

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
~ MARCH 15, 2026

WELCOME

* CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Loving God,

C: we confess that we often turn away from you and turn toward behaviors that yield brokenness in our lives. Forgive us, God. Teach us compassion and self-sacrifice. May our words and deeds be manna to those who hunger for justice and mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In the name of Jesus, I declare that your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

* GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

* KYRIE

P: You were sent to heal the broken hearted.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: You came to call all sinners to your grace and love.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: You are seated at the right hand of the Father where you have prepared a heavenly home for us.

C: Lord, have mercy.

* PROCESSION

L: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

C: The light no darkness can overcome;

L: Stay with us now for it is evening;

C: And the day is almost over;

L: Let your light scatter the darkness,

C: And shine within your people here.

* EVENING HYMN

Joyous light of heav'nly glory , loving glow of God's own face, you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race. Now as evening falls around us, we will raise our songs to you, God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song. Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul, Love that bursts all chains asunder set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light. Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way, Loving Spirit, of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

* EVENING THANKSGIVING

L: May God be with you all,

C: And also with you;

L: Let us sing our thanks to God,

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Holden Page 2

Holden Page 3

Holden Page 4

L: Blessed are you creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

C: Amen.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Bend your ear to our prayers,

C: Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him

pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Psalms 141**

Holden Page 4

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

O God I call to you, come to me
Now; O hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise
up like incense before you, the
lifting up of my hands as an offering to
you. Keep watch within me God;
deep in my heart may the light of your love be
burning bright. Let my prayer rise
up like incense before you, the
lifting up of my hands as an offering to
you All praise to the God of all Cre-
ator of life; all praise be to Christ and the
Spirit of love. Let my prayer rise
up like incense before you, the
lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

L: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives

C: Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* **GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

* **John 9:1-41**

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."

¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?"

He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God

has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The Light shines in the darkness

C: and the darkness has not overcome it.

SERMON

SERMON SONG "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

vs. 1-3 & Lent 4 Hymn #334

Vs. 1: Tree of life and awesome mystery,
 In your death we are reborn,
 Though you die in all of history,
 still you rise with every morn,
 Still you rise with every morn.

Verse 2: We remember truth once spoken,
 love passed on through act and word,
 Every person, lost and broken

wears the body of our Lord,
 wears the body of our Lord.

Verse 3: Christ you lead and we shall follow,
 stumbling though our steps may be,
 One with you in joy and sorrow,
 we the river you the sea,
 we the river you the sea.

Lent 4: Give us eyes to see you clearly;
 make us children of your light.
 Give us hearts to live more nearly
 as your gospel shining bright.
 as your gospel shining bright.

(The offering is received at this time.)

* OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* THE ANNUNCIATION

Holden Page 8

L: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen one of God most high" And Mary said "I am the servant of my God I live to do your will"

* THE MAGNIFICAT

Holden Page 8

Vs. 1 My soul proclaims your
 greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in
 you, You have looked with love on your
 servant here and blessed me all my life through.
 Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
 strong is your kindness evermore.

How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart.

Vs. 2 You have cast the mighty
down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of
heart, You have filled the hungry with
wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,
strong is your justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,
kindness forevermore.

Vs. 3 My soul proclaims your
greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in
you, You have looked with love on your
servant here and blessed me all my life through.

* **LITANY AND PRAYERS**

Holden Page 10

L: In peace in peace, we pray to you;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love

L: For peace and salvation, we pray to you;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For peace between nations, for peace between peoples;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For us who are gathered to worship and praise you;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For all of your servants who live out your gospel;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For all those who govern, that justice might guide them;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For all those who labor in service to others;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: Grant weather that nourishes all of creation;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For all the beloved who rest in your mercy;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: Help us comfort us, all of our days.

C: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.

L: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and
life, give to you people the peace that passes all understanding,
and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

* **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

Holden Page 11

P: God remember us in your love, and teach us to pray

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed, be your name. Your
kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give
us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and
deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom the power and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen**

“Behold the Lamb” vs. 1

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us - and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

COMMUNION SONGS:

“How deep the Father's love for us”

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

“Lamb of God”

Hymn #336

Vs. 1 Your only Son no sin to hide, but you have
sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty
sod and to become the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
God, sweet lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh,
wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb
of God.

Vs. 2 Your gift of love they crucified. We laughed and
scorned him as he died. The humble King they named a
fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
God, sweet lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh,
wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb
of God.

Vs. 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and
rod and to be call a lamb of God. O Lamb of
God, sweet lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh,
wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb
of God.

* **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

* **PRAYER**

L: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

* **PRAYER FOR THE SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick/homebound/or imprisoned. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

* **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **FINAL BLESSING**

Holden Page 12

L: Let us bless our God;

C: praise and thanks to you.

C: May God, Creator bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of Love be our guide and path, for all of our days. Amen.

* **DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome those of you visiting with us, for we know that you have been brought by God. So in God's name we are honored to welcome you. The Lord's Supper is offered to all. If you are hungry for God, come. ***If you need gluten-free bread, please come to the rail for communion.*** As you receive the bread for Communion, hold your hands out

to receive the Body of Christ. If you prefer grape juice, please tell the server as you receive the Blood of Christ. *Notify the usher if you want to be served in the pew.*

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 beginning

March 25th. 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.

Men's Group:

Beginning on March 7th 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.

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!

This Week a Salem

TODAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

Youth Education	9:00 am
Worship	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship	11:00 am
Prison Ministry	12:00 pm
Cub Scouts	4:00 pm

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

Day Care	6:00 am
Church Council	6:00 pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
Thrive! Support Group.....	6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

April Newsletter Articles Due!

Day Care	6:00 am
Quilters	9:30 am
Trillium Works! Collective.....	3-4:30 pm
The Chosen.....	6:30 pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

Day Care	6:00 am
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FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

Day Care	6:00 am
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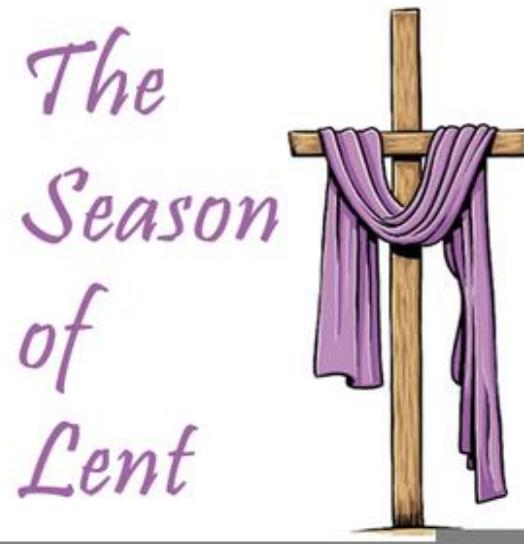
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

Men's Group	10:00 am
Generosity Together Launch.....	10:00 am

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

Youth Education	9:00 am
Worship	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship	11:00 am
Cub Scouts	4:00 pm

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sundays at Salem

- ~ Youth Education ~ 9:00 am ~
- ~ Worship ~ 10:00 am ~
- ~ Coffee Fellowship ~

Rev. John Ansell

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Facebook – Salem Lutheran Church

“Our Mission is to pass on the faith by involving all members of our community in Christ’s ministry.”

“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 \$ _____

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