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Salem Lutheran Church
4715 Hermantown Rd.
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL



January, 2026

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
“Like” us on Facebook

Sunday Worship Schedule
Youth Education 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am



**Salem’s Annual Meeting will be held Sunday,
January 2026 following worship!**

From the Church Office:

- **Annual Report Articles are due January, 2, 2026**
- **Annual Reports will be available in the narthex and via email Sunday, January, 11 2026.**
- **Salem's Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 25, 2026 following worship.**
- **2025 Contribution Reports will be sent out on or before January 31, 2026.**

Greetings everyone, and Happy New Year, Hopefully, everyone has had a wonderful holiday season and is ready to begin a new year. I am excited to see what new things may come in the year ahead. On a synod level, we will be holding a bishops' election, along with welcoming a new bishop to lead our synod. At Salem, we continue to explore and support new ways we can be community together. With all this newness, and really with all new things, we look to faith to help guide us.

Of course, our greatest guiding principle in faith is God. God, who, as Revelation reminds us, is the "Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end," and "the one who makes all things new" (Revelation 21:5–6, NRSV). God accomplishes this work through the persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are often reminded of God's creative, fatherly aspects when we talk about our environment. We also frequently speak of God the Son, whom we experience in Christ and all that comes with him. However, the Spirit of God is very diverse

and, at times, is not spoken about as much. For the purpose of this article, I want to focus on the Holy Spirit. I do so because of how important the role of the Spirit is when we face things that are new or different. A major aspect of the Holy Spirit is its guiding presence, empowering us to go well beyond what we could ever imagine. The Spirit is also the connecting and grounding force within us, drawing us together in faith. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you" (John 14:16–17, NRSV). Christ tells us that this invisible presence is always with us, aiding us in our daily lives, an advocate who remains, guides, and keeps us connected to our faith as we live in the world.

As we begin this new year with all things made new, there will be many experiences we will face. Whether these new things are positive or challenging, we face them with the fullness of God. A fullness expressed in the triune nature of God's three persons. Especially supported through God's Spirit, who is a constant presence in our daily lives and in whatever newness comes our way. May God's blessing be with us as we begin this new year. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

-Pastor John Ansell

Lessons for January, 2026

1/04/2026: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20,

Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:[1-9] 10-18

1/11/2026: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

1/18/2026: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

1/25/2026: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

Sympathy! Our heartfelt sympathy to Jayden and Riley Willman, Jay & Vickie Willman and the entire Willman and Swanstrom families following the death of Ryan on December 4th.

Thank you!

A warm thank you to you all for purchasing gifts and gift cards for our two sponsored families. In addition, we were very grateful to receive funds from the Apple Fest to also sponsor two additional families from another local school. Your kindness and support are sure to bring smiles to all four families when they open their gifts this Christmas! We are truly blessed to have such a caring congregation.

THE POWER OF PRAYER AT SALEM

Salem's Prayer Chain contact person is Maria Karon. All members of Salem are welcome, 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 “January”

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----|--------------------|
| 2 | Laurie Swor | 20 | Connor Erdmann |
| 4 | Peggy Bannor | 21 | Owen Borndal |
| | Abby Hahn | | Amelia Williams |
| | Zach Healy | 22 | Calie Kruger |
| 7 | Barb Johnson | 23 | Tyler Kruger |
| 8 | David Kantola | 24 | Amy Hudson |
| 9 | James Olson | 25 | Jason Jaros |
| 11 | Myrna Johnson | 26 | Steve Ide |
| 13 | Vivian Economy | 27 | Joshua Hendrickson |
| 15 | Jeannete Nesseth | 28 | Sandi Peterson |
| 18 | Lyndsay Burud | 30 | Liam Paulson |
| | Meggan Kraskey | | |

SALEM'S FINANCIAL PICTURE

November, 2025

| | Year to Date |
|----------------|--------------|
| General Giving | \$209,088.26 |
| Expenses | \$277,062.48 |
| Difference | \$ -6,872.03 |

General Giving \$16,456.22

Expenses \$21,893.23

Difference \$ -5,379.01

General Giving \$209,088.26

Expenses \$277,062.48

Difference \$ -6,872.03



Salem Council Meeting Highlights 12/16/25

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Approved, seconded

Continuing Business:

- Time & Talent Sheets-Received 10, Carol reviewing for action.
- Chickadee Catering-Vacated
- Laugh & Learn Daycare-keypad installed, Half Walls constructed during holiday break, Leasing kitchen

New Business:

Committee Updates:

- Property Committee-New thermostat in downstairs daycare area, painted frog room floor.
- Mutual Ministry-No report

Nominating Committee-All positions filled

- Finance-See treasurer's report
- Outreach and Social Concerns- Quilters donated 16 quilts to Youth Shelter, Another Door, operated by Lutheran Social Services.

Pastor's Update/Staff Update – Report submitted via email.

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, January 6th at 1 pm.
at Jeannette Nesseth's home.

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

January, 2026

| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
|-----------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| LEAD COMM | Sharon Szamatula | Judy Giese | Eric Settergren | Sharon Szamatula |
| READER | Nancy Larrivy | Rolene Lampi | Frank Dusek | Eileen Dusek |

• A Christ-Centered Approach to Weight Loss

Will meet on Thursdays January 15, 22, 29 and February 5 from 6pm - 7:30pm. Community group meets at Salem Lutheran Church in Hermantown, MN (In the case of inclement weather, we will meet online via Zoom)

• **Cost:** \$20 (suggested donation) to help support my ministry and the time I invest in coaching. If you have any questions, I'm here for you. **Kelly Erickson**

OTR/L, FAOTA, Certified Coach

threegracefaith@gmail.com 218-410-2161

WHEN: January 15, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Northern Exposure Art, 1832 W Superior Street St #105, Duluth, MN

WHAT: Paint your own masterpiece with step by step directions. If interested visit their web site northernexposureart.com and sign up for the class on January 15, 2026, EMERALD SKIES.

If you have any questions contact either Kim Settergren or Sharon Szamatula.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Hot Chocolate

Word Search

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

BEVERAGE
CHOCOLATE
CINNAMON
COCOA
COMFORT
COZY
CREAMY
FIRE
FLAVORS
FROTH
HAZELNUT
HOT
INDULGE
MARSHMALLOW
MILK
MUG
PEPPERMINT
SIP
SWEET
VANILLA
WARM
WHIPPED CREAM
WINTER
YUMMY

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



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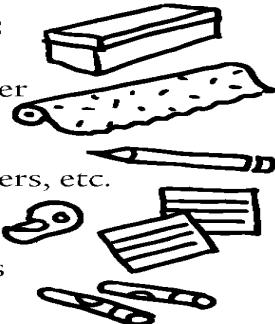


PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

What you need:

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.