

April 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
- 1517.org
- pastormarkanderson.org
- 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.

I read a story some time back about a minister and a woman in his congregation. The woman would come to the minister and go on and on about visions she was having of Jesus while she was praying. Perplexed and wanting to get the woman from his back about these visions, the minister told her, "The next time you have one of these visions, ask Jesus to tell you the sins I confessed my last time at confession." A few weeks later the woman came to the minister again and said that she'd had another vision. The minister asked her, "Well what did Jesus tell you I confessed?" The woman replied, "He said He didn't remember."

Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection is upon us. Since ancient times it's customary in many cultures to give and receive gifts at a celebration. One of the ways we celebrate the resurrection and new life is that we receive the gift of absolution. But this gift is not relegated to just a season on the church calendar, but one we receive all year long. Every Sunday the first thing we do is confess our sins, and we receive the gift of absolution.

Hebrews 10:14-17 says "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified (That's us, who are being held in His promise). And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

That amusing story at the beginning of this piece was for humorous effect, but there's some truth to it. The truth is if Christ were to speak about your sins that would be his exact response. "I don't remember." Psalms 103:10-13 David writes "He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us." Next time you have some time on your hands, grab a compass and point it to the east. Then start walking until it flips to the west. We'll never see you again, just like our sin that God no longer holds against us.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Larry Wright

Church App

Download the
TITHE.LY
Church App

Then, search for
Salem Lutheran Church



Google Play App Store



Check out our website at
www.salemlutheranponca.org



Find us on Facebook /
Salem Lutheran Church



Communion: will be on Thursday, April 2nd, 2026, Sunday, April 5th, 2026 and Sunday, April 19th, 2026
(Communion will be on the first and third Sunday's of the month)

“Coffee Hour” Fellowship: will be on Sunday, April 12th, 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. (Last Day is Sunday, April 26th)

High School Youth Group: is every Sunday at either 9:00am or 5:30pm (rotates weekly) (Last Day is Sunday, April 26th, 2026)

Confirmation: is every Wednesday at 6:00pm. (Last Day is Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026)

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

Gifts & Offerings through 3/30/2026

- General: \$19,104.00
YTD: \$41,841.25
2026 Budget: \$219,954.00
- Mission Share/World Hunger: \$869.00
(2026 Budgeted Line Item #5780 for \$18,000.00)
Mission Share: \$551.00
World Hunger: \$318.00
YTD: \$2,766.00

Total: \$19,973.00

**Please note: these totals are before online giving fees have been assessed and are specific to the only two above noted budgeted line items (General and Mission Share/World Hunger—it does not include Lent/Christmas offerings that also go towards Mission Share)*

April 2026

Thank you very much
for helping out.

Sandra Brennan

Thank you sincerely for
sharing our sorrow.

Your kindness is deeply
appreciated and will
always be remembered.

The family of
Ronald Steding

Sunday Feb. 15th

What a surprise! I
got a Cherry Pie!

Thank you! Thank you!
Whoever made this Paradise
it was delicious! Phil Conrad

Thank you

Salem Lutheran -

Thank you so much for your
generous donation to the Ponca
Veterans Memorial!

Your continued support to the
entire community does not go unnoticed!

Dwaine Boyle
Project Treasurer

The Ponca Carnegie Library extends its grat-
itude to the Salem youth group and their
leaders for generously volunteering their
time to help mulch the library gardens.

Your hard work not only enhanced the ap-
pearance of the gardens but also allowed the
library to save money, which can now be put
toward resources for both children's and
adult programs.



Congratulations
to the family of
Briggs Nicholas Koeppel
on his Holy Baptism!

April 2026



P.O. Box 570
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

Better Ponca Foundation, Inc.
A Charitable Community 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Corporation

2026 Tax Receipt

Thank you for your financial support of the
Ponca Veterans Memorial

Improving our
community
by caring, giving
and working
together,

Highland
Oaks
Golf Course

Ponca
State Park
Development

Towers in
Time

Missouri
National
Recreational
River
Resource &
Education
Center

Historic
Ponca
Carnegie
Library
Restoration

Ponca
Community
Sports &
Recreation
Complex

9 Endowed
Community
Improvement
Funds

Dear Salem Lutheran Church - Ponca

Your charitable donation to the Better Ponca Foundation, Inc. in the amount of
\$2,500.00 was received on February 17, 2026. Your helpful
restricted use donation is directed to the:

Ponca Veterans Memorial American Legion Post 117

We cannot thank you enough for your respect for our nations veterans, your support of
American Legion Post 117, the project leaders and your trust in Ponca's charitable
community Foundation.

It is only through such charitable support that the long term future of our
community and the Foundation itself can be sustained. Thank you for supporting
the essential role of the Better Ponca Foundation as our community tax exempt
charitable organization.

Sincerely,

Brian Burrell
BPF President

Randy Lukken
Legion Commander
Project Chair

Lt. Col. Sean Masin, Ret.
Fund Raising Chair
BPF Member

Lt. Col. Duane Boyle, Ret.
Project Treasurer
BPF Member

Better Ponca Foundation, Inc. #47-0757049

A Community Improvement 501(c)3 Exempt Charitable Corporation
Donations are Deductible under Section 170 of the IRS Code

SUBSTANTIATION REQUIREMENT

This Tax Receipt 'substantiation' is provided to you to meet requirements of the IRS for charitable cash donations.
We thank you for your contribution in the amount of \$2,500.00 received during the year 2026. If your donation was
\$250.00 or more a Receipt must be provided and retained with your tax records.

Your donation may be fully deductible as No goods, services or other consideration has been provided to you by this
charitable corporation. Further, to your benefit, this Foundation is considered a "50% Limit Organization" as defined by the IRS.
If you have questions about the deductibility of your donation or possible limits, consult your tax advisor.

Foundation Directors

Kenton and Tammy Book
Caleb and Beth Foulks

Brian and Lindsay Burrell
Tanner and Krystal Boyle
Marcus and Beth Burki

DJ and Kristin Smith
John and Tina Stroud

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

March 11th, 2026

Attendance:

Salem Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, March 11th, 2026, at 7:00pm. Those in attendance included: Kenton Book, 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 7:01pm and Pastor led everyone in prayer.

Kevin made a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes and was seconded by Mark. MCU.

Treasurer's Report:

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

The church's Northeast Power usage has dropped dramatically since the fan setting was changed.

Pastor Larry's retirement has not yet started to be taken out of the checking account.

The first four CDs on the list renewed on 03/03/2026 at a rate of 3.6%. They were at 4.2%.

The checking account is getting low. I may need to transfer funds from savings.

Everyone okayed Saumbra transferring money from savings to checking as applicable. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mark and was seconded by Sarah. MCU.

Correspondence:

Katie also reported that we received thank you's from; Onie Conrad for the delicious cherry pie, the family of Don Stading for the funeral luncheon, and the Better Ponca Foundation for the Ponca Veterans Memorial.

Pastor's Report:

Baptisms:

Briggs Koeppé on 3/22/26 and Hux Bottorff on TBD

Confirmation:

First Communion:

Funerals:

Membership:

Bob and Pam Curry

Visits:

Weddings:

Misc:

A motion was made by Morgan to approve the baptism of Briggs Koeppé and Hux Bottorff and the memberships of Bob & Pam Curry and was seconded by Rick. MCU.

Old Business:

Important Calendar Dates:

Maundy Thursday on 4/2/2026 @ 7:00pm

1st Communion for Garrison Evans and Ivy Taylor

Strip the Altar by the Church Council

Good Friday on 4/3/2026 @ 7:00pm

Easter Sunday

High School Youth Group Hot Easter Breakfast from 8:00-9:15am

Worship Service (Communion) at 9:30am

Communication Options

Katie checked with Tithely our current church management program and they do offer a free option. Katie has set-up a test account with her and Pastor's cell numbers and as of currently their numbers have not been "fully approved". Once we've registered cell numbers, they enter a "pending approval" phase. Transitioning from this phase to the "fully approved" phase now takes approximately 3 weeks due to new regulatory changes.

New Business:

Mowing the church and parsonage

Holden Schweers contacted Julie and he is no longer mowing as he got a full-time job in Sioux Falls

Zane Webb sent Katie a bid for the church and parsonage

Mark made a motion to have Zane Webb mow the church and parsonage for \$135/week and edge the parsonage one time for \$225.00 and was seconded by Kevin. MCU.

NALC Ratification Results

Based on the votes received, the following outcomes are confirmed:

Amendment One: Constitutional and Bylaws / Scrivener's Errors
Approved — 334 for, 1 against

Amendment Two: Article on the North American Lutheran Seminary
Approved — 325 for, 10 against

Amendment Three: Article 16 — Legal and Financial Matters
Approved — 334 for, 1 against

NALC Ratification Results

As per our Annual Meeting, as a congregation we voted "yes" for Amendments One and Three and "no" for Amendment Two.

Replacing the sink faucet in the cry room

A motion was made by Rick for Kenton to purchase a faucet and install it for less than \$300.00 and was seconded by Kevin. MCU.

Additions to the Agenda:

Property:

Kevin noted that the kitchen sink and faucet at the parsonage needs to be replaced.

Pastor noted that a more pressing issue is that the dishwasher is not draining.

After discussion, Kevin was going to reach out to Kent Chase regarding the issues and report back to council.

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 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:

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 2nd 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:
Automatic lights in the Narthex
Landscaping at the church
Remove the bushes/roots, possibly meet on the 23rd.
Patti Boyle is taking the lead on this project
The city has formed a Tree Committee, in the very early stages but possible options for the parsonage alley
Kenton noted that he and Julie have looked at the women's restroom and discussed possible options. Possibly contractors are busy. Sarah was going to ask her husband Mike as he works at Klinger and report back at the next

meeting.

Salem Mission Team:

Chairperson: Michelle Rinas

Council Liaison: Morgan Nelson & Koni Lamprecht (as per their guidelines)

Report: Morgan reported that they are meeting on April 8th and they are working on the stuffed animal drive and may baskets.

Thrivent:

Chairperson: Michelle Rinas

Council Liaison: Duane Boyle

Report:

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

~~Chairperson: Nicole Erickson~~

Youth Group Ministry:

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

Council Liaison: Bronsan Schweers/Koni Lamprecht

Report: Pastor reported that they are going to a movie on Sunday and they packed the Senior Care Packages.

Announcements:

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th, 2026 @ 7:00pm. Mark made a motion for adjournment, and it was seconded by Rick. MCU. The Church Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Uthof, Salem Lutheran Church Council Secretary



April Worship Assistants

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

Council Person of the Month: Kevin Dohma

Communion Assistants: Kevin Dohma & Cindy Purucker

Communion Set-up: Koni Lamprecht & Karen Rush

Sunday Morning Set-up: John Street

Ushers/Greeters: Kevin Dohma & Julie Sydow

Scripture Reader:

2nd: Cortni Krusemark
 3rd: Cheri Albrecht
 5th: Jennifer Wright
 12th: Cheri Albrecht
 19th: Cindy Anderson
 26th: Jane Armstrong

Acolytes:

Nora Krusemark
 Saylor Schweers
 Jett Taylor
 Audrey Burrell
 Brinklee Heineman
 Nora Krusemark

Proclaim Slides:

Jett Taylor
 Audrey Burrell
 Brinklee Heineman
 Nora Krusemark
 Brielle Hogan
 Communications Team



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Bible Study @ 9:30am Maundy Thursday @ 7:00pm	3 Good Friday @ 7:00pm	4
5 No Sunday School H.S. Youth Group Hot Easter breakfast from 8:00-9:15am Easter Worship Service (Communion) @ 9:30am	6	7	8 Music & Worship @ 4:45pm Confirmation @ 6:00pm Church Council @ 7:30pm Salem Mission Team @ 7:00pm	9 Bible Study @ 9:30am	10	11
12 Sunday School @ 9:00am H.S. Youth Group @ 9:00am—Great Shots in Sioux Falls “Coffee Hour” Fellowship @ 9:30am Worship Service @ 10:30am	13	14	15 Confirmation @ 6:00pm (No 7th Grade)	16 Bible Study @ 9:30am	17	18
19 Sunday School @ 9:00am Confirmation Reception @ 9:30am Worship Service (Communion) @ 10:30am—6th Grade Cross Presentation during worship No H.S. Youth Group	20	21	22 Confirmation @ 6:00pm (No 7th Grade)	23 Bible Study @ 9:30am	24 May Newsletter Item Deadline	25
26 Last Day of Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service @ 10:30am—Confirmation during worship Mentorship Team meeting following Worship H.S. Youth Group Mission Project—Community Yard Clean-up @ TBD	27	28	29	30 Bible Study @ 9:30am	1	2