

Salem Lutheran Church



FOLLOWING JESUS,
SHARING COMPASSION,
COVERED BY GRACE



My informal working theme for Advent and Christmas this year at Salem Lutheran is “Come home for Christmas. Come home to Jesus.” The holidays are often the season for homecomings, as children return to their growing up places and we share time with our loved ones. We idealize being able eat together at the old dining table in the old house with the Christmas tree in the old place, sharing the same favorite foods we’ve always known. But quite often, the reality is more complicated. It becomes hard for some to get off work. Careers in different places mean travel distances to get home are to great or expensive for the trip to be made. Sometimes, after the passing of a generation or the grip of old age on those who have always been ‘home’ for us, we no longer even quite know where home is.

In our Sunday bible study recently, we had a long discussion about John 14:2, where Jesus says “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places (NRSV).” Jesus is reassuring his followers that they have an assured place in God’s people. Often we associate this promise with eternal life and heaven, for Jesus is speaking just before his death on the cross. But it’s a promise for our entire life, I believe. Jesus is our home. The church is a home for us that exists wherever disciples of Jesus gather around the word and sacrament.

It's my hope and prayer that you will find a home this season at Salem as we journey through Advent and Christmas. I also hope you will invite others to find their way home with us. We have a lot planned for these seasons. On the Sundays of Advent, will be reflecting on the theme “And he shall be called. . .” from Isaiah chapter 9: Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Then, throughout the month the following will take place:

Wednesdays of Advent at 5:30pm: Candlelight Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 14 Christmas program during worship.

Sunday, December 21 at 5:30pm a Blue Christmas service of Healing

December 24 Christmas Eve at 5pm Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion.

Won't you come home?

God Bless,
Pastor Jim



Salem Lutheran Church

November 18th, 2025 Minutes

OFFICERS:

President: Sandi Sickels **Treasurer:** Barb Kenyon
V. P.: Tim Kenyon **Recording Secretary:** Sherri Nissen

Members : Chris Lane, Sandi Sickels, Sherri Nissen, Sherri Boschee, Tim Kenyon, Barb Kenyon, Jewel Baseley, Linda Huffman, Sheila Clausen, Daniel Clausen, and Thom Guzman.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jim

The meeting was called to order by President, Sandi Sickels with the following members in attendance: Jewel Baseley, Sherri Boschee, Sheila Clausen, Thom Guzman, Linda Huffman, Barb Kenyon, Tim Kenyon, Pastor Jim and Chris Lane.

Absent: Daniel Clausen, Sherri Nissen

M/S/C by —Tim Kenyon/Jewel Baseley to approve the agenda.

M/S/C by —Thom Guzman/Tim Kenyon to approve the October minutes. Typos to be corrected are: Thom's first name spelling and waive instead of wave

Treasurer's Report: Barb Kenyon

M/S/C by _Tim Kenyon/Jewel Baseley to receive and approve the treasurer's report.

Approved expenses: No additional expenses were presented.

Pastor's and/or President's report – See Attached report. Pastor will be on vacation leaving after the 25 of December and returning New Years Day. Jim McIntosh will be the visiting pastor for 12/28 service. We had another visitor this last Sunday and pastor followed up with him. He indicated that he checked us out before coming, he viewed our website. We may have a couple of people considering joining Salem Lutheran. Also seeing folks who have not been active in the church returning and coming back.

M/S/C by _Sherri Boschee /Linda Huffman to receive the pastors report

M/S/C Barb Kenyon/Sherri Boschee to approve the pastors' expenses.



Old Business:

Living Lutheran magazine subscription

Continuing Resolution

FYI: Christmas tree has been ordered and will be picked up on Nov. 28, we will decorate Nov. 29

New Business:

December Benevolence –Thom Guzman made a motion for benevolence to go to the Food Pantry with Tim Kenyon seconding. Approved by the council.

Christmas Eve sacks for children – Sandi would like to use the special funds to make Christmas Eve sacks for Children. Items in the bag may include items such as Fruit, Little Debbie snacks, and possibly an angel. Idea is a reminder of what Christmas Eve is about. Sandi looking to make about 15 bags for the children. Thom Guzman made a motion to approve special funds up to \$200 the Christmas Eve sacks, Tim Kenyon seconded, council approved.

Food Pantry needs – Lots of hunger issues and the food pantry is reducing their schedule as they are receiving less through the Iowa Food Bank. Food Pantry needs about a \$1,000 a week to cover meat that is distributed. Pastor wants us to think about considering ideas and thoughts to help cover this weekly expense. Is this something we are called to do? Can the Creston area churches help with this? Pastor meets this next week with the area churches and will be discussing this topic with them.

Pastor Jim's vacation Dec. 28, Jim McIntosh will cover

FYI: Request for Fellowship Hall Nov. 18 morning for PEO – Linda Huffman approved by email vote

Annual meeting date – Sherri Boschee made a motion to hold the annual meeting January 25th, 2026 with a potluck following. If there is snow the second date for the annual meeting could be February 1, 2026. Second made by Tim Kenyon and approved by council members.

June 2023-May 2026: Jewel Basely (2nd Term), Sherri Nissen (1st Term) Sandi Sickels (2nd Term) – Recruitments are in the works, with each member looking for their replacement.

Alter Guild Chairperson – Nancy Taylor has stepped down as the Alter Guild Chairperson, the Worship and Music Committee is in the process of looking for her replacement. The W&M is also looking to recruit a couple more Alter Guild members to help with the responsibilities.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Cynthia has been working with the youth to sing at the Christmas Program that's scheduled for December 14th. Jodi is in the process of writing or has written a Christmas Program.

Lutheran Lakeside – Need housing and meals for approximately 4 individuals. Council will be putting up a signup list to help feed and provide housing. Thom suggested a potluck on Sunday (the day they arrive) to welcome them. More to coming on this issue and topic.

Church Property: They are working with Troy Schroeder to replace the air conditioning and getting bids for the basement restroom remodels.



Outreach Ministry: Working on the Christmas tree ornaments with the nursing home names. There are 41 individuals in total.

Worship & Music: Blue Christmas Service will be on the solstice (December 21st) at 5:30, Advent Services will start on December 3rd at 5:30 pm. The Advent service will include the Holden Evening Prayer. Christmas Eve service will be on the 24th at 5:00 pm. The W&M Committee continues to look for an Alter Guild Chairperson replacement for Nancy Taylor. Sheila has been working with Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Salem Oregon to obtain choir music and possibly 3-5 octave handbells and/or hand chimes. Sheila will know more and will report back once Holy Cross Council determines if Salem Lutheran is gifted the instruments.

Memorial Committee: Nothing to report

Stewardship: Planning to send personal notes to giving households.

Endowment: Tim Kenyon is still working on setting up a meeting for possible budget issues.

Long Range Planning: In the beginning stages of formulating concepts on how to move forward and listen to God's calling and word.

Other:

The next executive meeting will be December 9 at 4:00, and the regular council meeting will be Tuesday, December 16 at 5:30 pm. Pastor will lead opening devotions.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Sherri Boschee, seconded by Thom Guzman and council members approved.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sheila Clausen, Secretary Protem



Miriam Circle



6 pm on Monday, December 8th
At Becky Nardy's- 509 Grand Ave, Creston
641-202-1493

Facilitator - Claudia Peppers,
Hostess - Joyce Anderson, Lesson - Becky Nardy,
Secretary - Joyce
All women are welcome!

We invite you to donate a poinsettia to decorate the altar for the Advent/Christmas Season. If you would like to make the donation in honor or memory of a family member or friend, please contact the church office so that it can be included in the bulletin.



'TIS THE SEASON TO
REMEMBER



The Outreach Committee is sponsoring 41 residents at both nursing homes for Christmas this year. Watch for the ornaments on the little tree in the Narthex. Gifts will need to be wrapped with the tag on the outside of the package and returned to church by December 14th.





- Outreach Committee Meeting
- Salem Table at Bright Eyes Halloween Fest
- Volunteered with Salem at the Creston Food Pantry
- Long Range Planning Committee meeting
- Family Faith Night
- Education Committee meeting
- Choir practices
- Synod Boundaries Education Event in Treynor
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Worship and Music committee meeting
- Community Presence: Guys and Dolls performance

- Stewardship Committee Meeting
- Prospective Member Coffee
- Advent and Christmas worship planning
- 3 Guest Follow up visits
- 3 Pastoral calls
- Sunday morning Bible Study prep and teaching
- McDonalds Men's Coffee
- Cookies and Conversation Youth Outreach



10 am – Sunday Worship

December 7th * Communion
Dec 14th * Christmas Program
 December 21st * Communion
 December 24th * Communion

5:30pm – Special Services

Wednesday December 3rd
 Wednesday December 10th
 Wednesday December 17th
 Wednesday, December 24th *5:00 pm

***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion**





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. Amen.

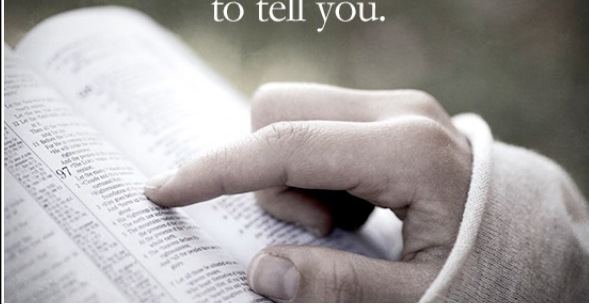
Larry Kimball, Dorothy Vanella, Kathy Kendrick, Sue McDonald, Lee Keuter, Gary Kessler, Tim Kinkade, Meyer Mixdorf, Zach Henry, Arlan Biere, Gregory Boschee, Becky Keuter, Carol Ott, Jerry Nissen, Christine Moffitt, John Schlaht, Sandy Kessler, and Josh Kendrick.

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 these heroes and their families. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.



Reduce your stress level by taking time to unplug from the world, open your Bible, and listen to what God has to tell you.



Dec 1:	1Cor 9-11
Dec 2:	1Cor 12-14
Dec 3:	1Cor 15-16
Dec 4:	2Cor 1-4
Dec 5:	2Cor 5-9
Dec 6:	2Cor 10-13
Dec 7:	Acts 20:1-3; Rom 1-3
Dec 8:	Rom 4-7
Dec 9:	Rom 8-10
Dec 10:	Rom 11-13
Dec 11:	Rom 14-16
Dec 12:	Acts 20:4-23:35
Dec 13:	Acts 24-26
Dec 14:	Acts 27-28
Dec 15:	Colossians; Philemon
Dec 16:	Ephesians
Dec 17:	Philippians 1-4
Dec 18:	1 Timothy
Dec 19:	Titus
Dec 20:	1 Peter
Dec 21:	Heb 1-6
Dec 22:	Heb 7-10
Dec 23:	Heb 11-13
Dec 24:	2 Timothy
Dec 25:	2 Peter; Jude
Dec 26:	1 John
Dec 27:	2/3 John
Dec 28:	Rev 1-5
Dec 29:	Rev 6-11
Dec 30:	Rev 12-18
Dec 31:	Rev 19-22

Jerry & Linda Huffman

12/28



Levi Hitz	2nd	Lois Olsen	19th
Daniel Clausen	2nd	Joyce Anderson	28th
Chris Lane	11th	Nancy Taylor	29th
Bill Ott	11th		


 and
suddenly
 there was a
multitude of the
 heavenly hosts
 with the *angel*
Praising God
 and saying
Glory to God
 in the highest and on earth
 peace
 Luke 2
 13 & 14

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
	1 Christian Ed @ 4	2	3 5:30 Advent Service	4	5 	6
7 10am Worship & Communion	8 Mirium Circle @ 6	9 	10 5:30 Advent Service	11	12 	13
14 10am Worship  Christmas Program	15	16 1:30 Quilting	17 5:30 Advent Service	18	19 	20
21 10am Worship & Communion Blue Christmas Service @5:30	22	23 1:30 Quilting	24 5 PM Candlelight, Lessons, Carrols & Communion	25 	26 	27
28 10am Worship	29	30 1:30 Quilting	31 	1 		



SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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