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Salem Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd.  
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL

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# February, 2025

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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

Web Address – [www.slecduluth.org](http://www.slecduluth.org)

“Like” us on Facebook

**Sunday Worship Schedule**  
**Youth Education 8:55 am**  
**Worship 10:00 am**  
**Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am**



Greetings Everyone,

Hopefully everything is going well in the new year. January is at an end, and we now enter February. A month many people associate with love. Though the type of love that is talked about in February is more romantic. Which such love brings forth various images, stories and myths to help support such ideas. This includes stories of faith with regards to Saint Valentine whose Saint Day is on February 14th. Granted love in of itself takes many forms besides being romantic and is an important part of our life and faith.

Speaking of faith, love, and February Saint Valentine is quite the individual for such topics. He was a Christian martyr in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Living primarily in Rome Italy Saint Valentine's actions were to speak of God's love through Christ and converted many to the Christian faith. He also was said to marry people in ways that the Roman government did not approve. For his steadfast nature in faith and his overall faithful actions in love Saint Valentine was executed by the Roman authorities. In the 5<sup>th</sup> century he was canonized as a Saint and given the day of February 14<sup>th</sup>. Which to this day we all recognize as Valentine's Day and celebrate all things love.

As we speak of love, we also speak of faith not just because of Saint Valentine but because of all things God has done. For in all things God has given in love. A love that is enduring and greater than anything we could imagine. Such love is also sacrificial which we find in Christ. For in the life, death, and resurrection becomes the ultimate pinnacle of God's love for us in this world. The word love in its many different forms and expressions is found throughout scripture. There are well over 300 to 500 words that are

attributed to speaking of love in the bible. To this extent it is safe to say love is an important part of faith.

Even though God gives us love, God also asks us to give love in return. In Scripture, we are also encouraged that love that is to be shared. Such ways of sharing love are through words and deed. Furthermore, such sharing of love is not just to share the way that God loves in the world but also how we love each other. For love in Scripture is not just about the love we receive from God but also the love we share with God and all of creation.

Overall love is a major theme in February. We celebrate love when it comes to Valentine's Day along with remembering the love and faith attributed to Saint Valentine. Yet we also remember the love we receive from God which is sacrificial and expansive for all people. Furthermore because of the love we receive from God we are also encouraged to give the same love to all we encounter. So, with the month of February let us learn, receive, and give love. May God's love bless us this and every month. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John Ansell

### **Lessons for February, 2025**

**2/2/2025** Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18;  
Luke 2:22-40

**2/9/2025** Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

**2/16/2025** Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1;  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

**2/23/2025** Genesis 45:3-11,15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

## ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

### We've Moved!

Dale & Bev Nordwall  
4110 LaVaque Rd. Apt. 214  
Hermantown, MN 55811

### Thank you!

*Salem Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for your generous contributions to  
our Holiday Gifting Program here at Hermantown  
Schools. We are very appreciative of your kindness  
and support. We hope you have a Merry Christmas!*

*Kindly,  
Hermantown Support Staff*

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

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 January Erickson | 17 Allie Wood       |
| 2 Nikomah Gomez    | Tyler Wood          |
| Rya Green          | 19 Rolland Mammenga |
| 4 Tyler Zastrow    | Cory Stierms-Kay    |
| 5 Oliver Swenson   | 23 Marc Ross        |
| 10 Mickey Schultz  | 24 Chad Wood        |
| 16 Della Valure    | 25 Rich Paulson     |
| 17 Matt Nickles    | 27 Paul Ahlberg     |
| Alex Struck        |                     |

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

### 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.

### **Ladies' Night in February – For God So Loved the World!**

Real-talk, God-breathed time to move in freedom and love and dig into the Word. Plus a special Valentine make and take activity. This is truly a time of togetherness that will renew your body, mind, and spirit.

Bring: Your Bible, a journal (if you already use one), wear comfy clothes that you can move in (all activities have modifications), a water bottle  
Salem Lutheran Church - Family Room  
Wednesday February 12 at 6:00pm

Save the Date - Ladies' Night in March will be  
Wednesday March 19 with Crucified in Christ as we  
observe Lent

## **Strides for Savings Continues 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 2025. 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.

### **Salem Church Council Meeting Highlights-December 10**

Minutes-Motion made by Wayne to accept the minutes from November 12 meeting. Seconded by Judy. All Ayes.

### **Ongoing Business**

- **Committee Reorganization**

Will plan to vote on changes at January meeting and present to congregation at annual meeting for vote and adoption.

- **Council for next year**

- o Carol- Will add name to ballot for another term
- o Eileen-Term completed.
- o Justin-term completed.
- o Judy, Simon-still have 1 year left of term
- o Kelly-started this year.
- o Wayne-One year left of term.

- Laugh and Learn Daycare Lease renewal

- Annual meeting will be held January 26, 2025.

### **Committee Updates**

- **Youth Ministry**

Sunday School Christmas Worship and World Market- December 22.

- Faith Exploration- Going well.

- **Mutual Ministry**

- o Janitor update- Caleb Anderson hired and has been doing a good job cleaning.
- o End of year reviews progressing

- **Property**-Justin Reid

- o Waxing the daycare floor has been completed.
- o Daycare fence update- Will re-evaluate in spring.
- o Light ballast in family room repaired.
- o New flooring in Sunday school area.
- o Cabinets for Scout storage in place.

- **Finance**-

Budget meeting coming up. No specific issues with monthly report.

- **Worship and Planning**

Weekly Advent devotions posted on Facebook.

- **Outreach and Social Concerns**

Upcoming regional daylong retreats for the discernment of the Synod's Reconciling in Christ informational gatherings.

Giving tree for Christmas presents- gifts to 2 families in need. Thanks to Sara Borndal and Laura Lilyquist for spearheading this wonderful ministry again.

Operation Christmas Child- 14 boxes of gifts were collected by Salem

Salem and the Prison Ministry can no longer provide Christmas cards to the inmates of Moose Lake

o Salem’s Disaster Response Team will be headed to Black Mt, NC 3/23- 3/30.

Pastor’s Update: via email

**Council Meeting Highlights January 14, 2025**

Minutes-Minutes for the December 2024 meeting were reviewed. Corrections made. Justin made a motion to accept meeting minutes. Seconded by Wayne. All ayes.

**Ongoing Business**

- Committee Reorganization and Constitution Update- Eileen made a motion to accept the updates as written and present to the congregation for approval. Seconded by Judy. All ayes.
- Council for next year there are 2 candidates interested. Will need to confirm prior to the annual meeting.
- Laugh and Learn Daycare Lease renewal- Pr John, Wayne. Date has been set to meet with Laugh and Learn.
- Annual meeting will be held January 26, 2025. Carol presented draft agenda. The annual meeting will be made available via Zoom if there is anyone who signs up for an email log-in. The meeting will be held upstairs in the Sanctuary.

**Committee Updates**

- **Youth Ministry**-Carol Christenson- Funds raised by the youth will be used for Animal Allies.
- **Mutual Ministry**-Justin Reid- Custodian Caleb’s 60 day intro period is nearing

completion. Pr. John and Nancy Berntsen will meet with him for review.

- **Property**-Justin Reid

New flooring in Sunday School wing- Sunday School approves of chosen flooring.

There is a door that has been having issues with freezing. Justin will address.

- **Finance**-Wayne Swor-

Monthly expense report presented and reviewed. Budget for 2025. Reviewed. Not final numbers due to tax items that need to be updated. Vote for approval from council will be done via email prior to the annual meeting.

- **Worship and Planning**-Carol –

Met 1/12/2025; Planned Lent services and Holy Week.

- **Outreach and Social Concerns**-Kelly Erickson  
Kim and Kelly planning Mental Health events.

Working on sessions on aging.

Pastor’s Update: see separate report.

**WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE**

**February, 2025**

	2	9	16	23
LEAD	Carol	Judy	Simon	Wayne
COMM	Christenson	Giese	Erdmann	Swor
READER	Carol	Richard	Simon	Rolene
	Christenson	Petersson	Erdmann	Lampi

## **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)