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
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Every faith tradition and every culture has their own rite of passage. For us midwestern Lutherans, our main rite of passage is confirmation, ritually known as the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism. This upcoming Sunday, as I write this, five young men will publicly affirm their baptisms and join the ranks of Confirmed Christians.

I think we often imagine that confirmation is a one and done thing. Once we affirm our faith, have the pastor pray over them, and get the applause from the congregation, that is, as they say, is that. To think that way, however, is to miss what it means to practice our faith. Affirming our faith is not a one and done activity, it should be a daily activity.

Daily we should live into our baptismal promises which are to:

-Live among God's faithful people
-Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper
-Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
-Serve all people, following the example of Jesus
-Strive for justice and peace in all the earth

How often do you reflect on these promises in your life? How often do you think about your baptism? If you are anything like me, not nearly enough. Therefore, as we welcome these young men into the confirmed life, I encourage each of you (and myself) to reflect on these promises and to re-affirm them ourselves.

Prayer, dialogue with the God who loves you, is a great way to discuss and think about these promises which we have made (or were made for us) in baptism. Reflect then on your baptismal promises and use these words in prayer:

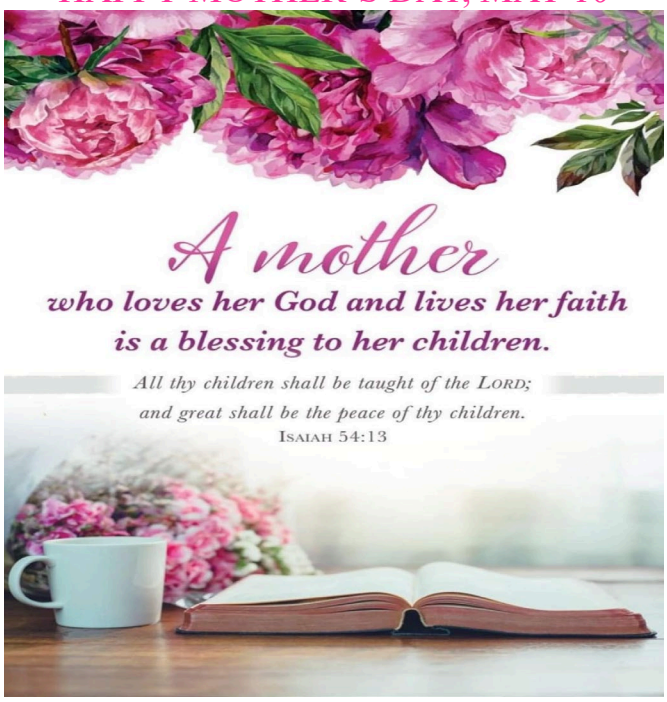
"God of our baptism, thank you for the promises you made to me in baptism, and thank you for being with me in this baptized life. Help me to live faithfully among God's faithful people, hear your word and join in your supper, to proclaim your good news in how I live and how I speak, to serve others, and to strive for justice and peace. Amen."

Pastor Jim

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, MAY 3

Join us as we celebrate the confirmation of Henry Franek, Moses Jurek, Tyler Schatz, Aiden Seboe, and Jackson Warnygora
Cake and coffee will be served in the Hall following worship.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 10



Pray for: **Our Elders; Catherine, Iris, Betty & Sandy. Healing for; Jean, Pastor Carl, Joey, Grace, Barb, Shirley, Joyce; the families of Pastor Phil Swensson, Scott Fitzgerald, Jimmy Lekander, and Evelyn Olsen; our confirmands as they complete this step on their lifelong faith journey.**

SALEM HALL RENTAL
Salem Hall is available to use for events.
Our rates have been updated to
$100 for 4 hours
$200 for a full day
Please contact Jody Eller at
218-355-0864 (call or text)
Or
David Eller at 218-389-6291

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for OUTDOOR and INDOOR cleaning day on SATURDAY, MAY 16. Bring your rakes, ladders, & cleaning supplies. There is a funeral at the Hall that day so PLEASE PARK ON THE CO. RD 4 SIDE OF CHURCH.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES AND NEW MEMBER PACKETS are now available.

Next church COUNCIL MEETING is TUESDAY, MAY 19, beginning at 6:30 pm.
Council members are Shari Lowden, Mike Lowden, Milissa Soukkala, Donita Korpela and Justin Grill. Please them know if you have any questions or concerns.

Property committee will meet to discuss upcoming spring and summer projects on Sunday, May 24, following worship.

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.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE for students attending church-based camp. See Jody for details.

AA meets every Monday at the Hall

MOOSE LAKE AREA FOOD SHELF
The Food Shelf located at 308 Elm Ave is open Fridays from 8:30 to noon
Donations may be dropped off at the Food Shelf on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 or at Salem Church any Sunday at worship time.

SOUL SISTERS HAVE BEEN BUSY!!

Fleece tied blankets were assembled on April 11 and on April 25 we made chicken pot pies to be delivered to our church friends and neighbors who may be in need of a meal.

Next Soul Sisters' meeting will be May 17 after worship. Join us to see what projects we have coming up.

PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 24 commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, Mary and other followers of Jesus.

Minutes of the Salem Lutheran Church of Mahtowa Council Monday March 30, 2026Present: Pastor Jim, Mike, Shari, Jody, Justin, Milissa. Absent-Donita

1. Called to order at 6:33 pm
2. Opening with Prayer and Devotions by Pastor Jim
3. Agenda for March 30th, 2026 **M- Jim S-Mike, Passed**
4. Minutes from February 16th, 2026 **M- Mike S- Jim, Passed**
5. Pastor's Report
    a. Days Off-April 26th, May 17th and May 31st
    b. Confirmation Day-May 3rd, 2026, Classes on April 8th 2026 & April 22nd 2026
    c. Evaluation of the Lenten soup suppers-episodes were a little long but great fellowship.
    d. June 7th is Pastor Jim's anniversary party
6. Treasurer's Report
    a. Behind $1,652 **M-Jim, S-Mike, Passed**
    b. New estimate for insurance for 2026, increase of about $1,200 from 2025.
7. Property Report
    a. First Meeting in February for the property committee
    b. Needing to address the frozen drain line, hay bales in the fall or insulated box
    c. Parking Lot Repair, contacting road crews to see about recycled asphalt
    d. Re-Finance the roof loan. Current rate-8.22%, 6.95% would be new rate, plus fees. Monthly payment would be about $30 less per month if we refinance. Current loan is variable arm.
    e. Increase hall rentals-concerns with this due to septic system. Also need to research into what we can do for hall rentals and make sure they don't pull the church out of tax-exempt status.
    f. Recommended to raise 4-hour rental to $100 (recommended donation) from $50, and 8 hour recommended donation to $200, from $100. **M-Mike, S-Jim, Passed**.
    g. May 16th is property clean-up day
    h. Got a quote for monthly ads in the pine knot, waiting to do research into grants for septic.
8. Soul Sisters
    a. There will be coffee and cake after confirmation on May 3rd 2026
    b. March 15th had a great turnout for the stock the closet event for supplies for the church
    c. Brief meeting March 21st to provide prepared meals for community members in need
    d. April 11th, making tie blanks for the 5 confirmand students and one graduate this year
9. Old Business
    a. Church name change complete, officially now Salem Luthern Church of Mahtowa.
    b. Synod has not yet approved our changes to the constitution, hoping by end of February
    c. Synod has signed off on Pastor Jim's 2026 schedule
    d. Time & Talent Solicitation List started, members have been writing down items they can do
10. New Business
    a. Social Media- we have a new admin for the church website, and Facebook is being updated.
    b. Give to the Max Day-In November this year, extends donations at that time

c. Emmaus Fund Application-look in to if this will cover piano repairs, new microphone
d. Directories-Printed and starting to go out to members. Cost was $3, accepting donations as well.
e. Carlton County Fair-Pastor Jim is good to preach Sunday August 16th at 9:30
f. Goals- Make a couple new member packets to have at the welcome table in the church (mission statement, committees and history), 2 summer events, new member Sunday event (make list of new members and find a date that works for all or most)
g. White paper surveys-have them in the pews and have 2 questions, what is one thing you enjoy about Salem and one thing you would change and haver them anonymous in the offering basket
h. Piano Repairs, 2 emergency repairs as of lately, recommend adding a humidifier/dehumidifier that auto adjusts to weather, adjust felts on keys and re-level some of the keys. Quoted for $600. **M-Mike, S-Jim, Passed**
i. Carpet in the hall is being cleaned first week of April
j. The two synod delegates will bring back any information on summer camps.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:56 pm-**M-Jim, S-Mike, Passed.**