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Salem Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd.  
Hermantown, MN 55811



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# February, 2023

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Pastor – John Ansell  
Pastor's Cell – 952-261-5593  
Church Office – 218- 727-1357  
Office Manager – Beth Erdmann

***Church Office Hours***  
***Tuesday - Friday***  
***9:00-1:00***

Email Address – [salemhermantown@gmail.com](mailto:salemhermantown@gmail.com)  
Web Address – [www.slecduluth.org](http://www.slecduluth.org)  
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**Sunday Worship Schedule**  
**Sunday School 9:00 am**  
**Worship 10:00 am**  
**Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am**

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 22**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Worship with Imposition of Ashes**  
**and Holy Communion**

Greetings Everyone,

I hope we all have had a good start to 2023. As February approaches so does Lent with Ash Wednesday being on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. I would imagine some may not be fully aware of what Ash Wednesday is about. Yes it marks the beginning of lent and you get ashes put on your head but there is a bit more to such a date. Overall, it is a more somber date because what Ash Wednesday is designed to do is remind us of our mortality. A particular reminder in Ash Wednesday is hearing of God making us from dust and as we pass away, we essentially return to dust. Ash Wednesday also provides us with an opportunity to begin reflecting on our faith and our life in connection to our morality. Overall, it can be a very powerful and moving day as we begin our Lenten Journey where we continue reflecting on our life and faith.

Though I would imagine many in the last couple of years have had to reflect more heavily around the subjects of mortality, life, and faith. Especially when something small like a virus can kill so many people. A virus that still is very present and continues to take loved ones to this day. There are plenty of examples even beyond the Covid virus of how fragile our lives can be. Sadly the reality is at any moment for any reason we may perish from this world. However, at the same time the God who created us from dust and though our earthly bodies return to dust gives us a promise. A loving promise that goes beyond the dust of this world and brings us closer to God and the rest of those who have passed away before us. A promise that we celebrate every Sunday especially on Easter

Sunday which is found in the resurrected Christ. Yes we may have death in our lives and the last couple of years have shown us the fragile nature of life but at the same time we have faith which points to God's promises which have been given to us.

So as we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday in February we will probably have a deeper understanding of such a day. The day may make us recognize our fragile human nature, but it also begins the process of having us reflect on our life and our faith throughout the season of lent. A life and faith that has God's wonderful promises to carry us through whatever may come our way. May God's promise and blessing be with you all this and every month.

Love,  
Pastor John

### **Lessons for February, 2023**

**2/5/2023** Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9;  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

**2/12/2023** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

**2/19/2023** Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2;  
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

**Ash Wednesday 2/22/2023** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;  
Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**2/26/2023** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32;  
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

## **ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY**

### **With Sympathy!**

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Carl Ruhanan who passed away on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Thank you!**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for Salem Lutheran Church's donation of \$2386.00 to CHUM. Your gift will allow us to continue to provide food, shelter, advocacy and a caring community for some of Duluth's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,  
Gracia Swensen  
Development Director

Thank you for making the holidays brighter for our neighbors right here in the Northland with your recent donation of \$3881.79 to Second Harvest. Your generosity will feed many families, children and seniors at this important time!

Shaye Moris

### **THE POWER OF PRAYER AT SALEM**

Salem's Prayer Chain contact person is Bettie Lou Nicholson. All members of Salem are welcome to become a link in this very important ministry. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Bettie Lou at 722-6246.

## ***“Happy Birthday” To Our Members in “February”***

1	January Erickson	17	Allie Wood
2	Rya Kruger		Tyler Wood
4	Tyler Zastrow	19	Rolland Mammenga
5	Oliver Swenson		Cory Stierns-Kay
10	Mickey Schultz	21	Berit Froehlich
11	Jeff Swanson	23	Marc Ross
16	Della Valure	24	Chad Wood
17	Matt Nickles	25	Richard Paulson
	Alex Struck	27	Paul Ahlberg

**Altar Care needs your help!  
Contact Richard Petersson for  
more information.**

### **Upcoming Adult Education Opportunities “Let’s Talk” Resumes February 12**

Salem's “Let’s Talk” adult study will begin meeting again on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 9:00 am in the Prayer Room. The topic chosen for this six week study is Luther's Small Catechism. As adults, it's been a long time since we were in a confirmation class cramming and memorizing so that we could be confirmed and move into a new level of participation in our church. We were pretty young in those days and our minds were quite immature. We're going to look back at the Small Catechism with new eyes and with new understanding. Please join us for this thoughtful exploration.

### ***“The Chosen” Lenten Series***

During the season of lent instead of doing midweek Lenten services we will be doing a midweek fellowship instead. We will be watching The Chosen, a series depicting Jesus' life, and a short discussion afterward.

The first gathering will be March 1st and we will meet at 6:30 in the prayer room or if we have a large gathering then we would need to move downstairs. Though Lent will only have us watching about 4 episodes, there are 3 whole seasons. We can consider continuing the series even after lent if there is interest. Lee and I have been enjoying ***“The Chosen”*** because it brings out a different perspective and attempts to put things into context which we hadn't thought about when it comes to the Christ story. We hope you consider joining us!  
-Chris

P.S. The following is a description about The Chosen series from Angel TV.

*"As the biggest crowd funded project in TV history, The Chosen is the first-ever multi-season show about the life of Jesus. This series allows viewers to see the life of Jesus through the eyes of those that knew Him. Follow the transformations of His followers through the ministry of Jesus as He journeys to change the world."*

### **Youth News and Events**

Salem's confirmation class is attending a retreat at Camp Hiawatha Feb 3-5, please be sure to keep them in your prayers.

The Sunday School has been busy as well planning and implementing service projects they want to do with the money they have raised!

Camp Vermillion and Hiawatha summer camp early, early deadline is Feb 14<sup>th</sup>! Registration information can be found at [vlmcamps.org](http://vlmcamps.org)

### **First Communion Class**

Salem is flexible when it comes to children to receiving communion. We feel as long as parents believe their children are able to understand the meaning behind the sacrament they should have the opportunity to commune. Sometimes a child is ready when they are in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade where others wait until they are in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Salem will be having a First Communion class sometime in the spring. This class will provide the children an understanding of communion. If you feel your child is ready to receive communion and participate in the class, please let Christy or Pastor John know.

## Salem Council Meeting Highlights 1/9/2023

**Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Approved via email confirmation

**Approval of Pastor Notes:** Approved as written

### New and Continued Business:

**Donations:** Amy asked if the church could set up a Venmo account to make donations much simpler for people to donate. Amy agreed to continue looking into an alternative, modern, and more convenient way for people to donate.

### **Nominating committee:**

Nominating committee are still in need of members to fill the open positions.

**Scout Charter and Liaison:** Progress is ongoing with Dale Rollins and Pastor John are leading the effort to establish the Scouts with Salem (agreements, storage, etc.). Charter presentation is pending.

**Daycare Lease Renewal:** Jason, Pastor John and Beth are meeting with Laugh and Learn on 18 January to negotiate the lease extension.

### Team/Committee Updates:

**Worship Planning:** Committee is meeting quarterly to make plans for 2023, their first meeting is 19 February.

**Youth Ministry:** Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for 3-5 Feb. Sunday School back in session 15 January.

**Mutual Ministry:** Reviews have been completed for 2022. **Property:** Waiting on parts for the boiler, probably won't have a new one installed until 2024 due to the current maintenance environment. Bathrooms look to be moving

forward on 14 January. The roof rework discussion is ongoing, really don't expect to see this resolved until the snow melts. Back garage got broken into again on Christmas Eve, Rich upgraded the latch to help prevent future break ins.

**Finance:** The finance team built a draft budget for 2023. Motion to approve the revised budget for congregational approval was made by Nancy, seconded by Adam and approved unanimously.

**Outreach and Social Concerns:** Mission trip is planned for 22-29 April.

## WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE February, 2023

	5	12	19	22 Ash Wednesday	26
LEAD COMM.	Carol Christenson	Amy Pipho	Nancy Berntsen		Jason Jaros
READER	Dennis Velandar	Adam Lilyquist	Eric Settergren		Richard Pettersson
ALTAR CARE	Darlene Haedrich	Darlene Haedrich			