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Duluth, Minnesota

Salem Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd.  
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL

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# March, 2026

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Pastor – John Ansell  
Pastor’s Cell – 952-261-5593  
Church Office – 218- 727-1357  
Office Manager – Beth Erdmann

***Temporary Church Office Hours  
Tuesday - Thursday - 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**

**Youth Education 9:00 am**

**Worship 10:00 am**

**Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am**



Time to  
Spring Ahead

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Online Midweek Lent Devotion**

During the season of Lent Pastor John will be uploading to Salem's Facebook page a short reflection video on Wednesdays. Each video will have a reading from a Psalm followed by a brief message and prayer. Hopefully these videos will provide time to spiritually reflect and an appreciation of the poetic words from the book of Psalms.

#### **EASTER MEMORIALS**

In this month's Sunburst there is a form where donations can be made in memory of, or in honor of loved ones this Easter. It has been a Salem tradition to have a beautiful floral garden welcoming us each Easter morning and that is a tradition we want to continue.

This past two years we have encouraged allowing the Worship Planning team to purchase the flowers for the Easter garden from funds donated for that purpose. This was to avoid aggravating the allergies of the Worship team that was surrounded by flowers (we have also purchased some artificial flowers for the cross and garden).

## **"Easter Garden"**

On Easter Sunday, April 4, 2026 Salem will have an Easter Garden. There are opportunities to donate toward the purchase of flowers or to designated funds such as Mission Trips, Food Shelf, Pastor's Social Ministry Fund, Property Projects, etc.

Please return your donation on or before  
**SUNDAY, March 22, 2026**

#### **EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND**

Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

#### **SPECIAL FUND DONATION**

Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Fund \_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory of*

\_\_\_\_\_

*In Honor of*

\_\_\_\_\_

Given By

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Donation Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Greetings Everyone,

How popular do you think poetry is? I often wonder how many people enjoy reading or even writing poetry. I am not much of a poet myself and, for the most part, am not drawn to reading or writing poetry. However, last year I received a poetry book written by a modern author from a friend. Overall, I thought the book was very nice and revealed much of the author's emotions and life experiences, which, to me, give a deeper understanding of human life. Such writing allows an author to express thoughts, emotions, and experiences through a series of lines.

Speaking of poetry, March 21st is World Poetry Day. Maybe you have a favorite poet or poem that you might want to take out and read that day. In fact, throughout Scripture there is much poetry to be found. Poetry which expresses life experiences in relationship with God and all of creation. One entire book is dedicated to poetry, which we know as Psalms. Granted, there are many poetic verses throughout the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments, but the Psalms are probably the more well-known ones. I imagine many of you have a favorite Psalm. Most people might be able to recite Psalm 23 off the top of their heads. Personally, I enjoy not just Psalm 23 but also Psalm 121. While both Psalms look to God for help, support, and reassurance, I overall prefer Psalm 121, especially because of some of the imagery of nature found in it.

When it comes to the Psalms, most Sundays during my preaching I have noticed I don't incorporate them as much. I'm not sure why, but I noticed this a few years back. That is why during Lent I have enjoyed

diving deeper into the Psalms during my midweek reflections. Hopefully everyone in the congregation enjoys them as well. Overall, it allows us to take a moment to not only listen to Scripture but also reflect more deeply on our faith and our relationship with God, which in my opinion serves as a good Lenten devotion. Some people, even beyond Lent, use the Psalms as part of their daily devotion. Even though I might not use the Psalms much in my Sunday services, I still feel they are wonderful poetic parts of Scripture that can be explored to deepen our relationship with God.

Even though poetry may not be as popular as it has been in the past, it is still a part of our lives. Such writing can convey many emotions and meanings that can deepen our understanding of human life. Furthermore, poems like those we find in Scripture can help us deepen our relationship with God. So if you find yourself on March 21st wanting to read a poem, maybe find a Psalm to help further explore your faith. May God's blessings be with you this and every month. Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John Ansell

### **Lessons for March, 2026**

**3/1/2026:** Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

**3/8/2026:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11;  
John 4:5-42

**3/15/2026:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**3/22/2026:** Ezekial 37:1-14; Psalm 130;  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**3/29/2026** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;  
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

## ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

### *“Happy Birthday” To Our Members in “March”*

1	Megan Gilbertson	17	Jerry Eld
	John Heikkinen		Patrick Hahn
	Robbie Thorsten		Betty Peltoma
3	Noah Annextad	20	Barb Struck
	Andy Larrivy	26	Jillian Jaros
4	Bill Peterson	28	Lucas Borgeson
6	Scott Fahlsing		Emily Lee
7	Ari Mirra	29	Kim Healy
10	Anna Christenson		Amari Nunez
13	Ryan Zastrow	30	Ed Dammer
14	Julie Borgeson		Judy Hane
	Alexa Jelinek		Daryl Kruger
15	Susan Hudson		Justin Reid
16	Carla Christenson	31	Erica Walli
	Betty McKeever		Jill Nickles
	Wayne Swor		

### **With Sympathy!**

Our heartfelt sympathy to Karen Koshere and Jana Peterson and their families following the death of their mom, Hazel Johnson on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **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.

### **Can you help???**

Angie Ridgley is in her new home following the Brimson fire and is in need of the following items: Bathroom shelving, kitchen hutch or cabinet, hangers, dressers, twin sheets & mattress pads, area rugs, book shelves, curtains & curtain rods, garden hose, lawn mower, kitchen items. These items can be new or gently used. For more information or to help contact Darlene Haedrich at 218-729-9452. Thank you.

### ***March “Mac” Madness***

#### **March is MN Foodshare Month-**

a time when food shelves become bare so it is time to gear up and replenish.

**This year Salem is focusing our food drive on Mac & Cheese! This year’s goal is 100 boxes of Mac & Cheese!**

Monetary donations are also very welcome. You can bring your donations in any time during the Month of March. Let’s help restock the shelves!



#### **Men’s Group:**

Beginning on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am Salem will host a men’s group. During the next couple of months, the group will be exploring a study called **Surprised By Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church** by N.T. Wright. The men’s group will meet on the first and third Saturday of the month from March until the end of May. This will be a great time for connecting, learning, and fellowship.

**Generosity Project - a year around  
stewardship experience.**

Psalm 24:1 - "The earth is the Lord's, and everything  
in it, the world, and all who live in it."

STEWARDSHIP - taking excellent care of what GOD  
has entrusted to us.

Think about the one person in your life who has taught  
you something about stewardship?

Members of Salems Generosity Team: Dennis  
Velandar, Diana Larson, Amanda Larson, Paster John  
and Sharon Szamatula.

If you are interested in being a part of Salems  
Generosity Team or want more information contact  
one of the team members.

**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.

**Lent/Holy Week 2026**

**March 29 Palm Sunday Worship**– 10:00 am

**April 2 Maundy Thursday** 6:30 pm

Worship with Holy Communion

**April 3 Good Friday Worship** 6:30 pm

"Service of Darkness"

**April 5 Festive Easter Sunday Worship**

10:00 am

8:45 – 9:30 *Easter Breakfast*

On Saturday morning, APRIL 4th, at 9:30am,  
please join the Worship Planning team in  
transforming the front of the sanctuary into a  
beautiful Easter Garden around the  
Resurrection Cross. Light refreshments  
provided.

**EASTER BREAKFAST**

**Please join us Easter morning from 8:45-9:30 for a  
delicious breakfast hosted by the Worship  
Planning Team. There will be waffles, oatmeal,  
eggs, fruit & lots goodies to enjoy. We hope to see  
you there!**

**SALEM'S FINANCIAL PICTURE**

	<b>January, 2026</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
General Giving	\$17997	General Giving \$ 17997
Expenses	\$12661	Total Needed \$ 12661
Difference	\$ 5336	Difference \$ 5336

## **Salem Church Council Meeting Highlights- Council Meeting Highlights February 16, 2026**

**Approve Meeting minutes from January-** Sharon motioned to approve, seconded by Kelly, approved unanimously.

### **Vote for:**

**Council President-** motion by Diana to nominate Simon Erdmann; Judy seconded- All Ayes. Simon is new council president.

**Council Vice President** – Motion by Kelly to nominate Bill Wietman for council vice president. **Seconded by Sharon.** Motion passed. Bill Wietman is council vice president.

**Council Secretary** – Motion by Sharon to nominate Eric Settergren as council secretary. Seconded by Simon. Motion passed. Eric will continue as council secretary.

**Treasurer-** Wayne Swor has said he will continue as treasurer.

### **Ongoing Business**

- Time & Talent Sheets: Being collected. Carol will review for action. We have received 18 so far.
- Blink doorbell camera purchased for office doors.
- Leasing kitchen area- by Laugh and Learn Daycare update: Shelving and another freezer were added to the frog room.
- Garbage dumpster has been overflowing with every other week pickup. Have returned to weekly pickup for garbage dumpster. Recycling remains every other week.
- Hartel has increased their rates due to increase from WLSSD.

### **New Business**

- ❖ **From Annual Meeting-** January 25<sup>th</sup> Vision team mission statement: discussion:

**Empowered by the Spirit, we reflect God's light to all the world by serving our neighbors and sharing the hope and love of Christ.**

After discussion, feel that more work needs to be done on the vision statement and with more input and dialogue from the congregation. – Recommend that the Vision Team reconvenes.

### **Ministry/Committee/ Team Updates as needed**

- **Faith Formation Ministry-**

- **Education team-**

Faith Exploration has been working on projects, learning about devotions 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9 am for meeting has been working well.

- **Worship Planning Team-**

- Holden Evening Prayer will be used for Sunday worship during Lent.

- Easter decorating on April 4<sup>th</sup>

- Serving Easter breakfast before worship

- ❖ **Community Ministry-**

- **Health and Wellness Team-** planning on spring event

- **Evangelism and Outreach Ministry –**

- **Generous Together synod program-**

- ◆ Team includes Sharon Szamtula, Dennis Velandar, Diana Larson, Amanda Larson, Pastor John

- ◆ March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of synod Generosity Project congregations at Salem

- ◆

- **Property Committee**

- ◆ Painting of family room is needed to be finished.

- **Treasurer** - See Treasurer's report.
- Mutual Ministry-**
  - ◆ Indeed job posting on-line. No responses so far.
  - ◆ Exit interview done with Sherri upon her leaving.
- **Pastor's Update:** See Pastors report.

**Other**

- **Bishop Election Committee News**
- Bishop nominations will be posted on synod website following conference assembly voting.
- "Building An Exclusive Church" training occurred at Salem on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. sponsored by the synod's Welcome and Reconciling Team. The training was be conducted by the team from Reconciling Works. Carol, Pastor John, Sharon and Darlene Haedrich attended.
- A Scout troop from Dewitt, Iowa will be spending the night at Salem on August 1<sup>st</sup> then again on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE**  
**March, 2026**

	1	8	15	22	29
LEAD COMM	Kelly Erickson	Bill Wietman	Sharon Szamatula		Judy Giese
READER	Eric Settergren	Nancy Larrivy	Christy Jaros	Judy Giese	Richard Pettersson

**Just for Kids**

**For everyone**

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.

Whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16, NIV