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Salem Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd.  
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL

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# March, 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**



**Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025**  
6:30 pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes and  
Holy Communion

**Online Midweek Lent Devotion**

During the season of Lent Pastor John will be uploading to Salem’s Facebook page a short reflection video on Wednesdays. Each video will have a reading from a Psalm followed by a brief message and prayer. Hopefully these videos will provide time to spiritually reflect and an appreciation of the poetic words from the book of Psalms.

**EASTER MEMORIALS**

In this month’s Sunburst there is a form where donations can be made in memory of, or in honor of loved ones this Easter. It has been a Salem tradition to have a beautiful floral garden welcoming us each Easter morning and that is a tradition we want to continue.

This past two years we have encouraged allowing the Worship Planning team to purchase the flowers for the Easter garden from funds donated for that purpose. This was to avoid aggravating the allergies of the Worship team that was surrounded by flowers (we have also purchased some artificial flowers for the cross and garden).

Donations to last year’s memorial floral garden were extremely generous! It seemed excessive to spend that whole amount, so we are left with several hundred dollars to be used toward this year’s purchases. Donations to the Memorial Garden Fund remain an option as well as a list of Designated Funds that would benefit Salem’s ministries as memorials or honorariums. Thank you for your consideration of gifts to any of these options available to you this Easter.

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*“Easter Garden”*

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On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025 Salem will have an Easter Garden. There are opportunities to donate toward the purchase of flowers or to designated funds such as Mortgage Payoff, Mission Trips, Food Shelf, Pastor’s Social Ministry Fund, Property Projects, etc.

Please turn in your donation by **SUNDAY, April 6, 2025**

**EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND**

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL FUND DONATION**

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Fund \_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Honor of* \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Greetings Everyone,

Recently I finished reading a quarterly journal I get from Luther Seminary called Word and World. I have had a subscription to this journal for many years and enjoy the articles in them. This recent journal was on the theme of hope. Each article expressed aspects of faith and hope within our worldly context. The different articles gave a diverse perspective on hope. For some hope is a futuristic perspective while for others hope can be the motivator to act in the here and now. However, many stress the importance of hope regarding faith. For in our faith hope in all things can be abounding even if it may not feel like there is any hope.

For this newsletter I want to reflect on hope, faith, and our world. Many people in our world today may be feeling a sense of hopelessness. As we reflect on what is all happening in our world through political, environmental, and social concerns hopelessness might be a reasonable response. However, hope is not just in what happens in the world, but hope is also in faith. As we look to faith we can find hope in God. A God who has been active through the past in scripture and is active in our lives. If we start with our faith and look for what can come from God's active abilities, there is the beginning for hope. A hope which was in the beginning of creation along with accompanying Noah and his family in the flood. A hope that was with Abram, Isaac, and Jacob who then brings forth the hope with the Israelite people. Then finally the hope that is within Christ and the power that comes through the life, death, and resurrection. In faith hope has been part of our world through the ages

and accompanies us in the future despite our feelings of hopelessness.

By starting with our hope in faith we can develop such hope into action for us and the world. What I mean by this is if we have hope in an active God, we also can be active with God. Such an active hope asks us to participate in is exactly what we find in scripture. In both the old and new testaments there are plenty of lessons and wisdom which we can inspire us to act. We especially as Christians can be inspired to act in Christ teachings. Teachings which express love, kindness, community, and overall care for others. In looking for hope in faith to an active God, especially in scripture, we to can be inspired to be active that can also bring more hope for the world.

To say the least, I really did enjoy the theme of hope from that Word and World journal. Overall, it made me reflect on hope especially when many may feel hopeless. For when we focus only on what is going on in our world there is reason for feeling hopelessness. However, if we look at faith first, we can see hope. Because in faith we see God's accompaniment, activity, and teachings coming into the world to inspire our hope and act with hope into the world. So, for March let us look for hope in faith so that we can be inspired to bring hope to the world. God's blessing be with you all in the month of March.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John Ansell

## Lessons for March, 2025

**3/2/2025** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-42; Luke 9:28-36

**3/5/2025 Ash Wednesday** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**3/9/2025** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

**3/16/2025** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

**3/23/2025** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

**3/30/2025** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

### Baptism!

On February 2, 2025, the Kingdom of God was increased with the Holy Baptism of Ivy Marie Thompson, daughter of Ryan and Annalise Thompson.

### With Sympathy!

Our heartfelt sympathy to Lois Dusek and her family following the death of Lois' brother Kelly on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

1	Megan Gilbertson	17	Jerry Eld
	John Heikkinen		Patrick Hahn
	Robbie Thorsten		Betty Peltoma
3	Noah Annextad	20	Barb Struck
	Andy Larrivy	26	Jillian Jaros
4	Bill Peterson	28	Lucas Borgeson
6	Scott Fahlsing	29	Kim Healy
7	Ari Mirra		Amari Nunez
10	Anna Christenson	30	Ed Dammer
13	Ryan Zastrow		Judy Hane
14	Julie Borgeson		Daryl Kruger
	Alexa Jelinek		Justin Reid
15	Susan Hudson	31	Jill Nickles
16	Carla Christenson		Erica Lorsung
	Betty McKeever		
	Wayne Swor		

**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.

## **Aging Well Series**

**All sessions begin at 6pm at Salem Lutheran  
Church family room**

**March 3 - Aging with Gusto - Community Discussions on Aging.** Aging with Gusto strives to ignite more positive view of aging. And there's never been a better time. More and more people are living to 100 - and they're doing so with more "gusto" than ever. How we think about aging matters: research shows that people with more positive views of aging live an average of seven-and-a-half years longer than those with less positive views and have better health outcomes (Levy, 2002). Discussion will include positive views of aging, heighten appreciation for the capacity of people of all ages to contribute in their families and communities, and develop ideas for how to "age with gusto." Presented by the Arrowhead Agency on Aging.

**March 17 - The Senior LinkAge Line** helps older Minnesotans, and their caregivers find answers and connect to the services and support they need. We can help with Medicare, find prescription drug cost assistance, complete forms and applications, provide long-term care counseling, find resources in your community, connect people with caregiver support and much more. Medicare can be complicated, and if you're just getting started, it can seem very overwhelming. The Senior LinkAge Line can help you learn all the basics - Medicare Parts A, B, C, D and more. Fraud and scams are on the rise, with some scammers specifically targeting older adults. But there are ways you can protect yourself and your personal information. Presenter Lee Swenson, Senior LinkAge Line Resource Specialist, assists older Minnesotans and their families and caregivers when answering calls. Lee is passionate about helping people plan for their futures – encouraging others to

discuss their wishes & make important decisions now, so their future looks like they envisioned.

### **March 24 Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia**

Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available for some symptoms, and Alzheimer's Association resources. Presented by Alzheimer's Association Community Services - Northern MN

### **April 7th - Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers - Early Stage**

In the early stage of Alzheimer's disease, families face new questions as they adjust. What does the diagnosis mean? What kinds of plans need to be made? What resources are available to help? This three-part program provides practical answers to the questions that arise in the early stage. Hear from those directly affected and learn what you can do to cope with the changes that come with an early-stage diagnosis. Presented by Jenna Pogorels, MSW, LICSW and Associate Director Community Services - Northern MN  
Alzheimer's Association Minnesota -North Dakota

**April 14th - Join us for a panel event featuring providers from across the community** - Arrowhead Agency on Aging, Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota, AEOA/Arrowhead Transit, financial resources (Medicare, fraud, SNAP, and more!), St. Louis County senior services, elder care services, loss (grief and isolation) and more! Details coming soon!

## March "Mac" Madness

### March is MN Foodshare

**Month-** a time when food shelves become bare so it is time to gear up and replenish. **This year Salem is focusing our food drive on Mac & Cheese! This year's goal is 100 boxes of Mac & Cheese!** Monetary donations are also very welcome. You can bring your donations in any time during the Month of March. Let's help restock the shelves!



**Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> join us for worship as the 2025 Disaster Recovery team is commissioned. This year's team includes:** Dave & Beth Johnson, Adam Lilyquist, Loren & Laura Lilyquist, Jeff Harty, Lee Swenson, Oliver Swenson, Simon Erdmann, Pastor John, Terry & Nancy Larrivy and John Maggart

**Following worship, the team will be serving breakfast. All funds raised will support their trip to Black Mountain, North Carolina where they will be working with Fuller Center helping to rebuild homes following Hurricane Helene.**

### Strides for Savings Continues in 2025!

Pastor's first race is St. Fennessy 4K on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

Here's how it works...

I'm continuing to challenge the congregation to pledge \$1.00 (or more) per K. \$1.00 per K would put 4.00 into Salem's savings account.

Other 2025 Races include: 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.

**Ladies' Night in March - Crucified in Christ**  
As we observe lent, we will explore what it means to die to ourselves and live by faith in Christ through real-talk, God-breathed movement in freedom and love and digging into the Word. Spend time in Bible Study with a 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 March 19 at 6:00pm**

# Walkin' TacOs With the Bishop

Join Bishop Amy Odgren and Synod Staff from the Northeastern Minnesota Synod - for conversation, fellowship, and walkin' tacos!

We'll share updates about the new Emmaus Fund endowment, upcoming Synod Assembly, and other ministries.

**March 31st - Our Savior's Lutheran, Duluth**  
**April 1st - Lutsen Evangelical Lutheran, Lutsen**  
**April 3rd - Hope Lutheran, Moose Lake**  
**April 7th - First Lutheran, Brainerd**  
**April 22nd - Hope Lutheran, Walker**  
**April 24th - Gethsemane Lutheran, Virginia**

6:00-7:30pm at each location  
Free! Let the Synod Staff serve you!



Updates from Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry  
**Summer 2025 Registration is Open!**

Explore with us this summer how God's Word is ALIVE in God's greatNorthwoods. Registration is open for Summer 2025! To register go to: [www.vlmcamps.org/registration](http://www.vlmcamps.org/registration), [emailvlm@vlmcamps.org](mailto:emailvlm@vlmcamps.org) or call our Duluth office at 218-481-9080

**Summer Staff Applications are Live!**

We are hiring summer staff eager to grow in confidence, learn in community, and build lasting friendships. There are a variety of positions that are suitable for young adults with diverse skills and interests. Encourage a young adult you know to apply today! Head to [vlmcamps.org/employment](http://vlmcamps.org/employment) to learn more about the many job opportunities at VLM-Camp Vermilion and Camp Hiawatha!

**Upcoming Events**

**March 8-** Camp Vermilion Open House- 10 am - 2 pm  
**March 13-16-**Spring Creatives Retreat- Camp Vermilion  
**March 22-** Camp Hiawatha Open House- 10 am - 2 pm  
**April 11-13 -**From Scratch Retreat- Camp Hiawatha  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION** visit our website: [www.vlmcamps.com](http://www.vlmcamps.com)our use the QR code.



Visit [nemnsynod.org](http://nemnsynod.org)  
for more information.



## **WELCA Spring Gathering**

Salem Lutheran will be the host site for the WELCA Spring Conference Meeting to be held Saturday, April 5th. We are honored to be asked to host and participate in a day of worship and celebration for all women of the Lake Superior Conference. Our day will include a speaker, silent auction, catered luncheon, and worship led by Pastor John with music by Lisa and Chris. Cost for lunch is \$15. A free will offering will be collected to support the activities of WELCA. Our church will be providing dessert and coffee. Please register by contacting Rolene Lampi at 218-742-2401 or email [Rolenelampi@gmail.com](mailto:Rolenelampi@gmail.com).

## **Salem Council Meeting Highlights-February 11, 2025**

**Minutes from January** – motion to accept made by Pastor John, seconded by Simon. Approved with additions to Worship Planning

### **Vote for:**

**Council President-** Sharon made motion to elect Carol Christenson as council president, Judy seconded, all ayes- Motion approved.

**Council Vice President-** Carol made motion to elect Simon Erdmann as council vice president, Eric seconded, all ayes. Motion approved. Simon also agreed to be Mutual Ministry liaison.

**Council Secretary-** Sharon made motion to elect Eric Settergren as council secretary, Diana seconded. Motion approved.

## **Ongoing Business**

- Laugh and Learn Daycare Lease renewal- Lease signed with \$3,000 per month which is \$100/month increase

## **New Business**

- Committee Reorganization and Constitution –
  - Review
  - Assignments
    - Faith Formation- Carol
    - Community Ministry- Sharon
    - Evangelism & Outreach- Diana
    - Support Ministry- Eric & Wayne
  - Vision Team proposal- Create new mission statement, help shape goals for Salem- 6 months report back- 3 months update. Liaison is Pastor John.
  - Spiritual gifts worksheet available- ask Beth
  - Time and Talent Questionnaire- working on it
  - Need brochure so people know what each team does
- **Safety/Security-** message from Bishop Amy- be on alert for disruption during worship
  - Need to investigate for active shooter plans – Diana will speak with her sister who was a middle school secretary for Hermantown for info on a contact. Daycare may have a plan we can look at also.



**Committee/ Team Updates as needed**

- Property-
  - New flooring in Sunday School wing- will be done weekend March 22nd
  - There is a daycare door that has been having issues with freezing shut.- Need to look at after winter.
  - Leak in sanctuary roof will need attention once snow is gone. On rubber part. On a seam
  - Sanctuary furnace update – 2 weeks ago repair man was in, ordered part, part not in yet
  
- Finance-Diana, Eric- Salem is starting out the budget year \$30,000 in deficit. There are no other reserves to draw from.
  
- Outreach and Social Concerns-
  - Kim and Kelly planning Mental Health events. Working on sessions on aging.
  - WELCA Lake Superior Conference Spring Gathering at Salem April 5th

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>**- new council installation/ recognizing previous council members

**Pastor’s Update:** see separate report.

**2025 Council Members**

- Carol Christenson, President (218-348-3950)  
Faith Formation Ministry
- Simon Erdmann, Vice President (218-409-5388)  
Faith Formation Ministry
- Wayne Swor, Treasurer (218-269-9535)  
Support Ministry
- Eric Settergren, Secretary (218-260-8684)  
Support Ministry
- Kelly Erickson (218-410-2161)  
Evangelism & Outreach Ministry
- Diana Larson (218-591-9769)  
Evangelism & Outreach Ministry
- Sharon Szamatula (218-355-1806)  
Community Ministry
- Judy Giese (218-340-0823)

**WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE**

**March, 2025**

	2	9	16	23	30
LEAD	Sharon Szamatula	Judy Giese	Simon Erdmann	Eric Settergren	
COMM					
READER	Sophie Wietman	Nancy Larrivy	Sophie Wietman	Eileen Dusek	Richard Petersson