

Perspective

Standing alone under a tree a young man finds comfort. In the warmth of the sun and in the softly blowing wind across his face. The leaves of the tree swirl around him and he imagines the free and holy spirits of those he has loved and lost through the seasons of life.

This is our story. Life begins in the mystery of God's creation and ends in the hope of redemption.

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Each season of our lives offers new experiences. And yet, we yearn for more. I wonder if God made us this way. Often unsettled or searching for answers. That only God can give; source of our being and source of our hope and comfort.

Life out of life. As we remember this month the saints we have loved and lost, we remember too that life is fleeting; and that the seasons of our lives each hold chance for new perspective. Relying on God for guidance in all things, we are equipped to follow and to use the spiritual gifts we have been given to bring life to others. Life out of life.

As we give thanks this month for all that God has given, may we remember that we are a precious continuum of life that is a gift to live and a gift to give.

May God bless you and hold you through all the seasons of your life.

*In the love of Christ,
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



Thanksgiving Service and Pie

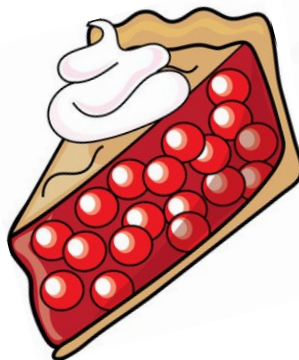
Please join us!

Tuesday, November 25

12:00 Noon Service or 6:00 PM Service

After worship join us for pie, coffee and fellowship
A chance to relax before the Thanksgiving weekend
Signup sheets are at the back door - please let us
know if you are coming and can provide a pie!

Hope you're able to join us!



Thanks
giving
calories
DON'T COUNT



Congregational Council meeting - October 12, 2025

Present: Rita Gustafson, David Long, Becky Potenberg, Nancy Patterson, Kim Luder, Allison Senkbeil, Jessica Clark, Ruby Clark, Wayne Thompson for Mark Staes

Excused/Absent: Pastor Sue, Miranda Luder, Mark Staes, Becky VanErstvelde

Called to Order at 10:54 AM

Devotion: Rita Gustafson about fears and choice

-Council Minutes: David motioned to approve council minutes from last meeting, Allison 2nd, unanimously approved

-Treasurer's/Financial Reports: Becky P motioned to approve reports, Allison 2nd, unanimously approved

-Health Insurance: The selected plan from Portico is "Select Co-pay 2000" at approximately \$2,900/month for all three staff members

*Nancy motioned to extend health insurance, David 2nd, unanimously approved

- Budget planning for 2026:

Nancy distributed preliminary budget documents with sections marked for each committee head
Committee heads were asked to review their sections and provide feedback by the next meeting for 2026 budget

-RIC next steps

An anti-racist component was added to the statement

The revised statement was available for comment for two weeks with no feedback received

Vote to approve statement

*motioned by Kim, Becky 2nd, unanimously approved

- Pastor Sue's call extension:

Clarification that her call needs to be extended by October 2026

This will be addressed at the annual meeting to avoid going through the full call process again

- Air conditioning repair:

A repair costing approximately \$10,000 was previously approved

The council agreed to proceed with the repair and potentially borrow from Endowment if needed

-Pathways Framing Question

The council needs to develop a "framing question" to guide their pathway discussions

The discernment team identified serving youth as Salem's core strength and focus

The council discussed expanding youth focus to include young adults up to mid-twenties

Suggestion to include LGBTQ+ outreach as a complementary focus area

Ideas discussed: social media expansion beyond Facebook to Instagram/TikTok, attending youth sporting events, school partnerships, community events (such as Mercado on 5th)

- Constitution revision:

Rita is working on updating the constitution to incorporate changes from the church-wide assembly, Plan to have a draft ready for the next congregational meeting

Planning to make language more flexible to allow for committee combinations if needed

Discussion about using "continuing resolutions" that can be modified by council vote without full congregational approval

- Faith Communities Today survey:

David provided a printout of questions that might benefit from multiple perspectives

Discussion about who should complete the survey – Pastor, Rita and others as needed for broader input

Nancy motioned to adjourn meeting, Becky 2nd, unanimously approved

Adjourned 11:49

Recited Lord's Prayer

Becky Potenberg, Council Secretary

Youth News



CROP WALK



21 people, 2 dogs and \$700.00 raised!
AWESOME!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Memorials Received - October 2025

In Loving Memory of Claudette Swensson

Given by.....Roger and Linda Lundgren,
Darlene Hann, Linda Graflund,
Marianne Moore, Karen Staes,
Wayne and Debb Thompson,
Bonnie Casper



The month of November Salem will be collecting food to help fill our food banks to help those in our community during this time.



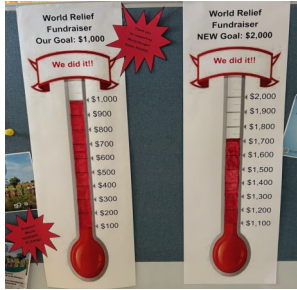
Donations can be put on the table in the auditorium.

Thank you for your donations.

Emmett Kump Baptism



Congratulations Emmett!



YES, WE DID IT!
Not only did we reach our initial goal of \$1,000.00, but we ended the World Relief Fundraiser at **\$1,714.00**

We are planning a special Thanksgiving Service and WE NEED YOUR HELP!
Please answer the following questions and put this slip into the offering plate or treasure chest. Responses can remain anonymous. If you prefer, you can email your responses to the church office at saalem@salemmoline.org. Please respond by Sunday, November 23.

What is your favorite memory of Salem?

What do you miss most that used to be a part of our church community but is no longer part of Salem?

What are you most thankful for at Salem?

What are your hopes for the future of Salem?

Responses that are similar will be edited and combined together for purposes of the bulletin.
Questions can be directed to Pastor Sue or Rita Gustafson.



Samantha Cramer	11/1
Chad Wilburn	11/2
Mitch Bergeson	11/4
Wayne Thompson	11/4
Linda Graflund	11/9
Lisa Starofsky	11/13
Deborah Thompson	11/13
Janet Bender	11/14
Todd Bender	11/19
Asta Gustafson	11/20
Rebecca Wilburn	11/20
Daniel Tollerud	11/21
Gretel Hengst	11/22
Wayne Anderson	11/23
Darren Staes	11/27
Barbara Craver	11/28
Sally Krantz	11/30
Catherine Anderson	11/30
Jameson Clark	11/30



all anew
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

SERENITY CIRCLE

Please join us as we start a new year!
Monday, **November 3**

On Second Floor
12:30 PM

All the women of Salem are welcome!

Stewardship Statistics

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Sept Actual	Sept Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$22,229.00	\$13,484.14	\$157,252.96	\$140,966.79
Expenses	\$26,252.99	\$24,112.95	\$210,009.62	\$208,247.05
Net Income	(\$4,023.87)	(\$10,628.81)	(\$52,756.67)	(\$67,280.26)

A T T E N D A N C E

Date	Sunday	Public	Private	YouTube	Total
Sept 7	40	173	22	3	238
Sept 14	59	240	33	4	336
Sept 21	68	360	38	6	472
Sept 28	64	0	36	2	102

Altar Flower Sponsor Schedule

November 2025

Nov 2	All Saints Sunday
Nov 9	Linda Onvitveros
Nov 16	Darlene Hann
Nov 23	Cornucopia
Nov 30	Cornucopia

Altar Guild / Worship November 2025

Paraments - Allison Senkbeil

Communion Set up - Wayne Thompson
and Karen Staes

Greeters

Nov 2	Rita Gustafson
Nov 9	Allison Senkbeil
Nov 16	Becky VanErstvelde
Nov 23	Deb Kronfeld
Nov 30	

Assisting Ministers - November 2025

Sunday	Assistant
Nov 2	Jim Kernan
Nov 9	Allison Senkbeil
Nov 16	Becky Potenberg
Nov 23	Nancy Patterson
Nov 30	Jon Gustafson

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....

Tis the season.....

Decorating for Christmas will take place on Sunday, November 30 right after the service.

There will be a light lunch with soup.

If you would like to bring bread, crackers, a dessert or drink, please contact Becky VanErstvelde at 309-738-9573.

Take down will be Sunday, January 4 right after service.