

Christmas and New Year's Worship

Christmas is nearly here! 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 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.

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.



THIS WEEK AT SALEM

- Sat, 12/21** 5:00 pm Worship w/Communion
- Sun, 12/22** 8:00 am Worship w/Communion
9:15 am Bible Study
10:30 am Worship w/Communion
- Mon, 12/23 - 1/3** NO SCHOOL- OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues, 12/24** 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
- Wed, 12/25** 9:45 am Christmas Carol Sing
10:00 am Christmas Festival Worship w/ Communion
- Sat, 12/28** 5:00 pm Worship
- Sun, 12/29** 8:00 am Worship
10:30 am Worship

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@salemlutheran.org or text/call 651-491-4684 and they can prepare a luminary for you.

Office Hours during the Christmas Holiday

Church and school offices will be closed from December 26 to January 3 to give our staff time to celebrate with their families. Some staff will be working from home. We will respond to emails and return phone calls sent to church during the break. If you need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out—we'll be in touch. Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

Bible Reading Plans

Did you know that you can read the whole Bible in one year with just 10 minutes of reading time a day? This year's Bible plan is Pastor Wolfe's favorite, shared with the church two years ago. Each day we read a bit of the Old Testament, a bit of the New, and a selection from the Psalms. It's a perfect way to break up some of those longer Old Testament books! Pick up your copy in the church entry.

Bible Basics New Session

Pastor Wolfe will offer the next session of Bible Basics beginning the week of January 20th. (Mondays or Thursdays by participants' choice) In this 10 to 12-week study we'll cover the most important teachings of the Bible, as well as look for God's answers to questions participants bring themselves. Bible Basics is a great refresher for members of all ages and a perfect introduction to what we believe for your family and friends. This study also serves as Salem's membership intro class. If you would like to attend or want to invite someone you know to attend please contact Pastor Wolfe (rwolfe@salemlutheran.org).



Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week of \$13,429.37 for Current Expenses and \$1,375.75 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).

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

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Salem Buy Nothing Facebook Group

Have you heard of a Buy Nothing group? It's a Facebook community where there's no buying, selling, trading, bartering, or soliciting for cash—just adults participating in a gift economy. One of our members has generously offered to manage a group for us! This group is a wonderful way to share items you no longer need with your church family. Need an extra cake pan? Make a request. Have extra Christmas decorations? Offer them as a gift. You can use the church office for item pick-up and drop-off, making it even easier to participate. Not only does this help reduce waste, but it's also a great way to build connections within your church community. To join, search for [WELS Greater St. Croix Area Sharing Site](#) on Facebook. Feel free to invite your friends to join as well!

Call Updates

Please mark your calendars for our next pastoral call meeting on February 2. Also pray for Salem teachers Tom & Michelle Stob, holding calls to teach in West Melbourne, FL.

In Our Prayers

- ✝ For advent blessings in Christ: hope, peace, joy, and love
- ✝ For the lost, the unchurched, and the straying. That God would use us to help them rejoice in Jesus.
- ✝ For comfort to the grieving, healing to the sick, and relief to those living in hurt.

