

September 2025

Salem's



Good Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

New chapters, new roads, new beginnings...

These things can be exciting, filled with all sorts of emotions. Some welcome change with open arms, others approach them with apprehension. Some do well with change, some not so well. One thing is for sure, whether we welcome change or not, it's something we all experience in our lives. This is true for all of us from the day we are born until the day we take our last breath.

As much as we'd like to think otherwise, we have very little control over much of what happens in our lives. Sure, I can choose what color socks I put on in the morning, or what I eat for lunch, but some things are just simply thrust upon us, sometimes seeming-

ly out of nowhere. Sometimes these changes are life-altering *huge* changes—it's never gonna go back to what we thought was normal kinda changes. The how am I ever gonna recover from *this* kinda change. The what am I gonna do now kinda changes.

We don't always get the answers to those kinds of questions. Sometimes when we do, they don't come as quickly as we'd like. Then sometimes we just flat out don't like the answer. One thing we can always count on, though, is the promise that never changes. You are called by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. Christ has made you a promise in your baptism. He has clothed you in His righteousness, forgiven all of your sin, and claimed you as His. Christ will walk with you through whatever changes may come. He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As crazy as it can get in our lives and the world around us, Christ is the rock, the anchor, the only certain truth that we can cling to. He is unchanging, and He is for you.

Blessings,
Larry Wright

JOIN US on Sunday, September 7th, 2025

Ordination

- During our 10:30am Worship Service, we will have Larry's Ordination.
- At 5:00pm we will have our Annual Congregational Picnic. The Meat/Buns/Condiments/Drinks will be provided & we ask that everyone brings a side dish or dessert.



Church App

Download the
TITHE.LY
Church App

Then, search for
Salem Lutheran Church





Check out our website at
www.salemlutheranponca.org



Find us on Facebook /
Salem Lutheran Church



Communion: will be on Sunday, September 7th and September 21st, 2025.

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

"Coffee Hour" Fellowship: will be on Sunday, September 14th, during Sunday School @ 9:30am. ("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: is every Sunday at 9:00am.

Confirmation: is every Wednesday at 6:00pm

Gifts & Offerings through August 27th, 2025

- General: \$13,162.00
YTD: \$98,131.10
2025 Budget: \$187,481.00
- Mission Share/World Hunger: \$707.00
(2025 Budgeted Line Item #5780 for \$17,000.00)
Mission Share: \$496.00
World Hunger: \$211.00
YTD: \$9,383.23

Total: \$13,869.00

**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).*

FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Salem Youth Group Fundraiser

Once again our youth group will be raising money to help support the Orphan Grain Train food packing event.

We'll be doing the "Pick Your Price" fundraiser starting on Sunday, August 17th and ending Sunday, September 14th. If you'd like to participate, look for a youth group member or Lisa, Barry, or Codi after church at the Welcome Desk on any of those given Sundays. Thank you for your support!

Volunteers are needed, for the Orphan Grain Train Food Packing Event

On September 24th from 7:00pm-9:00pm and September 25th from 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information and to sign-up, please contact Julie Sydow at 402-432-9925.



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.

September 2025



Salem,
Thank you so
much for donating
the food for my
fundraiser! It was
very much appreciated
the kindness you
have shown me, is
so overwhelming!
God has truly blessed
me!
Marylou Smith

Thrivent,
I want you to know how
much I appreciate your
donation for my fundraiser!
It was very generous & I am
so grateful!! I'm so blessed
to have so many wonderful
people in my life!!
Marylou

Dear Salem Church Council,

Thank you for preparing and organizing
our senior breakfast. The food was so
yummy and you helped make our day
special. God has blessed me with an
amazing church family and community
that I know will always be home.

Sincerely,
Ellesyn Hrouda

September 2025

Jessie
Mallory Worthmann
Beth Burki
Tricia Robinson
Voss
Sadie Lynelle
Kathryn
Janet Hamer
Wendy Sudbeck
Hirschman
Jessica Templeton
Sandy Eide
Colum Well
Amy
Wendy
Carol Kelsey
Ryan Hamer
Margie Moore
Zoe
Jessica Geckly
Duke
Duke
Maurice
Lubomiro
Kathy
Walter
Matt
Koepp
Lisa
Linda
Troy Evans
John Street
Joanne Broadt
Katie
Katie
Stacy
Stacy
Stacy

Salem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the generous
gift cards and for thinking of
us as we start the new
school year. Your kindness
and support is appreciated!

Stacy
Janelle
Kristen Becker
-HS Staff
Lakisha
Shannon
Walt
Ashley
Walt

Andrea Stat
Katie Curry
Sean Curry

Taylor Lamprecht
Danaah Curry

Hallmark

Quiafusus

Ashley Hefner

Thank You!

This card is made with paper sourced from responsibly managed forests.

Salem Lutheran Church Council Special Meeting Minutes August 7th, 2025

Attendance:

Salem Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, August 7th, 2025, at 6:30pm. Those in attendance included: Koni Lamprecht, Cortni Krusemark, Kevin Dohma, Saumbra Hall, Katie Uthof, Mark Bauman, Kenton Book, Duane Boyle, Lindsay Burrell, Dan Schweers, and Rick Schweers.

Call to Order

Co-President Koni called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

New Business:

Koni and Cortni reported that they had a Zoom Meeting with Larry on Monday and it went very well. The tentative plan remains in effect, in which Larry would hopefully be to Salem by September 7th, 2025, the Prodigal Sons would provide the music and that evening we would have our annual congregational picnic @ 5:00pm. Larry's obstacle currently is the sale of their home, in which he stated that they are willing to be very aggressive in the sale of it so that they can get to Salem as soon as possible.

Koni and Cortni have been in contact with our regional Deans; Doyle/LCMC and Fritz/NALC and Dr. Chris Croghan from Luther House of Study in Sioux Falls, SD in regards to our Mentorship Plan for a Student Minister at Salem Lutheran Church. With this plan it was determined that we would have a Congregational Mentorship Team consisting of; Todd Anderson, Tammy Book, Paige Hinz, Brad Hrouda, and Diane Smith. A motion was made by Kevin to approve the proposed Congregational Mentorship team and was seconded by Rick. MCU.

The plan would be to get Larry ordained by the LCMC upon his arrival and then upon his graduation he would be ordained by the NALC, which would result in his dual affiliation with the LCMC and NALC. In their conversations with Dr. Croghan it was decided that Dr. Croghan would lead our Worship Service on Sunday, August 24th, 2025, and following our Worship Service we would have a Congregational Orientation Meeting in regards to Larry's transition/plan at Salem.

At 7:21pm, the church council moved into executive session to discuss personnel matters. A motion was made by Kenton and was seconded by Rick. MCU.

At 7:41pm, Koni/Co-Church Council President declared that the meeting shall exit the executive session and returned to the regular session.

As per the discussion in executive session, a motion was made by Mark and seconded by Koni. MCU.

As per the discussion in executive session, a motion was made by Rick and seconded by Duane. MCU.

Cortni reported that we had five interested applicants for the janitor/custodian position. Katie emailed each applicant an application to be completed and returned to the church by July 31, 2025. Of the five interested we received two completed applications back. Kevin made a motion to extend the janitor/custodian position to Ashely Uthof and was seconded by Kenton. MCU.

Katie shared that she needs to get the postcards ordered for the annual congregational picnic and wanted to confirm that the date will be Sunday, September 7th, 2025. Everyone agreed that yes, we will hold the picnic on September 7th, 2025. It will be potluck style as in years past and the Church Council will be responsible for the meat/buns/condiments/paper products/drinks. Typically, we plan for 90ish people. Duane and Kevin will bring hamburger buns, Rick will

bring hot dog buns, Mark will bring hamburgers, Lindsay will bring hot dogs, Dan will bring ketchup/mustard/pickles, and everyone else will bring a side dish or dessert. Cortni confirmed that her parents will make homemade ice cream, and the youth group will be in charge of the games.

Katie reported that Julie provided the following estimates:

Murph's in Vermillion, SD to repair the ice machine in the south refrigerator for approximately \$400.00. A motion was made by Kenton and was seconded by Kevin. MCU.

Lowe Project's LLC, Laurel, NE to repair miscellaneous items (sanctuary ceiling repair/refinishing, repair of corner bead spots throughout) in the church/sanctuary. A motion was made by Mark and seconded by Dan. MCU.

The Church Council also commended Kenton and Juile for all their work in getting the parsonage ready to go, as well as thanking Cortni and Koni for all their efforts with Larry's transition to Salem.

Treasurer's Report:

Saumbra will email everyone a copy of July's financial reports once they are able to be reconciled.

Correspondence:

Katie reported that they received a thank you card from Pauline Gibb's daughters for her funeral services and enclosed was \$1,650.00 and they wanted to monies to go Sunday School/Christian Education.

Pastor's Report:

Baptisms:

First Communion:

Funerals:

Membership:

Visits:

Weddings:

Misc:

Ministry Team Reports:

Budget and Finance:

Chairperson: Mark Bauman

Council Liaison: Koni Lamprecht & Cortni Krusemark (Always the Co-Church Council Pres.)

Report:

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: Katie reported that she met with Josh from RTI in regards to the TV's not working and he was able to fix the issue asap. He thinks that the first time we had issues was due to a windows update and the second time was due to the equipment getting too warm and faulting off. We will leave the desk door open to the equipment and see if that helps.

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 August 17th is "Rally Sunday": Sunday School starts @ 9:00am, Worship Service time changes back to 10:30am, and during our Worship Service we will have Blessing of the Backpacks and Installation of Sunday School/Confirmation Teachers, Mentors, Music, Staff, etc...On August 24th the 3rd graders will be presented with their bibles.

Memorial:
 Chairperson: Saumbra Hall
 Council Liaison: Dan Schweers
Report:
Mission Support:
 Chairperson: *Need to assign
 Council Liaison: Lindsay Burrell
Report:
Music & Worship:
 Co-Chairperson: Bruce Ericksen and Diane Smith
 Council Liaison: Koni Lamprecht
Report: Katie reported that they will be meeting on Wednesday, August 13th, 2025, @ 4:45pm.

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:
Salem Mission Team:
 Chairperson: Michelle Rinas
 Council Liaison: Lindsay Burrell, Cortni Krusemark, and Michelle Rinas (as per their guidelines)
Report:
Thrivent:
 Chairperson: Michelle Rinas
 Council Liaison: Duane Boyle
Report:
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:

Announcements:

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, @ 7:00pm. Lindsay made a motion for adjournment, and it was seconded by Dan. MCU. The Church Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Uthof, Salem Lutheran Church Council Secretary

Thank
you ☩

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our Church Council, with special appreciation to our Co-Church Council Presidents for their incredible dedication over these past few weeks.

Your steadfast leadership makes all the difference—we are truly grateful and blessed!

Dear members of Salem Lutheran and friends of Ponca, grace to you and peace, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Though I have been with you only a little while, many of you have become dear to me, and I wish to say goodbye and Godspeed to you. Ponca is a beautiful place with great people and much to offer, and Salem is blessed with many faithful and discerning persons.

As I bid you farewell, you must know how much joy it brings me that Salem's new student pastor, Larry Wright, will soon arrive. Larry will make a fine pastor, serving the mission of Jesus Christ and the people of Salem Lutheran well, for those led by the Holy Spirit cannot go astray.

Now then, may the blessings of our God and heavenly Father be shared among you freely, until the new kingdom is fully at hand!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris Meier

September Worship Assistants:

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

Council Person of the Month: Dan Schweers

Communion Assistants: Dan Schweers & Cortni Krusemark

Communion Set-up: Lindsay Burrell & Cortni Krusemark

Sunday Morning Set-up: Barry Krusemark

Ushers/Greeters: Bob Anderson & Barry Krusemark

Scripture Reader:

7th: Michelle Rinas

14th: Cindy Anderson

21st: Michelle Rinas

28th: John Street

Acolyte:

Saylor Schweers

Audrey Burrell

Jett Taylor

Brinklee Heineman

Proclaim Slides:


Audrey Burrell

Brinklee Heineman

Brielle Hogan

Nora Krusemark

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3 Confirmation @ 6:00pm	4 Bible Study @ 9:30am	5	6
7 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service (Communion) @ 10:30am Annual Congregational Picnic @ 5:00pm	8	9	10 Music & Worship @ 4:45pm Confirmation @ 6:00pm Church Council @ 7:00pm	11 Bible Study @ 9:30am	12	13
14 Sunday School @ 9:00am “Coffee Hour” Fellowship, during Sunday School @ 9:30am Worship Service @ 10:30am	15	16	17 Confirmation @ 6:00pm	18 Bible Study @ 9:30am	19	20
21 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service (Communion) @ 10:30am	22	23	24 Newsletter Item Deadline No Confirmation Class— Meet at PHS for Orphan Grain Train Meal Packing Event	25 Bible Study @ 9:30am	26	27
			<div>Orphan Grain Train Meal Packing Event:<ul style="list-style-type: none">9/24/2025 from 7am — 9pm9/25/2025 from 8am — 5pm</div>			
28 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service @ 10:30am	29	30	1 Confirmation @ 6:00pm	2 Bible Study @ 9:30am	3	4