

Salem Lutheran Church



FOLLOWING JESUS,
SHARING COMPASSION,
COVERED BY GRACE



"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6)."

September 13 will be Rally Day this year at Salem Lutheran. Our Christian education and Worship and Music teams have named "Growing Together" as a theme, not only for the day but for the year ahead. What does it mean to you for Salem to be a growing congregation?

Often our first thought is to be growing in measurable numbers—size of the worshipping assembly on Sunday, number of people of all ages in Sunday School, baptisms, offerings, and all the other numbers we tend to keep track of. I've learned to call this 'growth in breadth.' And it's important—not only for our vitality as a congregation to reach new people, but even more for the mission of Jesus Christ that he left to his followers. We are commissioned to go to 'all nations,' all peoples, with the news of life that is available through faith in Jesus. The members of the church cannot ignore its call to meet and invite people who may not have yet experienced the grace of God. I believe almost any congregation can grow in breadth, but it takes everyone learning to reach out. Can we grow this year in meeting and inviting new people to Salem?

I emphasize this because there are other aspects of growing together that tend to be less intimidating to us. We can also talk about 'growth in depth' in our life together. Growth in depth is often subtler, harder to measure, and can sometimes be more individual. One can grow in prayer by taking time with God. Another can grow in the Word by reading scripture. You can grow in your relationships here at Salem as we serve together. Growth in depth involves seeing faith as more than a Sunday morning event.

On Rally Day we are going to encourage and celebrate growth in all its expressions. We will be blessing school children's backpacks to honor their role as students in the coming year and their growth in learning. But we want everyone to bring an object to be blessed that reflects where you are in life, something you may be growing in, so that we can honor you as well. A tool from your work or a hobby, thread from your sewing, a bible—it will be interesting to see what everyone brings, won't it?

After worship we will share a true potluck. Bring a dish to share. During the mealtime there will be Mission Fair displays of current ways to become involved at Salem this year. Maybe you'll find something you didn't know was happening. Maybe you'll find a calling you never had before.

My last thought on "Growing Together" is that growth is always a gift from God. Our growth at Salem in breadth and depth, our growth in our own lives, is part of the gracious work of God. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians, God give the growth. On Rally Day, all are invited into the growth we find together in God.

God Bless,
Pastor Jim



Salem Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, August 18th, 2026 5:30

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

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

Daniel Clausen, Sheila Clausen, Linda Huffman, Barb Kenyon, Tim Kenyon, Chris Lane, Dennis Nardy, Sherri Nissen, Pastor Jim, and Thom Guzman

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 5:30 Meeting

Following Jesus, Sharing Compassion, Covered by Grace

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

Devotions: Pastor

Approve the Agenda: M/S/C by Tim Kenyon and Sheila Clausen

Approved July Council Minutes: M/S/C by Linda Huffman and Barb Kenyon as amended in the Worship & Music report the October Blessing of the Animals will be an afternoon special service, not evening.

Treasurer's Report: As presented, Barb Kenyon

Receive the Treasurers' report: M/S/C by Daniel Clausen & Sherri Boschee

Approve Expenses: M/S/C by Tim Kenyon & Shelia Clausen to approve Pastor's phone

Pastor's Report: See attached report

Old Business:

a) Denomination emblem on the sign: we removed one side and took it to Rustic Graphic Creations. They recommended using new plexiglass but said we would save a lot of money by removing the design ourselves and cleaning the old plexiglass. Council recommends doing this and replacing the logo only if the remaining signage can be saved. Tim K. will remove the logo. Pastor and Sherri N. have chosen the new logo with ELCA under it. This will be emailed to Rustic Graphic Creations, and they will work up the design for approval.

b) Senior Award Committee: table

c) Lower roof: see property report

d) Kitchen & basement drains: see property report



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New Business:

a) September Benevolence: M/S/C by Tim Kenyon and Sherri Boschee to give to Lutheran Lakeside Camp Sewer project. They are in dire need of replacing a 60-year-old sewer line and need to raise funds. This will determine whether they can remain open or need to sell part of the property to pay for repairs. (We appreciated and enjoyed the youth coming to lead Vacation Bible School.)

b) M/S/C by Sherri Boschee and Tim Kenyon to recommend Chuck Taylor to the Endowment Committee

c) Pastor Vacation days Aug. 19 & 20: Pastor is attending the Faith in U.S. on his time to learn & prepare for actions that could take place during the elections. This is in Minneapolis. (attendance noted by council)

d) Long Range planning request to have an all-committee member meeting in mid-October - early November to share with all their planning and discussions. They would also discuss the possible name change from committees to teams. Teams is more inviting and represents "Growing Together."

e) Rally Sunday: will be September 13 with the theme "Growing Together." The service will be inside with a potluck to follow. It will begin with a Call to Gather as kids singsongs from VBS. Each committee/team is asked to provide signs of interest showing what each involves & participates in throughout the year with a sign-up sheet for people to sign up for different areas on each. (Similar to Time & Talent sheets)

Committee Reports:

i. Christian Education: they are planning for Rally Sunday. See new business e) above.

ii. Church Property: They are getting bids to add heat tape to the downspouts. This will prevent the lower roof drain from freezing/breaking again. Drains: the drains are currently working. The kitchen drains are slow. It is recommended from plumbers and Willets NOT to use Draino or anything else. Troy Schoeder will be repairing the plumbing before the drains can be snaked. This fall the yard needs dirt added to the low spots as well as around a few trees. As well as seeding. Thad Sickels has volunteered to bring dirt in to take care of this. Some timbers need replaced around the playground. Discussion was held about installing a new tankless water heater. This is not recommended currently. Quality Glass needs to be contacted about the front doors. The sensor is not working so the doors open randomly and stay opened.

iii. Outreach Ministry: We served One in Christ Meals August 5 & 6 with a total of 297 meals. We had eight meals left and these were taken to the South Elm St group home. Six people helped at the food pantry Aug. 16. One hundred families received food with 1/2 of the families being Spanish. They recognize those of us that help each time and are happy to see a familiar face. Two hundred backpacks were handed out at Family night through One in Christ.

iv. Worship & Music: They are planning Rally Sunday with Christian Ed. (see new business e) above) This fall there will be a "Blessing of Our Tools" service in October. Members are asked to bring something that represents their talents.

v. Memorial Committee: No meeting

vi. Stewardship: will meet Monday, August 24.

vii. Endowment: Pastor and President, Thom Guzman would like to have them meet more often and would like to attend the next meeting.

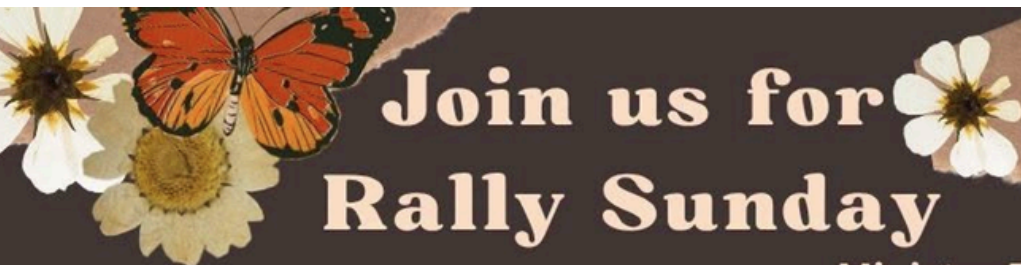
viii. Long Range Planning: See new business d) above

ix. Other:

The next executive meeting will be September 8 at 5:00, and the regular council meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 5:30 pm. Pastor will lead opening devotions. M/S/C by Tim Kenyon & Sherri Boschee to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sherri Nissen, Council Secretary



Join us for Rally Sunday

September 13, 2026
10am

Renewal

Join our spiritual "rally" as we renew our focus on learning, prayer, and service this coming year.

Blessings

Bring a "tool of your trade" as we recognize and celebrate the gifts each person brings to the ministry in our community (e.g., stapler, coffee mug, backpack, hammer, seed, spatula, scrubs, thread, etc.)

Ministry Fair

To build stronger connections among our faith community, you have the opportunity to sign up for any of the ministries occurring at Salem (e.g., play choir bells at Christmas, help with a property committee task, sub for Sunday School, join a Bible Study, create a bulletin board, tend the flowers, or any other gift you have to offer!)

Potluck

Bring a dish to share and join the fellowship after our worship service!

Salem Lutheran Church
605 W. Townline,
Creston

There will be no Adult Ed or Sunday School on August 30 or September 6 as we prepare for Rally Sunday on September 13. Rally Sunday service will be held inside with the children singing for the congregation. Potluck will follow! Please plan to attend to kick off the fall season!

Sunday September 13 will be Rally Day at Salem. Our theme for that day and for the year to come will be "Growing Together." Living together under grace, God gives growth in faith, in living out the way of Jesus, in prayer, in wisdom for life, in service, in love for each other and for the world. We never stop growing, so our Rally Day activities are for all generations. School children are invited to bring back packs for a blessing and adults are invited to bring an object that is a focus in your life: for instance, a tool you use in your job or in a hobby, a bible you use for study, a golf club from your retirement leisure time, an apron for cooking or grilling, what else? All these will be blessed in worship that Sunday. Following worship there will be a ministry fair and potluck in our fellowship room. Please plan to join everyone that day.



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.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

- One lightweight cotton or cotton-blend bath-sized towel
- Two or three bath-sized bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging
- One sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs), remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

BABY CARE KITS

- Two lightweight cotton T-shirts (no onesies)
 - Two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) or a top and bottom set (without feet)
 - Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with light-weight yarn
 - One jacket, sweater, sweatshirt or cape with hood, or include baby cap
 - Two NEW pairs of socks
 - One new cotton or cotton blend hand towel, dark color recommended
 - Two or three bath-sized bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping
-

FABRIC KITS

- Two pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric. pieces do not need to mach each other
 - 2 ¼ yards of 58"-62" wide fabric, or
 - 3 yards of 42"-45" wide fabric, or
 - 4 yards of 34"-37" wide fabric
 - Two spools of matching or neutral-colored general purpose thread, totaling a minimum or 500 yards to a maximum of 800 yards. combinations could include but are not limited to:
 - 2 spools of 400 yards
 - 1 spool of 400 yards + 1 spool of 200 yards
-

JULY-AUGUST

- 7/16-7/29- Vacation (14 days- 2 Sundays
- 8/3- Christian Ed meeting
- 8/3- Psalms Bible study
- 8/5-6- One in Christ Meals
- 8/10- Psalms Bible Study
- 8/13- Executive Committee
- 8/13- Worship and Music Committee
- 8/16- Food Pantry



There were also 6 visits made throughout the month



Happy Anniversary

Gary & Sherri Boschee 9/05
 Randy & Joni Cook 9/16
 Jason & Kathy Kendrick 9/21
 Gail & Roxie Peterson 9/29

Miriam Circle



**Thursday, September 3rd
 @ 6:30**



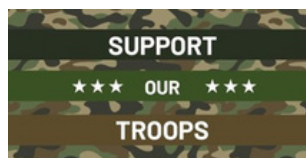
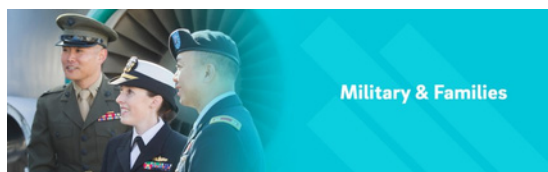
James Wilson	09/01
Emma Pantini	09/02
Lacey Richardson	09/13
Jonathan Kendrick	09/20
Carolyn Biere	09/24
Jacob Cook	09/26
Chuck Eilers	09/27
Payton Burg	09/29



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.

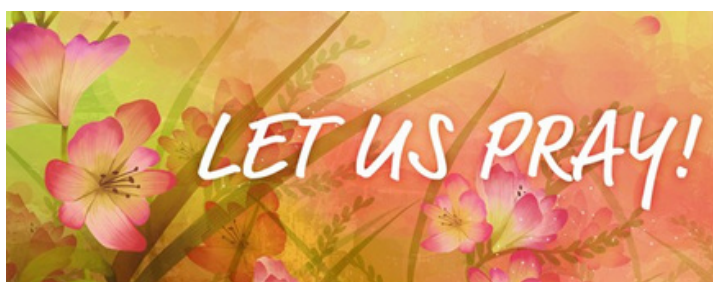


Larry Kimball, Dorothy Vanella, Kathy Kendrick, Sue McDonald, Lee Keuter, Tim Kinkade, Meyer Mixdorf, Zach Henry, Gregory Boschee, Becky Keuter, Carol Ott, Jerry Nissen, Josh Kendrick, Betty Wager, Gail Peterson, Phillip Eason, Jen Bush, Diane Nielson, Bruce Kerr, Randal Bowen, Elna Nissen, Judy Eklund, Carolyn Biere, Claudia Peppers, and Bri Hughes.



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.



LET'S READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER	1st	Ezekiel 18-19	13th	Joel	24th	Esther 6-10
	2nd	Ezekiel 20-21	14th	Daniel 1-3	25th	Ezra 7-10
	3rd	Ezekiel 22-23	15th	Daniel 4-6	26th	Nehemiah 1-5
	4th	Ezekiel 24-27	16th	Daniel 7-9	27th	Nehemiah 6-7
	5th	Ezekiel 28-31	17th	Daniel 10-12	28th	Nehemiah 8-10
	6th	Ezekiel 32-34	18th	Ezra 1-3	29th	Nehemiah 11-13
	7th	Ezekiel 35-37	19th	Ezra 4-6		Psalm 126
	8th	Ezekiel 38-39		Psalm 137	30th	Malachi 1-4
	9th	Ezekiel 40-41	20th	Haggai 1-2		
	10th	Ezekiel 42-43	21st	Zech 1-7		
	11th	Ezekiel 44-45	22nd	Zech 8-14		
	12th	Ezekiel 46-48	23rd	Esther 1-5		

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

september

		1 1:30 Quilting	2 Choir Practice 5:30 Bible Study After Choir	3 Miriam Circle 6:30 pm	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 10am Worship & Communion	7 OFFICE CLOSED 	8 No Quilting Executive Council Mtg, 5 pm Christian Ed @4	9 Choir Practice 5:30 Bible Study After Choir	10 Worship & Music Mtg. @ 5:15	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 10am Worship Noisy Offering 	14	15 1:30 Quilting Outreach Mtg. @4:30 Council Mtg. 5:30 pm	16 Choir Practice 5:30 Bible Study After Choir	17	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19
20 9am Adult SS 10am Worship & Communion	21	22 1:30 Quilting	23 Choir Practice 5:30 Bible Study After Choir	24	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 9am Adult SS 10am Worship Noisy Offering	28	29 1:30 Quilting	30 Choir Practice 5:30 Bible Study After Choir			

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