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. . . .Faith by definition is the belief in something unseen. My faith is a belief in something much greater than myself. . .a Creator of the universe. . .a Spirit that leads and guides us and that lives in everything that is alive. This Creator/Spirit promises "to never leave us nor forsake us." Consequently, I have never doubted "my faith."

When I was in seminary I took what Soren Kierkegaard called "the leap of faith." He was maybe the most intelligent theologian of the 20th century. As he tried to understand the Creator/God he came to the place where he couldn't handle anymore of the wrestling. So he pictured himself on the Great Precipice and "jumped into the arms of God" trusting that this great Spirit would hold and care for him. It did!

I did the same thing. I took the "leap of faith." I started to act like I believed that the Creator of the Universe loved me and cared for me. I started to talk to God often as if he were a friend. I shared with him my thoughts and questions and situations in life. He became my traveling partner. . .or I became his. And we have lived together in peace ever since.

I began doing daily devotions. My prayer most every day was that the "old Jimmy die to himself and the new person in Christ might rise." I ask to see the world through God's eyes and experience the world with his heart.

As I start each day it seems to give me a better attitude to begin the day. And it works most of the time! I look for the Mystery in every conversation I have, in every class that I teach, in every worship service that I lead. And my life has come alive!

So. . .a crisis with my faith journey? No! In fact my life turned out way better than I would have dreamed! I think that the faith that God has blessed me with has a lot to do with my journey in life! Peace! Pastor Jim

JOIN us in WORSHIP at the CARLTON COUNTY FAIR on AUGUST 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Pray for: **Our Elders; Catherine, Iris, Betty & Sandy. Healing for; Pastor Carl, Joey, Grace, Barb; the family of Tyler Nynas; all those growing crops and raising food to feed the hungry.**

THANK YOU to all who provided breakfast and assisted with outdoor worship on July 12, especially Pastor Jim who was in charge of providing good weather!

Let us know if you are interested in joining our Salem Family!
NEW MEMBERS will be officially welcomed on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

SOUL SISTERS will meet after worship on AUGUST 9.
PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet after worship on AUGUST 23.

We are looking for two people to join a SHORT-TERM COMMITTEE to explore JOINT COMMUNITY EVENTS with the Covenant Church.

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)

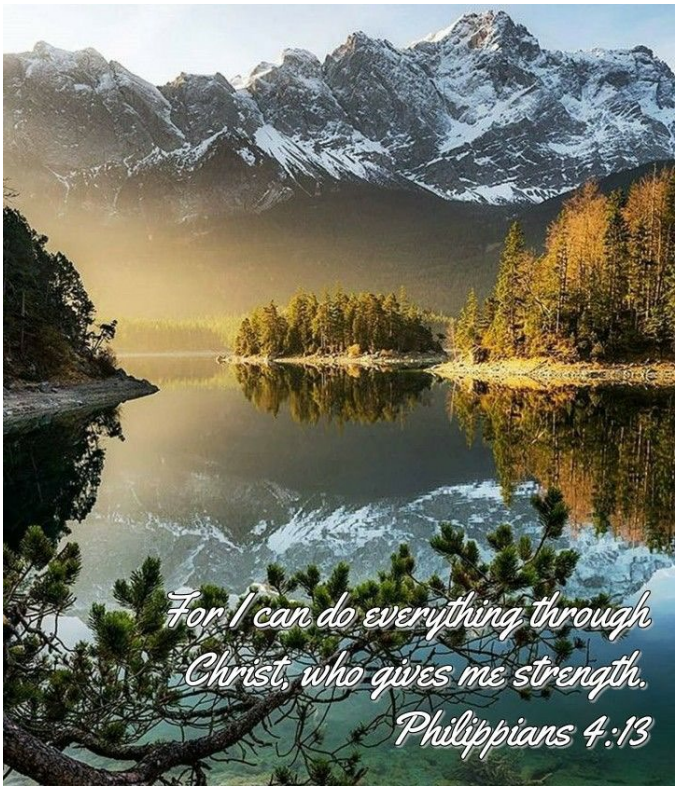
Watch for an announcement of the UPDATED VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS council has been working on with input from the congregation.

Next church COUNCIL MEETING is Monday, August 17, 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

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE



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.

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.

UP-COMING EVENTS

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 Friday June 19th, 2026 at 5:30pm
Present: Pastor Jim, Shari Lowden, Mike Lowden, Jody Eller, Justin Grill, Donita Korpela,
Absent: Milissa Soukkala

1. Called to order at 5:41 pm
2. Open with Prayer and Devotions by Shari
3. Agenda for June 19th, 2026 **M- Mike, S- Pr. Jim, Passed**
4. Minutes from May 19th, 2026 **M- Mike, S- Justin, Passed**
5. Pastor's Report
    1. June 28th off, July 26th , August 30th ,September 27th
    2. Funeral 6/20/26 @ 1100
    3. New members service 9/20/26 along with
6. Treasurer's Report
    1. Deficit of 25% in giving/envelopes for 2026. Discussion on some line items for office category due to some increase in that line item. **M-Pr. Jim, S- Mike, Passed**
    2. We continue to have Como gas. Superior Oil has been sending quotes for us if we would change. Decision to stay with Como gas.
    3. No information on the workman comp audit yet.
7. Property Report
    1. Hall needs to have exterior painting/staining.
    2. Parsonage trim around the door needs to be completed.
    3. Church- need to see how we can not have our septic freeze this winter.
    4. Sidewalk revision needs to be completed.
8. Soul Sisters Report
    1. Next meeting is Sunday 6/20/26 after church
    2. There are chicken pot pies in the freezer yet if needed.
    3. Meatball supper date will be October 24th, 2026
9. Old Business
    1. Pancake Breakfast 7/12/26 outdoor service
    2. Mission and Vision statements will be updated. We will send out 2 options for each for congregation to vote on their choice.
    3. Website & Social Media: Shari has updated the website some. Looking at options to potentially
10. New Business
    1. Open council positions for annual meeting
        A. Mike due but could agree to a 2nd term- current VP
        B. Donita- current Secretary
        C. Milissa- chair
    2. Delegation Summary
    3. God Speed Service- Recognizing members that are moving away to wish them well. We will recognize at a service when we know that they are at the service.

Next Meeting Date: July 27th @ 6:30pm
Adjournment: 6:44 pm, M-Mike, S-Justin, Passed