

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 60
Duluth, Minnesota

Salem Lutheran Church
4715 Hermantown Rd.
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL



December , 2023

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
Web Address – www.slecduluth.org
“Like” us on Facebook

Sunday Worship Schedule
Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am



Worship Sunday December 24
10:00 am Worship – Advent 4
5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service with
Holy Communion

From the Church Office:

- **For those members who do not use electronic giving, 2024 Offering Envelopes are now available in the narthex. If you prefer to have your envelopes mailed to you, please contact the church office.**
- **January, 2024 Newsletter Articles are due Tuesday, December 19.**
- **Annual Report Articles are due January 5, 2024.**
- **Annual Reports will be available in the narthex and via email Sunday, January 14, 2024.**
- **Salem's Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 28, 2024 following worship.**
- **2023 Contribution Reports will be sent out on or before January 31, 2024.**

Greetings Everyone,

December is upon us and so is the season of Advent and Christmas. Though from the sounds and sight of everything people think it's only the Christmas season. Yet before Christmas comes Advent. A time which starts a new church year and encourages us to wait with anticipation. Sadly, for most people in our communities there is no waiting, there is just Christmas all the time from the day after Halloween to December 25th. Christmas does not actually start until December 25th and goes on for 12 days. Hence why there is a song titled the 12 days of Christmas. Overall, this ignoring of Advent might point to a problem of how our larger community might be having issues with waiting or being patient. Maybe a good reason to emphasize

more of Advent is because it might remind us to be more patient and discerning in our world.

So often today we seem to rush to react to thoughts or ideas without taking the time to think about what really is going on. Sadly, such quick reactions in life have led us to do a lot more harm than help. However, part of our faith encourages us to sit and reflect. Much of ancient Judeo-Christian practices have contemplative meditation. As people of faith, we are encouraged to take time to think, reflect, listen, and pray overall things in life. Such a wait time then allows us to think deeper and more honestly about any response we may give. Today more than ever we should be encouraged to be patiently waiting not just to make decisions but also how we live in life and our faith.

Now I know my words are not going to change the perspective of how Advent and Christmas are carried out in our larger culture. More than likely next year the same situation will play out. However, what I hope can happen is the encouragement of people to be patient or give space to discern within our lives. A discernment that hopefully can bring forth healthier choices and relationships within our lives. One may not make an impact on the whole world all at once. However, if we wait and see who knows what the future may hold from our discerned reactions. May God's blessing be with you during this month and every month. Amen.

-Pastor John Ansell

Lessons for December, 2023

12/3/2023 Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;

1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

12/10/2023 Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;

2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

12/17/2023 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

12/24/2023 (Advent 4) 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16;

Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

Thank you!

Dear friends,

Thank you for Salem Lutheran Church's contribution of 125 pounds of cereal. Your gift has been designated to Chum's Food Shelf.

Sincerely,
Scott VanDaele
Distributive Services Director

It was so generous of you to allow us to use your building for our annual bulb sale.

St. Louis County Master Gardeners

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 “December”

2	Stan Nordwall	13	Brian Gilbertson
	Lee Swenson		Roger Halverson
5	Sandee Hendrickson	15	David Larson
	Liz Paulson	18	Kim Settergren
	Sharon Szamatula	19	Lois Dusek
6	Everly Lilyquist		Keatin Graves
10	Ella Borgeson		Vi Riggio
11	Lani Burud	21	Eric Settergren
	Joyce Johnson	23	Melissa DelaMartre
	Kim Zastrow		Darlene Haedrich
12	Riley Settergren	30	Dave Johnson

Salem's Christmas Family

We will be adopting a local family for Christmas again this year. Please watch for more details. Thanks!

Cookies for St. Louis County Jail

Kathryn Bell, Chaplain at St. Louis County Jail has requested donations of homemade cookies for their Christmas celebration on Dec. 15. If you are able to bake cookies, bring them to worship with you on Sunday, December 10 or drop them off at the church office (9-1) on Tuesday December 12. **Please no nuts or coconut due to possible allergies!**



Mitten Drive

Piedmont Elementary 1st graders are holding a Mitten Drive as part of their citizenship unit for Social Studies.



To meet the needs of all students at Piedmont, they are collecting donations of new mittens and gloves in sizes pre-K through 5th grade. Bring your mittens/gloves to church and look for the basket in the narthex. This collection will continue through the winter!

Sunday School News!

Everyone is invited join our Sunday School students for worship on December 17th as they lead us in worship. After the service, the students will be having a Market For World Hunger in the family room! The children were each given \$20 from our Apple Festival funds, and asked to make something special to sell. So please plan to bring some extra money to worship that day to support our littlest Saints in their efforts to help people who don't have enough food to eat. All money from the sale will go into the World Hunger Milk Can.

Superior Singers 2023 Christmas concert
"Christmas and all that Jazz!"

(jazz vocal renditions of all your favorite Christmas songs!)

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 pm

Salem Lutheran Church

Christmas Cards



Christmas Cards for the Inmates!

Do you have unused Christmas cards? Don't throw them away! Bring them to church and Salem will use them to send Christmas greetings to the inmates at the Moose Lake prison.

We only need the cards, not the envelopes. There will be opportunities for you to write greetings in the cards. For some inmates, these cards are the only ones they receive at Christmas.

Thank you!

SALEM'S 100th ANNIVERSARY in 2024

By Nancy Berntsen

A wonderful observation will soon be upon us, as in 2024 Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hermantown turns 100! Salem has been God's hands in unique and memorable ways ministering within this community and beyond since June of 1924. This is something we certainly want to celebrate! A small group of volunteers have been meeting since August as a Steering Committee to talk about how our congregation might want recognize and commemorate our 100 year history.

We'd like to give you a preview of what to expect as we put some plans into action in the coming year. In January we will unveil our theme and logo. Salem's Annual Meeting, being held January 28, 2024, will be the official kickoff of our "Year of Celebrating". At that time it will be announced how each month from February through October will feature a different aspect of Salem's ministries. Some of the areas highlighted will be education, outreach, faith formation, music, and more. These monthly reflections will be honoring where Salem has been as well as recognizing the momentum we carry into the future. Our "Year of Celebration" will culminate in a Celebratory Banquet on Saturday, November 2 and a Celebratory Sunday Service on November 3, 2024.

It is expected that congregation members will lend a helping hand in each of these monthly reflections. You all have played some part in Salem's ministries and it is hoped that you will jump in where you have felt connected and help to shine a light on the wonderful community of faith that is Salem! We're looking forward to an exciting 2024!

Salem Council Meeting Highlights 11/13/2023

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Approved via email confirmation

Continuing Business:

- Committee Re-organization
 - What are next steps
- Salem's 100th Anniversary Planning
 - working to compile history of last 25 years-
- DECC fundraising opportunity
 - We are under way, but numbers of volunteers to date is meager
- Council Candidate search-
 - Still looking for members to serve on Council
- Stewardship-
 - The letter and pledge card went out with message that Sunday, November 19th would be our Consecration Sunday when the Estimates of Giving would be received and dedicated on November 19, 2023.

New Business:

- Beth asked for Council's direction about whether or not as Financial Secretary she should send a letter to all those who made a pledge to thank them and confirm that she had accurate intention (pledge amount). Is there agreement? All agreed thank you letters should be sent.
- Council discussed showing appreciation to several members that have given generously of their time and energy on Salem projects. Decision to take action.

Committee Updates as needed:

- Worship & Planning
 - Meeting held November 5th

- Reviewed the past two months
- The Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge service and potluck (congregation made \$800 donation) was well received
- Spent on Advent planning which will be weekly Advent Devotions from members posted on social media. Carol is the lead on this endeavor.
- Dec 24th Sunday Worship
- Xmas Eve svc – 5 pm
- Xmas day- Video with reading, message and music will be posted on social media
- Touched on New Years Eve service- Pastor will be on vacation
- Ash Wednesday is February 14 beginning the Lenten season
- Youth Ministry
 - Thanksgiving Service next week 11/19, will be SS led, with songs and readings by children
 - Looking into how to engage the older children
 - Exploring SS Xmas Worship- Dec 17th; Followed by Xmas market
 - VLM Summer camp registration has opened.
- Mutual Ministry
 - Will begin meeting with paid staff to do end of year reviews
 - Met with new custodian Nov. 8th to get acquainted and see how things were going with him. He's loving the job and we are very happy with the job he is doing!
- Property
 - installed flashing, gutter and downspout on front of church
 - Installed door canopy on daycare back door
 - Installed new heat trace for gutter downspouts
 - - AG O'brien installed new boiler Heat Exchanger
 - We need to paint floor in "Frog Room" where refrigerators/freezers are located.
 - Need to find someone to wax daycare floor over Xmas
 - Review of Chickadee lease agreement
- Finance – Diana- Giving is down. Utilities have been increasing dramatically.
- Outreach and Social Concerns-
 - 9th Annual Apple Festival was held 10/28/2023 and was well attended on a cold Saturday,
 - Piedmont Elementary School is partnering with Salem to help supplement needs of children and teachers.
 - Seafarers - Ruth Circle collected hygiene items and misc. small items
 - CHUM Cereal Challenge Nov. 12 - John Cole, Exec. Dir. CHUM was with us and gave the message. Salem collected 90 boxes of cereal for CHUM and gave Mr. Cole a check for \$1,000 to buy more cereal and milk.
 - Salem hosted the RIC (Reconciling in Christ) gathering for the Lake Superior Conference on November 11th with 25 attendees.
 - Sock collecting for CHUM continues.
- **Pastor's Update/Staff Update** – See separate submitted report.
- Received member transfer request for Crystal Jones and family (husband James, children Harper, Kinsley, John Paul and Anthony). All approve.

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

December, 2023


	3	10	17	24	31
LEAD COMM	Justin Reid	Nancy Berntsen	Carol Christenson	10:00 am Amy Pipho 5:00 pm Amy Pipho	
READER	Nancy Berntsen	Richard Petersson		10:00 am Frank Dusek 5:00 pm David Pipho	Eric Settergren

Wise women

If there had been three wise women instead of three wise men, the story would've been a bit different.

- The women would have asked for directions instead of trying to follow a light in the sky.
- The three women would have arrived in time for the birth, assisted Mary and congratulated Joseph.
- They would have cleaned the stable, found bedding for the manger, shopped for whatever was needed and prepared food and drink for all.
- And when the Baby cried, they would have taken turns to lovingly hold, sing and talk to the baby born to be a King.





The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. Isaiah knew that Jesus would be called a peacemaker, but that He would also be called by other names.

Use the code to find out what Isaiah said Jesus would be called.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Z	M	W	S	V	D	R	O	O	Y	V															

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
X	Z	O	O	V	W	D	L	M	W	V	I	U	F	O											

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
X	L	F	M	H	V	O	L	I	N	R	T	S	G	B											

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T	L	W	V	E	V	I	O	Z	H	G	R	M	T												

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
U	Z	G	S	V	I	K	I	R	M	X	V														

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
L	U	K	V	Z	X	V																			

Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Answer: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.