



*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, 1/1**      ***Happy New Year!***  
8am Worship  
9:15am Adult & Teen Bible Study (NO Sunday JAM)  
10:30am Worship  
11:30am Salem Social Group Annual Meeting
- Mon, 1/2**      **NO SCHOOL** - Christmas Break  
6:30 pm Bible Basics
- Tues, 1/3**      **NO SCHOOL** - Christmas Break  
10:10am Bible Growth Group  
7pm Outreach Committee Meeting
- Wed, 1/4**      **NO SCHOOL** - Christmas Break  
9:30am Women's Bible Study  
6:30pm Sr Choir  
7:15pm Men's Chorus
- Fri, 1/6**      5:30-9:30pm Salem School Basketball vs King of Grace - (Girls B, Boys B, Girls A, Boys A)
- Sat, 1/7**      8am Men's Bible Study at Gorman's, Lake Elmo  
5pm Worship w/communion  
6:15pm Game and Adult/Teen Volleyball Night
- Sun, 1/8**      8am Worship w/ communion  
9:15am Adult & Teen Bible Study & Sunday JAM  
10:30am Worship w/communion  
2-4pm Pastor & Sarah Schram Farewell Open House (3pm program/presentation)

## **Giving**

### **Ministry Support**

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$16,230.31 for Current Expenses and \$1,779.62 for Missions. We pray God leads us to generous giving. You can give digitally if you prefer at [salemlutheran.org/donate](http://salemlutheran.org/donate).

## **Pastoral Farewell**

Next weekend will be Pastor Jake and Sarah's last weekend at Salem before they move 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. A brief program and presentation will be held around 3pm.

## Thank you, one and all!

On behalf of both our families, thank you for every kind word, gift, and special card of encouragement received in this Christmas season. It is a blessing to serve as pastor and whether we're coming or going, it is a privilege to serve God's people here at Salem. We look forward to seeing how God blesses this church in 2023 as we work together to build each other up and share the Gospel with even more.

Thank you also to everyone who helped in such a variety of ways during this season. Whether you cleaned, decorated, sang, played, shoveled, baked, printed, proofed, taught, ordered, donated, or...whatever (!) - thank you for your partnership in celebrating our Savior's birth. God bless you in this New Year!

*Pastor Ryan & Jessie Wolfe and Pastor Jake & Sarah Schram*

### **Congregational Meeting and Pastor Call Meeting**

Salem's Quarterly congregational meeting will be held Wednesday, January 11th at 5:30pm. We'll begin with a call meeting to extend a call to a new pastor, and then spend time talking about some significant ministry things from the last quarter and looking ahead to the next. Please plan to join us and share your thoughts and ideas.

## 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](mailto:growthgroups@salemlutheran.org).

### **Men of Salem, breakfast and Bible study!**

Being a Christian man in an unchristian world is challenging for the best of us. Beginning in January, men of Salem are invited to gather on the first Saturday of each month for devotion and breakfast at Gorman's restaurant in Lake Elmo. All men are invited—please join us! Our first gathering will be January 7th at 8am. 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

**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).

### **Greeters Needed**

"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](mailto:RidersUSA@comcast.net)

# 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 until January 7th.

## **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:lkapanke@stcroixlutheran.org) or call 651-455-1521, ext. 1117.

## **In our prayers this week:**

- For faith and faithfulness in the New Year beginning
- For healing and help for George Light and others looking for recovery and rest
- For teachers and students as they return to school and grow in knowledge and wisdom