

Salem Lutheran Church



FOLLOWING JESUS,
SHARING COMPASSION,
COVERED BY GRACE




Pastor's Report

October 26 will be a special day. For me, it will be my 60th birthday. But for the church it will be Reformation Sunday. The Festival of the Reformation is a moment the traditions that came to follow the teaching of the reformers, especially Martin Luther, use to celebrate this great heritage. Reformation day itself is actually October 31 each year, the day before All Saints Day and, coincidentally, Halloween. Somehow, Martin Luther costumes have never taken off.

I think at certain times and places our Reformation celebrations get a little triumphalistic (sorry, I can't think of simpler word)—sort of “Woo Hoo! We're not Catholic.” It can be a day when we trot out our best Luther hymns (A Mighty Fortress) and perhaps something from Johann Sebastian Bach from the choir. I hope we can remember that people who don't know our history may need some help understanding why we get so excited about a 16th century monk nailing a bunch of theological arguments to a church door in hopes of a good debate. Perhaps we ourselves even wonder—is all this still relevant? Is there still something important about the faith called “Lutheran?”

I'm certainly not one to think that Lutherans are better Christians than Catholics or Presbyterians or Baptists or Roman Catholics or United Methodists—especially United Methodists since I married one. We aren't better or even necessarily more theologically astute. But this tradition going back to Martin Luther's insight and experience is still a distinct witness to the gospel and one that is still an important voice in today's world. That witness can be summarized in one word—GRACE. Now I believe all Christians teach the grace and love of Jesus Christ, but Lutherans are grace radicals. Salvation is by grace ALONE. All of life, now and to eternity, is by the perfect gift of God. Lutherans push back on any notion that we somehow participate with God in our salvation by deciding for faith in Jesus or being a good person or doing good works. All that comes after God's decision for us, overcoming sin and death through the cross of Jesus Christ. Our life and service become a witness not to our faith but to God's great love.

One of the important implications of this today is our witness that all people need the gift of grace and, therefore, all people are equal in this way. Our culture understanding is moving evermore toward an assumption that some people are smart, wealthy, healthy, or powerful enough to not need grace. People quest to accumulate enough to live life on their own terms, with or without God. Reformation faith says this is not possible or true, and a way of life that leaves us enslaved to sin. Because, the Lutheran reformers taught, “We are justified by grace through faith apart from works of the Law,” we are totally free for the love of neighbor and the love of God. That's something worth a good celebration.

And so, on October 26, once again we will celebrate the Reformation here at Salem. We will sing “A Mighty Fortress.” There will be special music and Holy Communion. The color of the day will be red and you are invited to participate by wearing something red. And maybe there will be other things still to come. Won't you come and celebrate with us the radical grace of God?

God Bless,
Pastor Jim



Salem Lutheran Church

September 16, 2025 Minutes

OFFICERS:

President: Sandy Sickels **Treasurer:** Barb Kenyon

V. P.: Tim Kenyon **Secretary:** Sherri Nissen

Members : Sandi.....Chris Lane, Sandi Sickels, , Sherri Nissen, Sherri Boschee, Tim Kenyon, and Jewel Baseley.

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, Pastor Jim, and Sherri Nissen. Chris Lane, Barb Kenyon, Tim Kenyon were absent.

M/S/C by Thom Gutzman and Daniel Clausen

M/S/C by Linda Huffman and Sherri Boschee to approve the August minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report: Barb Kenyon August 31, 2025 (provided ahead of time in her absence)

Contributions to Date through 2025	\$90,548.00
Expenses to Date through 2025	\$81,602.00
Monthly contributions August	\$11,159.00
Monthly Expenses August	\$10,028.00
General Fund	\$23,964.64
Memorial Fund	\$11,246.56
Replacement Fund	\$3,084.00
Special Funds	\$3,456.00

M/S/C by Pastor Jim and Daniel Clausen to receive the treasurer's report.

Approved expenses: Orr Plumbing and Heating urinal repair \$544 and Green Valley outside spraying \$344

M/S/C by Thom Guzman and Sherri Nissen

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

Old Business:

Air conditioning updates: Bids have been received from Orr Plumbing and Heating for \$52,000, Troy Schroader \$37,000, and AJ Warner \$43,071.55. We are waiting on a bid from J & J Plumbing and Heating. Lenz and Holt did not submit bids. M/S/C by Sherri Boschee and Daniel Clausen to take the recommendation from the property committee once final bids are in and hold a special congregational meeting October 12 for voting with funds from the Endowment as needed.

Lutheran Lakeside presentation: this is a capital campaign asking for pledges to do upkeep and expansion of the site. Congregations can pledge annually and /or give as they choose. M/S/C by Thom Guzman and Sherri Boschee to give benevolence and a special offering 1 month for 3 years.

Building Use Agreement with Families First: Currently they are looking at Saturday's 11:00am-3:00pm per visit. Current dates scheduled are Sept. 27 and Oct. 11, with one month's notice of changes. Church activities will take precedence with Pastor working with them on scheduling. M/S/C by Pastor Jim and Sheila Clausen to move forward with this agreement.

Administrative Assistant Update: M/S/C by Thom Guzman and Sherri Boschec to accept the Executive committee's recommendation to offer the position to Brenna Peterson-Farnsworth on a 6-month trial period. Details to be arranged with Tim Kenyon and Randy Cook for hourly rate and increase after the trial period, as well as starting date, hours, training etc. to be worked out as well with the appropriate personnel.

New Business:

October Benevolence: M/S/C by Thom Guzman and Linda Huffman to give towards the McVann twins 1st Birthday wishes of Kids Care in Palestine. (Sandi will get Tim the information)

Giving from Pastor Jim's brother-in-law and spouse, Dave & Nichole Hoover, gift of \$3,000. M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and Sheila Clausen to receive the gift and to be earmarked for the proposed VBS format at \$1,500 year one and year two.

VBS proposal: Partner with the Presbyterian church to host Lutheran Lakeside students to present music and bible study. Hosting 4-6 students and providing meals July 6-9. This will be open to all and hosted at Salem Lutheran. M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and Sheila Clausen. **(Note b and c got together per funding, details, etc.)**

Basement Bathrooms: Orr has fixed the flush valve in the men's restroom at \$544. This has been an ongoing issue. The memorial committee has recommended use of funds to update both downstairs restrooms. With continued use this is needed as these are original fixtures, etc. M/S/C by Daniel Clausen and Jewel Baseley to have the property committee move forward.

Rally Sunday debriefing: the consensus is to have the committees that are in charge to ask for task groups to allow more involvement and not just a few doing the work. Also, to provide tables with chairs along with picnic tables.

CASA volunteers are needed in the county. Information will be put in the newsletter. Sherri will call and discuss the possibility of a local person doing a temple talk.

Outdoor sound system: Tim talked with Reiman's, it will cost between \$60-\$250 to fix the switches and will need to be sent to Des Moines for 4-6 weeks. M/S/C unanimous to repair it.

Livestream recordings: Jerry Nissen is working with Reiman's to troubleshoot why they are garbled and hard to hear.

Blessing of the Pets service for September 28 is postponed currently. Possible rescheduled in the spring with Blessing of the Gardens service.

Committee Reports: Christian Education: Rally Sunday Sept. 7

Church Property: Looking at air conditioning bids, will begin updating the downstairs restrooms, and will need to get dirt for the yard to fill low spots.

Outreach Ministry: We will be providing a table with information about our services and goodies on October 25 at Bright Eyes in the Park. We will also be helping at the food pantry October 26.

Worship & Music: They are working on Reformation Sunday, All Saint's Sunday, and will be working towards Advent and Christmas. They asked for feedback on the Call to Worship music.

Memorial Committee: see D in new business and property report

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

Endowment:

Long Range Planning:

Other:

The next executive meeting will be October 14 at 5:30pm, and the regular council meeting will be Tuesday, October 21 at 5:30 pm. Opening devotions will be led by the pastor

The meeting adjourned by Sherri Nissen and Jewel Baseley with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sherri Nissen Council Secretary

Upcoming Events:

October 2nd Miriam Circle
October 5th—Temple Talk by Chris Lane
October 9th—Worship & Music Meeting, 5:30 pm
October 12th—Special Congregational Meeting after worship
October 13th—Columbus Day
October 14th—Executive Council Meeting, 5:30 pm
October 21st—Council Meeting, 5:30 pm
October 25th—Bright Eyes in the Park
October 26th—Reformation Sunday
October 29th—Family Faith Night, 6:30 pm

Miriam Circle



6:30 pm on Thursday, Oct. 2nd @ Salem

**Please bring your September/October edition of the
Gather magazine.**

All women are welcome!

October 12th—Special Congregational Meeting after worship

**Property Committee will review and members
will vote on air conditioning bids for church**



**Pastor Jim's 60th Birthday Party—Sunday, November 2nd at
3:00 pm—Everyone is Invited! Location: Salem Lutheran Church**

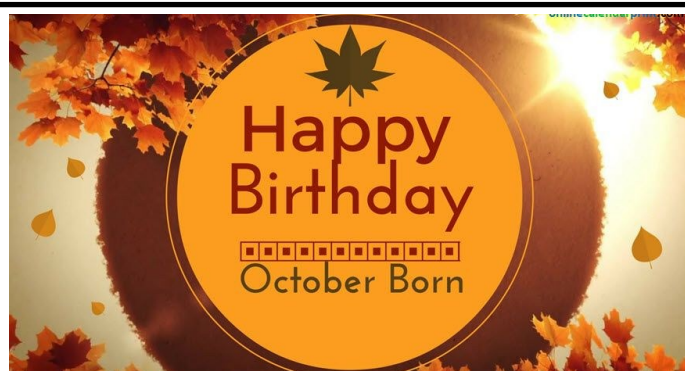
October Chronological Bible Readings

1st	Luke 1; John 1:1-14
2nd	Matthew 1; Luke 2:1-38
3rd	Matthew 2; Luke 2:39-52
4th	Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3
5th	Matthew 4; Luke 4-5; John 1:15-51
6th	John 2-4
7th	Mark 2
8th	John 5
9th	Matthew 12:1-21; Mark 3; Luke 6
10th	Matthew 5-7
11th	Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 7
12th	Matthew 11
13th	Matthew 12:22-50
14th	Matthew 12; Luke 8
15th	Matthew 8:14-34; Mark 4-5
16th	Matthew 9-10
17th	Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1-17
18th	John 6
19th	Matthew 15; Mark 7
20th	Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18-27
21st	Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28-62
22nd	Matthew 18
23rd	John 7-8
24th	John 9:1-10:21
25th	Luke 10-11; John 10:22-42
26th	Luke 12-13
27th	Luke 14-15
28th	Luke 16-17:10
29th	John 11
30th	Luke 17:11-18:14
31st	Matthew 19;



Mark & Brenda Sedlmayr 10/13

Dave & Barb Abildtrup 10/23



Arlan Biere	10/03
Becky Nardy	10/07
Daeton Abildtrup	10/14
Kathy Kendrick	10/14
Eric Neeley	10/25
Darrel Wilson	10/25
Isaac Sedlmayr	10/28
Joshua Peppers	10/28



Wednesday, October 29th at 6:30 pm

Please join us!

Sign Up Sheet in the Narthex



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, Tim Kinkade, Zach Henry, Arlan Biere, Gregory Boschee, Becky Keuter, Carol Ott, Gary Kessler, Meyer Mixdorf, Lee Keuter and Jerry Nissen.
Local Military People who have been deployed and are currently serving.

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.



Autumn reminds us to see the beauty in change

Women of the **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

This fall, we are having an in-kind gathering of Lutheran World relief kit supplies. We will be assembling these in September and October and all donations are appreciated!

THANKS TO EVERYONE'S GENEROUS DONATIONS WE ASSEMBLED 26 SCHOOL KITS

We are currently taking donations for the Baby Layette Care Kits—listed below.

BABY LAYETTE CARE KITS

- ◇ • 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts (or Onesies)
- ◇ • 2 pairs of socks
- ◇ • 1 hand towel, dark color recommended
- ◇ • 2 bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
			1 Choir practice 5:30—6:30 pm	2 Miriam Circle @ Salem 6:30 pm	3	4
5 9am Adult SS 10am Worship & Communion	6	7 1:30 Quilting	8 Choir practice 5:30—6:30 pm	9 W & M Meeting 5:30 pm	10	11
12 9am Adult SS 10am Worship Special Congrega- tional Meeting af- ter worship	13 Columbus Day	14 1:30 Quilting Executive Council Meeting 5:30 pm	15 Choir practice 5:30—6:30 pm	16	17	18
19 9am Adult SS 10am Worship & Communion	20	21 1:30 Quilting Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm	22 Choir practice 5:30—6:30 pm	23	24	25 Bright Eyes in the Park
26 9am Adult SS 10am Worship & Communion  Help with Food Pantry	27	28 1:30 Quilting	29 Choir practice 5:30—6:30 pm 	30	31	

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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