

NEWSLETTER

THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

FEB. 2024



WELCOME!

GET IN TOUCH

Church Address: 115 N Washington Ave,
Albert Lea MN 56007
Phone: 507.373.2184
Fax: 507.377.8990
Website: salemalbertlea.org
Worship: Sunday 10:00 am

STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Mark Boorsma
mboorsma@aol.com
507-377-2459
Secretary: Vicki Reichl
Email: secretary@salemalbertlea.org
Cell: 507.402.1775
Custodian: Ray Smith

OFFICE HOURS:

Tue - Wed | 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Thu | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING EVENTS FEBRUARY AT SALEM

Women of Salem

Bible Study—Thursday, February 16th at Salem at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. led by Pr. Mark Boorsma.

We are also invited by our Ascension friends to join in on their Bible Chapter Book Club. This meets via Zoom each Sunday at 11:30 a.m. You can attend two ways:

Gather Bible Study (second Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Same number as Book Club.

-by computer with the Zoom app
<https://zoom.us/j/6751859971>

or by phone
(meeting ID



312-626-6799
6751859971##).

Upcoming

February 15th: 10:00 a.m. Women of Salem Mtg

February 20th: 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Deployment

Nate Dilling is deployed to the Middle East. Please keep Nate in your prayers.





From the Pastor:

Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on February 14.

Many of us grew up with the advice *“if you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.”* Refraining from trash-talking one another is indeed a better way to create and sustain positive relationships. But sometimes we interpreted that saying as if it applied to our conversations with God, too.

Did you know that the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (“LBW” or ‘green hymnal’) left out **28** of the 150 Psalms? Most of the omitted ones were psalms of **lament** – heartfelt expressions of grief, regret, or mourning.

Over the years I’ve been a pastor, I discovered that some folks are quite surprised to learn there are these tried-and-true ways to **complain** to God, called laments.

I’ve had terminally ill folks – struggling mightily with pain – who were actually grateful to learn **how** to lament faithfully.

Lament will be our theme and topic during the Wednesdays in Lent. We will move around between Ascension, Christ Episcopal, and Salem as together we gather for worship and soup at 11 a.m. and then for evening worship at 7 p.m.

Psalm 22 starts with a cry of lament: *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?”* Jesus himself echoed these very words in his own suffering.

Come and learn the language of lament, by which the faithful in every generation have cried out to God.

– Pastor Mark Boorsma

FINANCIAL CORNER

DEC. INCOME

\$ 13,620.24

DEC. EXPENSES

\$ 9,815.14

2023 INCOME:

\$ 130,199.02

2023 FROM SCHWAB:

\$ 10,000

2023 OTHER INCOME:

\$

NOISY OFFERING:

\$ LITTLE FREE PANTRY \$249.76

\$ ECUMENICAL PANTRY \$43.18

Thank You

Joann Iverson has made many beautiful scarfs to share with our community to help people keep warm. We sure appreciate this kind gesture!

Memorials

Gifts were received in memory of Charlotte Olson for the new roof fund and the General Fund.

Unofficial Council Hi-Lites– January 16, 2024

Devotions were given by Pr. Mark.

Secretary's Report was approved as corrected on motion by Shari Budach, seconded by Mary Gulbrandson.

Treasurer's Report was approved on motion by Paul Dilling, seconded by Shari Budach .

-Pastor Mark asked about Salem's history in offering/ delivering funeral services. All doing well after busy Advent and Christmas season.

-Church in Society: Discussion about Thrivent Choice dollars maximum gift amount. Paver to be gifted to to All Together Inclusive Playground on motion by Donna Werner, seconded by Shari Budach. Passed

-Worship & Music: Shari Budach reported that with the combined Lenten schedule Salem will have worship services at 11:00 a.m. followed by a soup luncheon on Feb. 21, March 6, and March 20.

Old Business:

-2024 Budget was approved on motion by Mary Gulbrandson, seconded by Kathy Paul. Passed

--New Business:

-Noisy Offering - For February it will be for All Inclusive Playground on motion by Donna Werner, seconded by Kathy Paul. Motion passed.

-Employee Handbook update—motion by Kathy Paul, seconded by Shari Budach to adopt the proposed changes. Passed.

-Motion made to recommend up to 10% of distribution of Schwab funds for general fund expenses for 2024. 1st by Shari Budach, 2nd by Kathy Paul. Motion by Mary Gulbrandson, 2nd by Kathy Paul to change from percentage to \$4,000 for benevolence & missions.

-Motion by Kathy Paul, seconded by Donna Werner to appoint Shari Budach & Mary Gulbrandson as Financial Secretaries. Passed.

-Pastor Mark Boorsma suggested a quiz to be included in the annual report.

--Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is February 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Salem Office Hours

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Office phone number: 373-2184

Noisy Offering—February

Noisy Offering will be going to the new “All Together Albert Lea Inclusive Playground and Miracle Field” in February. Hoping to break ground in spring 2024.

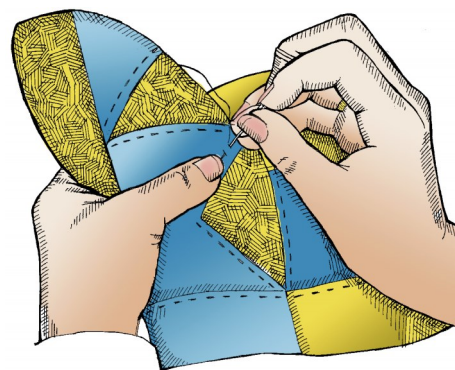
The goal of this park is to create a place for people of all ages and abilities to come together to learn, play and participate in the world around them. This park will be located at Edgewater Park, north of the Edgewater Bay Pavilion.

Please be generous with you coins to help Salem be a part of this. Thank you.

Sew 'n' Tell

February 13

February 27



QUILTING GROUP

Men's Bible Study

February 2

February 9

February 16

February 23

Gather at 6:30 a.m. and have a cup of coffee, talk and share some scripture. All are welcome!



Lenten Schedule

We will once again be joining with our friends at Christ Episcopal and Ascension Lutheran for the Lenten Season. Please save this schedule and attend as you are able.

February 14th—Ash Wednesday

11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran

February 21st - Lenten Services

11:00 a.m. at Salem Lutheran (followed by soup)
7:00 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran (coffee/bars after)

February 28th Lenten Services

11:00 a.m. at Ascension Lutheran (followed by soup)
7:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal (6:00 p.m. Coffee & Dessert)

March 6 Lenten Services

11:00 a.m. at Salem Lutheran (followed by soup)
7:00 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran (coffee/bars after)

March 13 Lenten Services

11:00 a.m. at Ascension Lutheran (followed by soup)
7:00 p.m. Christ Episcopal (6:00 p.m. Soup Supper)

March 20 Lenten Services

11:00 a.m. at Salem (followed by soup)
7:00 p.m. at Ascension (coffee/bars after)



FEBRUARY
Birthdays and Anniversaries

Feb. 5 Mary Lahs

Feb. 9: Kent & Vicki Reichl 50 years

Feb. 6 Shirley Eusstis

Feb. 13 Caroline Neale

Feb. 15 Linda Larson

Feb. 16 Julie Dorman

Feb. 17 Angela Jackson

Feb. 18 Troy Waldemar

Feb. 21 Paul Thompson, Jaclyn Flatten

Feb. 24 Barry Heilman



February

LET US PRAY...
*Larry Enderson
Woody Hestness
Shirley Eustis
Dean Beighley
Tom Eustis
Leland Dilling
Marianne DePoppe
Andrea Rhodes
Mary Paul
Kathy Paul*



Salem Lutheran Church
115 N Washington Ave
Albert Lea MN 56007-2488

"Change Service Requested"

THE BUILDER FEBRUARY, 2024

*Salem
Lutheran
Church is a
Christ-Centered
Community,
building
relationships,
growing in
faith, and
serving others.*

