



Salem Lutheran Church

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

Winter/Spring 2025

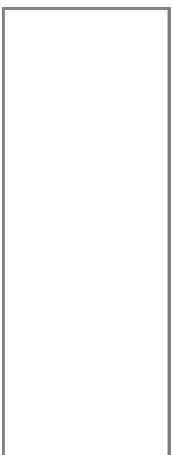


ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2025

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 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
(Third Wednesdays at Salem for Activity Night, no sessions during Lent)

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

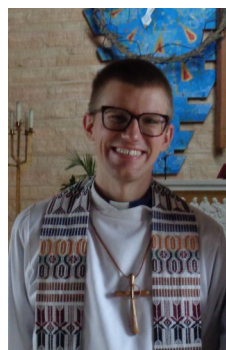
Centering Prayer - Every other Saturday at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room

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,

What do the first three months of 2025 have in store for us? I am not sure yet, but I am excited to see what God has in store. This year, unlike 2024, Easter is in April so January through March is full of Sundays after Epiphany and Lent. With this season after Epiphany beginning on January 6th and running all the way to March 2nd, I thought I would reflect a bit on this often-overlooked time in our church calendar. I do not know if I am misremembering this but growing up, I always thought this time was referred to as the “Season OF Epiphany,” however, since being in ministry it’s been referred to as the “Season *after* Epiphany.” The lectionary makes this a brief moment of ordinary time when the paraments switch back to green before the purple of Lent, and the white/gold of Eastertide. So, is there anything special about this time or is it truly just “ordinary?”



Well, the first thing to point out, is that every Sunday we gather, we celebrate the extraordinarily good news of Christ’s Resurrection, meaning there is nothing truly ordinary about worship aside from perhaps the style and structure. Second, “ordinary” in this context refers to the ordinal counting used to name the Sundays. i.e., “First Sunday after..., Second, Third...” etc. But beyond those silly nitpicks, this time following Christmastide and before Lent is filled with incredible stories that intentionally examine Jesus’ identity as the Messiah. From the rivers of his baptism to the mountaintop of his transformation, this ordinary time is bookended with stories of God splitting the sky to declare Jesus as God’s beloved Son. In between these two events we get Gospel story after Gospel story of Jesus demonstrating that truth in and through the works of his ministry.

To get back to the nerdy nitpicking, the big churchy word we so often encounter during this time is “manifest” or “manifestation.” I remember the first time this word jumped out at me was in college, when my roommate and I were singing a hymn titled “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise.”

We thought it was funny that nearly every other word in this song seemed to be “manifest” and as an inside joke we would sing the whole melody using just that word (I know we were cool).

But what does it mean to celebrate and sing “God in flesh made manifest!”? In many ways it’s the same good news we share when we sing “Joy to the world the Lord is come” on Christmas Eve, but whereas our culture is quick to run to name the big day (Superbowl, Valentine’s, St. Patrick’s), we continue to ponder and reflect on this miracle of God’s arrival on earth.

The manifested glory of God has been made known to us in and through flesh and bone. Our struggles, our scrapes, our exhaustion, have all been experienced and lived through by our cosmic Creator, who chose to join us, so that we may be joined to them. So, what does the glory of God look like when it is here on earth? We do not have to guess. In the stories of Jesus Christ, we see an all-powerful God choose to walk with the outcast, heal the forgotten and estranged, lift up the powerless, eat with sinners, welcome children, love one’s enemies, humbly serve all, and sacrifice everything for the sake of everyone. We have every good reason to sing of thankfulness and praise, when this is what we have come to know about our awesome God. The season after Epiphany reminds us every year that light has entered the darkness of our days and love has chosen to meet us where we are. Of course, it is then Lent that invites us to pursue that encounter more fully through repentance and practice, but without the revelation of Epiphany, we would probably have little desire to do so. So, this January and February, let us ponder in our hearts this gift that God has given, and listen to Jesus Christ, the Son of God who was and is the manifestation of our awesome God in flesh.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word’ grace to Imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art through; that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany, and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest. - “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” text by Christopher Wordsworth

Your Sibling in Christ,
Pr. Aaron Holmgren





**CHAIR YOGA AT SALEM
TUESDAYS AT 11:15 AM
JANUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 25**

Our Parish Nurse, Debbie Lee, has arranged for “Yogadevotion” to offer 8 one-hour chair yoga sessions on Tuesdays at 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall from January 7 through February 25. The first session is free for anyone to attend and through the Endowment Fund, 8 registrants have received scholarships. The normal fee per session is \$11.00. It’s possible that a scholarship spot will open up if any registrant decides to drop out. Please speak with Debbie Lee if you are interested in registering. Thank you!

Learn more about Yogadevotion:

***Yogadevotion LLC** began in 1999 when our Founder Cindy Senarighi had a deeply profound experience of God’s Presence following a vinyasa yoga class. This experience was then shared through the practice of yoga in the faith community and has been a mutual blessing for our students, instructors and the communities we are invited into. Cindy had an idea that sparked a flame—then a fire—that has warmed so many communities in fellowship for over 23 years. From two churches to now over 30 churches, Yogadevotion has been invited to teach folks a new way to pray, worship and simply be present to God’s love and healing.*

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025
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, May 4, 2025 at 10:45 am in the Fireside Room to learn more and get answers to your questions!

Hope to see you,
Diane Hueller (Membership)

*Greetings from the
Council President:*

Salem Friends,

It is with God's grace that we enter a new year. The Lord has blessed this congregation as we continue to serve him in the community of West St. Paul and around the world.

The Fall has been a busy place at Salem. Our program year started up again with gusto. Faith Formation has been active and the choir and bells continue to inspire us. It is exciting to see and hear the Jubilee Ringers and the Chancel Choir in action. Carl, Keith, and Judy work wonders with some great choir and bell members. We appreciate all they lovingly do.

A highlight in November was our joint Thanksgiving Eve service with St. Stephen's. We thank the many who brought pie and other desserts to share.

We wrapped up our Scholarship Drive for Magome, Tanzania, and San Lucas, Guatemala. Many thanks to all of you who generously supported this program of God's love that reaches halfway around the globe. \$10,665 was sent to Magome for scholarships and \$3,115 went to San Lucas in Guatemala.

Led by our Stewardship and Properties and Operations committees, we are researching possibly installing solar panels on Salem's Education Wing to provide electricity for all our operations at Salem. This could be a very exciting project for us as we seek to become more environmentally conscious of God's creation. During daylight we could produce power for Salem and feed extra power into the Excel grid. At night we would then draw the power from the grid.

You can see that our committees are busy making things happen at Salem and in the community - Feed My Starving Children, Loaves and Fishes, Giving Tree for families, warm clothes for Moreland School, Christmas Caroling, Pie Social, Christmas Program, decoration of the sanctuary, outdoor manger scene, Arts and Crafts sale, OWLS, Beer, Burger and Hymns, Bible study, Forums, environmentally sound receptacles for waste, recyclables and compost, and the Men's Renewal Group.

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Detailed info on the many Salem events and activities can be found in this Newsletter and on our website.

I strongly encourage and beseech you to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26. We all need to attend to the business of the church so that Salem can remain a solid rock in West St. Paul where God's Love and Grace are found in abundance.

Please consider accepting a position of leadership and service on the Church Council or on some of the many committees.

Blessings to all in the name of Christ,
Jack Schlukebier, Council President

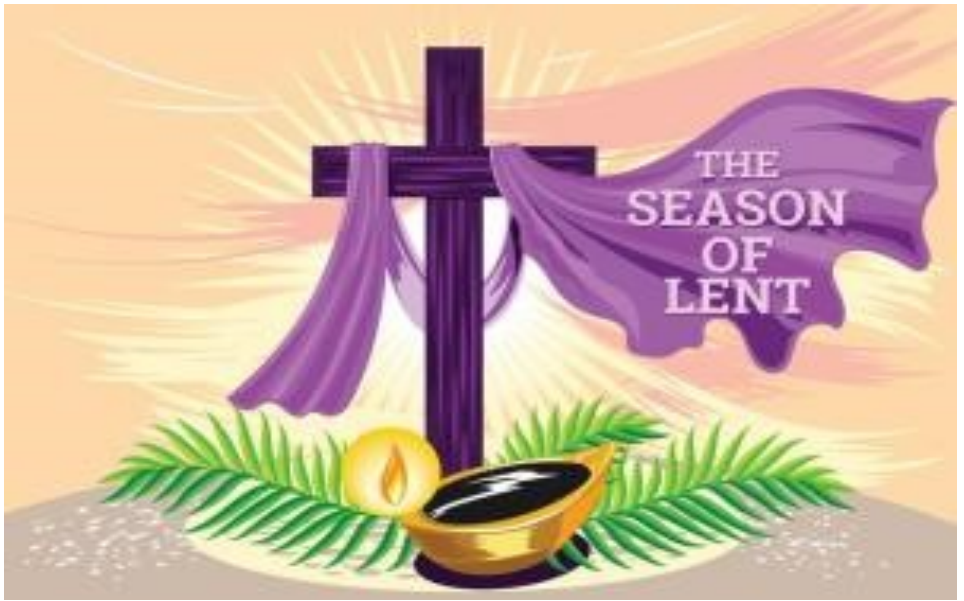


ANNUAL *congregational* MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025
10:45 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL**

All voting members are invited to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26 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!



2025 SEASON OF LENT AT SALEM

Everyone is invited to celebrate the season of Lent at Salem beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Lenten Wednesday Worship Services will take place weekly at 7:00 pm from March 12 through April 9.



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 2025! Please contact the

church office if you are able to help. The meals can be as simple as soup and bread.

THANK YOU!



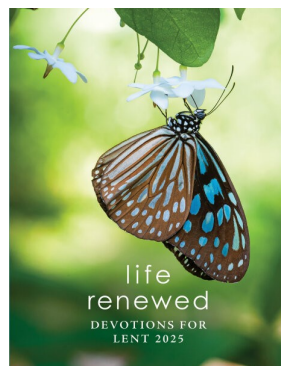
EASTER LILY ORDERS - LISTEN & LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENT COMING SOON!

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!

2025 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 19. If you would like a Lenten devotional, please sign up by **Sunday, January 26**.

Thank You!



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES:

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - APRIL 13, 2025 - 9:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - APRIL 17, 2025 - 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - APRIL 18, 2025 - 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - APRIL 20, 2025 - 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 Chris Schouviller
- 10 Mary Lou Vining-Berg
- 11 Corrine Bergstrom
- 13 Julie Boldt
- 15 David Boldt
- 17 Matthew Gaines
- 21 Kathi Schouviller
- 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





WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025
10:00 AM - FIRESIDE ROOM

The Elizabeth Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 8 at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room. The group studies lessons from “Gather” magazine. All are welcome!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM



Everyone is invited to participate at the Feed My Starving Children event (990 Lone Oak Rd., #136, Eagan, MN., 55121) on Friday, January 17 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm . We will reserve 15 volunteer spots. There is a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex. You must sign up by **Friday, January 10**. 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 2025 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 27, May 22, July 24, September 25

O.W.L.S.
(OLDER WISER LUTHERANS AT SALEM)
2025 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 2025! 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 14, 2025 - 1:00 PM
PLANNING MEETING

Get ready to come with lots of ideas and suggestions for the January meeting! The group will be sharing in Fellowship and deciding on events for the upcoming months!



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 - 1:00 PM
NEIGHBORSINC. TOUR

The group will be touring the Neighborsinc. facility on Tuesday, February 11. Salem has a long history of partnering with and supporting this wonderful organization and we look forward to learning more about their plans for 2025!

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 - 1:00 PM
THEME - TBD



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 22, FEBRUARY 19, APRIL 23
(NO MEETINGS DURING LENT)**



In January, the activity will be card making. Then in February, the cards will be distributed to residents of a local care facility. Everyone is invited to participate and help spread love and joy to community members who always appreciate this token of friendship and care!

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!

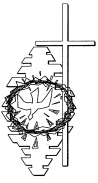




2025 CHANCEL FLOWER ORDERS

The link to the 2025 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. 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

✝ 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

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



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



**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
PACKING EVENT
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