



Salem Connection

November 2024

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444
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What have you been a member of? A mother's group, a Bible study, a fraternity, a social network site? How about a gym, a club, a sports group? What has that group meant to you? What does it say about you?

Church can sometimes feel like a members-only group. It has its own language, its own tradition, its own songs. Each church has their own personality, their own priorities, their own witness to the community. Once we're "in", we rarely give it much thought. So pause and think for a moment: What does being part of Salem mean to you? What does being part of Salem say about you?

I sometimes struggle with the concept of "membership" in a church. All who believe are members of the body of Christ, right? What does it matter if someone's name is in a directory at a church? So in my pondering (both personally and in preparing to receive new members), I offer this reflection on what it means to "be the church."

Being part of a church is to make a public commitment to Christ. Sunday brunch? Sure, after worship. Sleep in? Nah, I'll nap on Sunday afternoon. Deer stand? Hey, there's only a short window to harvest some meat. The commitment we make is to learn and explore and ponder and wrestle with faith. It says we're ready to trust that God can work wherever we are, regardless of what comes up in our lives.

Being part of a church is also a commitment to community. It's the one place we are united not by agreement, but by the Spirit's work. It's the place we can say "We believe!" and not be ridiculed. But it's also the place we can say "Help my unbelief!" and be carried by one another's faith until we can believe for ourselves again. A faith community makes us reach out to one another, to care for each other, to trust each other, and keep each other accountable. We lift each other up, we strengthen each other's faith and help each other see God's work in our lives. It keeps us from slipping in our faith. So if you miss seeing someone, call them and invite them back!

But most of all, being part of a church joins us in service to accomplish something bigger than we can do by ourselves. Think of the work it would be for you to supply mattresses for the 329 people we've served at Salem West so far this year (and that's just mattresses!). Think of the impact of your giving to the church toward last month's ministry expenses of \$42,762.05 for the church and \$45,688 for Outreach. Remember that 7% of your regular Salem offering serves the greater ELCA ministries and provides funds for emergencies like hurricane relief for months afterwards – now compound that with giving from the over 8,900 ELCA churches! Doing these things on our own would be impossible. Sharing the work serves hundreds and thousands of others with the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ, and the visible presence of that love through what we give.

Being part of a church says that what we receive from God is meant to be shared with others. And it's the best (and hardest) group we can ever be members of.

I'm so blessed to be part of this faith community. Your fellow member,
~Pastor Amanda



Faith Formation!

Sunday School Schedule

Each Sunday at 9:50a.m.

Sunday School materials will be emailed at the end of each week for families who may not be able to attend on Sunday morning. Sunday school gathers at the conclusion of worship which not only helps children experience all of worship (they absorb more than you know!) but to also give their parents some precious time to connect with other adults.



Salem Lutheran
KIDS CLUB
3:15-5:00p.m.
3rd Wednesday of the month!
Free After School Program
3rd-6th Graders Welcome

November 20th: Lego Brick Bible Video
December 18th: Christmas Party All Ages
Welcome Make & Take Christmas Crafts!

Learn More at www.salemdwd.org

Heartwood Bible Study

The monthly Bible study at Heartwood will take place on November 11th at 1:00p.m.

Invite others to come along!



Bible Study Update!



The Tuesday Adult Bible Study is taking a break and regrouping come the New Year! Look for updates about that in the upcoming weeks!

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!

Senior Fellowship Meals

Salem has received a grant to organize a monthly community meal for individuals with similar life experiences to connect and combat post-pandemic loneliness and social isolation. The free meal and gathering space will promote connection and fellowship through interactive card and board game activities. This open-ended social afternoon fosters fellowship and connectedness without any pressure, program, or agenda, allowing for conversations and coffee to continue as long as attendees are comfortable.

November Date: Wednesday, November 6th Starting at 11:30a.m.

Salem will host this event and will need volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up these meals.

Signups will be on the Kiosk.

Worship Notes at Salem

Thank you to those serving in November:

READERS

3 Myron Midthun

10 _____

17 Ken Stebbins

24 _____

USHERS

3 Mark and Cindy Larson, Curt and Sylvia Hoge

10 Randy Holmwig, Herb and Barb Schoon, Mark Boike

17 Roger and Marlene Prill, Clark and Joyce Marshall

24 Nory and Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz and
Karla Peterson

COMMUNION SERVERS

3 Bob and JoAnn Shoenborn, Shirley Midthun

10 _____, _____, _____

17 _____, _____, _____

24 _____, _____, _____

OFFERING COUNTERS

Jeff Mitchell and Diane Hein

November Worship Schedule

3 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Volunteer Choir Sings

10 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Choir Sings

17 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Bell Choir Plays

24 8:00a.m. Praise Team Practice
9:00a.m. Worship
Choir Sings

Fall 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

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Salem and Cascade will gather to give thanks to God for the abundant gifts in our lives!

Wednesday, November 27 at 6:00pm at Cascade Methodist Church

Join for a short hour of prayer, song, and Scripture as we direct our gratitude toward God. Pie potluck social will follow in the as we visit with one another.

Salem Lutheran Church Annual Meeting 2024

Join us on Sunday, November 10th directly following worship as we conduct our annual meeting!

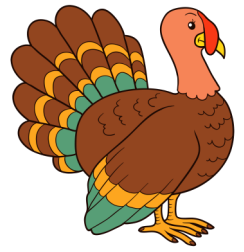
Singing the Liturgy

Liturgy simply means "order" and Lutherans have a long tradition of singing our worship! (Blame it on our Catholic roots!) All through November, we will be singing "Setting 4" beginning on page 147 in the ELW (not hymn 147). If you have never sung liturgy, listen to the lyrics for the ways God has acted on our behalf, and for our response to God's work. These songs offer the gift of joining with saints all around the world and across all time as we sing glory to God.

Community Thanksgiving Meal at Salem Lutheran

Invite family, friends, and neighbors to our Annual Community Thanksgiving Meal

November 13th, Beginning at 12:00p.m.



Music in the Air

Salem Lutheran Church Proudly Presents The ABC Cantata: Advent Becomes Christmas

This ecumenical Cantata is already underway and singers from our congregation and the surrounding area have been spending their Sunday afternoons practicing to perform this specially curated music selection for their Salem Family as well as the rest of the community!

Posters will be available to be hung around the community soon and we encourage you all to invite your family, friends and neighbors to enjoy an afternoon of music that will put you in the holiday spirit!

**Cantata Dates: December 7th at 3:00p.m.
December 8th during worship at 9:00a.m. also
at Heartwood Senior Center at 2:00p.m.**

A poster for "A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten. The background is dark green with white string lights and pine branches. The Legacy Chorale logo (a teal diamond with 'LC' and musical notes) is prominent. The text reads: "THE LEGACY CHORALE A CEREMONY OF CAROLS and other seasonal favorites November 9 at 7:00 pm Salem Lutheran Church, Deerwood".

THE LEGACY CHORALE
A CEREMONY OF CAROLS
and other seasonal favorites
November 9 at 7:00 pm
Salem Lutheran Church, Deerwood

The Legacy Chorale presents A Ceremony of Carols at Salem Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 9 as part of its fall concert series. The concert includes the major work of the same name by Benjamin Britten, accompanied by harp, along with other seasonal choral selections such as Mack Wilberg's arrangement of "Joy to the World" and John Rutter's arrangement of "Candlelight Carol."

The Legacy Chorale is a 65-member adult auditioned choir, composed of members from 15 communities around the Brainerd lakes area. The choir is a program of the Legacy Chorale of Greater Minnesota, a Brainerd-based nonprofit organization that supports adult and youth choirs. Visit legacychorale.org for more information on other adult and youth concert events and upcoming audition opportunities.

Admission is by: free will donation. To facilitate this we offer a name-your-price ticketing model.

Tickets can be reserved online at legacychorale.org or will be available at the door.

Mark Your Calendars!
Taste of Christmas
2024
at The Mustard Seed



There is still time to make a financial commitment.



We received numerous financial commitments to the Capital Appeal and will be sharing totals soon. A special thank you to those who returned their commitment form and the many volunteers who gave of their time!

If you have not returned your commitment form, please do so as soon as possible. The Capital Appeal Team will be following up with those who we have not heard from.

If Salem reaches our goal of \$390,000, we will be able to pay our monthly mortgage for the next three years at an accelerated rate. With a successful 2024 -2027 appeal, we anticipate only needing one more appeal after this one to reach our ultimate goal of eliminating the mortgage. Thanks once again to all who have made a financial commitment to this appeal!

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 November



3	Wayne Brezina	17	Jason Kempthorne		
	Nathan Pelant	19	Owen Deseth		
5	Herb Schoon		Avery Lonergan	20	Cory & Jacqueline Brix
	Becki Zender		Janet Niemann	23	Gary & Carol Malek
6	Elaine Greene	22	Noreen	24	Greg & Shelly Skeim
8	Lois Hicks		Steinbrecher	28	Tony & Tammy Kimball
9	Linda Sudman		Tyler Wynn	30	Julie & Kevin Fritz
11	Roger Johnson	24	Kyle Skeim		
13	Ryley Bartels	27	Audrey Ebert		
	Char Hausker		Drake Heffner		
	Shirley Ross		Chrissy Swanson		
14	Helen Ryan	29	Leah Barnett		
15	Tammy Kimball	30	Shirley Goodwin		

Financial Updates

Designation of Special Offerings

The Salem portion of the Thanksgiving Offering will go to ELCA World Hunger. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Benevolences for September

\$1,627.00 Synod ELCA
 \$95.63 Missionary Support
 \$95.63 Voyagers Lutheran Ministry
 \$1,818.26 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 September 2024

	100 Church	150 Building	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · Offerings	26,883.35	0.00	26,883.35
4100 · Building Fund	0.00	12,194.95	12,194.95
4900 · Other Income	672.96	129.90	802.86
Total Income	27,556.31	12,324.85	39,881.16
Gross Profit	27,556.31	12,324.85	39,881.16
Expense	26,762.05	16,000.00	42,762.05
Net Ordinary Income	794.26	(3,675.15)	(2,880.89)
Net Income	794.26	(3,675.15)	(2,880.89)

Salem Lutheran Church Council September 26, 2024 @6:30pm

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

- Call to Order:
Members Present: Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Don Hales, Jason Kempthorne, Nate VanRisseghem, Sylvia Hoge, Julie Fritz, Tina Royer.
Absent: Peter MacKay, Sherri Godfrey.
 - Opening with Prayer: Pastor Amanda
 - SOS announcement: None
 - Approval of the Agenda:
Motion to approve the agenda with one additional item, seconded. MSC
 - Approval of August 22, 2024 minutes:
Motion to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes, seconded. MSC
 - Approval of August Financials:
FYI: \$13,000 has been received from the former Schwanke Trust Fund that is now the responsibility of the Memorial Committee. Taxes have been paid out of these funds. \$170,000 will be distributed to the committee soon and will close any outstanding accounts from the Schwanke Trust Fund.
Motion to approve August 2024 financial report, seconded. MSC
 - Pastor's Report – Pastor Amanda:
The Church governing and committee elections are November 10. Still in need of individuals to run for positions.
Confirmation began with 6 students attending out of a potential 14.
The Women's Retreat on Discernment is September 27-29.
The Heartwood Chaplain, Brian Kimbler is retiring, so Pastor Amanda will provide extra worship support on September 29 and October 6, and possibly into the future.
Using the results of the Time and Talent survey, training and implementing the Home Communion Visitors initiative will occur.
 - A very special thank you to Grace, our outstanding office manager, for giving us the gifts of your talents and patience as we celebrate a year of your service! Congratulations!
 - Outreach Report – Jason:
The OGB finalized and submitted its 2025 budget to the council.
In June the board voted to sell the van and truck, and an individual has expressed interest in taking both. Jason is still waiting for the Titles of the vehicles. Mark agreed to work with the bank to get them ASAP
The air conditioner blew up, so bids will go out for its replacement.
- Old Business:
- Fundraiser in summer:
The council decided to join the community event that takes place in August (whether Summerfest or another event) with details to be discussed at the January retreat.
 - Old coffee maker disposal: The Restaurant Supply company will not buy the coffee machines, but will take them; however, the coffee pots are still usable.
Motion made and seconded to give the machines to an organization/company that can re-use or re-purpose the machines. MSC.
- New Business:
- Calendar items: review/publish weather cancelation policy, Thanksgiving worship, and determine Christmas Eve schedule:

Continued on the next page.

Weather cancelation policy- Publish in Bulletin, Connection, and post in public areas of church.

Determine Thanksgiving worship- P. Amanda will talk to Cascade about doing this years' service. Our share of the offering will be given to ELCA World Hunger.

Christmas Eve schedule- Two services, 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

- Security and Safety Training opportunity, Lakewood Church is sponsoring seminar: November 2nd. Cost is \$250.00 per participant.

Motion made and seconded to send one person from Salem to this training.

- Facility request: Fellowship Hall soundproofing- Current sound absorption is not adequate for the space. Discussed ways to rectify this problem, which included installing sound proofing panels (expensive) and opening room dividers to deaden ambient noise (free). Room dividers will be tried to see if this adequately solves the noise problem.
- 2025 Budget preparation: The council discussed, examined, and analyzed the budget requests and the budget in its entirety for 2025.

Motion made and seconded to approve the 2025 Salem budget.

- Music personnel: Discussed paying substitute for practice.

- Committee Reports:

Capital Appeal – Lynn: A volunteer training session is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15 for those interested in helping with the Capital Appeal campaign.

Columbarium – Don: NR

Facilities – Nate: The Fellowship Hall lights are being installed, when time allows. The fall church clean-up is scheduled for October 26th.

Faith Formation – Sylvia: A meeting is in the works.

Memorial – NR

Stewardship – Lynn: Distributing Time and Talents and receiving Pledge Cards on Sept 29

Technology – Julie: NR

Welcome – Tina: Next meeting is October 3rd. If there is interest from 4 or more families, a New Member Orientation is planned for October 20, 27, and November 3.

Worship and Music – Julie: Cantata practice begins Sunday, October 20 at 3:00 pm.

SOS Submission. No submission.

Announcements: Exec Team Meeting, October 15th @ 3:00 pm.

Next Council Meeting, October 24th @ 6:30 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:55 pm.

Closed in Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Royer



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Reformation Sunday 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School	28	29 9:00am Piecemakers	30 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	31 Reformation Day 4:30pm Trunks for Treats	1 All Saints Day 8:00am Men's Bible Study	2
3 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School 3:30pm Cantata Practice	4 9:00am Lefse Making	5 9:00am Church Open for Prayer 9:00am Piecemakers 5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting 6:00pm Faith Formation	6 11:30am Senior Fellowship Meal 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	7	8 8:00am Men's Bible Study	9 9:00am Serpent Lake Association Meeting 7:00pm Legacy Chorale Concert
10 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School 10:15am Annual Meeting 3:30pm Cantata Practice	11 1:00pm Bible Study at Heartwood	12 9:00am Piecemakers 5:45pm Capital Appeal Meeting	13 12:00pm Community Thanksgiving Meal 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	14	15 8:00am Men's Bible Study	16
17 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School 3:30pm Cantata Practice	18 Taste of Christmas Set Up 11:00am Catholic Charities Meal Distribution 4:00pm Drum Group Practice	19 Taste of Christmas Set Up 9:00am Piecemakers 1:00pm Outreach Governing Board Meeting	20 Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 3:15pm Kids Club 5:00pm Bell Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Confirmation	21 Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed 6:00pm Cuyuna Range Lions Meeting	22 Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed 8:00am Men's Bible Study	23 Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed
24 8:00am Praise Singers Rehearsal 9:00am Worship 9:50am Sunday School 3:30pm Cantata Practice	25 Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed	26 Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed 9:00am Piecemakers 6:30pm Council Meeting	27 Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Thanksgiving Worship at Cascade	28 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	29 Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed Office Closed	30 Taste of Christmas at The Mustard Seed