
June , 2025

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

Join us for a festive Pentecost service on Sunday, June 8 at 10 am!
Wear red and bring in red geraniums to decorate (they will be planted in front of the church).

Greetings Everyone,

Hopefully, we are all enjoying the wonderful weather we've had so far this spring. I also hope such good weather will continue on June 21, when I run the half marathon during Grandma's Marathon weekend. One part of running that I enjoy is the ability to reflect and let my mind wander on various topics. Of course, some of the topics I think about include faith and ministry activities. Running can be equated to our practice of faith in daily life. Both require a sense of commitment, reflection, discernment, and even a bit of endurance through the rougher times. Overall, being a running pastor might be a good thing—not just for my physical health, but also for my spiritual health as well.

In scripture, we hear some authors use running or racing as a metaphor for faith. One passage I enjoy is found in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (NRSV) Often, this passage is read at funerals, as it reflects on the overall summary of life and faith. Paul was specifically describing his own life and faith experiences as he felt his life was nearing an end. In this piece, he equates finishing a race with keeping the faith. When I hear these two together, I am reminded of the strength and endurance that both running, and faith have in common. However, I am also reminded of the joy and excitement that can come with finishing a race and being active in faith. Overall, I find running and faith to be a good pair when it comes to our life's journey.

Granted, we all may not be runners, but I would encourage everyone to think about how faith is a part of your lives. I would imagine that at times there have been struggles, pains, and exhaustion. I would also imagine there have been great joys and wondrous strides that have kept you going. Overall, both faith and life journeys are complicated and filled with many emotions. Yet to keep up with faith can bring forth great joy and love that outweighs everything else. This is a similar feeling to the one you experience when crossing the finish line after a long race. That's probably why Paul related finishing a race to keeping the faith in 2 Timothy. Even though many may not be physically able to run, I hope everyone continues to keep faith just as I keep running the races I sign up for. May God's blessings be with you this and every month. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor John Ansell

Lessons for June, 2025

6/1/2025 Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97;

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

6/8/2025 Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-21;

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

6/15/2025 Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8;

Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

6/22/2025 Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28;

Galatians 2:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

6/29/2025 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY ***Congratulations to the Class of 2025:*** ***Keatin Graves and Evan Gunn***

Welcome Salem's newest members:

James, Julie, Ella & Lucas Borgeson; Steven Borndal; Doreen Gableman; Judy Giese; Bob & Barb Johnson; Chris & Emily Lee; Jeanette Nesseth; Marc, Dana, Graham & Landen Ross; Bill, Kammi, Sophie & Logan Wietman

"Happy Birthday" ***To Our Members in "June"***

1	Calin Chilberg	18	David Bosley
	Simon Erdmann		Frank Dusek
	Clara Forsell		Miriam Johnson
2	Clayton Johnson		Tayler Porter
3	Sandra Stephenson	20	Dana Ross
	Nys	21	Jamie Szamatula
4	Nathan Erickson	22	Kathy Ide
	Shirley Ostlund		Gabby Pipho
5	Terry Hanson		Amanda Wood
6	London Byrnes	23	Megan Helmer
8	Keith Erickson		Jack Jaros
9	Lars Erickson	24	Doug Johnson
	David Pipho	25	Chris Carlson
12	Matthew Erickson		Doreen Gableman
	Ralph Johnson		Christy Jaros
	Sally Rollins	28	Richard Petersson
	Sophie Wietman		

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.

Help Needed!

The church office is looking for someone to take over keeping the church sign updated. Contact Beth in the church office if you are interested. Thanks!

The Church Office is looking for a person or two to take on the role of Funeral Coordinator. Also contact Beth in the church office if you are interested. Thanks!

SALEM'S FINANCIAL PICTURE

April, 2025		Year to Date	
General Giving	\$ 27,885.27	General Giving	\$ 63,244.93
Expenses	\$ 13,763.59	Total Needed	\$ 60,946.74
Difference	\$ 14,121.68	Difference	\$ 2,298.19

**Join us Sunday, June 29th for our first outdoor worship of the summer.
Joining us with special prelude music will be The Duluth Harbor
Masters!**

Additional outdoor worship services will be
July 27 and August 31.

Strides for Savings Continues in 2025!

Pastor's next race is the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon on Saturday, June 20th.

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 10.00 into Salem's savings account.



Salem Council Meeting Highlights-May 13, 2025

Minutes from April – accepted

Ongoing Business

- Safety/Security- EAP (Emergency Action Plan) Update- Eric still working on this. In rough draft form
- Amazon Blink Security Cameras Update- 5 cameras installed.
 - Now monitored by Pastor John.
 - Anyone on Council can have access. When Pastor is away he will pass the monitor duties to another council member.
- Chickadee Catering Lease payment increases for increased utility expenses.

New Business

- Little Italy food truck parking has been approved.
- Fencing around the playground has to be repaired? We will ask Justin if he can re-address this repair. Eric will talk to him about getting another quote.
- Roof over sanctuary? Property has looked at this and did not see an obvious problem. Property will continue to look at this potential problem.

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE/ TEAM UPDATES

Faith Formation

- Sunday School-
 - Sunday School and Faith Exploration are over for the year. Thank you to our leaders, Christy Jaros and Chris Swenson and all the helpers and teachers for making this a very successful year!
- Worship Planning Team-
 - Next meeting May 18th after worship.

Evangelism and Outreach Ministry

- **Welcome and Inclusion** - The resolution to approve a Welcome Statement and become an RIC Synod passed during the Synod Assembly.

Property Committee

- Cleaned out and organized garage
- The fire alarm had its annual inspection on May 6th and found that the batteries in the alarms in the narthex and sanctuary are at the end of life so the alarms will be replaced. The remaining alarms are hardwired so they are ok.
- The sprinkler system which is to be tested on an annual basis has not been tested since 2020. They will be contacting Beth to have the testing done.

Treasurer Report-

- Offerings are behind Salem budget projections. Salem is currently about \$10,000 behind on bills that are due.
- On June 30th, Salem annual insurance costs are projected to increase from \$12,357.00 to \$14,141.00 annually.

- Carol will investigate using Venmo as a possible donation vehicle.

Other

- Aging Well series has ended with the 6th session on May 5th. They were well attended from Salem and the community. Kudos and thank you to Kelly and Kim for organizing these helpful and insightful series.
- Vision Team—Daily prayer topics are posted on Facebook. Pray for the Vision Team!
- A Scout group from Illinois will be spending the night at Salem June 20th. Simon is the Point of Contact for the Scouts.
- CHUM's Rhubarb Festival is June 28th. Salem is in charge of the bake sale. If you want to help out, see Lisa.
- Keep on your calendar- September 7th- Ministry and Mission Sunday.

Pastor's Update: send via email

2025 Council Members

Carol Christenson, President (218-348-3950)
Faith Formation Ministry

Simon Erdmann, Vice President (218-409-5388)
Faith Formation Ministry, Support 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)
Community Ministry

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

June, 2025

	1	8	15	22	29
LEAD COMM	Wayne Swor	Eric Settergren	Carol Christenson	Simon Erdmann	Outdoor Worship
READER	Rolene Lampi	Sophie Wietman	Judy Giese	Nancy Larrivy	Nancy Berntsen