

SALEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Salem Lutheran State-of-the-School Report

May 2025

Equipping the soul, mind, and body to be Christ-minded contributors for a lifetime and beyond.

Principal's Perspective

Ryan Klatt, Principal

Do you enjoy waiting? The average person spends five years of their life waiting in lines or queues. We may not enjoy waiting, but we spend a great majority of our life waiting in line, for other people, or on the phone. Why do we wait then? We hope that the person we are waiting for will hold up their end of a bargain. We wait in line to talk with someone for help with a problem, to get on a ride, or to buy something. Waiting is an unavoidable part of life.

What a wonderful reminder of our theme, Forever Faithful, is of our loving God that we know will always follow through. He is always there for us and always comes through for us when we need him. When we pray to him, God will answer. Even during those times when we feel God is ignoring us, he has a plan that is for our good. It may mean he is saying no, or you need to wait, but God continues to provide and care for all we need.

We can look back at examples from our own life to see God's hand. We didn't get the promotion or the new house because God knew we needed to be closer to a loved one who was going home to Heaven soon. The person we thought was our new friend or significant other grows distant only to realize that God had someone better in mind for our lives.

We can also look at the plethora of examples in the Bible. Goliath being defeated by a shepherd boy with a sling and stones. (1 Samuel 17) God provided manna and quail in the wilderness for his people while they were in the desert. (Exodus 16) A perfect man lives a perfect life and dies a painful death for your sins and mine, so we can be with him forever in heaven. What a wonderful God we have!

The next time you have to wait in line or are waiting for your kids or spouse to get ready, think about the faithfulness of your Lord and Savior. Think about all the times he has been there in your life; all of the blessings he has given you that we do not deserve. Marvel in his love and his faithfulness that will last forever.

Theme 2025

Psalm 100:5

"For the Lord is good
and his love endures
forever; his faithfulness
continues through all
generations."



Ryan Klatt, Principal



Salem Lutheran School - Established in 1974



8th grade student in Music class. 8th grader helping a preschooler.

Lutheran Identity

Salem Lutheran Church believes strongly in the ministry to support families with Christian education. Our identity as a Lutheran School is of primary importance. Teachers are role models of living a faith filled life. Their faith impacts their interactions and instruction with the students. Our school day starts with the study of God's Word. Before lunch we pray and give thanks to God for all the blessings we receive. After lunch, we join in a short study of God's Word through devotions and we end each day with prayer before we go home. In addition, the teachers incorporate God's Word into all subjects when applicable. The cost to provide this Christ-Centered education is \$7,500 per student each year. The church financially supports this ministry to keep tuition costs reasonable for each family.

Objectives

In keeping with Salem Lutheran School's mission statement and philosophy, the objectives of the school are:

1. to assist parents in the Christian training of their children
2. to nurture and strengthen the faith of each child
3. to cultivate in the children a positive self-image as redeemed children of God
4. to provide systematic and thorough instruction of God's Word
5. to strive for excellence in the curriculum by providing Christian training in all subjects
6. to give children an opportunity to live their faith in daily Christian fellowship
7. to teach children to use their time, talents and treasures to glorify God in a life of faithful service and Christian witness
8. to encourage children to live as obedient citizens of their country
9. to strengthen the congregation and the church-at-large through the training of its future members.

Philosophy

Salem Lutheran School is a ministry of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Salem provides a Christ-centered, quality education in the truths of God's Word, in all subjects, and through various extra-curricular activities. Students are guided to live their faith as children of God and as responsible citizens of the world.

• **Soul:**

To nurture and strengthen the faith of each child, we study and apply God's Word in daily religion classes and weekly chapel services. All secular subjects are taught in the light of God's Word. Children have opportunities to live their faith.

• **Mind:**

We strive for academic excellence by teaching a rigorous curriculum using a variety of teaching methods and assessments.

• **Body:**

Students are equipped to use their bodies to glorify and serve God. Physical developmental needs are met through physical education and extracurricular activities. We promote a positive attitude toward exercise, teamwork, competition, and healthy living.

Farewell Mrs. Light and Mrs. Hansen

Teaching Staff

- **Pastor Ryan Wolfe**
- **Mr. Ryan Klatt**
Principal, Grades 5-8
- **Mr. Daniel Bredendick**
Grades 5-8, Technology
- **Mr. Luke Dorn**
Grades 5-8, Music
- **Mr. Thomas Stob**
Grade 4
- **Mrs. Jessie Wolfe**
Grade 3
- **Mrs. Michelle Stob**
Grade 2
- **Mrs. Debbie Hansen**
Grade 1
- **Mrs. Allison Dorn**
Kindergarten
- **Mrs. Jane Grobe**
Preschool
- **Mrs. Jill Kaiser**
Preschool
- **Mrs. Amy Stilwagon**
Preschool

Enrollment

Salem's K-8 enrollment for Salem for the 2024-2025 school year is 78 students. Our preschool has 41 students. Salem's total enrollment is 119.

We are sad to see them go, but Mrs. Light and Mrs. Hansen will be moving on to other ventures after this school year. They have both served faithfully at Salem for over 20 years, and we are so thankful for all they have done to further our ministry during that time.

Mrs. Light will be retiring and is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren. She also has plans to do some traveling with her husband George, and I am sure there will be some gardening and other fun activities planned as well. She continually reminds the staff that she is still planning on helping out and being involved in the future, but we are excited for Diane to have this time with her family.

Mrs. Hansen accepted a call to Florida where she will be teaching 1st grade in a school that is growing in the area. Mrs. Hansen is looking forward to being closer to Disney World as it is her favorite vacation destination. We wish Mrs. Hansen and her family God's blessings as they go through all of the plans and preparations that moving entails.



Plans for 1st-4th Grade

With Mrs. Hansen taking her call to teach in Florida, the School Board has decided to not call an additional teacher for grades 1-4. Instead, Mr. Stob, Mrs. Wolfe, and Mrs. Stob will be teaching to their strengths and combining classes where they can for the 1st-4th graders. This method is very similar to the current Middle School structure Salem is working with.

If you would like more detailed information about the plan, please check ClassDojo for the post from Mr. Klatt about the changes, or reach out to Mr. Klatt, Mrs. Stob, Mrs. Wolfe, and Mr. Stob with any questions.



Year-in-Review

Sports and Clubs



Cross Country



Public Speaking



Disc Golf



Girl's A Volleyball



Cheerleading



Co-ed A Basketball



Co-ed B Basketball



Track



Bowling



Chess Club

Year-In-Review

Volleyball

Cross Country Meet

Disc Golf Meets

Picture Day

Reformation Activities

School Plays

Basketball

Cheerleading

Preschool Christmas Program

K-1 Christmas Service

Grade 2-4 Christmas Service

Grade 5-8 Christmas Service

Guthrie Theater

Spirit Week

Math Education Night

Skiing Trip

Track

Bowling

8th Grade Confirmation

8th Grade Graduation

Summer Tuesdays

School Events



Spirit Week



Reading Night



Ski Trip



Grandparent Day



Chapel



Swarm Reformation Activity



Salem Fun Day



Hidden Pines Ranch



Trunk or Treat

God's Blessings to Our Graduates

We were blessed with nine wonderful 8th graders this school year. Many from this group joined Salem in 4th grade and continued to finish in 8th grade. This is one of the more social classes we have had at Salem, and they would love nothing more than to sit and talk for the entire day. We pray for God's continued blessings as you continue to use the gifts He has given you to His glory.

- * Bennett Erlen
- * Elijah Hunter
- * Elijah Schmitz
- * Charlotte Schwoch
- * Javanna Schmitz
- * Tessmer
- * Preston Tyler
- * Luke Onken
- * Elijah Squyres
- * Jack Roettger

Congratulations to our 8th Graders!



Test Scores

<div>School Profile</div> <div>Achievement Overview</div> <div>Salem Lutheran Math K-12</div>		
Grade	Achievement Spring 2024-2025 Median and Distribution	Number of Students
All Grades	<div><div>61st</div><div>10%</div><div>14%</div><div>25%</div><div>22%</div><div>29%</div></div>	77
<div>Percentiles Key</div> <div><div>1st - 20th</div><div>21st - 40th</div><div>41st - 60th</div><div>61st - 80th</div><div>>80th</div></div> <div>Rostered Spring 2024-2025</div> <div>Tested Spring 2024-2025</div>		
<div>School Profile</div> <div>Achievement Overview</div> <div>Salem Lutheran Reading</div>		
Grade	Achievement Spring 2024-2025 Median and Distribution	Number of Students
All Grades	<div><div>67th</div><div>9%</div><div>16%</div><div>17%</div><div>24%</div><div>34%</div></div>	75
<div>Percentiles Key</div> <div><div>1st - 20th</div><div>21st - 40th</div><div>41st - 60th</div><div>61st - 80th</div><div>>80th</div></div> <div>Rostered Spring 2024-2025</div> <div>Tested Spring 2024-2025</div>		
<div>School Profile</div> <div>Achievement Overview</div> <div>Salem Lutheran Language Usage</div>		
Grade	Achievement Spring 2024-2025 Median and Distribution	Number of Students
All Grades	<div><div>59th</div><div>11%</div><div>22%</div><div>17%</div><div>28%</div><div>22%</div></div>	46
<div>Percentiles Key</div> <div><div>1st - 20th</div><div>21st - 40th</div><div>41st - 60th</div><div>61st - 80th</div><div>>80th</div></div> <div>Rostered Spring 2024-2025</div> <div>Tested Spring 2024-2025</div>		

Shown on the left are the overall averages for Salem in our MAP test scoring for the Spring Testing Period. We are above the 50th percentile for all three subject areas. The goal for these tests is to continue to see growth within the students. We want all students to score as high as they can, but if they are continuing to grow from where they were at the beginning of the year, that is the most important aspect of testing.

Strategic Plan Update

As a member of the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA), we must report on how we are progressing towards our goal in our strategic plan. Below are the initiatives for this school year as well as what has been done to achieve these goals:

Goal #1: Review Communication Apps to Use and Adapt to Best Serve our Families

Salem's faculty took the second half of the school year to look into various communication apps that we could use at Salem. Early in the fall a survey was sent out to gauge how our parents felt about ClassDojo, the current app we use. The response was very positive with 92% liking the app. The faculty looked into ClassDojo to make sure we are using it to its fullest capacities. We also had a meeting with Bloomz and had a good experience with them as well. In the end, the faculty decided to stick with ClassDojo for the time being with many changes already anticipated for next school year. Bloomz may be something we look into in the future, but ClassDojo has everything we need to function well as a school.

Goal #2: Implement Amplify Reading Curriculum

Last year, the faculty decided to go with the Amplify Reading Curriculum, which makes this year the first year of implementation. The teachers have been adjusting to the new curriculum and have been enjoying the pacing and learning targets that Amplify offers. It meets the students where they are at an appropriate level, but also pushes them in their knowledge, writing, and reading abilities. We are excited to continue to track the student's progress as we have more and more years with this curriculum.

Goal #3: Use MAP Testing Data to Inform Teaching and Update Parents

The MAP Testing review in-service days have been a great addition to our faculty. We now have a day to dive into the results and talk as a group about our curriculum and how we can work together to continue to make it better. Through this process, we have found some blind spots that we weren't aware of and have added some supplementary material to cover concepts that are vital to the education of our Salem students. The faculty will also be participating in some new professional development that MAP Testing is putting out which should help us continue to dive into the data the students give us.