

NEWSLETTER

THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

JAN. 2026



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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS JANUARY AT SALEM

Women of Salem

Bible Study—Thursday, January 15th 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

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

January 25th: Annual Congregational Meeting
immediately following the Worship Service

Thank You

Thank you to the members of Salem for the Chamber Bucks at Christmas. Very much appreciated. Happy New Year!

Vicki Reichl

Tom Evenson

January, 2026

From the Pastor:

“Heliacal rising” is not a term often sprinkled into daily conversation. But in antiquity, heliacal risings were very big deals. Naturally, stars are ‘up there’ during the day, but we cannot see them due to the brighter sunlight. When a star first becomes visible after ‘hiding’ in the sun’s light, it appears above the eastern horizon, just before dawn.

These heliacal risings — or first appearances — of various stars marked the changes of seasons, agricultural cycles, navigation, and significant religious events.

A Persian *magus* or three observed such a rising star and interpreted it as announcing a royal birth. From Matthew, chapter 2:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in its rising and have come to pay him homage.”

The Church celebrates the insight of the Magi on the **Epiphany of Our Lord** — January 6 each year.

The Christian faith has generally been skeptical of astrology — humankind’s ancient belief that the stars governed our lives, and that their movements can be used to predict earthly events. But the story of the Star of Bethlehem flips that script, as if to suggest that the stars do **not** govern the Babe of Bethlehem.

Rather, they **respond** to him, much as created beings recognizing their Creator.

Ancient attention to risings in the east gave rise to words we still use, such as orientation or orienteering.

To **orient** oneself is to establish accurate direction, and to set out upon a path in the correct direction.

In a new year, may Jesus, whose star led the Magi, lead you ever toward himself!

Pastor Mark Boorsma

FINANCIAL CORNER

NOVEMBER INCOME

\$ 9,470

NOVEMBER EXPENSES

\$ 11,997

2025 INCOME:

\$ 126,043

2025 FROM SCHWAB:

\$ 5,000

2025 OTHER INCOME:

\$

FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

JAN. 4: OPEN

JAN. 11: OPEN

JAN. 18: OPEN

JAN. 25: OPEN

FLOWERS ARE \$40 PER SUNDAY.

Noisy Offering

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

Little Free Pantry

\$124.56



Unofficial Council Hi-Lites- December 16, 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 58 attended the shared Thanksgiving Eve Service. 14 went caroling and we are planning on Christmas Eve Service at Salem at 4:00 p.m. with Ascension & Christ Episcopal members as our guests.

Committee Reports:

-Church in Society: Kathy Woodside is resigning from Council. Her resignation was accepted on motion by Kathy Paul, seconded by Kim Luhring and passed.

Old Business

-Reports for the Annual Report are due to the church office no later than January 6, 2026.

New Business

- Noisy Offering for January will go to the Little Free Pantry.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting was set for January 25, 2026.
- The meeting was adjourned .
- The next meeting will be January 20, 2026.

Church
COUNCIL

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

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

January 13

January 27

Friday Morning Bible Study

January 2

January 9

January 16

January 23

January 30

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

This is the Church Council that has served Salem very faithfully in 2025. We owe them our thanks. Paul Dilling, Annette Petersen and Kathy Woodside have completed their time on Church Council. We thank them. We will be electing some new council members at our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 25th, 2026 immediately following the worship service.

Salem Church Council 2025

Beth Spande Bethspande@gmail.com	President	507-377-8214 507-383-5842
Larry Lahs Sr.	Vice President	507-377-2298
Annette Petersen annpete3@hotmail.com	Secretary	507-383-9948
Bruce Ness bruceness@hotmail.com	Treasurer	507-383-7630
Deb Stolarcek dastolar@yahoo.com	Worship/Music	860-878-4506
Kim Luhring kkluhring@gmail.com	Budget/Finance	507-383-7807
Kathy Woodside Johnson.creative@yahoo.com	Church in Society Missions	507-369-3487
Shari Budach (partnered with Ascension) Shari.budach49@gmail.com	Education	507-373-0463 507-402-1712
Paul Dilling pjdilling@charter.net	Building & Grounds	507-383-6306
Kathy Paul	Stewardship	507-377-1318
Pastor Mark Boorsma		507-377-2459



- Jan. 2 Roger Holty
- Jan. 4 Melissa Olson
- Jan. 12 Dennis Johnson
- Jan. 17 Terri Cheever
- Jan. 22 Randy Rugroden
- Jan. 23 Bill Sherman
- Jan. 24 Dorie Hanna, Morgan Luhring
- Jan. 26 Rebekah Sousa
- Jan. 30 Diane Henry

Happy Anniversary!

January 1: Mike & Julie Dorman: 44 years

HAPPY
Anniversary
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY



January

LET US PRAY...

- Mary Paul*
- Pat Dollum*
- Dan Hensche*
- Roger Holty*
- Andrea Rhodes*
- Barb Scheib*
- Larry Enderson*
- Faith Anderson*
- Tammy Novak*
- Dean Beighley*



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

"Change Service Requested"

THE BUILDER JANUARY, 2026

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

