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Salem Lutheran Church
4715 Hermantown Rd.
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL

May, 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

Greetings Everyone,

Living in the area provides us with a unique opportunity to explore and learn a lot about Minnesota's north shore of Lake Superior. August will mark three years since I began at Salem, and I keep on discovering new and interesting things. One discovery I learned as I traveled up the North Shore toward Lutzen for a conference was Father Baraga Cross. Honestly, I was curious because I knew of Bishop Baraga who was a predominate historical figure in L'Anse, MI. In taking a moment to stop and see Father Baraga Cross I came to learn it was the same person. Before he became Bishop in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan Father Baraga had traveled through the Great Lakes region which included Minnesota's north shore of Lake Superior. Overall, I had fun exploring and learning about something that has connected me from my previous call to my current.

The story of the Venerable Bishop Baraga is quite the tale. He was born in 1797 at the Castle of Mala Slovenia. During his younger years it was a difficult time within the Austro-Hungarian empire. He was orphaned at 14 but was still well educated in his youth. His first educational track was studying law and graduated with honors. However, after graduation he was inspired by a Clement Hofbauar to join the priesthood. After becoming a priest Baraga went to be a missionary within the United States in 1830. Baraga spent much of his time in the U.S. traveling the great lakes region and ministering to immigrant and native communities. Prior to him becoming a Bishop in 1853 he spent quite a bit of time in the L'Anse area. However, in 1846 he heard of a community on the

North shore of Minnesota who needed ministry support. He traveled in bad weather on Lake Superior and was able to make the trip. Upon arriving on the shore in Thanksgiving, for making their journey, Baraga erected a cross on the site where they landed. Though the original cross is not there, a stone cross memorial is in its place today. In 1853 Bishop Baraga passed away in Marquet, MI. His funeral was well-attended by many catholic and non-Catholic individuals. His remains were laid to rest in the Catholic Cathedral in Marquet. Today if you go to L'Anse there is a shrine to the Venerable Bishop Baraga which is quiet the towering statue that looked over the L'Anse Bay of Lake Superior.

In Baraga's travels around Lake Superior, he probably explored and learned many different things. In fact, he wrote extensively about his activities and learned proficiently the Ojibway language. So well in fact that he wrote a Gramer and Dictionary of the Chippewa Language which is stilled used to this day. His overall experiences and exploration inspired him to record and preserve all he came to know. Overtime his writings allowed others to better appreciate and learn things that may have been lost. During his time Baraga had the ability to be inspired by the many things that are right before us as we live along the shores of Lake Superior.

Now granted I am not nor will ever be as infamous as Bishop Baraga. Overall, I am just a simple pastor ministering to the people of Salem and the community at large. Yet at the same time I can appreciate the overall enthusiasm Baraga had in his exploration and ministry throughout the Great Lakes

Region. For almost 9 years I have spent my ministry in the same place in which he has been. I to have explored and have been inspired by much of what has come on such a faith journey. It's amazing what can be learned and explored especially when it comes to faith in our area. Be it about a Slovenian priest in the 1800's or a Minnesota Pastor in the 2020's faith can reveal some interesting people as we explore where we live. So, as you are out on your exploration may God bless you as you keep on going in the month of May.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor John

Lessons for May, 2025

5/4/2025 Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14;
John 21:1-19

5/11/2025 Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17;
John 10:22-30

5/18/2025 Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

5/25/2025 Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

With Sympathy!

Our heartfelt sympathy to Laurinda & Jeff Harty and their family following the death of Laurinda's mom, Theresa on March 31st.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Lorrie Ondracek and her family following the death of her husband, Tom on April 16th.

Thank you!

Salem Family,

Thank you so much for the very kind gift and never ending support. We have been able to put our attention on Ivy instead of our finances. We are so thankful to have such a strong community surrounding us. We are so glad we could get her baptized before her surgery. Thank you!

Love,

Annalise, Ryan, Emerson & Ivy Thompson

Salem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for making the WELCA Spring Gathering a success. The time, the planning and hard work by all was most appreciated. Your church radiates peace, warmth and welcome.

Blessings always,
Kris Brendle

You Can Help!

Did you know since January Salem Quilters have created 18 quilts! Salem Quilters continue to receive donations of fabric to create beautiful quilts that are shared with those in need in the community but they are in need of help. The small group (currently 6 members) continues to work hard but they are looking for more people to help. You don't need to know how to sew! But if you can cut or even tie a knot or just want to get out of the house come and join them Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Family Room!

“Happy Birthday”
To Our Members in “May”

1	Donald Ostlund	15	Phil Zastrow
2	Steven Borndal	16	Sandy Johnson
	Madelyn Jaros		Drew Kreidler
3	Vivian Jamps	18	Emerson Thompson
	Zach Thorsten	19	Dale Berntsen
5	Landen Ross		Keagan Black
6	Jay Willman		Mark Hudson
7	Justin Forsell	20	Carter Lilyquist
8	Natalie Williams	21	Hazel Johnson
9	Cindy Anderson	23	Tyler Rollins
	Donna Koglin	24	Sutton Byrnes
	Rich Nickles	25	Beth Johnson
10	Evan Gunn	26	Annalise Thompson
	Laura Lilyquist		Ryan Willman
11	Hollis Nicholson	27	Paige Reid
	Vickie Willman	28	Tricia Nunez
13	Lisa Forsell	29	Camden Borndal
	Ariana Nunez		Terry Shogren
14	Niki Peterson	30	Dennis Velander
	Kathie Siemson	31	Laurie Meagher

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.

Church Office Manager

Salem is seeking a dedicated and organized person to join our staff! The ideal candidate will work in collaboration with pastoral staff, non-rostered staff, church committees, and members of Salem to provide operational support of the church. This position requires efficient skills in administration, communication, and time management. They must be comfortable handling financial records and be proficient or be willing to acquire proficiency in various computer applications (e.g. Microsoft Office). Contact Nancy Berntsen, Pastor John or Beth for more information.

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, May 6th at 12:30 pm at Valentini’s. Send your reservation to Judy Hane at 218-349-7588

SALEM’S FINANCIAL PICTURE

March, 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

Strides for Savings Continues in 2025!

Pastor's next race is the Pike Lake 10k on Saturday, May 31

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.



Aging Well Series Legal and Financial Panel Monday, May 4

6:30 pm, Salem's Family Room

Presenters include:

Jacob J. Baker, Attorney

"Estate Planning Basics"

Kristin Parendo, Elder Law Lead Attorney

"Ducks in a Row: Health Care Directives"

Sara McCumber, RN

"Advanced Care Planning Conversations"

Larissa Paulson and Bart Porter, Sunrise Funeral

Home and Cemetery

"Funeral Planning"

Youth News!

Salem's Sunday School donated \$450 to Animal Allies from their noisy offering collections. They also made dog toys and cat houses for them.

**Noisy Offering will be Sunday,
May 11! Your change makes a
difference for World Hunger! May
11 is also the last Sunday School of
the year! Sunday School kids will
assist in worship with special music!**



Attention Grads and Parents of Grads

Sunday, May 11th we will be honoring the Class of 2025 during worship! Please let the church office know if you have a grad and plan on attending worship with your grad on May 11th! Thank you!

On Sunday, May 11th we will also be welcoming Salem's newest members (since 2021) into our Salem family. Pastor John will be contacting our newest members inviting them to worship and fellowship on Sunday, May 11th.

Vision Team News

This Easter season, we celebrate the risen Christ—the One who brings life from death, hope from despair, and purpose from uncertainty. Just as the resurrection opened a new chapter for the disciples, we believe God is inviting our church into a season of renewal and fresh vision. We are forming a Vision Team: a prayerful group committed to seeking God's direction for the future of our congregation. The team will listen deeply—to God, to one another, and to our community—with the goal of helping us better share the love of Jesus with more people in meaningful, life-giving ways.

We have created a 50-day prayer immersion to begin the discernment process to learn where God is calling us. If you have not yet received a copy of the handout, it is available on the website or copies are available in the narthex. We are asking for your most attentive prayers *and* for you to share what the Spirit is prompting around our shared life at Salem. At the end of the 50 days, we will be at Pentecost and celebrating the Holy Spirit's urging toward our future. Just as Easter began a movement that changed the world, we trust that God will use this visioning process to lead us into bold, Spirit-filled ministry in our church and community.

NEMN Synod Emmaus Fund Gala – May 3 @ Breezy Point

Help us launch the new Emmaus Fund endowment of the NEMN Synod at the 2025 Synod Assembly! *The Emmaus Fund supports leadership development, youth and young adult engagement, and congregational outreach by providing micro-grants for new ministry programs and opportunities.*

We will formally launch the **Emmaus Fund with a Gala on Saturday, May 3 at Breezy Point Resort** near Nisswa. Doors open at 6:30pm. There will be Silent and Live Auctions, as well as a Giving Moment. We will have a fabulous auctioneer from Fladeboe Advancement joining us, as well as live music and speakers. If you or your church is interested in donating a themed basket for the Silent Auction, please contact liz.davis@nemnsynod.org. If you are not attending the Synod Assembly as a voting member but would like to attend the Gala, we'd love to have you! Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased on the NEMN Synod website. We welcome your generosity to the Emmaus Fund as we kick-off this new ministry!

Salem Council Meeting Highlights-April 8, 2025

Minutes from March – accepted

Ongoing Business

- Safety/Security- Eric has a rough shell started for the Salem Emergency Action plan. This will take some time to build. Kelly stated she would help with medical. Carol will help with weather.
- Amazon Blink Security Cameras on sale \$200.00 for 5 cameras plus 10.00+tax per month for cloud service. Offer of donation by a member approved by council
- Committee Reorganization and Constitution
 - Spiritual gifts worksheet available- ask Beth.
 - Time and Talent Questionnaire- Carol is working on it
 - Need Ministry brochure so people know what each team does – Event will be September 7th. Organizing an event to showcase the layout of team and committee membership and to showcase their ministries and missions. The event will be called Ministry and Mission Sunday.
- A team has been working on renegotiating the current lease agreement for Chickadee Catering due an increase in current utility expenses.
- Vision Team- Put under Support Ministry

New Business

Faith Formation

- Sunday School-
 - \$450 that the children generated from the World Market was donated to Animal Allies. The

children made dog toys (tug ropes, ball toys, bottle toys) and cat houses that were also donated.

- Sunday school children will be leading worship on 5/11. That will also be the final day of the Sunday School year. They will also help with Communion.
- There will be Noisy offer on Palm Sunday (April 11) and on May 11th.
- Worship Planning Team-
 - Bulletin Insert- “Maundy Thursday and Why We Commemorate Good Friday”
 - Is serving Easter breakfast 8:45 am- 9:30 am
 - Easter decorating on Saturday, April 19th, 9 am
 - Next meeting May 18th after worship.
 - New members service scheduled for May 11th. Five new members to be recognized

Hospitality Team

- 50 “Missing you in church” cards sent out to members that have not been in attendance to Salem for awhile.

Evangelism and Outreach Ministry

- Over 500 boxes of Mac and Cheese donated to Chum from Salem. Roughly 300 pounds

Support Ministry

- Salem sent a Mission Trip group of 13 people to North Carolina to rebuild houses from the flooding of Hurricane Helene.

Property Committee

- Planning a garage cleanout day in April or May to include a dump run.

- Justin Reid has installed two coat racks near the Sunday school room. Also secured the bookshelves to the wall in the prayer room. He also installed the vinyl baseboard on the north wall of the family room.
- A big thank you to the teams that reorganized the library and went through everything and painted.

Treasurer Report

- We are in a better position this month compared to last month. See treasurer's report.

Other

- Aging Well series have been well attended from Salem and community. Two more sessions in April. Kudos and thank you to Kelly and Kim for organizing this helpful and insightful series.
- WELCA Lake Superior Conference Spring Gathering at Salem was April 5th- 45 ladies attended
- NWS annual Skywarn ham meeting April 12th is canceled.
- Vision Team—Chris has a daily prayer agenda setup that will be posted on Facebook. Please pray for the Vision Team!

Pastor's Update: report sent 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

May, 2025

	4	11	18	25
LEAD COMM	No Communion	Sunday School	Judy Giese	
READER	Richard Petersson	Carol Christenson	Eileen Dusek	Simon Erdmann