



Salem Lutheran Church

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

Winter/Spring 2026



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2026

10:45 am

Details on pg. 4

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. 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, no sessions during Lent) (Sep-May)

Elizabeth Circle - Second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room (Sep-May)

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 (Sep-May)

Learner Bells - Rehearsals on every Wednesday of each month 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary (Sep-May)

Senior Choir - Rehearsals as scheduled at 8:30 am in the Choir Room (Sep-May)

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:

Pilot Pals Program!

Hello Salem,

With a New Year upon us, the Stewardship Committee would like to launch a new adventure! We have an incredible collection of people in our community who each bring unique experiences, insights, and stories to share. God has given us the gift of a loving community so let's celebrate this grace and get to know one another a little better!



Pastor Aaron and the Stewardship Committee are asking for individuals to let us know before the annual meeting, if you would like to be a part of an exciting pilot program that will encourage deeper community with our church family. We want to give you all a chance to make new friends within our community.

Those who sign up will be paired with another member of the congregation and encouraged to take time to meet/talk outside of the normal church schedule. Think of a 20-minute phone call to start. We will even supply starter scripts for those who wonder what they could say/ask!

Like the example of Paul to Timothy... the hope is to pair people in different generations, so young and old share their wisdom with one another along the way (i.e. How to patch a shirt... How to fix a light fixture... How to navigate a computer issue).

But even if you don't think you have anything to bring to the table in that department, remember a listening ear and a familiar face can make a world of difference. Let's make a difference together!

Your Sibling in Christ,
Pr. Aaron Holmgren





**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026
10:40 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL
GAMES & LUNCHEON EVENT**

Everyone is invited to a “Games & Luncheon” event on Sunday, January 11 at 10:40 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite games to share and/or come ready to learn a new game!



**ANNUAL
congregational
MEETING**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026
10:45 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL**

All voting members are invited to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 25 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!



INFORMATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 10:45 AM - FIRESIDE ROOM

Have you wondered about ways to be involved, what goes on, or perhaps potential membership? Come and participate in an informational meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 10:45 am in the Fireside Room to learn more and get answers to your questions!

Hope to see you,
Diane Hueller (Membership)



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 welcome and connect with the families and individuals who attend. Please contact the church office if you are able to help! (No sessions during Lent: (February 18 - April 4)

JANUARY 14 - GREETING CARD ACTIVITY

FEBRUARY 11 - LENTEN ACTIVITY

APRIL 8 - EARTH DAY ACTIVITY



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

Everyone is welcome to join the group (no matter your age!) and attend the meetings! The group will meet on the SECOND THURSDAY of EVERY OTHER month at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!



NEXT MEETING:

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 - 1:00 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL
“LOVE AND FUNERALS”**

A caring gift that everyone can give their loved ones is engaging in their own funeral planning so that family members and/or friends have the opportunity to know and honor your final wishes. Josh Oxyndale from Klecatskys Funeral Home West will be the guest speaker and provide helpful information about this topic.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 - 1:00 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL
THEME - TBD**



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026
10:00 AM - FIRESIDE ROOM**

The Elizabeth Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 14 at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room. The group studies lessons from “Gather” magazine. All are welcome!



LOAVES & FISHES - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Salem will be supporting Loaves & Fishes, in 2026 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:

March 26, May 28, July 23, September 24



2026 CHANCEL FLOWER ORDERS

The link to the 2026 Chancel Flower Calendar is available on the announcements page of the website. You can choose to have an arrangement delivered or provide your 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.

We recognize that a \$40.00 bouquet of flowers is not as substantial as in the past and are considering options that will better serve our community. Look in your email for a poll coming soon to gather feedback about an alternative method to honor/remember loved ones and/or recognize special dates with a monetary donation and the use of a decorative/seasonal church-owned silk floral arrangement.



Lent.
A SEASON OF RENEWAL

2026 SEASON OF LENT AT SALEM

Everyone is invited to celebrate the season of Lent at Salem beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Lenten Wednesday Worship Services will take place weekly at 7:00 pm from February 25 through March 18.

LENTEN 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 2026! Please contact the church office if you are able to help. The meals can be as simple as soup and bread.

THANK YOU!



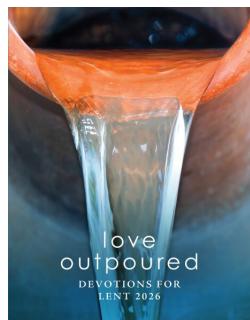


EASTER LILY ORDERS - LISTEN & LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENT COMING SOON!

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!

2026 LENT DEVOTIONALS

We will be placing an order for Lent devotionals **PER REQUEST**. A sign-up sheet will be available in the back of the sanctuary by Sunday, January 11. If you would like a Lenten devotional, please sign up by **Sunday, January 18. Thank You!**



WORSHIP SERVICES:

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29 - 9:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2 - 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3 - 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5 - 9:30 AM

EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY AND EASTER BREAKFAST

The Youth and Family, Evangelism and Education committees will be discussing plans for Easter-season fellowship opportunities soon.

Stay tuned for dates/times!



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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jill Kretsinger
- 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
- 25 Iyla Junkers
- 28 Pam Wakeen
- 29 William French

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
- 27 Judith Nelson
- 29 James Buck

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

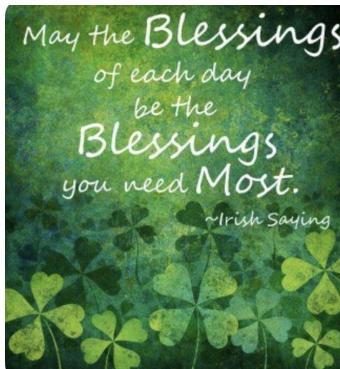
- 22 Paul and Nancy Wyatt
- 23 F. Paul and Sandra Bollinger

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Jacob and Sarah Nesdahl

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 David and Laura Johannsen



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!





Salem Lutheran Church

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

(651) 457-6661

E-mail: secretary@salem.org • Website: salem.org

† 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

Handbell Director.....Keith Irwin

Organist.....Judy Belland

Parish Nurse.....Debbie Lee

Admin. Secretary.....Michelle Rodriguez



**Celebrate the Season of Lent
at Salem!**

Details on pgs. 8 and 9



The Salem Newsletter is a publication of Salem 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 9.** Please submit articles typed or printed clearly, by mail or email, including your name and phone number.

Start the new year with a renewed spirit and renewed health goals! Don't forget to stop by the Parish Nurse office to get your blood pressure checked!

**Every other Sunday
(January - May)**

