

Salem Lutheran Church



FOLLOWING JESUS,
SHARING COMPASSION,
COVERED BY GRACE



I got to do something this month that is increasingly rare for Americans. I went on a two week vacation. We mostly visited family in Minnesota and Colorado. It turned out to be the right sort of time off for us, as Lorinda and I both started the vacation with summer colds. Nothing too bad, but enough of a cough to keep us from sleeping well. So we had a number of slow days enjoying the hospitality of Lorinda's Aunt and Uncle, reading and bird watching on their back porch. We also visited a national wildlife refuge in Nebraska, took in the new Odyssey movie, and attended the performance of Twelfth Night at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. I was somewhat anxious about setting out with such open ended plans, but it turned out to be perfect.

My sense is that fewer people get to step away from their work to this extent anymore. My reading has said that Americans have always had less vacation available to them than workers from other countries and that many Americans feel unable to use all the time they are given. I am, therefore, so thankful to the congregation and our denomination for providing this time for renewal each year. Our longtime practice is actually to afford pastors 4 weeks and 4 Sundays of vacation each year (I remember that being true for my father 60+ years ago). I cherish the work of being a pastor, but it can be highly demanding emotionally and there is a weekly burden to be ready for Sunday. This time away across the year helps me to serve the church more effectively. Thank you.

I hope, if you are in the workforce, that you also receive vacation time. I urge you to use the time you are given. And we should work to create a society that allows people to rest and spend time with their families. Our faith teaches us that God wants there to be boundaries to our work--God set aside the 7th day of the week for rest and for worship, after all. We are more than our livelihoods. Good rest is a blessing.

God Bless,
Pastor Jim



Salem Church Council Minutes

July 21, 2026

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, July 21, 2026 5:30 Meeting

Following Jesus, Sharing Compassion, Covered by Grace

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

Devotions: Sherri Boschee

Approve the Agenda: M/S/C by Tim Kenyon and Linda Huffman

Approve June Council Minutes: M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and Sheila Clausen as amended under old business d) spelling error main leaks not man

Treasurer's Report: As presented by Barb Kenyon

Receive the Treasurers' report: M/S/C by Tim Kenyon and Dennis Nardy

Approve Expenses: M/S/C by Daniel Clausen and Tim Kenyon to approve Pastor's expenses. M/S/C by Tim Kenyon and Chris Lane to approve \$750 for Hedberg on roof repair to come from replacement. (Note Old business d) roof and property report

Pastor's Report: see attached report

Old Business:

a) Denomination emblem on the sign: Tom Spencer made the sign on Hwy 34 when he had a T-shirt shop. Chris Lane reports he still makes signs if he has time. We'll need to check with Tom, Graphic Designs, and Rustic Graphic Creations for prices.

b) Senior Award Committee - table

c) Leadership Update: registration has been paid for all who will attend

d) Lower roof: Hedberg came and sealed the seams where the man leaks are appearing. The drain is broken as well as the heating strip. These will need to be replaced. (Note the drain has been replaced and bill submitted)



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New Business:

a) August Benevolence – M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and Linda Huffman to Lutheran World Relief for Venezuelan Earthquakes

b) Kitchen & basement drains: Kitchen drains are running slow. Willets could not get a snake through the lines. The plumbing is old and needs replaced. The south basement drain is clogged and needs to dry out then plugged. The east drain is working, but we need to fix it, so water doesn't splash on the electric water heater. Currently waiting on a plumber.

Committee Reports:

i. Christian Education: The committee met on July 13. They debriefed what went well with VBS and what could be improved. Attendance ranged from 14-20 children each day serving 15 families. All families except for one identified a home church. The committee was very pleased with the donations from the congregation! The music/guitarist and games and the staff member's intentional connection of the games to the overall theme and lessons each day were the highlights of VBS. The program was very well attended! Suggested improvements include more interactive and dynamic Bible lessons and improvement in the crafts and their connection to the lessons. The committee would also like to have seen more sharing of the daily lessons and overall theme with families during the program and less of a jump to Lakeside merchandise. The cost of the program, including the mileage, is more than what is currently available for continuing next year. The committee is looking into other options, including partnering with Riverside and/or future fundraising, and cross generational summer programming. The committee also began planning for Rally Sunday and will do so jointly with W&M. Rally Sunday is planned for September 13 and will be held inside. The children will be singing some songs. There will be no Adult Ed or Children's Sunday School on August 30 or September 6. Joseph Lochmoeller is confirmation age this fall. Pastor will be working with parents to determine his programming.

ii. Church Property: Looking at the roof and drain issues (see d in old business and b in new business above)

iii. Outreach Ministry: We are planning for one in Christ Meals August 5 & 6, and we are helping at the food pantry August 16.

iv. Worship & Music: They are planning Rally Sunday with Christian Ed for Sept. 13. This will be an inside service. They have liturgy planned through August and will continue with the Top 50 Favorite Hymns through September. October 4 there will be a special evening service for a Blessing of the Animals.

v. Finance:

vi. Memorial:

vii. Stewardship:

viii. Endowment:

ix. Long Range Planning: Will meet August 2

x. Other:

The next executive meeting will be August, 11 at 5:00, and the regular council meeting will be Tuesday, August 18 at 5:30 pm. Pastor will lead opening devotions.

The meeting adjourned with a M/S/C by Barb Kenyon and Sheila Clausen followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sherri Nissen, Council Secretary

JUNE-JULY

- 6/18 Worship Service at Accura
 - 6/21 Food Pantry Volunteer
 - 6/22 Christine Moffett funeral
 - 6/23 Synod Secretary orientation in Storm Lake
 - 6/24 LSI Board Meeting by Zoom
 - 6/28 Baptism and Reception of New Members
 - 7/2 WIS Exec committee by Zoom
 - 7/6-9 VBS
 - 7/7 Executive committee
 - 7/8 Union County Housing Initiative meeting
 - 7/9 Worship and Music committee
 - 7/11 Synod Council meeting in Storm Lake
 - 7/13 Christian Ed Meeting
 - 7/14 Fuller House home blessing service
 - 7/15 Accura Sunday School noisy offering project
 - 7/16 Begin Vacation
 - Worship services
 - Sunday Bible Study
 - Monday Psalms Bible Study
-

Pastor's Report

We received an email on July 29th from Robert Schofer, a former member, informing us that his mother, Janice Wentzel, formerly Schofer, has passed away. They were members of Salem from the late '60's to 2000.

Janice's obituary can be found online or at this [link](#).





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 match 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 of 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

Vacation Bible School JULY 6TH-9TH



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 20th
5th 2King 22-23; 2Chronicles 34-35	12th Jeremiah 18-22	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

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 Boschee
Becky Keuter
Carol Ott
Gail Peterson
Phillip Eason
Diane Nielson

Local Military People who have been deployed



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



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



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 10 am Worship and Communion	3 Bible Study @6	4 Quilting @ 1:30	5	6 Miriam Circle 6:30 pm	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 10am Worship Noisy Offering	10 Bible Study @6	11 Quilting @1:30 Executive Meeting @ 5pm	12	13 Bell Choir @6:15	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 10am Worship and Communion	17 Bible Study @6	18 Quilting @1:30 Council Meeting 5:30 pm	19 	20 	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23 10 am Worship Noisy Offering	24 Bible Study @6	25 Quilting @1:30	26	27 Bell Choir @6:15	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 10 am Worship and Communion	31 Bible Study @6					

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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