Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
2702 1st Street Mahtowa, MN 55707
Pr. Jim Raisanen 218-838-3690
Sunday Worship begins at 9:30
Please submit articles/information to:
Lori Carlson, 218-213-5883
Email, missloricarlson@gmail.com

Greetings to each of you! A few weeks back my granddaughter Dita who is 10 years old asked me what a Lutheran was. I had to think for a moment. I explained that I followed the teachings of a man named Martin Luther who lived a long time ago. She asked me why I followed Martin Luther. I had to do some fast thinking. And I have been thinking about it ever since our little visit.

For me, I follow Luther's thinking because he emphasized the gift of grace. Grace is knowing that you are loved, even when you don't have it all together. It is about second chances and forgiveness—not just from God, but in how we trust each other.

I told Dita that I was a Lutheran because I believe in a faith that is rooted in grace, tradition and openness. Lutheran theology makes room for questions. We are encouraged to think. We can doubt. We can continue to grow. As a church, we welcome all people. Everyone has a seat at the table. This spirit of inclusion and humility in the Lutheran church keeps me connected.

I don't know if my exchange with Dita made any difference in her life, but I gave her permission to keep on thinking about who God is and how he moves in the world. All things considered, I am glad that I became a part of this Lutheran tradition.

Have a great summer!

Pastor Jim

PRAYERS

Pray for: our Elders; Catherine, Ozzie, Iris, Betty & Sandy Anderson. Healing for Joey Krog, Grace Porter, Barb Nelson, Gavin, Gail Peterson, Nancy Olson, Shirley Adamic (Hoffman). The Family of Aubie Paulson. Those who serve in our military.

SUMMER CAMP INFO

Council has approved scholarship funds to help with the cost of summer camp. Contact a council member if you are interested. Salem recommends Voyagers Lutheran Ministries (www.vlmcamps.org) and Park Lake Covenant Bible Camp (www.covenantpark.org) as options for a great experience.

SALEM MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our request for updated information for our church records and for the church directory. Thanks to the committee: Shari, Jean, Roger, Jody, Lori, Pat and Donna!

FOOD SHELF

Let's not forget our brothers and sisters in need. Food shelf donations can be dropped off at the church any Sunday. Thank you to our Salem volunteers who serve at the Food Shelf!

Communion setup and Coffee Duties.
We need volunteers for this!
We also need ushers, communion servers and readers!!!!
Please offer!

The Salem Hall is available to use! Contact Dave or Jody Eller at 218-389-6291 or 218-355-0864 and tell your friends! Suggested donation is: $50.00 for 4 hours or less. $100.00 for over 4 hours.

AA meets in the Salem Hall every Monday beginning at 6:00pm.

Salem Council meets every second Monday of the month. Council members are Shari Lowden, Mike Lowden, Dave Eller, Doug Soukkala, Milissa Soukkala and Donita Korpela. Please them know if you have any questions or concerns.

God: "Whew! I just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on the Earth."

Angel: "What are you going to do now?"

God: "Call it a day."

Special thanks to:
Doug Soukkala for mowing.
Gloria Soukkala for the church flower planters and watering.
Morghan for the sign messages who took over from Pierce.
For all of you who bring flowers into our sanctuary.
Donita for the worship slide shows.
Lori for the bulletin.
Those who pray.
Those who clean.
The kids who take offering.
Jean, Sue, Jeff, Doug and Kay for our music.
1 Peter 4:10-11 - **"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."**

Men's Club

There are a few who wanted to resume the Men's Club. Please let Pastor Jim or Dave know if you are interested. In the past, they met on Wednesday mornings with coffee and conversation beginning at 9:00am and Bible Study or devotions beginning at 9:30am. This is a great time for fellowship. This is a time that caters to those who are free in the mornings but perhaps there is interest for those who work to start something in the evenings. Let a council member know!

Dollars for Scholars

Salem contributed $1,000.00 toward the Barnum Dollars for Scholars program in 2025. We congratulate Janaya Jurek who received a scholarship in Salem's name.

Worship at the Carlton County Fair!

Sunday morning worship at the Carlton County Fair will take place on Sunday August 17th, 2025 at the Fair grounds. There will be no worship service at Salem but we hope to see you at the Carlton County Fair!

Bike for Justice- Bike Against Hunger Ride

Saturday, August 2nd, 2025.
It will start and finish in Carlton with a halfway stop at Salem in Mahtowa for bathroom, water and snacks.
In celebration of the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, the NE MN Synod ELCA is raising funds and awareness of hunger through this ride. Contact Vicki at 701-361-4517 for more information.

Devotion Activities with Kids

Go cloud watching. Read Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Replicate the clouds with a cotton ball art project.
Plant a vegetable or flower garden. Take care of it daily. (Even dead plants are a great object lesson if things don't work out!) Read Mark 4:30-32, the Parable of the mustard seed.
Play games, have fun, and be silly. Jesus promises us life to the full. What does that mean?
Hunt for bugs. Find a caterpillar and a butterfly. Discuss 2 Corinthians 5:17.
At night, chase fireflies. Notice how they stand out in the darkness. Play flashlight tag. Sing, "This Little Light of Mine." Search for constellations.