



**Salem Lutheran Church**

11 West Bernard Street  
West St. Paul, MN 55118-1409  
SalemLuth.org

**Winter/Spring 2023**



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**MEETING**

**Sunday, January 29th**

**10:45 am**

**Details on pg. 7**



**Grounded in Scripture, we seek to Nurture the Faith and to Proclaim Christ's Love in Word and Deed to each other and our neighbors near and far.**



## **E-MAIL NEWS!**

Everyone is invited to worship in person or via livestream on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Be sure to also check your e-mail on Wednesdays for the weekly announcements. Please call the church office at (651) 457-6661 if you have any questions. Thank you!

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES**

**Sunday Worship** - 9:30 am (In person & via livestream)

**Faith Formation Family Sunday** - 10:40 am Every Fourth Sunday in the Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday Bible Study** - Every Tuesday at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room

**Faith Formation at St. Stephen's** - Wednesdays at 5:30 pm  
(*Third Wednesday at Salem for Activity Night*)

**Elizabeth Circle** - First Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room

**Men's Renewal Group** - Every other Friday at 8:00 am (*Gallaghers, West. St. Paul*)

**Jubilee Ringers** - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

**Chancel Choir** - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month at 7:15 pm in the Choir Room

**Learner Bells** - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary

**Centering Prayer** - Every other Saturday at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room

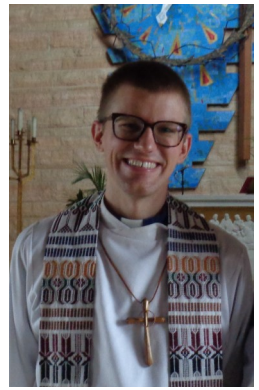
To stay current on all events/programs at Salem, please visit the church calendar at: [www.salemluth.org/calendar-2](http://www.salemluth.org/calendar-2)

A message from Pastor Aaron:

Siblings in Christ,

Nina Simone once sang:

It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life  
For me  
And I'm feeling good



I pray you and I are all feeling good in this new year of 2023. In all truth, the first time I remember hearing this song was on one of those Starbucks' Holiday CDs that my sister used to collect. It seems a bit strange for a festive winter compilation but I really didn't know its history as a musical number from a British play class, or its emancipation overtones in Simone's version during the Civil Rights movement. This song came to mind today because I am writing this newsletter for Epiphany, Ordinary Time, and Lent, during the season of Advent with Christmas on the horizon. Trying to encompass all of those themes and different contexts can be difficult, yet there are some songs and words that can transcend time and imbue each situation with meaning.

The newness of life we experience through God's grace each and everyday is one of those things that just fits regardless of time and place. As we enter into a new calendar year, having recently moved into a new church year, and are moving into our first season of Lent together, I am feeling good. Undoubtedly there will be many new and old traditions and trials we will experience together over the next few months but God's presence in the life of this congregation remains constant.

So how do we experience that presence in these seasons of the church year?

*continued from pg. 3*

If Advent is a season of waiting for Christ to come, the holy day of Epiphany is celebrating that appearance. On this day and in the ordinary time that follows we rejoice in the many manifestations of God's love in our lives; from the Incarnation itself to the Transfiguration, we see God's glory reaching out to us in order that we may hear and see the promise of new life.

This time of revelation and celebration is followed by Lent. A season often associated with more somber tones, the word itself actually means "Spring." In this season of repentance and reflection we plant seeds which are watered and fed in order to bloom come Eastertide. So whether we are singing praises to God's manifested presence here on earth, or lamenting our sin with ash and apologies, we carry a feeling of newness into each and every encounter of worship.

Now what does that mean for us when it comes to activities and events? Already Salem has a lot going on during the weekdays. There is never a day in the office when someone isn't dropping in to say hello as they move on their way to a gathering or task happening here at the church. Nevertheless I want to explore new opportunities and activities in the months and seasons ahead. I know there is energy around potential book studies and adult forums and I hope that you give these activities a try when they become available. I also am aware of the 11:00 am Wednesday Lenten service time, which may be a perfect place to experiment with different worship styles and study topics. In the end as we practice our faith together in traditions new and old, I look forward to this first quarter of 2023 and I'm feeling good.

Blessings,  
Pr. Aaron Holmgren



## Greetings from the Parish Nurse:

### **Betwixt and Between**

I recently completed a book study and discussion group on “Life Transitions and Spirituality” at Lyngblomsten Assisted Living as my final project for my Graduate Pastoral Ministry Certificate. It was a great learning experience and I’d like to do this as an Adult Forum at Salem in the future.

The Lord is our keeper and is always with us, especially in times of transition. There are moments in life where we feel “betwixt and between”, these are times that we feel we are wandering in the wilderness as life changes happen. The change could be the birth of new baby, starting a new job, experiencing loss of a loved one, retirement, and more.

Yet it’s at these transitional moments that we should look to God as our keeper. God accompanies us through the valleys of uncertainty and gives us courage to move forward to new beginnings. God will hold us up and keep us when we don’t know the way.

Debbie Lee,  
Parish Nurse



*Greetings from the  
Council President:*

Salem Friends,

A new year is upon us. We look forward to the joys and challenges of 2023 as God gives us the courage and strength to move ahead. I encourage all of us to join together at the Annual Meeting, January 29th, to help plan Salem's course.



Our staff, council, committees, organizations, and volunteers continue to do a great job pursuing Salem's Mission. We have been surrounded with God's music, God's people, God's work, and God's presence. Others have found that Salem is a place for them also. We have square dancers, an AA group, prayer groups, community choirs rehearsing, three different congregations worshipping and praising all using Salem along with us. Recent wonderful concerts by the River Heights Chorale and Sam Butler have brought hundreds of people in contact with Salem and our Mission.

We have had some other recent events that have reached out into the community – Arts & Crafts Sale, an Advent Festival, a Food Drive, a Blood Drive, a Giving Tree for families, a Faith Formation Christmas Caroling event, and mailings to new residents in the area. We have been doing marvelous things! Check out some pictures below and on the next page! Remember to keep an eye on the "Life at Salem" page of the website for more pictures!

Let us march on as God shows us the light. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Jack Schlukebier,





## SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 10:45 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

All voting members are invited to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 29th at 10:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will also make the meeting available on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. A Zoom link will be sent to everyone closer to the time of the meeting. We will have elections for leadership positions as needed. Having a quorum is always needed at meetings that include votes so your attendance is very important! We hope to see you all there!





## **2023 SEASON OF LENT AT SALEM**

Everyone is invited to celebrate the season of Lent at Salem beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. We will have services at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.

Lenten Wednesday Worship Services will take place weekly at 7:00 pm from March 1 through March 29. We will send information via email, the website and our Facebook page regarding the 11:00 am Lenten Wednesday gatherings.



## **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES:**

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - APRIL 2, 2023 - 9:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - APRIL 6, 2023 - 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - APRIL 7, 2023 - 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - APRIL 9, 2023 - 9:30 AM





**EASTER EGG HUNT & FAMILY FUN!**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023**  
**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Salem is planning on having an Easter Egg Hunt and other fun family activities and crafts on Saturday, April 8 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Everyone is invited to participate! Volunteer information will be available in February.

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**FAITH FORMATION ACTIVITY NIGHTS AT SALEM**

The Faith Formation Activity Nights at Salem will take place on the dates listed below. We are in need of volunteers who can prepare and serve a light meal to the families on those evenings. Please contact the church office if you are able to help!

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023 - 5:30 pm**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023 - 5:30 pm**

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023 - 5:30 pm**

**Wednesday, April 19, 2023 - 5:30 pm**



I am a Child of God. I know it.  
I live it. I love it.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

5 M. Scott Taulman  
6 Madison Castillo  
7 Nancy Kastner  
10 Jerome Bartel  
10 Carol Bierbrauer  
10 Peter Johannsen  
10 Barbara Schmidt  
11 Ryan Maylone  
11 JoAnn Tholey  
13 Brenda Urquhart  
14 Sandra Zenk  
17 William Fillion  
18 Milton Nesdahl  
20 Dawn Nguyen  
20 Sophia Scibora  
22 Chad Elling  
25 Elsie Hintz  
26 Erick Dittberner  
28 Pam Wakeen  
29 William French  
31 Matthew Castillo

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1 Madeleine Pemberton  
2 Leighland McMurray  
5 Michael Vining  
6 Judy Belland  
8 Clara Atkinson  
8 Savannah Engstrom  
9 Austin French  
11 Michael Rash  
12 Franky Larson  
12 Patricia Becker  
13 Marri Sczepanski  
13 Judy Roy  
15 Logan Schirmer  
16 Tamara Gallagher  
16 Mercury McDonald  
16 James Brennan  
17 Paul Wyatt  
17 Jack Martin  
18 Cody Maylone  
19 Nancy Neiburg  
19 Louis Strobel  
19 Sarah Nesdahl  
22 Sean Yates  
23 Carol Johnson  
25 Nichole Fisher  
26 Colleen Schwartz  
27 Evelyn Shoff  
28 Judith Nelson  
29 James Buck

*May the Lord*  
**BLESS**  
*and keep you, and make*  
*His face to shine upon you*  
*and give you peace*

I am a Child of God. I know it.  
I live it. I love it.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Raymond Thron
- 4 Heather Paulson
- 4 Sophie Raimann
- 4 Chris Schouviller
- 5 Sandra Brown
- 10 Mary Lou Vining-Berg
- 11 Corrine Bergstrom
- 13 Julie Boldt
- 13 Larry Matheny
- 15 David Boldt
- 15 Stacy Hillman
- 17 Matthew Gaines
- 18 Wendelin Schmidt
- 21 Kathi Schouviller
- 21 Pam Taulman

- 25 Cruiz Hernandez
- 26 Lisa McMurray
- 28 Patrick Raimann
- 29 Rebekah Elling
- 30 Scott Schmiesing

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 22 Paul and Nancy Wyatt
- 23 David and Diane Staberg
- 24 F. Paul and Sandra Bollinger

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 18 John and Susan Peterson
- 20 Jacob and Sarah Nesdahl

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Larry and Karen Matheny
- 18 David and Laura Johannsen



**FAITH FORMATION SUNDAYS**

Salem has begun a brand new program for kids and families on the Sunday following the Faith Formation Activity Night at Salem. The program takes place after the 9:30 am Worship Service.

Everyone is invited to participate in a super fun, 15-20 minute Family Faith Formation class in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have music, Bible stories, snacks and crafts for kids! We are hoping this experience will bring our young in age and young at heart together to build up our church and each other. Please spread the word and invite your family, friends & neighbors!

**2023 Dates:**

**January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23 and May 28**



*A Message from the Financial Secretary:*

Again, I thank you for your support of Salem and our ministries. Yes, this is a recurring theme. Though it is repeated every time you hear from me, know that I sincerely value each and every one of you and your support. Your passion for Salem allows us to fulfill our mission to “nurture the faith and to proclaim Christ’s love in Word and Deed to each other and our neighbors, near and far.”

I am so pleased to feel the excitement filling the church this year as we began the journey with our new pastor. The summer brought new ministries and rekindled others as we came back after two years of a pandemic keeping many of us away. As always, during the summer months, folks go on vacation, spend their weekends at the cabin, they watch our streaming worship from home. The reasons are not important, but as in-person attendance drops, so does giving. In September and October general operating donations rebounded, giving us hope that we may end 2022 having met our budgeted estimate of giving. We are hoping and praying for growth in giving in November and December.

We ask for your prayers as we continue our journey.

Ellen Marty, Salem’s Financial Secretary

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*A Message from the Stewardship Committee:*

As we enter into the New Year, the Stewardship Committee will be exploring ways that we can be good stewards of our time and talents. More information coming soon!

## 2022 SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE



Thank You to all who made the Scholarship Drive a huge success. Over \$12,000 was raised for students in Magome, Tanzania, and over \$4,000 for students in San Lucas, Guatemala. We have made the gift of education available to many students!

Thanks to the following contributors:

**Paul & Gen Nakanishi**  
**Todd & Debbie Yilek**  
**Art Lemke**  
**Dave & Sally Wangenstein**  
**Jack & Judy Schlukebier**  
**Betty Bauer**  
**Bill & Glennis Schlukebier**  
**Mary Lou Vining-Berg & JR Berg**  
**Paul & Norma Johannsen**  
**LuLu's Friend**  
**John & Jill Biebel**  
**Phil & Cynthia Barker**  
**Jane & Ade Degler**  
**Judy Hedger**  
**Keith & Carol Olson**  
**Ray & Diana Thron**  
**Paul & Nancy Wyatt**  
**Peter & Diane Hueller**  
**Mark & Jeannie Schmidt**  
**Corrine Bergstrom**

**Aaron & Abbe Holmgren**  
**Louise & Milt Nesdahl**  
**Tracy & Mark Gilles**  
**Kay Tellekson**  
**Judy Belland**  
**Ted & Mary Ann Horner**  
**Scott & Susie Seiberlich**  
**Johanna Nelson**  
**Jenny Schlukebier & Ben Woolman**  
**Mike & Jeff**  
**Arlene Christiansen**  
**Jason & Anne Schlukebier**  
**Jon & Lana Pemberton**  
**Elaine & Clyde Hause**  
**Kathy Hanson**  
**Clayton Miller & Shirley Peterson**  
**Ellen Marty**  
**Bev Kroll**  
**Johni Wilczyk**  
**Carol Bierbrauer**

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## 2023 MAGOME MISSION TRIP

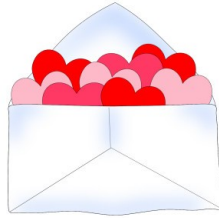
Salem is planning a mission trip to Magome from the last week of July into the first week of August. Several members have expressed an interest in going. If you are interested in going on the trip, please contact Judy Schlukebier at 651-224-9144.



**O.W.L.S.**  
**(OLDER WISER LUTHERANS AT SALEM)**  
**2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**



Co-Chairs of the O.W.L.S. (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS AT SALEM), Shirley Peterson and Janet Sell, have put together a schedule of events for the spring of 2023. Anyone 55+ is welcome to join the group and attend the meetings! The group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall with the exception of some events that will take place off-site. We hope to see you there!



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
**PLANNING MEETING AND GAME DAY**

Join the group for some fun game time and to discuss ideas regarding activities for the rest of the year!

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
**VALENTINE'S DAY CARD PARTY**

Join the group for a time of fellowship and creativity! You're invited to help to create Valentine's Day cards for our homebound members. There will also be the option to play card games!

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
**HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR SENIORS PRESENTATION**

Join the group and learn more about the topic of Health and Safety for Seniors.



## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2023 4:30 PM - 6:15 PM

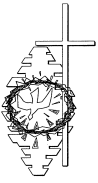
Everyone is invited to participate at the Feed My Starving Children event (990 Lone Oak Rd., #136, Eagan, MN., 55121) on Friday, January 20 from 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm. We will reserve 15 volunteer spots. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex soon. You must sign up by Friday, January 6. It's always a fun time of fellowship! If you have never been to one of these packing events, why not make this your first time??!!

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### 2023 CHANCEL FLOWER ORDERS

Salem will continue working with Hills Floral to give members the opportunity to order chancel flowers. Members also have the option of providing their own arrangement. **You must sign-up online for either option.** Please use the “Chancel Flower Calendar” link on the announcements page of the website and follow the instructions. Please contact the office if you do not have internet access and would like to sign-up for flowers. The cost to have the flowers provided by Hills Floral is \$40.00. Please write “chancel flowers” on the memo line of your check and make it out to Salem or include a note if you send in cash. If you provide your own arrangement, it must be brought to the sanctuary **no later than 9:15 am for your chosen Sunday** so that they can be placed on the stand prior to the start of the service. The diameter of the flower stand is 11 inches. Arrangements from a wedding or funeral are permissible provided they are still fresh and no banners or inserts other than greenery or flowers are included. Thank you!



# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

11 West Bernard Street, West St. Paul, MN 55118-1409  
(651) 457-6661 • FAX: (651) 457-6693

E-mail: secretary@salemluth.org • Website: salemluth.org  
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

## ✝ NEED PRAYER ✝

Diane Hueller.....651-451-0307  
Louise Nesdahl.....651-280-9678  
Church Office .....651-457-6661

If you or a member of your family are in need of prayer and would like us to pray for you, please call the prayer chain coordinator or the church office and we will place you on the prayer chain. *All calls are kept confidential.*

### Ministers: All Members of Salem

Pastor.....Rev. Aaron Holmgren  
Choir Director.....Carl Lipke  
Handbell Director.....Keith Irwin  
Organist.....Judy Belland  
Parish Nurse.....Debbie Lee  
Admin. Secretary.....Michelle Rodriguez



**Celebrate the Season of Lent  
at Salem!**  
Details on pg. 8 and 9

The *Salem Newsletter* is a publication of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are located on Bernard Street, three blocks west of Robert Street between Humboldt and Hall. **Deadline for the Spring/Summer newsletter is noon, Monday, March 13.** Please submit articles typed or printed clearly, by mail or email, including your name and phone number.



**FEED MY STARVING  
CHILDREN EVENT**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2023**  
**4:30 PM**  
Details on pg. 15