

August 2025

Salem's



Good Newsletter



## Pastor's Corner

Going back to school can be an exciting time for teachers and students, and lots of parents are eager to return to the normal routine a regular school day brings. That dependable, regular routine of the school day helps students know what to expect when each day begins; and knowing what to expect helps students trust that their teachers and parents have their best interest at heart. It's no different at church for the start of a new Sunday School year. Kids returning to worship and class can look forward to seeing familiar faces - of both friends and teachers - and trust that Sunday School will be an enjoyable, safe place to learn about Jesus and grow in God's love.

First developed in England in the late 1700's in an effort to educate poor children, Sunday School quickly became part of the regular routine for children in the United States. For the last two centuries, millions upon millions of children have learned the basics of the Christian faith in churches on Sunday mornings. They've learned the stories of the Old and New Testaments. They've learned how to treat each other in the same way God has treated them: with love, kindness, and forgiveness (which, I might add, don't come "naturally"). Think for a moment about the significance this "lowly" movement has had, and its impact upon our nation. Where would our country be today, were the Church not blessed by so many willing and faithful Sunday School teachers? How can we thank these women and men properly, for giving so lovingly of themselves to so many children, that they might grow in God's love and be filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Truly, words fail.

In his little book, *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "*What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and glorious to God.*" I think this is exactly the case with Sunday School. So many, many children have been so richly blessed, because the people of the Church cared and were concerned to share Jesus' love. So, when you see a Sunday School teacher, at Salem, or anywhere you go, don't overlook the fact that you have met one of God's most precious and important means of working in this world!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chris

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<sup>1</sup> Bonhoeffer, "Life Together." 30.





Check out our website at  
[www.salemlutheranponca.org](http://www.salemlutheranponca.org)



Find us on Facebook /  
Salem Lutheran Church



**Communion:** will be on Sunday, August 3rd and August 17th, 2025.

(Communion will be on the first and third Sunday's of the month)

**“Coffee Hour” Fellowship:** will be on Sunday, August 10th, following our Worship Service (“Coffee Hour” Fellowship is on the second Sunday of the month, following our Worship Service. Coffee will be provided, but treats will not. If you wish to provide treats, there will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome desk to do so.)

**Bible Study:** is every Thursday at 9:30am. All are Welcome!

**Sunday School:** begins on Sunday, August 17th @ 9:00am

**Confirmation:** begins on Wednesday, August 27th @ 6:00pm

**Contact Pastor Chris:** Pastor Chris will be in the office or available for appointments Monday-Thursday 9:00am-6:00pm.

### Gifts & Offerings through July 28th, 2025

- General: \$10,193.00  
YTD: \$84,889.10  
2025 Budget: \$187,481.00
- Mission Share/World Hunger: \$758.08  
(2025 Budgeted Line Item #5780 for \$17,000.00)  
Mission Share: \$543.50  
World Hunger: \$214.58  
YTD: \$8,671.31

**Total: \$10,951.08**

*\*Please note: these totals are before online giving fees have been assessed and are specific to the only two above noted budgeted line items (General and Mission Share/World Hunger).*

August 2025



Sunday School Families,

We want your child to join us in Sunday School! We are excited to partner with you in helping your child learn more about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As part of our Faith Formation ministry to your child, each week we will have fun together digging into God's Word with creative activities, group discussions, prayer, and song. We know our efforts at church are only a small part of your child's Faith Formation. Parents are the most influential spiritual teacher. Research shows that the most powerful influence on faith development in children are the conversations that take place within the family. So, we want to encourage you to enjoy time with your child at home and to talk about what's been learned at church. Again, thank-you for allowing us to be a part of your child's faith development. It is our prayer that your child and you will grow closer to Jesus each and every day!

God bless you!!

Salem Faith Formation Team

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR  
AGES 3-ADULT BEGINS**

**August 17, 2025.**

**WE MEET FROM  
9:00-10:10 A.M.**

**WE ASK THAT EVERYONE  
ARRIVE ON TIME SO  
WE CAN GET STARTED  
RIGHT AWAY.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL NOT  
MEET August 31, December 28,  
January 4, and April 5.**

**WE DO TAKE OFFERING  
EACH SUNDAY.  
OUR OFFERING HELPS  
TO COVER THE COSTS  
OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL  
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES.**



**Bring your backpacks and school bags  
to worship on Sunday August 17, for the  
Blessing of the Backpacks and School Year!**





August 2025

Salem Lutheran Women,

Thank you all for  
the graduation keychain!

I am proud to be  
apart of such a

strong and loving  
church community!

I appreciate all of  
your support as I

move down to Lincoln!

-Addison



### Thank You True North Vacation Bible School Volunteers and Families!

It takes a village of children along with a village of volunteers for Vacation Bible School to happen. Thank you to all our Salem members who volunteered to help with Vacation Bible School this year. Some were station leaders, some were crew leaders, some prepped and served our meals and some brought their children to Vacation Bible School. Thank you for investing your time and talent in our community children as we sang, played and learned about "Trusting Jesus in a Wild World!" We learned we can always trust Jesus to point us in the right direction, as well as when we feel alone, powerless, hopeless and helpless.

thank you

To the good folks  
at Salem Lutheran

from Clavin, Sandy & Sheryl

It meant so much.

Thank you so much for all the assistance  
in honoring our mother, Pauline Gibbs. The ladies  
in the kitchen led by Julie Schow were so very, very  
helpful. We appreciate their time so much. Koni  
Lamprecht's service meant a great deal.

Enclosed please find memorial money for  
the church our mother loved for many years. There will be  
more once I get her estate settled. God Bless!

**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes****July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025****Attendance:**

Salem Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7:00pm. Those in attendance included: Koni Lamprecht, Cortni Krusemark, Kevin Dohma, Katie Uthof, Mark Bauman, Kenton Book, Duane Boyle, Lindsay Burrell, and Rick Schweers.

**Call to Order/Devotions/Approve last month's meeting minutes:**

Co-President Cortni called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Mark led everyone in a devotional/prayer. Rick made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous Church Council meeting and was seconded by Kevin. MCU.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Saumbra was not in attendance at the meeting, but she did provide everyone with a copy of June's financial reports. She noted that there were larger expenses due to; RTI installation, Insurance, Larry's reimbursement, HVAC & sprinkler maintenance. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mark and seconded by Duane. MCU.

**Correspondence:**

Katie reported that they received a thank you card from Addison Stewart for her graduation gift and reception.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Chris emailed everyone his Pastors report prior to our meeting this evening (attached hereto).

**Baptisms:**

*A motion was made by Lindsay to approve the confirmed membership (baptism) of Kennedy Jones on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, during our Worship Service and was seconded by Kenton. MCU.*

**Confirmation:****First Communion:****Funerals:**

*Due to Pastor being sick and no other available fill-in Koni Lamprecht will be leading the funeral services for Pauline Gibbs tomorrow.*

**Membership:**

*A motion was made by Kenton to accept the membership request of Russell McLean and was seconded by Rick. MCU.*

**Visits:****Weddings:****Misc:**

*Cortni Krusemark will be leading our Worship Service on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Joel Ramsey from Camp Luther will be in attendance and will share his "Camp Luther" presentation during our Worship Service, along with the confirmands who attended camp will share their experiences during the Mission Minute.*

*There was discussion again in regards to our "Receive Bread/Give Bread" practices. As per our May Church Council meeting it was decided to leave our practices as is. This topic was brought up again during June and July's Church Council meeting as noted in the Pastor's re-*

port. A unanimous motion was made to leave our "Receive Bread/Give Bread" practice as is. Also as noted in the Pastor's report was the NALC's Five Developmental Tasks of Interim Ministry, it was reported that actions have already been taken and completed when our Ministry Site Profile was recently updated.

In addition to Larry's transition/internship was discussed and we will work on creating a framework to due as such.

### **Old Business.**

Duane made a motion to approve Northside Glass estimate of \$668.75 for the sanctuary and was seconded by Rick. MCU. Katie noted that she has notified Northside Glass, and they are to reach out to Kenton to set-up a time to come – they are approximately a month out.

### **New Business:**

Katie noted that she has put an announcement in the bulletin, and it was requested that she also puts an ad in the NJL. Cortni will work on a job description.

#### **Calendar Dates:**

- August 17<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School begins at 9:00am  
Worship Service time will be 10:30am
- August 20<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation Meeting (tentative)
- August 27<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation begins at 6:00pm (tentative)
- September 7<sup>th</sup>: Annual Congregational Picnic (tentative/would like to push back until September, so that Larry can join us)

### **Additions to the agenda:**

Koni reported that the ovens in the kitchen do not work. Kevin is going to ask Julie to check into further about replacing them etc...

Koni reported that we need to determine Larry's benefit package. She passed out an Estimated Premium Instructions and Worksheet to everyone. After reviewing a motion was made by Cortni to select the NALC combined option/package and was seconded by Kenton. MCU.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

#### **Budget and Finance:**

Chairperson: Mark Bauman  
Council Liaison: Koni Lamprecht & Cortni Krusemark (Always the Co-Church Council

Pres.)

Report: Mark reported that they will be scheduling an audit sometime in July/August.

#### **CALL Committee:**

(Ministry Site Profile)

Chairperson: Koni Lamprecht  
Council Liaison: Koni Lamprecht  
Chaplin: Michelle Rinas  
Report:

(Constitution Committee):

Cindy Anderson, Todd Anderson, and Michelle Rinas are on this committee  
Report: N/A this team is not being utilized currently

#### **Cemetery:**

Chairperson: Julie Sydow

Council Liaison: Kevin Dohma  
Report:

Communication:  
Chairperson: Barry Krusemark  
Council Liaison: Katie Uthof  
Report:

Endowment:  
Chairperson: Brian Burrell  
Council Liaison: Duane Boyle  
Report:

Faith Formation:  
Co-Chairperson: Saumbra Hall and Michelle Rinas  
Council Liaison: Lindsay Burrell  
Report: Lindsay reported that Faith Formation will be meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm

Memorial:  
Chairperson: Saumbra Hall  
Council Liaison: Dan Schweers  
Report:

Mission Support:  
Chairperson: \*Need to assign  
Council Liaison: Lindsay Burrell  
Report: Lindsay reported that they met on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Music & Worship:  
Co-Chairperson: Bruce Ericksen and Diane Smith  
Council Liaison: Koni Lamprecht  
Report: Katie reported that met on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mutual Ministry:  
Chairperson: Rick Schweers  
Council Liaison: N/A  
Report: N/A – this team is not being utilized currently

Property:  
Chairperson: Doug Bauman  
Council Liaison: Mark Bauman and Kenton Book  
Report: Katie noted that Kathol was at the parsonage earlier today and they installed a new element in the water heater, unclogged the drain in the master bathroom, they measured for shower doors and will get us a price, and we are also out of softener salt. Kevin said that he would drop some salt off.

Salem Mission Team:  
Chairperson: Michelle Rinas  
Council Liaison: Lindsay Burrell, Cortni Krusemark, and Michelle Rinas (as per their guidelines)  
Report: Lindsay reported that they are meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

Thrivent:  
Chairperson: Michelle Rinas  
Council Liaison: Duane Boyle  
Report: Duane reported that they have \$1,500.00 towards MaryLou Smith's Benefit on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Worship Leading Team:

Chairperson: Nicole Ericksen

Council Liaison: N/A – this team is not being utilized currently

Report:

Youth Group Ministry:

Co-Chairperson: Lisa Balvantin, Codi Hrouda, and Barry Krusemark

Council Liaison: Mia Krusemark

Report: Cortni reported that she will reach out to the chairpersons in regards to games at the Annual Congregational Picnic.

### **Announcements:**

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, @ 7:00pm. Lindsay made a motion for adjournment, and it was seconded by Mark. MCU. The Church Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Uthof, Salem Lutheran Church Council Secretary

### **The Salem Mission Team and Sunday School will again work together to collect school supplies for the Lutheran World Relief School Kit project.**

The collection tote and poster will be set-up in the church narthex beginning on August 18th, 2024 - "Rally Sunday".

We will be collecting supplies through August and September and then assemble the kits during the Sunday School hour in late September.

If you are able to help out by purchasing any of the supplies listed it will be greatly appreciated. If anyone wishes to make a monetary donation to the LWR School Kit project the Salem Mission Team will use the donation to purchase the items for the kits. Checks can be made out to Salem Lutheran Church Women with a note "for the LWR School Kits".

Each LWR School Kit contains the following items:

- (4) 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper-not loose leaf paper
- (1) 30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side & inches on the other
- (1) Pencil sharpener
- (1) Pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- (5) Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- (5) Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- (1) Box of 24 crayons
- (1) 2-1/2" eraser



August is a great time to purchase school kit items as most of these items are on sale in August and early September.

Please note that the items in the kits are very specific per Lutheran World Relief guidelines so that each student receives the same supplies.



## **August Worship Assistants:**

*(If you are unable to be a worship assistant, please find a replacement and email [salemonponca@gmail.com](mailto:salemonponca@gmail.com))*

**Council Person of the Month:** Kenton Book

**Communion Assistants:** Kenton Book & Kevin Dohma

**Communion Set-up:** Deb Mahler

**Sunday Morning Set-up & Proclaim Slides:** Lisa Balvantin

**Ushers/Greeters:** Ron & Deb Mahler

### **Scripture Reader:**

**3rd:** Michelle Rinas

**10th:** Cortni Krusemark

**17th:** Cindy Anderson

**24th:** Cortni Krusemark

**31st:** John Street

# August 2025

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday                   | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------|--|----------------------------|--------|----------|
|  |  |         |  |                            | 1      | 2        |
| 3<br>Worship Service (Communion) @ 9:30am  | 4  | 5       | 6  | 7<br>Bible Study @ 9:30am  | 8      | 9        |
| 10<br>Worship Service @ 9:30am<br>“Coffee Hour” Fellowship, following our Worship Service  | 11   | 12      | 13<br>Music & Worship @ 4:45pm<br>Church Council @ 7:00pm    | 14<br>Bible Study @ 9:30am | 15     | 16       |
| 17<br>“Rally Sunday”<br>Sunday School @ 9:00am<br>Worship Service (Communion) @ 10:30am<br>Blessing of the Backpacks & Installation of Sunday School Teachers/Mentors during worship | 18   | 19      | 20<br>Mandatory Parent/Student Confirmation Meeting @ 6:30pm | 21<br>Bible Study @ 9:30am | 22     | 23       |
| 24<br>Sunday School @ 9:00am<br>Adult Bible Study @ 9:00am<br>Worship Service @ 10:30am  | 25<br>Newsletter Item Deadline   | 26      | 27<br>Confirmation @ 6:00pm<br>Salem Mission Team @ 7:00pm   | 28<br>Bible Study @ 9:30am | 29     | 30       |
| 31<br>No Sunday School<br>Worship Service @ 10:30am  | 1<br> | 2       | 3<br>Confirmation @ 6:00pm                                   | 4<br>Bible Study @ 9:30am  | 5      | 6        |

**WELCOME**  
  
**BACK TO**  
**SCHOOL**