

NEWSLETTER

THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

DEC. 2025



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: Thomas Evenson
Cell: 507-320-8218

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
DECEMBER AT SALEM

Women of Salem

Bible Study—Thursday, Dec. 18th 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##).

Dates

December 11th: 12:00 p.m. SOS Christmas Party- bring a dish to share and a \$5 wrapped gift.

December 24th: 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service at Salem.

December 24th & December 25th: Church offices closed.



From the Pastor:

As we walk together into Advent, may I share Jeannette Lindholm's text "Unexpected and Mysterious" (hymn number 258 in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*):

Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace. Ever-loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace. If we falter in our courage and we doubt what we have known, God is faithful to console us as a mother tends her own.

In a momentary meeting of eternity and time, Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine. Then she learned of God's compassion, of Elizabeth's great joy, and she ran to greet the woman who would recognize her boy.

My Advent prayer for you is that, like Elizabeth, you would **recognize Mary's boy**. You see, so many who say "Lord, Lord!" or even name his name – Jesus – have completely distorted the Prince of Peace into an unfamiliar projection of their own insecurities and hate.

Some of the best Advent music sounds notes of plaintive longing for the arrival of Jesus into hearts and lives. What a fascinating paradox that the Advent color – **blue** – is said to represent hope. And hope is lifeblood for people literally or figuratively "singing the blues" of grief, pain, diminishment, and longing.

Advent is **honest**. Advent does not ask any of us to pretend that we, or our circumstances, are perfect, ever-joyful, and always exciting. Instead, we find permission to plead, "Come, Lord Jesus; show up in **my** life, complicated and messy though it may be."

We are called to ponder mystery and await the coming Christ, to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life. God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth, while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth.



Pastor Mark Boorsma

FINANCIAL CORNER

OCTOBER INCOME

\$ 4,998.00

OCTOBER EXPENSES

\$ 11,139.18

2025 INCOME:

\$ 116,573.34

2025 FROM SCHWAB:

\$ 5,000

2025 OTHER INCOME:

\$

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

DEC. 7: WECKWERTH FAMILY

DEC. 14: CAROLINE NEALE

DEC. 21: EVA JOHNSRUD

DEC. 28: OPEN

Noisy Offering

December Noisy Offering will
be going to the
Little Free Pantry.

Little Free Pantry

\$260.10

ELCA Leadership Fund

\$16.61

Salvation Army

\$74

Ecumenical Food Pantry

\$74

Unofficial Council Hi-Lites– November 18, 2025

-Meeting called to order by President Beth Spande.

-Devotions were given by Pastor Boorsma.

-Secretary's Report was approved and passed.

-Treasurer's Report was approved and passed.

-Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark reported on a communion service at Senior Tower on Veteran's Day.

Committee Reports:

-Budget & Finance: Kim Luhning reported that all is in balance.

-Building & Grounds: Paul Dilling reported how well our new Custodian, Tom Evenson is doing.

-Worship & Music: Deb Stolarcek reported hymns are picked thru January.

-Stewardship: Kathy Paul reported Commitment Sunday went good with pledge still coming in and that the Temple Talks were well received.

-Education: Shari Budach reported Sunday School office has been cleaned out by herself and Sharon Dilling.

Old Business

-The lock up schedule was updated.

New Business

-Noisy Offering for December will go to the Little Free Pantry.

-Annual Reports are due before Christmas.

-The Annual Congregational Meeting was set for January 25, 2026.

-Bruce Ness motioned to approve the 2026 budget, seconded by Kathy Paul and passed.

-The meeting was adjourned .

-The next meeting will be December 16, 2025.



Little Free Pantry

It is important to keep our Little Free Pantry stocked the best we can. Help if you are able.

Some ideas are:

Cold cereal

Hot cereal

Bread Cake & Muffin mixes

Mac & Cheese

Soups

Canned Fruits

Crackers Chips Cookies

Canned Meats

White & Brown Sugar, Flour

Puddings & Jello

Food items can be put into the pantry or dropped off at church. Coin or cash donations may be put in the offering plate (marked Little Free Pantry). Thank you for Sharing!



Sew 'n' Tell

Will not meet in December.

See you January 13, 2026!

Friday Morning Bible Study

December 5

December 12

December 19

December 26

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

Good morning -

On behalf of the stewardship committee, I am extending an enormous thank you to each and every one of you.

Being thankful shows that you are grateful, you express appreciation and gratitude for what someone else has done for you or an action that needs to be recognized. And it is just plainly being polite. Even receiving an unexpected thank you card in the mail for an act of kindness that a member of the congregation noticed and appreciated.

People notice what you do. People care. We all should be thankful for one another.

Some of the things we are giving thanks for... church staff, church council, food pantry, volunteers for funerals, great music, services at St John's, sew n' tell, Salem over 60, bible studies, alter guild, Sunday morning volunteers for coffee hour, ushers, and those assisting in the church service, an active prayer chain and the Builder newsletter. We also get to hear a great message every Sunday under a new roof.

This being commitment Sunday, please reflect back and remember what we have been blessed with. We must plan and look ahead for the coming year. Our church, congregation and our community all need our ongoing support. Thank you for your monetary gifts, your time and your efforts.

Being here this morning shows that each and everyone of you are giving thanks for many reasons. So being that I have said thank you to you, I would like you to turn to the person in front, behind or beside you and just say thank you for being here and worshipping with me.

Thank you.

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To all members of Salem Lutheran's Sew 'N Tell Group:

We have never met. That is why I am so overwhelmed by your outpouring of love and generosity for the gift of a beautiful quilt. My name is Tammy Novak and I am the daughter of Manny & Barb Ayers. I know that they have shared my cancer diagnosis and that led you to present me with a beautiful quilt made with love. As you know my diagnosis is not good. However God is good and I put my trust in Him. Whatever lies ahead for me I will accept as God's will for my life. Thank you again for making this difficult time in my life a little more joyful. I feel very blessed to have received this quilt.

In Christ's Eternal Love,
Tammy Novak



Dec. 1 Gemma Beckman, Tony Flatten

Happy Anniversary!

Dec. 2 Holly Krekula, Del Schnoor,
Gene Weckwerth

December 29: Clarence & Janice Ayers: 68 years

Dec. 5 Eleanor Ott

Dec. 7 Eleanor Dilling

Dec. 8 Steve Bendickson, Eva Johnsrud

Dec. 12 Pam Jacobsen

Dec. 17 Nathan Rugroden

Dec. 20 Cynthia Nelson

Dec. 22 Barb Ayers

Dec. 25 Shari Budach

Dec. 27 Eunice Maberry

Dec. 28 Joni Burns

Dec. 30 Audrey Johannsen



LET US PRAY...
Mary Paul
Pat Dillum
Dan Hensche
Roger Holty
Andrea Rhodes
Barb Scheib
Larry Enderson
Faith Anderson
Tammy Novak
Annette Petersen



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

"Change Service Requested"

THE BUILDER DECEMBER, 2025

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

