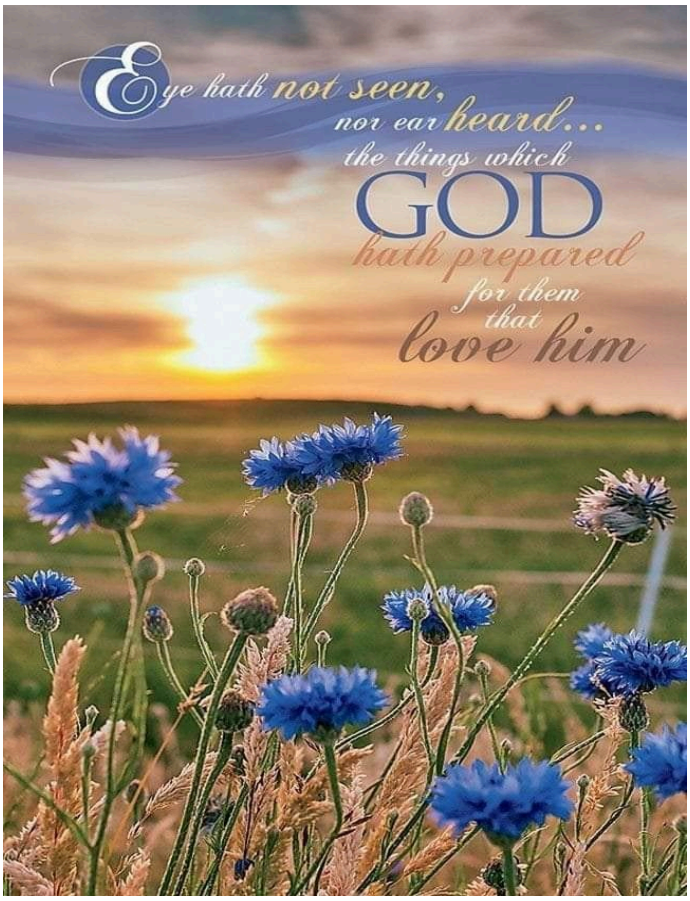
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
2702 1st Street Mahtowa, MN 55707
Pr. Jim Raisanen 218-838-3690
Sunday Worship begins at 9:30
Send articles/info to Lori Carlson 218.213.5883
email missloricarlson@gmail.com



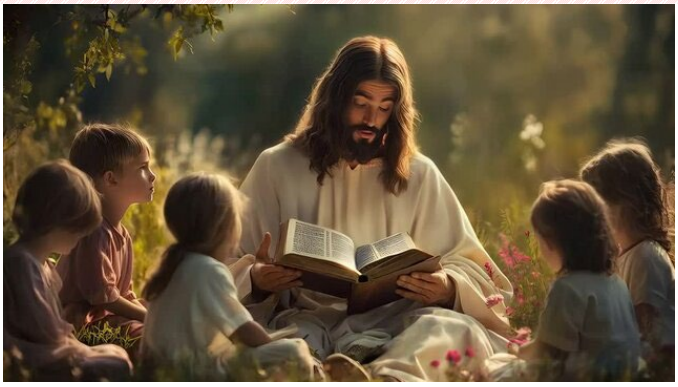
Greetings!
My oldest granddaughter from Vermont came to visit for a week this past month. She just received her driver's license and we had many hours of good conversation. It was great catching up with her. One day we were talking about life and she asked if I consciously try to do something every day to get the most out of life. It got me to thinking.

I told her that I try to learn something new every day. If I am learning, I am moving forward and heading down the right road in using the gifts and talents that I have been blessed with. Second, I find something to laugh about whether it is a good story or a joke or a good-natured teasing. If I am laughing I am enjoying "the ride." Third, each day I try to find someone or something to cry about. This means I am empathizing with another or being touched by a moment of joy or pain. I am feeling the pangs of life! If I can learn each day, laugh each day, and cry, then I know that I am living life BIG!

This is the best I have to offer after 76 years of living. But by following these truths, I have learned to live in the moment. I haven't worried about yesterday's problems nor been overly concerned about what tomorrow will hold. I have lived and squeezed "the juice" out of each moment I have been blessed to live! I am glad my granddaughter has been thinking about life. She is a special young gal with a full life ahead to live.
See you in church! Pastor Jim

EVERYONE is WELCOME
to GAME NIGHT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st at 6:30

RALLY SUNDAY/NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
with POTLUCK, SEPTEMBER 20
Join us as we kickoff the Sunday School season and also welcome new members.
Sunday School will resume the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Leaders, assistants, snacks, are always appreciated.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN
with PARENT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, at 6:30.
Classes will be held the
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

New Mission and Vision statements adopted by Council on recommendation of congregation.

MISSION STATEMENT - "Welcoming all, growing in faith and serving with love"

VISION STATEMENT - "To be a church where everyone finds belonging, faith grows through shared experiences, and fellowship strengthens both our congregation and the community we serve"

Pray for: **Our Elders; Catherine, Iris, Betty & Sandy. Healing for; Pastor Carl, Joey, Grace, Barb; all those grieving lost loved ones; our students, teachers, and school staff as they begin a new school year.**

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet after worship on SEPTEMBER 27

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

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Next church COUNCIL MEETING is Monday, September 21, 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

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August giving	**$3,352.00**
Other deposit	**953.00**
Budgeted monthly giving/needs	**$8.061.25**
August average attendance	**27**

Salem Council Meeting Minutes Friday July 27th, 2026 at 6:30pm

Present: Pastor Jim, Shari Lowden, Mike Lowden, Jody Eller, Justin Grill, Donita Korpela
Absent: Milissa Soukkala

1. Called to order at 6:34 pm
2. Open with Prayer and Devotions by Pastor Jim
3. Agenda for July 27th, 2026 **M- Mike, S- Pr. Jim, Passed**
4. Minutes from June 19th, 2026 **M- Pr. Jim, S- Mike, Passed**
5. Pastor's Report
    1. Pr. Jim extends a thank you for his celebration event.
    2. The breakfast and outdoor service was a great event. Officiated one funeral.
    3. Pastor's dates off: August 30th, September 27th, Fair weekend August 16th
6. Treasurer's Report
    1. June had a positive bottom line. Year to date is still negative at this time. **M-Pr. Jim, S- Mike, Passed**
7. Property Report
    1. Parking lot to be fixed has been approved. Just under $18,000 was the quote. Front and side will be ground up and graded. Behind the hall will be dirt.
    2. Church basement window replacement
    3. Parsonage will be the next one to complete.
    4. Fire extinguisher inspection has been completed.
    5. AED needs a new battery- Donita to order this.
8. Soul Sisters Report
    1. Next meeting is August 9th, 2027
    2. Meatball supper date will be October 24th, 2026
9. Old Business
    1. Pancake Breakfast 7/12/26 was great, 28 in attendance.
    2. Open Council positions for annual meeting
        A. Mike 2nd term -VP
        B. Donita's chair - Secretary
        C. Milissa's chair
    3. Mission and Vision statement- votes were tallied up on the recommendation for our Mission and Vision statements. **Motion to accept "Welcoming all, growing in faith and serving with love" for Mission and "To be a church where everyone finds belonging, faith grows through shared experiences, and fellowship strengthens both our congregation and the community we serve" for Vision statements by Mike, S- Pr. Jim, Passed**
10. New Business

1. Community Events with Covenant Church- Have a few people from each church come up with some joint events in the future.
2. Confirmation – Rally Sunday is 9/20/26, There is going to be 4 confirmands this year. Use this date as a date to meet with the parents and start on 9/23/26
3. Next Council Meeting August 17th, 2026 @ 6:30pm

Adjournment: 7:21 pm, M-Mike, S-Pr. Jim, Passed