



*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, 12/17** 8 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday JAM & Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
1:00 pm Young Adults - Chocolate, Games, & Movies
- Mon, 12/18** 6:30 pm Bible Basics Class
7:00 pm Community Men's Basketball
- Tues, 12/19** 10:15 am Bible Study
6:30 pm Church Council
- Wed. 12/20** 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
4 pm Advent Service (Gr 2-4)
5 pm Advent Meal
6:30 pm Catechism
6:30 pm Choir Practice
7:15 pm Handbells & Men's Chorus
- Fri. 12/22** 9:30 am Chapel
- Sat, 12/23** NO 5pm WORSHIP SERVICE
6:15 pm Teen & Adult Volleyball
- Sun, 12/24** 9 am "O Antiphons" Worship
3:00 & 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Call Updates

Wednesday evening, Salem voters extended a call for associate pastor to Pastor Andrew Hussman, currently serving at Luther Preparatory School. Please keep Pastor Hussman in your prayers as he considers this call from the Lord.

Christmas for Kids Thank You

A very big thank you to all the adults and young people who volunteered for Christmas for Kids and helped to make it a huge success. We were blessed to have 33 non-member families, some of whom have no church home. We also had 19 member families attend. It is a joy to be able to share the real reason we celebrate Christmas with so many families. - Beth Wurst

Hearing Assistance in Worship

Do you know that Salem has a "loop" system for hearing assistance? If your hearing aid is equipped with a T-Coil, set your device to that source for sound directly from our audio system. Don't have a device like that? Use one of our headsets to get amplified sound in a similar way. Ask an usher for a headset if you'd like to use one.

Poinsettias for the Altar for Christmas

We are offering the opportunity for people to remember someone special by placing poinsettias in their memory on the altar for Christmas. There are envelopes in the entry for optional donations to offset the cost of the flowers. This Sunday (December 17) is the last day to order flowers.

Growing in Faith

Sunday JAM This Week

Sunday JAM for kids ages 3 to grade 6 continues! This week the children have a Christmas party and practice for their Christmas preview in the late service. Sunday JAM starts at 9:15am in the School Kindergarten room.

Midweek Advent Services

The last of three special midweek advent services will be this Wednesday. This week the 2nd-4th graders lead the service. The fellowship meal after the service is spaghetti served by the Salem Youth Group. We hope you'll join us!

Christmas & New Year's Worship schedule

Because of the special Christmas Eve services there will be NO Saturday service next weekend (December 23rd) and one special service Sunday morning at 9am. This morning service will be based on the "O Antiphons" made famous in the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

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 on 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 bring us your ideas. Sign up at www.salemlutheran.org/serve.

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 9:20am 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!

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.

Church Parking Request

You may have noticed that parking gets a little tight in our lot for worship services. This makes it harder for some of our senior members and less welcoming for our visitors. We invite our younger members to park in the lower parking lot if they are able. You can enter through the side door of the

church and come up the stairs or use the elevator. This will be a great service to our elders and visitors. Thank you!

Uniting in Faith

Young Adults Outing

The young adults (18-30ish) are planning an evening of hot chocolate, games and movies at 643 Laurie Lane, Hudson, on the 17th of December around 1pm. They decided to do the tubing in January when there is a little more snow. Please let Robyn Collins 715-781-1106 or Mike Wurst 715-417-0310 know if you would like to go or have any questions.

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

WELS Night with the Minnesota Timberwolves

Tickets are still available for the first-ever WELS Night on Sunday, January 14 as the Timberwolves take on the Los Angeles Clippers! Everyone who purchases a discounted ticket through this special offer will be able to shoot a Free Throw on the court following the game! Tickets for this deal are expected to sell out. Go to www.timberwolves.com/groupoffer and enter promo code: 23WELS24.

Giving in Faith

Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$24,512.13 for Current Expenses and \$489.62 for Missions. We pray God leads us to generous giving. You can give digitally if you prefer at salemlutheran.org/donate.

Salem Youth Group

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!

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).

In our prayers this week

- Thankfulness for healing received and request for help to those still waiting for God's loving answer.
- For boldness to speak and invite unchurched friends and neighbors to join us in Christmas worship.
- For companionship and friendship to all who mourn loved ones home in heaven.