



SALEM

LIGHT

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. —Matthew 5:14

November 2025



SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
2529 N. LaVenture Rd., Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360)336-3600 www.slcmv.org

SEWING FOR OTHERS

Sewing for Others (aka Tying Knots) meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:15 am. We are putting together and tying LWR quilts. If you have a favorite needle, thimble and scissors — bring them. Otherwise, you can use our equipment. Questions — Linda Dunlap (253)548-6439.



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Friendship Circle this month will meet on Wednesday, **November 12th** at noon. Bring a hot dish, salad or dessert. If you have any questions, call Dee Archer at 360-982-7359.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us for great food and fellowship as we meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Curious Chef at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome!



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The men at Salem invite you to a bible study on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 8:00 am. Come join the fun!

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE 2025-2026

Month	Partner 1	Partner 2
September	Kay D	Ann O
October	Lynne	Laurie
November	Kay S	Melody
December	Cheryl	Janice
January	Kay D	Ann O
February	Lynne	Laurie
March	Kay S	Melody/Laurie
April	Cheryl	Janice
May	Kay S	Melody
June	Kay D	Ann O
July	Lynne	Laurie
August	Cheryl	Erin

**If you're interested in helping with the Altar Guild, please contact Cheryl Felt at: cherfelt@outlook.com or contact the church office at: office@slcmv.org or call (360) 336-3600

Worship Assistants – November

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Communion Assistants</u>
11/02	Debbie McManus	Pr Larry, Karen Nelson, (Treva Votipka), Debbie McManus, Mike McManus, (Cory Grinaker)
11/09	Kay Stendal	Pr Larry, Bob Slind, (Nancy Slind), Rudy Rudolph, Al Dunlap, (Cory Grinaker)
11/16	Debbie McManus	Pr Larry, Laurie Benson, (Kay Stendal)Ken Kossman, Chuck Jer- man, (Judy Jerman)
11/23	Lynn Jacobs	Pr Larry, Al Dunlap, (Laurie Ben- Son), Mike McManus, Debbie Mc- Manus, (Cory Grinaker)
11/30	Treva Votipka	Pr Larry, Bob Slind, (Nancy Slind), Treva Votipka, Laurie Benson, (Cory Grinaker)

EVENTS CALENDAR

Nov 1

****SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR****

Nov 2

ALL SAINTS DAY (remember photos of loved ones)

2:00 pm

Bette Fitzgerald Celebration of Life

Nov 3

3:00 pm

Property Committee –Library

Nov 4

7:30 am

Men's Breakfast Mtg

Nov 5

9:15 am

Sewing for Others-Rm 7&8

Nov 6

10:00 am

Staff Meeting

Nov 10

8:00 am

Men's Bible Study-Library

6:00 pm

Worship & Music Committee-Library

Nov 12

12:00 pm

Friendship Circle-Multipurpose Rm

Nov13

10:00 am

Staff Meeting

3:00 pm

Friendship House Meal

Nov 15

2:00 pm

Jack Koetje Celebration of Life

Nov 18

REPORTS DUE TO COUNCIL

Nov 19

9:15 am

Sewing for Others-Rm 7&8

11:00 am

Finance Team

NOV 20

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE TO OFFICE

10:00 am

Staff Meeting

Nov 21

10:00 am

Turkey Dinner Prep

Nov 22

10:00 am

Turkey Dinner Prep

Nov 23

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

5:00-7:00 pm

Turkey Dinner

Nov 24

8:00 am

Men's Bible Study-Library

5:30 pm

Council Meeting-Library

NOV 27

THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED

Nov 30

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:30 am

ADVENTure Sunday



****DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 2ND****

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy birthday to all of you who had birthdays in October!!



10/01 Susan Ragan
10/10 Kay Dewey
10/10 Barbara Gurney
10/10 Carolanne Votipka
10/11 MaryJane (MJ) Bender

10/16 Marilyn Rorvik
10/22 Daniel Mitzel
10/26 Randy Pratt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL HELP NEEDED

Welcome Home Skagit is asking for help with meals. They will need lunches to feed approx. 50 people and dinners to feed approx. 25 people. If you're able to help please look for a sign up sheet by the coffee and flower sign ups. Also, please drop off the meals at the Welcome Home Skagit office. Questions? Ask Laurie or Cory in the office. Thank you very much!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! It's that time of year again!

Our **FREE** Thanksgiving dinner is Sunday 23 November from 5pm to 7pm.

And if you'd like to help, please contact either Laurie or Cory in the church office. Turkey dinner prep days will be Fri 21 Nov and Sat 22 Nov.



Please join us for an Advent-ure during Coffee Hour on November 30. Yule logs will be available to decorate for the Advent Season along with other fun Christmas crafts. If you still have your Yule Log from last year, please bring it to freshen it with new greens, holly berries and candles. Also, please bring your favorite Christmas treat to share with others during Coffee Hour!



Questions? Please email Treva Votipka at blumenshinetreva@msn.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

COAT DRIVE

Please donate your gently used men's and women's coats to Welcome Home Skagit. They also can use extra men's clothing, new underwear and new socks. You can drop them off at the church office or the WHS office downstairs. **Thank you very much!!**



SEASONAL – COLD WEATHER SHELTER DRIVE

Help Families Stay Warm This Winter

As the temperatures drop, families in Skagit County need safe shelter, hot meals, and essential supplies. **Family Promise of Skagit Valley** is preparing for our Seasonal Cold Weather Shelter to ensure no child sleeps outside during the winter months. With your help, we can provide warmth, dignity, and hope to our neighbors in need.

SHELTER NEEDS INCLUDE:

Financial support

Nutritious foods/meals

Cleaning supplies

Comforters & sheets

Paper products
(toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)

Gift Cards
(Walmart, Fred Meyer, Safeway,
Target, Goodwill, TJ Max, & Ross)

Volunteer with us!
(Contact Jen, Operations Manager-
Jen@familypromiseskagit.org)

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Donate Directly

Online or by Mail:

P.O.Box 335
Sedro-Woolley, WA. 98284

Arrange a drop-off by calling:

360-854-0743

Or by emailing:

operations
@familypromiseskagit.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

COFFEE HOUR SIGN UPS!

Salem friends! Please remember to sign up as a coffee hour host. There are many available dates. Feel free to call Sue Ney if you have any questions at 360-708-9142. Thank you!



HEARING DIFFICULTIES??

Salem Lutheran Church (SLC) has a **T - Loop** system installed that can help persons who use compatible hearing aids hear what is being amplified by our sound system. Check with your audiologist to see if your hearing aids are **T - loop** compatible and to be certain that the feature on your hearing aids is activated.

Turning on the **T - loop** feature turns off the aid's microphone so that you will not hear as much background noise, but the speakers voice will be much clearer.

SLC has 4 independent receivers that attendees may use during the worship service. Ask one of the hospitality team members to get you one.

Samaritan Fund



As our Samaritan Fund Envelops are now included at the very back of our offering envelopes, they are not being utilized. We have almost completely exhausted our Samaritan Fund.

These funds are used to help members of our congregation, as well as community members who need a little extra help. If it is in your budget, please consider donating to this important program where we continue to show how we "Serve God by serving Others." **THANK YOU!!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

INTERESTED IN THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICES??

Bethlehem Lutheran in Sedro-Woolley has a service on Wednesday 26 Nov at 6 pm with a Pie Social following the service.

Trinity Lutheran in Mount Vernon has a service on Wednesday 26 Nov at 7 pm. This is a service only.

Also, Conway Lutheran and Edison Lutheran are **NOT** having Thanksgiving Eve services. (There is no mention of Thanksgiving Eve services listed on the websites for Burlington Lutheran nor First Lutheran and no one answered the phone).

Taking an RMD Before year end?

If you are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA retirement account before December 31, 2025, did you know that you may be able to make a donation to a nonprofit entity and have the advantage of the distribution **not** be counted as income for tax purposes? Many retirees plan their year-end giving using this tax-saving tool. It is a good idea to contact your tax advisor for details.

FREE VISION CLINIC—NORTH CASCADE CARES

Friday November 7 | Sunday November 9
Appointments required. Call 360-755-3853 to schedule.

Find all of the information online at:
www.northcascadecares.org

Basic testing, eye exams, prescription eyewear and doctor referrals for **under-insured** or **un-insured** patients.

North Cascade SDA Church, 800 Peacock Ln., Burlington

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

THE OPEN HOUSE WAS ENJOYED BY ALL!!



Commissioner Ron Wesen was able to attend (see below)





COUNCIL

SLC Church Council Minutes October 27, 2025. 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Present: Amy Benson, Laurie Benson, Greg Grinaker, Debbie McManus, Don Moe, Karen Nelson, Sue Ney, Susan Ragan, Nancy Raschko, Lynne Rittenhouse, Peter Swanson, Treva Votipka.

Absent: None.

Visitors: Joan Zoot

Call to Order: 5:31pm by President, Amy Benson.

Prayer: Vice President, Treva Votipka opened with a prayer.

Approval of September 22nd Meeting Minutes: **Motion to approve:** Treva.

Second: Lynne. **Approved unanimously.**

Ministry Teams Activity

Finance (*Peter/Susan*) (Complete Reports are available.)

Susan and Peter reviewed the balance sheet as of September 30, 2025. Actuals compared to last year and the current budget were reviewed. Peter presented the first draft of the Salem Budget for 2026. Peter reported that for the first 9 months of 2025 we are running under the forecasted budget and more so than in 2024.

Peter reviewed the current financial status of the Lower-Level Project and reported we will not need to borrow extra funds to complete the project.

Property (Greg)

Completed Projects: 1) The video conference system for the lower-level and additional security cameras needed in both WHS rooms and the upstairs office areas have been installed by Kelley Connect. 2) Pye Barker and Ackerman Electric evaluated the fire system air compressor and CB mechanical system. No substantial problems were found. The 5-year fire sprinkler system inspection was completed.

Greg alerted Council that the HVAC system for sanctuary is no longer heating. Foss did an inspection and determined that the part needed for repair is no longer available but could be refabricated. (The building system is 30+years old.) Two solutions were presented: 1. Replace the power burner assembly with a fabricated part for \$8,000. 2. Replace the entire aging HVAC system for \$70,000. **Motion by Laurie, "Authorize Foss Heating to replace the needed power burner assembly with a refabricated part built by Trane at a cost of \$8,000 and move forward with plans to replace the entire system in 2026." Second: Debbie. Approved unanimously.**

Worship & Music (Lynne)

Worship and Music met October 13 to discuss 2026 budget needs, settling on a requested amount of \$3500.

Reformation Sunday, October 26, was a glorious celebration. Many thanks to those who hung the beautiful celebratory banners in the sanctuary.

All Saints Day is Sunday, November 2. Candles will be displayed for remembrance. Families who have lost loved ones or have had a loved one baptized this year are invited to bring a photo that can be displayed on the altar steps.

Education (Treva)

"Advent Adventure" will be held after service on Sunday, November 30. All can join in making Yule Logs while enjoying cookies, coffee and conversation.

COUNCIL

Fellowship (Sue/Debbie)

The Open House to celebrate the completion of Salem's Lower-Level Project was a big success for Salem members, Welcome Home Skagit and community members!

Nurture and Care (Don)

Family Promise will be staying at Salem the week of November 30-December 6. Volunteer help is needed. Please contact Don Moe if you are available to help.

Outreach (Laurie)

October's Spaghetti Dinner was a fantastic success. Approximately 115 people attended.

New Business

November Turkey Dinner (Laurie)

Salem's Community Turkey Dinner is Sunday, November 23 at 5:00. Many hands are needed! Help is needed for set-up and prep on Friday and Saturday as well as Sunday before/ during the event.

Care Pastor and Transition Facilitator Update

Pastor Larry Olsen will continue to conduct Salem's Sunday services through the month of November. The Bishop's Office and Council are working to select and interview candidates who will serve during our transition time, starting in December.

Next Council Meeting: November 24th at 5:30pm.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45pm.

CHURCH COUNCIL VOTING MEMBERS:

2023-2026

Sue Ney
Greg Grinaker
Peter Swanson
Don Moe

2024-2027

Amy Benson (P)
Nancy Reschko (S)
Lynne Rittenhouse
Debbie McManus

2025-2028

Laurie Benson
Treva Votipka
Susan Ragan (T)
Karen Nelson

New Security Measurements

With everything that is changing in our world, we have implemented some new security measures here at Salem.

Out of an abundance of concern for the wellbeing and safety of Salem membership, we will be locking our front doors at 10:10 each Sunday going forward. Our Hospitality team will let you in if you are arriving late. Also, there is a door bell on the south entrance doors if you want to use that.

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

11/02 Susie Girard
 11/06 Ken Kossman
 11/07 Jason Grinaker
 11/09 Lisa Nelson
 11/14 Charlotte Grin
 11/15 Sharon Bowen
 11/17 Jean Champagne
 11/25 Susan Wright
 11/27 Tara Lee
 11/29 Wendy Ragusa
 11/30 Chris Snow

NOVEMBER

Anniversaries

11/04 Robert & CJ Jewell
 11/05 Daniel & Patti Mitzel 36yrs
 11/26 Dale & Susan Ragan 37yrs



Year-to-Date Financial Comparison for Salem

	Jan - Sep ACTUAL 2024	Jan - Sep ACTUAL 2025	2025 to 2024	BUDGET 2025	Act 2025 to Bud 2025
TOTAL INCOME	\$225,835	\$247,906	9.8%	\$250,458	-1.0%
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$95,521	\$92,153	-3.5%	\$111,035	-17.0%
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSES	\$166,539	\$178,047	6.9%	\$178,447	-0.2%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$262,060	\$270,200	3.1%	\$289,481	-6.7%
RESERVE FOR CHURCH OPERATIONS	-\$36,225	-\$22,294		-\$39,024	

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
2529 N. LAVENTURE RD.
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273
(360)336-3600

****For Synod news please visit
 their website:**

www.lutheransnw.org



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

It is our mission as members of this congregation to share the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ with all people, and to serve God by serving others.



**Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America**
 God's work. Our hands.

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Amy Benson
 President
Treva Votipka
 Vice President
Nancy Raschko,
 Secretary
Susan Ragan,
 Treasurer
Sue Ney
Peter Swanson
Don Moe
Greg Grinaker
Laurie Benson
Lynne Rittenhouse
Debbie McManus
Karen Nelson

Laurie Benson,
 Church Administrator
 (425)931-1445
office@slcmv.org

Cory Grinaker
 Office Assistant
office@slcmv.org

Bonnie Thoreson
 Music Director

Greg Grinaker
 Property Manager

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
 Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday

WEBSITE:
www.slcmv.org

"Salem ELCA" App
 (Apple & Google Play Stores)

Like us on Facebook
 @Salem Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

