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Duluth, Minnesota

Salem Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd.  
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL

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# May, 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)

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

***Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> is the last Sunday School!  
The Sunday School kids will be participating in  
worship that morning and we will also be  
recognizing the Class of 2026!***

***Join us Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> for Confirmation Sunday  
as two of our youth will reaffirm their Baptismal  
promises!***

### **From the Church Office**

As a reminder, if you or a family member would like a visit from Pastor John, please contact the church office (218-727-1357) or Pastor John's cell phone (952-261-5593) as unless requested, facilities (hospitals, nursing homes, etc) no longer contact the church office or Pastor for visits. Thank you.

Greetings Everyone,

During our life we are faced with many choices that can lead to positive or negative experiences. Such experiences can come across as tests or temptations that create chaos in our lives. Our faith does talk about testing, temptation, trials, and overall dealing with difficult situations that happen in our world. Sometimes these issues come from beyond us, but there are also some that we create ourselves. However, we ultimately do have the ability to choose what or how we want to deal with what life sends our way.

In my office I have a picture of a crow trying to peck a feather from an eagle's tail. The writing above it says, "God can be trusted not to allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (paraphrased). But sometimes we just do stupid things!" This picture was given to me by a parishioner back in L'Anse, MI. Overall, it reminds me of how much God is not only able to help us, but

also how we as humans choose to do things that are not very smart.

Now the original wording of 1 Corinthians 10:13 is: "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." (NRSV). Paul writes this verse after speaking about other tests and temptations that occurred in Israel's past and how they relate to the Corinthian community. He also suggests that testing and temptation have always been around, and some people fail while others overcome them. Paul is trying to encourage the community, who is dealing with difficult situations, by reminding them of God's help for them just as it has been throughout time.

At times we may choose to do something foolish amid the trials and testing that exist in our world. However, God's love is greater than our foolishness. Whatever trials and temptations we face, God accompanies us through it all. What we face in our time is nothing new to God. Furthermore, God's help and guidance provide ways to deal with our mistakes. As Christians, we especially find our greatest help in Christ. It is Christ who teaches and reveals the ultimate love that God has for us, a love that goes beyond our foolishness. Ultimately, it is not about what trials and temptations we have before us, but how God helps and guides us amid what we experience and do in this world.

We are faced with many choices in life that can be seen as tests and temptations created by other people or manifested by our own doing. We may also make decisions that lead to some very foolish activity. However, amid it all God is with us, trying to guide and help us in every way possible, both before and after we do something foolish. We know this because we have Christ, whose guidance and love can get us through anything, even after we have done something foolish. So as you go out into the world deciding what to do, just know that God is there helping and guiding us through all our experiences in life.

May God's blessings be with you. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John Ansell

### **Lessons for May, 2026**

**5/3/2026:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;

1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-4

**5/10/2026:** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;

1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

**5/17/2026:** Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35;

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

**5/24/2026 Pentecost Sunday:** Acts 2:1-21;

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13;  
John 20:19-23

**5/31/2026** Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8;

2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

## **ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY**

### **With Sympathy!**

Our heartfelt sympathy to Vi Jampsa and her family following the death of Butch on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Bev Nordwall and her family following the death of Dale on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

1	Donald Ostlund	16	Sandy Johnson
2	Steven Borndal		Drew Kreidler
	Madelyn Jaros	18	Emerson
3	Vivian Jampsa		Thompson
	Zach Thorsten	19	Dale Berntsen
6	Jay Willman		Keagan Black
7	Justin Forsell		Mark Hudson
8	Natalie Williams	20	Carter Lilyquist
9	Cindy Anderson	23	Tyler Rollins
	Donna Koglin	24	Sutton Byrnes
	Rich Nickles	25	Beth Johnson
10	Evan Gunn	27	Paige Reid
	Laura Lilyquist	28	Tricia Nunez
11	Vickie Willman	29	Camden Borndal
13	Lisa Forsell		Terry Shogren
	Ariana Nunez	30	Dennis Velander
15	Phil Zastrow	31	Laurie Meagher

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 5th at 11:30 am at Valentini's for lunch. All are welcome!

### Attention Grads and Parents of Grads

Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> we will be honoring the Class of 2026 during worship! Please let the church office know if you have a grad and plan on attending worship with your grad on May 11<sup>th</sup>! Thank you!

### May 24<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday

Red Geraniums which will be planted outdoor following the service can be brought to church that Sunday along with wearing Red that Sunday.

### 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.

**Men's Group:** The men's group will meet on the first and third Saturday of the month until the end of May in the family room at 9:00 am. 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. This will be a great time for connecting, learning, and fellowship.

### SALEM'S FINANCIAL PICTURE

March, 2026		Year to Date	
General Giving	\$27553	General Giving	\$ 63104
Expenses	\$20141	Total Needed	\$ 60253
Difference	\$7412	Difference	\$2869

### LADIES NIGHT

Let's keep our sweet chocolate theme going this month!

Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Mount Royal Branch Library (Blue Room)  
105 Mount Royal Shopping Circle

### CHOCOLATE MAKING WITH DULUTH COFFEE COMPANY

Duluth Coffee is now roasting something a little sweeter; they are making bean to bar chocolate! They will share information about where the beans come from to the science behind making chocolate, while we get to enjoy their (Duluth's only) bean to bar chocolate!

We will meet at the Mount Royal Library for this event. If you need a ride, or have any questions, give me a call. Kim Settergren, 341-3665

### 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.

## Council Meeting Highlights April 20, 2026

March meeting minutes review- motion to approve by Carol and seconded by Sharo

### New Business:

- Recruiting, asking, & appointing members of the congregation into Mutual Ministry (The Executive Council will meet to help form an updated Committee. Meeting date to be determined.
- Stacy has told Pastor John & Beth that there have been a couple of occasions in which the Family Room door has been left unlocked during Day Care hours.
- Figure out how to handle Custodial duties while we search for a new Custodian.
- Council has discussed the updated Kitchen Use Guidelines and agreed that they need additional revisions.
- The Office Manager position has one interview scheduled for April so far.

## MINISTRY/COMMITTEE/ TEAM UPDATES Faith

### Formation Ministry:

- ❖ Chum Mac & Cheese drive- Boxes were delivered to CHUM by Carol. 588 lbs!
- ❖ The last day of Sunday School is May 10th with Sunday School kids taking part in worship.
- ❖ **Worship Planning Team**
- ❖ May 24th Pentecost: the worship planning team is planning on Red Geraniums along with red Lei's for members.
- ❖ June 7th is Pollinator Celebration Sunday. Events yet to be planned.

- ❖ Confirmation is May 17th.
- ❖ Generosity Team Update- May 10th, the Generosity Team has a guest speaker scheduled to speak during the service. Pastor Taryn Montgomery will be the speaker.
- ❖ **Property-** The Fire suppression system with the hood and fire alarms as well as fire extinguishers has been updated and tied together.
- ❖ May 10th is also Graduation Sunday. This still requires discussion by Worship and planning.
- ❖ **Community Ministry:**
- ❖ Quilters have donated 10 quilts and 14 pillows to Safe Haven
- ❖ Quilters have also donated eight adult and eight children's quilts to Devine Tenacious
- ❖ The Mission Trip is departing Saturday at 6:00 am from the church parking lot.
- ❖ Boy Scouts are looking for additional storage for their Totes.
- Treasurer - See Treasurer's report. Motion to accept made by Bill and seconded by Pastor John.

## WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

May, 2026

	3	10	17	24	31
LEAD	Kelly	Simon	Bill		
COMM	Erickson	Erdmann	Wietman		
READER	Eric	Christy	Sophie	Lee	Richard
	Settergren	Jaros	Wietman	Swenson	Petersson