



*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, 12/25** ***Merry Christmas!***
9:45am Christmas Caroling
10am Christmas Festival Worship w/communion
- 12/26-Jan 4** **NO SCHOOL** - Christmas Break
- Sat, 12/31** 5pm Worship
- Sun, 1/1** ***Happy New Year!***
8am Worship
10:30am Worship
11:30am Salem Social Group Annual Meeting

Giving

Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$32,155.85 for Current Expenses and \$5,809.05 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!

Men will meet on the first Saturday of each month starting January 7, 2023 at Gorman's restaurant in Lake Elmo. All men are invited - Please plan to attend!

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

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!

Salem Social Group Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 1, 2023 - Immediately Following Late Service

The Salem Social Group will be holding our annual meeting on New Year's Day, right after the late service at church. There will be several items on the agenda, including appointing a Chair and a Secretary, reviewing the 2022 events, and planning 2023 events.

Ruth and I would like to change the methods for planning and handling some of the events. We would like to see you at the meeting to get your input on our planned changes. We will be making some bigger changes to the Christmas Dinner, and since this has the largest attendance, we need your opinions on the proposed changes. We hope you'll be able to attend. For information call 651-334-6055 or email gsmolin@earthlink.net

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