



Salem Connection

June 2026

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Did you know, on any given Sunday, I have preached on those Scriptures at least 5 times? We use something called a “lectionary” - a schedule of Scriptures from the Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament), a Psalm, a New Testament letter (also called an Epistle), and a Gospel. It operates on a 3-year cycle based on the Gospels Matthew, Mark and Luke with a little bit of John thrown in here and there.

This lectionary was created so God’s people would hear more from Scripture. It was intended to link themes between the Hebrew Bible reading and the Gospel reading with a Psalm that flows from the Hebrew reading. From the best I can tell, the selection of Epistle readings must have been done via dart board.

What I am amazed at - nearly every single week - is how those familiar Scriptures have something new to say. If I compare sermons year to year, they’re always a bit different. I’ve changed, the world’s concerns have changed, you’ve changed! And yet, God has something fresh to say to us.

That is the gift of Scripture, and it’s probably why someone wrote in Hebrews 4, “Indeed, the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Pro tip: he was writing about God’s word through the Hebrew Bible still doing its work on us!)

Living and active! God’s word is alive in us!

So in that spirit, and in last month’s encouragement, let’s see how God’s word is living and active within us! I challenge you to read Philippians in the month of June. It’s a little book in the middle of the New Testament, written by Paul to encourage people in the church he started. We’ll take it a chapter per week and I’ll provide some study and reflection questions in each bulletin as we go.

I challenge you to read each chapter multiple times throughout the week. Read it from different versions of the Bible. Listen to someone else read it. Note what you hear, what it makes you think about, how God is calling you to trust through these ancient words. Because God’s word is most certainly living and active.

I pray your reading and study is rich and meaningful.

And maybe, just maybe, you’ll choose the next book of the Bible and see what God has for you in those pages.

Wishing you Spirit-filled reading!

~Pastor Amanda



Worship Notes at Salem

Thank you to those serving in June:

READERS

- 7** Samantha Gerland
14 Ken Stebbins
21 _____
28 _____

USHERS

- 7** Mark & Cindy Larson, Curt & Sylvia Hoge
14 Randy Holmwig, Herb & Barb Schoon, Mark Boike
21 Herb & Barb Schoon, Roger & Marlene Prill
28 Nory & Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz & Karla Peterson

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 7** Julie Fritz, _____, _____
21 Shelly Skeim, _____, _____
28 _____, _____, _____

OFFERING COUNTERS

We are grateful for Myron Midthun and Shirley Huxford!
LOOK FOR A TRAINING coming up near the end of June.
We are in need of more counting volunteers. Contact the office if you're interested!

June Worship Schedule

- 7** 9:00a.m. Praise Worship
Guest Pastor Reggie Denton
- 14** 9:00a.m. Traditional Worship
Choir (practice before worship)
- 21** 9:00a.m. Praise Worship
Guest Pastor Dave Holte
- 28** 9:00a.m. Traditional Worship
Setting 3 Liturgy
Pop-Up Choir



Summer Music:

Now is your chance!

Bring what is meaningful to you in connecting with God! Share a poem, a song, a reflection, a devotional reading as "Special Worship" on Sunday mornings. Let us know when you'd like to lead by signing up for a Sunday on the kiosk!

A note from Salem's Church Office

The Church Office will be open limited hours the first two weeks of June while staff are away.

Please help out our office fill-in team and sign up for serving in worship for all those openings so they can prepare bulletins and worship materials!

Heartwood Ministries

Bible study is on hold for June.
Mark your calendar for July 13 at 1:00.p.m

Salem Outreach Ministries

Let worship lead you to service.

If you've got a little time, we've got a lot to keep you busy!

Salem West needs help pricing items (there's an easy guide!) and hanging and pricing clothing. If you can place a sticker or hang a shirt, consider giving a couple hours on a weekly basis to help keep donations moving to serve others! It's always busy, busy during the summer, and we need the help!

Vacation Bible School!

July 20th - 23rd 9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

This year's VBS theme is:

"Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God"

Mark your calendars and clear your mornings to explore God's creative,

all-knowing, comforting, loving, and enduring presence with us! Salem uses Group VBS materials that rotate young people through the entire building as they experience God's love through story, song, prayer, sharing, and some crazy outside fun.

Sign-Ups will be available soon in the entryway for volunteers!

If you already know what you'd like to do, please contact Marlene Prill at 218-330-1731



Mark your calendar for workshop days: Tuesday June 23, 3-7p.m.; Tuesday July 7, 10-12a.m.;
Orientation for all leaders: Tuesday, July 14, 6:30p.m.

Thanks for sharing the love of God with children of the community!

Adult Faith Formation

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

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

Both of these take place every week!

If you are looking to join a Bible Study, there is always room for one more at the table!

Looking to strengthen your connection with fellow members of the congregation?

Use the church mailboxes!

Write a Birthday or Anniversary card!

Write a welcome note! Pick a household to pray for each week, and let them know you did!

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..."



Welcome to Summer at Salem!

We welcome back all those who winter in warmer weather—it's a joy to gather with you again!

This is a great time to remember to wear your Salem nametags each Sunday morning as we get re-acquainted with familiar faces and meet some new people that make up Salem's community! Don't be embarrassed to say, "I feel like I've seen you before, but I can't remember your name."

Get curious about other's hobbies and interests and joys!

Choose the gracious path when someone mis-names you.

Enjoy making a connection!

Salem Library

Summer is a wonderful time to visit the Salem Library with children and grandchildren. You may go in any time the church is open. Please put both first and last names on the check-out card and leave cards on the desk.

The library has a section of beautifully illustrated children's books. There are books about people in the Bible, animal and nature stories, fables, life lessons on good behavior, biographies of historical figures and much more. (Look in the far right corner for these treasures!)



If you are looking for rainy day activities, you may check out games from the cabinet in the corner to the left of the desk. There are also movie and music DVD's on the shelves to check out.

Children who read during the summer, return to school with their reading and comprehension skills sharp. Those who do not practice reading over the summer may slip backwards. Encourage children to read about topics that they wish to explore and discuss what they read.

Lunch Bunch Summer Meals 2026

Some Assembly Required

Summer 2026: Making a difference in our community, one bag lunch at a time!

Cuyuna Lakes "Lunch Bunch" volunteers pack nutritious lunches for area youth. Community members gather every weekday at different locations to pack daily food from June 5th through August 28th. Salem packs Friday mornings and our kitchen is a joyful lunch making assembly line!

*** Want to lend a hand?** Friday morning packers arrive at 9:00a.m.! *

JUNE 5, 12, 19 & 26 JULY 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 AUGUST 7, 14, 21 & 28

Once packed, the lunches are chauffeured to the pick-up spots where meals are distributed for 10 minutes.

Veteran's Park, Deerwood (at 11:00a.m.)

Grandpa's Park, Ironton (at 11:20a.m.)

Cuyuna Lakes Community Church (Assembly of God), Crosby (at 11:35a.m.)

Food Shelf, Crosby (at 11:50a.m.)

*** Want to lend a hand?** Friday chauffers pick up the lunches at Salem at 10:45a.m. and deliver to these locations and return the tubs to Salem!
We're happy to show you how it's done! *

If you have questions, please email or call the organizers!

Chuck Lubowitz 218-838-0761
ricelakeroad@yahoo.com

Karla Peterson 218-838-5137
mayorkarla@hotmail.com



Deerwood Days, August 7-8!

Salem is now accepting financial donations to help offset food costs for our Deerwood Days food booth on August 7–8. Each year, this event brings our community together for fellowship, great food, and service, and your support helps make it possible.

Donations may be placed in the collection box located in the Narthex or through Sunday offering plates. If giving by check or on the envelope, please designate “Deerwood Days” so funds are directed appropriately.

This year’s booth menu will feature delicious lefse and meatballs, along with pop and water. We are excited to continue this tradition and appreciate everyone who contributes to making the event successful. Whether through a financial gift, volunteering, or simply stopping by the booth during Deerwood Days, your participation and encouragement mean so much. Every donation, large or small, helps cover food expenses and supports Salem Lutheran’s presence at this wonderful community celebration.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support. We look forward to seeing everyone at Deerwood Days on August 7–8 for food, fellowship, and fun!

Around the Church

Raise Right Gift Card Orders

How generous! Local and national stores have joined forces to support non-profits! Through Raise Right, individuals can order gift cards for purchases and those companies donate a percentage to Salem’s Outreach Ministry at Salem West! Order forms are on a stand and are submitted every first Sunday.

Quilters

Tuesday mornings bustle at Salem with chatter, sewing machines, and a whole lot of laughter. If it’s too hot or rainy on a Tuesday, join the fun! Sewing is not a requirement—you can cut, tie, match colors, iron, or debate the right color to tie the quilts together... The team would love to have you!

Salem’s Lil’ Free Pantry

In a non-descript cabinet off the parking lot in the shade of a tree is Salem’s Lil’ Free Pantry—and people frequent it to sustain their families. If you are able, consider buying bulk shelf-stable foods high in protein and load it up!

Please remember, we do not take opened items or refrigerated items as they may spoil.

Meal Distribution

Salem is blessed to partner with Catholic Charities of Saint Cloud to distribute frozen meals, 20 per household, the first Thursday of every month. This is free and intended for seniors 60+ in Crow Wing County who may be at nutritional risk. Simply show up at 11:30a.m. June 4 and sign up for this year!

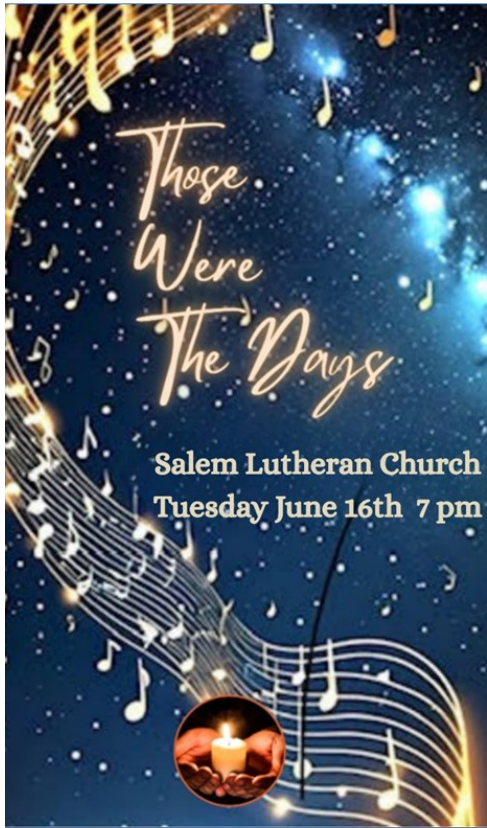
“What’s happening at church tonight?”

Churches exist to be a blessing to their community. Salem hosts the monthly Cuyuna Range Lions meeting and the monthly and annual meetings for the Serpent Lake Association. Our building is a gift to these non-profit groups that seek to serve others and care for God’s creation. It’s a joy to partner with them!

Questions?

If something is happening around your church and you’d like more information, don’t hesitate to ask! Call or email the office, find a council member, or suggest solutions using a “SOS” form just inside the main entrance. Your input in the ministry of your church matters! Thank you for being part of the community!

"Those Were the Days" Concert Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00p.m.



We're gathering at Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood, Minnesota for a very special homecoming performance.

Come and enjoy

"The Best Music of the 60's and 70's!"

Vocals and Guitar

Kris "Krimpotich" O'Brien

Keyboards and Orchestral Effects

Linda Wallin

Salem is honored to host this musical homecoming featuring Kris O'Brien CI Class of '67!

Doors open at 6:30p.m. and we expect a full house!

To learn more about Kris' ministry or sample her work, you can search YouTube for "Straight to the Heart Media"

Hope to see you there!

Doors open at 6:30 PM. Come early for great seating! You'll hear a mix of pop and religious music. The church screens will be filled with wonderful images for the eye and there will be nostalgic music for your ears. Invite family and friends for an incredibly memorable evening.

Suggested offering donation for the concert is \$15 Cash or checks to Kris O'Brien

Donations for the concert will be used to support Straight to the Heart Media; a video music site that ministers to those in need of calm and spiritual moments. If you choose to donate more, know that you are a part of our music ministry!

Special Celebrations in June



2	Teppi Bundy	14	Judy Johnson
3	Doug Caulkins	15	Jim Mayne
	Ebba Christenson	16	Diane Boike
4	Wilder Morey	21	Krista Bordwell
	Nate VanRisseghem	22	Ruth Lerom
5	Nancy Herberg		Al Niemann
	Kathi Sharp		Alex Schmidt
6	Mike McWilliams	23	Hannah Schmidt
8	Steve Zierke	25	Jenny Fields
11	Al Sharp		Roland Morey
12	Kevin Edstrom		Larry Tighe
	Hudson Holmvgig	26	Chuck Hausker
	Kay Johnson	27	Jan Erickson
			Carol Malek
		28	Shirley Taylor
		29	Jeri Kobberdahl



4	Chuck Lubowitz & Karla Peterson
6	Jim & Jan Rude
7	John & Wendy Christenson
16	Cal & Shelly Midthun
17	Roger & Gloria Johnson
20	Ken & Linda Stebbins
	Bryan & Megan Syrstad
	Paul & Kristy Tesdahl
23	Rad & Tina Royer
24	Paul & Sue Erickson
26	Greg & Beth Gavin
	Mark & Carole Houghton
28	Steve & Arnita Zierke

Financial Updates

Salem Lutheran Church Profit & Loss April 2026

	100 Church	150 Building	TOTAL
Income			
4000 · Offerings	25,545.79	0.00	25,545.79
4100 · Building Fund	0.00	5,074.56	5,074.56
4900 · Other Income	(2,420.98)	118.88	(2,302.10)
Total Income	23,124.81	5,193.44	28,318.25
Expense	30,120.18	8,628.00	38,748.18
Net Income	(6,995.37)	(3,434.56)	(10,429.93)

Thank you, people of Salem.

Your faithfulness in giving keeps your church going! We are able to serve the community with hope and healing, offer space for people to encourage one another to grow in faith, welcome people to meet Jesus, and find a commission to be sent into God's world.

May God continue to bless your gifts and the heart behind them, keep you steady even in uncertainty, and guide you into faithful use of your time and treasure.

April Benevolence (Mission Support):

Synod ELCA:	\$1,381.51
VLM:	\$ 203.35
YAGM:	\$ 203.35

Total: \$1,788.21

Salem gives back! 7% of your offerings support the wider mission of the church through the Synod.

For those who don't want to serve those purposes, 7% goes to VLM = Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (camp) and YAGM = Young Adults in Global Mission

Another 3% goes to Salem's Outreach Ministry—Salem West—to accomplish service in the community.

Outreach Governing Board (OGB)

Salem Outreach Governing Board OGB Preliminary Meeting Minutes May 19, 2026

Mission Statement: Salem Outreach partners with local agencies to collect and deliver essential goods to families in need.

Present: Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Jason Kempthorne, Linda Sudman, Kay Bendorf, Julie Fritz, Carol Malek

Absent: Dianne Boike, Nancy Tighe

Guest: Jake Walker

Open with prayer: Jason

Secretary's Report: The April 21st minutes were reviewed. **Linda Sudman moved to approve minutes. Kay Bendorf seconded. MSC**

Financial Report: Kay Bendorf

- 4930.2 Unrealized gains/losses go up and down based on the stock market. This month they are down quite a bit. Nonprofits must report these losses or gains in Other Income
- **Carol Malek moved and Linda Sudman seconded motion to approve April financials. MSC.**

Director of Outreach Report: Jason

- Grant Report- EFSP 42 grants have been given out to counties. Jason does not see that Crow Wing County is included. Since EFSP 42 has been opened, we should be able to report on our past EFSP 40 and EFSP 41 grants.
- Program Report-
 - 26 Active Clients, 12 Deliveries scheduled, 8 Pick-ups scheduled
 - 45 Volunteers last month
 - Building 4 had structural damage. Bid for \$1875 for emergency repairs. Repairs will be done next week. The repairs have to be done so the roof won't collapse
 - June 1st Clara will join the store crew to help cover weekends and time off requests over the summer. She is a high school student. We are still looking for clothing area. Other staff schedules have been changed to cover the Mondays we will be open during the summer.
 - We are getting 26 mattress/box spring sets from a Grand Rapids hotel. 15 have been delivered so far.
- Impact Report
 - April had 38 referrals, 41 completed orders, 92 individuals served.
 - April volunteer hours: 1296
 - \$117,585 impact dollars YTD

Manager Report: Jake Walker

- Will be closed Memorial Day
- Begin June 1st- Open on Mondays until August 31.
- Working on new ways to pull product before Saturday to get ready for Mondays being open.
- Decorators will work Mondays and Fridays from 8am-10am and Staff will try to decorate on Wednesdays.
- In April, had 2,826 customers. Average ticket was 5.46 pieces at \$18.88. 1,471 customers rounded up for \$833.83. All these areas are up from last April.
- Several areas have increased sales: appliances, bikes, crafts, linens, furniture. These are based on time of year for bikes, overstock of linens for clients, and increased donations of crafts and furniture.
- With the number of items we produce, we need almost 2 full-time people to price. We have 1.5 people with volunteers and staff. Would like to have more volunteers who price items.

Continued

(continued)

2026 Goals

- Monthly Announcement at SLC- June and July newsletter articles about Deerwood Days and slides for worship
- Volunteer Recruitment-no report
- Separate 501-C3 Organization / Single Name- See new business

New Business

- Share feedback received from Newsletter Article Re: single name.
 - The group discussed questions that were raised after the newsletter article was published. The group decided on several answers/talking points
 - Talking points
 - Who pays the Salem West and Mustard Seed salaries? Salem Outreach is self – sustaining. Pays for all staff salaries from Mustard Seed income.
 - Who owns the buildings? Buildings are owned by Salem Church, repairs paid for by Outreach. A decision would have to be made by church on how to transfer buildings (i.e. quit claim deed or sell for value or sell for under value.)
 - What would happen to the church's outreach? Salem Church outreach would go back to the Church
 - Quilters, Jail Ministry, Adult and Teen Challenge, Soup Kitchen, World Hunger, Food Shelf Mission Trips, Lunch Bunch
 - Why Separate? Ability for greater involvement from Community and other Churches (Board positions, volunteers)
 - Why Separate? Ability for greater financial support from Community and other Churches
 - Who would decide? Input from Congregation on decision, however, Council would make final decision on the church matters (buildings).

Old Business

- Deerwood Days 2026

Advertise to congregation June and July. Need donations of money to help cover the costs of meat, lefse, pop instead of donating the actual food items. Sign ups for lefse making, meatball making and selling August 7 and 8 will be posted in July
- Food Packing Event Dates

The Outreach Program gave us 5 dates where we can do food packing at church. We chose September 13 as first choice, October 11 as second choice.

Council Rep Report:

- Don Hales called Jason to thank the OGB for their help with the volunteer dinner. The dinner was a success.
- The Council decided not to donate money to the Cuyuna Farmer's Market this next year. Last year, OGB paid the money. OGB was not asked about it this year, but are OK with the decision Council made

Next Meeting: June 16

Closed in prayer

Adjourned at 2:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Julie Fritz

NOTICE:

Council minutes will be available in early June, printed and stacked on the usher stand, or emailed at your request.

Council will not meet in the month of June.



JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00am Worship	1	2 9:00am Piecemakers 6:00pm Faith Formation	3 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	4 11:30am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	5 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch	6
7 9:00am Praise Worship 12:00pm Drum Group Practice	8	9 9:00am Piecemakers	10 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	11	12 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch	13
14 9:00am Traditional Worship	15	16 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting 6:30pm "Those Were the Days" Concert	17 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	18 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	19 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch	20 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting
21 Salem Camping Group in Walker 9:00am Praise Worship	22 Salem Camping Group in Walker	23 Salem Camping Group in Walker 9:00am Piecemakers 3:00pm VBS Workshop	24 Salem Camping Group in Walker 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	25	26 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch	27
28 9:00am Traditional Worship	29	30 9:00am Piecemakers	1 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	2 11:30am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	3 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Lunch Bunch	4

