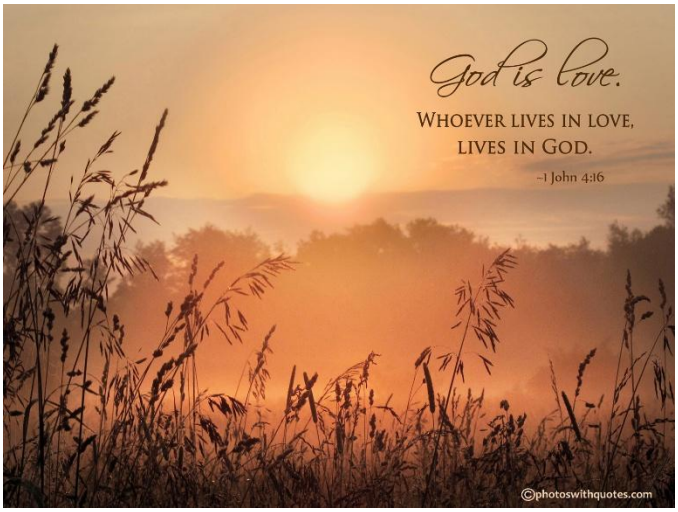
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
2702 1st Street Mahtowa, MN 55707
Pr. Jim Raisanen 218-838-3690
Sunday Worship begins at 9:30
Send articles/info to Lori Carlson 218.213.5883
email missloricarlson@gmail.com



Greetings in the Lord!
I have been doing some spring cleaning this week. Mostly I have been rummaging through boxes of stuff—books, pictures, and old letters and post cards that had been saved for some reason or other. Old letters and post cards, like the journals of pioneers, are not literary or profound. Mostly they chronicle small matters of the day—events in relationships, plans for coming days, accomplishments that seem significant.
A postcard that I had sent my folks in '95 lamented that my Grandma's health was deteriorating quite quickly and that the difficult times were not yet over. Another complained about how busy I was—a big stewardship program ahead, the hiring of a co-worker, a youth retreat. . .still another brought tears as I announced the death of my faithful pal Amos the Wonder Dog.
Those old photos and old letters seemed to offer a perspective that is valuable in the present. Namely that clothes and cars and hair styles we put such stock in today will surely seem dorky one day. And that the challenges and concerns that seem overwhelming now will one day take their place alongside a final exam in chemistry we once fretted over. I am reminded as I peruse these old writings that God never changes. He will always love and care for us and His creation. I am thankful for this.
Yet sometimes, looking back, I begin to get the feeling that we ought to have amounted to more, that we ought to have more to show for our time here on earth.
But then I think, no. If we can just be kind, love each other well, and do good work today, that's plenty.
Anyway—some thoughts to think about as we continue our journey. . . .Peace!
Pastor Jim

Pray for: Our Elders; Catherine, Ozzie, Iris, Betty & Sandy Anderson. Healing for; Dave Eller, Joey Krog, Grace Porter, Barb Nelson, Gail Peterson, Shirley Adamic (Hoffman) Joyce Nybloom. The Family of Aubie Paulson.

MEN'S CLUB
meets on **Wednesday mornings** at church with **coffee and conversation beginning at 9:00 am and Bible Study or devotions beginning at 9:30 am.** This is a great time for fellowship.

JOIN US FOR A BONFIRE
AUGUST 20TH at 6:00 pm.

SALEM HALL RENTAL

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.

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.

Church Council meets on 2nd Monday of each month. Next meetings August 11 & September 8 beginning at 6:30 pm.

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.

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

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

for

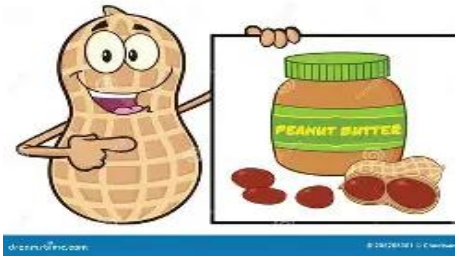
COMMUNION SETUP and COMMUNION SERVING, LESSON READERS, USHERS, MAKING COFFEE and BRINGING TREATS for Fellowship time after church. Thank you to all who help out in so many ways!

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.

FOOD SHELF

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



CONFIRMATION RESUMES
Wednesday, September 3, at 6:00 pm.

Rally Day Sunday 9/21

to kick off the start of Sunday School. **Sunday School** will begin 9/21/25 and continue the **1st & 3rd Sundays during church service**. Children will be released just before the sermon and return in time for communion with their family. Anyone interested in helping with Sunday School please contact a Council Member.