



*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, 12/27	5:00 pm Worship (Gruetzmacher Usher Team) 6:15 pm Volleyball
Sun, 12/28	8:00 am Worship with Communion (Crowder Usher Team) 9:15 am Bible Study (NO Sunday JAM) 10:30 am Worship (Wohlers Usher Team)
Mon, 12/29- 1/5 NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED	
Wed, 12/31	4:30 pm New Year's Eve Vesper Service 5:00 pm Social Group Dinner at Golden Crown Restaurant
Sat, 1/3	8:00 am Men's Bible Study at Gorman's Restaurant 5:00 pm Salem Christmas Concert (Stoller Usher Team)
Sun, 1/4	8:00 am Worship (Crowder Usher Team) 9:15 am Bible Study and Sunday JAM 10:30 am Worship (Raleigh Usher Team) 12:30 am Jesus Cares

Call Updates

Salem teachers Luke and Allison Dorn announced this week that they are staying at Salem and returning their calls to St. Lucas Church and School in Kewaskum, WI. We thank God for their service and ask him to bless St. Lucas with other teachers. Please also pray for our preschool teacher Jill Kaiser. Her husband, Mark, has a call to serve as 5-6 grade teacher and athletic director to Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bremerton, WA.

Christmas Break Schedule

Salem School is closed for Christmas break until January 5th. During this break, our regular Bible studies, catechism classes, and music groups will not meet. The church office will not always be open at regularly scheduled hours. If you're coming to the office, you may want to call ahead to make sure someone is here. Contact us during the break at church@salemlutheran.org, call the office at 651-439-7831, or reach out to the person you're trying to contact directly.

Growth & Worship

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 Year's Eve Worship

We close the year on December 31st with a special vespers service at 4:30pm. Holy Communion will be offered at the New Year's Eve service as well.

Bible Basics New Session

Pastor Pedersen will offer the next session of Bible Basics beginning on January 8th (Thursday) at 6:30pm. This 10 to 12-week study we'll cover the most important teachings of the Bible, as well as look for God's answers to questions

participants bring themselves. Bible Basics is a great refresher for members of all ages and a perfect introduction to what we believe for your family and friends. This study also serves as Salem's membership intro class. If you would like to attend or want to invite someone you know to attend please contact Pastor Pedersen (jpedersen@salemlutheran.org).

Bible Reading Plans

Did you know that you can read the whole Bible in one year with just 10 minutes of reading time a day? This year's Bible plan is Pastor Wolfe's favorite, shared with the church two years ago. Each day we read a bit of the Old Testament, a bit of the New, and a selection from the Psalms. It's a perfect way to break up some of those longer Old Testament books! Pick up your copy in the church entry.

Serving & Outreach

Prayer Partner Letters are Ready!

Holiday letters are ready for you to pick up. Please note that the Prayer Partner's box has moved. You can pick up your envelope from the white mailbox located inside the church near the back door in the narthex. Please return your letter in the same envelope by Monday December 15th. Thank you.

Youth Ministry

Ross and Rachel Collins along with Pastor Pedersen are looking for more members interested in joining Salem's Youth Ministry. If you are interested in serving the youth by encouraging them in the faith and equipping them with life skills please contact either Pastor Pedersen or the Collins at jpedersen@salemlutheran.org or youthgroup@salemlutheran.org.

Connecting & Sharing

Snow Shoveling Fundraiser

Salem 7th and 8th graders are raising funds for the upcoming history class trip to Washington, D.C. by offering driveway and walkway shoveling for \$20 (\$10 additional fee for snow deeper than 5 inches). Every job is completed with care, reliability, and attention to detail. Hiring the team means a cleanly shoveled property while supporting an educational trip to the nation's capital. To schedule or ask questions, email brooklynshopbell938@gmail.com.

Parish Nurse Update

Starting in January, office hours for our parish nurse Kathy move to Thursdays from 11–4, with home visits available.

Salem Buy Nothing Facebook Group

Have you heard of a Buy Nothing group? It's a Facebook community where there's no buying, selling, trading, bartering, or soliciting for cash—just adults participating in a gift economy. One of our members has generously offered to manage a group for us! This group is a wonderful way to share items you no longer need with your church family. Need an extra cake pan? Make a request. Have extra Christmas decorations? Offer them as a gift. You can use the church office for item pick-up and drop-off, making it even easier to participate. Not only does this help reduce waste, but it's also a great way to build connections within your church community. To join, search for [WELS Greater St. Croix Area Sharing Site](#) on Facebook. Feel free to invite your friends to join as well!

Start the New Year with Pancakes and Fellowship!

Join us on **Sunday, December 11, at 9:30 AM** for a delicious pancake breakfast hosted by Salem's Fellowship Committee. Gather in the church fellowship hall between services for warm pancakes, tasty toppings, and great conversation. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members, celebrate the new year, and enjoy a hearty breakfast. Everyone is welcome, so bring your appetite!

Giving in Faith

Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$16,661.95 for Current Expenses and \$1,077.15 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 continued peace and joy in Jesus that lasts beyond the Christmas season.
- For thanksgiving for the year now ending and blessings in the next.
- For good weather and safe travel to all who return home or to school after the holidays, and for Pastor Wolfe's family on their trip to Israel.

Ministry Partners

Wisconsin Lutheran College "Discovery Day"

High School and Homeschooled students and parents are invited to attend Discovery Day at Wisconsin Lutheran College on Monday, January 19. By attending our special visit event, you'll have a great opportunity to tour campus and talk with professors, current students, coaches, your admissions counselor, and have lunch on us. Reserve your place today! Register today: <https://wlc.news/discovery-day>, call 414.443.8811, email admissions@wlc.edu.