



Salem Connection

January 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



In our journey of faith, one of the most profound and important things we can do is ask questions. Whether we're new to the Christian faith or have been walking with God for many years, asking questions is an essential part of growing in our faith. It opens us to the Spirit's direction, humbles us, and joins us in more authentic community.

In 2019, I spent a couple weeks in a Benedictine monastery in Madison while on sabbatical. One of the things that surprised me was listening to the 80-year-old Prioress talk about her faith "as a beginner." Even 61 years into her vows, she didn't have God or faith all figured out. She listened to our group of pastors like we had something to teach her. She asked questions, she started a lot of Bible studies with "I wonder", and she named a few of her doubts with us.

I felt relieved. So much of our western mindset values certainty and quick answers and experts and full knowledge, and it's a standard that we can't live by when it comes to faith. God has given us curious minds and hearts that seek to understand. Look at how many times the disciples asked for the meaning of Jesus' parables. God invites us in Jeremiah 29:13: "When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord..."

We all have questions when it comes to faith – lots about the meaning of Bible verses, some about how we worship, more about the differences between Christian beliefs, a few about Communion and children, and at least one question about when we light the Christ candle.

We talk about these things in Confirmation classes, long before we actually care about the answers. So let's take some time in this extended "ordinary time" of Epiphany to ask the questions and seek deeper insight. Let's collect our curiosities and learn from one another and be open to growing in our faith!

I've been collecting questions about Communion (open table, children serving, why only pastors preside), about saying we believe in "the holy catholic church" when we're Lutherans, and why we baptize babies when they don't have the ability to believe.

I can guess at the things you're wondering about – or you can simply ask. So, ask away! Send me an email, write a note and drop in the offering plate, or show up to our Tuesdays with an "I wonder." If I know your questions ahead of time, I can prepare some resources and group similar topics – but note, I don't have answers. I have theologies and traditions and musings and perspective – same as you. So let's learn from one another, and "be equipped with a faith that works in our lives."

I'll see you Tuesday nights at 6:30 from January 21 through February 18!

Peace in the knowable God,
~Pastor Amanda



Faith Formation!

Sunday School Schedule

Each Sunday at 9:50a.m.



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

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

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

Happy New Year! Join us for the first Kids Club of 2025 as we celebrate friendship and color with kindness.



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!

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!

Updates from Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry!

Summer 2025 VLM Registration is Open! Explore with us this summer how God's Word is ALIVE in God's great Northwoods. Registration is open for Summer 2025!

To register go to: www.vlmcamps.org/registration

Summer Staff Applications are also Live! We are hiring summer staff eager to grow in confidence, learn in community and build lasting friendships. There are a variety of positions that are suitable for young adults with diverse skills and interests!

Men's Retreat 2025

Although it is just entering the "ice" fishing season, it is time to mark your new 2025 calendars for the much anticipated 2025 Salem Men's Retreat. This year we leave Salem on the 7th of July and return on the 10th of July. We will be returning to Kec's Kove on beautiful Kabetogema Lake for the 20th year. With the generous support of un-named donors and Salem's Memorial Committee we have been able to keep your cost for this trip at \$325.00. That cost hasn't changed since 2015. The meals are a highlight of this trip and the scenery is the best that northern Minnesota can offer. Everywhere you look, there is "eye candy" views. Wildlife abounds as well.

The trip to Kab each year has been a wonderful time to catch up with old friends and possibly meet new Christians. Each year it seems that we have a new face or batch of faces to share our faith and fishing time with. Speaking of fishing, now is a great time to think about new line on those reels. Most of the boat captains will be running 6 lb test with fluorocarbon snells. Size 6 for the hooks and color of your choice. I usually pre-tie my snells and will have a variety of hook colors and may put a bead or two on as well.

So, now is the time to take that new calendar and turn it to July and mark in the 2025 men's retreat. We will be leaving Salem on the morning of the 7th and returning early afternoon on the 10th. There will be registration forms on Salem's website (for our snow birds) soon and also forms available in the kiosk in the narthex.

Until July then, stay warm and reflect on those good times at beautiful Kabetogema Lake.

Gary Guida

Worship Notes at Salem

Thank you to those serving in January:

READERS

- 5** Ken Stebbins
12 Glenn Suess
19 _____
26 _____

USHERS

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

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 5** Nate and Axel Novak, _____
12 Glenn Suess, _____, _____
19 _____, _____, _____
26 _____, _____, _____

OFFERING COUNTERS

Lori Holmwig and Ann Zillmer

January Worship Schedule

- 5** 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Volunteer Choir
- 12** 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Choir
- 19** 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Bell Choir
- 26** 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

January/February All-Church Learning Opportunity!

Pastor has had lots of conversations with individuals lately 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! Between now and mid-January, pose your questions and drop them in the offering basket. From mid-January through mid-February we will work our way through as many as we can!

Tuesday nights at 6:30 from January 21 through February 18!

Heartwood Bible Study

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

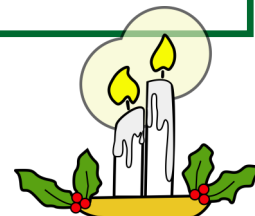
Invite others to come along!



Undecorating the Church!

To those who helped decorate the church at the beginning of December, thank you all so much for creating such a beautiful environment to worship in throughout Advent!

Although ever so beautiful it is time to take down the decorations and put them downstairs to be used again for next year! If you are interested in helping take down Christmas decorations, join us **Wednesday, January 8th at 8:00a.m.**



Church Council News

Dear Salem Family and Friends,

Thank you to all of you who contributed a Christmas offering. The Salem Church Council designated that offering to Lutheran World Relief. Their last mailing highlighted some ways LWR puts "your love in action around the world" - Food, clothing, education for children, seeds to grow crops in Nepal and Central America, quilts to those experiencing disasters in Ukraine and the US, medical aid and clean water in Africa were projects described.

I encourage you to celebrate Epiphany as part of your Christmas celebration. In many parts of the world, gifts are not given until January 6th when the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) in Bethlehem. I always think that this allows the focus of Christmas to be on the arrival of Christ and not what is in stockings and under the tree. Children in some countries put their shoes by the door, filled with straw for the camels as we might leave cookies for Santa. Reflect on the gifts and blessings that we have received from God in the last year.

If you are in the habit of making New Years resolutions, this year you might consider the **Marks of Discipleship** as a pattern for your Faith Journey. This was compiled by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod.

- + Daily Prayer
- + Weekly Worship
- + Daily Bible Reading
- + Serving in and Beyond the Congregation
- + Nurturing Relationships
- + Giving a Tithe and Beyond
- + Invite

A **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is January 18 - 25, 2025 organized by the World Council of Churches. This marks the 1700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council held in Nicaea in 325 AD. The Nicene Creed was adopted from this gathering. This is an opportunity to pray with Christian around the world.

Our Salem Council will be meeting for a planning retreat on January 11th. Please prayer for energy, wisdom, and discernment as we plan ways to live out Salem's mission to **Welcome** people to Jesus Christ, **Equip** them with a faith that works in their lives, and **Send** them into the world in Jesus' name.

Lynn Hansen
President of the Salem Lutheran Church Council

Leadership Updates

Thank you to those who attended the the Annual Meeting for election of Salem's leadership and budgeting for 2025. Salem passed a budget of \$549,210 with a \$25,360 deficit. The full budget can be picked up at the usher stand. The following people will serve on Council through 2025:

Mark Boike, Julie Fritz, Sherri Godfrey, Don Hales, Lynn Hansen, Sylvia Hoge, Alan Niemann, Tina Royer, and Nathan VanRisseghem.

The Outreach Governing Board includes: Cathy Aykens, Kay Bendorf, Linda Sudman, Randy Sykes, and Nancy Tighe. Memorial Committee Funds are directed by: Gary Guida, Curt Hoge, Chuck Lubowitz, Peter MacKay, Kris Schmidt, and Shelly Skeim.

Delegate for Voyager's Lutheran Ministry (VLM) is Whitney Fischer

Delegate and Visitors for 2025 Synod Assembly will be Jeff Mitchell, Jena Reed, and Rad and Tina Royer.

Nomination Team for 2025 includes: Andrea Anderson, Debra Flam, Sherri Godfrey, Nory Hunze, Bev Kunz, and Kris Schmidt.

Mission Trip to Honduras

We are excited to support a few of our fellow congregation members as well as some of their mutual friends as they embark on a southern trip to Honduras to help build houses and support local communities.

In years past we have hosted bake sales and various fundraisers to help raise money to be given to these communities, now those who are going are helping to raise money for supplies to help build while they are down there!

The first fellowship fundraiser is in the form of a pancake breakfast, which I think may be one of the most delicious ways to raise money!

Join us on Sunday, January 12th after worship and keep a look out for more events in the future.

Sunday January 12, 2025

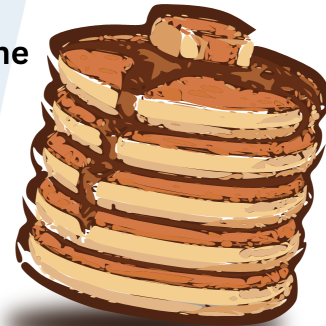
10am (after church)

Salem Lutheran Church

21276 Archibald Rd

Deerwood, MN 56444

Breakfast
provided by the
Honduras
Mission Trip
Group



Proceeds will
help build
houses and
provide food
for those
served in
Honduras

Pancake Breakfast

**Pancakes, Sausage,
Juice and Coffee**

Cost: Free will offering



WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

For Salem Lutheran Church and Salem Outreach

Adopted by Council February 23, 2023

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.

Special Celebrations in January



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

1	Mason DeCent	13	Mark Boike
3	Carla Barker	14	Kathy Dauer
	Noah Coughlin		Greg Reed
	Shelby Olson	15	Marlene Raadt
4	Rick Blomberg		John Zender
	Nathan Perpich	16	Kay Cooper
7	Macyn McBroom	17	Elle Chileen
8	Dylan Ficklin		Carole Houghton
	Laura Martin	19	Cindy Sykes
9	Tom Reek		Joseph Zontelli
10	Mariah Bodle	20	Mark Larson
11	Peggy Hunze	23	Chuck Lubowitz
		24	Ed Godfrey
		25	Ron Meyer
		27	Katie McCormick



1	Steve & Joan Haglund
10	Tim & Cindy Foote
20	Rick & Carol Blomberg

Have you updated your email, phone number or address? If you have and would like to continue receiving updates and emails from our church please contact Grace in the office to be sure that we are able to contact the correct people! We don't want you to miss any important news or prayer requests!

Financial Updates

Benevolences for November

\$1,574.79 Synod ELCA
 \$107.82 Missionary Support
 \$107.82 Voyagers Lutheran Ministry
 \$313.00 Thanksgiving Offering
 To World Hunger
 \$2,103.43 Total

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

Salem Lutheran Church Profit & Loss November 2024

	100 Church	150 Building	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · Offerings	24,185.14	0.00	24,185.14
4100 · Building Fund	0.00	21,616.05	21,616.05
4900 · Other Income	1,141.12	124.45	1,265.57
Total Income	25,326.26	21,740.50	47,066.76
Gross Profit	25,326.26	21,740.50	47,066.76
Expense	31,952.97	13,015.18	44,968.15
Net Ordinary Income	(6,626.71)	8,725.32	2,098.61
Net Income	(6,626.71)	8,725.32	2,098.61

Information Provided by Aimee Watson
 Financial Manager here at Salem

Financial Office Manager Hours
 Monday-Wednesday 9:00a.m.-2:30p.m.

Salem Outreach Governing Board – November 12, 2024

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

MSC: Motion was made, seconded, motion carried.

Opened with a prayer by Pastor Amanda.

The secretary's report was emailed to board members. MSC

The Treasurer's report was approved. MSC

Elections were held. Randy Sykes President, Cathy Aykens Treasurer, and Linda Sudman secretary. MSC

Reports: Salem West had 75 referrals and served 156 Individuals this last month. Year to date we have tracked \$372,970 in good to the community. Total year-to-date impact goods and services is \$908,256.

New Business: Financials.

Transfer from 2910 to 2335 of \$440.79 Quilters. MSC

Transfer from 2910 to 2837 \$8,459.26 for box truck purchase. MSC

Transfer from 2910 to Grant Balance for the United Way furniture grant of \$2,456.00 MSC

Jail ministry dates have been set for December 11. Three volunteers have contacted us about providing the Christmas Party.

Old Business:

Hurricane relief. The council has designated Thanksgiving offering envelopes to disaster relief. It was decided against doing a Round Up at the Mustard Seed at this time through Taste of Christmas.

Next Meeting Is December 17th

Closing Prayer – Adjourn

Submitted by Kay Bendorf

SALEM'S STAFF

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



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	30	31 9:00am Piecemakers	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 11:30am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution	3 8:00am Men's Bible Study	4
5 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	6 Epiphany	7 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting	8 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	9	10 8:00am Men's Bible Study	11 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting
12 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School 10:00am Pancake Breakfast	13 1:00pm Bible Study at Heartwood	14 9:00am Piecemakers 6:00pm Faith Formation	15 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	16 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	17 8:00am Men's Bible Study	18
19 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	20	21 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting 3:00pm Executive Team Meeting	22 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	23 6:30pm Council Meeting	24 8:00am Men's Bible Study	25
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