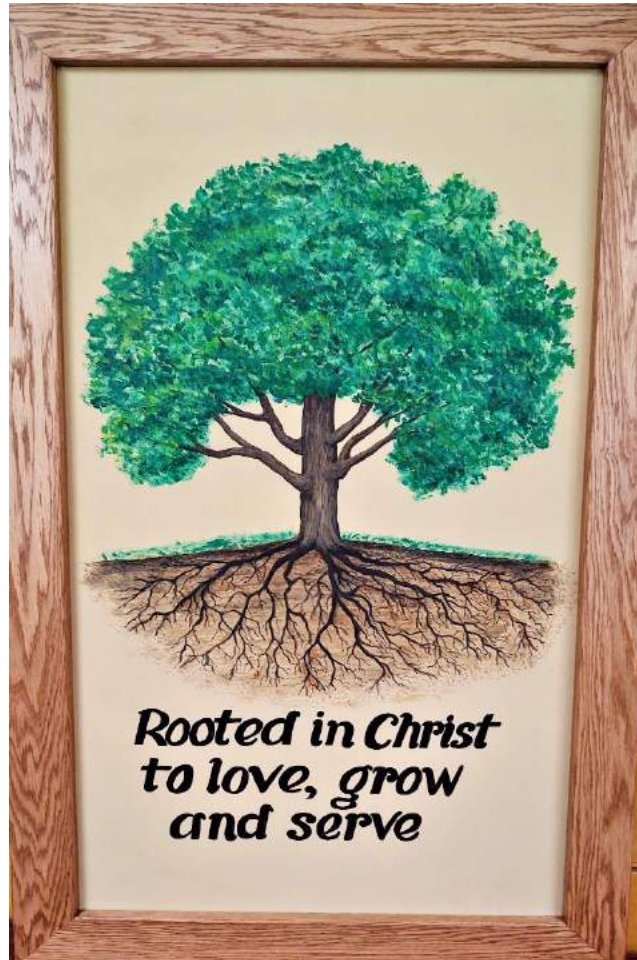


Salem Lutheran Church

1995 – 2020



Created by Irene Schires

Centennial Celebration Scripture Verse

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches.

Pride in our past – and faith in our future – the theme for Salem’s 75th Anniversary celebration was an appropriate segue as the congregation began to search for improving both the physical space and the need for more staff. On October 11, 1992, the limits of the sanctuary and parking area helped the congregation vote to build a new facility. The new church would be built on a 27-acre property donated to Salem by Lloyd and Alice Soderberg located just west of Longville.



On September 10, 1995, a building fund appeal was launched. On December

3, 1995, the congregation entered a capital campaign with a festive worship service. The two-year goal for the capital fund appeal was \$150,000 but was surpassed by \$27,917 for a total of \$177,917.

On January 26, 1997, in a special meeting, the congregation approved the construction of a new church design and set a cap on the money that could be borrowed at \$474,000. Following this meeting the financial committee proceeded with arrangements for financing. A meeting on June 13, 1997, with Philip Roe, Director of the Mission Investment Fund Division for Outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), resulted in a letter of recommendation to the Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) for the long-term financing of the building. Arrangements

for the construction phase financing were made with the Woodland Bank of Longville. An abstract of the land was drawn up by Action Title of Longville and insurance was handled by them as well.



On May 4, 1997, following worship, Pastor John Monson and a procession of the congregation walked to the new building site where a groundbreaking ceremony was held.





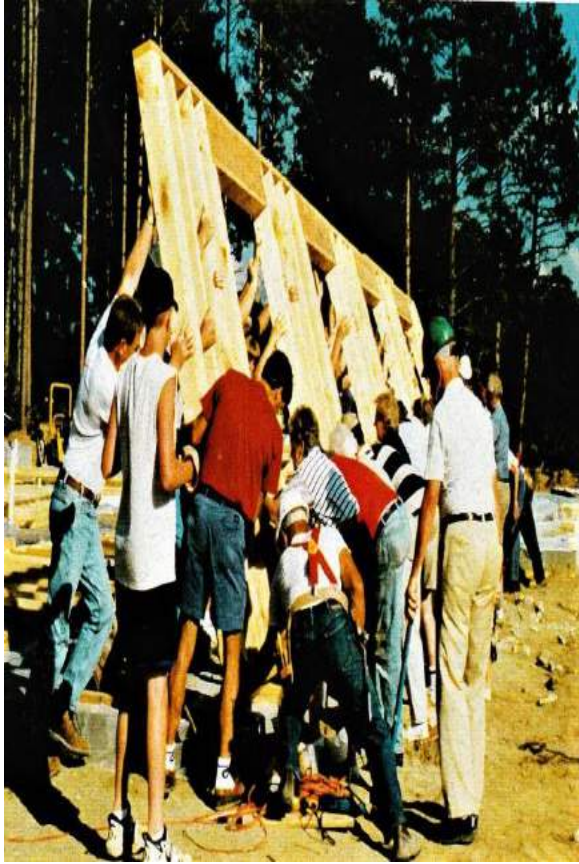
More than 25 volunteers worked to clear the site for the building of a road. Construction of the new facility was in the hands of the Mission Builders and Kraus Anderson Construction supported by volunteers.



On July 22, 1997, Salem received notice from AAL that the first mortgage

of \$474,000 was accepted. This loan, with the interest rate and monthly payments established, was signed by Deloris Hillstrom, President, Jean Westermann, Secretary, and Jean Fladeboe, Chairperson of the Building Finance Committee, and returned to AAL on August 17, 1997.

Mission Builders came to help build the new church, partnering with Krause-Anderson Construction. They brought their campers to live in while they were here. The Mission Builders were guests of Salem members and were invited for dinner at least twice a week. It was wonderful for the two groups to bond with fellowship and the common goal of building a new church. Builder interaction and faith building was an unforgettable experience for all. On August 8, 1997, the first wall was raised.



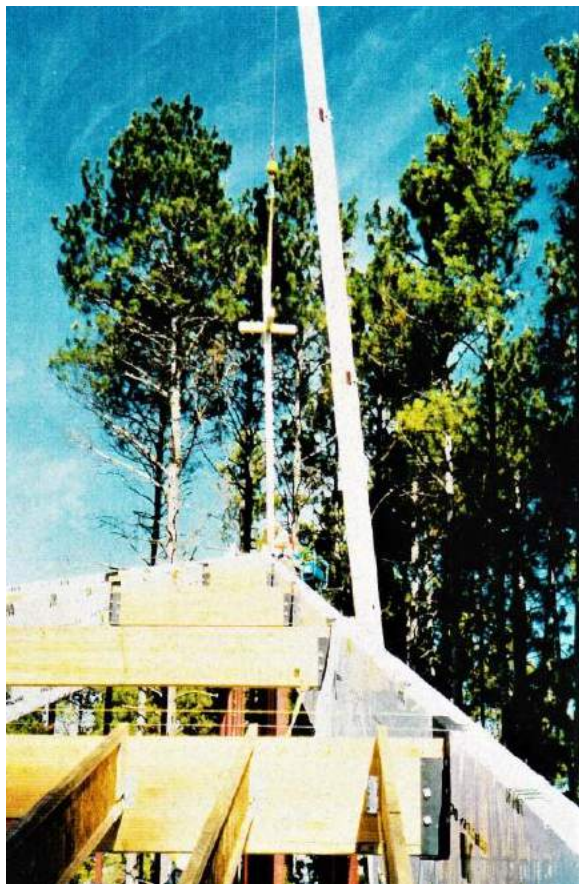
The cornerstone was placed near the front of the church October 25, 1997.



Many congregants wrote messages on the interior walls before they were covered.



While construction continued throughout the summer and fall, though not complete, the first fund raiser of a Swedish breakfast and tour of homes was held.



The first Christmas tree was decorated on December 18, 1997, and the first service was held Christmas Eve, 1997. In the spring a potluck dinner was held on Saturday, May 16 with a dedication Sunday service on May 17, 1998.



The burning of the paid off mortgage celebration was held in the summer of 2012.



Keeping the building in good repair has included a new roof, painting, and new flooring. As the building aged, much has needed updating. Thanks to the continued dedication of the group of people on the Property Team, the church has remained in good order. A storage shed, storage garage, children's playground and gazebo were built on the property.



Building and grounds volunteers schedule themselves on a work calendar in the church office. The huge acreage is mowed along with footpaths in the woods. The parking lot and walkway are plowed and shoveled in the winter and maintained year-round. Shrubs, flowers, and ornamental trees on the property are maintained. A columbarium with 20 urn niches was added to the church property with a second unit and memorial wall recently constructed. Salem's cemetery remains located east of town near the Lake Inguadona church site.



Pastor John Monson served Salem for over 26 years and was the pastor during the entire building process.



He retired from Salem in 2011. During Pastor Monson's years, Salem had an active Sunday School program, exciting summer vacation Bible schools and confirmation classes with many children

and youth involved. Luther League, guided by Dale and Sonja Foss, was a vital part of Salem's history, and many youths participated in its activities.

In 2002, Steve Reiter, Brenda Daudt, and Irene Schires completed painting murals of biblical stories on the walls of Sunday School classrooms. In addition, Irene Schires created the Lord's word in the Narthex.





In 1997, Salem’s congregation started an annual tour of homes that lasted for a decade. For one day in December four local homeowners opened their homes to visitors. A brochure explaining the construction and furnishings and how

the owners acquired the homes along with directions to them from the church was distributed to visitors.

Music has been and continues to be a significant part of worship at Salem. Charlene Olson began directing the church choir in September 1994.



She also was a substitute organist and pianist until 2000 when Eunice Benson joined Salem and shared organist duties with Jan Elliott. Charlene then concentrated on enlarging and improving the choir. Starting with eight members,

choir membership grew to over 30 members in the summer months. At first the choir sang once a month at worship services gradually singing at two services and finally every week. As choir membership grew, the burgundy-colored choir robes had to be reordered twice.



New style light weight blue colored robes were purchased several years ago.



In recent years, after Christmas, choir members were fewer in number as many went south for the winter. Consequently, the choir did not sing again until well into the Lenten season.

During Charlene Olson's tenure, the choir's music library expanded from just one small book and one sheet of music to three full file cabinets of music ranging from simple songs to more difficult anthems. A recent count included 218 anthems and arrangements, 49 Christmas pieces and 22 pieces for solos and ensembles.

A review of the music collection indicated many were sung only once while others many times. Among the most popular anthems and arrangements were *Because He Lives*, *Come to the Water*, and *Emmanuel Soon Will Appear*. They were each sung 13 times. The

Eagle's Wings Medley is the anthem most frequently sung at funerals.

Jan Elliott started as organist in 1989 providing several years of music and inspiration each week.



The church had a small Hammond spinet organ, but Jan quickly changed to her mother's Gulbransen electronic organ with two manuals and a full pedal board.

One example of how Salem's music staff is dedicated occurred during a storm. Jan recalled that the storm dropped trees in her and husband Bill's driveway. This prevented her from getting out one

Sunday morning for church service. Her husband boated her to the public landing on Wabedo. Egon Overgaard had been contacted and met them there. He drove her to church just in time for Sunday service. Jan said Eunice had stepped in to practice with the choir until she arrived. No wind, rain or storm interferes with Salem's music.

In 1999, Eunice Benson became a member at Salem and began sharing the organist position. Jan was the organist in the summer months and Eunice from the fall through the Easter season.



Salem's musicians plan together for the various seasons of the church year. Each week they work on the scheduling of worship services and rehearsals.

In 2000, Eunice Benson was appointed Salem's Coordinator of Music. The first all-church Christmas program was coordinated by Eunice with the help of our Sunday School teachers and parent volunteers and continued through 2004. Presented on the Sunday before Christmas, these programs included Sunday School children and staff, Luther Youth Organization members, the Jubilee Worship Team, the Adult Choir and Organist, and a band with instruments played by high school students of Salem.

Eunice authored "Our Ministry of Music" column in the church newsletter. Here she brought to the congregation's attention many insights regarding the

world of sacred music, her experiences attending music events, the importance of sacred music and the contributions of composers in the history of the church.

Numerous other music groups and events occurred during the last 25 years. These included piano-organ duets, summer special music performed by congregation members and professional groups, John Monson's liturgical compositions and guitar playing (along with produced CDs), the Jubilee Worship Team directed by Pamela Edwards, various men's ensembles, a summer women's choir, Orff children's instruments played by Sunday School children, a special children's choir performance, brass and string players and several visiting instrumentalists.

Other music related events included the replacement of the "green"

hymnals with new “red” hymnals in 2006 and the purchase of a concert piano for the church sanctuary in 2007.



A “new” used (seven years old) Rodgers electric organ was purchased in late 2015 to replace the one Salem had used for almost a quarter of a century. As an outcome of the organ purchase, Rodgers Organ Studio in Minneapolis arranged for a concert at Salem by renowned organist Jim Hockin to a full house audience in September 2016.

Salem had the blessing of lay pastors and a youth ministry associate who contributed to the well-being of the congregation. Jean Westermann became a Pastoral Assistant when she started the GIFTS (Growing in Faith to Serve) in 1992. The GIFTS Program was organized to train lay people for the role of ministry. It arose because of the shortage of pastors in rural areas. It involved being mentored by a pastor, reading required books and training from the seminary. Jean completed the program in 1996 and served at Salem until 2002 when she accepted the position of summer pastor at Zion Lutheran in Boy River, MN. Darold Daudt was always on hand to give a sermon or help in any way that was needed. Rebecca Waterhouse came in 2008 and was specifically charged to develop Salem’s youth

ministry. Children's messages remain a part of Salem's services on Sundays.



Pastor Paul Svingen was called as Interim Pastor in November of 2011.



Pastor Paul guided the congregation to the current model of organization and leadership. A transition task force was formed in May 2012 and charged with identifying Salem's needs and its

direction for the future. The work of this task force aided in the process of finding a new pastor. A new church constitution was written and then approved in 2017.

Wednesday at the Well was born from the work of the transition task force.



The first free weekly community meal was held in December of 2012. Members of Salem's congregation continue to plan and schedule the meals a year in advance and then prepare and serve the meals every Wednesday evening throughout the year (except for holiday weeks and the smorgasbords).

Between 2007 and 2017 the church's constitutionally established endowment fund was used to grant scholarships to Salem members who went on to post-secondary education. In 2019 a separate educational scholarship fund was established solely for scholarships where both the principal and interest could be used for scholarships. Over the years grants have been awarded to each qualified recipient and could be renewed. The original endowment fund, as mandated by the new constitution, could only use investment earnings on the principal for scholarships and community outreach grants.

Opportunities for involvement at Salem are vast and varied. One of those is an active Altar Guild. All new furnishings were provided to the Altar Guild for the altar area including pulpit,

lectern, baptism font, rail and large cross behind the altar and communion cabinet. Altar area furnishings came from lumber harvested from the church property site.

The Altar Guild changes paraments for each season of the church year in Salem's sanctuary. The paraments were made by Jeanette Paulson of 'Adorn this House' in Duluth and purchased with memorial money and special gifts.



The beautiful "*I am the Vine; You are the branches*" *John 15:5*, stained glass

window (given as a memorial through the Altar Guild as noted in the 75th Anniversary history) was moved from the old church. Communion ware was given to the Altar Guild by an anonymous friend of Salem.

Altar Guild duties include preparing for communion, baptisms, ordering flowers for Easter and Christmas, decorating for Christmas and other seasons. Along with these duties, the Altar Guild changes banners and paraments as well as keeping the altar area clean. The Altar Guild purchased a 500-year Reformation Anniversary banner in 2017. In addition, they designed and purchased a special banner to celebrate Salem's Centennial anniversary.

The Ruth Circle women enjoy a monthly Bible study to which all women

are invited. Past memorials given to Ruth Circle allowed for the purchase of batting used for Salem's quilting group.



During the months of January, February, and March, the Salem Women, and any interested community women, gather each week at Salem to sew quilts for the mission of the ELCA. Quilts are also made for graduates, baptisms, disasters and anyone in need of a warm covering. During the Salem auction, quilts are sold to purchase batting, thread, and other sewing supplies. No sewing experience is required as people are needed to iron, cut squares, and tie quilts.



During June, July, and August, Salem has hosted a delicious smorgasbord for which most of the food was donated. Tickets were purchased. The monies taken in at the three smorgasbords were used by the Salem Women for charitable and church needs. For this event, the men of Salem were invaluable helpers.

Each fall the Salem Women organize and sponsor a community bazaar (craft fair). Many homemade crafts are offered for sale, as well as baked goods and home canning. Both raffles and silent auctions were held at the bazaar to gain added dollars for missions.



After the bazaar, the fall meeting of the Salem Women occurs. The women carefully ponder the best use of monies raised during the year. They choose the missions to which the monies will be dispersed. Only enough money to operate is retained - the remaining dollars are used to support many worthwhile church and community groups.

During the holiday season, the women sponsor a mitten tree. Donations go to local schools for children needing warm outdoor clothing.



Everyone is invited to participate in a weekly Bible study conducted by the pastor. This study meets each Wednesday at 4:00 p. m. prior to the community meal.

Salem's choir is open to all interested participants. Choir practice is held each Wednesday evening after the community meal, and the choir anthem is an integral part of each Sunday worship service.

Salem Sunday suppers are special gatherings of congregants who desire to have dinner together at a local restaurant on the last Sunday of the month. This is strictly a fellowship event and serves to bring members together as they get acquainted.

Salem's involvement in the community is intentional and important to the congregation. Bone Builders uses the building to hold its morning exercise classes on Tuesdays and Fridays. Defensive driving classes have been held in Salem's fellowship hall for many years. A class especially designed for older citizens called "A Matter of Balance" uses Salem's building to teach seniors important skills for good mobility. Other community groups use Salem for meetings as well.

The Longville Area Community Choir, made up of 70 local members, uses the church to hold its rehearsals and for the presentation of its annual Christmas concert. In addition, the choir uses the church to rehearse for the Memorial Day service held at the local fire hall.



The summertime Music in the Park series has been part Salem's serving ministry since 2013. Professional musicians and singers perform three to five times on Sunday summer afternoons in the gazebo on Salem's park-like grounds. Attendees to these free concerts bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic

food. If the weather is not acceptable outside, the concert is moved indoors to Salem's spacious sanctuary. Salem assumed responsibility for the Music in the Park series originally sponsored by the Longville Lakes Arts Alliance when the group could no longer support it. The first summer's performers included the Smokin' Loons Band from Walker, Minnesota, Florida guitarist and vocalist Michael Hirst, the Minneapolis-based Bill Simenson Orchestra and vocalist Prudence Johnson, and the Augsburg Centennial Singers (an indoor concert).



A week-long vacation Bible school is offered each summer.



It is free to all children within the area from the age of three through sixth grade. Ads are put in the local newspaper and posters and banners placed around the community inviting children to the summer Bible-based adventure. For many years, Julie Bull portrayed Bible characters in full costume, teamed with other adults and performed skits to the delight of the children.

Salem's annual auction has become an anticipated event by the entire community for the past 34 years. There are many Salem volunteers who go out

into the community to pick up items donated to the auction. This event has proven to be a valuable event for the entire community and a marvelous way to recycle and redistribute usable items. The auction has been under the leadership of the Daudt family auction team and is a completely donated service to Salem. A Daudt team member is the auctioneer for the annual pie auction cancer fund raiser organized by the Harold Burley family.



The benches used by attendees of the auction and other Salem events were donated by the Longville Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). There was a painting party under the direction of Dick and Sandy Pullen to make them colorful. A contest was then held to recognize the best.

Salem hosts occasional open forums on important issues of interest and concern for members of the community. Several other Lutheran churches sponsor the forums with Salem.

Recent additions to Salem's outreach are the Joy Group, Men's Fellowship and Stronger Together. The Joy Group is designed for newly retired or still working women who gather in a small group setting with the pastor to study, do activities and service projects in the early evening once a month. The Joy

group has created gifts for those who serve the community.



In the early 2000's, as Salem's leader, Clinton (Buzz) Lilyquist, along with other Longville churches men's groups, took turns during the year to offer dinners and local speakers for the men and their spouses. These ecumenical get togethers provided the opportunity for the members of Longville churches to foster understanding and friendships with each other.

Men's fellowship was renewed at Salem in 2019 after a survey the previous year indicated interest in men's fellowship activities. Three free

presentations on topics of interest to men and open to men and women were sponsored in the summer of 2019. Topics included snocross racing, sustainable fishing and fish preparation, big game hunting and television fishing shows featuring a long-time area musky fishing and hunting guide. Men's Bible study is integral to men's fellowship and meets twice a month in the mornings. During the winter, men who are not present for the meetings participate via email. Stronger Together was formed to help with home improvement projects in the community for persons in need but lacking necessary resources.

In 2020, an anonymous donation was received to use toward an outdoor bread oven. Added donations allowed several men in the congregation to research, design and build an outdoor

bread oven adjacent to the church building next to the kitchen door. The first bread baked in it was distributed to congregants at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in September 2020, and the Bread Ministry was born.



The Wednesday at the Well team honors veterans in the area by setting aside the Wednesday closest to Veteran's Day for a meal dedicated to them. This

dinner and celebration honoring all veterans was started in 2016. Veterans in the area are sent invitations, and in 2019, 160 people enjoyed this special evening.



Along with Lutheran and Reformed churches worldwide, Salem celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on Sunday, August 20, 2017. It was a special program featuring

Rick Steves' dramatic video of Martin Luther and the events that ended the middle ages, ushered in the modern era and changed the world. A large number of community and congregation members attended the event and had a lively discussion in Salem's fellowship hall following the showing of the video on the big screens in the sanctuary.

Salem has had three pastors in the last 25 years. These were John Monson until 2011 and Paul Svingen as interim until 2014. Salem's current pastor, Trish Jorgenson, arrived in October of 2014.





have two adult children and four grandchildren. The pastor has brought a sparkle of joy to the Salem congregation as she presents a youthful ambition and spirit to the congregation. Worship services continue to be held each Sunday morning at 9:00. Pastor Trish consistently reminds the congregants how much God loves each of them and assures every one of her love for Salem and joy having made the decision to become Salem's pastor.



Pastor Trish's previous call had been at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Upsala, Minnesota, and she was there for 10 years. Pastor Trish and her husband Mitch



Long-time Salem members Marilyn and Clinton (Buzz) Lilyquist reminisced about their childhoods. They were let out of school early on Wednesdays to walk down to the Longville dance hall (located where the post office now stands) for religious studies. This was because the Inguadona church was too far away to walk.

Youth outreach programs and activities continue at Salem. These include Vacation Bible School, Sunday school, and Catechism. Efforts are made to support children from baptism, to Sunday school, Christmas plays, sleep overs when older, and then Confirmation.



The youth have done the Souper Bowl Service to raise monies for the Food Shelf. In 1997, they went to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Later they went to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to work with the people and youth there. They did wreath sales and pie auctions to raise money for trips.

Salem's Prayer Project Lifesaver was started in 2003 with the mission to cover our youth with prayer. This was also known as Adults Saving Kids. Salem remains dedicated to outreach and support of the children in our community.



Salem's congregation continued to grow to around 500 regular and associate members in the early 2000's. Demographic changes including the aging of the community, older members moving away, fewer families, and year-round population decline have affected membership. Salem offers just one Sunday worship service throughout the year. Still Salem has new members join the congregation every year. Worship service attendance is bolstered considerably in the summertime when "snowbirds" return to the area. Salem coffee fellowship following service

includes many moments of recognition and celebration. One of these is an all-church birthday celebration where attendees sit at their birthday month table to meet those in their birth month.



Salem's current organizational structure includes a Servant Leadership Council elected by the congregation at the annual meeting, the pastor, an Executive Management Team, treasurer, and financial secretary.

There are four ministries and action teams within the ministries. Salem ministries are Worship, Learning, Serving, and Resource Development.

There are numerous action teams composed of congregation members that carry out the missions of each ministry. The action teams provide many opportunities to participate in the work of the church for congregation members who want to be involved.

Salem had several treasurers in the last quarter of a century. They oversaw the general and many special funds. Barb Anderson is the present elected treasurer.



During the last 25 years, there have been several financial secretaries. They diligently collected monetary donations and deposited them in Salem's bank

accounts after every worship service. Don Waldera is the present elected bonded financial secretary.



The church office is staffed five days a week by a full-time administrative assistant. Starting 20 years ago in a job-sharing secretarial role, Carol Raines, as administrative assistant, has acquired secretarial, receptionist and bookkeeping responsibilities. Carol takes on added challenges when asked, such as acting as cashier when Fair Trade coffee was sold, selling centennial cups and mugs, and helps action teams with promotional word processing and poster design. From time-

to-time, volunteers from the congregation substituted in the church office.



While the exterior parts of the church have been well maintained and interior repairs done as needed over the years, Salem's custodian staff has kept the spacious interior dusted, vacuumed, mopped, polished, washed and sanitized regularly. Presently, the church custodian is Miranda Johnson.



Salem uses the latest technology for worship services, programs, and presentations. A technology team of congregation members provides sound and video services from a computerized console utilizing cameras and large descending screens in the sanctuary and operates the large television in fellowship hall. Each worship service is live streamed and later posted on Salem's website. A master CD is produced for every service and copies made as requested. In addition to the website, Salem maintains a Facebook page.



From the early pioneering years of a fledgling congregation along the shoreline of Lake Inguadona to the energized congregation and expansive facilities and grounds of today, Salem's first 100 years reflect an era of change, growth, relocation, community commitment and challenge. With God's guidance, the next century will reinforce and refine the vision, faith, dedication, and efforts of earlier generations to make Salem a continuing beacon of God's light in the Minnesota lakes country and the world.



Salem's mission of "*Rooted in Christ, to Love, Grow and Serve*" must and will become deeper, stronger, and steadfast, to meet the untold challenges the future holds. As the second decade of the twenty-first century unfolds, Salem remains strong in its outreach efforts, using media to offer worship services during the coronavirus pandemic that began in early 2020. The world-wide coronavirus pandemic of 2020 and 2021 brought to a halt virtually all in-person activities at Salem. Despite the pandemic, Salem remained strong; finding ways to continue in its commitment to reach anyone looking for support in their faith. While wearing masks, the confirmands of 2020 pledged their belief in our Savior and commitment to a life of continuing faith.



The centennial celebration scheduled for June 13 and 14, 2020 had to be postponed. A revised commemoration was in the planning stage for later in 2021.

Centennial Scripture Verse

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches

***We stand on the shoulders of those who
came before us.***

***May we be the shoulders to stand on;
for those who follow us.***

Pastors – Salem Lutheran Church

Marcus Tufeland	About Dec. 27,1920 – 1924
J. C. Jerdee	1925 to 1931
Alfred Gunderson	1931 to 1934
Clarence H. Johnson	1934 to 1935
Morris Thompson	1935 to 1938
Alfred Gunderson	1938 to 1943
Orrin Anderson	1943 to 1944
Fred Dommer	1944 to 1945
Otis K. Odland	1945 to 1949
Maynard E. Stokka	1950 to 1954
Edwin Hansen (Student Pastor)	1954 to 1955
Theodore Hilpert	1955 to 1961
Theodore B. Peterson	1961 to 1964
Chase E. Aase	1964 to 1967
Dennis A Hugdahl	1969 to 1972
Merlin A. Schlichting	1973 to 1974
Rodney Haselhahn	1974 to 1980
Marcus and Mary Hess	1980 to 1984
John Coffey	1984 to 1985
John Monson	1985 to 2011
Paul Svingen	2011 to 2014
Trish Jorgenson	2014 to Present

Salem Confirmands 1997 -2020

1997

Nicholas Burgers
Debbie Dollins
Kelly Dollins
Bill Fischer
Evan Foss
David Fryxell
Nathan Lange
Scott LaVallee
Jenny Seifert

2000

Kaylee Bandemer
Crystal Lewis
Kelly Lewis
Toni Monson
Katie Schmid

2001

Brittany Lewis
Tom Dollins
Beth Raines
Kylee Sandstrom

2002

Amanda Lange
Sonja Simmonds
Andrew Wheeler
Steven Wheeler
Scarlet Wilberg

2003

Matthew Bandemer
Marcus Digre
Jeanette Lewis
Shelly Raines
Kyle Schwartz

2004

Adam Cribb
Emily Gilsrud
Brad Schwartz
Spenser Seifert
Tyler Seifert
Brandon Wheeler
Drew Wilberg

2005

Casey LaVallee

2006

Tina Digre
Savannah Daudt

2007

Dillon Loren
Robert Raines
Sam Schwartz
Travis Wheeler

2008

Caitlin Daudt
Beth Digre
Sophia Gilsrud
Sierra Likens
Brittney Nornberg

2009

Jordan Loren
Jacob Murtley
Amber Nornberg

2010

Grace Gilsrud
Zachary Nornberg

2011

Evan Daudt
Tyler Daudt
Tia Lilyquist
Felicia Murtley
Justin Wicks

2015

Connor Daudt
Jack Daudt
Andrea Semmler
Zachary Semmler



2017

Bailey Nornberg

2018

Wyatt Semmler

2020

Lacey Erickson
Miranda Johnson
Page Nornberg
Deven Wheeler

Salem's Historical Activities and Events

1995 - 2020

- 1995 December 3 - New church building capital campaign launched with a festive worship service.
- 1996 June 23 - 75th Anniversary, 1920-1975, Festival Worship Service.
Teams of men worked on the new church property clearing branches, salvaging firewood, and burning brush to clear/stake out the site roadway.
August 12 - Church Steering Committee dissolved having fulfilled its original charge and established the Building Project Committee. The charge of this committee would be to work with the Mission Builders to get the church erected.
- 1997 Congregation voted to proceed with the revised and final plan of the church design.
May 4 - New church building groundbreaking service.
July 12 - Mission Builders arrived at Salem.
August 8 - Raised the first walls of the new Salem's church building.
Youth went to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.
October 25 - Cornerstones 1922, 1947-1977 and 1997 set in place.
December 24 - First worship service in the new church building (Christmas Eve).
- 1998 April 1 - New church loan finalized with Aid Association for Lutherans.
May 17 - New church building dedication service held.
Full-time residential secretarial position approved.
Bell tower erected on the roof of the covered walkway and bell placed in the tower.
- 1999 March - The congregation authorized the church council to sell the parsonage and establish a housing allowance for the pastor.
Electric ringer system ordered for installation which occurred late Sept/Oct.
- 2000 Installed granite church sign on front road along Highway 5.
Special Gifts project provided many donations for the needs of the church building.
Long Range Planning Committee recommended placement of the storage building and the playground.

- 2001 Two distinct worship services developed on Sunday with a traditional and 'new generation' style (Jubilee Group) during the summer.
- June 2 - A Saturday evening service was started blending the traditional and 'new generation' style music.
- July 4 - A break-in and theft of computers at Salem resulted in an installation of a security system.
- 2002 Salem men's ensemble is formed.
- Playground equipment installed and storage building completed.
- 2003 The Bishop of Minnesota Northeast Synod was invited twice to provide recommendations to resolve conflicts within the church by identifying ministries to support Salem's future.
- Project Lifesaver was started with the mission to cover our youth with prayer; also known as Adults Saving Kids.
- 2004 Continued congregational struggles resulted in further support by the Bishop.
- Financial struggles led to using monies from the sale of the old parsonage for current expenses.
- 2005 The Bishop spoke to the congregation concerning the conflict that existed for four years; new council was installed.
- 2006 Fiscal year changed to January 1 through December 31.
- July 16 – An E. coli outbreak from tainted meat occurred in the community and at Salem.
- 2008 Rebecca Waterhouse joined Salem's full-time staff as youth ministry associate.
- Construction of Salem's new gazebo was completed.
- 2009 Discovered the name of the church cemetery was not the same as the church's name. Worked through the state to correct.
- Petition received about having one service all year long.
- 2010 New Lutheran hymnals were purchased through many donations.
- 2011 Pastor John Monson retired from Salem in September; Reverend Paul Svingen became Intentional Interim Pastor.
- Church council approved development of Transition Task Force (TTC) to make recommendations regarding the future of the ministry at Salem.
- Mortgage burning, new Salem church mortgage paid off.
- In August, Wednesday at the Well community meals began.

- 2012 May 12 - Transition Task Force composed of three teams and a leadership group commissioned by the congregation and charged with identifying Salem's needs and future direction.
- 2013 Transition Task Force Final Report completed with a new mission statement **Rooted in Christ to Love, Grow and Serve** and new leadership structure for the congregation consisting of three ministry teams and a Servant Leadership Commission.
- Congregational Birthday Party celebration in the spring with different cakes at each table.
- Music in the Park becomes a summer outreach program of Salem.
- 2014 Pastor Paul completed his interim service at Salem on 8/3/14. Reverend Trish Jorgenson becomes Salem's pastor on October 1st.
- Music in the Park is supported by Longville Area Community Choir for grant application purposes.
- Auction Action Team completed its 29th annual auction. Started by Darold Daudt and the Daudt family, the monies received are divided in three ways, local benevolence, camp scholarships and Salem ministry projects.
- The first year for the December mitten tree donations for area schools.
- 2015 Significant building improvements made to the church campus.
- New video system added to enhance our worship.
- Library/Conference Room expansion to a family room.
- Phase 1 of Salem's Columbarium developed and completed.
- Technology Team's development of Salem's new website completed.
- Women of Salem hosted the ELCA Living Waters Spring Gathering.
- New 'used' Rodgers organ was purchased.
- 2017 New Constitution for Salem Lutheran Church approved by congregation.
- Celebrated 500 Year Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in August.
- New Joy Bible study group began in the early evening for women who are still working or newly retired - all women are welcomed.
- 2018 Men's fellowship revived, and men's Bible discussion group formed.
- Salem sponsored community forums began in summer.
- 2019 Stronger Together, a self-funded initiative, was created to expand Salem's community outreach for persons in need.

2020 March 15, Salem doors closed for all activities due to COVID-19; services offered online each Sunday as well as the remaining Lenten services.

May 14 – Salem summer events such as the Centennial Celebration, Smorgasbords, Music in the Park, Vacation Bible School, and Church Auction are canceled due to COVID-19; church remains closed.

December 27 – A virtual church worship service took place to commemorate the date of the organization of Salem Lutheran Church on December 27, 1920.

Salem Organizational Structure

(June 2021)

Ordained Minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

- Pastor

Salem Elected Leadership

- Servant Leadership Council (SLC) Members
 - SLC Officers (elected by SLC members)
 - President, Vice President, Secretary
 - Executive Management Team (EMT)
 - Pastor, SLC President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer
- Treasurer
- Financial Secretary
- Nominating Team Members
- Endowment Team Members
- Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Northeast Minnesota Synod Assembly

Ministry Teams

- Learning Ministry Team (LMT)

Mission Statement: To welcome, encourage and empower potential, new, and existing Salem members to be more fully rooted in Christ to love, grow, and serve. (Rom 12:4-5)

 - Action Teams
 - Early Childhood Ministry
 - Baptism
 - Children's Ministry
 - Sunday School
 - Vacation Bible School
 - First Communion
 - Safe Sanctuary Training
 - Youth and Confirmation Ministry
 - Confirmation Class
 - Youth Activities and Faith Formation
 - Camp Scholarships
 - Adult Faith Formation
 - Wednesday Adult Bible/Book Study
 - JOY Group
 - Men's Fellowship
 - Our Neighbor Community Forums
 - Membership
 - Potential Members
 - New Member Orientation and Sunday
 - Family / Archive Room

- Serving Ministry Team (SMT)

Mission Statement: To develop, implement, and promote relationships through ministry programs that meet needs of people locally, nationally, and globally. Phil 2:4, 1 Cor 10:24, John 13:34

- Action Teams

- Salem Annual Auction
- Caring Ministry
 - Card Ministry
 - Lay Ministers of Holy Communion
 - Prayer Shawl Ministry
 - Prayer Chain
 - Grief Ministry
- Kitchen Meals
- Music in the Park
- Wednesday at the Well / Community Meal
- Women of Salem
 - Quilting Party
 - Ruth Circle
 - Bazaar / Craft Fair
- Stronger Together
 - Bread Oven Ministry
- Hunger and Justice
 - ELCA World Hunger
 - ELCA Disaster Response
 - Longville Area Food Shelf
- Good Samaritan Fund

- Resource Development Ministry Team

Mission Statement: To steward God's gifts and encourage each of in the work God has called us to through generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. (Eph 4:12)

- Action Teams

- Finance
- Property
- Columbarium
- Cemetery
- Endowment Team
 - Education Scholarship Fund
 - Endowment Fund
- Technology
 - Audio Technicians
 - Video Technicians
 - Website
 - Facebook
- Human Resources

- Worship Ministry Team (WMT)
Mission Statement: To assist in planning and facilitating worship services to make the experience meaningful and relevant for the congregation and befitting to the Synod's recommendations. Psalm 100
 - Action Teams
 - Hospitality Ministry
 - Ushers / Greeters
 - Lay Readers
 - Holy Communion Care and Servers
 - Fellowship
 - Altar Guild
 - Worship Planning and Music
 - Choir
 - Wedding Ministry
 - Funeral Ministry

Salem Church Council Presidents

1995 – 2020

Marilyn Lilyquist	1995-1996
Dee Hillstrom	1996-1998
Cliff Fox	1998-1999
Sonja Foss	1999-2001
Mark Houghton	2001-2003
Ron Mitchell	2003-2004
Jim Ballenthin	2004-2006
Darold Daudt	2006-2008
Bob Alley	2008-2009
Barb Anderson	2009-2010
Dennis Johnson	2010-2011
Larry Nelson	2011-2013
Dale Foss	2013-2015
Barb Anderson	2015-2016
Don Falls	2016-2018
Tim Peterson	2018-2020
Fred Smith	2020-Present

Salem Centennial Task Force

The task force was formed November 2018 and functioned through September 2021. Salem's Centennial Celebration was originally scheduled for June 13 and 14, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed. The celebration was rescheduled with a special service August 29, 2021, with a reduced format in response to continued pandemic concerns.

Dennis Zuelke

Cris and Fred Smith

Doris Schmidt

Terri Meagher

Barb McCuskey

Marilyn and Clinton (Buzz) Lilyquist

Lori Daudt

Alice Bruhjell

Linda Bechtold (Chair)

Special Recognition to the many ministry teams and unnamed helpers that made this historical document and Salem's Centennial Celebration a success. It takes a community '*Rooted in Christ to love, grow and serve*' to ensure Salem's legacy and future.

Resources

Salem Lutheran Church Annual Reports

Historical Memory of Salem Congregants

Varied church documents and pictures

Church Bell Newsletters

The Pilot-Independent and *Pine Cone Press-Citizen* historical articles series (written and submitted by Dennis Zuelke)

Series references – *Salem Lutheran Church; A Historical Tour; 1920 – 1995* (Longville, MN 1996) and supporting documents from the church archives.

Centennial Quilt design, creation and specialized quilting recognition goes to the Salem quilters.

Rooted in Christ to Love, Grow and Serve

Salem's Mission Statement

Love

Mark 12:31

The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.

Grow

Job 14:7-9

For there is hope for a tree if it is cut down, that it will sprout again and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud, and put forth branches like a young plant.

Serve

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

