



*Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God by teaching His timeless Truth,
that all may grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.*

This Week at Salem

- Sun, 12/18** 8am Worship
9:15am Adult/Teen Bible Study & Sunday JAM Children's Ministry
10:30am Worship
12:15pm Handbell Practice
1 pm Youth Gathering
- Mon, 12/19** 6:30pm Bible Basics Class
- Tues, 12/20** 10:10am Bible Growth Group
3:30 pm Funeral for Bernice Drier
6:30pm Church Council Meeting
- Wed, 12/21** 9:30am Chapel
6:30pm Sr Choir
7:15pm Men's Chorus
- 12/22-Jan 4** **NO SCHOOL** - Christmas Break
- Sat, 12/24** 3pm Christmas Eve Worship
5pm Christmas Eve Worship
- Sun, 12/25** ***Merry Christmas!***
9:45am Christmas Caroling
10am Christmas Festival Worship w/communion

Holiday Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 24th (3 & 5pm)
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 25th (10am) *Christmas carol sing-along at 9:30am*
Christmas Day Festival with Communion

Giving

Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$11,818.56 for Current Expenses and \$684.62 for Missions. We pray God leads us to generous giving. You can give digitally if you prefer at salemlutheran.org/donate.

Pastoral Farewell

January 8th will be Pastor Jake's last service with us at Salem before he moves to a new call in Illinois. To thank God for his time with us and to say goodbye, all are invited to an open house at Salem in the Schram's honor that day from 2-4pm. Light refreshments will be provided, and you can come at any time during the open house to visit with Pastor and Sarah and say farewell.

Growing

Salem Growth Group Openings

Salem's Growth Groups provide a way for members to connect with each other and to Christ as they meet 2-4 times a month at members' homes or online. We're happy to see a new group begin last month and happy to share that two groups are looking for more members

Both the Ibisch group and the Thomforde group welcome couples or individuals from any stage of life to join them. You can learn more about growth groups at our church website. If you'd like to try out a growth group email growthgroups@salemlutheran.org.

Men of Salem, breakfast and Bible study!

Is it time to start our men's breakfast bible study at Gorman's restaurant in Lake Elmo again? Men would meet on the first Saturday of each month. If you are interested please text Dennis Sanders at 612-839-8714 or call and leave a message. If we have enough interest, January could be our first gathering.

Youth Gathering

Salem teens are invited to church for a Youth Gathering Sunday (December 18th) from 1-2:30 PM. All 7th through 12th graders are welcome to join us for devotion, snacks, and games. We hope to see you there!

Bible Reading Plans

Did you know that you can read the whole Bible in one year with just 10 minutes of reading time a day? If you'd like to join Pastor Wolfe in a Bible reading challenge, pick up a reading plan from the church entry and sign in on the sheet so we can encourage one another to read in 2023.

Serving

Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to have a poinsettia on the altar in memory of someone, there will be envelopes for that or you can contact the church office. We are asking for a \$5 donation for each member you want listed. This will help pay for the poinsettias we place on the altar. **Please return your envelopes by Monday, Dec 19.** Thank you!

Caring Committee Giving Tree

Gifts need to be brought to the church office by **December 18** so we can give them out for Christmas. Thank you!

Christmas Day Instrumental Carolers

You are invited to come to Salem's Christmas Day service a little early to sing Christmas carols before worship, starting at 9:45am. We welcome instrument players to play along while we sing. Instrumentalists will meet in church at 9:30am on Christmas Day to go over what we will play. You can find music books for flute, oboe, clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, and tuba on the table in the entry. Each music book also has a brief description of how we will organize the music in it. Please sign the participation sheet when you pick up your music so that we know what instruments we will have. If you have any questions, contact Roger Zolldan at 651-216-7462 (call/text) or email him at rzolldan@comcast.net. Thank you for helping us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Sled Donations Wanted

Snow and sledding go together like kids and Christmas. The sleds at our Salem school get used often and well, and that means they need to be replaced from time to time. If you would like to donate a plastic sled to the school, we would appreciate the gift. Talk to Principal Ryan Klatt (rklatt@salemlutheran.org) or teacher Tom Stob (tstob@salemlutheran.org) if you'd like to donate.

WANTED: Treadle Sewing machines for Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti. When children age out of the 6 schools (1000 students, including 300 orphans) sewing is a way they can earn income. Teachers at the Branch schools provide sewing lessons but sewing machines can be hard to find. There is no electricity and very few opportunities to work. If you have a treadle machine you'd like to donate please call Linda (651-206-9935) or Pam (612-991-1306).

Uniting

Saturday Volleyball and Game Night

Adults and teens are invited to Salem Saturday evenings at 6:15pm for volleyball and games. Enjoy semi-competitive play in a friendly atmosphere. Families are invited to bring board games or card games to play in the fellowship hall as well.

NOTE: There will be no volleyball/game night Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Brothers & Sisters

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26) Knowing we are brothers and sisters of Jesus, we want to smile and greet each other at the door. You may sign up as a greeter for services now through March at the information table. Please wear a name tag & arrive 15-20 minutes before the service(s) you picked.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & a big 😊 to all of you. Questions? Janet Rider 651-261-3146 or RidersUSA@comcast.net

We Need A Little Help for One of Salem's Families

The Herbst family has a little boy (Everett) who is 1 year old and has been in and out of the hospital the past few weeks. The Caring Committee asked if they need help with anything. They could use help with some gas gift cards for the travels to the Hospital and doctor appointments and could use some Cub Foods Gift cards so they can order take home meals when they need to. If you would like to help, please leave your donations in the church office and we will make sure they get them. Thank you very much for your help!

School News & Event Updates

Our Salem Lutheran School offers so many blessings for students and families. You don't have to be a parent or school family to receive updates on events and activities from the school. Anyone can sign up online to receive regular email updates at www.salemlutheran.org/news/subscribe.

St. Croix Night to Shine

In February, St. Croix Lutheran Academy will host "Night to Shine," an over-the-top prom experience honoring those with special needs. If you know someone who would like to attend as an honored guest, St. Croix invites you to contact them. Email Lorna Kapanke at lkapanke@stcroixlutheran.org or call 651-455-1521, ext. 1117.

In our prayers this week:

- For opportunities to invite friends and neighbors to join us in Christmas celebration and worship
- For blessings on Salem and on Pastor Schram as he moves to a new ministry and we search for another shepherd