



Salem Connection

June 2024

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444
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The world is suddenly surrounded in greens and blues, bursts of color as flowers pop up, we breathe deep of the spring air and freshly-mown grass. We will head to the lake, out to cabins, out on the trail to soak up the goodness of creation. For many of us, this means we will have the feeling of being connected with God. There's a reason the Northwoods are called "God's Country"!

There are all kinds of places and experiences when we can feel God's presence. They are the moments when our minds may be suddenly clear, or our hearts joyful, of our bodies feel light and full of goosebumps. We walk away with deep conviction, or determination, or simply the heart-knowledge that we're not alone.

As a pastor, it's my desire that everyone knows God's presence at some point—whether it's in a baptism, a hospital room, at some point in worship, or at a graveside. I hope that my work makes an easy path for the Holy Spirit to work in people's lives.

But we must remember: feeling Christ is not the point of our faith. What if you don't feel anything at church? What if you never have? What if you did once, but seems like never again? Does it mean you are doing something wrong or that God doesn't love you?

NOT AT ALL! It just means our feelings can be fickle.

But God is not fickle. There's a decision God made long ago to stop counting the right and wrong we do in favor of offering undeserved forgiveness. Through Christ, God traded his righteousness for our sin and declared the whole accounting system complete. Our righteousness—right standing with God—is no longer dependent on us.

Think of how freeing that can be. You don't have to feel anything! You can feel whatever you feel, even if it's nothing. Whether you feel sorrowful, elated, or otherwise normal, it doesn't matter: Christ is your goodness. You just have to trust that God will keep God's promises.

After writing about God's faithful work in Christ, Hebrews 10:23 summarizes our trust like this: "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful."

That doesn't mean we become unfeeling robots. In fact, quite the opposite happens. If we truly trust God loves us and has put us in right standing, we end up freed from selfishness so we can love one another and live our faith in good works for others. That's exactly why the next verses in Hebrews encourage: "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deed, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Faithfully and whole-heartedly yours,
~Pastor Amanda



Faith Formation!

Vacation Bible School 2024

Bible Stories!

Songs!

Crafts!



New Friends!



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

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

Register Online
www.salemdwd.org



VBS Workshop Days

Join us for VBS workshop days in June, helping prepare the materials for the week of Vacation Bible School! If you are good with a glue gun or cutting out shapes and underwater friends, all are welcome to come help, many hands create light work!

Mark Your Calendars!

June 18th 5:00-7:00p.m.

June 25th 2:00-4:00p.m.



Mark Your Calendars!

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

This event is open to the community and we are so excited to share all that Salem Lutheran has to offer! With that, we are looking for those interested in helping run stations at the event! If this is something that you are passionate about, look at the Kiosk to sign up to help serve in the different areas needed, prep, day of and clean up!

SALEM LUTHERAN BLOCK PARTY



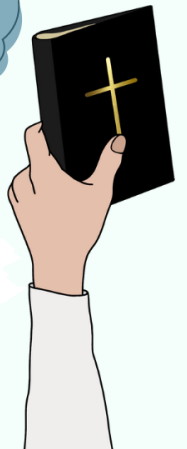
JULY 20TH - 11:00A.M.-6:00P.M.

Bible STUDY

Come as
a couple!

Come
with a
friend!

Come
alone!



Frist Timers to those who have studied the Bible 17 times over, this New Adult Bible Study is for any and all who are interested!

New Adult Bible Study at Salem Lutheran Church

This Bible Study is not confined to just men or just women, but open to all individuals above the age of 18!

This new Bible Study is set to begin
Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30p.m.

We encourage all who have been thinking about joining a Bible study to give this one a chance and see if it is the right fit for you and your faith journey!

Worship Notes at Salem

Thank you to those serving in June:

READERS

- 2 Glenn Suess
- 9 _____
- 16 Ken Stebbins
- 23 _____
- 30 _____

USHERS

- 5 Ed & Sherri Godfrey, Curt and Sylvia Hoge
- 12 Randy Holmwig, Nory and Peggy Hunze, Mark Boike
- 19 Roger & Marlene Prill, Clark and Joyce Marshall
- 26 Barb and Herb Schoon, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson
- 30 John and Raye Cragun, Becki Zender, Rod Ogard

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 9 Glenn Suess, Tina Royer, Shelly Skeim
- 16 Glenn Suess, Nancy Johnson, Janine Mattfield
- 23 Kathi Sharp, _____, _____

OFFERING COUNTERS

2 Needed for June

June Worship Schedule

- 2 9:00a.m. Worship
- 9 8:30a.m. Choir Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
- 16 9:00a.m. Worship
- 23 9:00a.m. Worship
- 30 9:00a.m. Worship

Summer Music Schedule:

Choir sings on the 2nd Sunday
practice 2nd Sunday at 8:30a.m.

Lord's Prayer Sung during worship

1st and 3rd Sundays

Hymn Sing before worship

2nd and 4th Sundays

Heartwood Bible Study

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

These studies include Communion, so invite others along!



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
July	Sunday 7/7	Thursday 7/11
August	Sunday 8/25	Thursday 8/29

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

Worship on Serpent Lake, Sunday June 30th

Mark your calendars for the fifth Sunday of the month, June 30th, as we move worship outside beside the lake!

Enjoying God's creation in a different way on Sunday morning, with a little added breeze and sunshine. We are so lucky to live in a place with beautiful greenery and bodies of water, we are excited to worship amongst it!

Extra hands will be needed, any and all who want to help this Sunday morning be sure to be at the church at 7:30a.m.

Faith and Fellowship

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!



Dates for this Summer!

June 7, 14, 21, & 28

July 5, 12, 19, & 26

August 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

Want to lend a hand? We are asking for Friday morning packers and lunch bag chauffeurs!

Sign-Up on the kiosk in the Narthex OR contact either Chuck Lubowitz or Karla Peterson for more information!

Summer 2024

Making a difference one lunch bag at a time!

Caring for One Another

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, flowers, cards and concern for us in our absence. We miss you all.

-Les and Shirley Taylor



Help keep the shelves stocked at the food shelf!

Our little food shelf, is small but mighty, and many individuals truly benefit from you who fill it weekly! Thank you and keep stocking those shelves, this is such a wonderful way to help the community!



Financial Updates

Benevolences for April

\$1,295.88 Synod ELCA

\$284.63 Missionary Support

\$284.3 Voyagers Lutheran Ministry

\$1,865.14 Total

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

Information Provided by Aimee Watson
Financial Manager here at Salem

Salem Lutheran Church Profit & Loss April 2024

	100 Church	150 Building	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · Offerings	24,868.34	0.00	24,868.34
4100 · Building Fund	0.00	6,959.70	6,959.70
4900 · Other Income	2,557.32	149.61	2,706.93
Total Income	27,425.66	7,109.31	34,534.97
Gross Profit	27,425.66	7,109.31	34,534.97
Expense	33,858.94	9,000.00	42,858.94
Net Ordinary Income	(6,433.28)	(1,890.69)	(8,323.97)
Net Income	(6,433.28)	(1,890.69)	(8,323.97)

Special Celebrations in June



1	Marilyn Weidell	17
2	Teppi Bundy	21
3	Doug Calkins	
	Ebba Christenson	22
4	Nathan Vanrisseghem	
5	Nancy Herberg	
	Kathi Sharp	
8	Steve Zierke	
10	Charlotte Cekalla	23
11	Brody Bodle	25
	Henry Knutson	
	Allen Sharp	26
12	Kevin Edstrom	27
	Kay Johnson	
14	Judy Johnson	
15	Jim Mayne	28
	Hallie Schmidt	29
16	Diane Boike	

Jaxon Nelson
Krista Bordwell
Faith Fageroos
Shirley Davies
Ruth Lerom
Al Niemann
Alex Schmidt
Paul Tesdahl
Hannah Schmidt
Jenny Fields
Joe Tighe
Chuck Hausker
Jan Erickson
Carol Malek
Marlys Orr
Shirley Taylor
Jeri Kobberdahl

3	Ron and Nancy Meyer
4	Chuck Lubowitz and Karla Peterson
5	Rick and Laura Han
6	Ruth and Jerry Lerom
	Jim and Jan Rude
7	John and Wendy Christenson
16	Cal and Shelly Midthun
17	Roger and Gloria Johnson
20	Ken and Linda Stebbins
	Paul and Kristy Tesdahl
23	Rad and Tina Royer
24	Paul and Susan Erickson
26	Greg and Elizabeth Gavin
	Mark and Carole Houghton
28	Steve and Arnita Zierke
30	James and Barbara Call



Legacy Gifts Forum

Faithful Stewards. Lasting Impact.

Your passion...

Your plan...

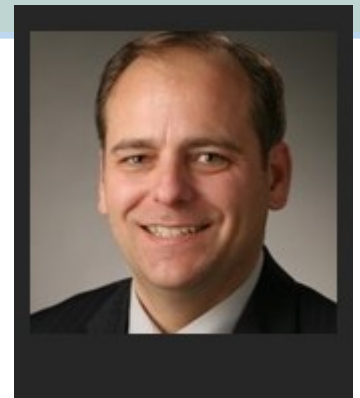
Your gift for those you love, and for God's work in the world!

You are invited to explore how you can make a difference in the lives of your loved ones and to ministry both now and in the future.

On Wednesday, June 26th, from 6:00-7:00p.m. Tharan Leopold with the ELCA foundation will be here to share a forum on legacy gifts.

The information will get you thinking about the gifts you've received from God throughout your lifetime, and how your family and ministry, such as our congregation, can benefit from these gifts to make a lasting and meaningful impact in this world.

The ELCA Foundation has professional gift planning staff throughout the nation and gift planning tools for every situation. All gift planning services are made available to individuals, couples and congregations without obligation or cost.



Tharan Leopold

ELCA Foundation
Gift Planner

It is our ministry to be of service!

Salem Outreach Governing Board – April 16th 2024

Present were, Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Jason Kempthorne, Sherri Godfrey, Cathy Aykens, Diane Boike, Randy Sykes, and Linda Sudman

Guest : Mark Boike and Jake.

Absent: Kay Bendorf

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

Jason is looking into 7125 – Technology-Computer Mtn/Repair Why this number is off Mustard Seed: Mustard Seed Sales for March \$34,468

Salem West Impact Report for March; we had 55 referrals and completed 37 orders. A total of 74 individuals were helped.

Year to date was \$85,060 in goods delivered to the community. The in kind impact YTD is \$263,624.57.

Discussion was made on the Septic System and how it can no longer handle the amount of laundry being washed per day at Salem West. An agreement was made to only wash Client Service items, sheets, blankets etc. The rest of the clothing will be checked and go out onto the sales floor. We will discuss how this process is going at the next OGB meeting.

Jake was present at the meeting. He attended a SmCo Thrift Store Conference in Tennessee. He gave an overview of the things he learned from it. Affirming things that the Mustard Seed is currently doing and gave potential future implementations such as:

Business name – Combining or creating a single business name for total operation

Business hours – Donation & store hours need to be the same

Mission Statement- articulate a clear & abbreviated mission statement that can be posted on line and in – store

Onboarding- Create a consistent on boarding process.

Discussion on looking into different shelving for the west wall of the Mustard Seed.

The shelving is not strong enough for items.

These are things we will be focusing on in the near future.

Interviews are being held for Summer Positions. Hope to have them filled by May 1st .

All Staff Meeting (Volunteers & Paid Employees) will be held at the Mustard Seed on Tuesday April 30th at 11:00am.

New hours for the Mustard Seed store will start Tuesday May 7th. The Mustard Seed will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Set up will be held on Mondays.

Mustard Seed Garage Sale is Saturday , May 18th

Next meeting will be May 21st

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
April 25, 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, Sylvia Hoge, Don Hales, Tina Royer.
- ◇ Opening Prayer by Pastor Amanda
- ◇ SOS Announcement: Discussion held about elementary aged children serving communion. Motion made to allow 1 child to serve with an adult each service, and training will be conducted for all communion servers. MSC
- ◇ Approval of Agenda: MSC
- ◇ Approval of March Minutes:
 - Motion to approve minutes of April 4, 2024 (March meeting postponed until April 4 due to inclement weather). MSC
- ◇ Approve March Financials:
 - Motion to approve March 2024 Treasurer's Report. MSC.
- ◇ Pastor's Report:
 - Finalizing church directory. Target: 1st week of May.
 - Quick Books – Transitioning from old to newer version but does not support nonprofits. Will work with Icon CMO out of Fargo. It fits all our needs – designed for churches. Payroll is also handled by ICON, but they do not have direct deposit. Payroll will switch to paper checks.
 - There has been an increased call for Pastor Amanda to conduct funerals for community members who do not belong to Salem.
 - BLACF – Salem's request for a second table at the annual awards ceremony (where Salem is receiving the International Humanitarian Award) has not yet been secured.
- ◇ Outreach Report:
 - All financials are in good shape – in the black!
 - Jason and the Board are brainstorming a name that will encompass all we are doing in that location: Salem West, Mustard Seed, and Community Outreach.
 - Safety concerns – Shelves are falling off walls, so walls will be fortified, and shelves will be replaced by appropriate ones.
- o Septic System – The septic is overloading, especially with the volume of laundry done, hence, laundry of sale items has been halted. Client bedding and towels are still being washed.
- ◇ Old Business
 - Audit – An audit is ordered to be completed this year, with June to October as start dates.
 - Block Party Report – Saturday, July 20 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. We will have Bounce Houses, Food, Face Painting, Band competition, and more. Roth RV is donating \$500 to the band winner. Also considering having vendors available at \$500/booth. Marketing idea – Blanket the Deerwood community with a door hanger that will advertise the Block Party on one side, and VBS on the other. o
 - Schwanke Trust proceeds sent to Initiative Foundation and papers signed. – Jason and Mark signed the paper documents and sent them to the Initiative Foundation.

Continued on the next page.

New Business

- o Capital Appeal discussion – A Planned Giving seminar is tentatively scheduled for a Wednesday, 6:00 pm in May or June. The current campaign is over in November 2024, so analyzing relationship with our consultants, Mark Davy & Assoc. (MDA). Salem has used MDA for two campaigns with success. Waiting for their proposal for our next campaign. We want to visually show the congregation how their money, time and talents impact the church and beyond. Lynn stated the committee voted to raise mortgage payments from \$9,000 to \$10,000/mo. May, June, and July, then evaluate whether to keep payments at this amount.
- o Membership – Tentatively there are 20 individuals scheduled to become new members this Sunday. They are: Joan Johnson, Chris and Jeri Kobberdahl, Doug and Kay Caulkins, Linda Shephardson, Ilean Moore, Roger and Gloria Johnson, Tom and Marilyn Wiedell, Lois McBroom and Mary Harder with Macyn McBroom, Elaine Hawkinson, Alan and Janet Niemann; and reinstate mistaken removal: Greg and Kathy Meyer. A motion was made and seconded to accept these individuals as official members of Salem Lutheran Church, as of April 28, 2024. MSC
- o Debit Card – Motion made and seconded to provide a church credit card specifically assigned to Chuck Lubowitz for the purpose of purchasing Lunch Bunch food and supplies. Receipts will be submitted for all purchases. When not in use the card will be kept by the Church Financial Manager. MSC. 3
- ◇ Committee Reports:
 - Capital Appeal – Lynn Hansen. See New Business
 - Columbarium – Don Hales. NR
 - Facilities – Nate VanRisseghem. Lighting options and issues – The Sanctuary lighting is good. The Fellowship Hall remains a problem. Nate researched lighting options and consulted an electrician who suggested LEDs with pigtails to retrofit current lights. At the next meeting it will be decided whether to do some or all Fellowship Hall lights.
 - Faith Formation – Sylvia Hoge. Deciding on what activities for students will joyously end Sunday School on May 19th . Registration sheets are now available for VBS
 - Memorial – Peter MacKay. The next meeting will be in May.
 - Stewardship – Lynn Hansen. A May 6th meeting will work on developing the presentation that illustrates to members the different kinds of stewardship that exist in the church. The presentation will be given at Quarter 2, July 14 congregational listening session.
 - Technology – Julie Fritz. NR
 - Welcome – Tina Royer. New Member Sunday is April 28th. There are 20 individuals ready to join. 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. Next meeting is May 1 at 2:00pm.

Continued on the next page.

- ◇ Worship and Music – Julie Fritz. We have a Beginner Bells session every Wednesday evening. The outdoor service at Serpent Lake will be June 30th. The committee is asking for assistance in creating visual worship decorations that reflect each of the church seasons, special worship events.
- ◇ Outreach – Sherri Godfrey/Jason Kempthorne – Please refer to earlier report.
- ◇ SOS Submission – No submission.
- ◇ Fall Church Schedule – The council decided to keep the schedule to one 9:00am service. 4 •
- ◇ Announcements:

Executive Team meeting- May 14th at 3:00 pm.

Council meeting- May 23rd at 6:30 pm

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:30pm. MSC

Closed in the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Royer

SALEM’S STAFF

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 6:00pm VBS Volunteer Meeting	30	31 Office Closed 8:00am Men's Bible Study	1
2 9:00am Worship	3	4 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music 6:00pm Faith Formation	5 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	6	7 8:00am Men's Bible Study	8 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting
9 8:30am Choir Practice 9:00am Worship	10 1:00pm Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	11 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm OGB Meeting 3:00pm Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm New Adult Bible Study	12 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	13	14 8:00am Men's Bible Study	15
16 9:00am Worship 2:00pm Salem Camping Group	17 Salem Camping Group 11:00am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	18 Salem Camping Group 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm VBS Workshop 6:30pm New Adult Bible Study	19 8:00am Salem Camping Group 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	20 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	21 8:00am Men's Bible Study	22
23 9:00am Worship	24	25 9:00am Piecemakers 2:00pm VBS Workshop 6:30pm New Adult Bible Study	26 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	27 6:30pm Council Meeting	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study	29
30 9:00am Worship at Serpent Lake	1	2 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting 6:30pm New Adult Bible Study	3 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	4 Independence Day	5 8:00am Men's Bible Study	6