

**From the Church Office:**

**For those members who do not use electronic giving, 2025 Offering Envelopes are now available in the narthex. If you prefer to have your envelopes mailed to you, please contact the church office.**

**Annual Report Articles are due January 3, 2025.**

**Annual Reports will be available in the narthex and via email Sunday, January 12, 2025**

**Salem's Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 26, 2025 following worship.**

**2024 Contribution Reports will be sent out on or before January 31, 2025.**

**The church office is in the process of updating their records. Please let them know if you have any updates (ie: address change, new phone number, etc.)**

Greetings Everyone and Happy New Year,

As we begin a New Year I would imagine we have many hopes and dreams. We also hope those dreams do not become nightmares. Yet whatever may come within this year our faith is always with us. A faith which comes to us with both blessings and comfort in whatever it may be. Whether we are experiencing our dreams coming true or nightmares becoming real faith can accompany us going into this new year.

Speaking of dreams, in scripture we find many examples of how dreams are experienced. Often dreams recorded as a sense of message from God to certain individuals. Genesis has a few dreams encounters with God and human individuals. Jacob's dream being one where he envisions angels ascending and descending on the latter. God then speaks about the land; he currently sleeps upon being for him and dependents. Another time where dreams are part of the biblical story is with Jacob's son Joseph who when in Egypt used them to gain favor with Pharaoh. Then Joseph in the New Testament also has a dream story where the angel comes and tells him about Mary and Jesus within Mathew's Gospel. Overall dreams are part of the biblical narrative and are ways God or God's messengers coming to certain characters providing them with helpful messages.

Other parts of the bible that we might think as dream or nightmare, depending how you read them, are the apocalyptic literatures pieces. These parts in the Bible we usually can find in the book of Daniel or the letter of Revelation. Such language is used in other books, Gospels, and

letters but the more recognizable are Daniel and Revelation. Such literature uses quite graphic imagery which not only grabs the audience's attention but provides a vivid point to what is being made. Most often apocalyptic literature tries to bring hope and redemption for those who are suffering in harsh conditions. The book of Daniel was meant to bring comfort and hope to people who were exiled. In this exile they suffered immensely by the hands of the Babylonians and Persians. Revelation writing was to give hope and support to the 7 churches of Asia during a time of persecution of Christians. Even though such writing style may seem like a dream or nightmare they were meant to bring hope and encouragement of faith in difficult circumstances.

Overall, we do not know what this coming year will bring. We may experience our greatest dreams being played out before us. Ones that are of great blessings and wonderful new for us all. While the year could also bring forth a feeling of apocalyptic nightmares. Yet if one thing is true from our faith, God comes to us in both our dreams and our nightmares. Not to play favorites but to offer up blessings and hope which can support us in whatever may happen in our lives. So, my hope for us all as we begin this new year is that God's blessing be with us all. Amen.

Yours in Christ  
-Pastor John Ansell

### **Lessons for January, 2025**

**1/5/2025** Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

**1/12/2025** Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**1/19/2025** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

**1/26/2025** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 4:14-21

## **ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY**

### **With Sympathy!**

Our heartfelt sympathy to Mark & Laurie Meagher and their family following the death of Mark's sister, Linda on November 24, 2024.

### **New Baby!**

Congratulations to Rya & Joey Green on the birth of their daughter, Aurora Jules on November 16, 2024.

**Thank you!**

*A warm thank you to you all for purchasing gifts and gift cards for our two sponsored families. Your kindness and support are sure to bring smiles to all 9 children when they open their gifts this Christmas! We are truly blessed to have such a caring congregation.*

**THE POWER OF PRAYER AT SALEM**

Salem’s Prayer Chain contact person is Maria Karon. All members of Salem are welcome to become a link in this very important ministry. If you are interested in becoming involved or have a prayer chain request, please contact Maria at 218-940-0347.

***“Happy Birthday” To Our  
Members in “January”***

- |    |                 |    |                  |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 2  | Laurie Swor     | 20 | Connor Erdmann   |
| 4  | Peggy Bannor    | 21 | Owen Borndal     |
|    | Abby Hahn       |    | Amelia Williams  |
|    | Zach Healy      | 22 | Calie Kruger     |
| 7  | Barb Johnson    | 23 | Tyler Kruger     |
| 8  | David Kantola   | 24 | Amy Hudson       |
| 9  | James Olson     | 25 | Jason Jaros      |
| 11 | Myrna Johnson   | 26 | Steve Ide        |
| 13 | Vivian Economy  | 27 | Josh Hendrickson |
| 15 | Jeanette Nessel | 28 | Sandi Peterson   |
| 18 | Lyndsay Burud   | 30 | Liam Paulson     |
|    | Meggan Kraskey  |    |                  |

**Coffee Servers, Ushers and Altar Care are needed! Look for the signup sheet in the narthex!**

## Strides for Savings Continues in 2025!

The 2024 Strides for Savings was very successful so it will continue in 2025!

Here's how it works...

I'm continuing to challenge the congregation to pledge \$1.00 (or more) per K for every race that I run in 2024. For example, I'm registered for Grandma's Half Marathon which is about a 21.1K race. \$1.00 per K would put \$21.50 into Salem's savings account.



2025 Races include: St. Fennessy 4k; Fitgers 5k; Pike Lake 10k; Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon; Park Point 5 miler; North Shore 10k; Gobble Gallop 5k and Wild Santa Run 5k. Other possible races include Bent Paddle 5k and Souix Falls Half Marathon.

Can you help? Any other runners want to join the challenge? Contact Pastor John.

### WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

January, 2025

	5	12	19	26
LEAD	Wayne	Eileen	Carol	Justin
COMM	Swor	Dusek	Christenson	Reid
READER	Eileen	Frank	Nancy	Adam
	Dusek	Dusek	Larrivy	Lilyquist

### 2025 Council Members

- Carol Christenson, President (218-348-3950)
- Justin Reid, Vice President (715-969-4705)
- Wayne Swor, Treasurer (218-269-9535)
- Eileen Dusek, Secretary (218-729-9677)
- Simon Erdmann (218-409-5388)
- Kelly Erickson (218-410-2161)
- Judy Giese (218-340-0823)