

Call Updates

Pastor Jason Baldwin has returned our call. We pray that God will bless Pastor Baldwin's ministry in Michigan. Please mark your calendars for our next call meeting on February 2. This week, Tom and Michelle Stob received calls to serve at New Hope Lutheran Academy in West Melbourne, FL. Please keep them in your prayers as they consider where best to serve. They welcome your input and encouragement.

Midweek Worship in Advent

This Wednesday we will hold our final Midweek Advent service. This week Salem's preschool classes take the lead to prepare us to welcome our Savior Jesus. All are invited to enjoy the Christmas account as told through Scripture, children's recitation, and song. A fellowship meal will be served after the service. We hope you'll join us!



Christmas and New Years Worship

We have a great slate of services planned for this holiday season. Join us to glory in His righteousness and wonder at His love! Christmas Eve candlelight services will be at 4 and 6 pm. These services of lessons and carols will be full of some of your favorite Christmas hymns as we unwrap the glorious gift that our God sent for us. On Christmas morning, we'll gather again to celebrate as the shepherds and angels did - with great rejoicing! We'll start with Christmas caroling at 9:45 am before worship begins at 10 am. Holy Communion will be offered at the Christmas Day service. We close the year on December 31st with a special vespers service at 4:30pm. Holy Communion will be offered at the New Year's Eve service as well.

Salem Social Group New Years Dinner

Celebrate New Year's Eve with us on Tuesday, December 31! Start with the 4:30 PM Vespers Service at Salem, followed by dinner at Golden Crown Chinese Restaurant (arrive between 5:30 – 5:45 PM). Open to anyone college age or older—friends and adult family welcome! Sign up in the narthex by Sunday, December 24. Questions? Contact George Smolinski at gsmolin@earthlink.net



THIS WEEK AT SALEM

- Sun, 12/15** 8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Bible Study & Sunday JAM (Jesus and Me)
10:30 am Worship
- Mon 12/16 6:00 pm Area School Band Concert at SCLA
7:00 pm Community Men's Basketball
- Tues, 12/17 10:15 am Tuesday Morning Bible Study
6:30 pm Church Council Committee
- Wed, 12/18 10:00 am Women's Bible Study (and cookie exchange)
4:00 pm Midweek Advent Service
5:00 pm Advent Meal - Soup and Salad
6:15 pm Choir
6:30 pm Catechism Class
7:15 pm Handbells & Men's Chorus
- Fri, 12/20 9:20 am Christmas Chapel
HALF DAY OF SCHOOL
- Sat, 12/21** 9am-12:30pm Christmas for Kids
5:00 pm Worship w/Communion
- Sun, 12/22** 8:00 am Worship w/Communion
9:15 am Bible Study & Sunday JAM (Jesus and Me)
10:30 am Worship w/Communion

Memorial Luminaries on Christmas Eve

This Christmas Eve Salem will remember the lives of those who have passed away with a path of luminary memorials. This growing tradition of lighting outdoor candles for loved ones gives us a time to reflect, celebrate, and shine a light in honor of our loved ones. Christmas Eve is the perfect time to remember them as we rejoice in the peace and hope Christ brings.

Members are invited to write the name of your loved one in heaven on a bag and a message if you wish as well. Bags will be available in the church entry this weekend and next. If you prefer, you can send your name and message to Zuber & Sara Shah at sshah@salem.lutheran.org or text/call 651-491-4684 and they can prepare a luminary for you.

Blue Christmas Worship at New Life - Shoreview

It's supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, but Christmas can be a difficult season for many – maybe for you or someone you know. There is support and comfort to be found even in times of darkness, grief, and separation. Come, join others to hear a message of light and hope. Our sister church, New Life Lutheran in Shoreview, will hold a candlelight prayer service of light and hope this Wednesday (December 18) at 7:00 pm. Join them for this unique worship experience. New Life's address is 180 County Rd F W, Shoreview, MN 55126.

Before Care Supervisor Needed Urgently

Salem School is in immediate need of a supervisor for our before-care program. This is an important position for many parents. Care is provided from 7:00am-8:30am and the pay would be \$30 a time or \$20/hr. For more information, feel free to look at the [position description](#). If you or someone you know are interested, please fill out the application . Contact Principal Klatt with questions at rklatt@salemlutheran.org.



Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$50,333.87 for Current Expenses and \$3,241.15 for Missions. We pray God leads us to generous giving. You can give digitally if you prefer at [salemlutheran.org/donate](https://www.salemlutheran.org/donate).

2025 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelope boxes give our families an opportunity to consider our giving to the Lord for regular gifts and special occasions. Every member household of Salem should have a box on the tables in the entry. If you regularly give online, you can simply turn in an empty envelope checked, "I gave online." Turning in even an empty envelope allows you to participate in the community of giving and helps parents teach children about giving to the Lord. If you don't find a box for yourself, please let us know in the church office. This year we've redesigned the envelopes with three simple categories and custom envelopes for Salem's partner ministries. We pray the new envelopes will be a blessing for our members and for our church.

Christmas Day Instrumental Carolers

Instrumentalists are invited to join us in playing carols for the pre-service sing-along on Christmas Day. We'll meet in the church at 9:20 AM to prepare, with caroling beginning at 9:45. Music books are available for various instruments and can be picked up at the narthex table after this service. Please sign the participation sheet when you pick up your music. Questions? Contact Roger Zoldan at 651-216-7462 (call/text) or rzoldan@comcast.net. Thank you for sharing your talents!

St. Croix Lutheran Academy (SCLA) Christmas Concerts

The SCLA Association Band Concert and Middle School Christmas Concert (*Noel*) is Monday, December 16 in the SCLA Chapel. The association band students will begin at 6:00 pm followed by the SCLA middle school Christmas Concert at 7:00 pm. You can watch the concert online at SCLA's YouTube. SCLA's High school Christmas Concert (*Tidings of Joy*) is Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 pm in the SCLA Gym.

In Our Prayers

- ✝ For lasting joy in Christ that is greater than temporary times of sorrow or happiness.
- ✝ For blessing on Salem leaders and musicians as they prepare our special holiday services.
- ✝ For healing and help for all who look to the Lord in their time of need.

Contact Information

Church office (Abigail Ibsch): 651-439-7831 | church@salemlutheran.org
Pastor Ryan Wolfe: 701-989-9721 | rwolfe@salemlutheran.org
Principal Ryan Klatt: 763-898-6273 | rklatt@salemlutheran.org
School Office (Diane Light): 651-439-7831 | school.office@salemlutheran.org
Parish Nurse (Kathy Smart): 651-383-5126 | nurse@salemlutheran.org

