



*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, 3/24	8:00 am Palm Sunday Worship with Communion 9:15 am Sunday JAM & Bible Study 10:30 am Palm Sunday Worship with Communion
Mon, 3/25	6:30 pm Bible Basics with Pastor 7:00 pm Community Men's Basketball
Tues, 3/26	10:15 am Group Bible Study 11:15 am Brass Cleaning 5:00 - 7:00 pm Salem School Fundraiser at Culver's
Wed, 3/27	9:30 am School Chapel 6:30 pm Evening Catechism 7:00 pm Sacred Choral Concert at St. Croix Lutheran Academy, St. Paul
Thu, 3/28	Holy Thursday - NO SCHOOL 5:30 pm Handbell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Holy Thursday Worship with Communion 7:30 pm Senior Choir Practice
Fri, 3/29	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL 10:00 am Good Friday Worship with Communion 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship with Communion
Sat, 3/30	NO Volleyball
Sun, 3/31	7:00 am Easter Dawn Worship with Communion 8:00 - 10:30 am Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Easter Festival Worship 10:45 am Easter Festival Worship

Call Updates

Our voters chose to defer this round of pastoral calls in favor of applying for a seminary graduate. Please pray for the call committee as they consider our needs and the needs of other congregations around our synod.

Debbie Hansen, our first grade teacher has returned her call to serve at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in West Bend, WI. We're thankful for her continued work with us.

Update on Minnesota Legislation

You can read a letter regarding the Minnesota Human Rights Act and our church body's reaction to it. Pray that God would keep us faithful to his Word and that he might move our legislators to reinstate the religious exemption clause.

Growing in Faith

Sunday JAM This Week

Sunday JAM for kids ages 3 to grade 6 continues! This week children hear from Jesus himself as they study a part of Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount. Sunday JAM starts at 9:15am in the school Kindergarten room.

Holy Week Worship

Salem's special Lenten series *God on Trial* continues this week with services on Holy Thursday (6:30pm) and Good Friday (10am & 6:30pm). As our society becomes more secular we regularly see our neighbors judge God and his people. Join us for these special days to find respite from the world's judging and evidence of God's grace.



Holy Week Devotions

Martin Luther College, our WELS ministry training school, is offering a series of devotions for Holy Week. There will be no physical copies available, but there are a few ways to access it digitally starting March 22. You can request that we send the eight devotions to their personal email on a daily basis, Palm Sunday to Easter, March 24-31. In the email, you will receive the written devotion and the link to an audio recording by the author. Or you can read them in our online flipbook. Use the link within each devotion to listen to the author's audio recording.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Spring Rally

Salem women of all ages are invited to the LWMS Spring Rally on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at Christ Lutheran, Cambridge MN. Guest speaker Debbie Dietrich will speak about her experiences teaching kindergarten at one of our WELS schools on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona. Registration begins at 9 am and the rally will be from 9:30 to noon. Lunch is provided. Arrangements have been made to use the school bus from Christ-North St Paul. The bus will leave Christ at 8:15 am. Please contact Dawn Tiefert at dawn.tiefert@gmail.com to arrange a spot on the bus. If you need a ride from Salem, we will meet at church by 7:45 Saturday morning. Contact Patty Johnson at 651-246-2310 or quentandpatty@comcast.net with any questions. Learn more about LWMS at www.lwms.org.



2024 WELS Women's Ministry Conference

Save the date for the 2024 WELS Women's Ministry Conference on Sunday, July 28-30, 2024, at the Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee, Wis. This conference is for any woman who is passionate about spreading the Good News of Jesus in our world today, no matter her age and background. New to the faith or seasoned, married or single, the keynotes and wide variety of breakout sessions will encourage, equip, and empower you in your walk of faith. Early-bird registration of \$150 is open until April 30. General registration of \$175 is open May 1-31. Learn more at welswmconference.net.

Salem Church Library

You may have noticed the adult library has been moved to the hall next to the fireside room. But did you notice that we have DVDs? For this Lenten season, check out the DVD "The Week That Changed the World." You will find it on the shelf marked "Lent & Easter."

Serving & Sharing in Faith

Women's Guild Meeting

Salem's Women's Guild will hold their April meeting on Thursday, April 4 at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. All women of the congregation are welcome.

Easter Breakfast Sign-Up

The Easter breakfast sign up sheet is posted at the connection center. Please take a minute to look at how you could contribute to this beloved Salem tradition.

Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet on May 4 at 3:30 pm. Everyone is invited! Whether you're experienced, brand new, or just interested, this meeting is for you. Serving on the Altar Guild is a wonderful way to volunteer. We tidy up the altar area, fill the candles with oil, see to any flowers for the altar if relevant, put up or take down the communion rail (which is easier with two people), a little light dusting, and a bit of vacuuming and tidying up in the sacristy. We'd like to review our schedules and make sure that everyone is aware of what supplies we have available. We'll also go over our policies and procedures to make sure everyone is on the same page. Please mark your calendars now! If you can't attend this meeting, please email church@salemlutheran.org.

Spring Fling for Seniors

The Outreach Committee is throwing a fabulous party at Salem on Saturday, April 27, from 11:00am to 1:30pm. Join us for a spectacular time! Prepare to be delighted with a light meal and delightful live entertainment. Dress to impress because this is a classy affair! We're extending a warm invitation to the residents of Oak Ridge Place and our Salem members aged 80 or older. If you fit this category and haven't received your invitation, reach out to Janet Rider at 651-361-3146 or ridersUSA@comcast.net.

We need your help to make this event unforgettable. Volunteer opportunities include assisting with meal service and hosting duties, starting bright and early at 10:00 am. But wait, there's more! We're calling on the baking virtuosos among us to whip up some scrumptious bars for dessert. Sign-up sheets will be at the information center as well as further details.

Spring Cleanup at Camp Croix

It's almost time for spring cleanup at our conference's "home away from home," Camp Croix. Many hands, young and old are needed to get camp ready for the season. Camp Croix and its programs are a great blessing from God and we can show our appreciation by helping prepare the camp. You have your choice of jobs and the amount of time you can spend helping. The workday is scheduled for May 11th and will begin around 9am. Lunch will be provided. Please email info@campcroix.org if you plan to help so we can have enough food for everyone. We hope to see you there!

Salem School

Culver's Fundraiser

Salem's next Fundraiser night at Culver's is this Tuesday (March 26th) from 5-7 pm! A portion of the night's sales will be donated to the 7-8 grade trip to Washington DC. This has been a fun opportunity to socialize with other members and also have a butterburger with frozen custard. Does it get any better than that? See you there!

Uniting in Faith

Summer Softball Team

Salem is looking to put together a softball team for the upcoming season in Stillwater. The season runs from May through August and all players must be out of high school to play. We have the option of having a men's league or coed league and we will pick the team based on the number of people interested. If we get enough, we could even have two teams. Please use the following link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/cuM21QQcp1jxa31HA> There is also a sign-up sheet in the church entryway if you would prefer to not sign up electronically. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Tom Forster, tforster16@gmail.com, or Ryan Klatt, rklatt@salemmlutheran.org.

Save the Date! WELS Convention for Seniors

This event is hosted by the River City OWLS at the Omaha Marriott in Omaha, NE from October 14-17, 2024. The hotel is offering a special group rate of \$128 a night. You're welcome to come for one day or all, with or without food included. Enjoy fellowship with other WELS Seniors, go on a tour of SAC Air Force Base, and go to three interesting workshops.

Trivia Night Fundraiser

Salem members, friends, and families are invited to take on the challenge, join us at Trivia Night! **Sunday, April 28th at 4 pm**, hosted by the Youth as a fundraiser for the Youth Rally. Come and be matched to a team or bring your own team of 4 to compete. Concessions will also be available for purchase.

Salem Youth Group

Upcoming Meetings

The Youth Group will meet on **Sunday, April 14 from 6:30-8 pm**. We are beginning a new Bible Study series and hope many are able to attend!

Campus Ministry Tour

What is college really like? Join the youth group on **Wednesday, April 10th** for a visit to the U of MN campus ministry. We will leave Salem at 6:15 pm, arrive at the U of MN campus for a welcome and introduction with Pastor Lor. Then meet some college students and join them for their Bible study and socializing. Please let Rachel Collins know if you plan to attend, so we can have cars ready to drive/carpool to the U of M.

Regional WELS Youth Night

Salem is hosting the next regional WELS Youth Night on **Sunday, April 21st from 6-8 pm**. This is a great opportunity for High School students from Eastern MN/Western WI to bring friends and hang out with other young people for an interactive evening of music, games, and discussion focused around God's Word. Please enter through the school entrance. Register to attend at Salem's website: www.salemlutheran.org.

Cub Foods Fundraiser

Youth Rally participants will be bagging groceries at the Stillwater Cub Foods on **Saturday, April 27th from 10 am - 4 pm**. [Sign up here](#) to volunteer or talk to Rachel Collins or Katie Aumann. We hope to see many of the congregation members out getting your groceries and giving support to our group that day!

Giving in Faith

Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$10,033.83 for Current Expenses and \$646.15 for Missions. We pray God leads us to generous giving. You can give digitally if you prefer at salemlutheran.org/donate.

In our prayers this week

- For safety in times of weather challenges, and blessing on those who serve us in those times.
- For churches & ministries in Minnesota standing firm in God's truth in the face of worldly challenges
- For healing for Debbie Swanson, Roger Antonson, and all who look for God's deliverance in a time of need.

From Our Sister Ministries

Help Wanted at Christian Life Ministries

Christian Life Ministries is looking to hire a part-time Client Services mentor. The Client Services mentor provides direct services to clients through in-person or online meetings for the Pregnancy and Family Resource Center. Clients are anyone who may be pregnant or has small children who need material assistance or who want guidance about raising their children with the help of the CS mentorship. Must be a WELS or ELS church member in good standing. Please contact Penny Frenz for more information at 651-649-3538 or penny.frenz@clmonline.org

Roles and Responsibilities would include but are not limited to:

- Provide mentoring and other services to clients in accordance with CLM Resources
- Document mentoring sessions and services provided to clients
- Coordinate and manage all client-related programming with the Client Services Director
- Build relationships with the clients to better serve their needs
- Manage the collection and reporting of statistical information related to the Center and its programs

Upcoming Events at St. Croix Lutheran Academy

Share in a Sacred Choral Concert Wednesday, Mar 27, at 7:00pm in the SCLA chapel. Chorale, Concert Choir, and the Croixaliers will sing.

Save the Date! SCLA Gala "Storybook Soiree" will be Saturday, Apr 27, at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel. Find out more at www.StCroixLutheran.org/gala.

THE MINNESOTA DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Rev. Dennis C. Klatt, President
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March 20, 2024

Dear WELS sisters and brothers living in Minnesota,

Before last year, when gender identity was included within the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA) definition of sexual orientation, the still-existing religious exemption for sexual orientation covered gender identity claims as well. When a new, separate definition of gender identity was passed into law by the legislative majority last year, there was no corresponding religious exemption added.

Together with a number of other faith-based organizations, the WELS Minnesota District Presidium petitioned the Minnesota Legislature to reinstate the religious exemption clause into the MHRA. On March 18, 2024, the motion to amend the law to include the religious exemption was voted down. If the MHRA stands as currently written, our WELS ministries in Minnesota will be considered in violation of state law for insisting that those who serve in our ministries adhere to our biblical teaching, practice, and lifestyle related to sexual orientation and transgenderism.

In this case, civil government (God's left-hand kingdom) is crossing the boundary into the responsibility and work God has assigned to the Church (his right-hand kingdom). When civil government enacts laws which, if followed, would bring us into conflict God's word, "we must obey God rather than human beings" (Acts 5:29). In addition, the current version of the MHRA violates the rights afforded to religious institutions under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. If there is no change made by the state legislature, the MHRA will most certainly be challenged in court as unconstitutional.

What can you do? First, pray to our risen and ascended Lord Jesus to move the hearts of our legislators to reinstate the religious exemption clause into the MHRA. Pray also that he give us the strength to continue our firm stand on the Word of God. Second, as citizens of Minnesota you have the right to contact your respective state representatives to encourage them to reinstate the religious exemption clause into the MHRA. To find the names and contact information of your state representatives, you may use this link: <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>.

As we approach Holy Week, we witness our Savior's unmatched love and power in action for us. He rules all things in heaven and earth for the good of his kingdom. While the world will oppose His Word and His Church, by his strength both will remain. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea" (Psalm 46:1,2).

In Jesus, whom we trust and serve,

Pastor Dennis Klatt
WELS Minnesota District President