



Salem Connection

October 2025

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444
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What are the things that build your faith? What sort of things have you experienced in life, or common practices you have done that help you draw closer to God? What makes you aware of God's presence in your life?

Part of our baptism service asks us to promise ongoing attention to our faith life. At an infant baptism, we ask the parents to commit to teaching the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the 10 Commandments, to nurture their child with Christian community, God's Word, and bring them to the sacrament of Holy Communion.

As a church, we promise to provide space for these things, and to help parents live into the promises they make. Together, we embark on this path of faith formation.

What follows are Sunday school classes, Vacation Bible Schools, youth groups, retreats, and service trips. We sing songs and tell stories, we share our lives and ask where God is showing up. Confirmation feels like the culmination of this work. We have studied, we learn, we ask questions, and we stand up in front of the church and claim our faith. But faith formation is not just for the young.

Faith formation is a life-long work.

It doesn't stop when you affirm your faith as a youth, or when you leave your parent's house and find your own way. It doesn't stop when the kids are grown or when you retire or become an elder in a community. Your faith is in a constant state of growth, of flux, of change and understanding and doubt.

So what are you doing to nurture it? Are you spending time on the things that build your faith? Are you learning the Lord's Prayer and the Creed and the 10 Commandments – not just memorizing them, but pausing to think about what weight each line speaks to your life? Are you building friendships that encourage your trust in God? Are you reading and listening to God's Word, again, pausing to think about what it means for you? Do you listen to podcasts that stretch your comfortable beliefs? How is God forming and re-forming you in this season of your life?

Someone asked me recently what is "enough" when it comes to spiritual practices (prayer, Bible reading, devotion books, acts of service.) I had to tell her, I don't know. How do you measure a connection with someone, with God? Can we ever be close "enough"? The best I can tell, I think we're on the right track when we start to live out the rest of our baptismal covenant:

"That we learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made and work for justice and peace."

Green and growing,
~Pastor Amanda



Worship Notes at Salem

Thank you to those serving in October:

READERS

- 5** Ken Stebbins (*Worship Leader*)
12 Tina Royer
19 _____
26 Tina Royer

USHERS

- 5** Mark & Cindy Larson, Curt & Sylvia Hoge
12 Randy Holmwig, Herb & Barb Schoon, Mark Boike
19 Clark & Joyce Marshall, Roger & Marlene Prill
26 Nory & Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz & Karla Peterson

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 12** Tom Wiedell, Kathy Dauer, Shelly Skeim
19 Randy & Lori Holmwig, _____
26 Tina Royer, Doug & Gay Calkins

OFFERING COUNTERS

Lori Holmwig & Paul Tesdahl

October Worship Schedule

- 5** 9:00a.m. Worship
MNTC
12 9:00a.m. Consecration Sunday
Choir
19 9:00a.m. Worship
Handbells
26 9:00a.m. Reformation Sunday
Choir

Fall Music Schedule:

Choir and handbell practices start September 3rd. Bells will practice at 5:30p.m. and Choir at 6:15p.m.

Choir will sing in worship the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Bells will ring in worship the third Sunday. The Pop-Up Choir, also known as the volunteer choir, will sing the first Sunday.

We need singers and ringers for each of these groups. Please consider joining yourself or encouraging someone to join in our music ministry at Salem.

Heartwood Bible Study

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

Mark Your Calendars:

Salem's Annual Meeting will take place on November 9th after worship. Business shall be the election of leaders and setting next year's budget. Presentations of the 2026 budget will take place on 10/26 and 11/2.

Week of Service Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in the week of service that Salem had in September in correlation with the ELCA Day of Service, demonstrating "God's Work, Our Hands." We are stronger together and when we help one another!

Invitation to Learn about Salem

New member orientation classes after worship on October 12th & 19th. We will welcome new members into the congregation on Reformation Sunday, October 26th.

Songs of the Season

Although October just began it is time to start practicing for our seasonal presentation of music, previously named the Cantata. This year Salem will be performing Music of Hope and Joy! Practice is set to begin **Sunday, October 19th** at 3:30p.m. All are invited to join and we encourage you to invite friends, the more voices the better! Performances are set for the 13th & 14th of December, times will be decided soon!

We look forward to sharing the lessons, prayers, joy and music that this upcoming season holds!



Faith Formation!

Sunday School Schedule

Each Sunday at 9:50a.m. for about 30 minutes
Open to children age 3-12

Registration forms are at the usher stand—and
let us know if you'd like a prayer buddy!



Confirmation!

Salem's 3 year program asks big questions and searches the Bible and our experiences for answers. Up this year: What does God want from us? How do we talk to this God? What does it mean to be part of church and what is worship for?

Wednesdays at 6:00p.m.

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

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

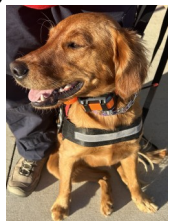
Both of these are still taking place weekly!
If you are looking to join a Bible Study, there is always room for one more at the table!

Our youth ministries are starting back up again in September! Kids Club takes place at Salem Lutheran on the Second Wednesday of each month from 3:20-5:00p.m., this afterschool activity is open to the community! Kids in grades 3-6 are invited to join in on activities that our congregation members select! What would you like to see at Kids Club in the coming months? We are looking for ideas and hobbies to share with the youth of our community and looking for ideas! Contact the office with ideas you have!



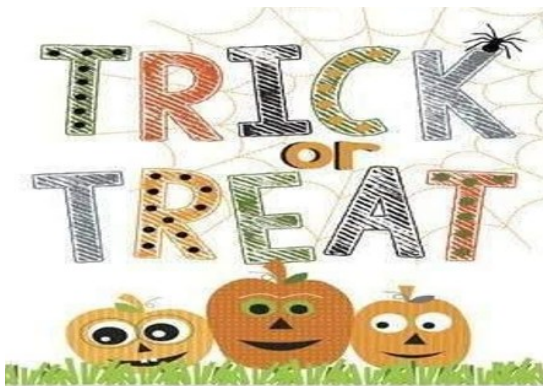
October Kids Club Date Wednesday, October 8th!

Photo examples of activities done in years past:
Quilting, Rock Painting, Search & Rescue Dog Education
& SO much more!



This is such a fun and unique way to teach our youth about interests you all have!

Trunks 4 Treats



Halloween Night!
Friday, October 31st
4:40-6:00p.m.

This is a fun Salem tradition and if you haven't participated in the past, stop by and see what you have been missing!! Free hot dogs and hot cocoa for everyone will be served in the fellowship hall, with candy inside and outside. You can light a candle in memory of a loved one and learn about All Saints Eve. You are invited to dress up (optional) and have fun (not optional)!

Sign up to decorate your vehicle and pass out your candy outside, or sign up to decorate a table inside and hand out your treats in our warm, dry fellowship hall! In years past, we have had up to 300 trick or treaters visit the parking lot and fellowship hall.

Volunteers are needed to help decorate, serve food, welcome people and hand out candy. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help. Candy donations are needed and appreciated as well. If you are able to donate some candy, please place it in the collection box located in the narthex. Look for more information in Salem's weekly E-News and bulletin announcements.



Special Celebrations in October

BIRTHDAYS

THIS MONTH

1	Josh Voller	11	Lynn Hansen
2	Shirley Huxford	12	Curt Hoge
	Sarah Nelson		Mary Huntley
	Tracy Perpich		Brad Johnson
	Jon Ross	14	Shirley Midthun
	Rick Stirewalt		Kris Davis
	Jack Voller	21	Dean Hansen
4	Abigail Reed	22	Adalyn Pearson
	Dean Sylvester	25	Gary Guida
5	Mike McCormick	26	Axel Novak
	Kris Schmidt	28	Kennedy Niska
6	Polly Pflepsen		Jan Danger
7	Shelley Midthun	29	Barb Schoon
	Connie Lou Swanson	30	Marlee Zender
8	DeMar Wanstrom	31	Anya Novak
10	Michelle Muggli		Mike Bodle



1	Ron Sikkema & Audrey Ebert
2	Tim & Kim Coughlin
5	Brandon Anderson & Ahreanna Chandler
7	Ron & Laura Martin
10	Tim & Nancy Herberg
	Joe & Nancy Tighe
11	Jason & Amanda Kempthorne
12	Bruce & Connie Lou Swanson
14	Pete & Laura Newton
15	Myron & Shirley Midthun
18	Cecil & Barb Schmidt
	Mark & Diane Boike

Spiritual Gifts Team

Everybody Matters - "Thanks-living"

We often pray for a long list of people and things. Do we remember to thank God when those prayers are answered and blessings are received? Consider special gifts for special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays, memorials, graduations, promotions, good health, a new job, etc. in thanks for God's answer to our many prayers.

Financial Updates

Salem Lutheran Church

Profit & Loss

August 2025

	100 Church	150 Building	TOTAL
Income			
4000 · Offerings	23,024.39	0.00	23,024.39
4100 · Building Fund	0.00	10,276.31	10,276.31
4900 · Other Income	9,707.12	6,633.87	16,340.99
Total Income	32,731.51	16,910.18	49,641.69
Expense	28,354.58	8,628.00	36,982.58
Net Income	4,376.93	8,282.18	12,659.11

August Benevolence

Synod ELCA \$1,422.35
YAGM Support \$94.50
VLM Support \$94.50

\$1,611.35 Total

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

Thank you for the continuous generosity!

Capital Appeal



Capital Appeal 2024 – 2027 Update

We are one-year in to the 2024-2027 Stepping Forward in Faith Capital Appeal for reducing Salem's mortgage. Thank you to those who pledged and/or gave! Your financial commitments will make a major impact in eliminating our debt, reducing interest, and stepping forward towards the next chapter in Salem's future.

Our mortgage is now down to \$667,297.56 thanks to all who have contributed over the years.

We are still working to reach our 2024 – 2027 Capital Appeal goal of \$390,000. If you have not made a commitment and/or gift, please do so. Gifts of all sizes are appreciated!



Weather Cancellation Policy

Adopted by Council February 23, 2023

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY For Salem Lutheran Church and Salem Outreach

1. First and foremost: If the weather is bad enough to question whether or not Worship is canceled, please err on the side of safety and stay at home.
2. The Pastor or Council President will determine church closures. The Director of Outreach or Council President will determine outreach closures.
3. In the case of inclement weather on a weekend, the decision about worship cancellation will be made by 7:00 a.m. Sunday morning.
4. The Pastor will make changes to the church phone message, website, and social media (Facebook and Instagram).
5. People in the congregation are encouraged to call the church for a voicemail message or check online church communications (listed in 3.) for weather related announcements.
6. Each group (Circle, Bible Study Group, Committee, etc) is responsible for informing the group of cancellations due to the weather.

Salem Outreach Governing Board – August 19, 2025

Present were: Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Jason Kempthorne, Mark Boike, Bendorf and Nancy Tighe

Absent – Randy Sykes, Linda Sudman, Cathy Aykens

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

Opened with a prayer by Pastor Amanda

Secretary report was emailed to board members. MSC. Approval of minutes

Financial report was approved. MSC.

Mustard Seed: Mustard Seed Sales for July 2025 were \$60,616.00.

Salem West Impact Report for the month of July: 48 referrals and 40 completed orders. A total of 97 individuals were helped. Total volunteer hours for June were 1532.

There has been \$254,000 in goods delivered to the community YTD.

The In Kind impact is \$538,536 YTD.

Volunteer drivers have had a few accidents in backing into and hitting things. We continue to ask the crew to use a spotter to maneuver in close quarters.

New Business:

The old suburban and van are at the auction house awaiting auction.

Old Salem West trailer will be sold to the Lions Club for no less than \$2,500 as is. MSC Mark abstained.

\$2,600 was approved to purchase a fuel tank and DEF tank for refueling on site. MSC

A discussion was had about skid loader maintenance. When scheduling a fluid change we will also ask for the attachment wire harness to be installed in preparation for an angle broom.

Discussion around the rotten sign was had. Introduced a quote for digital signage. Motion to table was made. Hoping to get the feedback of the three missing members of the OGB. MSC

Old Business:

MN Teen Challenge – Oct 5th Outreach will host a pancake breakfast at Salem Lutheran Church

Fall service project – Package Food in conjunction with the Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes here at Salem Church, Sunday, Sept 14th. Volunteer at the Mustard Seed/Salem West on Sept 13 to work in the back room.

Council voted no to any mission trip in 2026 due to budgetary and fundraising concerns.

Next OGB Meeting will be September 19th, 2025

Closing Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Adjourn

Church Council News

Consecrate: to make or declare sacred

On Sunday, October 12, Salem will be celebrating Consecration Sunday where we will bring our estimate of giving cards to be placed on the altar. When we do this, the words of the beloved old hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal come to mind;

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing, always, only for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure-store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

The Council has been working diligently to prepare a budget for 2026 that carries out our mission to Welcome people to Jesus Christ, **Equip** them with a faith that works in their lives, and to Send them into the world in Jesus' name. Before a budget can be ready for the Annual Meeting, your estimates of giving are needed. Please spend time in prayer the next few weeks to determine what God is asking you to do in the coming year to share your Time, Talents, and Treasure.

Perhaps your experience during God's Work - Our Hands Week has inspired you to volunteer for new ways of serving. Jesus may be asking you to step into roles teaching Sunday school, being a Faith Mentor, attending Bible Study, teaching Kid's Club about a hobby of yours, or serving on essential teams and committees, showing hospitality as a Kitchen Coordinator or volunteering on your Care and Share Team. All that we have is a gift from God and we are asked to be generous and cheerful givers. This is the message of another hymn by William W. How:

We give thee but thine own, What-e'er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus As stewards true receive,

and gladly as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.

After worship on October 12, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the ministry that is made possible by our shared gifts and resources. Your Church Council is privileged to serve our congregation and carry out Salem's mission in our community and the world because of your generosity.

Lynn Hansen,

President of the Salem Lutheran Church Council

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 28th, 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 Van Risseghem, Tina Royer, Alan Niemann

Members Absent: Sylvia Hoge, Julie Fritz

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amanda

SOS announcement: None submitted

Approval of the Agenda:

Request to discuss Unfinished Business as first agenda item to accommodate a schedule. Motion to approve updated agenda, **MSC**

Unfinished Business:

Worship Feedback on Summer Experiment and Fall Worship Schedule: Received Worship and Music recommendation, discussed feedback, felt the experiment achieved council directives, discussed budget concerns. Blended service every week is more costly, and volunteers are not available or willing.

MOTION: Continue every-other-week pattern of praise Sundays and traditional Sundays beginning immediately and continuing through 2026. **MSC**

Compensation Working Group: near completion, will receive above decision

Kitchen Coordinator: Regarding the cost of kitchen staff prior to Kathi and Sherri: \$130.00 per month. This did not include funerals or Sunday coffee hour. If funerals were arranged by Koop Funeral Home, the per plate charge went directly from Koop Funeral Home to the Kitchen Coordinator. If the funeral was arranged in house, the church collected the per plate fee and paid it to the Kitchen Coordinator. The Sunday morning coffee hour was hosted by the Care and Share Teams. The monthly fee paid to the Kitchen Coordinator covered monitoring and ordering supplies for the kitchen, doing church kitchen laundry and organizing other church kitchen (non-funeral) events as needed. Laundry was done at church as we had a stackable washer/dryer in the pantry. The washer and dryer have been in storage since Kathi and Sherri took over in the kitchen, since they needed more room in the pantry, so Sherri did all laundry at home. Pastor will research how other churches manage meals and report in September.

Continued on the next page.

- Deerwood Days Recap: Thank you to Mark Boike for donation lead, Julie Fritz for organizing auction with spreadsheets, Paul Tesdahl for leadership and knowledge! (The group thanked Don Hales for his organizing as well.)
- o Figures: Auction \$ 19,632 expense (454.33) = 19,177.67 net (split)
 - Food \$ 3,560 expense (1,050.65) = 2,509.35 net (church)
 - Member gifts to cover food = 929.60 (church)
- = 22,616.62 TOTAL NET
- Division (Council decisions March and May)
 - Outreach receives: \$9,588.84
 - Church receives: \$13,027.79
 - Church: \$6513.89 Building Fund: \$6513.89
- HR Training for Exec. Team: Don is researching options through Northern Pines, UofM, Initiative Foundation, and MN Council for Non-Profits. Some are out of Salem's price range; classes are offered in specific seasons. Will continue researching.

Discussion of Chapter 6 "Magnetic Community Service"

Not enough of group present had read the chapter, though seems applicable to Salem. Tabled discussion for the September meeting.

Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve July 24th, 2025, meeting minutes. MSC

Approval of Financials:

- Noted an error that the church was paying Outreach's electricity bill, remedied, bringing \$4,000 back into Salem's budget.
- Noted: envelope offering steady in June and July at \$27,270 (thank you!) · Noted: current funds spent from savings: \$23,344.06
- Motion to approve the July 2025 financial report as presented. MSC

Pastor's Report – Pastor Amanda:

- Working to gather Nominating Team to begin looking for leaders
- Preparing 5th Sunday worship – on Labor Day Weekend
- Fall preparations for: worship, Confirmation, Kids Club
- Class at Holy Wisdom Monastery centered on having difficult conversations, maintaining safe and respectful dialogue, listening for God's guidance

Outreach Report – Mark

- Sales continue to go up in summer months
- 2 vehicles brought to Janzen to auction off and set an as-is price for the trailer
- Fuel savings – will purchase on-site tank for refueling trucks and skid steer
- Salem Service Week: Sept 13 at West from 9-11am, Sept 14 food packing at church after worship

Continued on the next page.

Committee Reports:

Capital Appeal – Next meeting is Sept 16 at 5:45pm, Mark will bring council refinance recommendation from last month's meeting

Faith Formation – Next meeting is Sept 2 at 5:00pm

Welcome – Orientation 10/12, 10/19 and welcome new members 10/26 considering an all-new member dinner in the spring

Worship and Music – Recommendation (above) to return to blended worship

New Business:

- Special Meeting Minutes – review, clarification change, will be sent to congregation for approval at the next congregational meeting (November 9)
- Begin 2026 Budget work – exec council special meeting on Sunday 9/21
- Offering Envelopes – removed persons giving online, order already placed
- Stewardship/ Consecration Sunday – September 28, council considering special event to celebrate, will email ideas for Lynn to compile and prepare
- Computer upgrade – will put to Technology Team for necessity

Announcements:

- Rally Sunday – Sept 7 blessing backpacks
- ELCA "God's Work. Our Hands." Serving Week, Sept 7-14
- Teacher recognition and commissioning – Sept 14
- Nominating Committee
- Women's Retreat Oct. 3-5 Bay Lake Retreat Center

Next Executive Team Meeting: September 16, 3:00pm

Next Council Meeting: September 25, 6:30pm

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:37pm.

Closed in Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, notes by Sherri Godfrey, typed by Pastor Amanda



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	29	30 9:00am Piecemakers	1 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Salem Ringers 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Choir Practice	2 11:30am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	3 8:00am Men's Bible Study	4
5 9:00am Worship MNTC 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Pancake Breakfast	6	7 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting 6:00pm Faith Formation	8 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 3:20pm Kids Club 5:30pm Salem Ringers 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Choir Practice	9	10 8:00am Men's Bible Study	11 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting
12 9:00am Worship Consecration Sunday 9:50am Sunday School 10:15am New Member Class	13 1:00pm Bible Study at Heartwood	14 9:00am Piecemakers 3:00pm Executive Team Meeting	15 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Salem Ringers 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Choir Practice	16	17 8:00am Men's Bible Study	18
19 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School 10:15am New Member Class 3:30pm Songs of the Season Practice	20	21 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting	22 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Salem Ringers 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Choir Practice	23 6:30pm Council Meeting	24 8:00am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Drum Group Practice	25
26 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School 1:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting 3:30pm Songs of the Season Practice	27	28 9:00am Piecemakers	29 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Salem Ringers 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Choir Practice	30	31 Reformation Day 8:00am Men's Bible Study 4:30pm Trunks 4 Treats	1 All Saints Day