

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
~ MARCH 8, 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**

P: Merciful God,

C: the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Psalm 141**

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 Creator 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: Romans 5:1-11

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while

we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* **GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

* **John 4:5-42**

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water,

so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." ²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he? ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." ³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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 3 *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.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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 3: Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;

springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole.
flow in us and make us whole.

(The offering is received at this time.)

* OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful God, 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.

C: 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:

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Hymn #338

- Vs. 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and the burdens of the
day.
- Vs. 2 Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I
confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.
- Vs. 3 I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

“There Is a Redeemer”

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son.
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus:

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.***

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain. ***Chorus***

When I stand in glory I will see His face,
And there I’ll serve my King forever, in that holy place. ***Chorus***

* **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.

* **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 8, 2026

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

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026

Day Care	6:00 am
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TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
Thrive! Support Group.....	6:00 pm
Generosity Project Team.....	6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

Day Care	6:00 am
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FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026

Day Care	6:00 am
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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

Recitals	7:30-3:00
Bishop Nomination Forum	2:30 pm

NEXT 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

“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

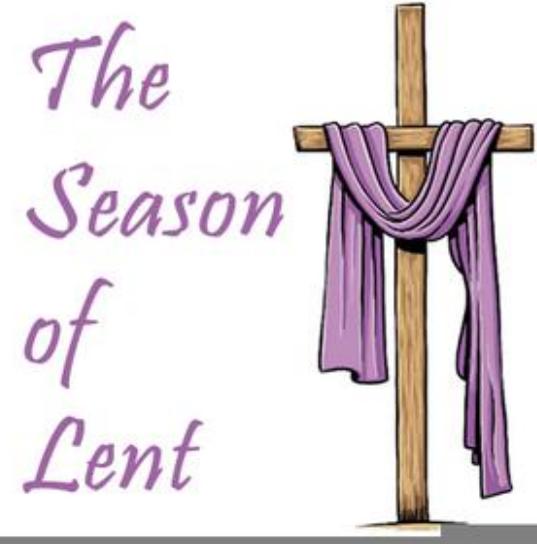
In Honor of

Given By _____

Phone _____

Donation Enclosed \$ _____

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