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Duluth, Minnesota

Salem Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd.  
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL

# December, 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)

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**Sunday Worship Schedule**

**Youth Education 9:00 am**

**Worship 10:00 am**

**Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am**

**Christmas Eve Worship Service – 5:00 pm**

Greetings Everyone,  
As we wind down the fall season and move into winter, many of you have likely been preparing your homes for the cold and snow ahead. One of the preparations I do for my own home is to put plastic on some of my older windows. I also switch out the screen panels for glass ones and, of course, make sure the furnace is in good working order with a fresh filter. These are just a few of the small projects that help get my home ready for winter.

Another kind of preparation we begin at the end of November and carry through most of December is Advent, a time to center our lives as we wait in anticipation to celebrate the coming of the Christ child into the world. Some of you may have already skipped over the waiting part of Advent and put up all your Christmas decorations! But even so, we still must wait for Christmas to arrive. We can't simply make Christmas by our own effort; it must come to us. The whole point of Christmas is that God, in Christ, comes to us in our world, not because of anything we do, but as a gift of grace.

While we wait for Christmas, there are plenty of things we think have to be done. Often, our waiting and to do's are buying gifts, grocery shopping, attending school concerts, or going to holiday parties. Yet Christmas is about the coming of Christ our Lord into a broken and chaotic world that so desperately needs the Christ child to save it from itself—a child who shows us how to have faith in God and care for the world around us.

In Matthew's Gospel, which we'll hear during Advent, John the Baptist calls out, "Prepare the way of the Lord." How might we prepare during this Advent season? Perhaps by reflecting on Scripture, spending time in prayer, or helping a neighbor with their own winter preparations. Let us not be consumed by what we think we must do. However, instead focus on what we get to do, we get to connect with God, we get to strengthen our relationships with one another, and we get to engage with our community in faith. Our preparation for the coming of the Lord may not look like the usual Christmas chaos, but rather, it can be found in moments of connection, reflection, and service.

No matter how you spend these next few weeks of Advent and Christmas, I hope it is a joyous time. A time and season filled with patient waiting, meaningful preparation, and healthy connections. Whatever this month brings, may it also be a blessing from God to you all. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John Ansel

### **Strides for Savings Continues in 2025!**

Pastor's next race is the Santa Run is on Saturday, December 13th.



## Lessons for December, 2025

**12/7/2025** Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

**12/14/2025** Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10,

James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

**12/21/2025** Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

**12/24/2025** Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14,

Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

**12/28/2025** Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrew 2:10-18,

Matthew 2:13-23

## New Baby!

Congratulations to Scott & Kristin (Settergren) Collins on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Grace on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sympathy!** Our heartfelt sympathy to Bettie Lou & family following the death of Hollis Nicholson on October 10, 2025.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Darlene Mammenga on the death of her husband, Rolland on November 17, 2025

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon at Valentini's. Everyone is welcome to join us.

## 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.

## Happy Birthday

### To Our Members in December

2	Stan Nordwall	15	David Larson
	Lee Swenson		Roger Halverson
5	Sandra Hendrickson	18	Kim Settergren
	Elizabeth Paulson	19	Lois Dusek
	Sharon Szamatula		Keatin Graves
6	Everly Lilyquist		Violet Riggio
10	Ella Borgeson	21	Eric Settergren
11	Lani Burud	23	Melissa DelaMartre
	Joyce Johnson		Darlene Haedrich
	Kim Zastrow		Callan Reno
13	Brian Gilbertson	30	Dave Johnson
	Roger Halverson		

### From the Church Office:

**For those members who do not use electronic giving, 2025 Offering Envelopes are now available in the narthex. If you prefer to have your envelopes mailed to you, please contact the church office.**

Everyone is invited to join our Sunday School students for worship on December 21<sup>st</sup> as they lead us in worship. After the service, the students will be having a World Market, the kids create 'wares' to sell and the money goes toward mission projects.

**Salem Council Meeting Highlights-  
Minutes from October 2025 – accepted**

**Ongoing Business**

**Laugh and Learn**

- ☐ Construction work to be completed between Christmas & New Years.

**Ongoing Business**

- ☐ Ministry descriptions: Time & Talent sheets being collected, Carol will review for action.
- ☐ Venmo for church-paypal accounts complete and being used.

**New Business**

**MINISTRY/COMMITTEE/ TEAM UPDATES AS  
NEEDED**

- ☐ **Education Team**-Youth Christmas worship/World Market on December 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ☐ **Community Ministry**-Salem donated around 300 pounds of food to Chum in November.
- ☐ **Support Ministry**-  
Property committee-furnace inspected & cleaned.
- ☐ **Property Committee**-no report
- ☐ **Treasurer –**
- ☐ **Mutual Ministry**-Reviews complete.
- ☐ **Nominating Committee**- Diana has potential candidates.
- ☐ **Pastor's Update**: See email report

**WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE  
December, 2025**

	7	14	21	24	28
LEAD COMM	Sharon Szamatula	Eric Settergren	Sunday School Judy	Carol Christensen	Wayne Swor
READER	Eric Settergren	Simon Erdmann	Sophie Wietman	Carol Christensen	Nancy Berntsen

**Quilting**

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**Quilting**

Every Wednesday Salem's quilting group meets at 9:30 am in the family room. This group will welcome you with open arms and you don't even need to know how to quilt! Drawing, cutting, ironing, pinning and sewing are part of the work of this group, along with coffee & cookies. Come join us! Our quilts are donated to victims of fires, those that are homeless or in transition, mission trips to other parts of the country and also to World Missions. Come and join us!



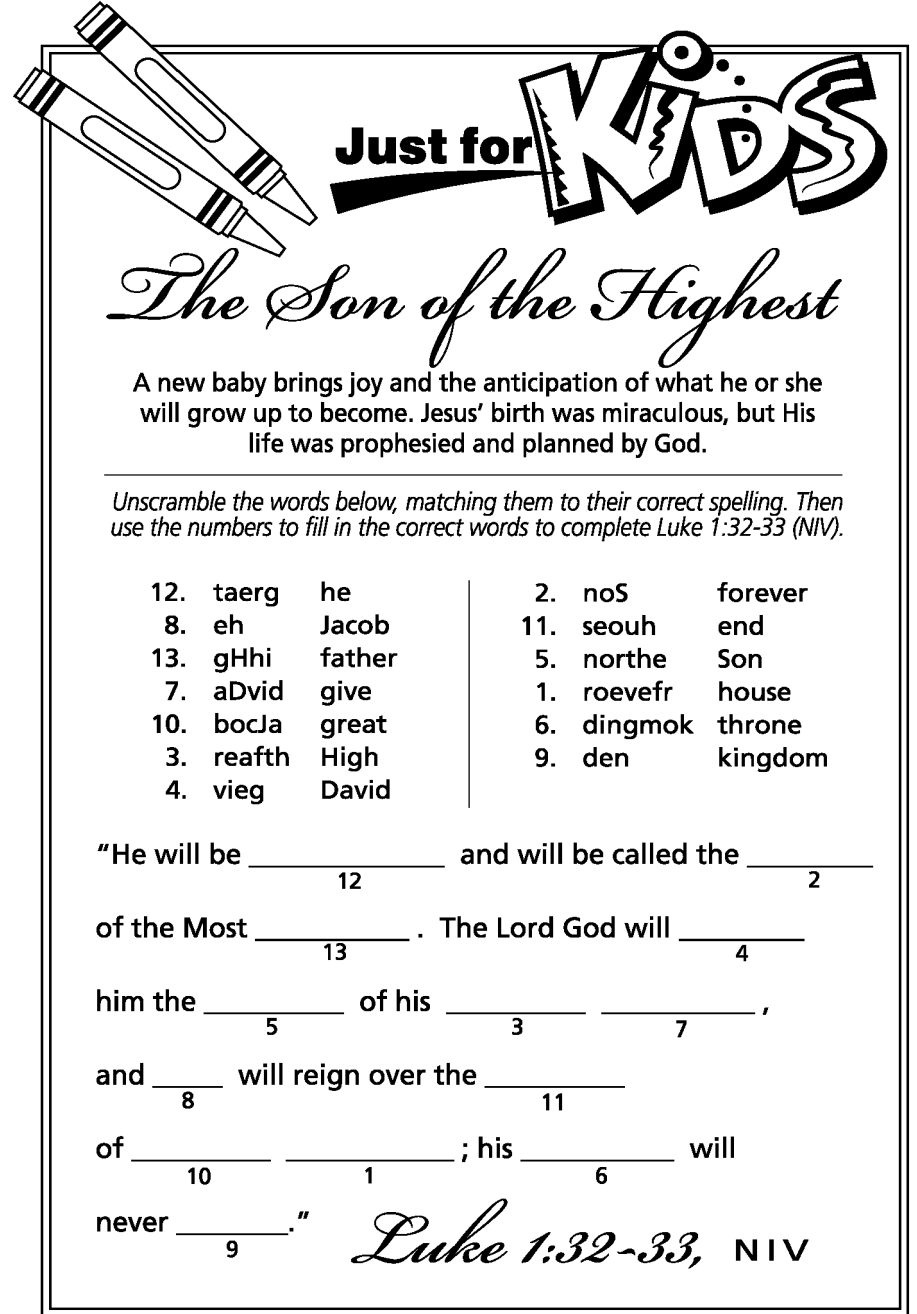
# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.**

**ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 - box of cereal  
December 2 - peanut butter  
December 3 - stuffing mix  
December 4 - boxed potatoes  
December 5 - macaroni and cheese  
December 6 - canned fruit  
December 7 - canned tomatoes  
December 8 - canned tuna  
December 9 - dessert mix  
December 10 - jar of applesauce  
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes  
December 12 - cranberry sauce  
December 13 - canned beans  
December 14 - box of crackers  
December 15 - package of rice  
December 16 - package of oatmeal  
December 17 - package pasta  
December 18 - spaghetti sauce  
December 19 - chicken noodle soup  
December 20 - tomato soup  
December 21 - can corn  
December 22 - can mixed vegetables  
December 23 - can carrots  
December 24 - can green beans

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Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. throne 6. kingdom 7. David  
8. he 9. end 10. Jacob 11. house 12. great 13. High