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Salem Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd.  
Hermantown, MN 55811

ADDRESS LABEL

# Salem Sunburst

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## July, 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**

### **SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES**

Weather permitting, Salem will be holding outdoor worship services on July 26 & August 30. Bring your own chair or use one of ours and join us to worship in God's beautiful creation!





### **Newsletter Mailing**

With the cost of mail (including bulk mail) continuing to rise, there will be a change in how the newsletter will be distributed. Beginning with August Sunburst, the newsletter will be emailed out to members. **If you DO NOT have email or prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, please let the church office know before July 21<sup>st</sup> which is the mailing date for the August newsletter.**

#### **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,  
I hope your summer is going well and you are able to enjoy the beauty of living in the United States of America. In July, we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. For 250 years, the United States has grown and developed into a powerful nation. Many people have called this nation their home. The people who have lived, worked, and defended this nation have made it a wonderful place to call home. Though there have been trials and tribulations throughout our nation's history, and even today, this nation is still our home and remains a good place overall. I was born in the United States and am a naturalized citizen of this country. I would also consider myself a patriot in this country. How I consider myself a patriot is because I have learned about our nation's history and have sought to understand our government. I also served in our armed forces and continue to participate in the responsibilities asked of me as a citizen of the United States. Overall, I have a profound love and appreciation for our nation. However, I also recognize the wrongs that our nation has committed and continues to commit. Because of this love and appreciation, I believe that we should work together to address and change those things that cause more harm than good. To me, this is what patriotism and good citizenship in the United States look like. As a Lutheran pastor, I also recognize the greatness and power of God, whose authority stands above all rulers on earth. Furthermore, I recognize that, through faith, our true citizenship is in heaven. This citizenship is given by God through Christ and through our connection in Baptism. It calls us to live in faith and in

the Spirit, bringing the Gospel into the world. This Gospel is powerful and works through us so that all may come to know the greatness of God's kingdom. How, then, are we to be both citizens of heaven and citizens of the United States? Even though we have received our citizenship in heaven, we still live on earth and remain subject to earthly authorities. Because we live earthly lives, we should be encouraged to be good citizens of both heaven and earth. Our Lutheran heritage speaks clearly about faith and our relationship with earthly powers. It encourages us to serve in government and maintain good relationships with governing authorities, provided that they do not require us to sin. The Augsburg Confession states:

"Christians, therefore, are obliged to be subject to political authority and to obey its commands and laws in all that may be done without sin. But if a command of the political authority cannot be followed without sin, one must obey God rather than any human beings." (The Book of Concord, p. 50)

Furthermore, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession writes:

"Christ's Kingdom is spiritual, that is, it is the heart's knowledge of God, fear of God, faith in God, and the beginning of eternal righteousness and eternal life. At the same time, it permits us to make outward use of legitimate political ordinances of whatever nation in which we live, just as it permits us to make use of medicine or architecture or food, drink, and air. Neither does the gospel introduce new laws for the civil realm. Instead, it commands us to obey the

present laws, whether they have been formulated by pagans or by others, and urges us to practice love through this obedience." (The Book of Concord, p. 231)

Both of these quotations speak to our ability to be citizens of both heaven and earthly nations. As Lutherans, we can and should be both, using our hearts and discernment as we live faithfully as citizens of heaven while also serving our earthly communities. Overall, I feel comfortable being both a citizen of heaven and a patriotic citizen of the United States. As we live our daily lives, we should be encouraged to be good citizens of both heaven and earth. Therefore, as we celebrate 250 years of our nation, let us do so with gratitude for the sense of community God has given us. Let us also continue to work toward the good of our earthly communities as we live out the greatness of God's kingdom in love. May God's blessings be with you always. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John Ansell

### **Lessons for July, 2026**

**7/5/2026:** Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14;  
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**7/12/2026:** Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:9-13;  
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**7/19/2026:** Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17;  
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**7/26/2026:** 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136;  
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

### Thank you!

Thank you ladies so much for all of the handmade quilts you provided for our veterans. They truly appreciate the time, care and hard work you put in to each one. Your kindness and generosity mean so much and we know these quilts will go to very good homes and bring comfort to many veterans.

Thank you again for all you do.  
MACV Staff

### *Happy Birthday To Our Members in "July"*

|    |                    |    |                |
|----|--------------------|----|----------------|
| 4  | Leann Fahlsing     | 17 | Kurt Johnson   |
| 6  | Doreen Wehmas      | 22 | Kadin Graves   |
| 7  | Darlene Butkiewicz | 23 | Ken Ahlberg    |
| 8  | Lorrie Ondracek    | 24 | Josh Rollins   |
| 11 | Roger Berntsen     | 26 | Raleigh Mirra  |
| 12 | Mary Larson        |    | Amy Piphoo     |
| 13 | Jim Christenson    |    | Cheryl Porter  |
|    | Riley Willman      | 27 | John Agustsson |
| 14 | Kristin Collins    |    | Julie Eld      |
| 15 | Delaney Benson     | 31 | Bob Johnson    |
|    | Mike Healy         |    | Montgomery     |
| 16 | Linnae Bosley      |    | Mirra          |
|    | Dale Rollins       |    |                |

### 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.

Summer is here! Consider automating your regular donations with our electronic giving program. Salem relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis.



Contact the church office for more information.  
Thank you!

### Ladies Night

Let's enjoy the Rose Garden at Leif Erikson Park on Thursday, July 30th. We'll meet at 6:00 PM at the rose garden. For those that are interested, we can enjoy a walk through Leif Erikson following the rose gardens, and/or on the boardwalk. Another option following the rose gardens and a short walk, is dining and music at Sir Ben's where they have live Celtic music starting at 7:00 p.m. If anyone needs a ride, I can meet you at church at 5:30.  
Kim Settergren 341-3665

City on the Hill Music Festival is on August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at Bayfront Festival Park. Some of us are going on the evening of Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The whole Festival is awesome! Join us for the fun and inspirational music! Get your tickets online at The City on the Hill Music Festival site, Life 97.3, or at the gate.

## SALEM'S FINANCIAL PICTURE

| May, 2026      |          | Year to Date   |            |
|----------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| General Giving | \$15,769 | General Giving | \$ 96,537  |
| Expenses       | \$18,758 | Total Needed   | \$ 102,324 |
| Difference     | -\$2,989 | Difference     | - \$5,787  |

### Council Meeting Highlights June 15, 2026

Approve minutes from May motion to accept by Sharon, seconded by Carol

#### Ongoing Business:

- Safety/Security- EAP (Emergency Action Plan) No Updates
- Kitchen Use
- The Kitchen use guidelines will be updated once the rental contract form is reviewed. Carol will update this.
- DayCare contract negotiations.

#### New Business

- Executive Council Custodian recommendation: Recommendation from executive Council was to hire \_\_\_\_\_. This was presented to the council. A recommendation to hire \_\_\_\_\_ was made by Sharon and seconded by Diana. Council voted unanimously to hire \_\_\_\_\_.
- Executive Council Office Manager recommendation: The executive council recommends hiring \_\_\_\_\_. Motion to Hire \_\_\_\_\_ was made by Sharon and seconded by Diana. Simon will extend the offer of employment.
- Pastor John & Beth have told Stacy about the uncleanliness of the bathrooms between the Sanctuary and Prayer Room by the Daycare Staff.

- Hiring updates were made to the Church Handbook to include contract positions. Motion made by Kelly and seconded by Sharon to accept the changes.
- Discussion to do a reconciliation of membership. Motion made by Sharon and seconded by Eric not to move forward with an official records reconciliation at this time.

### MINISTRY/COMMITTEE/ TEAM UPDATES AS NEEDED

- Generosity Team Update- Ministry goals by council due by August. Looking for ministry goals in the coming year. Goals need to be achievable and measurable.
- Property- Repaired the toilet in the men's bathroom just off the Sanctuary. Ordered a replacement light for the back parking lot. Still needs installing. Donated Copier has arrived. Ceiling tiles that were removed need to be replaced.
- Treasurer – Via email
- Pastor's Update: Via email

### WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

**July, 2026**

|        | 5       | 12        | 19         | 26      |
|--------|---------|-----------|------------|---------|
| LEAD   | Simon   | Lay Led   | Eric       |         |
| COMM   | Erdmann |           | Settergren |         |
| READER | Simon   | Richard   | Christy    | Sophie  |
|        | Erdmann | Petersson | Jaros      | Wietman |