



Salem Lutheran Church Bell

January 2026

Rooted in Christ
to love, grow &
serve

Longville Area Food Shelf

The Food Shelf is in need of FUNDS and HELP serving people experiencing food insecurity and hunger. Join us Wednesdays from 9a to 3p - or whatever time you can give. To contribute financially, you can give directly to the Longville Area Food Shelf: P.O. Box 308, Longville, MN 56655, or designate your donation through Salem, memo: LAFS.

Salem Quilters

Thursdays from 9am to 12pm, January, February, and March Salem Quilters will again pick up their needles to begin the ministry of making Quilts for people in need for distribution through Lutheran World Relief and our local community, beginning **Thursday, January 8**. No quilting or sewing experience needed - we can cut material, tie quilts, design layouts, make treats, coffee, or just have fun.

Everyone is welcome - men and women!

1st Sunday of the Month

ELCA World Hunger Noisy Offering

Bring or give whatever change you have in your pockets, purse, or piggy bank and throw it in the buckets during the welcome at worship!

December's total was \$90.48

Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars

A charitable grant program which allows eligible members to choose where your Choice Dollars go.

Call Thrivent financial 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice" or visit www.thriventchoice. If Choice Dollars are not designated by you, Thrivent will make the decision regarding where the monies go.

Thank you to all who have already designated their Choice Dollars to Salem. Questions, contact Doris Schmidt, Mark or Pat Wrucke, or Linda Bechtold

1st Annual Winter's Promise Stewardship Celebration

"The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." Isaiah 55:10-11

To the naked eye, winter can seem like a "dead" season. Yet, we know that in the midst of cold, snow, and ice hibernating critters, vegetation, and the earth itself are preparing for the new life God brings in Spring. This is a sign for our own lives as well, that even in the midst of suffering and death God is present with us and at work in, with, and through us, to bring new life and hope.

"Winter's Promise" is the first of four stewardship Sundays we will celebrate this year in hopes of making them annual events that will enrich our lives together through worship, celebration, and giving. We encourage you to prayerfully consider a financial gift above and beyond our usual giving to Salem's Operating Fund (formerly known as our General Fund) on January 25, 2026 (or the month of January memo: "Winter's Promise.")

JOIN US!

Sunday, January 25, 2026 | 9:00am

Winter's Promise Worship Celebration &
Fellowship Brunch

Watch for sign-up sheets to help bring items for our menu and help prepare, serve & clean up:

Egg Bake (need 6 - 9x13 pans)

Cut-up Fresh Fruit (4 - 8 cup servings)

Jelly Roll Sheet Pan Pancakes (provided by Fellowship money fund)

Questions or for more information contact:

Laura F (651-271-0002) or Linda B (763-498-9111)

January Worship Volunteers

January 4 | 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Ushers/Greeters	Barb McCuskey, Doris Schmidt
Lay Reader	Linda Bechtold
Bread Servers	Pastor Trish
Wine/Grape Juice	Jo Gaffey
Communion Care	Linda Bechtold
Sound Technician	Pat Wrucke
Video Technicians	Mitch Jorgenson, Doug Williams
Money Counters	Jim Fladmoe, Roger Bechtold
Fellowship Servers	Mitch & Emma Jorgenson

January 11 | Baptism of Our Lord

Ushers/Greeters	Scott & Allison Magnus
Lay Reader	Cris Smith
Bread Servers	Pastor Trish
Wine/Grape Juice	Laura Flohaug
Communion Care	Laura Flohaug
Sound Technician	Craig Anderson
Video Technicians	Mike & Hope Olson
Money Counters	Don Falls, Greg Peters
Fellowship Servers & Treats	Doris S. & Barb M.

January 18 | 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers/Greeters	Beth Tobiason, Laura Flohaug
Lay Reader	Jan Stadtherr
Bread Servers	Pastor Trish
Wine/Grape Juice	Jan Stadtherr
Communion Care	Jo Gaffey
Sound Technician	Jim Fladmoe
Video Technician	Mike & Hope Olson
Money Counters	Judy Saxerud, Randy Swanson
Fellowship Servers & Treats	Men's Fellowship

January 25

Winter's Promise Stewardship Celebration

Ushers/Greeters	Roger & Linda Bechtold
Reader	Greg Peters
Bread Servers	Pastor Trish
Wine/Grape Juice	Diane Peters
Communion Care	Barb McCuskey
Sound Technician	Egon Overgaard
Video Technicians	Ron Stadtherr, Mitch Jorgenson
Money Counters	Mike Meagher, Garry Gaffey
Fellowship	Winter's Promise Brunch

Salem Community Meal

Wednesday, January 14th | 5pm - 6pm

No Cost | Donations Appreciated

Menu: Tater Tot Hotdish

Everyone is welcome!

January Birthdays

1	Jackie Senst
3	Alyssa Semmler
3	Hannah Hardinger
4	Harland Johnson
5	Phil Mix
5	Tia Lucas Lilyquist
6	Dawn Hicok
6	Tim Wolter
6	Garry Gaffey
6	Ken Schleif
7	Melanie Mix
7	Stuart Rath
8	Sharon Galvin
9	Mike Meagher
10	Zachary Nornberg
11	Justin Wicks
11	Adam Hicok
12	Logan Gross
13	Lori Daudt
15	Ellie Wheeler
15	James Moravek
16	Connie Olsen
17	Doris Schmidt
17	Carole Houghton
21	Elizabeth Wheeler
24	Grace Gilsrud
25	Troy Loren
28	Ardis Aagard
31	Darlene Konrad

January Anniversaries

5	Greg and Deb Kramer
11	Dennis and Elsie Hagen

Looking ahead

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18 with Ash Wednesday Worship. Wednesday Lenten services will continue through March 25th. Lent is a 40-day period of spiritual preparation leading up to Easter. It is often marked by fasting, prayer, Bible study, and giving, which help us grow in our relationships with God.

Our Wednesday Lenten services will once again include **Soup Suppers** each Wednesday evening (watch for sign-up sheets) and **Faith Stories** from members and friends of Salem sharing about their relationship with God - where we see God in the good and easy times of our lives, as well as the difficult and painful. Please contact Pastor Trish if you would like to share your Faith Story or want more information about this opportunity.

Salem Endowment Legacy & Education Scholarship Funds

Generosity and giving aren't confined to Christmas, birthdays, or anniversaries. Give any time of the year with a gift that gives back and 'pays it forward' with a gift to "Salem's Endowment Legacy" or "Education Scholarship Funds."

Salem's Financial Update

As of November 30, 2025, our year-to-date General Fund giving was \$226,366 which is \$6,619 short of the 2025 General Fund budget of \$254,166 adopted by Salem at our September 2024 Annual Meeting. Salem has continued operating with a frozen budget paying only critical operating expenses. Which has been true for the past 4 years with ministry teams finding creative ways to save money while also limiting spending. **As a result, on Nov 30, 2025, cash available for General Expenses is + \$14,482.**

As with most of our homes, the winter season means an increase in some of our expenses. Please help us continue to meet the commitment we made together at last year's annual meeting by prayerfully considering tithing (keeping 90% of your income while giving 10% of your income to the ministry God does through Salem) and/or setting up electronic giving to ensure your support is here even if you can't be. We can also consider what extras in our personal spending we might "freeze" and give that amount in our Sunday offerings and remember our new Winter's Promise Stewardship Celebration when we are invited to give above and beyond our regular giving to Salem's Operating Fund (formerly known as General Fund) on Sunday January 25th!

Thank you for your faithful and generous giving!

Salem's Council (SLC) Updates

1) Salem's SLC voted to change the terminology of General Fund to Operating Fund. 2) Doug Williams is our new SLC Vice President. 3) **Thank you to Bob Vaughn** for your service as our previous SLC Vice President. 4) Kathy Dollins was appointed by the SLC as Back-Up Church Accountant.

Inclement Weather Church Cancelations

Check Salem's website or tune to:

KLIZ 107.5 (Brainerd)
KTIG 102.7 (Pequot Lakes)
KBLB 93.3 (Brainerd)
or call Pastor Trish
(320-248-9479)

Confirmation & Youth

Sundays from 4pm - 6pm
All 7th - 12th Grade Students welcome

Sunday School

Sunday January 11th
11am - 1:30pm
Lunch Provided!
All 4 year old - 6th Students welcome

2025 End of Year Giving Financial Statements via Email

In January, Salem's Financial Secretary prepares our yearly giving statements. Each year we spend monies on envelopes, paper, ink and stamps to mail each statement. With rising costs, we are hoping to email those statements to anyone who has an email address. **Please send your current email to salem@arvig.net, include your name, physical address, and email address in the text body.**

Souper Bowl of Caring February 8, 2026

In 2025, the cost of a 30-second Super Bowl commercial was approximately 7 million dollars. Help us turn the year's most expensive day of advertisements into the year's most generous day of giving as we **tackle hunger** through the Souper Bowl of Caring challenge. All donations will be given to the Longville Area Food Shelf. Give at any time between now and February 8th by noting on your monies "Souper Bowl of Caring 2026."

January Announcements

Salem Youth's "Christmas Simply Ask Project" raised \$870 for 7 ELCA Good Gifts Water Filters, 6 Irrigations Systems, 10 Chicks, 2 Roosters, and 24 Honeybees. **Two of our Sunday School students** (Kai & Serenity) raised \$657 for ELCA Good Gifts as well by simply asking for 1 Latrine, 6 Goats, 4 Piglets, 40 Chicks, 2 Roosters, (these numbers are actual, not how many were marked on order form).

Salem Women created 16 trays and 12 baskets of Christmas goodies for people at Salem or the Longville community in need of a little extra Christmas cheer.

Salem's Socktober-venber-cember raised 219 adult Winter socks for people experiencing homelessness in our area, and 70 children's socks for a need at the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School in Cass Lake.

AARP Free Tax Preparation Assistance

at Salem for Longville area residents **Tuesdays beginning February 10th 8:30am - 1pm.**
No walk-ins! For appointments call Ron at 218-675-6532