

Salem Lutheran Church



FOLLOWING JESUS,
SHARING COMPASSION,
COVERED BY GRACE



Greetings Salem Lutheran Church,

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” – Isaiah 43:19

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Salem Lutheran Church,

Happy New Year! I hope you have a wonderful time celebrating the gift of a new year, the year of our Lord 2024. Recognizing new beginnings allow us space to see the new thing God is doing in our lives. In fact, our God is a God of new beginnings. Through Jesus, God is making the way for the new creation to come. That new creation starts inside of us, right now! To be “in Christ” is to be trusted with the ministry of reconciliation – we work with Jesus in making all things new.

In Adult Sunday School, we will soon be starting a new series about “Eschatology.” Do not let the big word scare you! “Eschatology” is word that refers to the new creation God is making – the end of the world and the completion of human history. Though that can sound scary, Jesus and the Bible helps us to understand these topics with hope and peace. In this series we will talk all about heaven, hell, resurrection, and the world’s future. Ultimately, understanding where we are going will help us understand the current mission of the church. Adult Sunday School starts again January 14th. I hope you will join us as we learn together.

In God’s peace,

Pr. Evan McVann



Salem Lutheran Church December 21st 2023 Minutes

OFFICERS:

President: Tim Kenyon **Treasurer:** Mike Linch
V. P.: Gary Boschee **Secretary:** Sherri Nissen

Members : Tim Kenyon, Jewel Baseley, Mike Linch, Raquel Linch, Sherri Nissen, Deb Pantini, Pastor Evan, Gary Boschee, Chris Lane and Sandi Sickels.

Devotions by Mike Linch

The meeting was called to order by President, Tim Kenyon with the following members in attendance: Jewel Baseley, Mike Linch, Raquel Linch, Sherri Nissen, Deb Pantini, and Pastor Evan. Gary Boschee, Chris Lane, and Sandi Sickels were absent.

Approve the agenda: M/S/C by Mike Linch and Sherri Nissen with the following amendments under new business: A. Also add January benevolence, C. Annual meeting date, D. 2024 Budget & Checking Accounts, E. Special Offerings, and F. Christmas Offering.

Approve October council minutes: M/S/C by Deb Pantini and Raquel Linch with the amendment to Old Business: B. Payment for roof repair: Should state available from special funds, and the Memorials of Cliff Olsson, Linda Hultquist, and Marge Hanson.

Treasurer's Report by Mike Linch

Yearly Contributions: January 2023 to the first few Sundays in December 2023: \$123,145.00

Monthly Expenses January 2023 to the first few Sundays in December 2023: \$130,111.00

Overspending: approximately \$14,000

Checking: Approximately \$12,000

Replacement: \$13,024.00

Special Funds: \$2,820.40

Memorial: \$3,324.14

M/S/C by Jewel Basely and Pastor Evan to Approve Treasurers Report.

Pastor's Report: December 31 will be a Hymn Sing with the assistance of Tim Kenyon, Pastor will be on absent Dec. 25 through January 11 with pulpit supply provided January 7. (Also see attached sheet)

Old Business:

AA Space: the new room has been cleaned out and they are currently painting. (After council meeting Sherri checked with them and they just finished and will be moving their tables, etc. soon)

Payment for repair to the sanctuary: Paid in full: special funds, the Memorials of Cliff Olsson, Linda Hultquist, and Marge Hanson. **(Please note: Simmons gave us a 10% discount on the final bill due to the time frame and extent of the project) Thank you for that!**

New Business:

M/S/C by Mike Linch and Pastor Evan to have December Benevolence directed to the local AA Chapter

M/S/C by Raquel Linch and Deb Pantini to have January Benevolence go to the Food Pantry

Conference Dean Approval Abundant Field Conference: M/S/C by Jewel Basely and Raquel Linch to adopt as written. (See attached sheet)

M/S/C by Mike Linch and Raquel Linch to set the annual meeting for February 11 with February 18 being the snow date.

2024 Budget: Finance made note that the budget will be similar to 2023 and adding \$2,000 to Pastor's base salary of \$14,400 (from general) \$10,000 housing (from endowment) M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and Jewel Basely to approve the 2024 budget

Checking Accounts: The account from PSCB has been moved to Iowa State Savings Bank allowing only one bank stop vs two.

M/S/C by Mike Linch and Raquel Linch to move the Youth Checking Account to Special Funds with their own line item.

Christmas Offering: M/S/C by Jewel Basely and Sherri Nissen for the Osceola Aid Water Emergency Fund.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: We had good adult participation in the Christmas program, and it was well received.

Church Property: Work on the sanctuary is completed. Assisting AA in moving furniture. We will be advertising on area SWAP pages the Ping Pong Table and Air Hockey Table for a donation, if we still have them, they will be put on the women's sale.

Outreach Ministry: Delivered gifts to Homestead Assisted Living Dec. 11. We had six residents each receiving 2 gifts each. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. We will be helping at the Food Pantry January 21 at 12:00pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Worship & Music: has been planning holiday/advent services through January 7. The choir meets on Wednesday evenings and has been going well. Thank you, Sheila and others, for this blessing.

Finance: the proposed 2024 budget is being presented to council for approval

Memorial Committee: no meeting, but via phone calls approved use of various funds for the sanctuary repair.

Memorial funds earmarked for the organ of \$3,044.28 have been reimbursed to the endowment fund.

(When organ repair was completed, it was paid for with endowment funds)

Stewardship: no meeting

Endowment: no meeting

Mutual Ministry: no meeting

Other: Executive Committee gave a recap to council meeting of our earlier meeting (see Exec minutes)

The Executive committee will meet January 11 at 5:30

The next council meeting will be January 18, 2024, at 5:30 pm. Opening devotions will be led by Pastor Evan.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Sherri Nissen, Recording Secretary

December 21, 2023 Executive Meeting Report

Devotions by Pastor Evan

The meeting was called to order by President, Tim Kenyon with the following members in attendance: Mike Linch, Sherri Nissen, and Pastor Evan. Gary Boschee was absent.

(Note: Executive minutes will be shared with the council at the Dec. 21 meeting.)

February 11 was set for the annual meeting with February 18 being the snow date.

Pastor Evan shared with us the proposal from Abundant Fields Conference (our group from Synod) the proposal to approve an interim Conference Dean until a new Dean is approved through Synod. Salem's responsibility is to only approve the interim and show in our council minutes.

February 4, 2024, from 1:30-3:30 there will be a conference gathering at the Red Oak Bethlehem Lutheran Church with area Pastors in the Abundant Fields conference to discuss ways to help each other and share during this time of pastoral need. Many churches in the Synod or in need of full-time pastors and/or have interims. Pastor will be gone December 25 through January 11. We will have a hymn sign Dec. 31 with assistance by Tim Kenyon, and pulpit supply January 7. Brenda will be gone January 4 -January 11. She will work January 12 and 13 to make up her time.

Pastor will meet with the executive committee the 2nd Thursday of the month to set and plan the agenda for the following council meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherri Nissen, Recording Secretary

December 2022

Visitations: 5 visitations.

Meetings:

Outreach Committee meeting on 12/1
Worship & Music Committee meeting on 12/13
Executive Committee meeting on 12/21
Council meeting on 12/21



Community Presence

Attended the Food Coalition meeting on 12/7

Synod and Ecumenical Work:

Met weekly with ELCA conference pastors on Tuesdays over Zoom

Christian Education:

Led Adult Sunday School at 9:00am weekly. We currently studying the Apostles Creed
Led Salem's new member class on 11/5
Attended Pizza & Prayer night on 11/29

Special Services

Held Salem's Wednesday Advent services on 12/6, 12/13, and 12/20
Christmas Eve candlelight service on 12/24



**Mark Your Calendar for: Sunday
February 11th 2024**

After church services we will have the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 11th.

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Church Council—please share your gifts of time and dedication and consider serving on the Council.

There will be NO POTLUCK for the Annual Meeting.

Snow date scheduled for February 18, 2023

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE - DECEMBER 3, 2023

Total collection: \$1,035.00

Average weekly needed for budget: \$2,972.85

Weekly Shortfall (-) or Surplus (+) -\$1,937.85

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE - DECEMBER 10, 2023

Total collection: \$5,100

Average weekly needed for budget: \$2,972.85

Weekly Shortfall (-) or Surplus (+) +2,127.15



We pray for those people who are hurting and going through some unimaginable circumstances. We pray for those who want their lives to be better and to be free from those things that may be holding them back. We may not know them, but God knows their situation. Amen.

Tim Kinkade
Harriet Kendrick
Gail Peterson
Zach Henry
Don Butler
Arlan Biere
Gregory Boschee
Jean Paul
Becky Keuter
Carol Ott
Gary & Carolyn Kessler

Joseph Lochmoeller & family
Suzanne Lees
Larry & Claudia Peppers
John & Tony McNaught
Larry Kimball
Mike Cary
Dorothy Vanella
Daryl Nissen
Dianne Nielson
Kathy Kendrick
Joni White

Arlan & Carolyn 641-782-5110
Becky Nardy 641-782-8354
Joyce Anderson 641-202-1011
Gwen Buck 641-782-5668
Judy Eklund 641-782-5826
Chuck Eilers 641-782-5214
Betty Wager 641-782-8388



Linda Huffman 641-782-5517
Jodi Hitz 641-782-8350
Claudia Peppers 641-202-2106
Phyllis Keuter 641-782-4304
Dorothy McNaught 641-347-5398
Gary Boschee 641-333-4401

We can never thank our military men and women enough for their service and sacrifice to our country and its people. Today we express gratefulness and honor to these military troops, past and present.

We pray to be shown ways in our communities, churches, and families to thank and love them better. Keep and protect these heroes and their families.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE - DECEMBER 17, 2023

Total collection: \$1300.00

Average weekly needed for budget: \$2,972.85

Weekly Shortfall (-) or Surplus (+) -\$1,672.85

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE - DECEMBER 24, 2023

Total collection 12-24-23 am & pm services: \$1,945.00

Average weekly needed for budget: \$2,972.85

Weekly Shortfall (-) or Surplus (+) -\$1,027.85



Our Sunday School
program was Sunday,
December 10, 2023
Members stepped up
to create a nativity
scene





Salem Outreach Members collected gifts for six residents at Homestead Assisted Living, which each receiving 2 gifts. Gifts were delivered on Monday, December 11th.



Poinsettia Memorials



In memory of Bryce Bergstrom; Zach, Gabe and Jeff

In memory of Ron, Jo, Cindy, Kirk, Greg and Mark Levine: Ann Matt, Jeff and Scott Levine

In memory of Lavern Anderson: Joyce Anderson

In memory of Dale Eklund & Parents: Judy Eklund

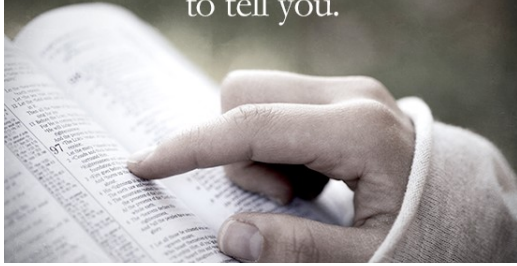
In memory of Chuck Tielbur: Sedlmayr Family

In memory of our Fathers and in honor of family going through cancer: Nissen's

In memory of our Parents: Kevin & Joan Triggs



Reduce your stress level by taking time to unplug from the world, open your Bible, and listen to what God has to tell you.





1st	Genesis 1-3
2nd	Genesis 4-7
3rd	Genesis 8-11
4th	Job 1-5
5th	Job 6-9
6th	Job 10-13
7th	Job 14-16
8th	Job 17-20
9th	Job 21-23
10th	Job 24-28
11th	Job 29-31
12th	Job 32-34
13th	Job 35-37
14th	Job 38-39
15th	Job 40-42
16th	Genesis 12-15
17th	Genesis 16-18
18th	Genesis 19-21
19th	Genesis 22-24
20th	Genesis 25-26
21st	Genesis 27-29
22nd	Genesis 30-31
23rd	Genesis 32-34
24th	Genesis 35-37
25th	Genesis 38-40
26th	Genesis 41-42
27th	Genesis 43-45
28th	Genesis 46-47
29th	Genesis 48-50
30th	Exodus 1-3
31st	Exodus 4-6



Dick Bergstrom	01/04	Josh Kendrick	01/18
Sue Bergstrom	01/05	Hunter Sickels	01/18
Ann Levine	01/07	Helen Mosman	01/20
Brad Abildtrup	01/08	Damian Richardson	01/21
Kyle Shaffer	01/08	David Qualseth	01/25
Jewel Baseley	01/10	Jeremie Peterson	01/26
Marcia Fulton	01/15		
Dorothy Vanella	01/17		

Sit in stillness and take a moment to think back over this past year and remember the moments when people did things for you which really made a difference and send them gratitude. Take a moment to think about the experiences that you have had this year with a clear focus of appreciation. Feel the flow of gratitude.

Life itself is a gift, and our relationship with God sustains us through all of the ups and downs that life may throw our way. **Whether it's been a great year or an extremely difficult one, God got you through it.** That in itself is something so worthy of our gratitude, that we have a God who walks alongside us on our best days, and on our worst.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
	1 Pastor Evan On vacation till January 11th. Office Closed	2 Quilting at 1:30	3	4 Brenda on vacation 4th till 11th	5 Office Closed	6
7 10am Worship & Communion	8 Office Closed	9 Quilting at 1:30	10	11 5:30 Executive Council Meeting	12 Brenda Work	13
14 <i>Sunday School Resumes- Eschatology</i> 10am Worship	15  Pastor Evan Off Office Closed ★★ ★★ ★★ MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY <small>I HAVE A DREAM</small>	16 Quilting at 1:30	17	18 5:30 Council Meeting	19 Brenda Off	20
21 10am Worship & Communion <i>Help with Food Pantry</i>	22 Pastor Evan Off Office Closed	23 Quilting at 1:30	24	25	26 Brenda Off	27
28 10am Worship	29 Pastor Evan Off Office Closed	30 Quilting at 1:30	31 <i>Family Faith Night Pictionary & Prayer</i>			

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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