



Salem Lutheran Church

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

Winter/Spring 2024



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Sunday, January 28th

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.



STAY CONNECTED!

Everyone is invited to all the great things happening at Salem! Be sure to check your e-mail on Wednesdays for the weekly announcements. Questions? Feel free to call the church office at (651) 457-6661 or send an e-mail to secretary@salemluth.org.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Worship - 9:30 am in the Sanctuary

Faith Formation Family Sunday - Every Second and Fourth Sunday at 10:40 am in the Fellowship Hall

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

Wednesday Prayer Service - Every Wednesday at 9:15 in the Sanctuary

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

Elizabeth Circle - Second 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

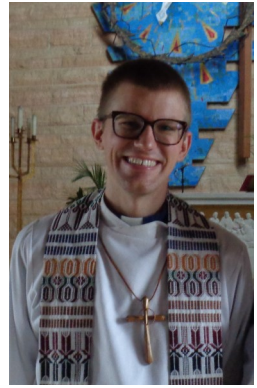
To stay current on all events/programs at Salem, please visit the church calendar at: www.salemluth.org/calendar-2

A message from Pastor Aaron:

Dear Salem,

1 John 1:1-4

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— what we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.



Grace and peace to you all as we enter a new calendar year together. I am continually grateful for the ways in which this congregation strives to further the mission of nurturing the faith and proclaiming Christ's love in Word and Deed to each other and our neighbors near and far.

The dedication and drive that members of this community bring to so many aspects of our work together—ushering, counting, singing, salting, shoveling, accompanying, ringing, reading, Putzing, OWLing, organizing, volunteering, and committee chairing—so many people are involved in the day to day life of the church. That being said, it is not lost on me how this continued workload can be incredibly draining especially when the number of people willing and able to give of their time and talents is fewer than perhaps in the past. Your enthusiasm and diligence is incredible! But your rest and restoration is vital as well. I pray you continue to listen to your body and spirit and take the breaks you need. The true needs of a worshiping congregation have a way of showing themselves and getting done.

And we have a lot to get done! In these three months we move from Christmastide to Easter, with Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week all in between.

March 31st is one of the earliest times The Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday (Easter) lands on our calendars, giving us very little time to wait between New Year's night and Easter morning. Though this may feel like a sprint we must remember that the story we share remains the same. As the author of 1 John makes clear from the opening of their letter, what has been declared to us in the past is what it has been from the beginning. The grace of God found in Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, meaning we have every tool we need to proclaim the word of God and share in this good news, whether it's the "busy" days of Lent-Easter, or the "relaxed" days of summer. So as we work through this busy first quarter of the year, remember to pace yourself, trusting that the fountain of faith is always overflowing with opportunities to witness and worship together.

Personally I have been amazed at the peace of mind that comes from carving out time in the middle of the week of a service of prayer. Whether it's just me of the Holy Spirit, or one or two who have gathered during this new worship service on Wednesdays at 9:15, the gift of that time to talk to God and listen has helped me feel more grounded in this fellowship that we share, that has been shared from the very beginning. Experiencing this change in my faith journey, I trust that we will continue to have ample opportunities to try new things, stick with beloved traditions, and experience fellowship through the Gospel we share.

I'm excited for our Epiphany-Easter speed run, but in some ways I'm equally excited to see what we as a congregation may do with the "less structured" time provided for us in April and May. Time otherwise wrapped up in Lenten activities and Holy Week planning is waiting for us in the Season of Easter. What better time to stretch ourselves as people of the Resurrection? Let us continue to testify to what we have seen and heard with our neighbors near and far.

In Christ may our joy be complete,
Rev. Aaron Holmgren

PRESENCE

Have you felt the Holy Spirit at work in your life? Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit's presence in a place or in other people? This week's spiritual focus for Yoga devotion speaks on the presence of God and the Holy Spirit: "God is this overarching presence that allows us to feel and experience things that are beyond this realm." Author Unknown.

I feel God's presence in places, such as when entering the church sanctuary and in the coziness of the Fireside room. I feel God's presence working through me when I visit a congregational member and offer communion, when I sing a beloved hymn. There have been times when I felt that God put me in the right place at the right time such as when I went to visit my sister and recognized that my brother-in-law was going to pass away and that my sister needed me to be with her.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mary Jo Copeland, founder of Sharing and Caring Hands while serving the homeless at a nursing community service. I held her hand as we prayed together before serving the meal and felt the Holy Spirit working through her in her selfless service to the poor.

The mystery of God's presence is an ever-unfolding mystery that reveals God's great love for all creation. It is a mystery that cannot be fully realized by what we know cognitively but can be explored through our experience of God's presence. There are many modes by which we can explore the mystery of God's presence. The biblical narrative that leads to the Christmas mystery, the birth of Jesus, is the one we lean into during Advent. For many of us, the incarnation we prepare for during Advent—God becoming human in the person of Jesus—is the primary incarnation we relate to. We are, after all, human beings of body, mind and spirit and we experience life as whole beings.

Debbie Lee,
Parish Nurse



*Greetings from the
Council President:*

Salem Friends,

It is with Joy and Thanksgiving that we enter a new year at Salem. It has been a full and rich year for us. We have expanded many ministries and revised others. Our campus has grown to include a labyrinth which is being used by the community.

We continue to serve God's people as we host 3 congregations within our building – RefugeCity, Amor y Esperanza and Church of the Living God. Recently we were packed with folks here to enjoy the concert of The River Heights Chorale. Our Blood Drive was a success as people came to Salem to help our neighbor. We reached out to people facing homelessness and in need through our "God's Work, Our Hands" project which put over 40 personal hygiene and comfort packs into their hands. Our support of Neighborsinc. and Moreland Elementary school has been vigorous, while we continue with "Feed My Starving Children" and "Loaves and Fishes."

After a highly successful Mission Trip to Magome we have continued to "reach out to our neighbors near and far" by generously sponsoring students in Magome, Tanzania, and San Lucas, Guatemala.

Planning has already begun for active summer Youth programs and activities. There will be many challenges ahead. Much will be asked of us.

That's OK, we serve the Lord.

Jack Schluebier,
Council President



New roof and wall repairs
at the main church in Magome.



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024 - 10:30 AM - SANCTUARY

All voting members are invited to participate in a Special Meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of approving changes to Salem's constitution and by-laws. **Please review the documents that were sent via email PRIOR to attending the meeting.** If you are a voting member and need the documents sent again, please contact the church office. Thank you!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 10:45 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

All voting members are invited to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28th 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!

**A ZOOM LINK FOR BOTH MEETINGS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE SOON
FOR ANY VOTING MEMBER WHO CANNOT ATTEND IN PERSON.**



FAITH FORMATION FAMILY SUNDAY IS EXPANDING 2024!

Faith Formation Family Sunday is **EXPANDING!!** We are excited to announce that Faith Formation Family Sunday will be offered **TWICE** per month in 2024!

Sessions will take place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Dates listed below. We look forward to welcoming you

and your children to a fun time of crafting, singing, storytelling and learning on: January 14, February 11, 25, March 10, 24, April 14, 28, and May 12, 26th. (No session on January 28 due to Annual Congregational Meeting).



LENT SUPPERS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Salem has a long tradition of serving Lenten Suppers before the 7:00 pm Lenten Wednesday Worship Services. We need volunteers to help with this ministry so that we can continue to offer this time of fellowship in 2024! Please contact the

church office if you are able to help. The meals can be as simple as soup and bread. Thank you for helping to keep this tradition going!



EASTER LILY ORDERS - LISTEN & LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENT COMING SOON!

Be sure to listen to the announcements on Sunday mornings and keep an eye on the website and e-mails for information coming soon about Easter lilies. We typically need to place the order with Gertens at least 6 weeks prior to Easter Sunday so we'll have order information available soon!



2024 SEASON OF LENT AT SALEM

Everyone is invited to celebrate the season of Lent at Salem beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Lenten Wednesday Worship Services will take place weekly at 7:00 pm from February 21 through March 20. 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 - MARCH 24, 2024 - 9:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - MARCH 28, 2024- 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - MARCH 29, 2024 - 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - MARCH 31, 2024 - 9:30 AM

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 M. Scott Taulman
7 Nancy Kastner
10 Jerome Bartel
10 Carol Bierbrauer
10 Peter Johannsen
10 Barbara Schmidt
11 Ryan Maylone
17 Alexandra Barker
18 Milton Nesdahl
20 Sophia Scibora
22 Chad Elling
22 Pastor Aaron Holmgren
25 Elsie Hintz
28 Pam Wakeen
29 William French

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 Raymond Thron
4 Heather Paulson
4 Chris Schouville
10 Mary Lou Vining-Berg
11 Corrine Bergstrom
13 Julie Boldt
15 David Boldt
17 Matthew Gaines
21 Kathi Schouville
21 Pam Taulman
25 Cruz Hernandez
26 Lisa McMurray
29 Rebekah Elling
30 Scott Schmiesing

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Madeleine Pemberton
2 Leighland McMurray
6 Judy Belland
8 Clara Atkinson
9 Austin French
17 Paul Wyatt
18 Cody Maylone
19 Louis Strobel
19 Sarah Nesdahl
23 Carol Johnson
25 Iyla Junkers
27 Judith Nelson
28 James Buck

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

22 Paul and Nancy Wyatt
23 F. Paul and Sandra Bollinger

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

20 Jacob and Sarah Nesdahl

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

18 David and Laura Johannsen

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



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024
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 19 from 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm. We will reserve 15 volunteer spots. There is a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex, You must sign up by **Friday, January 12**. 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??!!



LOAVES & FISHES - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Salem will be supporting our benevolence partner, Loaves & Fishes, in 2024 on the dates listed below. This is a **CRUCIAL** ministry that provides free meals to persons in need in our local community. With the rising costs of groceries, rents, gas, etc., volunteers are needed more than ever to help carry out our mission of “**...Proclaim Christ's Love in Word and Deed to each other and our neighbors near and far.**”

Volunteers are needed from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at St. Matthew's Catholic Church at 510 Hall Ave., St. Paul, MN., 55107 on:

January 25, March 28, May 23, July 25, September 26

O.W.L.S.
(OLDER WISER LUTHERANS AT SALEM)
2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Co-Chairs of the O.W.L.S. (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS AT SALEM), Shirley Peterson and Janet Sell, will continue planning wonderful events, outings, speakers, etc. in 2024! Everyone 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 9, 2024 - 1:00 PM
PLANNING MEETING AND GAME DAY

Join the group for to learn a fun game called “Why’d I Do That?” and to discuss ideas regarding activities for the rest of the year!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 - 1:00 PM
SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED

Planning is in the works for a guest speaker to join the group at the February meeting. Stay tuned to the weekly announcements for details!

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2023 - 1:00 PM
SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED

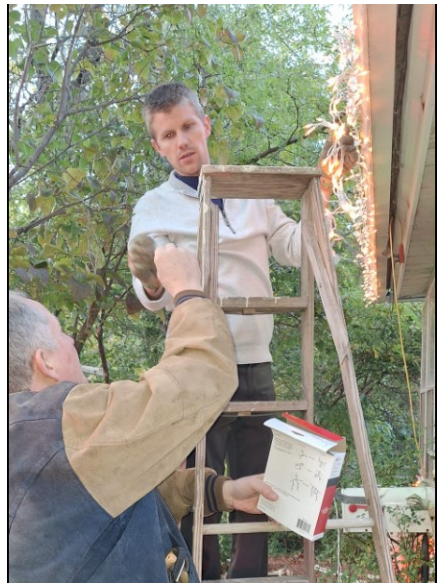
Planning is in the works for a guest speaker to join the group at the March meeting. Stay tuned to the weekly announcements for details!

WEDNESDAY FAITH FORMATION ACTIVITY NIGHTS AT SALEM - 5:30 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Wednesday 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!

January 17, February 21 , March 20, April 17

Pictured below from top to bottom: Christmas caroling in the Salem neighborhood, helping neighbors with yardwork, Faith Formation Band visiting Salem on Sunday morning.



LIFE AT SALEM

Be sure to check out the “Life at Salem” page of the website for more pictures of all the great events that happen throughout the year!



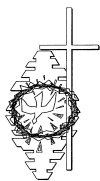
From left to right (Red Cross Blood Drive, First Bible Celebration, Christmas Program, Beer, Burgers & Carols and OWLS Christmas Party)



2024 CHANCEL FLOWER ORDERS

The link to the 2024 Chancel Flower Calendar is available on the announcements page of the website. Members also have the option of providing their own arrangement. **You must sign-up online for either option.** Please contact the office if you do not have internet access and would like help to sign-up for flowers. The cost to have the flowers delivered 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 Office651-457-6661

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 11.*** Please submit articles typed or printed clearly, by mail or email, including your name and phone number.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN EVENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

4:30 PM

Details on pg. 11