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Salem Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd.  
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL

# July, 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](http://www.slecduluth.org)

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## **Sunday Worship Schedule**

**Worship 10:00 am**

**Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am**



### **MEET SALEM'S NEW OFFICE MANAGER**

Sherri Puckett began her first day as Salem's Office Manager on June 17, 2025. She will be working with Beth for several weeks to learn the multifaceted job of managing the Salem church office. Sherri came to Salem with outstanding job skills and personal qualities. After a very thorough application process, it was apparent that we were very fortunate that she wanted to join our staff. Sherri is a self-employed realtor who loves to be busy and challenged. She felt the position at Salem could compliment her business schedule. Sherri is married, has two adult sons, and is the proud grandma of one. We are confident that Sherri will be a quick study under the mentorship of Beth Erdmann who has been such a tremendous asset to Salem for over twenty years! Beth has been dreaming of making retirement a reality for nearly two years. It is with mixed emotions that we accept her decision to activate this new phase of her life.

Greetings Everyone,

In the early 1960s, Bob Dylan wrote the song 'The Times They Are A-Changin''. This folk song describes the early conflicts and controversies of his time. Many recognize that this period marked significant societal changes throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Often, when change occurs, there is conflict and controversy.

As I look around today, I would say Dylan's words are just as relevant now as they were then. We've experienced a great deal of change in our society, especially in the last ten years. Along with that change, there has also been plenty of conflict and controversy. Granted, change, whether in our lives or in society, is nothing new. What is different is the timing and what

may come from change. The fact that Dylan's words still resonate today shows that change, and how we react to it, is an ongoing human experience. For better or worse, we are living in one of those times when change is affecting us all.

Change in faith can also bring conflict and controversy. I truly understand that change isn't easy, especially when it comes to matters of faith. Many of us experience a sense of loss when something familiar and comforting in our faith changes. Since I became your pastor and started working with the Vision Team, I've heard many stories about past ministry here at Salem. I've listened to what activities and ministries were deeply meaningful to many of you. In reflecting on where we are today, many would recognize that Salem is quite different from what it was 10, 20, or even 30 years ago. Even at Salem, change has, and continues, to occur.

Yet change in faith is nothing new. When it does happen, I immediately think of God's Spirit. For God's Spirit is like the wind, ever changing us and the world. In fact, the Gospel of John speaks of those born of the Spirit being like the wind. In John 3:8 (NRSV), it says: "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." As Jesus explains this to Nicodemus, I hear the message of unpredictability and transformation that comes with the Spirit. God's Spirit moves us in ways we may not fully understand or feel entirely comfortable with. This same Spirit is what leads us to change and reform, not only ourselves but also our faith and the world around us. Through God's Spirit, change ultimately brings the love and life of Christ into

the world through our words and actions. Change in faith, just like in life, is nothing new. But when it comes through the Spirit, it brings with it goodness, growth, and grace for us all.

Dolly Parton once said of change, “We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.” For me, this is a perfect way to think about change, especially spiritual change. As people born of the Spirit and carried on the winds of change, we adjust our sails to continue bringing God’s love into the world. The work of the Vision Team is not only to reflect on what has been and what is meaningful today but also to imagine what could be meaningful in the future. A future ministry where we adjust our sails to catch the wind of the Spirit moving us forward. Just as Dylan’s words still ring true when it comes to times of change, those same changing times can bring forth new expressions of God’s Spirit and fresh meaning for life and faith. So, as times change, I encourage all of you to look for and reflect on God’s Spirit, to let it guide you in sharing Christ’s love through word and deed. That is how we continue to find and offer what is truly meaningful, not just for ourselves, but for others too.

May God’s blessing be with you all in these changing times. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John Ansell

### **Lessons for July, 2025**

**7/6/2025** Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9;  
Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**7/13/2025** Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10;  
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

**7/20/2025** Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15;  
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10: 38-42

**7/27/2025** Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138;  
Colossians 2:6-15

## **ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY**

### *“Happy Birthday”*

#### *To Our Members in “July”*

4	Leann Fahlsing	16	Linnae Bosley
6	Doreen Wehmas		Dale Rollins
7	Darlene Butkewicz	17	Kurt Johnson
8	Lorrie Ondracek	22	Kadin Graves
5	Terry Hanson	22	Kathy Ide
11	Roger Berntsen	23	Ken Ahlberg
12	Mary Larson	24	Josh Rollins
13	Jim Christenson	25	Raleigh Mirra
	Riley Willman	26	Amy Pipho
14	Kristin Collins		Cheryl Porter
15	Mike Healy	27	John Agustsson
	Delaney Benson		Julie Eld
		31	Bob Johnson

### **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

May, 2025		Year to Date	
General Giving	\$ 16,382.67	General Giving	\$ 97,966.45
Budget	\$ 21,612.00	Budget	\$ 109,576.00
Difference	\$ -5,229.33	Difference	\$ - 11,609.55
<b>2025 Unpaid Bill Total</b>		<b>\$22,230.96</b>	

Summer is here! Consider automating your regular donations with our electronic giving program. Salem relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Contact the church office for more information. Thank you!



**Ladies night on Monday, July 14th at 6:00 p.m.** Let's have a picnic at Enger Park. Bring your picnic supper and come to enjoy the gardens, scenery, or trails!

**Strides for Savings Continues in 2025!**

Pastor's next race is the Park Point 5 Miler on Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.

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.



### Bike for Justice – Bike Against Hunger RIDE

Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger 26 Mile Round Trip Ride (or 10 mile option) Munger Trail Carlton – Mahtowa Saturday, August 2, 2025

Gathering 8:30 am Sending Off 9:00 am How to Participate 1. Fill out the Registration Form up to the day of the event. You may register individually, as a couple, or as a family. Online Registration Form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YtNa\\_3lLk8YsXw7bJKgzxP7iKtk0cWOjm8gv3NAvoGk/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YtNa_3lLk8YsXw7bJKgzxP7iKtk0cWOjm8gv3NAvoGk/edit) 2. Send in your registration fee as a check to NE MN Synod, 1111 London Road, Duluth, MN 55802 3. Gather sponsors. 4. Ride! Where We'll Be Starting & Ending: DNR Park, 780 E Hwy 210, Carlton, MN Water, Snack, & Bathroom Stop: Salem Lutheran Church, 2702 1st Street, Mahtowa, MN

Registration Fee \$10 individual without tee shirt - \$15 individual with tee shirt – \$25 max per family In celebration of the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, we are raising funds, raising awareness of

hunger, and raising our spirits through this ride. Sponsored by the Hunger, Justice, & Rural Life Committee of the Northeast Minnesota Synod, ELCA Questions? Call or email Vicki at 701-361-4517, [veschmidt45@msn.com](mailto:veschmidt45@msn.com).

**JOIN US FOR THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CITY ON THE HILL MUSIC FEST -  
August 1st, & 2nd, 2025**

City On The Hill Music Fest is set to unite believers for a joyous weekend of music and fellowship at the stunning Bayfront Festival Park in Duluth, MN. Founded in 2015 along the majestic shores of Lake Superior, the City On the Hill Music Festival gathers Christian communities from all corners of the nation for an extended weekend filled with worship, soul-stirring melodies, and heartfelt praise. Tickets available at [cityonthehillmusicfest.com](http://cityonthehillmusicfest.com). For those who are planning on going, purchase your tickets and we'll meet at Bayfront Festival Park. Questions...contact Kim Settergren.

**Salem Council Meeting Highlights-June 10, 2025  
Minutes from May – accepted**

**Ongoing Business**

- Safety/Security- EAP (Emergency Action Plan) Update- Still deciding on a format. Eric has a couple of options that he is reviewing
- Chickadee Catering Lease/Parking of Little Italy food truck- The executive team met with Little Italy's owners and discussed concerns that have

been brought forward regarding the parking of their food truck on Salem's property.

- Daycare asked about access to Salem Cameras. The council has stated the cameras are not designed for constant surveillance and will only be used for Salem purposes. Daycare is welcome to install their own cameras if they so desire.
- Dutch doors to 2 daycare rooms. – Discussion on this was tabled until we have more information from the daycare exactly what their requirements are and why they need them.
- Daycare playground fence- Suspended for now as the current fence is serving its intended purpose.
- Hiring of new office manager-. Motion to hire Sherri Puckett as the new Salem Office Manager pursuant to 90 day probation made by Eric & seconded by Sharon. Motion passed.

**TEAM UPDATES AS NEEDED**

- **Worship Planning Team**
  - Outdoor worship June 22/Also Pollinator Sunday
  - Harbormasters at worship June 29
  - Outdoor worship July 27, Aug 31
- **Evangelism and Outreach Ministry**
  - Redemption Ministry Fellowship of Duluth has partnered with Salem's Prison Team to provide worship services on the "off" Sundays when Salem does not go to the Moose Lake prison.

- Five of Salem's Prison Team was treated to a Christian volunteer appreciation dinner at the Moose Lake Prison on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Support Ministry**
  - The quilting group has added two new members and continues activities.
- **Treasurer Report-**
  - Bills are steady and giving is continuing to decrease. The unpaid bill total for June is \$ 22,230.06 this is an increase of about \$4000.00 over last month.
- **Other**
  - CHUM's Rhubarb Festival is June 28<sup>th</sup>. Salem is in charge of the bake sale. If you want to help out, see Lisa.
  - Keep on your calendar- September 7<sup>th</sup>- Ministry and Mission Sunday.
  - A pollinator garden will be planted in the area where "Julies Memorial Garden" is located. Julie's garden will be expanded. Salem is looking to become a Pollinator Sanctuary Congregation. A microgrant will be applied for through the [EcoFaith Network](#). Carol Christenson is taking the lead on this project.
  - A waiver was signed for the parking lot event by the family in the local community that requested use for a partial day. Requested date was Sunday the 15 June 2-6 pm

**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

**July, 2025**

	6	13	20	27
LEAD COMM	Judy Giese	Sharon Szamatula	Carol Christenson	Outdoor Worship
READER	Laurie Swor	Sophie Wietman	Richard Petersson	Simon Erdmann

## ***Bible Quiz***



The New Testament encourages Christians to remember that we have a responsibility to respect governmental authority. Good government is seen to be “God’s servant for your good” (Romans 13:4, NRSV).

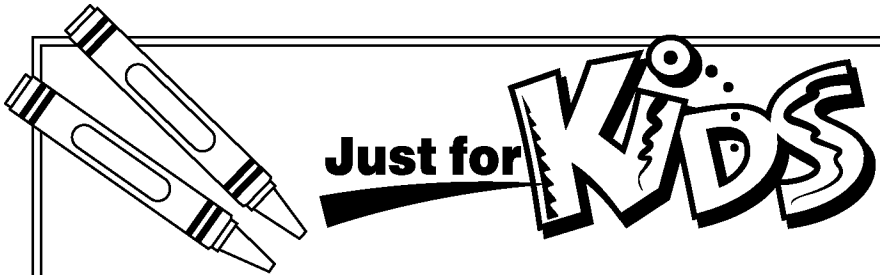
It was for that reason that St. Paul told the Roman Christians to “pay to all what is due them — taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due” (Romans 13:7, NRSV).

But what if a government is corrupt and against God and the Church? St. John, toward the end of the first century, would not bow down to Caesar and hail him as a god. Neither would many other Christians. What was John’s advice to his fellow Christians under such circumstances?

- A. No longer bow down to those who defile you and the name of the Lord.
- B. Ignore the ruler who is a haughty and blasphemous beast.
- C. Endure the pain and remain faithful to God.

The answer is in the final phrase of Revelation 13:10.

Answer: C



## Jesus Traveled to Many Places

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of those places. Can you find all the names on the list?

BETHANY	EPHRAIM	→	↓	↑	↘
BETHLEHEM	GALILEE				
BETHSAIDA	JERICO				NAZARETH
CAESAREA PHILIPPI	JERUSALEM				PEREA
CANA	JORDAN RIVER				SAMARIA
CAPERNAUM	JUDEA				SIDON
DECAPOLIS	MAGDALA				TYRE
EGYPT	MOUNT OF OLIVES				WILDERNESS

B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K