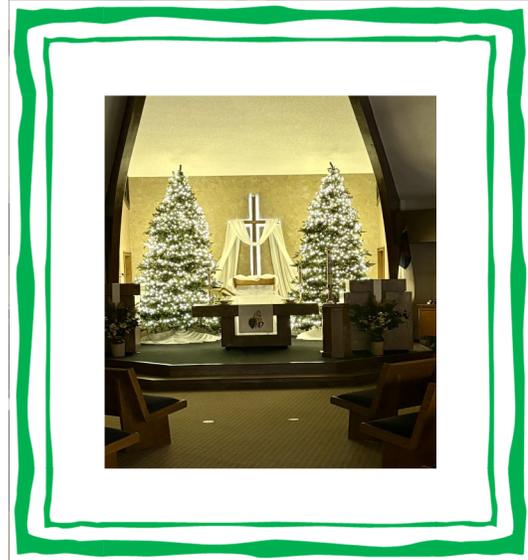


March 2026

Salem's



Good Newsletter



## Pastor's Corner

Below you will find a list of gospel-based resources. Here you will find something for everyone that will provide encouragement throughout the week.

There are multiple podcasts, blog articles, and videos, all pointing you to the promise of Christ for you.

- [Lutherhouseofstudy.org](http://Lutherhouseofstudy.org)
- [1517.org](http://1517.org)
- [pastormarkanderson.org](http://pastormarkanderson.org)
- [Mbird.com](http://Mbird.com)

Check them out while commuting, working around the house, or if you're looking for something different to scroll through instead of the same old thing.

Unbelievably, we're rolling into March. It doesn't feel that long ago that I was staring at a Christmas tree and gobbling down every cookie in sight. With March upon us, many eyes turn to basketball — specifically March Madness, the NCAA Division I men's and women's tournaments. People will be watching the games, watching coaches and players compete for a championship. And as they watch, they'll listen to the announcers on radio and television tell them what has happened.

Often, people imagine the Christian life as something similar — an athletic competition where we are training in righteousness, awaiting the final day, hoping to attain the prize. God is pictured as a coach. And immediately the thoughts enter our minds: We must do better. We must try harder. We have to give our Christian life 110%. We must give it everything we have in hopes of attaining the prize.

But the problem is that we have the roles mixed up.

Jesus is not standing on the sidelines coaching us toward victory. He is not critiquing our performance, inspiring us to make the shot, or urging us to try again. Christ is the One who entered the arena for us. And from the cross He declared, "It is finished."

Through His death, burial, and resurrection, Christ has already won the victory — defeating sin, death, and the grave. This is not a game we are still competing in. The championship has been secured. And the victory is handed to you freely by promise.

You no longer have to compete for God's approval. You no longer have to train for justification. Christ has perfectly played the game on your behalf. The trophy was won by Him and is given to you in Baptism.

Now you are free — free to rest in Him, free from striving, free from trying to justify yourself — because the victory has already been announced and accomplished in Christ.

God's peace be with you,  
Pastor Larry Wright

## Church App

Download the TITHE.LY Church App

Then, search for Salem Lutheran Church



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



Find us on Facebook / Salem Lutheran Church



# I M P O R T A N T



**Communion:** will be on Sunday, March 1st, 2026 and Sunday, March 15th, 2026  
(Communion will be on the first and third Sunday's of the month)

**“Coffee Hour” Fellowship:** will be on Sunday, March 8th, 2026  
(“Coffee Hour” Fellowship is on the second Sunday of the month @ 9:30am during Sunday School. 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.)

**Sunday School:** is every Sunday at 9:00am.

**High School Youth Group:** is every Sunday at either 9:00am or 5:30pm (rotates weekly)

**Confirmation:** is every Wednesday at 6:00pm. (No Confirmation Class during Lent—Required to attend the Lenten Bible Study at 7:00pm)

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

### Gifts & Offerings through 2/22/2026

- General: \$9,401.25  
YTD: \$22,717.25  
2026 Budget: \$219,954.00
- Mission Share/World Hunger: \$1,058.00  
(2026 Budgeted Line Item #5780 for \$18,000.00)  
Mission Share: \$551.00  
World Hunger: \$507.00  
YTD: \$1,897.00

**Total: \$10,459.25**

*\*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—it does not include Lent/Christmas offerings that also go towards Mission Share)*

Page 2



**Weekly Lenten Bible Study @ 7pm**

- Wednesday, March 4th
- Wednesday, March 11th
- Wednesday, March 18th
- Wednesday, March 25th

**The 2026-2027 Church Directories**



are available for you to pick up on the Welcome Desk.

**Congratulations**  
to the family of  
Jagger Lee Krohn  
on his Holy Baptism!



**Thank you**  
to everyone who helped make Shrove Tuesday a success! We are especially grateful to all the volunteers who worked so hard, to the Ericksen family for generously donating all of the supplies, and to the Prodigal Sons for their support. Because of your efforts, approximately \$1,600 was raised for Confirmation Camp!



**SHROVE TUESDAY**

Join us on **Wednesday Evenings at 7:00pm** for our Lenten Bible Study



**HOLY WEEK**

**March 29th, Palm Sunday @ 10:30am**  
**April 2nd, Maundy Thursday @ 7:00pm, 1st Communion**  
**April 3rd, Good Friday @ 7:00pm**  
**April 5th, Hot Easter Breakfast from 8:00-9:15am, Worship Service @ 9:30am**

**THANK YOU**  
to everyone who supported our Youth Groups College Care Packages!




**Valentine's Day Program at Pioneer Square**

# THANK YOU

## FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Salem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your continued support of our mission. Every child deserves to sleep well & dream big so they can reach their full potential.

Claudya H.  
Core Team Volunteer.

**No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!**

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Dixon County Food Pantry. Your continued support allows us to issue food vouchers to clients to get perishables and items not always available from other sources. Your support is greatly appreciated.  
Dixon County Food Pantry.

Sunday Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>

What a surprise! I got a Cherry Pie!  
Thank you! Thank you!  
Whoever made this possible,  
it was delicious! Pie Christ



March 2026

CAMP LUTHER OF NEBRASKA, INC.  
1050 ROAD 4  
SCHUYLER, NE 68661  
+14023525655  
campluther@campluther.org  
www.campluther.org

Sales Receipt



BILL TO  
Salem Lutheran - Ponca  
Salem Lutheran  
PO Box 316  
Ponca, NE 68770

SALES #	DATE
81880054	01/21/2026

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
4030 Church Contributions Donation	1	2,326.88	2,326.88

Beloved Salem Lutheran Congregation in Ponca,  
 Thank you all so much for once again supporting Camp Luther!  
 We really appreciate all of your donations towards this Ministry!  
 May our Lord be with you all in this New Year!  
 - Joel "Master Oogway" Ramsey

TOTAL	2,326.88
BALANCE DUE	\$0.00



THANK YOU

For Your Donation

Your support of God's mission at Camp Luther provides our volunteers and staff the opportunity to boldly share the good news of Jesus with youth, families and God's children with special needs. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution. Tax ID 47-0613021



March 2026



WWW.THENALC.ORG  
(888) 551-7254  
OFFICE@THENALC.ORG  
2113 HARWOOD ROAD, SUITE 309  
PMB 409  
BEDFORD, TX 76021-4703

Salem Lutheran Church  
PO Box 316  
Ponca, NE 68770-0316

Dear Salem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the generous support you've provided the North American Lutheran Church! Your donation of \$5,429.38 on 01/21/2026 expands the witness of our church body.

As you know, our vision is to be a disciple-making church body committed to renewing congregation, equipping people, and transforming communities, as we respond in love to our calling and commission in Christ Jesus. Thank you for helping to make this a reality. We are grateful for your partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ,

*Madeline C Benson*  
**Maddie Benson**  
Director of Development

Thank you for your contribution:	
Gift Date	01/21/2026
Type of Gift	Check
Reference/Check Number	18198
Receipt Amount	\$5,429.38

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=c4506d150c&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f:1858050463639599693%7Cmsg-f:1858050463639599693&...>

---

2/25/26, 7:19 AM

Gmail - Thank you for your contribution to the North American Lutheran Church!

General Ledger Description	General - Congregation
----------------------------	------------------------



WWW.THENALC.ORG  
(888) 551-7254  
OFFICE@THENALC.ORG  
2113 HARWOOD ROAD, SUITE 309  
PMB 409  
BEDFORD, TX 76021-4703

Salem Lutheran Church  
PO Box 316  
Ponca, NE 68770-0316

Dear Salem Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on this past year, we give thanks to God for the many ways He has worked through the North American Lutheran Church to proclaim the Gospel and strengthen His Church. Your generous support has been an essential part of this mission. Because of your faithfulness, we have been able to welcome new congregations, renew existing congregations, equip pastors and future seminarians, support local and global missions, and provide resources that nurture discipleship across North America and beyond.

Enclosed you will find your year-end giving statement. Please know that every gift you have given is a tangible expression of your commitment to Christ and His Church. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in the Gospel and for the trust you place in us to steward these resources faithfully.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in His grace and peace.

In Christ,

A group of black letters Description automatically generated

**Pr. Amy Little**  
General Secretary  
North American Lutheran Church

Date	Gift Amount	Fund	Type of Gift	Check/Reference #
01/21/2025	\$3,220.18	General - Congregation	CK	18016
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,220.18</b>			

*Only intangible religious benefits were provided. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this tax-deductible contribution.*

If you have any questions about your statement, please contact our Finance Team at 888-551-7254.

March 2026



*Thank You!*

January 22, 2026

Salem Lutheran Church  
PO Box 316  
Ponca, NE 68770-0316

Dear Salem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$2,828.81 to Lutheran World Relief. Your love has reached neighbors in their most urgent times of hunger — and it will continue helping them in the future as we address the root causes of poverty.

Your kindness reached your neighbor Elsa Marina Amara and her three daughters, who experienced hunger this year after a series of trials. During normal circumstances, Elsa works as a cook to provide for her family. But when the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world, the kitchens closed — making it harder than ever to make ends meet. Then back-to-back hurricanes pummeled their village in Honduras, destroying crops and making it almost impossible to find food and clean water in the aftermath. Elsa was desperate for a way to feed her children.

Thanks to you, Elsa and her neighbors received emergency care packages containing enough food to last two months as their village recovered from the hurricanes. Meanwhile, you're helping the farmers around them to restore the farmlands that were washed away so that nourishing crops can grow again.

Thank you for sharing with your neighbors who are hungry. We are proud to carry your love — and God's love — to the places it's needed most... until your love reaches every neighbor.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Speckhard".

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard  
President and CEO

P.S. For the latest updates on how your generous gifts are reaching neighbors in need all over the world, I invite you stay in touch through our blog ([lwr.org/news](http://lwr.org/news)) and our Facebook page ([facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief](https://facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief)). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of our staff at 800.597.5972 or [lwr@lwr.org](mailto:lwr@lwr.org).

*As required by the IRS, this receipt confirms that Lutheran World Relief has given you no goods or services in return for your charitable contribution of \$2,828.81-World Hunger.*

Please retain this letter for tax purposes

700 LIGHT ST BALTIMORE, MD 21230 T 800 597 5972 LWR.ORG

## Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Attendance:

Salem Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:00pm. Those in attendance included: Kenton Book, Koni Lamprecht, Cindy Purucker, Katie Uthof, Mark Bauman, Kevin Dohma, Sarah Hamilton, Morgan Nelson, Rick Schweers, and Pastor Larry Wright.

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

Co-President Kenton called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and Pastor led everyone in prayer.

Mark made a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes dated January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and was seconded by Sarah. MCU.

### Treasurer's Report:

Saumbra was not in attendance at the meeting, but she provided everyone with a copy of January's financial reports. Katie noted the following as per Saumbra's email:

The 2025 Mission Share/World Hunger funds were all distributed in January.

- We started paying Pastor Larry a reimbursement for cell phone expense. This is calculated at 70% of Pastor's personal cell phone expense. We did not have a line item on the budget for this so when it appears on the Budget to Actual Report, it does not show an amount budgeted.
- It was determined that we would pay Pastor \$250.00 per month for Furnishings Expense. This will total \$3,000.00 for the year. The amount budgeted for this type of expense was \$1,380.00. Just an FYI so you'll know why we'll exceed the amount budgeted.
- The \$2,400.00 paid to Luther House of Study was \$1,200.00 from Endowment Funds and \$1,200.00 from Pastor Larry personally. (as per Pastors previous conversation regarding the LHOS podcast).
- We think the excessive NPPD bills for the Church were caused by the HVAC system fan being turned on so it ran constantly. This occurred sometime last June when Pastor Meier was at Salem. The fan was put back to normal operation in mid-January, so we hope this solves the problem. The energy use was 2-3x that of the previous year each month. The church bill is around \$1,800.00 in arrears. The budgeted amount for NPPD will increase from \$245.00 per month to \$500.00 for February, March, April, and May. NPPD reconciles the Total 12 plans in May, so we'll see where we are at that time.

The CD that was started in July of 2024 paid out \$868.17 in interest on 1/25/2026. It matures on 07/25/2026.

A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Rick and was seconded by Kevin. MCU.

### Correspondence:

Katie reported that we received a letter from Sleep in Heavenly Peace regarding their Lenten/Easter Tree fundraiser if we would be interested in participating again this year. It was decided that we would and Kenton would pick up the tree and deliver it to the church.

Katie also reported that we received thank you's from; the Dixon County Food Pantry, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, NALC, Lutheran World Relief, and Camp Luther (these organization received funds from our Mission Support Team (Mission Share/World Hunger funds)).

**Pastor's Report:**

*Baptisms:*

Jagger Krohn on 2/22/26

*Confirmation:*

*First Communion:*

*Funerals:*

*Membership:*

Steven Lieber and Taylor Krohn

*Visits:*

Pastor and Bob have split the homebound member visits; this will aid in Pastor's studies/pastoral duties.

*Weddings:*

*Misc:*

Jenny plans to pick up Marliss and Onie Sunday morning and bring them to church.

A motion was made by Kevin to approve the baptism of Jagger Krohn and the memberships of Steven Lieber and Taylor Krohn and was seconded by Morgan. MCU.

**Old Business:**

Important Calendar Dates:

Shrove Tuesday on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Pancakes from 5:30-7:00pm, followed by the Prodigal Sons Concert @ 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Mid-Week/Wednesday Evening Lenten Bible Study @ 7:00pm

Communication Options:

Koni said that the option that the Castle uses is approximately \$100/month.

Morgan and Sarah shared that they've used "Remind" and you can receive those messages via text and not through their app.

Katie has sent an email to Tithe.ly to see if our subscription with them includes mass texting options, etc...

**New Business:**

Katie went over the following new Church Council member information:

Assign Ministry Team Liaison

Church Council Person of the Month Duties

Contact Information

Constitution/By-Laws

Installation of Church Council during worship service on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Katie gave everyone the new Directory for 2025-2026.

Katie reported that the following Property items list was received from Julie:

The following is a list of items that need the attention of property committee...

Trim around overhead doors on parsonage garage

Emergency lights and timer for church exterior

Refreshing landscaping and repairing flagpole around church bell

(Per Kevin Patti Boyle would be interested in doing this project)

Replacing kitchen sink and faucet at parsonage

Bigger ticket items that need to be prioritized by council...

Repainting hallways, Sunday school rooms, kitchen and bathrooms

Remodeling women's restroom

Replacing or repairing mobile walls for Sunday school

Mark and Kenton thanked Julie for all her work, they appreciate the lists. Kenton also mentioned that Pastor had reached out to him regarding a humidifier at the parsonage. It was determined to get one that connects right to the heating unit. Mark was able to get a rough bid of \$750.00 to install one from Lakeport Heating and Cooling. A motion was made by Cindy to purchase a humidifier for the parsonage heating unit for \$1,000.00 or less and was seconded by Mark. MCU.

**There were no Additions to the Agenda.**

**Ministry Team Reports:**

**Budget and Finance:**

Chairperson: Mark Bauman

Council Liaison: Kenton Book & Koni Lamprecht (Always the Co-Church Council Pres.)

Report: Mark reported that they will be meeting sometime in February for the Audit.

~~CALL Committee:~~ N/A – this team is not being utilized currently.

(Ministry Site Profile)

Chairperson: Koni Lamprecht

(Constitution Committee):

Cindy Anderson, Todd Anderson, and Michelle Rinas are on this committee

**Cemetery:**

Chairperson: Julie Sydow

Council Liaison: Kevin Dohma

Report:

**Communication:**

Chairperson: Barry Krusemark

Council Liaison: Katie Uthof

Report:

**Endowment:**

Chairperson: Brian Burrell

Council Liaison: Duane Boyle

Report: Katie reported that funds were given to LHOS Podcast, Veterans Memorial, and Mikie Hamilton's Mission Trip.

**Faith Formation:**

Co-Chairperson: Saumbra Hall and Michelle Rinas

Council Liaison: Cindy Purucker

Report:

**Memorial:**

Chairperson: Saumbra Hall

Council Liaison: Sarah Hamilton

Report:

**Mission Support:**

Chairperson: Michelle Rinas

Council Liaison: Cindy Purucker

Report:

Music & Worship:

Co-Chairperson: Bruce Ericksen and Diane Smith

Council Liaison: Koni Lamprecht

Report: Katie reported that they met tonight and continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday of the month at 4:45pm.

~~Mutual Ministry~~: N/A – this team is not being utilized currently

Chairperson: Rick Schweers

Property:

Chairperson: Doug Bauman

Council Liaison: Mark Bauman

Report: See New Business

Salem Mission Team:

Chairperson: Michelle Rinas

Council Liaison: Morgan Nelson & Koni Lamprecht (as per their guide-

lines)

Report:

Thrivent:

Chairperson: Michelle Rinas

Council Liaison: Duane Boyle

Report: Noted that funds were distributed to: Ponca's After Prom, Blankets for the Senior Graduates, Lilia Mae House, and Mikie Hamilton's Mission Trip.

~~Worship Leading Team~~: N/A – this team is not being utilized currently

Chairperson: Nicole Ericksen

Youth Group Ministry:

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

Council Liaison: Bronsan Schweers/Koni Lamprecht

Report: Koni reported that they have met a few times, and it seems to be going well.

**Announcements:**

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

PROVERBS 3:5-6 NIV

Trust in the Lord with

**all your heart**

and lean not

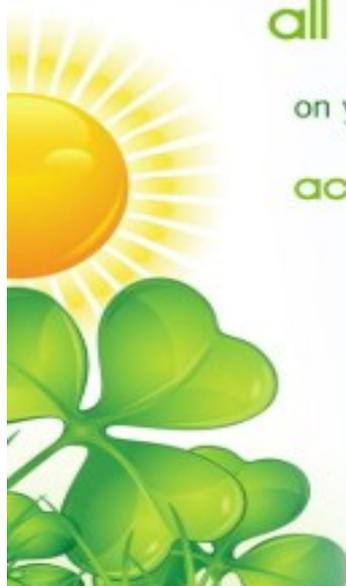
on your own understanding;

in all your ways

**acknowledge him,**

and he will make

your paths straight.



## March Worship Assistants

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

**Council Person of the Month:** Duane Boyle

**Communion Assistants:** Duane Boyle & Mark Bauman

**Communion Set-up:** Lindsay Burrell & Jennifer Wright

**Sunday Morning Set-up:** Barry Krusemark

**Ushers/Greeters:** Duane & Patti Boyle and Barry Krusemark

**Scripture Reader:**

1st: Cindy Anderson  
8th: Jennifer Wright  
15th: Lisa Balvantin  
22nd: Cindy Purucker  
29th: Cheri Albrecht

**Acolytes:**

Audrey Burrell  
Brielle Hogan  
Saylor Schweers  
Audrey Burrell  
Brielle Hogan

**Proclaim Slides:**

Brielle Hogan  
Saylor Schweers  
Audrey Burrell  
Brielle Hogan  
Saylor Schweers

# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School @ 9:00am H.S. Youth Group @ 9:00am Worship Service (Communion) @ 10:30am Installation of Church Council during worship	2	3	4 Lenten Bible Study @ 7:00pm	5 Bible Study @ 9:30am	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time  Sunday School @ 9:00am "Coffee Hour" Fellowship @ 9:30am Worship Service @ 10:30am H.S. Youth Group @ 5:30pm	9	10	11 Music & Worship @ 4:45pm Lenten Bible Study @ 7:00pm Church Council @ 7:30pm	12 Bible Study @ 9:30am	13	14
15 Sunday School @ 9:00am H.S. Youth Group @ 9:00am Worship Service (Communion) @ 10:30am	16	17 	18 Lenten Bible Study @ 7:00pm	19 Bible Study @ 9:30am	20	21
22 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service @ 10:30am Mentorship Team meeting following Worship H.S. Youth Group @ 5:30pm	23	24	25 April Newsletter Item Deadline Lenten Service @ 7:00pm	26 Bible Study @ 9:30am	27	28
29  Palm Sunday Sunday School @ 9:00am H.S. Youth Group @ 9:00am Worship Service @ 10:30am	30	31	1	2 Bible Study @ 9:30am Maundy Thursday @ 7:00pm 	3 Good Friday @ 7:00pm 	4