

October 2025

Salem's



Good Newsletter



## Pastor's Corner

With fall underway, many of us are stepping into a busy season as the holidays quickly approach. Halloween is right around the corner. A few weeks later it will be Thanksgiving. The first Sunday in Advent falls on November 30th this year, and before you know it Christmas and New Years will roll on by and we will be staring 2026 right in the face.

I recently saw someone post a meme on Facebook that said "Walmart thinks we wanna put up our Christmas tree and eat turkey in our Halloween costumes." That sentiment resonates because this time of year can get a little hectic with one event after another. Even though these celebrations can be fun, expectations with festive get-togethers and activities can some-

times overwhelm us. These festivities can feel fraught with pressure—trying to get it right and control it all down to the tiniest of details. And then there are those of us that deal with the negative aspects of the season. Family tensions may flare at gatherings, grief from the loss of loved ones and those close to us may surface, some of us who may be dealing with these emotions for the very first time. This time of year can bring a mixed bag of feelings, like the kids dressed in their Halloween costumes reaching into the bucket of candy never quite sure of what they're going to pull out.

However this season may find us, I want to remind you that your identity is not wrapped up in any of this. It is not wrapped up in our performance for neighbors, nor is it wrapped up in any hardship we may endure. As we move into this season I want to proclaim to you that in the joys we experience and through the difficult times some of us may encounter, Christ is with you and for you. Your identity is found solely in Jesus. He has taken it out of your hands and made you a promise of Himself that goes with you through it all, the highs and the lows. In your baptism He has claimed you, given you His name, and forgives you all of your sins. In the bread and the wine He has prepared a feast for you and places Himself in your mouth, not for only a season in the calendar year, but a fresh meal that gives you new life every time you partake of it throughout the year. So however this season may find you, hear this good news: all of your sins are forgiven, death is defeated, and new life is given to you in the promise of Christ.

God's peace,  
Pastor Larry Wright

## Church App

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



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**Communion:** will be on Sunday, October 5th and October 19th, 2025.

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

**"Coffee Hour" Fellowship:** will be on Sunday, October 12th, 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 September 30th, 2025

- General: \$10,271.00  
YTD: \$109,304.10  
2025 Budget: \$187,481.00
- Mission Share/World Hunger: \$858.00  
(2025 Budgeted Line Item #5780 for \$17,000.00)  
Mission Share: \$498.50  
World Hunger: \$359.50  
YTD: \$10,281.23

**Total: \$11,129.00**

*\*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).*

**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes****September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025****Attendance:**

Salem Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7:00pm. Those in attendance included: Koni Lamprecht, Cortni Krusemark, Kevin Dohma, Saumbra Hall, Katie Uthof, Mark Bauman, Duane Boyle, Lindsay Burrell, Dan Schweers, Rick Schweers, and Pastor Larry Wright.

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

Co-President Cortni called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and Dan led everyone in a devotion. Duane made a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes with the revision and was seconded by Dan. MCU.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Saumbra was in attendance of the meeting, and she provided everyone with a copy of August financial reports. She noted that there are more expenses due to the contractors' work at the church and parsonage. She also noted that the CD matured on 8/7/25 and as far as we know we did not get a renewal statement and just to keep our eye out for those to see what the best rates are etc. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mark and seconded by Rick. MCU.

**Correspondence:**

Katie reported that we received a thank you card from Elleysn Hrouda for the Senior Graduate Recognition/Breakfast, a thank you card from MaryLou Smith for the donation to her fundraiser, and the Ponca School for the gift cards.

**Pastor's Report:**

*Baptisms:*

*Confirmation:*

*First Communion:*

*Funerals:*

*Membership:* Russell McLean (Duane Boyle's son-in-law) had reached out about joining Salem and Pastor Chris stated that we would wait until Larry arrived to do the membership. Katie forwarded that email thread onto Pastor Larry, so that everyone is on the same page. Larry was going to reach out to Pastor Terrill Sorensen (mentor) regarding what steps need to be taken etc...

*Visits:* He went with Bob and visited Clair Hamar and gave him communion earlier today.

*Weddings:*

*Misc:*

**Old Business.**

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, via email Saumbra emailed council the July 2025 financial reports as we moved the meeting up and reports were not done yet. A motion was made by Koni and seconded by Dan to approve the July 2025 financial reports. MCU.

**New Business:**

Cortni reported that she has had conversations with Koni and Katie recently in regards to getting a vehicle for Salem, in which Pastor Larry would use for visits, etc... Koni noted that she asked Saumbra a mileage reimbursement amounts, and they are as follows:

Pastor Chuck in 2024 \$9,867.97

Pastor Chuck in 2025 \$3,325.28  
Pastor Chris in 2025 \$459.20

There was discussion regarding this, and it was decided that Cortni/Koni would gather some proposals for an AWD vehicle and check into insurance etc... and report back to council with their findings.

**There were no additions to the agenda.**

**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.

**CALL Committee:**

(Ministry Site Profile)

Chairperson: Koni Lamprecht

Council Liaison: Koni Lamprecht

Chaplin: Michelle Rinas

Report: N/A – this team is not being utilized currently.

(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 the TV in the narthex needs to be replaced, as Barry has tried troubleshooting it and nothing seems to continue to work. A motion was made by Lindsay to purchase a new TV (\$500.00ish) to replace the old one and was seconded by Koni. MCU. Katie also reported that we do not have a computer for Larry's office...he doesn't know yet what he would prefer either a desktop or laptop, but Katie was going to get the old sanctuary laptop set-up for him to try, and we will play it by ear.

**Endowment:**

Chairperson: Brian Burrell

Council Liaison: Duane Boyle

Report: Duane reported that they have a balance of approximately \$8,200.00. The approved the donation to the confirmands that attended confirmation camp. Cortni was also going to fill out a request for funds form for Camp Luther for their special project for \$1,000.00.

**Faith Formation:**

Co-Chairperson: Saumbra Hall and Michelle Rinas

Council Liaison: Lindsay Burrell

Report: Lindsay reported that Sunday School has started and is going well. All of the teaching positions have been filled. Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings was also discussed, and Koni was going to reach out to Todd in regards to this as there had been previous conversation about leading it until Pastor Larry is settled etc...

**Memorial:**

Chairperson: Saumbra Hall  
Council Liaison: Dan Schweers  
Report:

Mission Support:

Chairperson: \*Need to assign  
Council Liaison: Lindsay Burrell  
Report: Cortni noted that maybe we should look at giving some of our mission funds to Luther's House of Study – she is going to fill out an application and return it to Michelle.

Music & Worship:

Co-Chairperson: Bruce Ericksen and Diane Smith  
Council Liaison: Koni Lamprecht  
Report: Katie reported that they met earlier today, and Pastor Larry joined them, and they meet again on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 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: Mark reported that the ovens are back-ordered, Lowe Construction has completed all their projects with the sanctuary roof and other misc. sheetrock repairs in the church and the shower doors in the parsonage have been installed. Kevin noted that they removed the hedge in front of the parsonage, and we need to do something about the hedge in the bank alley.

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 October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 7:00pm. They are working on Orphan Grain Train, possibly another teddy bear drive as some businesses are already out, they plan to do the raffle baskets for the Fall Festival again this year and Karen has been doing a great job sending out cards.

Thrivent:

Chairperson: Michelle Rinas  
Council Liaison: Duane Boyle  
Report: Duane reported that they approved \$2,000.00 for the OGT and they pre-approved \$500.00 for the Ponca Food Pantry.

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 they did the games for the picnic, and everyone had a great time. There was also discussion regarding doing more with our Youth as they are yearning for it.



**Announcements:**

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 7:00pm. Dan made a motion for adjournment, and it was seconded by Kevin. MCU. The Church Council closed the meeting with a prayer from Pastor Larry. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Uthof, Salem Lutheran Church Council Secretary

**THANK YOU to everyone who supported this years  
Orphan Grain Train meal packing event!**

On Wednesday evening our community churches youth groups along with community members packed meals and on Thursday the students from PHS finished the event with 79,902 meals packed!

A special thank you to Julie Sydow for ALL of her efforts in coordinating the event!

**AWESOME JOB AND THANK YOU!**



## **October 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:** Rick Schweers

**Communion Assistants:** Rick Schweers & Koni Lamprecht

**Communion Set-up:** Codi Hrouda

**Sunday Morning Set-up:** John Street

**Ushers/Greeters:** Gary and Cheri Voss

**Scripture Reader:**

**5th:** Cortni Krusemark

**12th:** Cindy Anderson

**19th:** Cheri Voss

**26th:** John Street

**Acolyte:**

Nora Krusemark

Brielle Hogan

Saylor Schweers

Audrey Burrell

**Proclaim Slides:**

Saylor Schweers

Jett Taylor

Audrey Burrell

Brinklee Heineman

# October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Confirmation @ 6:00pm	2 Bible Study @ 9:30am	3	4
5 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service (Communion) @ 10:30am	6	7	8 Music & Worship @ 4:45pm Confirmation @ 6:00pm Church Council @ 7:00pm	9 Bible Study @ 9:30am	10	11
12 Sunday School @ 9:00am “Coffee Hour” Fellowship, during Sunday School @ 9:30am Worship Service @ 10:30am	13	14	15 Confirmation @ 6:00pm	16 Bible Study @ 9:30am	17	18
19 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service (Communion) @ 10:30am	20	21	22 Confirmation @ 6:00pm	23 Bible Study @ 9:30am	24 Newsletter Item Deadline	25
26 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service @ 10:30am	27	28	29 Confirmation @ 6:00pm Salem Mission Team @ 7:00pm	30 Bible Study @ 9:30am	31 	1

