

## Lent at Salem

Join us to reflect this season.



**Ash Wednesday: February 14**  
**Worship at noon and 7 p.m.**

Join us each Wednesday in Lent for **worship at noon and 7 p.m.** The evening worship will be led by youth and confirmation students.

Each week will also feature **fellowship over soup**. The noon service will be followed by lunch, and soup will be served starting at 6 p.m. until worship starts at 7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to **help tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief** at 9 a.m. Wednesdays before worship. Come for all or part of the morning!

**Sundays in Lent, we will be reflecting on Jesus' journey** using the Again & Again theme (pictured above). Join us on Sunday, February 18 and 25, and March 3, 10, 17 and 24.

**Each Sunday during our Lenten journey has a theme** – and to help bring that theme to life, we will have several guest preachers who will share their wisdom and reflections. You will also receive a digital devotional booklet to help your household prepare your hearts for Lent (print copies are available upon request).

- **February 18:** Again & Again, God Meets Us
- **February 25:** Again & Again, We Are Called to Listen  
Guest preacher: Hannah from Luther Crest Bible Camp
- **March 3:** Again & Again, We Are Shown the Way  
Guest preacher: Stefan Swanson
- **March 10:** Again & Again, God Loves First  
Guest preacher: Hollie Holt-Wolde
- **March 17:** Again & Again, We Are Reformed
- **March 24:** Palm Sunday, Again & Again, We Draw on Courage
- **Easter Worship will be Sunday, March 31.**

## From the Pastor's Desk

Recently, some of you have asked me to share ahead of time which parts of the liturgy will be included, or not, in our seasonal plan for the 8:30 worship. So! In order to do so, I would like to start by inviting you to take a look at page 92 in the red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, ELW).



You will find that elements of our Sunday liturgy are listed, some of them in bold and others in regular font. The four major headings read: Gathering, Word, Sending, Meal. Together, these are the fundamental shape of Lutheran Worship. Even as many of us grew up without the Meal weekly, the recovery of this practice has been a reformation back to Luther's theology, the availability of pastors weekly and the necessity of being fed with sacrament as well as scripture every week. If we no longer have pastors available weekly, I could see this changing again in some places.

As noted at the bottom of ELW page 92, the bold elements of worship are central, whereas the unbolded elements are lovely and supportive, but unessential. This might be a first step as to understanding why there are times when we choose to worship with various slight alterations in the elements, while the overarching pattern stays the same. Just in case you do not have an ELW available just now, the elements that are considered less essential are:

<b>Under the Gathering</b>	<b>Under the Word</b>	<b>Under the Meal</b>	<b>Under the Sending</b>
Confession & Forgiveness OR Thanksgiving for Baptism  Gathering Song Hymn or Psalm Kyrie Canticle of Praise	Creed	Offering Prayer Communion Song Prayer after Communion	Sending of Communion Sending Song Dismissal

Now, it might be fun to see how many of the other liturgical elements you can remember without looking! The rest are considered central. That said, there is also plenty of practice in our Lutheran tradition of using less than all four readings or a shortened Communion liturgy (often skipping large portions of the Great Thanksgiving). And you may notice that the Gathering Song is considered one element that includes 4 alternatives: a hymn, a psalm, the kyrie and/or the canticle of praise. At Salem we usually do both a hymn and the kyrie and the canticle of praise.

Many of the changes we make on a seasonal basis are for the purpose of fitting our liturgy within an hour (or so). We have recently added 5 minutes to our radio broadcast so our radio worshippers have a better chance of hearing our announcements, but most of you have not advocated (yet) for a 1 hour, 20 minute service, or longer. (I smile as I imagine it!) We certainly might have holy envy for our Black Church brothers and sisters who are far less concerned with limiting the worship time, lest they limit the Spirit's movement among us.

All that said, you may find that we share with you what is upcoming for the season in a Friday email periodically. We will be curious if this feels truly helpful, or if we decide it is unnecessary and that going with the flow is a spiritual practice we might like to adopt. Either way! I am grateful for your interest, asking for what you need and, most of all, your desire for worship to be a place you can connect with God and each other.

In peace,  
Pastor Kirsten

<b>Season after Epiphany/Ordinary Time 8:30 Pattern</b>	<b>Lent 2024 8:30 Pattern</b>
Setting: ELW 1 (continued) Confession & Forgiveness (Not Thanksgiving for Baptism) Kyrie Canticle of Praise Psalm No 2nd reading Kids' Connection Apostle's Creed	8:30 Setting: ELW 4 (LBW, Green hymnal Setting 2) Confession & Forgiveness (Not Thanksgiving for Baptism) Kyrie Psalm No 2nd reading Kids' Connection No Creed

## Council President's Message

Greetings, Salem!

As your new council president, I look forward to my role as sounding board and liaison for the congregation. I am excited about the recently elected council and our goals for the year.

One of our first priorities as a council is to increase engagement (you'll see that buzzword throughout the year). We are hoping to increase internal engagement among the people who choose to worship at Salem, along with engaging the wider community by being open and welcoming to those who choose to join us, whether they are joining us for a season or for a lifetime.



I'm also excited by the results of the recent call vote. I want to be open and direct with all of you, starting with clarifying that process.

As part of the year-long call process, the council and call committee followed guidelines set forth by the synod based on previous successes and research. After determining that we would be moving forward with one pastor, the call committee recommended we call Pastor Kirsten to take on the permanent role. After extensive meetings and discussions with her and feedback from the congregation, the council unanimously decided to endorse the committee's recommendation.

The congregational vote during the annual meeting was the final step of that process. Now that the call is settled, the council, Pastor Kirsten and everyone in the congregation can move forward to advance other priorities with confidence and enthusiasm.

My hope as your council president is that you feel comfortable coming to me with your hopes for Salem, your feedback and your concerns.

While I already know many of you, I'll share a little of my background to help you get to know me. If we haven't met yet, please come up and introduce yourself. I grew up Presbyterian who mostly attended church on Christmas and Easter. I attended Gustavus Adolphus College, where I started attending their chapel services out of convenience and grew to love it.

During my time at Gustavus, I met my future wife, Janna, who was a lifelong Lutheran. When we moved to St. Cloud, we started attending Salem and quickly felt at home. Janna and I were married for 39 years until she passed away, and we have three children.

I worked as a lawyer for 35 years until I retired, and now I enjoy reading, going for walks and listening to classic rock from the '70s. The North Shore is my favorite place in the world.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your honest and direct feedback this year. I look forward to our partnership.

Respectfully,  
Mike LaFontaine

## Lutheran World Relief Quilt Project

*Let all you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14*

We will begin assembling quilts on Ash Wednesday, February 14, demonstrating our love for our brothers and sisters in need.

Prior to that date, ways to help may be to sew a 60" x 80" top (precut squares are available for this) using good, darker-colored fabric. The size is important as they fold and bale the quilts for shipping. Also needed are flat sheets, twin size, in good condition. The quilts are used for warmth and shelter, overhead and flooring, which we keep in mind when making quilts.

Please try to keep Wednesday mornings available if you are able to help tie the quilts from 9 a.m.-noon. If afternoon is preferred, that may also be used. Also needed are those able to take a tied quilt home and sew around the edges. It could be pinned and ready for sewing if desired.

Many members assist with this project in many and various ways, and in time we will recognize them, beginning with Nancy Street and Linda G. Tenneson.



Linda G. Tenneson



Nancy Street

Nancy and Linda sew many quilt tops every year. They use donated fabric as well as what they have. Linda and Nancy create the tops using blocks of varying colored fabric of uniform size to make a 60" x 80" quilt top. They are all different colors and help to make a beautiful quilt. We appreciate their creativity, effort and time with this project.

Linda also assists regularly with online worship and technology and sings in the Sanctuary Choir. Nancy assists with setting up the communion elements, Santa Lucia and other programs at Salem.

Thanks for supporting the LWR quilt project!

### **National Quilting Day: March 16**

Those who sleep under a quilt sleep under a blanket of love.

March 16 is National Quilting Day, and LWR has a lot to celebrate. Over the past 75 years, 28 million quilts have been made and sent to those in need around the world.

This year, plans are being made to host an event at Salem. Watch for the various ways the quilt project can be promoted and celebrated. Anyone with suggestions to make the day special, please contact Joan West to participate in some brainstorming. This is on a Saturday morning.



2023 LWR Quilts

# What's Happening at Salem

## ABA 55+ Events Coming

Meet at Salem at noon Friday, February 9 for a potluck lunch and Valentine's Day trivia.

On **March 19, the ABA group will be going to the planetarium at SCSU.** We will be viewing a 30-minute movie called *Beyond the Solar System* and then having a tour of the current night sky led by professor Rachel Humphrey. Lunch after will be at SCSU Garvey Commons. Meet at Salem at 9:45 a.m. to carpool to SCSU.

Join us for a **guided tour of the beautiful historic Stearns County Courthouse April 19** at 10:00 a.m. Learn about where scenes of a movie were filmed! Witness some court action! You may sign up at the Welcome Center. We will go to the Green Mill for lunch afterward.

## We Want to Pray for You!

We welcome your prayer requests.

- Prayers can be submitted online ([salemstcloud.org](http://salemstcloud.org)).
- They can also be shared by the pew prayer cards and placed in the offering plate or put into the wooden box by the CareNotes wall.
- You can also call the church office and your prayer request can be passed on to the Prayer Chain (urgent prayers), Prayer Keepers (weekly small group), Sunday prayers (public prayers) or to the pastor only.



Prayer changes things when we present them to our Lord and Savior.

## Let's Bowl!

Interested in occasional afternoon or evening bowling for fun? A group is considering forming in the next few months. If you're interested, contact the church office.

## Help Us Help You!

Sunday morning is a good time to share information with staff, but it is hard to remember everything everyone shares. So, if your information is important to remember, please write a note, or send a text or an email reminder so your information doesn't get lost or confused with all the other info. Thanks for your help and understanding.

## You Can Be a Greeting Usher

Please sign up and take a turn to be a Greeting Usher. It's a fun and important job, and a great way to share a warm welcome to all who come to worship. If everyone took a turn, no one would need to do it often. You can sign up online at [Salemstcloud.org](http://Salemstcloud.org) under the Worship tab, or call Deb at 320-253-7953. Thank you!

## Connect with Us Online

We often share information about events and church news on social media. Make sure you stay connected:

- Facebook: [/SalemStCloud](https://www.facebook.com/SalemStCloud)
- Insta: [@salemstcloud](https://www.instagram.com/salemstcloud)
- YouTube: [@SalemLutheranChurch90](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

## Children and Family Update



The Children & Family Ministry Team continues to provide weekly Sunday school for any kids age 3-grade 6. In the next few months, we will be reacclimating the older kids with the role of Assisting Minister. We are also planning an egg

hunt for all kids attending Easter worship! We are also busy planning summer events for our kids to stay connected and grow their faith.



## The Outpost Task Force Needs Your Feedback

Salem! The Outpost Task Force wants to know your thoughts. As new information reveals itself, we want to encourage an ongoing dialogue. You have already seen the Hopes & Worries Board in the Gathering Area, and we have noticed that more people have put up hopes and dreams than worries and concerns. **We know the worries and concerns are out there... so we want you to tell us what they are! We can't help address them if they aren't named.** The Public Safety Foundation has also provided a Q&A, which you can read on the next page.

If you want to go more in depth than the board space allows, we would love to hear from you in a detailed letter to be published. We are looking for your thoughts so that we can discuss with each other, fully and thoroughly, the pros and cons of this Outpost opportunity for Salem. But **that won't happen unless you share your worries and hopes with us.**

Don't let your circle be the only ones who know your concerns, bring them out for us all to consider and figure out together. Transparency between friends and members of Salem is most hopeful and helpful to our being the Body of Christ together.

**This kind of open dialogue will allow us to be as informed and thoughtful as possible when the time comes to decide by vote.** Salem's building is a treasure given to us by God. Let us discern wisely what is from God for its use.

As we assess this opportunity, we are looking for expertise in different areas. Do you know about construction supervision? Are you good with lease agreements? What kind of skills and talents might you have to offer about the remodeling and repurposing of part of our facility? Please step forward and let us know.

Finally, we have heard from many of you that you are interested in potential volunteering opportunities for the Outpost. You want to connect in a meaningful way with the folks in our neighborhood who might use the minute clinic or family services that could be offered in various phases of the plan. If you have a gift to offer for volunteering, please let us know that as well.

## Here Are the Thoughts We Have Heard And Can Address

*My hope: the partnership between the East Side Community outPost and Salem exhibits Salem's commitment to its mission. Strengthens the bond between the community and Salem. Celebrates God's love and presence for all who are served and touched by this partnership.*

- Jan Hallan

*I hope we have the volunteers for this, as it will take some commitment from Salem members to achieve the goals set for this community outreach.*

- Sharon T.

*This is a great idea.*

*Keep us safe and our community.*

*I hope this transition can be a smooth transition and not too disruptive as construction takes place.*

*My hope is that one day the world will be at peace. I hope that everyone will have a safe home and food to eat. I hope that everyone will be happy.*

*East side is my neighborhood! Community of poor and homeless. For the outpost, I hope for job training, mental health services, safety for all living here. Lots of work and resources for the people living here.*

*My dream is for a safe family, courage, love, happiness, joy, safe pets, good food, warm housing and peace. That's probably too much to ask for, but may as well. If you read this, thank you, bye.*

*What a wonderful opportunity for our east side church to minister to our east side community. To help our neighbors is our number one call in following God's call for our church. I feel both Salem and the community will be richly blessed by this partnership.*

- Ann Olson

*I am excited about this possibility. What a great way to utilize our building (which is too big) for the benefit of our neighbors. A way we can show up for and care for our community with little that is being asked of Salem members. I call that a win/win/win partnership.*



## More Answers About the Potential Outpost

The Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2015 by community leaders. It is a 501c3 non-profit entity. The mission of the Foundation is to be the leading advocate of public safety in Benton, Sherburne and Stearns counties. More information is available at [www.gscsafety.org](http://www.gscsafety.org).

### Survey of East Side Neighbors

- Survey was funded by the Salem Lutheran Church Foundation
- In Sept.-Nov. 2023 a survey was conducted in the East Side
- 198 community members completed the survey
- 36% of respondents told us there were times they needed to see a healthcare provider and did not go
- Accessibility was a primary barrier to accessing healthcare on the East side
- Conclusions are backed up by CentraCare data as well

### Phase 1: Minute Clinic

- Small medical clinic, much like a “minute clinic,” that can provide basic services and assist residents in getting additional medical support needed.

The following questions have been raised in conversations between the Church and the Foundation, and we respectfully provide information in response.

### Why are you interested in using the church?

#### Have other buildings been considered?

We have looked at several properties in the East St. Cloud neighborhood. Salem Lutheran Church is in a desirable, visible location. The Public Safety Foundation Outpost could support the church by repurposing and sharing space.

#### What would be the length of a lease?

The Foundation is interested in a multi-year lease. Typically a lease would be in the 3-5 year range, with the option to extend if it works for both parties.

#### What will it cost for Salem?

The Foundation will be responsible for the renovation/buildout of the spaces leased as well as the ongoing cost of utilities used. We are happy to work with the Church in evaluating options for the space needs of the Church. Our aim would be to identify cost offsets to help lower the church's operating expenses.

#### What safety and security measures will be taken?

The Outpost will be a private facility and access will be controlled by the Foundation. The public spaces in the Outpost will be completely separate from church spaces. Access between these spaces will be through locked doors accessible only by designated individuals. The public will not be able to access the church space through Foundation space.

#### How will shared space be monitored?

When the Outpost is open, it will be monitored by St. Cloud Police Department, the Public Safety Foundation and others who are contracted to provide services.

The areas used by the Outpost, and parts of the surrounding neighborhood, will have video cameras monitored 24/7 by the St. Cloud Police Department, improving overall security in the area.

#### What are the legalities – city codes, etc. – for leasing property?

All lease agreements and space renovations will be in 100% compliance with current codes and laws.

#### How will parking for funerals and other church events be handled?

We aim to have open communication with the church regarding schedules and needs for parking, and are happy to accommodate those needs through scheduling hours and services in the Outpost.

#### Who is responsible for property liability?

The Foundation and its partners will be responsible for all insurance needed for the Outpost space and the services provided there.

#### How will signage be handled?

Ideally, the entrance on the north side of the church will be the public entrance to the Outpost. The remodeling/build out of the space will include new signage that clearly identifies the Outpost public entrance.

#### What is the timeline for the project?

We have no specific timeline for this project and defer to the church's timeline for considering the project and making a decision.

## Welcome, New Salem Staff!

After a year in the interim role, **Pastor Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt** has been called to the position of Senior Pastor. As she shared in her acceptance letter:

*"I am thrilled to accept the call to serve you as your Senior Pastor. I hope that in the near future, we can look forward to making new connections between us and with our neighborhood. Congregational ministry is a partnership between pastor and people, and I envision a partnership that is rich and varied with all of your gifts and passions.*

*During the call process, I was invited to share my top priorities for ministry in the next year:*

1. **Intentional Hospitality.** *When new folks show up, how do we intentionally welcome them and invite them into ministry? How do we use our physical presence on the East Side to welcome our neighborhood to experience the love of Christ?*
2. **10:30 Worship.** *It is time to more clearly define what this worship community is seeking to be and to invite folks who do not have a church home to find it here. We can be something unique in the St. Cloud area.*
3. **Storytelling.** *Salem's history matters. It has a rich legacy of generosity, outreach and music ministry. How do we understand our last forty years of history, since we wrote our centennial book? How can we tell our own story in ways that empower us for God's promised future?*

*I continue to pray for God's wisdom and discernment as we embark on being church together in a new way for this new season of Salem's life. Please pray with me, set aside precious time for discernment of God's voice. The next ten years will be something to celebrate as we reach the 150th anniversary of Salem's mission and ministry.*

### Fun facts:

- I am hoping a shock of hair in my bangs will go white naturally.
- I love to read good novels, and I'm scared to be traumatized by good novels.
- I think the Enneagram is fun. I am an 8.
- I ride a road bike to End Alzheimer's and other dementias. But I mostly like paths off the road. (Lake Wobegon, Here I come!)
- I cross-country ski pretty badly, but I go to the Birkie - Prince Haakon - event every year. And I want snow!
- I am very curious about people, like, all the time. People are fascinating! No wonder God loves them!

### Meet Juliet

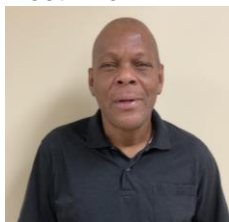


Juliet Brambrink has taken on the role of church secretary, doing both administrative and finance tasks for the church. Previously she worked in marketing for 20 years and is looking forward to helping spread the word about all that is Salem.

#### Fun Facts:

- I wanted to be a roller-skating waitress when I grew up (I can't stand up on skates).
- I failed driver's ed (the class) at age 14, but I am a very responsible driver now!
- I try to see as many Best Picture nominees as I can. I am failing miserably this year.

### Meet Thell



Thell Grant is new Maintenance Technician, responsible for maintaining the church property. Thell comes with years of experience in boiler work, heat pumps and circulation pumps and has a Class 2C boiler license.

#### Fun Facts:

- I love all kinds of fishing, and my boat is worth more than any of my cars.
- My wife and I love country music and regularly attend concerts.



## Are You Grieving the Church?

This excerpt from Pastor Kirsten's 2022 annual report is relevant to today, and a good read if you're missing the church that once was.

*Over the last 20 years, it has become apparent that our country and our world has changed. Going to church does not have the same significance in people's weekly lives that it once did. Being part of a church community is now an unusual act, especially for Generation X, Millennials, Gen Z and younger. Each and every youth and child that is in church is part of a family who has found the commitment to do something counter-cultural, as many of you can attest, as you look at your friends or listen to your own children and grandchildren step away from the church and our life together.*

*Our church is not what it once was. Our congregation has not escaped the trends of our culture or society. The ways we organize ourselves into community seems to be shifting away from churches, and towards something else. Or maybe nothing at all, which is incredibly sad.*

*I want to tell you that I am grieving this. I was ordained over 10 years ago and have served the church for over 20 years as an adult. In those last 20 years, I too have denied, gotten angry, bargained, been depressed and finally accepted that the church I knew in my childhood, the church I thought I was called to pastor, does not exist anymore. That church is gone.*

*And while I won't patronize you, or myself, by telling you that something better is in its place, I will repeat the promise that God has given us in the cross.*

*Hope springs eternal. There is new life after death, whether that death is someone we love who has found themselves in God's perpetual light, or if that death is an image of what we once knew, or wished to be true. Our hope for tomorrow is found in Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. Our hope for today is found there too. And so we have a great gift with which to live, to breathe, to have our being, together as community: the gift of the real presence of God in our world.*

*God is here. God is moving in the world. And even if it doesn't look just as we wish. Even if I will never pastor the kind of church I thought I was stepping into, and we will have to let go of our image of what we thought the church was, that was never the hope we held to in the cross in the first place. Our hope is far stronger than "bums in the pews" or graph charts.*

*I am grateful that together we have listened to each other and to the wider community this past year, and that listening will continue, especially through the Faithful Innovations Team and now the transition process.*

*I want to be clear, my door is always open for listening and sharing dreams and hopes for God's work here and our partnership together in ministry. And my role will be to listen, and also to give space for us all to discern together Salem's next steps. My focus is on being your pastor as God calls me to do so at this moment, in finding meaning in our ministry together here and now.*



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[www.salemstcloud.org](http://www.salemstcloud.org)

**Sunday  
Worship**

**8:30 a.m.**

(radio broadcast on WMIN  
1010AM)

**10:30 a.m.**

Both services on YouTube  
and salemstcloud.org

**In Christ's Name,  
Welcome!**

## Meet Salem's 2024 Church Council



Wayne Anderson



Deb Campbell



Ann Frerich



Justin Hauer



Mae Hogenson



Cathy Jenniges



Jackie Johnson



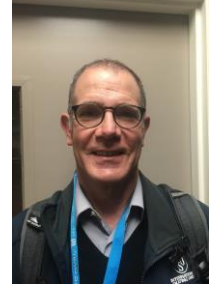
Mike LaFontaine



Tom Meyer



Greg Nastrom



Joel Shobe