things that make us feel good, we come to receive good things from God like forgiveness and God's presence in Communion, and we hope that the time we devoted will help us prepare us for the coming week.

What if both things are true and right and good? What if coming to praise and thank God, and listen for words of hope, and be filled with joy in singing (or listening to song), and receiving forgiveness, and being sent to serve others in gratitude are all what God wants from and for us? We have a generous, giving God who meets in us Word and Water, in Bread and Cup!

The way we worship, how we express our gratitude and devotion and how we receive Words from God, changes over time. Throughout Scripture and church history, God's people have worshiped in many different ways – through psalms and silence, liturgy and spontaneous praise, ancient hymns and new songs. And in every expression, what matters most is the heart behind it: worshiping God and receiving God's gifts to us.

This summer, council has asked our worship leaders to experiment with a different pattern of worship. Instead of blending traditional hymns with praise songs all in one worship, we will be alternating Sundays between traditional style and praise song style worship. This allows our praise teams to have Sundays off, more time to practice and expand our repertoire, and an opportunity to invite more instruments and voices into the mix. If you have wanted to join the praise team but have not been able to commit every week, consider joining our experiment for the summer!

This isn't a permanent change, but rather a sacred opportunity to explore ways of encountering God together. Worship is not about performance or personal preference. It's about presence – ours and God's. So we encourage you to worship each week this summer, and bring your full self, whatever the form looks like.

And if something moves you, challenges you, gives you an idea, or even unsettles you, let's talk! I would love to hear how this season in worship is shaping your faith. We are on this journey together, and I am deeply grateful for the grace and unity you bring.

Peace and joy in the journey,  
~Pastor Amanda



# Worship Notes at Salem

## Thank you to those serving in May:

### READERS

- 4** Natalie Gavin  
**11** Glenn Suess  
**18** Ken Stebbins  
**25** \_\_\_\_\_

### USHERS

- 4** Mark & Cindy Larson, Curt & Sylvia Hoge  
**11** Randy Holmwig, Herb & Barb Schoon, Mark Boike  
**18** Clark & Joyce Marshall, Roger & Marlene Prill  
**25** Nory and Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz and Karla Peterson

### COMMUNION SERVERS

- 11** Glenn Suess, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
**18** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
**25** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

### OFFERING COUNTERS

Shirley Huxford Becki Zender

## May Worship Schedule

- 4** 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice  
9:00a.m. Worship  
Volunteer Choir
- 11** 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice  
9:00a.m. Worship  
Choir
- 18** 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice  
9:00a.m. Worship  
Bell Choir
- 25** 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**

## Heartwood Bible Study

The monthly Bible study at Heartwood will take place on May 12th at 1:00p.m.



### You Are Invited to Bring Christ to Others

Have you ever wanted to share Christ's presence in a personal and meaningful way? We are inviting compassionate and caring individuals to serve as Home Communion Visitors to our homebound members—those who, due to ability, illness, or other circumstances, are unable to attend Salem in person.

This ministry is more than delivering the sacrament; it is a sacred act of connection. You will have the privilege of bringing the Body of Christ into homes and hearts where people may be feeling isolated, forgotten, or like God is far away. In these simple yet powerful moments, you offer reassurance that they are still deeply loved by their faith community, and by Christ.

This is also an opportunity for caring conversation: to listen, to pray, and to be a faithful presence. No special theological training is required, just a compassionate heart and a willingness to listen and be present!

If you feel called to this ministry, or would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Amanda (email [pastoramanda@salemdwd.org](mailto:pastoramanda@salemdwd.org) or call the church). Together, let's ensure that no one is left without the grace of Communion or the warmth of Christian fellowship. If you know someone at Salem who would appreciate receiving this ministry, please ask them first and then let the church office know!



# Faith Formation!

## Sunday School Schedule

Each Sunday at 9:50a.m.

FINAL DATE: May 18th! Sunday School Party!

## Confirmation!

Confirmation Party to celebrate the end of the year will take place Wednesday, May 21st!

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

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

**Kids Club: May 21st 3:15-5:00p.m.**

End of the Year Party!

Those who are in grades 3-6 are welcome to join us on the third Wednesday of the month!



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!

## **Vacation Bible School 2025 - True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World!**

Save the date for Vacation Bible School 2025!! Join us for True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World - our own Alaskan adventure here at Salem, July 14-17th! Registration forms will be available in the church office, kiosk in the Narthex, and on our website.

Keep a Lookout on the Kiosk, in your bulletin or email for more information about volunteering! If you have any questions contact the church office!

Whether you've helped before, or never been to VBS, you are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun this year!



*Pictured Above is the mighty crew from last year! We Hope You Join in on the Fun This Summer!*

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

Salem Service Event! Join in on the fun and help pack food in Nisswa! There are a few spots left! Be sure to sign-up on the Kiosk or contact the church office if you are interested in participating!

Keep an eye out for after the event to see the photos of our Confirmation students and their mentors partaking in the service project fun!



## **Salem Service Event** **The Outreach Program**

**Wednesday May 14th**  
**5:30 - 7:30**

5:30 - Meet in Nisswa  
6:00 - Orientation & Packing  
7:30 - Pizza Party!

Space is limited to 20 volunteers.  
Cost is FREE! Sponsored by  
Salem Outreach.

Signup on the Kiosk!

# Church Council News

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been a busy month with our mission team working in Honduras, Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter worship. Thank you to all of you who participated.

The Salem Church Council identified improving music participation and quality as an objective in 2024. For 2025, the Praise Team with a separate worship style is a high priority. Music practice and increased participation are a medium priority. In order to reach these objectives, the Praise Team will be singing the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month. The hope is that if members are only required to sing twice a month, more people might be willing to join the Praise Team. Please look at your schedule and see if you could serve in this way.

Another priority is considering other income sources. A team is working on the Silent Auction for Deerwood Days. Think about items or services that you might offer.

If you are willing to help with the next Parents Night Off, please talk to Tina Royer.

The next Listening Session will be May 18th. This is an opportunity to communicate with the Council. Another way to communicate is with the Suggestions, Observations, and Solutions forms available in the Narthex.

Lynn Hansen

*Salem Lutheran Church Council President*

## Camping Invitation

Dear Salem Family,

It is that time of Year to be making summer plans. We who camp are very excited to get together once again. We have reserved several sites at "Trails RV", four miles north of Walker.

**Dates are Sunday, June 15th to Wednesday, June 18th Check In 2:00p.m.,  
Check out 1:00p.m.**

We do what we want with our days! Trails RV has a pool, playground, walking paths, connection to the bike trails and close access for fishing. A 9 hole golf course nearby. Some of our members bring their boats. In the evening, we gather together for a campfire and devotion and one night we share a pot luck meal. There is a wonderful gathering place for games and an enclosed meeting place if weather is questionable. They also have cable access at each site.

(Internet at the office area too)

We would **LOVE** to have some younger camper families.

Tenting can be close with power and access to bath houses and bathrooms.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

We would love to have you join us. I will be canceling extra sites Mid-May!

Becky Guida, cell: (218) 556-1463 or [bguida@charter.net](mailto:bguida@charter.net)







## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

1	Delylah Voller	18	Jean Shermock
3	Finley Syrstad	20	Beth Gavin
4	Chris Kobberdahl	22	Glenn Suess
	David Steinke	23	Jon Kempthorne
5	April Novak	24	Tom Weidell
6	Jim Rude	25	Annette Larson
8	Janine Mattfield	27	Tim Coughlin
11	Owyn Pearson	28	Wendy Christenson
13	Blake Barnett	29	Dawson Holmvig
	Jason Holmvig	30	Glen Knutson
	Richard Johnson		Peter MacKay
17	Bruce Swanson		Donna Sanderson
		31	Raye Cragun
			Nancy Johnson



7	Chuck & Char Hausker
8	Les & Shirley Taylor
16	Glenn Suess & Ruth Helgesen
20	Greg & Jena Reed
28	Terry & Judy Fields

## Caring for One Another

Thank you for the cards and Easter Lilies!

♥ Les & Shirley Taylor

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



### 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..."



## Financial Updates

### Salem Lutheran Church Profit & Loss

March 2025

	100 Church	150 Building	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>			
4000 · Offerings	28,229.39	0.00	28,229.39
4100 · Building Fund	0.00	7,622.81	7,622.81
4900 · Other Income	1,466.54	36.46	1,503.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29,695.93</b>	<b>7,659.27</b>	<b>37,355.20</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>34,251.78</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>44,251.78</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(4,555.85)</b>	<b>(2,340.73)</b>	<b>(6,896.58)</b>

### Lenten Benevolence

\$1,670.25 Lenten Service Offerings directed to Lutheran World Relief

\$247.0 Lenten Supper Offerings directed to the Lil' Free Pantry

\$1,917.55 Total

Information Provided by Aimee Watson,  
Financial Manager at Salem Lutheran Church

Thank you for the continuous generosity!

# A Message from the Library

## New Arrivals

The following books are available for check-out:

Kisses from Katie by Katie Davis is the story of a young woman who moved to Uganda to care for orphans.

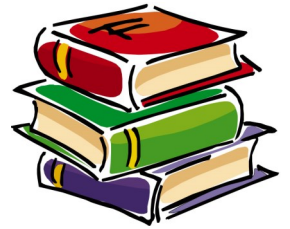
No One Left Behind by Debra Eckerman Pitton is the account of a group of students Gustavus Adolphus who went to Machu Picchu in Peru for January term and were stranded there.

Here I Stand A Life of Martin Luther by Roland H Bainton is a biography that helps us understand the historic figure, the Reformation and how it manifested itself throughout Europe.

## National Screen-Free week is May 5-11, 2025.

Screen-free is staying off of screens like T.V.'s, computers, gaming consoles, and phones as much as possible to explore more meaningful ways to interact with the world. We encourage everyone to explore God's creation with time outdoors and face-to-face conversation.

Mother's Day (May 11) can be a fun time to discuss favorite books with family.



## Lunch Bunch 2025

### Nourishing Our Community: The Summer Lunch Bunch Feeding Program

The Summer Lunch Bunch Program is back this year, working to ensure that no child in our community goes hungry during the school break. Designed to fill the gap left by school meal programs, this initiative provides free, nutritious meals to children and teens under 18. Meal sites in Crosby, Ironton, and Deerwood are easily accessible, offering not just food, but also connection and hope to families in need.

This program relies heavily on community support to meet growing needs. Donations of specific food items, such as peanut butter, jelly, hamburger buns, chips, granola bars, and snacks, are crucial to keeping the initiative running. Donations can be dropped off in the cart located in the church narthex. In past years, Salem has received \$1,500 in federal funding through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). Unfortunately, these funds are unavailable this year, increasing the importance of local contributions to sustain the program.

Volunteering is another powerful way to support this cause. By helping to prepare meals on Friday mornings, volunteers ensure that each meal is ready to nourish a child and bring comfort to a family. Every effort, no matter how small, helps strengthen our community.

The Summer Lunch Bunch Program is a testament to the power of collective action. Together, through donations, volunteering, and spreading the word, we can fight food insecurity and provide much-needed nourishment and care. Let's come together this summer to make a meaningful impact and create a season of hope for every child in our community.





# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH SILENT AUCTION SATURDAY AUGUST 9, 2025 DURING DEERWOOD DAYS

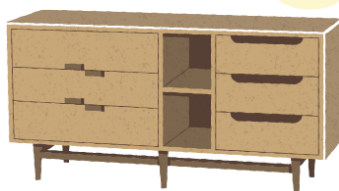
The Salem Lutheran Church Council has decided to have a silent auction fundraiser during Deerwood Days 2025.

- We are asking the church family and public to consider donating to this auction.
- We are accepting new or used items, large and small. When you are spring cleaning, consider donating that gently used item you no longer need.
- We are also accepting donations of gift cards and items for auction baskets.
- If you want to donate your own auction basket, that would be great! Be creative and make a themed basket such as Movie Night, Kids Games, Reading. Sewing, etc.
- Large items can be delivered to Salem West or make arrangements for pick up. Small items can be left at the church.

Please contact:

Don Hales by email at [baylakepapa@gmail.com](mailto:baylakepapa@gmail.com) or phone at 320-267-7770 or

Mark Boike at [mgboike59@gmail.com](mailto:mgboike59@gmail.com) or by phone at 218-349-2234



## **Salem Lutheran Church Council**

**March 27, 2025**

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

MSC=The motion was seconded and carried.

### Call to Order

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

Members Absent: Tina Royer

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amanda

SOS announcement: None

### Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the March 27 agenda, MSC

Discussion questions for Chapter 2 of Unlocking Your Church's Invite Culture

(not more than 15 min.)

- From Chapter 1, see the Church Litmus test attached
- Chapter 2: The diffusion of innovation curve; Innovators 2.5%, Adopters 13.5%, Early Majority 34%, Late Majority 34%, Laggards 16%. Which one are you?

### Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve February 27, 2025, meeting minutes with one change. MSC

### Approval of Financials:

Motion to approve the February 2025 financial report. MSC

Pastor's Report – Pastor Amanda:

- "Reaching Neighbors" Zoom class
- Conflicts with miscommunication and misunderstandings re: Honduras financials and Capital Appeal delay in thank-you letters- Resolved
- Confirmation Mentors during Lent, encouraging involvement
- Instructing 3 first Communion students. First Communion on Sunday, April 6 due to Maundy Thursday conflicts
- Writing Inactive member letters and sending them prior to Easter
- Lent worship,
  - midday and evening Wednesdays
  - Crosby Ministerial – midday Lent Worship at Salem on April 2
  - Holy Week and Easter worship planning
  - Grace will be gone on Weds-Fri, so we're preparing early
- Synod Assembly, May 3-4, registration is complete
- Encouraging musicians as they prepare the alternating pattern of worship styles (June through August)

Continued on the next page.



Outreach Report – Julie reported from the Outreach committee- see their minutes from March 18 2025

Committee Reports:

Capital Appeal -Sherri- This Sunday – appreciation with cupcakes. Thank-you letters have been sent. Next meeting in May

Columbarium – Don and Al no report

Facilities- Nate- May 3 is Spring Clean Up 8am

Faith Formation – Sylvia- Committee had time together for a meal. VBS dates in July- checking with Immanuel for verification

Memorial – Don- Notices for Scholarships

Spiritual Gifts – Alan- Plan on newsletter articles quarterly

Technology – Julie- no report

Welcome – Tina- no report

Worship and Music – Julie- planning Easter

Unfinished Business:

Furnace quote- Motion to table furnace decision until April Meeting. MSC

Deerwood Days update and funds distribution- Motion to divide funds from the silent auction 50/50 between the Church Council and Outreach Governing Board. Food sales will go 100% to the Church Council. MSC

New Business:

Synod Assembly – Worship- May 4. Either read the sermon from the bishop or if there is a video, show that. Lynn Hansen will lead the service.

Honduras Sunday: April 27, 2025. Presentation by members who went to Honduras.

Tent rental policy: Motion made for tent policy: keep our tents for our use and do not rent them out, as was decided when the tents were purchased. MSC

Thrivent Choice dollar distribution: A small group has been handling this and has done a great job. However, there are no written guidelines for the church to know how the group functions. Therefore, we need a small group formed to define and document the Thrivent committee's roles and policies for distributing the funds. Pastor Amanda will contact a few people to assist with this.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Outreach has asked the Council to find a date. May 19 has been suggested. Sherri and Kathi will confirm. The council members should attend to thank all the church volunteers.

Lenten Supper Offering: Motion to use the Lenten Supper Offering to buy food for the Little Free Pantry. MSC. Julie will make an announcement at church and ask for volunteers to shop and to keep the pantry full.

Announcements:

Executive Team Meeting: April 15, 2025, 3:00pm

Next Council Meeting: April 24, 2025, 6:30pm

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:14pm

Closed in Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Fritz

## **Salem Outreach Governing Board – March 18th, 2025**

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

Guest: Julie Fritz, Jake Walker

Absent – Mark Boike and Linda Sudman.

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 seconded by Nancy Tighe.

Financial report was approved. MSC. Motion of approval was made by Nancy Tighe and seconded by Randy Sykes. It was reported that the FEMA EFSP round 42 grant was not being awarded at this time due to the federal discretionary spending freeze. Discussion was held to raise additional funds by asking the congregation for support will be addressed in May. Also the Jason will speak to the Lunch Bunch leadership to address ways to limit spending.

Mustard Seed: Mustard Seed Sales for Feb 2025, \$29,829. Slow sales were contributed to the cold weather days. There were 3 sales dates where sales were less than \$1,000. In 2024 only one day was slower than \$1,500 in sales.

Salem West Impact Report for the month of February, we had 35 referrals and completed 35 orders. A total of 73 individuals were helped. Total volunteer hours for February 761.

There has been \$76,220 in goods delivered to the community this year.

The In Kind impact report for 2025 is \$143,682.

New Business:

Signage for the box trucks was discussed. Readability, logo, and ministry names requires further conversation with the community and church members. Randy will draft a proposal to address the concerns, educate the church body, and honor the past while building in to the future. Old Business

Summer garage sales was discussed. Looking for more volunteers in order to make the garage sales more profitable. After much deliberation, the motion was presented to have no garage sales in 2025. Move the overstock seasonal items currently in Building 2 furniture barn to the garage sale area. Empty bins from the garage can be moved into the former garage sale area. The additional sales space in the furniture barn will be used for seasonal and large summer items like grills, bikes, etc. Motion was made by Kay Bendorf, Seconded by Nancy Tighe. Motion Carried.

Repair & Maintenance issues (summer punch list). A proposal for laundry machine replacement will be requested and brought to future meeting. A bid for painting the Furniture Barn center wall will be presented as well.

Honduras Trip:

Honduras Funds Distributions: Honduras mission trip leader Don Hales did not send additional requests for the release of the Honduras funds. No action was taken at this time. Discussion on how much to release in cash vs what was needed to remain in the accounts to cover the costs of food, housing, and other anticipated Credit Card charges could not be presented.

Loneliness and Social Isolation Grant. OGB motioned for the balance of 210.2306 (Social Isolation Grant) be moved to 200.2302 (Lunch Bunch) Grant is \$1,598.17. Motion Cathy Aykens, Second Randy Sykes. Motion Carried.

Next OGB Meeting will be April 22, 2025 to avoid Holy Week

Closing Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Adjourn



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Honduras Worship 9:50am Sunday School	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00am <u>Piecemakers</u>	<b>30</b> 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	<b>1</b> <b>National Day of Prayer</b> 11:30am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	<b>2</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>3</b> 8:00am Spring Church Clean-Up
<b>4</b> 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00am <u>Piecemakers</u> 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting 6:00pm Faith Formation	<b>7</b> 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	<b>12</b> 1:00pm Bible Study at Heartwood 4:00pm Drum Group Practice	<b>13</b> 9:00am <u>Piecemakers</u> 3:00p.m. Executive Board Meeting 5:45pm Capital Appeal Meeting	<b>14</b> 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 5:30pm Service Event in Nisswa	<b>15</b> 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	<b>16</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>17</b> 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting
<b>18</b> 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School End of Year Party! 10:15am Congregational Update	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00am <u>Piecemakers</u> 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting 5:00pm Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	<b>21</b> 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 3:20pm Kids Club End of Year Party! 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Confirmation Party	<b>22</b> 6:00pm Piano Recital 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>23</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship	<b>26</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> 9:00am <u>Piecemakers</u>	<b>28</b> 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>31</b>