

Salem Lutheran Church



FOLLOWING JESUS,
SHARING COMPASSION,
COVERED BY GRACE



Pastor Jim's Newsletter for July

Do you remember the summers of your youth? I remember them as magical seasons where we were suddenly free from the clipped schedule of the school day. Warm golden days stretching out, defined by a slower rhythm. Now I've learned to say that summer is often just a different kind of busy. Not just for adults, but for our kids too, with all the structured activities we get up to. It's a fun season, but renewing and restful only if we use some intention.

One of the things that can get lost is our faith life. Summer is when we are on the go and we are often not in town for our Sunday routine of worship. How will you keep up your connection with Jesus and the Word during these weeks? Here are a few possibilities:

- Use time in the car to nurture faith. Pack a bible or a devotional book to read together each day as you are on the road to vacation or a practice. Take time to talk about the bible or a faith question together. Talk about who or what needs prayer in your world.
- Time outdoors is time to pause and thank God for the glory of creation. Try reading Psalm 8 when you are gathered around a camp fire and the stars are shining at night. Let yourself be awed by God.
- Use a Sunday to explore another congregation in worship when you are on the road. Grab a bulletin and bring it home. Perhaps we could make a display to show where we all have traveled across the summer.
- Keep up with your church here—make the commitment to worship with us if you are in town. I've heard how some of you make sure to tune into our online service when you are away. Thank you. We need each other's encouragement in what is sometimes a slow season for congregations.

My prayer for each of you is that this summer be filled with fun, rest, and wonder. I hope to see you around.

God Bless,
Pastor Jim



Salem Church Council Minutes

July 15, 2025

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

Jewel Baseley	Linda Huffman	Sheila Clausen	Thom Guzman
Chris Lane	Sandi Sickles	Sherri Boschee	Daniel Clausen

CHURCH COUNCIL minutes
July 15, 2025, 5:30 Meeting

Devotions: Pastor Jim

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

M/S/C by Chris Lane and Daniel Clausen to approve the agenda.

M/S/C by Sherri Boschee and Barb Kenyon to approve the June minutes correcting hall usage by the Lundquist family, not Hultquist family.

M/S/C by Thom Guzman and Tim Kenyon to accept the treasurer's report

Approve expenses: pastor's expenses, housing for synod assembly, organ tuning, mower battery, continuing education for October conference in Kansas City for Pastor, Sandi Sickels, and Thom Guzman. M/S/C by Tim Kenyon and Daniel Clausen.

Pastor's and/or President's report – See Attached report

Old Business:

Pastor – welcoming guests in worship: Thom has volunteered to help with this.

Building Use Policy: M/S/C by Thom Guzman and Tim Kenyon with the suggested changes.

New Business:

August Benevolence: M/S/C by Sherri Boschee and Daniel Clausen to give Salem's local portion to Lutheran Disaster Relief for the Texas Floods.

Advertising for Administrative Assistant position: M/S/C by Sherri Boschee and Tim Kenyon to move forward and advertise in the Creston paper, KSIB radio, Creston Swap, Salem's facebook page and website.

FYI: AJ Warner and Orr's Plumbing and Heating will be submitting bids for the air conditioner. A new battery is needed for the lawn mower.

October Conference in Kansas City: Pastor, Sandi, and Thom would like to attend. The conference is on how to grow and expand rural churches. Each will attend different sessions and bring ideas back to share. M/S/C by Tim Kenyon and Sherri Boschee to pay expenses with funding from memorials.

Family Faith Night: July 30th plan to attend

The Worship and Music committee is planning a Block Party and Blessings of the Pets service for September 28. More details to follow.

M/S/C by Sherri Boschee and Tim Kenyon to have a representative from Lutheran Lakeside to present information to the council.

Pastor Jim will be on vacation August 1-13 with Jim McIntosh giving the sermon. Pastor will also be gone December 28.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education:

Church Property: see new business C – air conditioner and mower

Outreach Ministry: will be serving the One in Christ meals July 28 and July 29

Worship & Music: they are researching ways to play recorded contemporary music during the prelude and need to be watchful due to licensing issues and royalties.

Memorial Committee: approving request from council for funding for the October conference.

Stewardship: they have new ideas to present to the congregation this fall and will continue planning

Endowment:

Other:

The next executive meeting will be August 12 at 4:30pm, and the regular council meeting will be Tuesday, August 19 at 5:30 pm. Opening devotions will be led by the council.

The meeting adjourned by Linda Huffman and Sheila Clausen with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sherri Nissen Council Secretary

Salem Lutheran Church is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant, to participate in our mission of "Following Jesus, Sharing Compassion, Covered by Grace." Applicants must be able to maintain confidentiality and demonstrate ability to respond in a respectful manner in various situations. Requires attention to detail, good office skills and organization, communication skills. Must be able to work independently at times as well as take direction from church leadership. The applicant must be proficient in Microsoft software such as Word, Excel, Outlook, Publisher, and PowerPoint. Benefits include a flexible schedule, working approximately 12-16 hours per week. Pay based on experience. Email resume to office@salemluth.net or mail to Salem Lutheran Church, 602 W. Townline, Creston, Iowa 50801. Questions can be directed to 641-782-2920.

Thank You...

It was a great time of fun, fellowship, and sharing in God's amazing love and grace at our Faith & Family picnic. Special thanks to Sheila and Daniel Clausen for organizing and preparing! Enjoy the highlights!



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
Donna Scheel
Sue McDonald
Lee Keuter
Gary Kessler
Jerry Nissen



Tim Kinkade
Meyer Mixdorf
Zach Henry
Arlan Biere
Gregory Boschee
Becky Keuter
Carol Ott
Sandy Kessler

Local Military People who have been deployed



This fall, we will be having an in-kind gathering of school supplies which will be used to fill school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Currently Wal-Mart, Target, Dollar General, etc. have good sales on school supplies. Although we don't assemble them until September and October, the best time to purchase these items is July and August.

SCHOOL KITS

Each school kit includes:

- ◇ Four 70 sheet full sized notebooks-wide or college ruled paper;
no loose-leaf paper
- ◇ One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ◇ One pencil sharpener
- ◇ One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ◇ Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- ◇ Five blue or black ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ◇ One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ◇ One 2 ½" eraser

All items should be new. Any of these items you can donate will be greatly appreciated.

LET'S READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

1st	Isaiah 64-66	8th	Jeremiah 4-6	16th	Jeremiah 32-34
2nd	2King 20-21	9th	Jeremiah 7-9	17th	Jeremiah 35-37
3rd	2Chronicles 32-33	10th	Jeremiah 10-13	18th	Jeremiah 38-40; Psalms 74 & 79
4th	Nahum 1-3	11th	Jeremiah 14-17	19th	2King 24-25; 2Chronicles 36
5th	2King 22-23; 2Chronicles 34-35	12th	Jeremiah 18-22	20th	Habakkuk
6th	Zephaniah	13th	Jeremiah 23-25	21st	Jeremiah 41-45
7th	Jeremiah 1-3	14th	Jeremiah 26-29	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



Russ Wachter	07/01	Debra Pantini	07/12
Barret Lane	07/03	Jaimie Stofferahn	07/14
Gabriel Stofferahn	07/05	Jan Eilers	07/27
Zachary Stofferahn	07/05	Sandi Sickels	07/27
Gavin Sickels	07/07		
Scott Abildtrup	07/09		
Jean Western	07/10		

July Anniversaries

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



Todd Stofferahn	3rd
Chuck Taylor	4th
Joni Cook	5th
Denton Lane	7th
Brant Abildtrup	11th
Cash Abildtrup	17th
Kerry Grumley	18th
Jake Hitz	21st
Sydney Pantini	22nd
Spencer Lane	30th
Zachary Sedlmayr	31st



August Anniversaries

Thad & Sandi Sickels	1st
Tim & Barb Kenyon	2nd
Dick & Marilyn Engelson	9th
Toney & Peggy Cass	11th
Dennis & Becky Nardy	12th
Andy & Jodi Hitz	23rd
Scott & Nichole Abildtrup	28th

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10 am Worship	4	5 Quilting	6	7 Mirium Circle 6:30 pm	8	9
10 10am Worship	11	12 Quilting Executive Council Meeting 4:30 pm	13	14	15	16
17 10am Worship and Communion	18	19 Quilting Council Meeting 5:30 pm	20	21	22	23
24 10 am Worship	25	26 Quilting	27	28	29	30
31 10 am Worship and Communion						

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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YouTube

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Facebook:

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