Salem Lutheran Church of Mahtowa
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

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."
—Phillipians 1:3-5

Every so often it is worth stepping back to ask a question we might usually take for granted: What does it mean to be a member of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church?

Think back to the first time you walked through our doors. Maybe you were baptized right here and you have called Salem home your entire life. Maybe you moved to this little village after years of summer visits, or perhaps a difficult season in your life sent you looking for something steady, and this is where you landed. Or maybe your story is wonderfully simple: Salem was close to home, or a friendly neighbor invited you and you just kept coming back.

Whatever first brought you through these doors, I would love to hear about it. Why did you join Salem? What has kept you rooted here through the years? And if a friend or neighbor asked you why they should come, what would you tell them?

Throughout November you are invited to share your story. Catch a council member or me over the coffee hour, drop a note by the church office, or send an email our way. We are genuinely eager to listen to what Salem means to you.

Peace! Pastor Jim

All Saints Day - NOVEMBER 1

THANKSGIVING SERVICE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 at 6:30 p.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – NOVEMBER 29

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets November 1 & 15 during worship. Leaders, assistants, & snacks are always appreciated.

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets Wednesday, November 11 & 18 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Pray for: **Our Elders; Catherine, Iris, Betty & Sandy. Healing for; Pastor Carl, Joey, Grace, Barb; all those in need of God's healing and consolation.**

SOUL SISTERS will meet
After worship on NOVEMBER 15.
PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet
after worship on NOVEMBER 22.

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"

Next church COUNCIL MEETING is
Monday, November 16, 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.

Council requests ALL ANNUAL REPORTS be SUBMITTED BY 1/4/27.

THREE OPEN COUNCIL POSITIONS
for 2027
Vice President, Secretary, At Large
Please prayerfully consider filling one of these positions. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on January 24. Let a Council member know if you would like to be nominated.

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.

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)

A huge THANK YOU from the Soul Sisters to all who helped make the MEATBALL SUPPER a success!
We served 280 meals and proceeds after expenses are $4,204.27, which will be donated to the church fuel fund. We are still collecting money from some silent auction items.
GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!!

SNOW SHOVELING SCHEDULE IS POSTED
in fellowship room and on front bulletin board.
WINTER IS COMING!

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
during worship December 20

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
at 4:00 p.m.

October giving	**$3,364**
Other deposit	**$ 200**
Budgeted monthly giving/needs	**$8.061.25**

October average attendance 32

Salem Council Meeting Minutes Monday, September 21, 2026 at 6:30pm

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

1. Called to order at 6:35pm
2. Open with Prayer and Devotions by Pastor Jim
3. Agenda for **M- Pr. Jim, S- Milissa, Passed**
4. Minutes from August 17th, 2026 **M- Donita, S- Justin, Passed**
5. Pastor's Report
    1. Pastor's dates off: September 27, October 18, November 29, December 27
    2. Baptism last Sunday and New members Sunday went well.
    3. Confirmation will be starting and Pr. Jim will make sure that contact information
    4. We will plan on doing Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 24th @ 6:30pm
6. Treasurer's Report
    1. Written report reviewed. Continue to be negative bottom line. The CD is making 3.5% at this time and projected to make 3.9% so no changes will be made. **M-Pr. Jim, S- Milissa, Passed**
7. Property Report
    1. Justin received information for the paving project.
    2. Justin contacted someone to fix the gutter down spout on the church.
    3. Playground will be taken down and moved.
    4. The Salem Hall is a loss that will need to be addressed in the next 3-5 years.
8. Soul Sisters Report
    1. Soul sisters were not interested in taking on the Lefsa Fest this year so we will not be having this event.
    2. Meatball supper will be October 24th, 2026 4pm-7pm. Milissa has volunteered to attempt to get any silent auction items.
    3. Potluck for Rally Sunday went well.
9. Old Business
    1. Open council positions for annual meeting- Must publicize at least 90 days before the annual meeting (10/26/26) & list of candidates publicized at least 30 days before (12/25/26).
        A. Mike 2nd term & VP
        B. Donita's chair & Secretary
        C. Milissa's chair

2. Game night went well on 9/1/26
3. Community Events with Covenant church. We are going to put this on hold right now.

10. New Business

1. Adult Bible Study- Pr. Carl asked if there was interest for this here and when asking around, there was not interest at this time by the majority.
2. Sunday School -Pre K -4th grade curriculum and we still need to establish a 5th/6th grade curriculum. These will be held 1st and 3rd Sundays each month. **Motion to purchase the curriculum for the 5th/6th grade class by Shari, S- Donita, Passed Motion to use the Youth checking account for this purchase by Milissa, S- Pr. Jim, Passed**
3. 2027 Pastoral Contract- continue without changes with a 30-60 day notice of changes
4. Discussion 3-5 year planning. Will start with a questionnaire on what keeps one coming to church.
5. Next Council Meeting October 19th, 2026 @ 6:30pm

Adjournment: 7:27 pm, Mike, S- Justin, Passed