



*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, 12/3** 8 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday JAM & Guest Speaker Presentation
10:30 am Worship
1 pm Advent by Candlelight
- Mon, 12/4** 4:45 pm Sunday JAM Teachers Meeting
- Tues, 12/5** 10:15 am Bible Study
6 pm Outreach Meeting
- Wed. 12/6** 9:30 am Chapel
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
4 pm Advent Service (Gr 5-8)
5 pm Advent Meal
6:30 pm Catechism
6:30 pm Choir Practice
7:15 pm Handbells & Men's Chorus
- Thur, 12/7** 12:30 pm Women's Guild Christmas Party
6 pm Preschool Christmas Service
- Sat, 12/9** 9 am Christmas for Kids
5 pm Worship w/communion
6:15 pm Teen & Adult Volleyball
- Sun, 12/10** 8 am Worship w/communion
9:15 am Sunday JAM & Bible Study
10:30 am Worship w/communion
12:30 pm Social Group Christmas Dinner
6:30 pm Youth Christmas Party

Call Updates

Salem has extended a call to Pastor Matthew Kiecker who is currently serving St John's Lutheran in Lomira WI. You are welcome to contact him by phone (219-309-6021) or email pastor@stjohnslomira.com.

Salem School Principal Ryan Klatt has received a divine call to serve as principal at Wisconsin Lutheran School in Racine, WI. Please feel free to share your thoughts with Mr. Klatt. Keep both in your prayers as they deliberate God's calls.

Pastor Call Meeting Scheduled (If needed)

We have not received an answer from Pastor Kiecker regarding our pastor call, but in case he returns it we have tentatively scheduled a call meeting so we can extend one before the "Christmas call break" begins December 15th. If needed, the call meeting will be held Wednesday, December 13th at 6pm. This should give members time to worship and enjoy the fellowship meal before we meet.

Worship Schedule comments

Salem's leaders heard and appreciate all the thoughts shared at the last quarterly meeting about our worship schedule and possible changes. As we work together to make decisions best for our ministry we welcome your comments emailed to worship@salemlutheran.org.

Growing in Faith

Midweek Advent Services

Once again this year Salem students will present a special series of services for the advent season. The series of three services will be held at 4pm on Wednesdays beginning this week. Each week's service is led by a different group of children, with the first service featuring the 5-8th grade classes. A fellowship meal will be served after service each week. We hope you'll join us!

Members are also invited this week to our Preschool Christmas program. This service will be held Thursday evening (Dec. 7th) at 6pm.

Advent Devotion Books

This year's Advent devotions, titled "The Mysteries of Christmas" are available in the entry. Devotions began December 1st but there's plenty of time to benefit from them before Christmas.

Sunday JAM This Week

Sunday JAM for kids ages 3 to grade 6 continues! This week children study Samuel, a faithful young man and a faithful leader of Israel. Sunday JAM starts at 9:15am in the Salem school Kindergarten room.

Christmas & New Year's Worship schedule

Every 5-12 years Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, as it does this year. Because of the timing of special services Salem's regular weekend schedule will change. There will be NO service Saturday, December 23rd and one special service Sunday morning, December 24th at 9am. This service will be based on the "O Antiphons" made famous in the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and will feature Salem leaders and elders as readers.

Christmas Eve special services will be offered Sunday at 3 & 5pm. Our Christmas Day celebration will be held Monday the 25th at 10am with communion.

Worship on the weekend of New Year's Eve will follow our normal schedule, with communion celebrated at this special 5th Sunday of the month. A short devotional service will be held on New Year's Eve at 4:30 for any who wish to attend.

Serving & Sharing in Faith

Sign up to serve

Put your faith into action and help our church do the work God gives to us! Sign up as a worship greeter, a worship tech helper, or give your time at Christmas for Kids. Sign up at www.salemlutheran.org/serve.

Christmas for Kids - December 9th (9am-12:30pm)

Children ages 3 years old to 6th grade are invited to spend the morning at Christmas for Kids. Everyone should arrive between 8:30-8:45 am to register so we can start the fun at 9 am! We will share the Christmas story in devotions, crafts and other activities. At noon, adults are invited to join us for a lasagna lunch donated by Olive Garden and a brief Christmas program filled with scripture and Christmas carols that will wrap you in the warmth and love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. There is no cost to attend. Online registration is open at www.salemlutheran.org/christmas23. Don't forget to invite friends and neighbors! Sign up to help at the Salem serves website or on the sheet in the entry.

Final Numbers for School Doors

At the end of this summer, the Washington county police department toured our facility. They reviewed our safety procedures and advised us on security upgrades. One that they recommended was a shatterproof film for the school doors. This would give our students and faculty more time in the case of an intruder. The final cost for this upgrade is \$11,000. If you are interested in supporting this project or if you have any further questions, please contact Principal Ryan Klatt.

Caring Committee is Collecting Items for CAMM

The Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM), a 60-year legacy of Christ-centered health care in Zambia and Malawi, supports the Gospel ministry carried out by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) in partnership with the Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA). Nearly 80,000 patients are served annually.

CAMM is not funded by the synod but instead relies upon donations from individuals, churches, schools and other organizations to fund its operations. We also receive many gift parcels, often from women's groups and LWMS chapters, containing pill bottles (which we use for liquid medications), baby hats, blankets and onesies which are given to newborns at our clinics. Learn more at www.camm.us

The Caring Committee is collecting plastic prescription bottles (washed & labels off), knit dishcloths, knit or sewn baby caps (0-6 months), baby /Children's Socks. For more items they can use take a list from the information table or call Janet Rider with any questions on how you may help CAMM Ridersusa@comcast.com 651-439-0584. There will be a collection box on the food shelf case.

Uniting in Faith

Young Adults Outing

The young adults (18-30ish) are planning to go tubing at Badlands in Hudson on the 17th of December around 1pm. Please let Robyn Collins 715-781-1106 or Mike Wurst 715-417-0310 know if you would like to go and/or would like a ride.

Salem Social Group New Year's Eve Dinner 2023

The Salem Social Group will host a New Year's Eve Dinner on Sunday, December 31, at Golden Crown Chinese Restaurant. Arrival time is after the 4:30 PM church service, 5:30 – 5:45 PM. You do not need to be a member of Salem or the Social Group to attend this dinner or any SSG events. You just need to be college age or older. You are welcome to bring adult family or friends. If you have nothing planned, come join us for the service and dinner afterward. The signup sheet is on the information table in the narthex. Deadline for signup is Sunday, 12/24. If you have questions, please call (651-334-6055) or email at gsmolin@earthlink.net

Women's Guild

Salem Women's Guild will host our annual Christmas Party/Potluck December 7, at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall for all the ladies of the congregation. All are encouraged to bring money for Valley Outreach food shelf. If bringing a check, make it out to Valley Outreach and indicate "food shelf" on the memo line or it goes to their general fund. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for you to sign up if you plan to come.

Giving in Faith

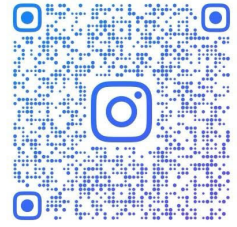
Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$11,637.88 for Current Expenses and \$1,186.63 for Missions. We pray God leads us to generous giving. You can give digitally if you prefer at salemlutheran.org/donate.

Salem Youth Group

Youth Group Instagram

Salem's Youth Group is on Instagram! Ellie Ross has gotten our account up and running again. Use the code on the right to start following it!



@SALEMSTILLWATERYOUTHGROUP

International Youth Rally Planning

The WELS biennial Youth Rally is June 25-8, 2024 in Fort Collins, CO. It is open to all current 8th -12th graders. If your teen is interested in attending, please sign up on this [Interest Form](#) or contact Rachel Collins (r.collins005@gmail.com, 612-483-9197) so we can begin working on plans. Official registration will be in March, but we need to have finances and plans ready by then! Parents, if you want to consider being a chaperone, Rachel would also like to know that!

December Youth Group Party

The December Youth Group meeting will be Dec 10th from 6:30-8 pm. We will have a white elephant gift exchange, so bring something funny, cheap, or re-gifted, and wrapped! We will also have some Christmas games, possibly make Christmas Cards, and have some yummy treats.

Youth Group Help Wanted

Request for help with Youth Events: Anyone interested in helping plan a winter lock-in for the youth (date TBD) or help with fundraising for the June WELS Youth Rally, please contact Rachel Collins (r.collins005@gmail.com, 612-483-9197).

Sister Ministries

St. Croix Lutheran Academy (SCLA) Update

- Middle School Christmas Concert - Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6:30pm
- High School Christmas concert - Thursday, Dec. 21, 7:00pm

- Christmas homestays are needed for international students who will not be traveling home Friday, Dec. 22 through Saturday, January 6. \$700 stipend. email tamara julian tjulian@stcroixlutheran.org.

SCLA Job Openings (Apply at stcroixlutheran.org/jobs or email Lori Kowitz at lkowitz@stcroixlutheran.org.)

- **Admissions and events coordinator - full-time, non-exempt**
 - Year-round, full-time admissions and events coordinator to support the admissions program and assist the principal, domestic admissions counselor, and mission advancement director.

- **Snow equipment operator - on-call, part-time**
 - Assist maintenance staff in removing snow and ice from the campus parking lot, sidewalks, and walkways.

- **Short-term activities planner - seasonal, part-time**
 - Primary responsibilities include scheduling and running activities to places like the science museum, mall of america, or skyzone for visiting chinese students (13) from jan 27-feb 16 and/or a visiting thailand group from apr 3-27.

In our prayers this week

- For blessings of healing and companionship to all in need at this blessed, but challenging, time of year
- For strength and health to students and teachers battling illnesses in schools and preschools
- For the lost or straying, that we would have opportunities to show them Jesus in this Christmas season.