

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

Sat, 11/22 5:00 pm Worship with Communion (Diethert Usher Team)

6:15 pm Recreational Volleyball

Sun, 11/23 8:00 am Worship with Communion (Crowder Usher Team)

9:15 am Bible Study and Sunday JAM

10:30 am Worship with Communion (Youth Usher Team)

Mon, 11/24 6:00 pm Bible Basics

Tues, 11/25 10:15 am Tuesday Morning Bible Study

11:30 am Parish Nurse Office Hours

Wed, 11/26 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday-Friday No School / Church Office Closed

Sat, 11/29 5:00 pm Worship (Pelnar Usher Team)

Sun, 11/30 8:00 am Worship (Crowder Usher Team)

9:15 am Bible Study and Sunday JAM

10:30 am Worship (Raleigh Usher Team)

## **Thanksgiving Eve Worship - Hymns & Readings**

Salem will hold a special Thanksgiving Eve service at 6:30pm on Wednesday, November 26th. We hope you'll join us as we give thanks to the one who gives us daily bread, and every blessing.

### **Growth Group Renewal & Survey**

In 2026, Salem's Spiritual Growth Committee will be working to connect Salem members together in growth groups. These small groups meet 2-4 times a month for prayer, fellowship, Bible study, and often food. Growth groups give people a chance to get to know one another and support each other. Current growth group members list deeper faith, lasting friendships, and feelings of connectedness as blessings from their groups. To get started, we ask members to fill out the three-minute survey at the link. Growth groups will always be optional, never forced, but we believe as the program grows the benefits will speak for themselves. Thank you for sharing your thoughts: Growth Group Survey.

# **Growth & Worship**

### **Sunday Bible Study**

Sunday between services Pastor Wolfe continues our new adult Bible study looking at the Bible's teachings on gender, sexuality, and God's plan for men and women. All are invited to join us as we study and grow together!

## New Day and Time - Midweek Bible Study

Beginning in December our midweek Bible study is moving to Thursday mornings at 9:45am. We've outgrown our meeting space and this change will allow more people to join us and make the pastors' schedules a bit easier each week. Join us in December as we finish our study on the minor prophets - Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

### Advent By Candlelight

This special annual event, sponsored by Salem's Women's Guild is just for the women of the congregation - both young and old! Join us for an afternoon of food, music, devotions, and fellowship as we prepare our hearts for Christ's birth. December 6, 2024 | 2-4 PM | Fellowship Hall—register in the entry or online.

### Midweek Worship in Advent

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 December 3rd. Each week's service is led by a different group of children, with the first service featuring the preschool children. A fellowship meal will be served after service each week. We hope you'll join us!

Members who need or prefer an evening time for midweek worship are invited to join one of our sister churches in the area. It is a blessing to be part of a larger fellowship than just our church alone! St. John's in Baytown (by Stillwater High School), as well as Emmanuel in Hudson and Faith in River Falls all have evening services at 7pm. Christ Lutheran has a service at 6:30pm in North St. Paul and in Hugo. (Find church addresses in Google or at <a href="www.wels.net">www.wels.net</a>.) If you're not able to worship with us here, we encourage you to worship with our brothers and sisters in faith there.

### **Jesus Cares**

Next Sunday (Dec. 7th), Salem will host our monthly Jesus Cares, a new ministry designed for members and friends with disabilities. Through monthly worship, Bible studies, and fellowship events, participants will discover opportunities to connect with others and with Christ in meaningful ways. If you would like to help with the program or know someone who might benefit from it, please join us. Contact Sara Shah (<a href="mailto:sshah@salemlutheran.org">sshah@salemlutheran.org</a>) for more info.

# Serving & Outreach

# Christmas for Kids - December 14th (9am-12:30pm) - Registration Open

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 cookie decorating. There is no cost to attend. If you would like to help, please email church@salemlutheran.org. Online registration and volunteer scheduling is open at <a href="https://www.salemlutheran.org/christmasforkids">www.salemlutheran.org/christmasforkids</a>. Don't forget to invite friends and neighbors!

### **Christmas Caring Tree**

In the church narthex, you'll find that the Caring Committee has put up tags for Christmas gifts for this year's families. Please consider taking a tag and returning the wrapped gift with the tag attached on or before December 15th. This Christmas gift tradition has been a part of our church since 2001, bringing joy to families for over two decades. Thank you for your continued generosity in making Christmas special for those in need!

# <u>Part-Time School Office Administrator Position Available</u>

Salem is seeking a friendly and professional Part-Time School Office Administrator to join our team! This position offers 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM hours on school days at \$20 per hour. We're looking for someone with excellent communication skills, strong organizational abilities, and a heart for serving in a faith-based educational environment. The ideal candidate will manage school communications, greet visitors, handle administrative tasks, and support school events throughout the year. A high school diploma is required, and administrative experience along with familiarity with Google Workspace and other office software is preferred. For complete details about responsibilities and qualifications, please see the attached job description. Applications can be found in the school office or by contacting Ryan Klatt at <a href="mailto:rklatt@salemlutheran.org">rklatt@salemlutheran.org</a>. Interviews will be held in the first week of December so apply soon!

# **Connecting & Sharing**

# **Salem Social Group Holiday Gatherings**

Join the Salem Social Group for two festive holiday gatherings this season! First, attend the Thanksgiving Buffet at the Lowell Inn in the Banquet Room at 1:00 PM for \$39.25 per person. Second, mark your calendar for the Christmas Dinner on December 7th at the Afton House Inn, arriving between 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM, which costs \$29.95 per person. The sign-up sheet and more detailed information for both events are on the information table in the Narthex. If you have questions about either event, contact George or Ruth Smolinski at <a href="mailto:smolin@earthlink.net">smolin@earthlink.net</a> or 651-334-6055.

### **Women's Guild Christmas Party**

Our annual Women's Guild Christmas Party/Potluck will be Thursday, Dec. 4 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies of the congregation are invited whether you are a member of the Guild or not. There will be food, fun, music, games,

door prizes, and lots of Christian fellowship. We invite attendees to bring a freewill offering for Valley Outreach. If you write a check, please indicate Food Shelf in the memo section. Look for the red sign-up sheet on the information table.

### **Panera Bread and Butter Braids**

Help send our 7th & 8th graders to D.C. May 12–16 for an incredible faith-focused trip: Gettysburg, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the original Constitution, Museum of the Bible, war memorials, and more! Two easy ways to support RIGHT NOW: Grab Butter Braids by Dec 1 (pickup Dec 18) at

https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/SelectPRoducts/d0e6230f-efbf-4877-b3ab-80d4085d1921/4477900 OR dine at Panera Tuesday, Dec 2, 4–8pm and use code FUND4U.

Every bite fuels an unforgettable journey. Thank you for investing in our kids!

# **Giving in Faith**

### **Ministry Support**

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$24,713.32 for Current Expenses and \$1,130.00 for Missions. We pray God leads us to generous giving. You can give digitally if you prefer at <a href="mailto:salemlutheran.org/give">salemlutheran.org/give</a>.

# In Our Prayers This Week

- For peace in the knowledge that Jesus our Savior rules over all things for our eternal good.
- For boldness to share our faith with the unchurched this holiday season.
- For those who look to the Lord for healing in times of physical and emotional distress.

# **Ministry Partners**

### **Christian Life Ministries is Hiring!**

New Day Thrift Store in Little Canada is looking for an Assistant Manager. This position will be between 30 and 35 hours a week. For more information, please call Penny Frenz at 651-649-3538 or email penny.frenz@clmonline.org.

## Grade School Basketball Day, Sat, Dec 6

Grade school students and their families are invited to attend Grade School Basketball Day on Saturday, December 6. Admission is free! Mention "basketball day" at the ticket desk. SCLA Girls Varsity vs. Trinity at 2:00 pm and SCLA Boys Varsity vs. Trinity at 3:30 pm. Games and prizes!

## New Friends, Sun, Dec 7, 1:00-3:00p

SCLA's New Friends program welcomes people with special needs for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. No pre-registration needed. <u>StCroixLutheran.org/newfriends</u>

## High School Christmas Concert, Thu, Dec 18

End the year right as we celebrate Christ's coming through music on Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the SCLA gym. Come and hear the seasonal sounds of the Croixaliers, HS Choirs, Jazz Band, and Crusader Band. Everyone welcome! Livestream <a href="StCroixLutheran.org/christmas">StCroixLutheran.org/christmas</a>