

From Where Will My Help Come?

In one measure or another, we all know and experience times in our lives when we are buried by financial, physical, emotional, spiritual and other kinds of burdens. Likewise, we may know times of great joy and times when we are filled good emotional, physical and spiritual energy.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. (*Psalms 121:1-2*)

Siblings in Christ,

Looking at the landscape of our world today, we can see that we are in the midst of turmoil. Suffering in all forms exists, persists, here and abroad; outstretched hands grapple for humanity's stronghold and are met with human rejection.

Our own hearts may be afraid of what's around the corner, buried by an avalanche of bad news; continually wondering "what next?"

At the very least, worry is the backdrop for many. And the psalmist's question is relevant today.

From where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord.

Who will not let your foot be moved;

... who will not slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;

your shade at your right hand.

The Lord will keep you from all evil.

The Lord will keep your going out

and coming in ... forevermore.

We need not lose hope. This is a time to know that God is holding precious humanity, God's own, tendering to tentative hearts, holding tight. This is a time to grasp onto the hand of another. It is the time to **be** God's hand and feet in whatever way possible for you.

It is a time to trust in God's eternal promise; to draw strength and courage from God's Holy Spirit; to remember that Jesus walked this same course on our account ... for the sake of humanity. For us.

It is easy to say "don't lose hope" and less easier to live through times of strife as *people* of hope. So also be kind to yourself. The world is hard enough. Do what you can to do justice and spread kindness and mercy in this world. And love, love, love one another in the name of Jesus Christ. And remember that you are never alone.

May the peace of Christ rest in your heart,

Pastor Sue



PRESIDENT

Rita Gustafson

VICE PRESIDENT

David Long

TREASURER

Nancy Patterson

SECRETARY

Becky Potenberg

LEARNING

Miranda Luder

PROPERTY

Mark Staes

WORSHIP

Becky VanErstvelde

SERVICE

Kim Luder

YOUTH

Ruby Clark

WITNESS

Jessica Clark

STEWARDSHIP

Allison Senkbeil

PASTOR

Sue Hoff



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 2026

after worship

**Please plan to attend this important
meeting as we're going over:**

The 2026 Budget

Pastor Sue's Call Vote (paper ballot)

Updates from RIC, RIM and Pathways

Thank you!

Congregational Council meeting – January 11, 2026

Excused/Absent: David Long, Allison Senkbeil, Ruby Clark

Devotions:	Mark Staes
Council Minutes:	Becky Potenberg
Miranda motioned, Becky V. 2 nd , unanimously approved	
Treasurer's/Financial Reports:	Nancy Patterson
Miranda motioned, Becky V 2 nd , unanimously approved	
Pastor's Report:	Pastor Sue
Staff Report:	Sally Patterson

Old Business:

- Update on condensate pump/boiler:
 - o \$4,100 will replace the pump and attach to existing tank that's not working, replace pipe, cleaning and fixing the leaks
 - o \$8,500 replace the pump and what needs to be replaced in the boiler
 - o \$33,000 new boiler
 - o \$150,000 forced air option,
 - o split system estimate, TBD
 - o Table this and do an electronic vote once estimates are completed
 - o Update on roof: Roof Doctor gave 25-year warranty, warranty up this spring, Mark will talk to Steve
 - o Update on Safe Church initiative, draft was sent out last night to council, requesting feedback by next meeting. Will vote next Council Meeting

New Business:

- Any further preparations for Annual Meeting?
 - o Message from Bishop video
 - o Lenten schedule
 - o Round Robin for Wed evening services at 6 churches: Trinity, 1st Lutheran RI, Salem (March 11), Calvary,
 - o Soup supper 6-7, 7 service start, Soup Sign up w/ Deb
 - o Next Council Meeting will be the Annual
- Constitutional draft
 - o Council will review it, then send it to synod, then council votes, then annual meeting with congregational vote, another actual vote to ratify
 - o Need 27 quorum, call one after a service
 - o Review every 3 years, haven't revised since the mid-80s
 - o Deadline for revision comments before annual meeting in February
 - o AV system from Top Notch
 - o Rita will send estimate out to the council

Vocal lead for weekly worship, put into long-term
Adding for contemporary service

Adjournment/Lord's Prayer

Adjourned At 12:17

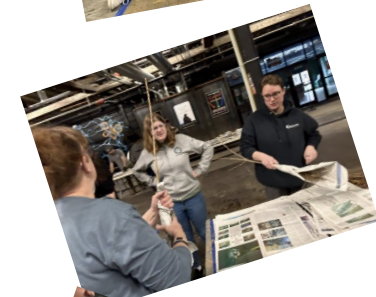
Motion to adjourn Miranda, Jessica 2nd

Youth News



Our Confirmands gave home communion to two of our homebound members: Roger Lundgren and Marion Nichols. It was greatly appreciated and the confirmands found out how important this is. So very proud of this group!

Salem families volunteered at Living Lands & Waters Million Tree Project this morning. We wrapped, dipped, bagged and tied hundreds of trees. Thanks to all who came to help!





Thank you

To all who donated to the Augustana Campus Cupboard in January!

Due to the weather, we are going to continue during February.

Let's show Augie Students some love!

Memorials Received - January 2026

In Loving Memory of

Claudette Swensson

Given by: Carol Francis

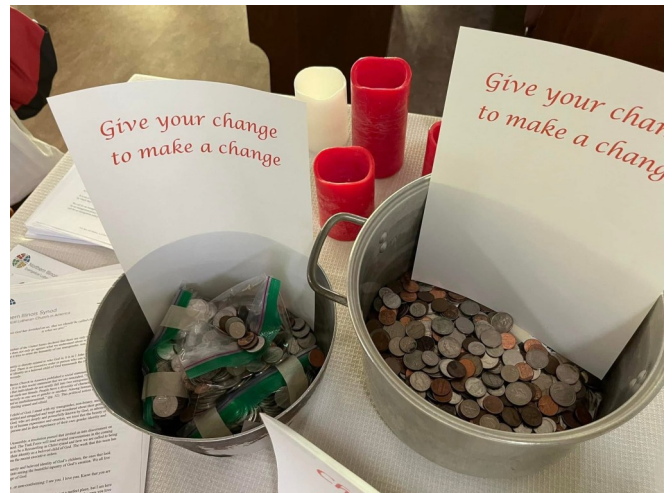
Linda Davidson

Jim and Marti Kernan

In Loving Memory of Tom Tagtmeier

Given by: Darlene Hann

Karin Martin, David,
Todd, Debbie and Katie



FEB 8th NOISY OFFERING:

Bring change...to make change! On February 8th bring your loose change (we'll take dollar bills, too) to church and throw it into the pot and "soup pans" for a special "soup-er bowl" offering. This special offering goes to local food banks.



Some of our DISH recipients at Christmas - spreading Christmas cheer to our homebound!

Cathie Anderson, Marian Nichols, Colly Peterson, Sue Ketelaar

12-28-25
Dear Salem Family
What a delightful and
generous gift bag surprise
full of goodies delivered by
Nancy & to me before Christmas
So thoughtful and sweet
Very much appreciated
Thank you all
Joan Anderson

Thank you for
everything in the
gift bag from church.
I also thank you for
all your care for me,
I appreciate all your
love, etc and concern.
The time I spent at
your church was very
important to me and I
appreciate all the
friends there. We
spent many years
together.
Our friendship
is very important
to me.
So grateful for
all the ways
you make a difference.
Marilyn Anderson

Dear Salem Family:
Thank you for
my Bag of Goodies
for Christmas,
Denise Kidel's visit
& communion and
the youth cards &
pictures.
Bless all of you and
I wish everyone a
Healthy Happy 2026!
Cathie Anderson

Salem members delivered Christmas care packages to 18 households (DISH program) and care facilities. Our awesome drivers included: Denise Gidel, Bonnie Casper, David Long, Bobbi and David Luken, Linda Davidson, Wayne Thompson, Bob Castle, Sally Krantz, Nancy Lindstrom, Sally Patterson, Jim and Marti Kernan, and Pastor Sue. Special thanks to all who donated Christmas goodies.



Jennifer Klocke	2/2
Laura Crumbleholme	2/3
Aimee Porter	2/3
Hunter Keenan	2/8
Margaret Castle	2/11
Richard Castle	2/13
Miranda Luder	2/13
Monika Luder	2/13
Ruby Clark	2/16
Janey Locander	2/21
Lorren Gidel	2/22
Andrew Klocke	2/22
Jocelyn Yuuvan	2/22
Lizzie Dail	2/23
Mandy Bergeson	2/26
Frank Ege	2/28
Marian Nichols	2/28



Counters and Audit Committee taking care of the business of the church.



all anew
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

SERENITY CIRCLE

Please join us
Monday, February 3

On Second Floor 12:30 PM

All the women of Salem are welcome!

Stewardship Statistics

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Dec Actual	Dec Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$25,044.96	\$25,322.28	\$215,174.19	\$203,000.00
Expenses	\$29,661.97	\$26,626.69	\$298,790.53	\$278,180.15
Net Income	(\$4,617.01)	(\$1,304.41)	(\$83,616.34)	(\$75,180.15)

A T T E N D A N C E

Date	Sunday	Public	Private	YouTube	Total
Dec 7	18	0	0	0	18
Dec 14	88	365	49	15	517
Dec 21	56	188	31	5	280
Dec 24	99	81	55	4	239
Dec 28	45	171	25	8	249

Altar Flower Sponsor Schedule

February 2026

Feb 1	Amy and Gavin Jahn
Feb 8	Margie Hulsbrink
Feb 15	Bob and Nadyne Stockhecke and family
Feb 22	David and Bobbi Luken

Altar Guild / Worship February 2026

Paraments -

Communion Set up - Karen Staes /
Wayne Thompson

Greeters

Feb 1	Rita Gustafson
Feb 8	Becky VanErstvelde
Feb 15	Deb Kronfeld
Feb 22	Jessica Clark

Assisting Ministers - January 2026

Sunday	Assistant
Feb 1	David Long
Feb 8	Allison Senkbeil
Feb 15	Jim Kernan
Feb 22	Becky Potenberg

Salem Lutheran Church

1724 15th Street
Moline, IL 61265
309-764-5614

www.salemmoline.org

Worship:

Sunday

Fellowship: 9:00AM

Sunday School: 9:00AM

Worship: 10:00AM

Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday
8:00AM to 12:00PM

Last, But Not Least....



Dear Jon,

This past holiday season, Christmas-giving fundraising reached a new record of nearly \$87,000 toward gifts for children in foster care and clients in other Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) programs. Because of you, every child in foster care received a gift

Every child deserves a present for Christmas. Your kindness and generosity in making a gift to Project Room at the Inn, Holiday Hope Chest, or other donations helped make that possible.

In opening their home to a child in need, our foster parents do everything possible to offer them normalcy and stability. Many foster parents don't have the means to provide "extras" such as a holiday gift. Your generosity helps make sure they can! Here's one example from a grateful mother:

"I'm a single mother of two children in foster care who is struggling to make ends meet. I had no money to buy the children anything for Christmas. I could not believe my ears when I learned that they would be able to receive gifts for Christmas. Your generosity brought tears to my eyes."

Whether you donated as an individual or part of a school, church, or volunteer group, you helped make Christmas joyful for more than 2,500 youth in loving homes with specially-trained and licensed foster parents.

Many churches and community partners helped adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, along with residents in LSSI senior housing, get in the Christmas spirit by organizing festive parties in LSSI homes. Additionally, your support helped meet urgent needs that often arise for clients during the winter months, such as warm clothing and holiday meals.

On behalf of the more than 62,000 clients LSSI serves annually, thank you for being part of a community of friends who respond to help neighbors in need.