

NEWSLETTER

THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

JAN. 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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS JANUARY AT SALEM

Women of Salem

Bible Study—Thursday, January 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##).

Upcoming

Jan. 7th: Bishop Regina Hassanally joining us

Jan. 9th & Jan. 23rd: Sew "N Tell

Jan. 10th: Reports for Annual Mtg. due in office

Jan. 16th: 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Jan. 28th: Annual Congregational Meeting

Deployment

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



Dear Friends,

If somebody calls me two-faced, they do not mean it as a compliment. “Two-faced” in common usage means insincere or deceitful. But today I am thinking instead of a certain ancient two-faced Roman god – Janus – from whom the month of January gets its name.

Janus was the god of gateways, transitions, duality, beginnings, and endings. He is usually depicted as two-faced, but not in the negative way. Like your mother, he has eyes in the back of his head. He can simultaneously look backward AND forward.

Such back-and-forth looking in January carries on the ancient character of the month’s namesake, as many of us review the year past even as we dream dreams and make plans for a new year just beginning.

As I look back on this year we have been together, I thank you for all the ways you have stepped up to support Salem and your siblings in Christ here. Any congregation requires many moving parts, and many willing hands to pull together. Thank you for what you have done!

As together we imagine the new year unfolding before us, how might we better serve one another, this community, and the world? What resources will we need to do it well?

Many congregations these days look back with a measure of grief and sadness, remembering former times with more people, more programs, more resources. Nostalgia has its place, but it can also be paralyzing.

Instead, let us remember that Jesus – with only twelve chosen ones – transformed a world, and has not stopped yet!

I bid you a happy new year of grace and opportunity!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark Boorsma

FINANCIAL CORNER

NOV. INCOME

\$ 9,235.00

NOV. EXPENSES

\$ 12,197.24

2023 INCOME:

\$ 116,300.00

2023 FROM SCHWAB:

\$ 10,000

2023 OTHER INCOME:

\$

NOISY OFFERING:

\$

\$

Thank You

Thank you to Salem for the gift of Chamber Bucks. Greatly appreciated.

Vicki Reichl

Thank you to members of Salem that joined us in caroling. You are invited to join in again next year!

Worship & Music Committee at Ascension Lutheran

Thank you to all that helped to make our Christmas Eve so beautiful with poinsettias. Special thanks to all that shared music with us.

Unofficial Council Hi-Lites- Dec. 19, 2023

Devotions were given by Pr. Mark using “Dwelling in the Word”.

Secretary’s Report was approved.

Treasurer’s Report was approved. Donna Werner proposed to give a \$200 gift to the Inclusive Playground to come from Thrivent Choice funds. Passed.

-Pastor Mark reported no funeral for Charlotte Olson—visitation only.

-Building & Grounds: Paul Dilling reported boiler noise to remain as is cost prohibitive to fix. Roof repair very high. Future project.

-Church in Society: Donna Werner reported large amount of food to distribute.

-Worship & Music: Shari Budach had nothing new to report.

-Education: Shari Budach reported scholarships will be available for 2024.

Old Business:

-Shared Ministry --Papers are signed and sent to the Bishop.

Nominating Committee will meet again January 4th.

--New Business:

-Annual Meeting date set for January 28, 2024.

-Noisy Offering - For January it will be Little Free Pantry & Ecumenical Food Pantry. Motion passed.

-Deb Kolling presented proposed revisions to the Salem Constitution. Council members to review.

-Minnesota Sick & Safe Law 2024 was discussed and Salem will meet the requirement.

-Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting January 16th at 6:30 p.m.



Special Visitor in January

"Looking ahead" Bishop Regina Hassanally will be here at Salem on Sunday, January 7th. She will visit with us during the coffee hour, and will preach and preside at Communion." Please plan to come and worship January 7th.

F.R.O.G. Valentine Party

The members of Central Freeborn have invited us to a Valentine Party on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024. Please see the details on the bulletin board if you are interested.

Salem Office Hours

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

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

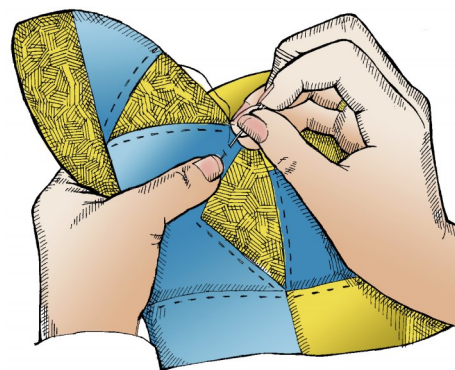
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Office phone number: 373-2184

Sew 'n' Tell

January 9

January 23



QUILTING GROUP

Men's Bible Study

January 5

January 12

January 19

January 26

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



Reports for the Annual Report

Reports to be published in the Annual Report are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, January 10, 2024. If you need extra time while waiting for a bank statement please call Vicki in the church office at 373-2184.

The Congregational Annual Meeting of Salem Lutheran Church will be held right after the worship service on Sunday, January 28th, 2024. It is very important that all Salem members try to attend.

Noisy Offering

Noisy Offering for the month of January will be going to:

- "Little Free Pantry" located by the Salem sign
- Ecumenical Food Pantry located in First Presbyterian Church

Both are great programs helping the hungry of our community at this time of great need. You may also put items in the "Little Free Pantry" if you have extra you wish to share.

Some needed items:

- Boxed meals
- Boxed potatoes
- Rice
- Cake & Brownie mixes
- Cookies
- Fruit pouches
- Coffee
- Bottled water & beverages
- Breakfast bars
- Baby food
- Cereal
- Peanut butter
- Crackers
- Toilet paper

Thank you for your generous heart in sharing with less fortunate!

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Jan. 1 Adam Kermes
- Jan. 2 Roger Holty
- Jan. 4 Kim Heilman, Melissa Olson
- Jan. 7 Roger Hanna
- Jan. 12 Dennis Johnson
- Jan. 17 Terri Cheever
- Jan. 18 Les Olson
- Jan. 22 Randy Rugroden
- Jan. 23 Bill Sherman
- Jan. 24 Dorie Hanna, Morgan Luhring
- Jan. 26 Rebakah Sousa
- Jan. 30 Diane Henry

Jan. 1: Julie & Mike Dorman 42 years



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

Our prayers are with the family and friends of member, Charlotte Olson.



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

"Change Service Requested"

THE BUILDER JANUARY, 2024

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



January