

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 60  
Duluth, Minnesota

Salem Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd.  
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL

# September, 2025

Pastor – John Ansell

Pastor's Cell – 952-261-5593

Church Office – 218- 727-1357

Office Manager – Sherri Puckett

## ***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**

**Sunday School 9:00 am**

**Worship 10:00 am**

**Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am**



Greetings Everyone,  
Summer is nearing an end, and I hope everyone is ready for the fall to begin. I imagine many are busy with the start of a new school year. Maybe you are also busy getting your gardens ready for fall, or perhaps you are just trying to enjoy a few more nice outdoor adventures before the cold arrives. Overall, there might be several things on your mind as we begin the fall season.

On Sunday, September 28th, we will celebrate the many ways we are the church. It will be a time to reflect on and learn about the ministry activities we share as a community. There are many things we do together as a church, and this is a wonderful way to explore those opportunities. We will also be celebrating our youth as they begin a new school year and Sunday school year with a Blessing of the Backpacks. Some might also wonder what the church truly is and what its role, function, or purpose may be.

The official Lutheran perspective states: "The Church is the assembly of saints in which the gospel is taught purely, and the sacraments are administered rightly" (Article VII, The Augsburg Confession in The Book of Concord). Ultimately, the church is the gathering of people who come to learn about faith and to be nourished by the gifts our faith brings to us. Yet, at its heart, the church is the people who make it up, those who gather with a common belief in Christ. Christ's life, death, and resurrection reveal to us God's love and connection to us.

One of the hymns we sing from time to time includes the line: "We Are the Church, the Body of Our Lord." It reminds us that the church is not a building, a business, or a corporation. Rather, the church is people who

embody the Lord through the Gospel and are strengthened by the sacraments. It is also the people of the church who are sent forth, bringing Christ into the world. This is where ministry and mission take shape. The actions of God's people, going out to be Christ in the world as Christ has been for us, are ultimately the ministry that the church carries into the world.

With the beginning of fall, there may be many things we are doing. As a church, we have many ministries to lift up toward the end of September. Yet at its core, the church is people who believe, who gather to learn, and who are nourished in faith. That faith shows us love and encourages us to go forth and do likewise. This is what makes the church a source of strength, especially in times when love is needed most.

May God bless you this month and always. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John Ansel

### **Lessons for September, 2025**

**9/7/2025** Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

**9/14/2025** Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 51:1-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

**9/21/2025** Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

**9/28/2025** Amos 6:1a, 4-7, Psalm 146, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

## ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

### Thank You!

Thank you for the gift card! I really appreciate it. Salem has created many memories for me and fostered my faith. Thanks Again, Keatin Graves

We are so grateful for the Salem Lutheran Church and the kindness and love they have shown us. We couldn't have asked for a better experience for our wedding day. Thank you for letting us in and making our special day One to remember! Taylor & Dalton Groff.

The Mt. Pulaski Boy Scout Troop would like to Thank You for letting us stay at your church as we traveled to the Crane Lake area. We very much appreciated your hospitality!

### *“Happy Birthday”*

#### ***To Our Members in “September”***

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Carrie Gilbertson | 18 Nancy Berntsen   |
| 2 Nancy Larrivy     | Cade Jaros          |
| 5 Judy Giese        | Tammy Nordwall      |
| 9 Hannah Prewit     | Chris Swenson       |
| 10 Merlyn Dammer    | 22 Kammi Wietman    |
| Kevin Graves        |                     |
| Jasper Nunez        | 24 Laura Anderson   |
| 12 Julie Porter     | 28 Barbara Adamski  |
| 15 Gavin Reid       | Glory Eckard        |
| 16 Michelle Ahlberg | Karen McClimek      |
| Daniel Burud        | 30 Darlene Mammenga |
|                     | Kristi Poissant     |

## 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 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

July, 2025		Year to Date	
General Giving	\$ 21,258.15	General Giving	\$ 138,363.77
Budget	\$ 21,612.00	Budget	\$ 152,800.00
Difference	\$ -353.85	Difference	\$ -14,436.23
<b>2025 Unpaid Bill Total \$19,693.99</b>			

### Strides for Savings Continues in 2025!

Pastor's next races are Finden Tunnel 10K  
September 13, 2025 Sioux Falls Half Marathon  
Sunday, September 21, 2025

We're thrilled to launch the very first VLM Bike-A-Thon—an exciting new way to support outdoor ministry while enjoying the natural beauty of northern Minnesota. September 6, 2025, 8 am in Grand Rapids, MN. There's no registration fee—participation is free! VLM Bikeathon Registration <https://www.vlmcamps.org/all-programs-events/2025-vlm-bikeathon> Questions: Contact Ryan Jagim for more information. ([rdjagim@gmail.com](mailto:rdjagim@gmail.com))

Friends of the Felgemaker will host the first concert of the 2025-26 season at Sacred Heart Music Center (201 West 4th St., Duluth) at 3:00 pm on Sunday, September 7, 2025. The main work is Dan Forrest's award-winning choral composition, ***Requiem for the Living***. ***Tickets are \$20 (plus \$3.18 in fees) on Eventbrite. Tickets will be \$20 at the door. Student rush tickets will be available at the door for \$5.***

## WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE September, 2025

	7	14	21	28
LEAD COMM	Sharon Szamatula	Judy Giese	Lay Ministry	Simon Erdmann
READER	Richard Petersson	Sophie Wietman	Rolen Lampi	Christy Jaros

**Mark your calendars for September 28th!**

**We Are the Church Extravaganza!**



Join us for a full morning of worship and fellowship. We will not only celebrate Salem as the church, but also highlight the many ways we participate in ministry together.

We will welcome the kids and teachers as they begin the new school year, bless the backpacks, and get everyone registered for the upcoming Youth Education year.

Don't let the only thing missing be you! A potluck will follow the service so bring a dish to share and get ready to celebrate We Are the Church Sunday!



Salem's annual Apple Festival will be held on Saturday, October 25 from 9:00-3:00! We have a full group of fabulous vendors both inside and outside! We will need volunteers to help with some setup & caramel apple dipping on Friday afternoon, tear down after the sale on Saturday and donations for the bake sale. As always, proceeds from the bake sale, brats, cider & table fees will help fund community service projects done by our Salem members. Stay tuned for more info!

We will be pressing cider on Saturday, October 18—feel free to pop in to check out the process anytime between 10:00-3:00 that day. It really is quite the sight to see!

The MN Adult & Teen Challenge choir will be joining us for worship again on October 19. They will share their music and faith stories with us—if you have not been to one of these services, we highly encourage you to do so! The light & faith shining from these men is so moving and hopeful. After the service, we will be hosting an apple treat themed fellowship for the men. Please consider bringing an apple treat to share that day!

## **Salem Council Meeting Highlights-August 12, 2025**

### **Minutes from July – accepted**

#### **Ongoing Business**

- Safety/Security- EAP (Emergency Action Plan) Update- No work completed in the last month.
- Ministry descriptions: New deadline is Sept Council Meeting.
- Daycare Updates : Stacy will attend September meeting to explain ideas for doors, wall and cameras and answer questions.
- Venmo for church- Carol investigated Discussed and will be potential action item for Sept when Wayne is available for more discussion and input.
- Credit card for church- Pastor John has gathered some information. More discussion with Wayne to discuss the best route at the September Council Meeting.
- Youth bank account owner switch to Sherri still needs to be completed. -----Council has made a motion to remove Beth from the Pastors social ministry account, Salem Checking and Youth Accounts. The motion was made by Sharon and seconded by Diana. Passed

#### **New Business**

- Nominating committee should be activated in September/October so council members whose terms are up will need to decide if they are going to continue. Pastor has the list and Diana and Nancy volunteered for nominating.

#### **MINISTRY/COMMITTEE/ TEAM UPDATES**

##### **Faith Formation Ministry-**

- Education team- Met on 8/7.

- Kickoff for Sunday School will be on September 28th in conjunction with council's Ministry and Mission Sunday. Will be called **WE ARE THE CHURCH SUNDAY** with potluck, etc.
- Discussed opening with mini family worship.
- Discussed lesson focus- This year will focus on Jesus stories.
- Looking for teachers and helpers for both Sunday school and Faith Exploration.

### **Worship Planning Team**

- Outdoor Worship August 31
- Meeting on 8/24 to plan fall worships

### **Community Ministry-**

- Environment Team-
- Received \$750 grant from Ecofaith network for pollinator garden.
- Preparing garden plot beginning Wednesday 8/13 with removing sod. Trillium Collective and daycare kids will help. Gopher State Digging has given all clear to dig

### **Prison Ministry**

- Members from Hope Lutheran of Moose Lake will be joining us for worship in the near future.
- Members from Redemption Ministry Fellowship of Duluth will join us for worship as they prepare to lead worship on their own Sundays. Salem has the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Redemption will eventually take one or more of the other Sundays.

**Quilters** – Donated 15 quilts to the Salvation Army today.

### **Support Ministry**

- Property Committee
- Stacy has given winter break dates in order for daycare room to be waxed.
- Daycare was cited for a fence issue. Eric is doing repairs.
- Elevator phone- during an inspection we were cited by the MN Department of Labor and Industry for not having battery backup power for the elevator phone. As of 7/22 we have 60 days to rectify. Eric will call Benson Electric.

**Treasurer** - See Treasurer's report.

- Mutual Ministry
- Nancy Berntsen has indicated she is stepping away from mutual ministry leadership but has agreed to remain for continuity.
- I will talk with Nancy, Patty and Nancy to confirm.
- Sherri will be receiving her 60 day review from mutual ministry this week.

### **Other**

- Council discussed an appreciation and celebration event for Beth. More info as details are firmed up
- Keep on your calendar- September 28 - **We Are The Church Sunday.**
- Pastor's Update:** see report via email