

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

Blessing



Sundays at Salem

~ Worship ~~ 10:00 am ~

~ Coffee Fellowship ~

Rev. John Ansell

4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811

218-727-1357

Email – salemhermantown@gmail.com

Web – www.slecduluth.org

Facebook – Salem Lutheran Church

***"Our Mission is to pass on the faith by involving all
members of our community in Christ's ministry."***

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

**WE ARE THE CHURCH & BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

* **CALL TO WORSHIP: “Jesus Loves Me”** *Hymn #595*

Vs. 1 Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is
strong.

***Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.***

Vs. 2 Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open
wide; he will wash away my sin, let his little child come
in. ***Refrain***

Vs. 3 Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the
way; when at last I come to die, he will take me home
on high. ***Refrain***

* **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all
our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the
thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify
your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

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.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

C: We learn in school, but we also learn in church, in our family, in our community, and in the world. Learning is a gift from God.

P: The Bible tells us that Jesus learned and studied, just as we do.

C: And Jesus grew in wisdom.

P: We ask God's blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully use God's gift of learning.

C: We ask God to bless our schools and teachers.

P: We ask God to bless our classmates and friends.

C: We ask God to bless our principals, counselors, and librarians.

P: We ask God to bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.

C: We give thanks to God for books and computers and all the things that help us learn.

P: We give thanks to God for the gift of learning!

C: Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both. Sometimes school is great, and sometimes it is hard. But we know that whether we are excited or scared, you are with us. We know that whether school is great or hard, you are with us. We thank you for always being with us. Help us to remember to show our thanks for your gift of learning by doing our best every day. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON & BLESSING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

P: Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year, that both students and teachers will be blessed in their academic endeavors.

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good

and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

NOISY OFFERING

- * **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Halle, Halle, Halle”** *Hymn #172*

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hal-
lelujah. Halle, halle, halle-
lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah

- * **GOSPEL: John 6:1-14**

L: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

- * **GOSPEL: John 6:1-14**

6 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹ “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty

of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG: "*This Little Light of Mine*"

Hymn #677

Vs. 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Vs. 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Vs. 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Vs. 4 This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

* **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

P: Hear us O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

* **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

* **OFFERING**

P: We will accept our offering at this time.

* **OFFERING “Give Thanks”**

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.

(Repeat)

And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”

Let the poor say, “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat)

Give thanks! Give thanks!

* **OFFERING PRAYER**

C: God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

* **WORD'S OF INSTITUTION**

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

“Lamb of God”

Hymn #336

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.

COMMUNION SONGS

“Pass It On”

- 1) It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love, once you've
experienced it,
You spread His love to everyone, you want to pass it on.
- 2) What a wondrous time is spring
when all the trees are budding,
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love, once you've
experienced it:
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring; you want to pass it on.

- 3) I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found.
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain top; I want my world to know
The Lord of love has come to me; I want to pass it on.

“Awesome God”

Our God, is an awesome God,
He reigns from Heaven above
With wisdom, power and love,
Our God is an awesome God (2x)

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord
And He...Shall lift...you up.
Higher and higher.
And He...Shall lift...you up.

Our God, is an awesome God,
He reigns from Heaven above
With wisdom, power and love,
Our God is an awesome God (2x)

“Lord I Lift Your Name On High”

Hymn #857

Lord, I lift Your name on high
Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us
You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift Your name on high
repeat 2X

- * **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**
- * **PRAYER**
- * **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- * **BENEDICTION**
- * **SENDING SONG: “We Are the Church”**

***Chorus We are the church
The body of our Lord
We are all God’s children
And we have been restored! repeat***

The church is not a building
Where people go to pray
It’s not made out of sticks and stones
It’s not made out of clay **Chorus**

You can go to worship
But you can not go to church
You can’t find a building that’s alive
No matter how you search **Chorus**

The church is not a business
A committee or a board
It’s not a corporation
For the business of the Lord **Chorus**

The church it is the people
Living out their lives
Called, Enlightened, Sanctified
For the work of Jesus Christ **Chorus x2**

- * **DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Share the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome those of you visiting with us today. Communion is open to all who believe. ***If you need gluten-free bread or prefer grape juice, please let the servers know.*** As you receive the bread for Communion, please hold your hands out. *Notify the usher if you want to be served in the pew.*

This Week a Salem

TODAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Youth Education.....	9:00 am
Worship.....	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship.....	11:00 am

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
---------------	---------

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
Quilters.....	9:00 am
“Master Gardeners” Kitchen.....	12:30 pm
Trillium Works! The Collective.....	3-4:30 pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
“Master Gardeners” Kitchen.....	12:30 pm
Master Gardeners Event.....	5:00 pm

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
---------------	---------

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

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

