



*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, 12/6	8:00 am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast at Gorman's 2:00 pm Advent By Candlelight 5:00 pm Worship (Stoller Usher Team)
Sun, 12/7	8:00 am Worship (Crowder Usher Team) 9:15 am Bible Study and Sunday JAM 10:30 am Worship (Roeller Usher Team) 12:30 pm Jesus Cares 12:45 Social Group Christmas Dinner
Mon, 12/8	6:00 pm Bible Basics
Tues, 12/9	11:30 am Parish Nurse Office Hours 6:00 pm Elders Board 6:30 pm Buildings & Grounds Committee 7:00 pm Education & Worship Committees
Wed, 12/10	9:00 am Midweek Chapel 12:30 pm Oak Ridge Place Bible Study 4:00 pm Midweek Advent Worship (Crowder/Diethert Team) 5:00 pm Midweek Advent Meal 5:30 pm Catechism 5:45 pm Praise Ensemble 6:15 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm Handbell Practice
Thurs, 12/11	9:45 am Group Bible Study
Sat, 12/13	9:00 am Christmas for Kids 5:00 pm Worship (Diethert Usher Team) 6:15 pm Open Volleyball
Sun, 12/14	8:00 am Worship (Crowder Usher Team) 9:15 am Bible Study and Sunday JAM 10:30 am Worship (Youth Usher Team) 11:45 am Youth Group Christmas Party

Advent Devotionals From Martin Luther College

This Advent, Martin Luther College has a new devotion booklet, All Things New. It centers on Jesus' promise in Revelation 21:5, "I am making everything new!" and reflects on how God brings renewal even in a world marked by sin and brokenness. Salem has a limited number of physical copies available in the entry, or you can read the devotions online at mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/#email.

2026 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelope boxes give our families an opportunity to consider our giving to the Lord for regular gifts and special occasions. Every member household of Salem should have a box on the tables in the entry. If you regularly give online, you can simply turn in an empty envelope checked, "I gave online." Turning in even an empty envelope allows you to participate in the community of giving and helps parents teach children about giving to the Lord. If you don't find a box for yourself, please let us know in the church office.

Growth & Worship

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. Click the link or go directly to www.salemlutheran.org/survey.

Sunday Bible Study Recordings

Some have asked if we could record the Sunday morning Bible studies so that those unable to attend can still enjoy the discussion and spiritual growth. We recorded the last two weeks of the study and those files are now available for download from our Google Drive. Please know that the recording is not optimal, but you can hear the presenter and see the slides. Some comments from the group are audible while others are not. The files are available by [clicking here](#).

New Day and Time - Midweek Bible Study

Our midweek Bible study has officially moved 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 Zechariah and Malachi.

Midweek Worship in Advent

Salem school's midweek Advent/Christmas services began with preschool last week. This week we invite you again to join the kids in worship. The service begins at 4pm on Wednesday with a fellowship meal served afterward.

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 www.wels.net.) 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

This 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 (sshah@salemlutheran.org) for more info.

Serving & Outreach

Christmas Invitation Cards Available

According to a 2024 Lifeway survey, over half of unchurched people would attend a Christmas service if they were invited by a friend. That's a giant invitation from God for us to be his ambassadors to the people we care about. To help you, we've printed business card-sized invitations that you can give to a friend or neighbor. Offer to attend a Christmas Eve service with them and see what the Lord can do with our willing service. If you invite a friend to Christmas service this year (whether they come or not), drop an email to outreach@salemlutheran.org to let us know. We'd love to hear your story of sharing your faith One by One!

Christmas for Kids - December 14th (9am-12:30pm) - Last Chance

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 www.salemlutheran.org/christmasforkids. 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!

Christmas Day Instrumental Carolers

We invite instrument players to join us Christmas Day to play Christmas carols for the pre-service Christmas carol sing-a-long. We will meet in the church at 9:20 am on Christmas Day to go over what we will be doing. The caroling will start at 9:45. We have music books for flute, oboe, clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, and tuba. You may pick up your instrumental parts at a table in the narthex after this service. A brief description of how we will organize the music is included in the front of the music book. Please sign the participation sheet when you pick up your music so that we will know what our instrumentation will be. If you have any questions, contact Roger Zolldan at 651-216-7462 (cell/text;) or at rzolldan@comcast.net. Thank you for volunteering to play with us.

Connecting & Sharing

Salem Social Group New Years Dinner

Celebrate New Year's Eve with us on Tuesday, December 31! Start with the 4:30pm Vespers Service at Salem, followed by dinner at Golden Crown Chinese Restaurant (arrive between 5:30 – 5:45pm). The dinner is open to anyone college age or older—friends and adult family welcome! Sign up in the narthex by December 25. Questions? Contact George Smolinski at 651-334-6055 or gsmolin@earthlink.net. Ring in the New Year with fellowship and food!

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. Sunday, December 14 is the last day to contribute.

Save the Date: Annual Pancake Breakfast

Salem's Fellowship Committee invites you to a pancake breakfast Sunday morning, January 11th. Join us between services for food and fellowship and get to know your fellow members!

Youth Group Christmas Party

Join us Sunday, December 14th at 11:45 a.m. (right after second service) for food, fun, and Christmas cheer! We'll enjoy a spaghetti lunch together, play games, and decorate Christmas cookies. This is a great chance to bring a friend and celebrate the season as a youth family. Everyone in middle and high school is welcome – see you there!

Giving in Faith

Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$14,358.25 for Current Expenses and \$1,300.00 for Missions. We pray God leads us to generous giving. You can give digitally if you prefer at salemlutheran.org/give.

In Our Prayers This Week

- For the lost of the world, that we would have opportunities and words to show them Jesus as Savior.
- For honest consideration of our own lives and priorities, that we would hear God's call to repent and serve.
- For thankfulness after recent surgeries in the congregation, and for recovery to them and all who suffer with physical and emotional struggles.

Ministry Partners

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 [StCroixLutheran.org/christmas](https://www.stcroixlutheran.org/christmas)