

Salem Lutheran Church



FOLLOWING JESUS,
SHARING COMPASSION,
COVERED BY GRACE



Pastor's Report

This month the United States celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding as a nation with the Declaration of Independence. This will be a time of extensive celebrations across our country—local and national, civil and religious. Christianity Today estimates that 50% of churches in America will in some way mark the event during services over the July 4th holiday. Here at Salem, a part of our liturgy will be given to thanking God for the gift of our nation, liberty and freedom, and our democracy. We will also include some patriotic hymns in the service.

Even as we celebrate the United States, I want to call us to remember that our witness to God's goodness and providence involves more than reveling in how God has blessed America. We are one nation among many, all of which are beloved by God and called to turn toward God. Psalm 22 announces, "All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations." As we celebrate God's gracious work among the United States of America, we might ask ourselves, how are we turning toward God?

It helps to remember some voices from history. At a victorious moment as the long Civil War was coming to its end Abraham Lincoln addressed the nation with his Second Inaugural address. In it he did not use the Union's victory to boast. Instead he framed the Civil War as divine judgment on America for the collective sin of slavery and he called for humility, repentance, and a commitment to bind up the nation's wounds. Even today, we are still a nation that is a work in progress. There are still injustices to be overcome. To say so is not to deny a love of country or to burden people with excessive feelings of guilt, but following Lincoln, to acknowledge that there is still work to be done to make this a more perfect union. A huge part of God's blessing of America is the guidance and correction we can expect from God as we who people of faith turn to him in repentance and humility.

The author CS Lewis, in his reflections of patriotism, affirmed a healthy and natural affection for one's homeland. But he also fiercely warned against what he called "chauvinistic hyper-nationalism." He reminded his listeners to his radio addresses on the BBC that a Christian's highest allegiance belongs strictly to God, and that treating any nation or ideology as an ultimate truth turns a healthy love of country into an idol.

I am concerned that the people of our nation today are drifting into two polarizing bodies—those who call for an absolute love of country that ignores our failings and those who, because of those failings, are replacing a love of America with a deep cynicism. I believe that God loves the United States of America in a way that does not preclude his love for other nations. I love the ideals and historic aspirations of American democracy. The love of God a Christian celebrates will not leave us as we are—will not ignore where we are failing and struggling. I hope we can come together to celebrate this nation, with a hope that God is still at work leading us to an even greater future.

God Bless,
Pastor Jim



Salem Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 16th, 2026

President: Thom Guzman **Treasurer:** Barb/Tim Kenyon

V. President: Sherri Boschee **Secretary:** Sherri Nissen

Linda Huffman Chris Lane Pastor Jim Dennis Nardy Daniel Clausen Sheila Clausen

CHURCH COUNCIL minutes

June 16, 2026, 5:30 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Thom Guzman with the following members in attendance: Sherri Boschee, Linda Huffman, Chris Lane, Pastor Jim, Dennis Nardy, and Sherri Nissen. Daniel & Sheila Clausen and Barb and Tim Kenyon were absent.

Devotions: Pastor Jim

Approve the Agenda: M/S/C by Sherri Boschee and Chris Lane to approve the agenda.

Approve May Council Minutes: M/S/C by Linda Huffman and Chris Lane

Treasurer's Report: As presented by written report

Receive the Treasurers' report: M/S/C by Pastor Jim and Chris Lane

Approve Expenses: M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and Dennis Nardy to pay Pastor's mileage and Synod Assembly housing totaling \$428.41

Pastor's Report: See attached report

Pastor also shared a new Housing Coalition that is being formed with local entities to address the rise in homelessness/housing in the community. They meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Greater Regional Hospital Administration building. (the old Crossroads location). Meeting in person or virtual are options for those interested.

Pastor Jim will also be gone for the July 21 council meeting.

Old Business:

a) Pastor's Vacation: July 19 Sarah Trone Garriott will be here July 19. She will serve communion. July 26 we will have Jim McIntosh serving. Pastor will invite her to attend adult Sunday school with a member facilitating the video series.

b) Denomination emblem on the sign – table

c) Longer Table update: Outreach committee and others that assist with this have revised our schedule and will stock this the 2nd and 4th M/W/Sat instead of daily. This is opposite of the times the Food Pantry is open. Signs have been posted showing our times, as well as when Matura Food Shelf, the Food Pantry, and Open Table are available. A letter to the editor was also published stating the changes and reasons for the change.

d) Senior Award Committee: table

e) Leadership Update: We now have Pastor Jim, Dennis & Becky Nardy, Sherri Boschee, and Sandi Sickels attending. Early deadline for registration is July 15. We have 5 attending so each will receive \$25 off per person for registration. (Per a previous meeting registration would be covered by special funds.



Salem Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 16th, 2026

President: Thom Guzman **Treasurer:** Barb/Tim Kenyon
V. President: Sherri Boschee **Secretary:** Sherri Nissen

Linda Huffman Chris Lane Pastor Jim Dennis Nardy Daniel Clausen Sheila Clausen

New Business:

- a) July Benevolence – M/S/C by Sherri Boschee and Chris Lane for July benevolence go towards supporting the VBS meals & expenses with any surplus going to the Longer Table.
- b) FYI: Executive committee will now meet at 5 :00
- c) June 28: Cynthia Gibbons baptism, installation of council members and new members Jim and Rhonda McIntosh followed by a potluck meal. Note: Council will provide the main meal with others providing sides, salads, and desserts.
- d) FYI: Due to confidentiality Pastoral visits & communion to shut-ins will be reported orally to council with number of visits in the newsletter.
- e) Roof: the lower roof has some drainage issues with the membrane that is causing leaks. Property committee has looked at it and would recommend the company look at it to see what needs to be done.
- f) Long Range Planning Goal: M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and Dennis Nardy to approve and implement the following goal as presented “It is a goal of Salem Lutheran Church to be intentionally outward focused in our mission to Creston and the surrounding community.” It was explained how their committee is forming a partnership with Accura Health Care and participating in some of their activities such as worship, ice cream socials, and CNA week. The children’s Sunday school will be doing arts and crafts with them. The Long-Range Planning committee is encouraging each committee to focus on how their group meets this goal. A future meeting is being planned with all committees.

Committee Reports:

- i. Christian Education: They continue to plan for VBS July 6-9 and ask everyone to share the online post about this. They also encourage all members to attend the VBS program on July 9th at 5:30 pm After VBS, they will start planning for Rally Sunday.
- ii. Church Property: Looking at the roof issues (see new business part E above)
- iii. Outreach Ministry: See old business C above. Also, we are helping at the food pantry June 21, and planning for One in Christ Meals later this summer
- iv. Worship & Music: They are continuing with the summer layout of services, and will be planning Rally Sunday with Christian Educ. Cleaning of instruments will be done by worship and music and cleaning the altar and behind will be done by altar guild.
- v. Memorial Committee: Kitchen items have been purchased with Donna Scheel Memorial
- vi. Stewardship:
- vii. Endowment:
- viii. Long Range Planning: see new business F above
- ix. Other:

The next executive meeting will be July 14 at 5:00, and the regular council meeting will be Tuesday, July 21 at 5:30pm. Sherri Boschee will lead opening devotions.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sherri Nissen, Council Secretary

We pray for those people who are hurting and going through some unimaginable circumstances. We pray for those who want their lives to be better and to be free from those things that may be holding them back. We may not know them, but God knows their situation.

Larry Kimball
Dorothy Vanella
Kathy Kendrick
Sue McDonald
Lee Keuter
Jerry Nissen
Josh Kendrick
Betty Wager
Jen Bush



Tim Kinkade
Meyer Mixdorf
Zach Henry
Arlan Biere
Gregory Boschec
Becky Keuter
Carol Ott
Gail Peterson
Phillip Eason
Diane Nielson



We can never thank our military men and women enough for their service and sacrifice to our country and its people. Today we express gratefulness and honor to these military troops, past and present. We pray to be shown ways in our communities, churches, and families to thank and love them better. Keep and protect there heroes and their families.



We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen

CHURCH SALE



We want to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who participated with our Fundraiser on June 27! Whether you donated items, food, your time, or came to eat and shop, you all contributed to the success of this annual event, and helped to raise a total of \$2504.00!

This group effort allows us to share God's love with many worthy causes in our community, in Iowa, and around the world. Once again, you have helped Salem Lutheran to do "God's Work, Our Hands."



Baptism of Cynthia Gibson



Jim & Rhonda McIntosh Affirmation of Faith



LET'S READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

1st Isaiah 64-66
2nd 2King 20-21
3rd 2Chronicles 32-33
4th Nahum 1-3
5th 2King 22-23;
2Chronicles 34-35
6th Zephaniah
7th Jeremiah 1-3

8th Jeremiah 4-6
9th Jeremiah 7-9
10th Jeremiah 10-13
11th Jeremiah 14-17
12th Jeremiah 18-22
13th Jeremiah 23-25
14th Jeremiah 26-29

16th Jeremiah 32-34
17th Jeremiah 35-37
18th Jeremiah 38-40; Psalms 74 & 79
19th 2King 24-25; 2Chronicles 36 20th
Habakkuk
21st Jeremiah 41-45
22nd Jeremiah 46-48
23rd Jeremiah 49-50
24th Jeremiah 51-52
25th Lamentation 1:1-3:36
26th Lamentations 3:37-5:22
27th Ezekiel 1-4
28th Ezekiel 5-8
29th Ezekiel 9-12
30th Ezekiel 13-15
31st Ezekiel 16-17

Barret Lane	07/03	Deb Pantini	07/12
Gabriel Stofferahn	07/05	Jaimie Stofferahn	07/14
Zachary Stofferahn	07/05	Brooklyn Sickels	07/14
Gavin Sickels	07/07	Jan Eilers	07/27
Scott Abildtrup	07/09	Sandi Sickels	07/27
Jean Western	07/10		



Elaine & O.J. Fargo	4th
Jerry & Sherri Nissen	4th
Taylor & Hunter Sickels	16th
Bill & Carol Ott	28th
Todd & Suzie Stofferahn	31st

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				2	3	4 
5 10 am Worship & Communion	6 	7 Quilting Executive Meeting @2:15	8 W&M Meeting @5:15 Bell Choir @6:15	9 VBS Program @5:30	10	11
12 10 am Worship Noisy Offering	13  Christian Ed @ 4 Long Range @5	14 Quilting Outreach Meeting @ 4:30	15 Sunday School Kids Play Corn hole at Accura @ 1:30	16 	17	18
19 10 am Worship & Communion	20	21 Quilting Council Meeting 5:30 @	22	23 Bell Choir @ 6:15	24	25
26 10 am Worship Noisy Offering	27	28 Quilting	29	30	31	

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

602 W Townline
Creston, Iowa 50801

Pastor: Jim Mossman

641-782-2920

pastorjim@salemluth.net

Office: Brenna Peterson-Farnsworth

office@salemluth.net

Facebook:

SALEM Lutheran
Church-Creston, Iowa

Website: salemluth.net

YouTube

Salem Lutheran Church Creston IA

