



Salem Lutheran Church

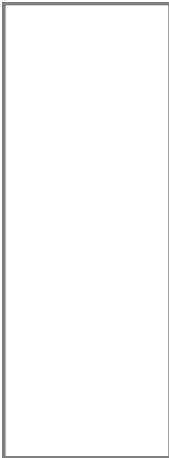
11 West Bernard Street
West St. Paul, MN 55118-1409
SalemLuth.org

Fall/Winter 2025

2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN COMING IN NOVEMBER!

WHY
DO
U
GIVE?

Details on pg. 21



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 and Fridays 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 person & via livestream)

Adult Forum - 10:40 am - Sundays after the worship service in the Fireside Room

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

Faith Formation at St. Stephen's - Wednesdays at 5:30 pm
(Second Wednesdays 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

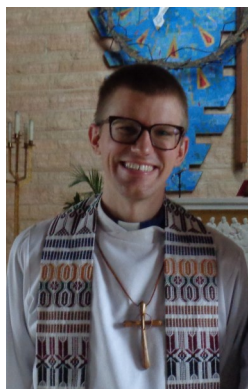
Centering Prayer - Every other Saturday at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room

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:

Siblings in Christ,

As 2025 nears its end, one can begin to reflect on all that has happened here at Salem. While some of these events may feel like a lifetime ago, we shared in some incredible moments of meaningful worship and ministry together!



All the way back in January when we held our annual meeting, we discerned a path forward through votes and discussion and even now we can see and celebrate the fruits of this work.

In Lent we held meaningful worship with church members bringing Scripture to life through dramatizations of Biblical characters. Just last Sunday an adult forum topic about Biblical women was suggested, citing this Lenten theme. That alone shows me, this series continues to bear fruits as folks have seen themselves in God's story of salvation and want to learn more.

Our Easter Sunday was full of prayer and praise, with several beautiful moments of communal worship and the proclamation of our Risen Christ. I don't know about you but to hear the resounding "He has Risen Indeed" from a full sanctuary filled my heart with joy. Now as I look forward, I find myself eagerly awaiting our time together at All Saints' and Christmas Eve. Unique holidays that explore the fullness of God's story in and through our lives.

But while most churches slow down for the summer, this year we kept on running! Just a few weeks after Easter we had a large Solar System project installed on our building, fulfilling a multiyear stewardship vision and goal. Not only did the congregation do our due diligence in their prayer and research for this project, but we also came together to support and celebrate its completion. But really, this is only the beginning of our wonderful project, in that the power produced through this system, reduces future carbon emissions, and helps us with our utilities for years to come.

Cont'd from pg. 3

I look forward to being able to report on these results in the future, but after the switch was turned on midday August 4th, in August alone Salem produced 5.25 MWh of energy. From a glance at our bill from August we used 3.037 MWh, so we should be seeing some nice reductions in our electric bills once Xcel gets our net metering up and running.

While that was all happening above our heads, on the ground we continued to gather as a community and with our community, through events like Beer and Hymns, Night to Unite, the WSP Days Parade and Pride. We gathered for Bible studies, forums, meals, discussions, planning sessions, and fun. Each of these moments helped reach a larger group of neighbors with the Gospel.

Personally, in my role as your pastor, I was able to finish my “Second Act Cohort” experience through the synod, go to ELCA Churchwide Assembly as a voting member, and travel to Tanzania as a part of our Magome-Salem partnership. One of these experiences would have been enough for a year of joyful reflection, so to have all three was a blessing. I have a lot of hope in the work of the church near and far (especially our unique grace-filled Lutheran expression!).

Now I will admit, 2025 as a whole has been a tough year for many, in our community and around the world. Which is all the more reason to celebrate the glimpses of the Gospel we have been privileged to experience and share together. God’s grace truly abounds, and we cannot lose sight of this all-powerful love that reaches out to us in spite of our collective sin. God’s will of salvation made real in Christ, is continually renewing us in this work and Salem has put in a lot of work this year.



And this year is far from over. We still have several things planned in worship and outreach that can give glory to God and help us love our neighbors. I encourage you all to look through the upcoming events outlined in this newsletter and through the church calendar so you can put them on your own and help us grow in faith and fellowship together.

Your sibling in Christ,
Rev. Aaron Holmgren

Adult Forum

Everyone is invited to participate in all of the upcoming Adult Forums! They are held in the Fireside Room following the Sunday Worship Service. It's a great time of fellowship and learning! We hope to see you all there!

October 5 - Habbakuk and the Minor Prophets

October 12 - No Forum. (Informational Meeting in Fireside Room)

October 19 - No Forum (Pastor on Vacation)

October 26 - Reformation Sunday: The Peasants' War

November 2 - The Unnamed Women of Scripture

November 9 - Biblical Marriage Systems

November 16 - Revelation and the Apocalypse

November 23 - Our King on the Cross

November 30 - No Forum (Pastor on Vacation)

December 7 - No Forum (Christmas Tea)

December 14 - What is Advent?

December 21 - Miracles and Divine Intervention

December 28 - No Forum (Pastor on Vacation)

From the Parish Nurse:



September was Healthy-Aging Month, celebrating the positive aspects of aging and exploring ways to enhance the wellbeing of older individuals. Healthy aging encompasses maintaining and improving physical, mental, spiritual, financial and social health.

The population of older adults in the U.S. is steadily increasing, and people are living longer than ever before. Our minds and bodies undergo countless changes as we age, but embracing a healthy lifestyle can help us navigate through these transformations with grace and vigor. Not only does it have the power to ward off potential health issues, but it also allows us to get every drop of joy and fulfillment from our lives. It is possible to live a vibrant and full life at any age.

What does healthy-aging look like? Healthy aging is the continuous process of making lifestyle adaptations to keep you healthy and comfortable throughout your life. Some ways to optimize your well-being as you age may include:

Prioritize a balanced diet - Choose foods high in vitamins, minerals and fiber, and drink an adequate amount of water to stay hydrated.

Move your body regularly - Finding movement and exercise you enjoy can help prevent chronic illnesses, enhance balance and endurance and decrease the likelihood of falls.

Prevent financial exploitation – Financial exploitation is one of six types of elder abuse impacting approximately 1 in 15 older adults and their families. Taking steps to protect your identity and assets before your risk factors increase, this will help prevent you from being exploited by family members or scams targeting seniors.

Nurture relationships - Cultivating social connections can bolster independence and overall wellbeing. Social isolation is a huge issue for older adults and increases the risk of depression.

Plan for inheritance and property transfer issues - All families have belongings that hold sentimental and emotional importance but little monetary value. These possessions are often not included in a person's will, which leaves the surviving family responsible for making difficult decisions about "who gets what" after their relative has passed. Making an inheritance and property transfer plan gives you peace of mind and reduces uncertainty for your loved ones. In addition, downsizing can help alleviate some of this responsibility and make life easier for your loved ones.

Create a healthcare directive - Advance care planning helps you and your loved ones prepare for future decisions about your medical care in the event you become seriously ill or unable to communicate your wishes.

Submitted by,
Debbie Lee, Parish Nurse
(Article provided by the University of Minnesota Extension)



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS OCTOBER 2025 - MAY 2026

Our Parish Nurse, Debbie Lee, will be conducting blood pressure checks in her office, following the worship service every other Sunday from **Sunday, October 5 through Sunday, May 17**. Be sure to take advantage of this free and vital health screening!

Salem's 2025 Visit to Our Sister Congregation in Magome, Tanzania

2025 marked Salem's ninth visit to our sister congregation in Magome, Tanzania. A group of six from Salem began the journey, departing MSP airport around 4 PM on September 20th. After a flight delay, we just made our connection in Amsterdam, arriving at Dar Es Salaam at 10:15 PM on September 21. Nine out of our eleven bags made it with us. Saja and Goodluck were waiting at the airport with a bus to take us to Wista, a lodging facility where we stayed the night. It was amazing to see the chaotic traffic—motorcycles, three-wheelers, buses, trucks, and people all trying to get somewhere. Despite driving on the left side of the road, it all somehow worked.

Journey to Magome

After a long 12-hour bus ride to Iringa along a narrow mountain road through grassland and hills, we were welcomed by Bega Kwa Bega program coordinator Kirsten. We spent the night at the Lutheran Center and enjoyed a hearty breakfast the next morning. Before heading out, we met our interpreter, Ambrose, who is also a pastor in the Iringa district. Jack and Judy went shopping for village supplies while the rest of us explored the neighborhood. In the afternoon, our land cruisers and drivers—Hussein and [name blurred]—brought us to Magome.

Arrival in Magome

After several hours on gravel roads, we were greeted about a mile outside the village by 30 or so people on motorcycles. As we exited our vehicles, there were hugs, tears, and joyful dancing. We handed out hats and reboarded the vehicles for the final leg to the church. Upon arrival, Pastor Capher Chavala welcomed us, and we joined others inside for introductions and song. We were shown to our rooms and later enjoyed a meal in the common area. The guest facility had electricity and a new bathroom. We also toured the pastor's office and the new church building. That night, we shared a meal, sang together, and rested.

Sunday Service & Visits

After a 7 AM breakfast, we attended church where Pastor Aaron preached and led the service. It was a special day—Jack and Judy celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. After the service and a quick lunch, we visited the village dispensary and were thrilled to learn they now have a doctor on-site. We delivered many gifts, which benefit not only the sister congregation but the entire community. Recent improvements include new toilets and a maternity ward—approximately 36 births occur here each year. Later, we visited the Salem Preaching Points, handed out gifts, and Pastor Aaron led songs.



Schools & Youth Programs

Monday began with a visit to the primary school, where we met the headmaster, Stephane, who oversees six teachers and 275 students. We were impressed to hear students recite numbers and speak in English. Next, we visited Lutangilo Secondary School, one of the top three schools in the region. It serves 239 students, including 17 Salem-sponsored students. We enjoyed performances by the students and shared a special lunch with those we sponsor. Gift bags were distributed before students returned to class. We also toured the school with second master, Albert Chavalo. That afternoon, we briefly toured the village water project. Thanks to a new 10,000-liter tank fed by a ground spring, the village now has 32 water points, significantly improving health and hygiene. After dinner, we gathered again for songs.

Agriculture, RDO, and More

On Tuesday, we visited the avocado farm—trees are two to three years away from producing a crop. Then we returned to the village, packed, and traveled back to Iringa. Along the way, we stopped at the RDO (Rural Development Organization) and met with Principal Ndokole and Staci, the coordinator. They serve 252 students through vocational training, water programs, and orphan support. We sponsor three students in tailoring, cooking, and electrical.



The Diocese and Media Outreach

On Wednesday, we toured the Iringa Diocese headquarters. The Diocese supports 129 parishes and 900 workers, with 83 parishes currently partnered with the St. Paul Area Synod. We also learned about the "Million Tree" project to improve the environment and saw the newly translated HEHE Bible—HEHE being one of the native languages. The Diocese offers youth programs for those ages 13–45, including reproductive education and life skills training. That afternoon, we visited the Diocese's radio station, Radio Furaha, which broadcasts a 50/50 mix of parish and civil programming. We also toured a facility where people with disabilities learn trades and operate a small market to sell their goods.

Health and Wildlife

Thursday, we toured the Ilula Hospital. Tanzanian hospitals have six levels of care, and Ilula is a mid-level facility serving people from up to 100 kilometers away. On Friday, we traveled to Mwagusi Safari at Ruaha National Park. We enjoyed three game drives over two days and saw a wide range of animals. We ended the day with a fine dinner in a dry riverbed.

Final Days

Sunday morning, we returned to Iringa and stayed again at the Lutheran Center. On Monday, we headed to the airport but faced a six-hour delay. We received a lunch during the wait and later, upon arrival at Dar Es Salaam, enjoyed our final meal at a restaurant recommended by our guide, Goodluck. Though tired, we were excited to begin our final journey home—grateful for the memories, friendships, and meaningful work shared during our time in Tanzania.

Submitted by,
Keith Olson

**Trip Pictures on
Pages 10-13**

Huruma Orphanage





**Ikeloma Preaching
Point Congregation**



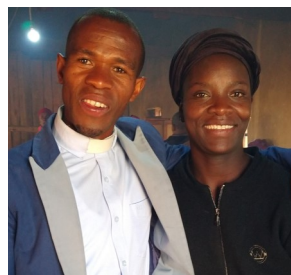
**Sponsored Students
at Lutangilo**



**Students with Gifts at
Lutangilo Secondary
School**



Cash Gift to Magome



Pastor Capher and Elizabeth

Arrival at Magome



Partnership Committee



Gifted Quilts from Salem

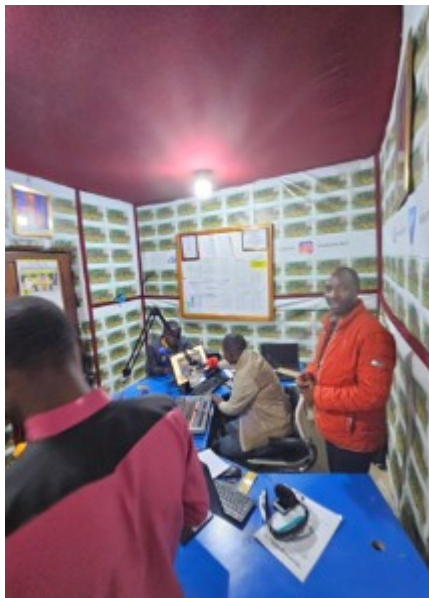


Gifts to Dispensary





Magome Congregation



Iringa Dioces Furaha Radio Station



Vocational School Students



Iringa Dioces Million Trees Project



Salem Preaching Point Congregation



**Iringa Dioces Staff
Welcomes Salem**



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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Becky Johnson
- 5 Laura Johannsen
- 5 Marlene Kostohryz
- 6 Louise Nesdahl
- 10 James Lee
- 12 Carl Lipke
- 12 Kathryn Wyatt
- 15 Helen Johnson
- 16 Isaak Dittberner
- 18 Paul Bollinger
- 19 Jamie Hernandez
- 22 Lauren French
- 22 Robert Gore
- 26 Theodore Horner
- 29 Christopher Gaines

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Shirley Peterson
- 3 Sandi DeHate
- 5 Scott Reed
- 5 Jack Schlukebier
- 7 Cynthia Barker
- 9 Nancy Schmidt
- 10 Julie Shade
- 11 Michelle Rodriguez
- 11 Lon Johnson
- 13 Lulu Cannon
- 17 Vincent Soledad
- 18 Samuel Wareham
- 22 Alyssa Boldt
- 25 Cori Giles
- 30 Kay Tellekson

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Raymond Boldt
- 5 Abbe Holmgren
- 5 Deanna Steckman
- 7 Philip Barker
- 13 Pamela Karas-Johnson
- 14 Arlene Lindberg
- 16 Vicki Ledford
- 17 Judith Schlukebier
- 17 Marvin Johnson
- 18 Vern Sunday
- 18 Vickie French
- 20 Paul Johannsen
- 21 Donald Nelson
- 26 Kyle Atkinson
- 27 Constance Williams

COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED!

We are in need of a few more volunteers to help serve Communion. It's served on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month and special church holidays. If you are able to help, please contact Michelle in the office to be added to the 2026 schedule. You can serve standing or sitting down.

Thank you!



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



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Peter Johannsen and Kathryn Twedt-Johannsen
- 15 Philip and Cynthia Barker
- 18 Mark and Jeannie Schmidt
- 22 Diane & Peter Hueller
- 27 Pam and Scott Taulman
- 28 Raymond and Diana Thron

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Marvin and Carol Johnson
- 24 Chris and Kathi Schouviller
- 27 Milton and Louise Nesdahl

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Leanne and Scott Schmiesing

GUATEMALA & TANZANIA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE ENDS THIS WEEK!

The 2025 scholarship drive for students in Tanzania and Guatemala ends on **Sunday, October 5!** It's not too late to make a gift!

Your gifts and support give students in both countries the opportunity to go on to secondary school. The cost to attend a private or church sponsored school in Magome, Tanzania is about \$500-\$600 and in San Lucas, Guatemala it is about \$250. Any donation amount is greatly appreciated! You can use the scholarship envelopes in the sanctuary and check the appropriate box. Please write "scholarship drive" on the memo line of your check. You can also donate online by using the links on the "Give" page of the website. Thank you!



O.W.L.S. (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS AT SALEM)

OCTOBER & DECEMBER EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to join the O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Lutherans at Salem)! The group typically meets on the 2nd Thursday of every other month in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm (*some dates will vary depending on the activity, any date changes will be posted on the website*).



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 - 1:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

“AFRICAN SAFARI SLIDE SHOW”

Everyone is invited to the next O.W.L.S. meeting on Thursday, October 9. Jack Schlukebier will be presenting a slideshow about the African safari that he and other Salem members recently took part in. All are welcome!



THURSDAY DECEMBER 11 - HOLIDAY PARTY - 1:00 PM

All OWLS are invited to a holiday party at Janet Sell's home on Thursday, December 11 at 1:00 pm. Please bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share and a white elephant gift to exchange.

UPCOMING EVENTS!



NEIGHBORS, INC. COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Everyone is invited to participate in the
Neighbors, Inc. Community

Celebration on Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Be part of something truly special at the inaugural Neighbors, Inc. Community Celebration—a lively morning gathering that brings together the communities we proudly serve. You'll enjoy hands-on activities, meet fellow neighbors and local partners, and see firsthand how your presence powers our life-changing food, clothing, and financial empowerment programs. Join us, make new friends, and help write the first chapter of a legacy that will strengthen our region for years to come!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- **Community Walk:** “Warrior Mile” fundraiser—sign up solo or bring a team and help fuel our mission. **REGISTER HERE:** <https://events.idonate.com/neighborswalk>.
- **Touch-A-Truck:** Get up close with the vehicles that power our neighborhoods.
- **Community Resource Tables:** Connect with local organizations offering food assistance, health screenings, job training, legal aid, and more.
- **Local Business & Sponsor Village:** Meet area entrepreneurs and learn how community partners drive impact.
- **Activities for All Ages:** Bounce houses, face painting, a petting zoo, carnival games.

UPCOMING EVENTS!



BONFIRE SING-A-LONG
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025
6:00 - 7:30 PM (SALEM LAWN)

Everyone is invited to a bonfire sing-a-long on the lawn! We'll provide all the supplies needed to make s'mores. We'll sing classic hymns and learn new ones! *(Please bring your own lawn chair and non-alcoholic beverage, guitars are welcome too!)*



FAITH FORMATION
ACTIVITY NIGHTS AT SALEM - 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

The Faith Formation Activity Night (SECOND Wednesday of the month) is held at Salem from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We gather for a light meal, singing and a fun activity that people of all ages can participate in. Thank you for supporting this ministry and being a welcoming presence for Salem families and youth!

OCTOBER 8 - TIE BLANKETS
NOVEMBER 12 - GAME NIGHT
DECEMBER 10 - CAROLING, COOKIES & COCOA



INFORMATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025 - 10:40 AM
FIRESIDE ROOM

Have you wondered about new ways to be involved, observe, learn, grow in faith, and strengthen our sense of a church community? How did Salem start and where might we be going together? Have questions around membership and what that entails? You are invited to the Fireside Room to learn more and get answers to your questions!

Hope to see you there,
Rev. Aaron Holmgren & Diane Hueller (Membership)

UPCOMING EVENTS!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PACKING EVENT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025 - 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Salem has 15 volunteer spots reserved for Friday, October 17 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at the Eagan location. (990 Lone Oak Rd., #136, Eagan, MN., 55121) There will be a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex. **You must sign-up by Friday, October 10.** Please help us to fill all 15 spots! If you are not able to stand, there are sit-down jobs available too!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025 - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Everyone is invited to participate in the Fall Clean Up event on Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Projects will range from light cleaning to light repairs. All are welcome, come for 30 minutes or all 3 hours! Many hands make light work!

REFORMATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 26, 2025 - 9:30 AM

Everyone is invited to attend the Sunday Worship Service on October 26 when we will be celebrating Reformation Sunday. This church commemorates the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, as a sign of protest!



DID YOU KNOW?

The Lutheran symbol of the “Luther Rose” (pictured above) symbolizes Christ's sacrifice (cross), the heart of faith and its joy (red heart), purity and peace (white rose), the heavenly home (blue field), and eternal life in heaven (gold ring).

UPCOMING EVENTS!



BEER, BURGERS & HYMNS MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Everyone is invited to Gallagher's (888 Ohio St.) on Monday, October 27, 2025 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm for a great evening of Beer, Burgers and Hymns! Bring your family out for a fun evening with Pastor Aaron, Salem members and St. Stephen's folks in a well-loved community outing!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025 9:30 AM

Salem will be celebrating All Saints Sunday on Sunday, November 2. We will be remembering all members who passed into God's glory during the last year. We will have candles available in the Narthex that you can light in memory of your loved one during the Worship Service. There will be request cards available in the back of the Sanctuary during October to submit names of any loved ones for whom you'd like a candle.



NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025 10:40 AM

Last year, Salem officially adopted the sections of Bernard St., Humboldt Ave. and Hall Ave. that surround the church building up to Annapolis Ave. We will be heading out after the worship service on Sunday, November 2 to spruce up the area. This will be a perfect opportunity to pick up any candy wrappers, etc. left over from trick or treating. Garbage bags and other supplies will be provided. We hope everyone will pitch in and help out! Many hands make light work!



UPCOMING EVENTS!

2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - COMING IN NOVEMBER!

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign, “**WHY DO YOU GIVE?**”, is coming soon! Look for a letter in your home mailbox the first week of November. Different areas of the campaign will be highlighted during the church services in November with the finale celebration happening on Sunday, November 23! All are welcome to participate!



 neighborsinc.
**HERE DURING
TIMES OF NEED**

NEIGHBORSINC. FOOD DRIVE IN NOVEMBER

Salem will be hosting a food drive for Neighborsinc. during the month of November. A barrel for donations will be available in the Narthex along with a list of most needed items and brown paper bags. Monetary donations are also welcome! Thank you for your support!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Be sure to watch your email this month for information about ordering Christmas Poinsettias. The plants are used to decorate the chancel area on Christmas Eve and are also donated to our homebound members. The cost is typically around \$10.00 per plant.



FREE THANKSGIVING MEALS FROM CASPERS OF EAGAN

Caspers of Eagan will once again generously be providing free Thanksgiving Meals to community members. The meals can be picked up from St. Joseph Catholic Church (1154 Seminole Ave.) on Thursday, November 27. Salem has signed up for 20 tickets. Only 1 ticket is needed per household. You must contact the church office to sign-up for a ticket(s) and they must be picked up by **Friday, November 21**. We need to give Caspers a meal count by then to help them know how many meals to prepare.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT SALEM!

The holidays are right around the corner and everyone is invited to celebrate at Salem!

TRUNK-OR-TREAT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM



This year's Trunk-or-Treat event will take place in the parking lot on Saturday, October 25 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Everyone is invited to decorate their car and load up the trunk with goodies for kids and families in the neighborhood. Please contact the church office by phone or email by October 17 if you would like to participate. Please spread the word to your family and friends...we can't wait to see all the cute costumes!



JOINT THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025 - 7:00 PM

We will have a JOINT Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 pm in the Salem Sanctuary with St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. The service will also be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person. Interim Pastor Karla Coen-Tuff of St. Stephen's will be preaching. There will be a pie social in the Fellowship Hall after the service. We will need your baked or store-bought pies! Please drop them off in the kitchen on either Tuesday, November 25 or Wednesday, November 26 before the Worship Service. Thank you!



NEIGHBORS INC.
ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Salem will be participating in the Neighbors, Inc. Adopt-A-Family program. We will have a "Giving Tree" in the

Narthex with instructions about how to prepare your gift in December. More details to come soon.

CHRISTMAS TEA & CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG



Christmas Tea - Sunday, December 7, 2025 - 10:40 am

Please contact Carol Olson if you are able to donate treats/baked good.

Christmas Sing-A-Long - Sunday, December 21, 2025 - 9:30 am

Celebrate the season during the worship service where we'll sing a fun song that proclaims the Nativity story!



LONGEST NIGHT/BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025 - 7:00 PM

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service may provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. On this darkest day of the year, we come with all our feelings seeking the return of light and hope.



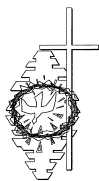
ADVENT SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 7, 14, 21 - 9:30 AM CANDLE LIGHTING READERS NEEDED!

We would love for our young adults and families to be part of the four Advent Sunday morning worship services by volunteering to lead the candle lighting readings. Please speak with Pastor Aaron or contact the church office if you would like to participate!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 - 4:30 PM

This year's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on Wednesday, December 24 at 4:30 pm. Please plan to attend this wonderful music-filled service with friends and family members in an evening of celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!





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

✠ NEED PRAYER ✠

Louise Nesdahl.....651-280-9678

Diane Hueller.....651-451-0307

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



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Details on pg. 19

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT SALEM!



(Details on pgs. 22-23)

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 Winter/Spring newsletter is noon, Monday, December 8th.** Please submit articles typed or printed clearly, by mail or email, including your name and phone number.



(Details on pg. 19)