

# Salem Lutheran Church Bell

February 2025

Rooted in Christ  
to love, grow & serve



## Quilting for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) & Our Community

Thursdays from 9am to 12pm

January, February, & March

Salem Quilters will again pick up their needles to begin the ministry of making Quilts for people in need on Thursday, January 9. No quilting or sewing experience needed. We can help cut material, tie quilts, design layouts, make treats, coffee, or just have fun. Everyone is welcome - men and women!

## Thrivent Financial Members Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program of Thrivent Financial, which distributes its charitable funds based on your insurance premiums. It allows eligible members to choose where you want your Choice Dollars to go.

Call Thrivent financial 800-847-4836 in Appleton, WI and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice" or visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

Thank you to all who have already designated their Choice Dollars to Salem Lutheran Church. It is very important to continue to designate your dollars or Thrivent will make the decision for you to wherever they want it to go. Questions, contact Doris Schmidt, Linda Bechtold or Pat Wrucke.

## Longville Area Food Shelf

Change of Hours Effective Jan. 8 | 10am - 2:30pm

Due to increased need for food assistance in our community, our Food Shelf is increasing the hours they are open. Volunteers are always needed, Wednesdays from 9am to 3pm.

## Super Fundraiser for Souper Bowl of Caring Celebrates 35 Years Tackling Hunger

February 9, 2025

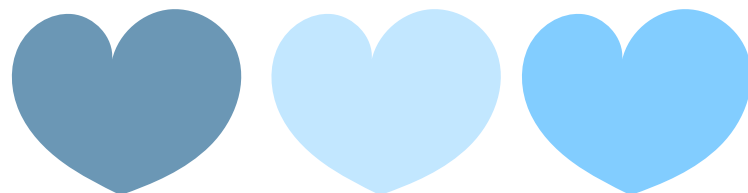
In addition to our Annual Souper Bowl Sunday Special Offering, Salem Lutheran Church invites us to donate items or funds to purchase items listed below:

Laundry Soap	Kleenex	Hand Soap
Salt & Pepper	Garlic (not fresh)	Dish Soap
Body Wash	All-purpose cleaner	Sugar
Prepared Mustard	Vegetable Oil	Chili Powder
Italian Seasoning	Toilet Paper	Tooth Paste
Non-Stick Spray	Hot Cereals	Salad Dressings
Paper Towels	Cinnamon	
	Deodorant (Men & Women)	

Place your items in one of two large boxes at back of church (Blue NFC or Red AFC) for which you predict (or wish) to win their chance to be in the Super Bowl on February 9th. Our goal is to FILL both boxes before Super Bowl Sunday. Or bring / send donations (note: Souper Bowl) to Salem Lutheran Church, PO Box 136 | 1340 County Road 5, Longville MN 56655.

A Special Offering will be received following worship on Sunday, February 9th with donations designated to the Longville Area Food Shelf.

Together we can turn the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring.





# February Worship Volunteers

## February 2 | 4th Sunday of Epiphany

Ushers/Greeters	Laura Flohaug, Beth Tobiason
Lay Reader	Jim Fladmoe
Bread Server	Pastor Trish
Wine/Grape Juice	Janna Williams
Communion Care	Linda Bechtold
Sound Technician	Egon Overgaard
Video Technicians	Mitch Jorgenson, Doug Williams
Money Counters	Greg Peters, Jim Fladmoe
Fellowship Servers & Treats	Wrucke & Peters Families

## February 9 | 5th Sunday of Epiphany

Ushers/Greeters	Scott & Allison Magnus
Lay Reader	Jan Stadtherr
Bread Server	Pastor Trish
Wine/Grape Juice	Jan Stadtherr
Communion Care	Allison Magnus
Sound Technician	Craig Anderson
Video Technicians	Mitch Jorgenson, TBD
Money Counters	Garry Gaffey, Don Falls
Fellowship Servers & Treats	Fred & Cris Smith

## February 16 | 6th Sunday of Epiphany

Ushers/Greeters	Greg & Diane Peters
Lay Reader	Keith Lorensen
Bread Server	Pastor Trish
Wine/Grape Juice	Beth Tobiason
Communion Care	Laura Flohaug
Sound Technician	Jim Fladmoe
Video Technicians	Mike & Hope Olson
Money Counters	Mike Meagher, Mark Wrucke
Fellowship Servers & Treats	<b>HELP NEEDED!</b>

## February 23 | 7th Sunday of Epiphany

Ushers/Greeters	Roger & Linda Bechtold
Lay Readers	Linda Ferwerda
Bread Server	Pastor Trish
Wine/Grape Juice	Laura Flohaug
Communion Care	Jo Gaffey
Sound Technician	Pat Wrucke
Video Technicians	Ron Stadtherr, Mark Wrucke
Money Counters	Judy Saxerud, Randy Swanson
Fellowship Servers & Treats	Flohaug Team

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful servants of God's grace in its various forms.  
1 Peter 4:10

# February Birthdays

- 1 Shelly Fanth
- 3 Ilean Moore
- 6 Dawn Gilsrud
- 6 Kirk Dodds
- 7 Brenda Mullenmaster
- 8 Neil Tobiason
- 10 Dillon Loren
- 10 Jean Nagorski
- 11 Fred Smith
- 12 Bob Alley
- 12 Barb Nordstrom
- 13 Rod Mouw
- 14 Louise Daudt
- 15 Linda Bechtold
- 16 Toni Drum
- 17 Scott Wicks
- 19 Baylor Riendeau
- 23 Jo Gaffey
- 24 Gerald Meeks
- 24 Paige Nornberg
- 25 Karen Lehmann
- 25 Mark Houghton
- 27 Gene Olson
- 28 Andrea Semmler
- 28 Trevor Johnson
- 28 Heidi Johnson
- 28 Gordon Hess
- 29 Egon Overgaard



# February Anniversaries

- 17 Chris and Michelle Nornberg
- 23 Mark and Patty Lange
- 25 Mike and Rosann Wold
- 28 Paul and Gail Hanson



# We Need You

We are a small church with big hearts, but need all of our hands to help do the ministry here.

- Please consider volunteering for:**
- + Community Meal Coordinator
  - + Worship Volunteer Positions
  - + Sunday Fellowship Servers & Treat Bringers
  - + Children & Youth Ministry
  - + Quilting | Salem Women's Ministry
  - + New Design Collaboration Team
  - + Altar Guild | Seasonal Decorating
  - + Video Technicians
  - + Winter Months Sunday "Special Music"

Please contact the church office for more information.

## Men's Fellowship

Monday February 10th | 9:30am

Bible Study

Tuesday February 11th | 8:00am

Breakfast at Turtle Town Cafe

Monday February 24th | 9:30am

Bible Study

All men are welcome!

## Valentines Day Gift Idea

Trouble coming up with a gift for the person who has everything? Consider a gift in honor of that person to the Salem Endowment Fund.

## Salem Financial Update

As of December 31, 2024 our General Fund is  
**+ \$3921.02**

Due to the adoption of a 2025 deficit budget, the SLC voted to continue the **General Fund Spending Freeze**. If you or your team want/need to spend monies from a 2025 General Fund line item in your ministries, consultation with the SLC is needed prior to any expenditures. This does not include monies in Designated Funds.

Thank you for your financial support of the ministry God does through Salem.

## AARP TAX AID FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

at Salem for Longville area residents

Thursdays beginning February 6th

Hours 8:30am - 1pm

By appointment only! No walk-ins.

For appointments call Ron at 218-675-6532



## Emergency Worship & Church Closings D/T 'Bad' Weather

Worship Cancellations - Check our Website

or tune to:

KLIZ 107.5 (Brainerd)

KTIG 102.7 (Pequot Lakes)

KBLB 93.3 (Brainerd)

Office and Church Closings *other than* Worship:

Check our website - [saemlongville.org](http://saemlongville.org)

Or call Pastor Trish (320-248-9479)

## Salem Community Meal

Wednesday February 12

5pm - 6pm

No Cost | Donations Appreciated

Menu: Don's Famous Meatloaf

Everyone is welcome



## Shared Ministry Model Exploration for Salem's Future

According to the Association of Religion Data Archives, the Church Growth Movement emerged in the 1970's and 1980's. This movement was focused on helping churches grow through marketing strategies and business models of operation. Beginning in the 1990's, churches began to experience a gradual decline in membership, involvement, and giving, which continues today.

Not that long ago, churches did not employ visitation or youth pastors, custodians, secretaries, bookkeepers, and in some places, pastors worked an additional job to make ends meet. As we have witnessed all around us, many smaller and rural congregations are being forced to close or consolidate with other churches, due to insufficient funds.

Churches, seminaries, and synods are opening creative conversations regarding how to keep vitally important communities of worship and ministry open, and Salem is no different.

We recognize that as we are forced to not only adopt deficit budgets year after year, but also freeze all non-essential general fund spending, something has to change. None of us want Salem's ministry or community to decline, but we also know that with cost of living increases, lack of employment opportunities, and access to housing in our area, etc. means many of us simply cannot give more than we are.

Therefore, Salem's Servant Leadership Council has been exploring the idea of what we are calling a "Shared Ministry Model" for Salem's future. In this model, we are looking at putting Salem's ministry back into your hands. We will continue to pay a bookkeeper, custodian, and are developing a ministry coordinator position rather than secretary. But the biggest change would be having a part-time pastor. We don't want Salem's ministry to suffer so have begun developing ministries such as our Accompaniment Ministry Team (lay lead home visitation and Holy Communion) and our Design Collaboration Team (in house graphic and display design).

We believe in Salem's beloved community and the work God does through us. We believe the more others see all of us doing God's work and helping our community, the more Salem will thrive. This doesn't mean that the same small group of people who do a lot of the 'stuff' around here would need to do more, but it means involving and engaging each of us to step up and help - to be church together for the sake of the world.

Questions? Want more information/conversation? Talk with any of our Servant Leadership Council, Pastor Trisha, also watch for upcoming retreats, articles, and an All-Salem visioning process (Summer 2025).