

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,

Toward the end of September, we began a series of Sundays that will focus on aspects of generosity. This has come about as our church has been participating with the synod in the Generosity Now Project. Overall, this program has been designed to help us go beyond our normal stewardship programming and think about what it means to be generous together. There will be two Sundays in October and two Sundays in November when we will focus on generosity.

Being generous together through the Generosity Now Project is centered on a biblical philosophy of the need of the giver (you and me) to give for our own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who pay dues, as a church we treat people like followers of Jesus who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship and faith.

Therefore, Generosity Now encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage or portion of my income, my abundance, is God calling me to give?"

Along with the generosity conversation this fall, the council has come up with a generosity goal that we would like to lift up this year. This goal is to focus on capital improvements to our church. There are many projects that need to be taken care of here at Salem, and we hope you will be willing to be generous in helping with these projects. We have already received a generous donation of \$5,000 to help with select improvements around the church. However, more money will be needed, as well as physical help with the projects. A generosity letter will be going out later in October to talk more about this ministry goal.

As we think about generosity and Scripture, Paul, in Second Corinthians, provides us with some good wisdom: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:7-8, NRSV).

Paul's words point to the cheerful and supportive role that God has in our giving. God not only gives to us in abundance but also encourages us to give cheerfully.

Such generosity may not be specific to one thing but could involve multiple forms of abundance that we have in our lives and can share with others.

Generosity is a big part of our faith and our lives. We are encouraged to be generous just as God has been generous to us. As a congregation, we will be learning more about being generous together in the months ahead. Furthermore, we encourage you to think about being generous as we lift up our goal of capital improvements to our church. May God's blessing be with you this and every month.

Amen

Pastor John Ansell

Lessons for October, 2026

10/4/2026: Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

10/11/2026: Acts 2:41-47

MN Adult & Teen Challenge Sunday

10/18/2026: Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22
Reformation Sunday

10/25/2026: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

October 2026

	4	11	18	25
LEAD COMM	Eric Settergren	Judy Giese	Simon Erdmann	Carol Christenson
READER	Rolene Lampi	Nancy Berntson	Richard Petersson	Simon Erdmann

ABOUT OUR SALEM FAMILY

Introduction and "Thank You!"

Hello, I know many of you already know me, but for those of you who do not or maybe don't know I was hired as Salem's office manager, please let me introduce myself! I'm Tracy Bockbrader. I live in Esko with my husband and adult son (He works at WDIO and moved back home after a couple years of working at KSTP in the Cities.) We also have a daughter who is serving Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Loveland Ohio as their Youth and Family Pastor. I am a former teacher who was offered an early retirement through a consolidation process.

I would like to Thank everyone here at Salem for welcoming me (back!) and for making the transition process go so smoothly! I thank you for your kindness and generosity if I have had to contact you with "crazy" questions! It's been a positive change for me and I hope a pretty seamless change for you all!

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.

Happy Birthday to Our Members in "October"

1	Joe Larrivy	11	Jerry Pelkey
	Larissa Paulson	12	Carol Christenson
3	Adam Lilyquist		David Paulson
4	Janice Hanson	13	Kiah Ahlberg
	Ryan Peterson		Jeffrey Eastman
5	Roger McKeever	15	Marlys Olson
	Logan Wietman	16	Tina Wolff
7	Seth Struck	19	Brenda Hallfrisch
8	Chris Lee		James Mart
	Bettie Lou Nicholson	20	Ellie Nickles
	Jana Peterson	22	Patty Shogren
9	Paige Agustsson	23	Denise LeMay
10	Diana Larson	27	Jayden Willman
	Loren Lilyquist	30	William Bennett
11	Brody Hahn		David Cannon

Monthly Happenings at Salem Lutheran Church



Faith Formation started September 27th and is now in full swing! October meeting dates are:

Sunday October 11; Which will be a field trip!

Students will be heading to a few farms to gather video footage for the Christmas Program!

Sunday October 25; which is Reformation Sunday and the Sunday following Applefest!

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 6th at 1:00pm.

Circle members will gather at Judy Giese's home, 3740 Stebner Road, in Hermantown.



Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge Choir will be joining us for worship on Sunday, October 18th! There will be a freewill offering taken that day. Also, it looks like we could be hosting up to 75 people at coffee after worship, if you are interested in helping please contact Lisa, Chris or Carol!

SALEM'S 11TH ANNUAL APPLE FESTIVAL!

Can you believe this is our 11th year for our Apple Festival???

This year's sale will be on October 24 from 9:00-3:00 and we need your help to ensure this is a great event! Some tasks that we will need help with are baking items for the bake sale, making caramel apples and tearing down after the sale. Lots of hands definitely make the work go quickly and we have fun doing it! Watch for sign-up lists starting in October or contact Lisa, Chris or Carol if you are willing to help out. All proceeds will go towards funding Salem's service projects. We do have a few outdoor vendor spots available—pass the word to anyone you know who may be interested!



***Reminder: Boat Club Productions at Fitger's is staging "Church Basement Ladies" October 1-11! Please call Kim (218)341-3665) if you'd like to coordinate a night with others.**

SALEM'S FINANCIAL PICTURE **Not available at time of printing.*

July, 2026

General Giving	\$16,175
Expenses	\$16,382
Difference	- \$207.02

Year to Date

General Giving	\$ 129,720
Total Needed	\$ 133,190
Difference	- \$3,470

Council Updates September 2026

Faith Formation has started, there will be two meetings a month.

Generosity team is looking forward to planning projects—watch for a letter coming soon!

Property team is hard at work—getting things ready for winter!