

NEWSLETTER

THE BUILDER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

FEB. 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING EVENTS
FEBRUARY AT SALEM

Women of Salem

Bible Study—Thursday, Feb. 19th 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

Feb. 10: 5:30 p.m. Endowment Committee Meeting

Feb. 12: 3:00 p.m. Worship & Music Comm. Mtg.

Feb. 17: 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday Services
(11:00 a.m. at Ascension and 7:00 p.m. at Salem)

See complete Lenten schedule on page 5



February, 2026

From the Pastor:

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 18. The name “Ash” recalls the time-honored practice of using ashes to express repentance. A cross-shaped smudge of ash is traced on the forehead while ancient words from Genesis 3:19 are spoken to remind all children of Adam (a Hebrew name that means “earth-being”) that they are made of dust, to which in death they shall return. The biblical use of ashes is for penitence (sorrow and remorse for sin). Three examples from the Bible are Esther 4:1-3, Job 42:1-6, and Jonah 3:5-10. Jesus himself spoke of the penitential use of ashes in Matthew 11:21 and Luke 10:13. Christians appropriately begin the journey of Lent by expressing remorse for sins and desire for the saving mercy of God.

Christian practice does not imagine the Lenten journey to “return to the Lord” as an individual or solitary activity. Rather, it is undertaken by a whole community. Thus, in Lent we come together not only on Sundays, but also mid-week, on Wednesdays, to pray together, sing together, reflect together, and share meals together. This serves to remind us all that “returning to the Lord” also always involves a refreshed return **to one another** within the household of faith.

We will again share these mid-week services (at 11:00 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m.) with two other congregations — Ascension and Christ Episcopal.

Come and be fed, with word and sacrament, and maybe even with a delicious bowl of soup!

Pastor Mark Boorsma



FINANCIAL CORNER

DECEMBER INCOME

\$ 21,356

DECEMBER EXPENSES

\$10,904

2025 INCOME:

\$ 147,399

2025 FROM SCHWAB:

\$ 5,000

2025 OTHER INCOME:

\$

FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

FEB. 1: OPEN

FEB. 8: JAN WERNER

FEB. 15 OPEN

FEB. 22: OPEN

FLOWERS ARE \$40 PER SUNDAY.

Noisy Offering

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

Little Free Pantry

\$238.50



Unofficial Council Hi-Lites- January 20, 2026

- 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 140 were here for Christmas Eve worship service.

Committee Reports:

- Worship & Music: Deb Stolarcek reported her committee will be meeting soon.
- Stewardship: Kathy Paul reported committee will be focusing on church register.

Old Business

- Building Security: Bruce Ness will look into. Possibly need a committee.
- Art Center Tour: Salem will be participating. Will discuss at Annual Meeting.

New Business

- Noisy Offering for February will go to the Little Free Pantry.
- Annette Petersen's resignation from Church Council was accepted.
- Eva Johnsrud has resigned from Altar Guild. New signers will be added to the account.
- Pastor Boorsma is treasurer of SMILE (an organization that helps immigrants that need legal representation). A training/information session will be at Salem on Feb. 12th. Motion was made, approved and passed to have this at Salem.
- The next meeting will be February 17, 2026.

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
February 10

February 24

Friday Morning Bible Study

February 6

February 13

February 20

February 27

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

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18

11 a.m. at Ascension

7 p.m. at Salem

Wednesday, February 25

11 a.m. at Ascension (soup after)

7 p.m. at Christ Church (soup before)

Wednesday, March 4

11 a.m. at Ascension (soup after)

7 p.m. at Salem (coffee & bars after)

Wednesday, March 11

11 a.m. at Salem (soup after)

7 p.m. at Ascension (coffee & bars after)

Wednesday, March 18

11 a.m. at Ascension (soup after)

7 p.m. at Salem (coffee & bars after)

Wednesday, March 25

11 a.m. at Salem (soup after)

7 p.m. at Christ Church (Catered dinner before, in celebration of congregation's 150th anniversary)

Maundy Thursday, April 2

11 a.m. at Salem

7 p.m. at Salem

Good Friday, April 3

No 11 a.m.

7 p.m. at Ascension



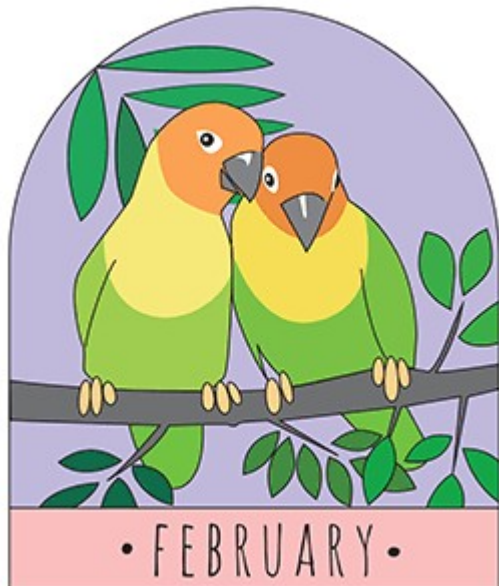


- Feb. 1 Alice Jacobson
- Feb. 3 Amanda Dilling
- Feb. 5 Mary Lahs
- Feb. 13 Caroline Neale
- Feb. 14 Riley Reichl
- Feb. 15 Linda Larson, Ayden Woodside
- Feb. 16 Julie Dorman
- Feb. 17 Angela Jackson
- Feb. 19 Troy Waldemar
- Feb. 21 Jaclyn Flatten, Paul Thompson
- Feb. 24 Barry Heilman
- Feb. 28 Barb Scheib

Happy Anniversary!

Feb. 9: Kent & Vicki Reichl: 52 years

Feb. 27: Dwight & Mary Stevens: 61 years



LET US PRAY...
 Mary Paul
 Pat Dollum
 Dan Hensche
 Andrea Rhodes
 Barb Scheib
 Larry Enderson
 Faith Anderson
 Tammy Novak
 Dean Beighley
 Del Schnoor

Roger Holty passed away January 28th. Our prayers are with his family and friends.



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

"Change Service Requested"

THE BUILDER FEBRUARY, 2026

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

