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

Dear friends. . . Greetings in the Lord. It is hard to believe that over 50 years ago I was learning about God while attending seminary. One of my favorite professors was the Rev. Dr. Martin Lehman. For some reason he loved the gospel of Matthew. One day I asked him how he had gotten so attached to Matthew.

He said that as he tried to put Jesus' teachings to work in his life he found peace and joy and love. He pointed me to Matthew 11:28-30. "Look it up! And make it yours!" he said. I did! It was a great teaching. And I have made it the cornerstone of my Christian journey.

So what did I do? Simple, really. Jesus says come to him, take his yoke. Learn from him. And find rest for your souls. We can't buy it. There is no pill that provides it. Rest for our souls can only be found through our faith journeys and through our relationship with Jesus.

So I invite you to think on this passage. Make it a well-fitting yoke that Jesus shares with you. A yoke that is easy. A burden that is light. Jesus has made it just for you.

Have a great July everyone! See you in church!

Pastor Jim

JULY 12

JOIN US FOR A PANCAKE BREAKFAST at 8:00 a.m. with OUTDOOR WORSHIP to follow at 9:30 a.m.
Breakfast will be served at the Hall. Bring a lawnchair for outdoor service if you wish. If weather does not cooperate, we will worship inside as usual.

Pray for: **Our Elders; Catherine, Iris, Betty & Sandy. Healing for; Pastor Carl, Joey, Grace, Barb; our country on the 250th anniversary of our independence and all those working for freedom and peace in the world.**

HAPPY SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL JULY 4TH

SALEM HALL RENTAL
Salem Hall is available for events.
Our rates have been updated to:
$100 for 4 hours
$200 for a full day
Contact Jody Eller at 218.355.0864 (call or text)

ARE YOU FEELING INSPIRED & CREATIVE?

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to put together the weekly slideshow for worship. Please let Shari or Jody know if you are interested.

Next church COUNCIL MEETING is
MONDAY, JULY 27, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Council members are Shari Lowden, Mike Lowden, Milissa Soukkala, Donita Korpela and Justin Grill. Please them know if you have any questions or concerns.

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.

AA meets every Monday at the Hall

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

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES AND NEW MEMBER PACKETS are now available.

NEW MEMBERS will be officially welcomed on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

UP-COMING EVENTS

We will hold WORSHIP AT THE CARLTON COUNTY FAIR on SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

GAME NIGHT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, at 6:30

RALLY SUNDAY KICKOFF OF SUNDAY SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 20

SALEM'S ANNUAL MEATBALL SUPPER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24.

Salem Council Meeting Minutes - May 19th, 2026
Present: Shari Lowden, Mike Lowden, Jody Eller, Justin Grill, Donita, Milissa Absent: Pastor Jim

1. Called to order at 6:32 pm
2. Open with Prayer and Devotions by Shari
3. Agenda for May 20th, 2026 **M- Mike, S- Milissa, Passed**
4. Minutes from April 20th 2026 **M- Milissa, S- Mike, Passed**
5. Pastor's Report
    1. June 28th off (2 off in August also)
    2. Senior Sunday May 24th
6. Treasurer's Report
    1. Overall, the finances are not meeting budget for 2026. Waiting for work comp audit results. We have paid the MN Paid Leave expense that is required for employers, this started January 2026. Motion to cover the employee portion of this leave this year. **M-Justin, S- Milissa**, **Passed.**
    2. Expenses for April included a subscription to assist us with creating our worship Sunday's and travel expenses to cover the Synod Annual Meeting. Will order an extra black ink for when it is needed.
    3. Motion to approve the treasurers report as presented by Jody. **M-Mike S-Justin, Passed**
7. Property Report
    1. 1st meeting had 5 participants.
    2. Property Committee will meet after church on Sunday May 24th
    3. Hall/Church updates:
        A. Septic has been pumped, driveway was graded.
        B. We will most likely not have any option of getting any recycled asphalt this year as the county utilizes this.
    4. Parsonage updates:
        A. Pressure tank needs to be replaced but there is a new one next to it and just needs to be hooked up. No leaking was found.
        B. Sump pump was replaced; we need to reimburse renters.
        C. Deck has been leveled but the whole deck will need to be replaced soon.
        D. Back door replacement, paint is ready to be completed and trimmed.
        E. Dormer to be fixed is on the budget to be completed.
8. Soul Sisters Report
    1. Meeting yesterday on 5/17/26, reviewed the minutes.
    2. Soul Sister's and guys are working on details for the 50th anniversary party
9. Old Business
    1. Time and Talent Solicitation-Still compiling list of talents from members and also working on white paper ballets in the pews for people to answer what they are looking for and how we can help serve. No updates on this, ballets need to be completed yet.
    2. Council Goals for 2026
        A. Game Night – September 1st @ 6:30pm
        B. Camp Fire- June 19th @ 6:30pm
        C. Pancake breakfast July 12th @ 8:00am, hosted by council
        D. Rally Day/New Member Sunday- September 20th
    3. Mission Statement & Salem Vision Review. Motion to discuss changing our mission and vision statements wording by **M-Mike, S-Justin, Passed**
        A. **Mission Statement: "**Energetic Christian community of all ages called to love, accept, and grow through ~~Discipleship~~ Fellowship."
        B. **Vision Statement:** "To be a stable foundation and vibrant hub for disciples new and old."
    4. 50th Ordination Anniversary- June 7th is the event after church. All planning is completed. Decorating on June 6th and set up. Gifts preferred to be "home grown items/food". Donations to food shelf. Plan for 100 attendees.
10. New Business
    1. Dollars for Scholars award was presented to Samantha Kreuger
    2. Need someone to update sign out front of the church. The door on the sign is getting wore out and replacement is going to be needed. Discussion about possibility of going digital with this sign.

Adjournment: 7:20 pm, M-Mike, S-Justin, Passed
Next Meeting Date: June 19th @ 5:30pm