

# Salem Lutheran Church



FOLLOWING JESUS,  
SHARING COMPASSION,  
COVERED BY GRACE

# December



*“The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” – John 1:14*

Greetings Salem Lutheran Church,

With snow already on the ground, it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, isn’t it? But not so fast! It’s not Christmas yet! The Church Calendar presents us first with the season of Advent. In this fast-paced world of consumerism, as people of faith, we intentionally slow down. We recognize that the coming birth of Jesus into our lives necessitates reflection, prayer, and stillness in the time of waiting. When we encounter Jesus in our lives, we will be called to follow him. Advent allows space for our hearts and minds to be ready for the call to hope, joy, peace, and love.

Oddly, this year we have a shorter Advent season because Christmas Eve falls on what would be the final Sunday of the four-week season. With only three full weeks of Advent, we will only have three Wednesday Advent services. With a triune-week Advent, I think this is a wonderful opportunity to lean into the incarnation of our Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Advent is a season we ponder on what “God with us” means in our lives and for the world. I hope you will join us as we explore the mystery of the

“Word become flesh” together.

At the end of the month of December, we will complete our preparation by celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve. Being on a Sunday, we will have a short service at 10am recognizing the fourth Sunday of Advent,

followed by our candlelight Christmas worship at 6pm.

In God’s peace,

Pr. Evan McVann





# Salem Lutheran Church

## November 16th, 2023 Minutes

### OFFICERS:

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

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

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### Devotions by Sherri Nissen

The meeting was called to order by President, Tim Kenyon with the following members in attendance: Jewel Baseley, Gary Boschee, Mike Linch, Raquel Linch, Sherri Nissen, and Deb Pantini. Pastor Evan, Chris Lane, and Sandi Sickels were absent.  
Approve the agenda: M/S/C by Tim Kenyon and Jewel Baseley with the following amendments under new business: D. AA Space, E. Worship Responsibilities, and F. Synod Assembly  
Approve October council minutes: M/S/C by Raquel Linch and Mike Linch

### Treasurer's Report by Mike Linch

Monthly Contributions: \$11,192.00

Monthly Expenses: \$12,863 minus Pastor's expenses and benevolence

M/S/C by Raquel Linch and Deb Pantini to Approve Treasurers Report.

### Old Business:

Electronic Offering: Tithly is set up, and with a test run completed. It is set up on the church page with the toggle set for the individual to pay the small fee, to use.

Payment for repair to the sanctuary M/S/C by Mike Linch and Gary Boschee to use available funds through memorial. IE: Cliff Olson, Ms. Karroll

### New Business:

M/S/C by Raquel Linch and Jewel Baseley to have November Benevolence directed to the local Christmas Basket Fund

Volunteer Registry: Brenda will be keeping a spiral notebook in the office of work done by volunteers with a guess estimate of monetary value. This will give us a record of how jobs were done for future references. IE: mowing, kitchen work, music, painting, etc.

Finances in the bulletin: a weekly update will be placed in the bulletin as a way of communicating with the congregation.

AA Space: AA has run out of space in the basement and has used fellowship hall for some of their meetings. By unanimous approval we will work with them to move them to the larger center room, with the possibility of removing the false wall to the west in the future.

Worship Responsibilities: we are asking all members to be more cognizant of the sign-up sheet to assure all responsibilities are covered weekly.

Synod Assembly: FYI will be held April 19 and 20, 2024 in Council Bluffs.

### Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Sunday school is in full swing. There will be no Sunday school Thanksgiving weekend.

Plans are under way for the Christmas program with congregation participation on December 10.

Church Property: Work on the sanctuary is complete. Simmons will be shampooing the carpets Tuesday, November 21. The committee will begin cleaning and getting things put back in place. Carpet update: Coen's has not given a date to come and measure. J & A Flooring has measured. They can not give an estimate until new carpet has been selected. They are uncertain that they would be able to get the red carpet again and they do not carry it in stock. It is highly likely a new color would need to be selected. It is recommended at this time to put this on hold.

Outreach Ministry: will meet once they get suggestions for gifts from Homestead Assisted Living

Worship & Music: has been planning holiday/advent services. Christmas Eve day services will be at 10:00 a.m. with a shorter service. The Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 p.m.

Finance: has requested committees get their request in asap

Memorial Committee: no meeting

Stewardship: no meeting

Endowment: no meeting

Mutual Ministry: no meeting

Other:

The next meeting will be December 21, 2023, at 5:30 pm. Opening devotions will be led by council members.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sherri Nissen, Council Secretary



*We invite you to donate a poinsettia to decorate the altar for the Advent/Christmas Season. If you would like to make the donation in honor or memory of a family member or friend, please contact the church office so that it can be included in the bulletin.*



The Outreach Committee is sponsoring seven residents at Homestead Assisted Living for Christmas this year. Watch for the ornaments on the little tree in the Narthex. Gifts will need to be wrapped with the tag on the package and returned to church by December 10th.





## November, 2023

**Visitations:** 7 visitations.

### **Meetings:**

Worship & Music Committee meeting on 11/25.

### **Community Presence**

Attended the Food Coalition meeting on 11/2.

### **Synod, ELCA Churchwide, and Ecumenical Work:**

Met weekly with ELCA conference pastors on Tuesdays over Zoom.

Abundant Fields conference meeting on 11/7 and 11/29 in Red Oak.

First Call Education at the Synod offices on 11/9.

Union County Ministerial Alliance (UCMA) meeting on 11/15.

### **Christian Education:**

Led Adult Sunday School weekly at 9:00am. We are currently studying the Apostles Creed.

Led Salem's new member class on 11/5.

Attended Pizza & Prayer night on 11/29.

### **Special Service**

Welcomed new members to Salem Lutheran Church on 11/12.



## 10 am – Sunday Worship

December 3rd \* Communion

**Dec 10th \* Christmas Program**

December 17th \* Communion

December 24th

December 31st \* Communion



## 6:00pm – Special Services

Wednesday December 6th

Wednesday December 13th

Wednesday December 20th

Sunday, December 24th \*6:00 pm

**\*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion**





*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.*

Joseph Lochmoeller & family, Suzanne Lees, Larry & Claudia Peppers, John & Tony McNaught, Larry Kimball, Mike Cary, Dorothy Vanella, Daryl Nissen, Dianne Nielson, Kathy Kendrick, Tim Kinkade, Harriet Kendrick, Gail Peterson, Zach Henry, Don Butler, Arlan Biere, Gregory Boschee, Jean Paul, Becky Keuter, Carol Ott and Gary & Carolyn Kessler.

*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.*

Mike Crigger and Travis Mathis.

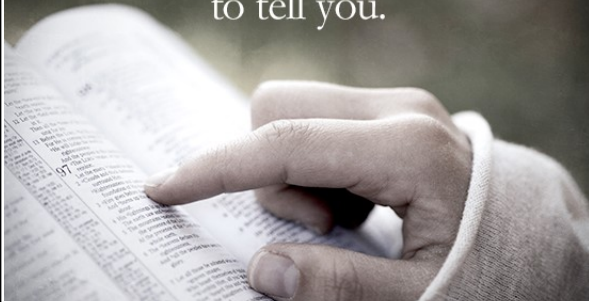


*Thank you  
for praying!*

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards and words of encouragement during my treatments. I have completed all of them and I am on the mend.

Jerry Nissen

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



Dec 1:	1Cor 9-11
Dec 2:	1Cor 12-14
Dec 3:	1Cor 15-16
Dec 4:	2Cor 1-4
Dec 5:	2Cor 5-9
Dec 6:	2Cor 10-13
Dec 7:	Acts 20:1-3; Rom 1-3
Dec 8:	Rom 4-7
Dec 9:	Rom 8-10
Dec 10:	Rom 11-13
Dec 11:	Rom 14-16
Dec 12:	Acts 20:4-23:35
Dec 13:	Acts 24-26
Dec 14:	Acts 27-28
Dec 15:	Colossians; Philemon
Dec 16:	Ephesians
Dec 17:	Philippians 1-4
Dec 18:	1 Timothy
Dec 19:	Titus
Dec 20:	1 Peter
Dec 21:	Heb 1-6
Dec 22:	Heb 7-10
Dec 23:	Heb 11-13
Dec 24:	2 Timothy
Dec 25:	2 Peter; Jude
Dec 26:	1 John
Dec 27:	2/3 John
Dec 28:	Rev 1-5
Dec 29:	Rev 6-11
Dec 30:	Rev 12-18
Dec 31:	Rev 19-22

Gary & Carolyn Kessler	12/24
Jerry & Linda Huffman	12/28



Levi Hitz	2nd	Joyce Anderson	28th
Daniel Clausen	2nd	Nancy Taylor	29th
Chris Lane	11th		
Bill Ott	11th		
Lois Olsen	19th		

  
 and  
*suddenly*  
 there was a  
*multitude of the*  
 heavenly hosts  
 with the *angel*  
*Praising God*  
 and saying  
*Glory to God*  
 in the highest and on earth  
 peace  
 Luke 2  
 13 & 14



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Brenda Off	2
3 10am Worship & Communion	4 Office Closed	5 1:30 Quilting	6 6 pm Advent Service	7	8 Brenda Off	9
10 10am Worship  Christmas Program	11 Office Closed	12 1:30 Quilting	13 6 pm Advent Service	14	15 Brenda Off	16
17 10am Worship & Communion	18 Office Closed	19 1:30 Quilting	20 6 pm Advent Service	21 5:30 pm Council Meeting	22 Brenda Off	23
24 10am Worship  6 pm Candlelight Service	25 	26 1:30 Quilting	27	28	29 Brenda Off	30
31 10 am Worship	1 Office Closed Happy New Year	<div>Pastor Evan is off on Mondays and out of the Office every Tuesday Morning for Text Study with our ELCA conference pastors.</div>				

**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*Join us for  
10am*



*All Are Welcome Here!*