

Salemsborg Lutheran Church

**2025 Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 1, 2026**



“We at Salemsborg have so benefited from the gifts of God’s love, peace, strength and joy through Jesus, that we seek to share these same gifts with others in grateful response!”

2026 Annual Meeting Agenda
February 1, 2026
Quorum – Salemsborg Lutheran Church – 45

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Reading of Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting

Pastoral Report

Election of Officers

- Appointment of Tellers
- Nominating Committee
- Presentation of Ballots
- Further Nominations
- Election

Report of Auditing Committee

- 2025 Financial Secretary's Report
- 2025 Treasurer's Report
- 2025 Memorial Report
- 2025 Cemetery Report
- 2025 Safety Report
- 2025 Women of Salemsborg Report
- 2026 Report from the Council Chairman

Additional Reports

- Presentation of 2026 Budgets
- Parish Budget
- Salemsborg Budget

Election Report

Old Business -

New Business –

- Presentation of the new Mission Statement.
- Any other new Business to come before the Congregation?

Resolutions for 2026

Adjournment and Benediction

**Salemsborg Lutheran Church
2024 Annual Meeting
Feb. 2, 2025 11:47 am**

The annual meeting for Salemsborg Lutheran Church was called to order by Tom on Feb. 4, 2025 at 9:40 am. The meeting was held with 70 members including Council members.

Pastor Ben Fulton opened the meeting with a prayer and then Tom asked for members to read the 2024 annual meeting minutes and asked for any corrections to be made. Lisa Newman and John Tillman made a motion to approve, motion carried.

Pastors Report: Pastor shared that he is in year 6 with our Congregation, he shared that we have lost some dear members of the congregation and that has been very difficult but we do continue to grow every year. We are in the top 5 of members the Synod between KS and MO. 110 kids enrolled in Sunday School, we had 383 attend worship between here and Falun this year for Christmas. Pastor wanted to say thank you for being here and showing up.

Election of Officers: Mona Tjaden and Teresa Pihl volunteered to be tellers for the election of officers. Tom asked if anyone would like to Jane McDonald accepted the position as presented and Teresa Pihl made the second. We also had a vote and it was approved and motion was carried.

Auditing Committee: Will presented that the reports were found to be orderly and balanced. Will advised if any questions to see Jennifer Tillman.

Financial Report: Tom asked for everyone to review the financial report, no questions were asked.

Treasurers Report: Tom asked for all to review the P&L statements and he asked if there were any questions, none were asked. We had an overall net income of 43,903.32. Tom asked for a Jane McDonald Aimee Roraback. All voted and motion carried.

Memorial Report: Tom asked for all to review the Memorial report, now questions. It was moved by Kathy Rishel and a second by Abby Rishel, motion carried,

Cemetery Report: Rex Tjaden presented the report and thanked the Loan Otto family for taking care of the grounds. Rex asked for questions, none were presented. Lisa Newman approved the and Kathy Rishel made a second to approve, motion carried.

Farm Report: Burma will be coming for bid in August 2025, cash rent bid. Mike Pihl made a motion to approve and Susan Hemphill made the second. Motion carried.

Women of Salemsborg: Mona Tjaden advised the report was in the booklet and if anyone had any questions to let her know and she wanted to say a thank you to all who help with this group. Aimee Roraback moved and Karla Pihl made the second to approve, motion carried.

Additional Reports are found in the booklet. Mary Ann asked if anyone else wanted to report and no discussion was made. and moved to accept the reports, motion carried.

Parish Budget: Ryan shared the both congregations were within budget. He also shared that there was an increase to salaries. Ryan presented the budget; no questions were presented. Kathy Rishel Susan Hemphill approved the budget, no discussions were made. Motion carried.

Salemsborg Budget: Jennifer shared the Church budget and shared what changes the Council did make. She also wanted to share a thank you to the Council for a couple of late nights in reviewing and making changes to the budget as there was a lot of thought that went into the budget. Melanie asked about Skye Ranch and Jennifer shared that would be fundraising. Jennifer also shared that for the admin position we did make some changes for that position and it is in the budget shared as well, she asked for questions. None were presented. A motion to Teresa Pihl and a second by Kathy Rishel to approve, motion carried.

Note - discretionary fund, this is an emergency fund that comes up anything over \$250 will need council approval anything under that he can use that fund to use. (fundraising for missions)

New Business: Decision was made to postpone new business until after new election and we will be developing a new mission for the Church. Childcare meeting was tabled until we have a mission statement for the church and a DCE position is also being looked at but this will take place after election of new officers are made and mission statement (ad hoc meeting for these items when the Council is ready to move forward with these items).

Pastor wanted to say thank you to the Council for their hard work (some-times in depth 3 hrs. meetings so he wanted to say thank you for that). Stacy, Jade, Rex, and Jennifer are leaving the Council for 2024 but congrats to the new members who were voted in for 2025.

Resolutions for 2025 were read by members, Tom did say a special thank you on page 28 for all who played a special part in our Church and that there is plenty of room for others to help if anyone is wanting to help in any way.

Abby Rishel (proposed that we need to look at a resolution for Children's ministries). Tom asked for this to be added to the notes so he could make sure the Council brings that to the table for 2025.

Pastor Ben's Report

How 'Boutcha Church!

Wow what a year 2025 was! As we review our year it is important to also reflect on different ways that we have grown in our own faith. This year Tom and Marlysue Holmquist traveled to Minnesota, and stopped by Gustavus Adolfus College in Iowa. They sent me a picture that was in their chapel. The picture was of a banner that read "Let everyone who has ever felt cast aside, hurt, or lonely say, "I am welcome here." Let everyone who has experienced joy and beauty say, "I am welcome here." Let everyone who desires to find the goodness and compassion say, "I am welcome here." Welcome to Christ Chapel. Come just as you are. Tom then said "that is what we do at our parish".

Both Falun and Salemsborg congregations continue to grow in membership, and with those new members, we continue to add to the Body of Christ in so many different ways. In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he writes *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit"*. We are called and sent by Christ to be the Gospel in the world in our own unique way. How will you live into your calling this year?

There are many ways that you can plug into all of the things that are happening in our parish. I encourage you to find new ways to get involved in this growing ministry! Maybe teach a Sunday School class, or sing in the choir. Volunteer with the Maintenance committee, or help serve at fellowship time. There will be opportunities to help out at Camp Tomah Shinga, and a mission trip to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado. The more we do together, the more we grow together. Our story of living in Koinonia grows every time we gather, no matter the setting.

Thank you for all you have done for this parish. It is such an honor to serve the priesthood of all believers here at the Falun/Salemsborg Lutheran Parish. I can't wait to see where the Spirit leads us all this year! Blessings to you all, and peace be with you!

Shalom, Shalom,

Pastor Ben

2025 SALEMSBORG LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parochial Report

Year	Baptized	Confirmed	Transferred In	Death
2022	649	423	25	5
2023	678	427		7
2024	680	427	21	3
2025	698	434	11	2

PASTORAL ACTS – 2025

BAPTISMS

Knox Pihl	Feb. 2
Harrison Carlson	April 6
Collins Pihl	April 6
Emma Windholz	April 6
Boone Poland	April 20
Estella Nance	July 27
Scarlett Krier	Sept 14
Rusty Krier	Sept 14
Bowen Swenson	Sept 28
Hudson Goodell	Oct. 5
Colton Wilson	Nov. 30
Walker Pihl	Dec. 24

AFFIRMED THEIR BAPTISM

Mason Riedel, Wyatt Griffin, Ridge Johnson

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Dwight & L'Jean Swisher
Jerry & Melanie Websiter
Charlie Malm
Marilyn Divelbiss
Audrey (Boeken) Zimmerman
Carter Underwood
Laura Miller

DEATHS

Coleen Pihl	July 28, 2025
Leland Applequist	August 27, 2025

Salemsborg Lutheran Church

Ballot

February 1, 2026

Church Council - 3 Year Term (Vote for 2)

___ Tom Holmquist - 2nd Term

___ Brian Almquist - 2nd Term

___ accept nomination?

Audit Committee - 2 Year Term

___ Michael Haverfield

___ accept nomination?

Nominating Committee - 1 Yer Term (Vote for 4)

___ Tom Holmquist - Council President

___ Rex Tjaden

___ Tyler Johnson

___ Nita Kay Carlson

___ accept nomination?

Synod Delegates

Virtual this year

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

2025

Total Member	\$ 131,896.00
Total Loose	\$ 9,590.66
Total Offering	\$ 141,486.66
World Hunger	\$ 423.21
Split with Food Bank	\$ 211.61
Sunday School	\$ -
Misc. Total	\$ 81,926.10

TOTAL \$ 223,835.97

Avg. Attendance 146

Misc. Income

Noisy Offering	\$ 768.76
Book Sales	\$ 90.00
Camp Registration	\$ 750.00
Church Use	\$ 100.00
Emergency Fund	\$ 100.00
Farm Income	\$ 11,414.64
Farm Rent	\$ 8,600.00
Food Bank	\$ -
Freezer Fund	\$ -
Golf Auction	\$ 9,128.00
Growth Fund	\$ -
House Rent	\$ 7,500.00
Insurance Claim	\$ -
Lenton Suppers	\$ 177.00
Maunday Thursday	\$ -
Memorial Fund (Benevolence)	\$ 5,100.00
Missions	\$ -
Muir Farm Hunting Lease	\$ 800.00
Maintenance	\$ 500.00
Payment for Propane (Rental)	\$ 1,232.54
Scholarships	\$ -
Sky Ranch	\$ 200.00
Tithly -General Fund	\$ 25,962.93
Thanksgiving Meal	\$ 155.00
US Treasury	\$ 4,100.56
Wimer Charitable Fund	\$ 2,000.00
Youth Coordinator	\$ 3,246.67

TOTAL MISC. INCOME \$ 81,926.10

6:30 PM
01/27/26
Cash Basis

Salemsborg Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Farm Income	
Farm Rent	8,600.00
Hunting Lease	800.00
Farm Income - Other	13,964.74
Total Farm Income	23,364.74
Interest Income	157.57
Miscellaneous	
150th Anniversary	40.00
Ash Wednesday	568.00
Camp Tomah Shinga Registration	300.00
ELCA Synod	400.52
Emergency Fund	100.00
Golf Tournament	10,928.00
Lent Money	232.00
Memorial Fund	5,100.00
Parish Share Reimbursement	2,450.29
Rummage Sale	3,472.34
Tax Refund	1,085.26
Thrivent Funds	380.00
Wimer Foundation	7,500.00
Youth Fund	1,900.00
Miscellaneous - Other	7,096.59
Total Miscellaneous	41,553.00
Offering	
Loose	29,230.40
Member	126,770.00
Noisy Offering	1,685.12
Tithe.ly	34,067.83
Total Offering	191,753.35
Rental House Income	
Rent	6,750.00
Total Rental House Income	6,750.00
Sunday School	854.94
World Hunger	417.21
Youth Group	307.80
Total Income	265,158.61
Expense	
Bank Service Charges	113.85
Benevolence	19,200.00
Education/Worship	
Church Office	2,784.54
Kitchen/Cleaning Supplies	1,491.49
Music/Supplies (Choir-Bells)	521.99
Pulpit Supply	855.00
Scholarship Fund	1,700.00
Sunday School Supplies	875.19
Synod Convention	1,529.53
Worship Supplies	2,488.36
Education/Worship - Other	907.80
Total Education/Worship	13,153.90
Emergency Fund	800.00
Other	
Camp Registration Expense	
Confirmation Camp	8,179.00

6:30 PM
01/27/26
Cash Basis

Salemsborg Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Camp Registration Expense - Other	6,978.00
Total Camp Registration Expense	15,157.00
Christmas Eve and Choir Concert	95.00
Community Relations	3,032.49
Golf Tournament	1,800.00
Maria Wolf Benefit	0.00
Wimer Scholarship	4,500.00
Youth Fund	5,757.09
Other - Other	1,138.54
Total Other	31,480.12
Parish (Salemsborg Share)	96,162.24
Plant Expenses	
Cemetery Grounds	3,150.00
Church Maintenance and Repairs	5,053.92
Church Utilities	19,228.03
Fire Alarm System	612.00
Insurance	35,445.61
Real Estate Taxes	3,472.80
Termite Control	901.00
Total Plant Expenses	67,863.36
Rental House Expenses	
Utilities	901.73
Total Rental House Expenses	901.73
Staff Salaries	
Adult Choir Director	3,782.98
Church Custodian	7,937.50
Church Staff FICA	2,040.59
Maintenance	6,956.98
Organist	7,999.92
Treasurer	2,215.44
Web Assistant	6,312.00
Youth Coordinator	6,650.00
Total Staff Salaries	43,895.41
Total Expense	273,570.61
Net Ordinary Income	-8,412.00
Net Income	-8,412.00

12/31/25 Cash Balances:
Bank of Tescott Checking - \$8,366.64
Bank of Tescott Growth Fund - \$31,437.65
Bank of Tescott Rental - \$7,056.61
Peoples Bank Checking - \$30,538.63
Total Cash Balance - \$77,399.53

Salemsborg Memorial Committee 2025 Report

Memorial Committee members: Joel Wimer (Chairman), Cindy Dimitri (Church Council Representative), Lisa Newman, Nita Kay Carlson

The Memorial Committee receives and processes all memorial donations given to Salemsborg Lutheran Church. The committee also works with family members of the deceased regarding designation options related to the current needs of the church and maintains a permanent record of all gifts. Gifts which remain undesignated are transferred to the Endowment Fund.

In September of 2022, \$40,000 from a gift from Steve Reiner (on behalf of Donna Norberg Reiner) was invested for the purpose of establishing an endowed scholarship fund for a Salemsborg student pursuing a secondary education degree, with special consideration for a Bethany College student. As of December 31, 2025, this fund was valued at \$57,887.84. A scholarship in the amount of \$2000 will be awarded in January 2026.

Salemsborg Lutheran Church Memorial Endowment Fund

Thrivent Mutual Funds – 2025 Performance

Thrivent Mutual Funds/Mid-Cap Stock Fund 2025 Performance: Established in 1997 with a \$10,000 gift.

Quarterly Ending Balances

December 31, 2024	127,526.48
March 31, 2025	117,882.91
June 30, 2025	124,384.85
September 30, 2025	125,879.08
December 31, 2025	127,931.74

Average Balance/2025 Fiscal Year: \$124,721.01 X 4% (for benevolent distribution) = \$4,988.84

Memorial Endowment Fund Benevolence

On January 12, 2026, the members of the Memorial Committee approved a distribution of \$1700 each to Bethany Home, Bethany College, and Camp Tomah Shinga as the 2025 Benevolence Distribution (\$5100 total) from the Memorial Endowment Fund.

Salemsborg Benevolence 2025 Report

The amount distributed by the council to the ELCA Central States Synod for 2025 was \$14,100. This was given with instructions to disburse \$3172.50 each to Bethany Home, Bethany College, Camp Tomah Shinga, and Lutheran World Relief. The remaining \$1410.00, representing 10% of Salemsborg's benevolence budget, was to be used by the synod to help defray administrative expenses.

In January 2026, the Memorial Committee made a distribution of \$5100 out of the Memorial Endowment Funds to the Salemsborg Church general fund. The Memorial Committee recommended that these monies be re-distributed equally in the amounts of \$1700.00 to our congregation's local benevolence recipients: Bethany Home, Bethany College, and Camp Tomah Shinga.

**Salemsborg Lutheran Church Memorial Fund
2025 Annual Report**

Dates	Check #	Pay to/Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance
1/1/2025		Beginning Balance			33,112.38
1/18/2025	787	SLC - Benevolence from Endowment	5100		
1/19/2025		Deposit-Thrivent (benevolence)		5100	
1/22/2025		Direct Deposit - LPL (Reiner account)		2000	
1/22/2025	788	Kayla Norberg (Donna Reiner Scholarship)	2000		
1/28-3/28/25		Deposits-Matthew Wimer		1750	
5/2/2025		SLC-Mary Tillberg/Pastor office furniture	1437.47		
6/4/2025	790	SLC-Youth Coordinator/ 500 Jeri;500 Matt	1000		
9/4-11/12/25		Deposits-Coleen Pihl		3875	
9/4/2025	791	Women of Salemsborg/Coleen Pihl	50		
10/9/225		Deposit-Leland Applequist		55	
12/31/2025		Ending Balance			36,304.91

2025 Checking Account Summary

Beginning Balance 1/1/2025	\$33,112.38
Contributions	+ 12,780.00
Expenditures	<u>-9587.47</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/2025	\$36,304.91

Still to be distributed for 2025: \$33,095.00

Jeri Wimer: \$16,225

Matthew Wimer: \$13,045

Coleen Pihl: \$3825

Salemsborg Lutheran Church Farm Ground Report 2025

Burma Road Farm

106.6 FSA base acres and 7.2 acres waterways = 113.8 Total Acres

Cash Rent received from Michelle & Nic Eppenbach \$8,600.00

Muir Road Farm – 128.72 Acres

Cash Rent received from Alex Feistner \$11,198.64

Muir Road Farm – Hunting Lease

Income \$800.00

Pasture – Hay Baled by C&W Ranch, Ltd.

2.4 Ton Mixed Grass Hay - Salemsborg Church Share \$216.00

Total Church Farm Ground Income: \$20,814.64

The purpose of the Farm Ground Committee is: to let leases on the church farm ground; collect the lease payment on that ground; report income on all farm ground to the congregation; and assist with any problems that might arise with any of the farm ground or leases.

The Salemsborg Church Muir Road farm ground contract will expire August 1, 2030.

The Salemsborg Church Burma Road farm ground contract will expire August 1, 2031.

Bid sheets will be provided at least three months before the contract expiration for any Salemsborg member that wants to apply. Sealed bids will be for a 6-year lease on the basis of dollars per acre.

Farm Ground Committee

Joel Wimer (Chairman)

Brian Almquist

Tom Holmquist (Council Chair)

AB 11/19/20

WC 11/19/20

2025 Salemsborg Cemetery Association Financial Report

Balance on hand 01-01-2025		\$ 3355.08	
Income: Donations for cemetery care	4408.00	Expenses: SD box rent	25.00
Church mowing fee	3150.00	Mowing fees:	9050.00
Interest on CD	458.73	Total Expenses	\$ 9075.00
Transfer from Thrivent	1300.00		
Total Income	\$ 9316.73		

(Mowing fees include Smolan and Salemsborg cemeteries; church and fellowship grounds; rental house grounds.)

Balance on hand 12-31-2025 \$ 3596.81

2025 Salemsborg Cemetery Memorial Fund Financial Report

Balance on hand 01-01-2025	\$ 7062.69	
Income: Memorial Donations	100.00	No Expenses
Total Income	100.00	Balance on 12-31-2025

Memorial Donations received in memory of Matthew Wimer.

Salemsborg Cemetery Association

The Salemsborg Cemetery Association reminds you that the care of the cemeteries is the responsibility of everyone. No glass containers should be used as they become dangerous for the mowing crew when they become broken. Cemetery guidelines prohibit the planting of trees or bushes of any kind. We encourage family and friends of loved ones resting in the Salemsborg and Smolan cemeteries to financially help provide for the care of these graves. Please keep our cemeteries looking nice by removing wilted floral arrangements or faded/broken artificial decorations. The care of these cemeteries as well as the church grounds is a responsibility that we regard with respect and perform with our best judgement. Thank you again for your help both financially and physically.

Board of Directors:

Joel Wimer, Chairman	Kevin Pihl, Secretary	Rex Tjaden, Treasurer
Mike Dimitri	Kelly Pihl	Tom Holmquist
		Kevin Allton
		Nate Ginest

Donations and/or memorials may be made to Salemsborg Cemetery Association at any time. Mail to: Rex Tjaden, 8104 S. Burma Rd, Smolan, KS 67456 or put in offering plate with memo line indicating donation to cemetery.

The Safety and Security Committee Report

he safety and security committee continues to look for improvements and actions to keep our congregation and our facilities as safe as possible.

This year we attended active shooter seminar put on by the Kansas Emergency Management Agency, the seminar specifically focused on places of worship. While the probability is extremely low, when it comes to an active shooter event, we are our best preventative measure. Practicing 'active hospitality' and situational awareness and letting someone know if something doesn't seem right is always best.

Safety of our congregation is also best accomplished by all of us, if you see something unsafe, or a potential hazard, please let a member of the committee know so that we can address it and mitigate the risk it might pose.

Respectfully,

Brian Almquist

AB 11/17/20
WC
11/19/24

Women of Salemsborg - Annual Report - 2025

Balance on hand 01-01-25	\$ 4763.51
Expenses:	303.66
Funerals: Norma Jean Holm, Coleen Pihl, Leland Applequist, Amy Ramsey	
Memorial Day fellowship	158.52
Spritz cookies, Hyllningsfest	138.20
Total Expenses	\$ 600.38
Income:	
Funeral & Memorial Donations	250.00
Cookbook Sales	16.00
Memorial Day Donations	50.00
Total Income	\$ 316.00
Balance on Hand 12-31-2025	\$ 4479.13
Submitted by Mona Tjaden, Treasurer for Women of Salemsborg	

Mona Tjaden

The Women of Salemsborg fondly remember our sister Coleen Pihl who passed away in 2025. Coleen was a devoted member of our organization and a dedicated leader. She demonstrated a strong faith in God and supported our many Bible Study groups, our sewing/quilting days and other opportunities for fellowship of Salemsborg women.

The Women of Salemsborg are honored to be able to carry on the tradition of hospitality - dating back to the founding of Salemsborg. We welcome all women to join us in this tradition. Our main roles continue to be Sunday morning coffee and providing a time of fellowship to support families and friends of our members who have passed away in conjunction with their celebration of life services. We are grateful for all the support of our calendar groups and especially the leadership of our calendar groups members. Thank you all!

Council President

A message from the Salemsborg Council President:

Dear Friends,

2025 was a very good year for the Salemsborg Congregation and the Falun/Salemsborg Parish as a whole. We are so fortunate and blessed to be a part of this congregation and parish, to be able to worship together, enjoy each other's company, and fellowship, and know that we are a part of an extraordinary church family. So much has happened over the past year, so allow me to remind us all of a few of these things.

Our Salemsborg Congregation is growing, as we welcome many new people, and families. Many parents brought their children to Salemsborg for baptism. Participation in Sunday School has exceeded our expectations under the direction of Kelsey Swisher and her team. In addition to Sunday School, the Children's Sunday School presented a delightful program before Christmas.

We have expanded our reach by including Abby Barnett as Youth Coordinator for the parish to assist in Christian Education and church youth activities.

The summer swimming party was well attended, and the ice cream social in the park after swimming was a big hit.

The attendance at Camp Tomah Shinga increases each year and the advance-enrollment discounts help many families. The new leadership of Aspen Cheney, Lauren Dolezal and Carson Pihl, brings the light of Salemsborg to so many children in their camp experience.

A true highlight of the year is the Christmas Family Workshop, held in December. This long-standing Advent tradition brings families together to celebrate the Christmas season while making crafts and gifts together, and now extends to the second and third generation of our Church.

Choir is again growing with new, and long-time members, under the direction of Nita Kay Carlson and accompanist Becky Pihl. They welcome people who like to sing together and provide music each week during services, and through a concert during the Christmas season. The Bell Choir practices each week and presents music during services. A group called "The Ding-a-Lings," made up of members of the bell choir, are very active and spread the good news before Christmas with a two-day tour playing music for so many people throughout the area.

Our organist, Phil Kampfe, brings his masterful gifts to us every Sunday.

Many outreach projects have enhanced our parish and greater community as well. In March, ELCA Bishop Susan Candea traveled to Salemsborg for a listening session on how the ELCA can help rural congregations, many of whom are struggling in our times. We hope the ideas she came away with will continue to help our rural ministries.

This listening session led in November to a mini-conference on the rural crisis of Farm Family Transitions. This half day conference was led by Ashlee Westerhold from the Kansas State University office of Farm Transition. In addition, Jacob Grimstead from KSU Ag-Manager and Joseph Aker, a lawyer from Salina familiar with agricultural transition issues, brought expertise in financial and legal issues unique to rural farming/ranching communities. This conference was supported by Thrivent, whose assistance continues to be vital to the success of reaching families dealing with these issues.

Perhaps a very significant outreach project was the inclusion of Garfield Lutheran Church as a part of our worship family. This small congregation joins us by tuning in on our You Tube channel on Sundays for worship and communion. We welcome their attendance and applaud

their efforts to continue worshipping together and being a part of a Lutheran Parish. This project in time might possibly extend to other congregations as well.

The "Haunted Forest" Halloween event is a major project which welcomes thousands of people each year. Of the 135 volunteers over half are not parish members. The 2220+ who attend are given the best experience in Kansas for Halloween as well as interactions with our parish through the chili meal, snacks and drinks prior to the trail, the friendly faces as they make their donations and enter the trail, as well as the exit tent where they can give their feedback and hear more about our parish churches and members and our mission for youth. The ability we have to reach out to other youth with the funds we raise from the Haunted Trail is a very blessed bonus.

There are so many other things that are happening, both big and small, that are so important. We don't always know about each interaction, but your own personal spreading of the word, inviting new people to church or to activities is vital to our continuing Parish-wide message of "Let the Spirit Lead." That work often goes unrecognized but remains very important to us as members of this parish, but also as Lutherans and Christians.

Of great importance this past year has been the leadership of your church council. Any, and every task assigned to them, and their committees, was completed, or is in the process of being completed. Your representatives organize these many activities and show up to support them. They provide individual leadership, sit through council meetings which take too long but are filled with earnest discussions, and complete projects which makes this congregation and parish so unique.

Most importantly, I must bring to your attention our dear pastor, Ben Fulton, and his family. His family patiently loans him to us way too often and for too many hours. Pastor Ben brings such love, joy, and Christian leadership to us. He exemplifies in his daily life the messages he brings to us each week of "Love God, Love Your Neighbor." We are truly blessed to have this man of God in our presence. Our congregation, parish and extended community would not be the same without him. When you have a moment be sure to thank him for all the good he does for us, and especially thank his wife, Janielle and his children, David and Lilly, for sharing him so willingly with us.

There are many challenges ahead of us in the coming year. Our Church building itself, now 100 years old, needs some renovations. The historic cottage, in the park, needs a new roof and the barn needs to be painted. Continued maintenance of the organ, elevator, plumbing systems, and our parsonage and cemetery are on the list. We need to fund our Youth Coordinator position to continue to provide Christian activities and learning for the many children in our parish.

Who knows what opportunities to help people and spread the word might come up over the coming year. As costs rise, each of us must add as much as we can to our weekly contributions. The church is filled with children and young families and our future is bright.

And finally, let us go out and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to all who will listen. Each Sunday we say, "Let the Spirit Lead." This simple statement reminds us every week that we do the work –and each of us needs to "be the church." And let it be known that; "ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE."

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holmquist
Salemsborg Council President

**Salemsborg Lutheran Church
2026 Budget Worksheet**

	2025 Budget	2025 Expense	Over (Under) Budget	2026 Budget
STAFF SALARIES				
Organist	8,000	8,300	300	8,240
Adult Choir Director	3,693	3,693	-	3,804
Church Custodian	10,500	8,253	(2,248)	7,680
Maintenance	6,957	6,957	(0)	7,166
Treasurer	2,954	2,954	(0)	3,043
Youth Coord				2,050
Admin. Assistant	6,312	6,312	-	6,501
Church Staff FICA	2,939	2,205	(734)	1,470
TOTAL STAFF SALARIES	41,355	38,673	(2,682)	39,953
EDUCATION/WORSHIP				
Sunday School Supplies	1,000	1,171	171	1,100
Bibles	500	180	(320)	300
Music/Supplies (Choir-Bells)	2,200	647	(1,553)	2,000
Church Office	300	923	623	500
Accounting Software	-		-	-
Worship Supplies	1,700	2,014	314	1,700
Kitchen/Cleaning Supplies	1,000	786	(214)	1,000
Synod Convention – 4 Delegates	1,000	1,129	129	100
Outreach Committee	500	334	(166)	500
Scholarship Fund	2,000	1,700	(300)	1,600
Media/Technology	1,500		(1,500)	1,500
Descretionary fund	2,500	800	(1,700)	2,500
Mission	-		-	5,000
TOTAL EDUCATION/WORSHIP	14,200	9,683	(4,517)	17,800
PLANT EXPENSES				
Church Utilities	20,000	18,550	(1,450)	20,600
Real Estate Taxes	3,800	3,473	(327)	3,500
Insurance Premium	28,400	35,446	7,046	36,774
Church Maintenance/Repair	20,000	5,335	(14,665)	20,000
Termite Control	1,000	901	(99)	1,000
Fire Alarm System	1,700	1,228	(472)	1,700
Parsonage Repair/Upkeep	5,000	943	(4,057)	-
Cemetary/Grounds	2,500	3,150	650	2,500
TOTAL PLANT EXEPENSES	82,400	69,025	(13,376)	86,074
FARM EXPENSES	1,500	-	(1,500)	-
RENTAL HOUSE growthfund repayment	9,000	8,050	(950)	9,000
BENEVOLENCE	14,100	14,100	-	9,400
PARISH BUDGET	96,163	96,162	(1)	101,078
SALEMSBORG TOTAL	258,718	235,693	(23,025)	263,305

**Salemsborg Lutheran Church
2026 Budget Worksheet**

	2025 Budget	2025 Expense	Over (Under) Budget	2026 Budget
STAFF SALARIES				
Organist	8,000	8,300	300	8,240
Adult Choir Director	3,693	3,693	-	3,804
Church Custodian	10,500	8,253	(2,248)	7,680
Maintenance	6,957	6,957	(0)	7,166
Treasurer	2,954	2,954	(0)	3,043
Youth Coord				2,050
Admin. Assistant	6,312	6,312	-	6,501
Church Staff FICA	2,939	2,205	(734)	1,470
TOTAL STAFF SALARIES	41,355	38,673	(2,682)	39,953
EDUCATION/WORSHIP				
Sunday School Supplies	1,000	1,171	171	1,100
Bibles	500	180	(320)	300
Music/Supplies (Choir-Bells)	2,200	647	(1,553)	2,000
Church Office	300	923	623	500
Accounting Software	-		-	-
Worship Supplies	1,700	2,014	314	1,700
Kitchen/Cleaning Supplies	1,000	786	(214)	1,000
Synod Convention – 4 <i>Delegates</i>	1,000	1,129	129	100
Outreach Committee	500	334	(166)	500
Scholarship Fund	2,000	1,700	(300)	1,600
Media/Technology	1,500		(1,500)	1,500
Discretionary fund	2,500	800	(1,700)	2,500
Mission	-		-	5,000
TOTAL EDUCATION/WORSHIP	14,200	9,683	(4,517)	17,800
PLANT EXPENSES				
Church Utilities	20,000	18,550	(1,450)	20,600
Real Estate Taxes	3,800	3,473	(327)	3,500
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Termite Control	1,000	901	(99)	1,000
Fire Alarm System	1,700	1,228	(472)	1,700
Parsonage Repair/Upkeep	5,000	943	(4,057)	-
Cemetery/Grounds	2,500	3,150	650	2,500
TOTAL PLANT EXPENSES	82,400	69,025	(13,376)	86,074
FARM EXPENSES	1,500	-	(1,500)	-
RENTAL HOUSE growthfund repayment	9,000	8,050	(950)	9,000
BENEVOLENCE	14,100	14,100	-	9,400
PARISH BUDGET	96,163	96,162	(1)	101,078
SALEMSBORG TOTAL	258,718	235,693	(23,025)	263,305

**Falun-Salemsborg Parish
2026 Budget**

	2025 Budget	2025 Expense	Over (Under) Budget	2026 Expense	Over (Under) Budget
PASTOR					
Base Salary	\$ 43,567.97	\$ 43,567.97	\$ -	\$ 43,567.97	
Social Security Allowance/FICA Tax - 7.65%	\$ 3,332.95	\$ 3,332.95	\$ (0.00)	\$ 3,432.94	
Housing/Parsonage	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	
Seminary Expense					
Portico Total Benefits:-					
Health Premium-Ben Pays own Insurance	\$ 19,692.48	\$ 19,588.90	\$ 103.58	\$ 18,579.60	
Portico Total Benefits	\$ 10,002.24	\$ 10,895.41		\$ 10,002.24	
Portico Totals	\$ 19,692.48	\$ 10,895.41	\$ 103.58	\$ 28,581.84	
TOTAL PASTOR & BENEFITS	\$ 88,595.64	\$ 89,385.23	\$ (789.59)	\$ 87,582.75	
PARSONAGE UTILITIES	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,087.65	\$ 912.35	\$ 6,000.00	
PARISH OFFICE:					
Office Operations	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 1,930.75	\$ 2,819.25	\$ 3,750.00	
Youth Coordinator				\$ 6,500.00	
Secretary Salary (Melanie)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,360.00	
Payroll Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Website	\$ 900.00	\$ 828.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 900.00	
TOTAL PARISH OFFICE:	\$ 17,650.00	\$ 14,758.75	\$ 2,891.25	\$ 23,510.00	
OTHER EXPENSES:					
Pastor Continuing Education	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
Pastor Mileage	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,297.18	\$ (297.18)	\$ 9,000.00	
Synod/Bishop Pastor Expenses	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 400.52	\$ 699.48	\$ 550.00	
Vacation Bible School	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,874.05	\$ 125.95	\$ 3,000.00	
Parish Youth Group	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Confirmation	\$ 500.00	\$ 227.94	\$ 272.06	\$ 500.00	
Thanksgiving	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -	
Wednesday Church School	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	
Golf Course Rental	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 925.00	
Sabbatical Expense	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	
Substitute Pastor	\$ 900.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 900.00	
Parish Activities	\$ 500.00	\$ 427.94	\$ 72.06	\$ 500.00	
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 17,700.00	\$ 15,727.63	\$ 1,972.37	\$ 16,275.00	
PARSONAGE USE VALUE (PUV)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	
			Over/Under		
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 134,945.64	\$ 129,959.26	\$ 4,986.38	\$ 138,367.75	

Pay In/Refund?

Parish Contributions:

Salemsborg	71.26%	73.05%
Required Contribution Total	\$ 96,162	\$ 101,077.64
Per Month	\$ 8,013.52	\$ 8,423.14
<i>Inc. (dec.) over prior year's monthly Contribution</i>		\$ 409.61

Falun	28.74%	26.95%
Required Contribution Total	\$ 38,783	\$ 37,290.11
Per Month	\$ 3,231.95	\$ 3,107.51
<i>Inc. (dec.) over prior year's monthly Contribution</i>		\$ (124.44)

Important Information:	
Sabbatical Money in Acct.	\$ 6,800
PUV	\$ 25,000
FUNDS REMAINING IN PARISH ACCT. AFTER BUDGET APPROVED IN FEB.	\$ 31,800

026
11/9/25
H2
1/19/26

Friends of the Forest 2025 Financial Report

Balance on Hand January 1, 2025 \$ 48,987.70

Income for 2025 \$ 63,915.85

2 nights of Trail + sales of t-shirts, hats

Total income: \$112,903.55

Expenses for 2025

Hauhted Trail expenses paid so far \$ 18,912.84

Expense for shirts, hats purchased \$ 3,457.58

2025 Trail proceeds given out so far \$ 13,500.25

2025 Campers, 29 Parish, 7 companion \$ 10,825.00

Transfer to Thrivent Money Market Acct. \$ 58,000.00

Total expenses: \$104,695.67

Income minus expenses: \$ 8,207.88

Outstanding checks 12/31/25: \$ 6,861.81

Balance on Hand December 31, 2025 \$ 15,069.69

Ideas for future expenditures:

Continue companion camper passes up to 20 campers

Update Nursery/S.S. room, activities

This was our 21st year of providing scares with our Haunted Trail! We would like to start by thanking the Church for continuing to allow us to have our Haunted Trail. Also, many thanks to our 135 wonderful volunteers who work so hard to continue to make our Trail one of the most popular in the state! A special shout out to Krystal Schwindt, who stepped in to take over a major role in keeping our Trail going. She did an amazing job! After getting rained out the first weekend, we still managed to host about 2,300+ people!

As always, we are so grateful to the Middle School Youth and parents for their work in providing the Chili Feed as well as concessions on the Trail. This area is such a comfortable place for people to gather and enjoy good chili as they wait in line. Thanks also to the High School Youth for their help on the trail. We are also thankful for the SVHS National Honor Society youth who come every year to help us with clean up! We are truly blessed to have awesome youth in our Parish, and in our community.

Along with proceeds from the annual Golf Tournament, we continue to help pay for campers at Camp Tomah Shinga, as well as sponsor a counselor. This year, we had promoted to our own Parish youth that they could invite a friend outside of our Parish to attend camp, and we paid \$200 towards that registration. We heard lots of complimentary feedback about Camp, and our plan is to continue this.

We are always looking for ideas to promote youth ministry in any way! Feel free to contact one of us if you have an idea. If you should ever have any questions, or would like to volunteer in any way, feel free to contact Krystal Schwindt, Karla Pihl, or Mona Tjaden. Thank You!

Friends of the Forest – Scaring & Serving since 2004!

13th Annual Parish Golf Tournament – Sunday, September 7, 2025

Winning Team: Steve & Roxie Sjogren and Kaj & Haley Sjogren

Hole Sponsors

Hobbs Creek Veterinary Service (Dr. Kenny & Sally Johnson)	Dave & Bernie Dauer Mike & Cindy Dimitri	Dauer Welding & Machine, Inc. (Norman & Kelly Dauer families)
Chris & Tina Dauer	Keith & Debbie Johnson	Tanner & Jessica Corwin
Tjaden Tomb Tenders (Rex & Mona Tjaden)	Diamond T Creations (John & Jennifer Tillman)	Glenn & Gwen Oleen
Jason & Haley Sherwood	Pihl Farms	Ron & Sue Pihl
Mary Ann Carlson	Pihl Repair	Mike & Teresa Pihl
Wayne & Nita Kay Carlson	Nolan McDonald & Sarah Tjaden	Nate & Maggie Ginest
		Brian Knoell

Silent Auction Donations

Mona Tjaden	Sarah Tjaden	Jennifer Tillman
Josh & Britta Dauer	Gwen Oleen	Audra Schartz
Jenny Sherwood	Donna Dauer	Tina Dauer
Liz Nelson	Jodi Norberg	Shirley Bloomquist

Live Auction Donations

Colorado Cabin by Clair & Jerrine Oleen	The Farm & The Odd Fellows by Keir & Ashley Swisher	Branson Condo by Ron & Sue Pihl
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Income

Team Registrations	\$4,400.00
Hole Sponsorships	\$1,100.00
Silent Auction	\$1,308.00
Live Auction	\$3,450.00
Donations	\$948.00
	\$11,206.00

Expenses*

Golf Cart Rentals	\$1,800.00
Food, Prizes, etc.	\$178.00
	\$1,978.00

Raised "Fore the Kids"	\$9,228.00
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**Golf Course Rent paid from parish budget*

A special thank you to the Pihl crew for planning and cooking lunch.

We also want to thank all our golfers and everyone who came out to worship, enjoy lunch and participate in the silent and live auctions. It was a great event FORE THE KIDS!

Salemsborg Sunday School Report

Sunday School

Leadership

Jennifer Tillman, Kelsey Swisher, Maggie Ginest, Michelle Stula, Chris Zimmerman, Nic & Michelle Eppenbach, Molly Johnson, Pastor Ben

Curriculum

The 2025 Sunday school continued to utilize the "Whirl" Sunday School Curriculum. It is based on the lectionary. We remain split into 3 sections, which consist of Preschool-Kindergarten (taught by Maggie Ginest and Michelle Stula), 1st-3rd grade (taught by Chris Zimmerman) and 4th-5th grade (taught by Kelsey Swisher). The 6th-8th graders continue to follow a curriculum called "Here We Stand", which is a 3 year confirmation study focusing on both the Old and New Testament over the 3 years. They are currently in the 2nd year of this. The middle school Sunday School class is led by Nic and Michelle Eppenbach.

Molly Johnson continues to teach the songs to our children through music with Kathy Rishel at the piano. Molly put on the children's Christmas program this year called "Breakfast In Bethlehem", which was very well attended.

There continues to be a Women's Group meeting on Sundays, which is open to anyone wanting to dive deeper into the word.

Attendance

The children's Sunday School classes began September 2025 and will end May 2026. There was a break during December coinciding with the school Christmas vacation. Sunday school has continued to be well attended with an average of 30-35 energetic children each Sunday.

The Women's group has had a regular attendance with a core group of ladies.

Additional Activities

Vacation Bible School was put on by the staff of Camp Tomah Shinga again this summer. It was held at the Church and Fellowship Center and spanned the course of a week. It was again very well attended.

Appreciation

Many thanks go out to Molly Johnson, Jennifer Tillman, Kelsey Swisher, Maggie Ginest, Michelle Stula, Chris Zimmerman, Nic & Michelle Eppenbach, as well as the staff at Camp Tomah Shinga. Also to Nita Kay Carlson for leading the Adult Women's Group.

Submitted by: Kelsey Swisher

Salemsborg Middle School Youth Group

People's Bank and Trust Balance: \$15,013.04

Jan 23-25, 2025: Youth Quake: 15 middle school youth attended.

March 1-2, 2025: Youth Group Lock In: 16 middle school youth attended

June 8-13, 2025: Camp Tomah Shinga Youth Group Retreat

October 2025 Haunted Trail Concessions Income: \$4059.50

Youth Coordinator Report

1. Prior to the coordinator position being approved, Abby and Pastor Ben organized a Youth-Led service for Palm Sunday, April 13th at both churches. Students signed up for “jobs” during worship that would best suit their talents. Students served and attended both services, Falun and Salemsborg. All feedback on this service has been positive with excitement for more youth-involved services in the future.
2. Youth Coordinator position was approved on April 14th, and we haven’t slowed down since.
3. The Easter Egg hunt was a success on Sunday, April 20th despite the rain. We had plenty of help hiding eggs from the MS/HS Youth groups and nearly 60 youth in attendance for church and the egg hunt. Thank you for all your help stuffing and donating eggs.
4. Saturday, May 3rd, Jared Nichols and Abby teamed up for a Karaoke Night held in the fellowship center. Attendance was low (6), but there is potential for a stronger turnout with more planning and advertising. We look forward to trying again in the future.
5. Senior Sunday was Sunday May 11th. Graduating high school seniors were invited to celebrate at the church of their choice. \$227.94 for three full-size sheet cakes (2 for Salemsborg, 1 for Falun), and we charged it to the Salemsborg charge account at White’s Foodliner in Lindsborg. Parents of the 9 seniors split the cost of the cakes. Abby has presented Jennifer with the complete cost for the cakes.
6. First Fundraiser for the YC salary was a Parish Garage sale on June 6 and 7th. Rummage Sale for the Youth Coordinator Position was a success! Youth Group members provided baked goods and sold items at a bake sale. Congregational members, with Molly Johnson at the helm, ran the Rummage sale. \$3000 was raised from the Rummage sale, and over \$300 from the bake sale.
7. August 10th from 5-7pm was the annual High School Youth Group Cookout and Swim party at Lakeside Park in Assaria. We had a very small group (4 students) attend. Small but mighty. Several other high school events were scheduled for the same date. Next year we will consider doing this earlier to avoid back to school events.

8. Blessing of the Backpacks took place at both Congregations on Sunday August 10th. All students (grade school through college) and teachers were encouraged to bring their backpacks for a blessing for the back-to-school season. We had a great turnout!
9. SS registration began Sunday August 10th. We had 39 families across the parish register and 27 for Salemsborg alone. 71 kids total, 51 for Salemsborg. Abby has been helping Gwen and Kelsey prepare class lists, organize parent helpers, and begin recruiting substitute teachers. This registration has been instrumental in the success of our youth leaders this fall.
10. Summer Senior High Trip - Due to a lack of response from the High School youth, there was no summer trip. Pastor Ben and Abby are planning to begin conversations and create commitment deadlines for next year's trip in January.
11. The July Parish Swim party and Ice Cream social was very well attended by both children and adults. Ice Cream Social raised \$107 for the Youth Coordinator Position.
12. The new Falun / Salemsborg Youth Groups social media account has been activated. This will be used to share current events, what the kids are doing, and share their experiences with the congregation. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Abby is the admin on the page.
13. August 10th from 5-7pm is the annual High School Youth Group Cookout and Swim party at Lakeside Park in Assaria. If you have a high school youth group member in your family, please encourage them to attend.
14. Confirmation occurred on Sunday October 26th. Pastor Ben had his final meeting with the confirmands on October 11th where they discussed the service and their faith statements. Abby ordered cake for both services. Attendance was great at both churches.
15. T-Shirt Sales \$2470. We want all students to have a shirt. Please consider purchasing your shirt if you haven't already, and there are sponsorships for those who need support in purchasing. Thank you to everyone who has purchased or sponsored a shirt.

16. While the weather cut the Haunted Forest a day short, the chili feed and concessions stand went well. The Middle School was still able to raise a total of \$4059
17. The Highschool Youth Group hosted Smoky Valley's fifth quarter on Friday October 3rd. Thank you to the parents and congregational members who donated supplies for the event. Over 100 smoky valley students attended alongside 20 of our own Highschool youth group members.
18. Middle school youth group is gearing up for the Youth Quake event on February 6-8th. We have 22 kids and 5 sponsors attending this event in Wichita Kansas.
19. Both Falun and Salemsborg put on successful Children's Christmas programs. Falun's program had over 20 students PreK-12 participate. Salemsborg served Breakfast in Bethlehem and collected a free will donation to go back to the Youth Coordinator Position. Thank you, Molly and Mandy, for all your work!
20. The Highschool Youth Group had their annual Christmas Party on December 28th. We had 8 students in attendance. Food was served, gingerbread houses were made, and a great white elephant exchange was had.
21. The Middle School youth group had their Annual LOCK-IN on January 3rd. There were 22 students in attendance.

Middle School Youth Group Notes

- The Middle School youth group is going well. We have 27 students as a part of the MS youth and confirmation group. This includes a group of 10 8th graders to be confirmed next fall.

High School Youth Group Notes

- Abby has been the volunteer leader for the Highschool while we are still searching for a more permanent sponsor. The HSYG is a small but consistent group of about 10 students across grades 9-12.

Respectfully submitted; Abigail Rishel-Barnett, Parish Youth Coordinator

Bethany Home Auxiliary Report February 1, 2026 Annual Meeting

The Bethany Home Auxiliary began on March 10, 1958. Mrs. Emory Pokrant of Assaria was the first president and was assisted by a slate of officers and representatives of area congregations. In March of 2026, it will be the 68th year since this organization began its mission to “serve the aged people of the community” and this continues to be their guiding principle.

Current Auxiliary officers are:

President - Mary Patrick (St. Bridget’s Catholic Church)

Vice President - Sue Todd (Bethany Lutheran Church)

Secretary - Marlys Elbert (New Gottland Church)

Treasurer - Jean (Richards) Rowland (Trinity Lutheran Church of McPherson)

Twelve church representatives are part of the Auxiliary members:

Assaria Lutheran Church – Janice Peterson

Bethany Lutheran Church of Lindsborg – Liz Johnson and Sue Todd

Lindsborg Covenant Church – Carol Duerkson

Falun Lutheran – Gwen Oleen

Messiah Lutheran of Lindsborg – Betty Russin and Heather House

Lindsborg Methodist – Barbara Hoffman

New Gottland Lutheran Church – Marlys Elbert

Redeemer Lutheran of Salina – Debbie Beckman

Salemsborg Lutheran – Debbie Johnson

St. Bridget Catholic of Lindsborg – Mary Patrick

St. John’s Lutheran of Salina – Marty Ryan

Trinity Lutheran of McPherson – Jean (Richards) Rowland.

The **BH Auxiliary meets** on the 4th Tuesday of every other month at the Bethany Home Conference Room at 1:30 p.m. Our **BH Auxiliary Treasury** includes just the offering taken from the 12 church representatives attending the bi-monthly meetings, plus any extra donations from the churches involved at any time of the year. Your church donations may be given to your church Auxiliary representative to give to the Auxiliary Treasurer. BH treasury money has been used to help fund the Halloween candy for residents to hand out to Halloween trick or treaters, food warmer for the kitchen, décor items, tableware for the activities room, Music & Memory program, four outdoor park benches, large print bingo cards for BH & Sunflower Terrace Assisted Living, staff appreciation treats, and various other items.

BH Activities that our church representatives are assigned or volunteer for are:

- 1) 15 dozen cookies the first Wednesdays of the month to serve with coffee following Chapel each week. They freeze the cookies and use them throughout the month.
- 2) Bingo at Bethany Home the 4th Mondays (except in December) at 2:00 p.m.
Provide 50-60 prizes and 3-4 helpers suggested.
- 3) Bingo at Sunflower Terrace Assisted Living the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.
Provide prizes for 15-20 residents and 2 helpers suggested.
- 4) Birthday Cakes at Bethany Home on the 3rd Fridays (except in December) at 2:00 p.m.
We furnish two different flavored cakes and the Home furnishes the ice cream and tableware and 2 helpers suggested.
- 5) Happy Cart at Bethany Home on the 1st Fridays at 9:30 a.m. We go to each resident's rooms and offer them a treat from the cart. We provide the treats. This gives the residents some additional socialization. Since we have 12 churches involved, we only do this once a year. Four helpers suggested, two per cart.

A majority of the churches no longer have women's groups to fulfill some of the monetary donations, so we rely on our local congregations to help donate. Individuals from our churches have been good in helping donate money to be given to the activities staff to buy the residents nice Christmas gifts specific to their needs. We appreciate your generous support. If you ever have some extra time to help Debbie Johnson or Gwen Oleen with any of the above activities throughout the year, please let us know. We'd love your help. The residents enjoy our visits and activities. Let us know if you have any questions.

THANK YOU!

Your Bethany Home Auxiliary Representatives

Debbie Johnson, Salemsborg Church, cell phone: 785-227-5019

Gwen Oleen, Falun Church, cell phone: 785-820-6954

T.A.C.O.L.
The Associated Churches of Lindsborg and surrounding areas

T.A.C.O.L. is comprised of Bethany Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, St. Bridget's Catholic, Evangelical Covenant, First Baptist, Freemount Lutheran, Falun/Salemsborg Lutheran, Trinity Methodist, Bethany College, and Bethany Home.

T.A.C.O.L.'s main source of income is the thrift store which is open Wednesday through Saturday. In 2025 it was staffed by 2 full time managers, which are paid positions. Financial statements in the last quarter of 2025 showed record high sales. Nearly all profits in 2025, after expenses, were gifted to those in need in our community. Budgeted and supported ministries for 2025 were Weekday Church School, Child Care Assistance, Community Blessing Box, Dala Pantry, and Christmas Baskets.

Other gifts, by request, went to pay for summer recreation programs in Lindsborg and Marquette, blood drives, Baccalaureate expenses, annual prayer breakfast, summer adult meals, and Life Skills 101 program with the Lindsborg school. Each month, T.A.C.O.L. also gifted individuals and families in need who applied for assistance through the T.A.C.O.L. Financial Assistance office at the Covenant Church. Assistance included food vouchers, utility bills and/or rent payments, gas cards, motel vouchers, and medical bill assistance.

2025 accomplishments: Paid building loan ahead of schedule, replaced air conditioning unit, replaced concrete slab at the west entry and started digital media.

The 2025 president of the board is Pastor Chris Deines and VP is Pastor Jeff Waugh. Linda Ball is secretary, and Shirley Reissig is treasurer. All of these positions are up for election in 2027 and any board member is eligible.

2026 Goals: Refine mission statement, handbook, by-laws, website, volunteer recruitment and training. 2026 president is Pastor Jeff Waugh; VP is Pastor Chris Deines.

Special thanks to Susan Hemphill for her years of representing Salemsborg on the TACOL board and her volunteer work in the thrift store.

Our Falun, TACOL representative is Janice Morris who is also in charge of the voucher program, working Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 1:00 to 3:00.

Our Salemsborg TACOL representative is Debbie Johnson and she provides voucher assistance on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00.

Parish Secretary Report

February marks year #2 in this position. Below is a list of the wonderful things I get to do in a day, week, or month for all of you.

Assist Pastor Ben	Prepare Newsletters (212)	Maintain Church App
Assist with transfers in/out	Online mailing system	• Devotional
Answer membership questions	Prepare / print labels	• Youth Pages
Attend bi-weekly meetings	Coordinate news blasts	• Linking pages
Attend other meetings	Paper/Ink/Office Supplies	• Update as needed
Bulletins: (F) 50 (S) 160	Email reminders/updates	• Push notifications
Make inserts & create ads	Social Media Posting	
Coordinate with committees	Prepare Annual reports	Maintain Church Website
Answer Emails & relay info.	Submit reports to synod	• Answer emails
Camp Registration (assist)	Assist the Youth Coordinator	• Update calendar
Camp questions & research	Weather cancelations	• Upload “news”
Camp Deposits & Payments		• Announcement Page
		• Update worship times
		• Newsletters

Projects in 2025:

Ice-cream Social in July to coincide with the Parish Swim Party.

Heritage Sunday was celebrated in October.

Holiday Care Packages were organized as an “Outreach” project.

A Blue Christmas service was held in December 22, at Falun Lutheran Church.

APP STATS:

206 App users that stay on all the time. (never log out)

92 App users are responding to Group Chat.

47 App users are “clicking on” the Devotion



Goals for 2026:

More APP Training for both churches.

Less Group Texting, and more **Group Chatting within the APP.**

I sincerely appreciate your patience and grace with me as I continue to grow in this position. I look forward to new challenges, and excitement in 2026.

Sincerely, Melanie Rishel

Worship and Music Committee

Annual report 2025

The Worship and Music Committee is a parish group that assists Pastor in the organizing and implementing of worship services, including helping with the choosing of hymns, lay readers, and ushers. The committee also helps in the organization of special events and services.

This committee has the goal of taking on complaints that members may have in an effort to take that load off of Pastor Ben's shoulders. Please voice concerns to Mary Ann Carlson, Tom Holmquist, or any other Worship and Music member. This will allow Pastor Ben to focus on his duties as our spiritual leader.

The Committee appreciates all who volunteer to be lay readers, including confirmands who have done a wonderful job in this part of the services. In addition we appreciate those who give their time to usher church services and other special services. We appreciate the youth leaders in helping arrange acolytes for the services. The time that volunteers give is very important to the smooth efficiency of all services.

We give a special thank you also, to Nita Kay Carlson for directing choir and bells, including the Ding-a-lings; to Phil Kampfe for playing the organ and helping to choose hymns; and to Becky Pihl as our choir accompanist. We are appreciative of all of the hours of preparation, practice and performing that they provide the church and community.

Also, a special thank you to Molly Johnson, Kathy Rishel and Abby Rishel for their music work with the Sunday school children and especially for the wonderful Christmas program, despite some hurdles. A thank you to all volunteers that helped that program be so successful.

Another group vital to our functioning is the Altar Guild, who volunteer their time to make sure communion bread and wine are available and ready for the services. In addition, they make sure that the Altar is appropriately dressed for each part of the Church season, including decorating (and un-decorating) the sanctuary for Advent. Their behind the scenes work is vital to our functioning.

In addition we rely greatly on those who handle the technology of the churches. At Falun, a thank you for Keith Johnson for providing necessary support for sound at the Church. At Salemsborg, we appreciate Milt Larson who calmly and with masterful knowledge helps to make sure our services are broadcast through YouTube as well as throughout the building, itself. In addition, we thank Brandon Carlson for the help and relief that he supplies to Milt. Our online ministry continues to help us branch out far beyond the walls of the church and reaches those who are not able to attend, but want to witness the services.

Also involved in our technology, we are grateful to Wayne Carlson and Brad Mahoney as well as other volunteers for making sure that there is adequate sound throughout services and other events.

Again this year, Salemsborg hosted members from the Bethany College Choir for a two day retreat at the church, followed by sharing their music with the congregation at the Sunday service that weekend. We appreciate the opportunity we had to witness their gifts as a way to enhance our service.

This year there were 4 Christmas eve services within the Parish with the addition of the Blue Christmas held at Falun on December 22nd for those who struggle with missing loved ones during the holidays. We also had our usual 6:00 PM service at Salemsborg, the 9:00 PM service at Falun, and the 10:45 PM service at Salemsborg. All services were well attended so all will likely be continued in the years to come.

The committee looks forward to another great year with the two congregations providing support to Pastor Ben so that the worship experience will continue to be very meaningful for all who attend in person or online. We are well aware that we will need the ongoing support of the many volunteers it takes to keep this parish running smoothly.

The Worship and Music Committee Members:

Mary Ann Carlson (Chair)
Pastor Ben Fulton
Gwen Oleen

Nita Kay Carlson
Tom Holmquist
Becky Pihl

Wayne Carlson
Phil Kampfe
Melanie Rishel

Respectfully submitted by
Mary Ann Carlson

YEAR 2026 RESOLUTIONS

Be It Resolved That:

1. We pray for the ministries of our church, that God will use us to make His kingdom known as we pray for one another in times of need, through the week, and while we practice our Christian faith by faithfully attending worship services in person and/ or virtually, reading the scriptures, and participating in the life of our church. As a congregation and as individuals, we open our minds, our arms, and our hearts to all individuals who seek God's refuge and understanding in Christ. When we see someone new, we make an effort, to greet them and make them feel at home in God's house. We welcome with Christian love our new members, along with members who return to our parish, and we wish God's blessings on those who have moved on. We pray for those members of our church that we don't see very often, and that God would stir up the people who regularly attend to reach out with a new and lively involvement. We resolve to love God, Love our neighbor, do good, be kind.
2. We remember with love and thank God for the lives of Amy Ramsey, Leland Applequist, Norma Jean Holm, and Coleen Pihl, along with any friends of our parish who have passed to be with their Heavenly Father this last year.
3. We want to especially remember the passing of Mary Mattson, a friend to all, a leader of the Smolan community, and the Smolan Covenant Church. By her insistence the bell from Smolan Lutheran, given many years ago to Smolan Covenant Church, was passed on to the Salemsborg Lutheran Church where it hangs today and rings in our every service.
4. We pray for the ministries of our national body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, that God would cause them to be a stronger witness in spreading the Gospel.
5. We pray for our local, state and national leaders along with our military personnel, law enforcement officers, all first responders and their families, not just during times of crises, but at all times.
6. We pray for our friends of Garfield Lutheran Church. that they be well and their distant presence within our extended parish is as warmly received as is our welcoming them as our true brothers and sisters in Christ.
7. We pray for all effected by cancer, COVID, and other illnesses; along with the healthcare workers ministering to them; for victims of violence, war and natural disasters in the past year. We give thanks and praise to all in this Parish who have helped families in need.

YEAR 2026 RESOLUTIONS

8. As apart of the Falun-Salemsborg Parish, we recognize and thank the members of the Falun Lutheran Church for their help and support throughout the year and the collaboration between the two councils throughout the year.
9. We pray and give thanks for our Parish Youth Coordinator, Abby Rishel-Barnett who works so hard to enhance the education of and the fellowship of our young people.

10. As a Congregation and Church Family, we thank all those who have done so much to keep our church working both physically and spiritually in the past year.

With special gratitude to:

Phil Kampfe for serving as our organist.

Becky Pihl as choir accompanist.

Nita Kay Carlson as choir/bell choir director.

Molly Johnson as children's choir director.

Kathy Rishel as children's choir accompanist and prayer warrior:

Melanie Rishel for her time as church administrative assistant.

Christine Deterding and Robin Roets for their leading of Altar Guild, along with all who serve on Altar Guild.

Kelsey Pihl and her team of Sunday School teachers who teach the Story every Sunday.

Milton Larson and Brandon Carlson for all the audio/visual work they coordinate to get the word of God out to our congregation both near and far; Wayne Carlson as Sound Technician and all those who help with sound during worship services.

Ashley Eppenbach and Teresa Pihl for their service as Wedding Coordinators and flowers for every service.

Brad Mahoney and Quintin Pickering as our Maintenance Men,

Maria Wolf as our Custodian; Suzy Carlson as our new custodian.

Kendall, Jordan, Ridge, Beau, and Hays Johnson for taking care of the cemetery.

Abby Rishel Barnett along with Kier and Ashley Swisher as youth leaders.

Jennifer Tillman and John Holmquist as our Church Treasurers.

Ryan Biegert, Cookie Johnson, Renella Sherwood - financial secretaries:

Snow Removal - Pihl families - Kevin, Kendall, Kelly, Nate G.

Bethany Home - Debbie Johnson is our representative for auxiliary board.

Food Bank. Rescue Mission - Harvey & Evelyn Krein, Ron and Judy Wenger

Ding-A-Lings - Nita Kay Carlson & our dedicated dingers:

Wellness Totes/Cancer support - Amanda Otto, Sue Pihl.

TACOL - Susan Hemphill and Debbie Johnson

Memorial Day - program, avenue of flags, many volunteers put up, take down & fold all 112 flags.

Parish Golf Tournament - volunteer organizers of benefits to campers and Camp Tomah Shinga.

Camp Tomah Shinga - volunteers for many projects - insulate 6 cabins in grove, tile & flooring in upper cabins.

3 Camp Tomah Shinga counselors: Carson Pihl Lauren Dolezal and Aspen Chaney

Camp Toma Shinga Board of Directors - Clair Oleen, Karla Pihl, Mike Dimitri

Rex and Mona Tjaden for all that they both do for the Church.

The Women of Salemsborg calendar groups - the leaders and ladies who provide coffee treats and support the fellowship on Sunday mornings.

And to all the other volunteers, parking lot attendants, ushers, acolytes, lectors, servers, and all who contribute to this congregation in so many ways, we thank you.

9. We thank God for Pastor Ben Fulton as the minister of the Word and Sacraments here at the Falun/ Salemsborg Lutheran Parish. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and work through him, his wife Janielle, David and Lillie. May God bless and keep them!