



SALEM

LIGHT

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. —Matthew 5:14

July 2025



SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
2529 N. LaVenture Rd., Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360)336-3600 www.slcmv.org

SEWING FOR OTHERS

Sewing for Others (aka Tying Knots) meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:15 am. We are putting together and tying LWR quilts. If you have a favorite needle, thimble and scissors — bring them. Otherwise, you can use our equipment. Questions — Linda Dunlap (253)548-6439.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Friendship Circle this month will meet on Wednesday, July 9th at noon. Bring a hot dish, salad or dessert. If you have any questions, call Dee Archer at 360-982-7359.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us for great food and fellowship as we meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Curious Chef at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome!



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The men at Salem invite you to a bible study on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 8:00 am. Come join the fun!

Will resume 8 Sept

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE 2024-2025

Month	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4
September	Deanna	Janice		
October	Kay D.	Ann		
November	Melody	Kay S.		
December	Cheryl	Lynne	Kay D.	Linda C.
January	Deanna	Janice		
February	Kay D.	Ann		
March	Melody	Kay S.	Helga	Linda C.
April	Cheryl	Lynne		
May	Laurie B.	Janice		
June	Kay D.	Ann		
July	Melody	Kay S.		
August	Cheryl	Lynne		**

**If you're interested in helping with the Altar Guild, please contact Cheryl Felt at: cherfelt@outlook.com or contact the church office at: office@slcmv.org or call (360) 336-3600

Worship Assistants – July

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Communion Assistants</u>
7/06	Debbie McManus	Shianne Wadewitz, (Hannah Kress), Al Dunlap, Melody Kue, (Treva Votipka)
7/13	Marcia Pratt	Shianne Wadewitz, (Hannah Kress), Kay Stendal, Wendy Ragusa, (Roger Ragusa)
7/20	Dee Archer	Shianne Wadewitz, (Hannah Kress), Ken Kossman, Rudy Rudolph, (Treva Votipka)
7/27	Bob Slind	Shianne Wadewitz, (Hannah Kress), Wendy Ragusa, Roger Ragusa, (Cory Grinaker)

EVENTS CALENDAR

July 1	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast Mtg
	1:00-2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study-Zoom&Library
	2:00-4:00	Pastor Office Hours
July 2	9:15 am	Sewing for Others-Rm 7&8
	1:30-3:30 pm	Pastor Office Hours
	5:00 pm	Bible Study/Potluck at Pastor's house
July 3	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	2:00-4:00 pm	Pastor Office Hours
July 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY	
July 6	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study Forum
	11:30 am	New Member class
July 7	3:00 pm	Property Committee Mtg-Library
July 8	1:00-2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study-Zoom&Library
	2:00-4:00 pm	Pastor Office Hours
July 9	12:00 pm	Friendship Circle-Multipurpose Rm
	1:30-3:30 pm	Pastor Office Hours
	5:00 pm	Bible Study/Potluck at Pastor's house
July 10	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	2:00-4:00 pm	Pastor Office Hours
	3:00 pm	Friendship House Meal
July 13	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study Forum
July 15	REPORTS DUE TO COUNCIL	
	1:00-2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study-Zoom&Library
	2:00-4:00 pm	Pastor Office Hours
July 16	9:15 am	Sewing for Others-Rm 7&8
	1:30-3:30 pm	Pastor Office Hours
	5:00 pm	Bible Study/Potluck at Pastor's house
July 17	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	2:00-4:00 pm	Pastor Office Hours
July 20	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study Forum
July 22	10:00-5:00 pm	Bloodworks*
	1:00-2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study-Zoom&Library
	2:00-4:00pm	Pastor Office Hours
July 23	8:30-2:30 pm	Bloodworks*
	1:30-3:30 pm	Pastor Office Hours
	2:00 pm	Finance Team-Library
	5:00 pm	Bible Study/Potluck at Pastor's house

EVENTS CALENDAR CONTINUED

July 24

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE TO OFFICE

	9:00-3:00 pm	Bloodworks*
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	2:00-4:00 pm	Pastor Office Hours
July 25	10:00-5:00 pm	Bloodworks*
July 26	10:00-3:00 pm	Gurney Tourney
July 27	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study Forum
	5:00 pm	VBS
July 28	5:00 pm	VBS
	5:30 pm	Council Meeting-Library
July 29	1:00-2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study-Zoom&Library
	2:00-4:00 pm	Pastor Office Hours
	5:00 pm	VBS
July 30	1:30-3:30 pm	Pastor Office Hours
	5:00 pm	VBS
July 31	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	12:00 pm	Care Team Meeting
	2:00-4:00 pm	Pastor Office Hours
	5:00 pm	VBS

* Call Bloodworks for an appt at 800-398-7888



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy birthday to all of you who had birthdays in June!!



6/01 Lori Lacey
6/02 Monika Bloor
6/07 Lynne Rittenhouse
6/08 Shirley Tjersland
6/18 Marily Nelson
6/18 Nicholas Ruby
6/18 Tatiana Ruby

6/18 Bill Webb
6/21 June Bounds
6/22 Nancy Slind
6/27 Mel Takehara
6/28 Susan Loy
6/29 Cliff Willams

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

ARCHERY CHURCH AT FIR-CONWAY LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE ARE COMBINING THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION SURROUNDING
FIR-CONWAY AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS OF ALL AGES WITH A UNIQUE
SKILL OF ARCHERY, GATHERING IN COMMUNITY AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE
FOR ALL.



WHEN? EACH SUNDAY
STARTING JULY 13TH THROUGH AUGUST 17TH
FROM 12:00 TO 2:00 PM
COST: 1ST LESSON FREE!
\$200 PER INDIVIDUAL AND \$5.00 PER FAMILY.
HOW OLD OR YOUNG? FOR AGES 6 YEARS TO ADULT.



Summer Reflection & Saturday Morning Meetups

9am-10am Saturday mornings:
July 12 and 26; August 9 & 23

Each month this summer, The LiVE Project invites you into a gentle rhythm of reflection and connection. We'll offer a spacious, soul-stirring reflection prompt — a question or idea to journey with at your own pace. You might reflect through journaling, prayer, art-making, or quiet thought. However you engage, the invitation is simple: make room for what stirs.

Alongside each prompt, we'll host two Saturday morning Zoom gatherings (9–10am) to explore what's rising. These are gentle, lightly facilitated spaces to share stories, listen deeply, and find companionship in the questions — not to reach answers, but to grow together in the unfolding.

Whether you're looking to reconnect spiritually, stay rooted in community, or explore new dimensions of your faith, we hope this rhythm creates meaningful space for you. Please consider joining us for these FREE online gatherings.

Register Here: <https://nwwasynod.regfox.com/live-saturday-summer-morning-meet-ups>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The downstairs hallway getting fitted with grids to hold ceiling tiles (the worker is on stilts!).
The downstairs hallway ceiling and floor completed (below left).

The new meeting room with new lighting, ceiling tiles and flooring (below).



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED



Sinks, toilets and showers have been installed in the bathrooms.



One of the storage rooms completed with drop-down ceilings, lighting and flooring.

A new water heater installed.



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Join us on July 26, 2025 from 10:00am-3:00pm for The Gurney Tourney 2.0-A Fundraiser for the Brian Gurney Memorial Scholarship at The Tani Lane Cul de Sac - 10722 Tani Lane, Burlington

We're raising funds for the Brian Gurney Memorial Scholarship under the auspices of The Burlington Edison Alumni Foundation (BEAF)

We'll have really cool raffle baskets that you'll be able to WIN! Drive by with a donation and/or a visit as we celebrate the life of our dear sweet Brian who is #Forever21

Brian died peacefully 8-1/2 years ago on the Winter Solstice from injuries he sustained while hiking 10 years ago in 2014.

He left an indelible mark on the world! He would be thrilled that deserving students have received scholarships in his name. We will have some of them at our event to say hi!

We accept cash and checks

You can Venmo too!!! @gurneytourney

We're also going to have a square reader and access to Apple Pay! Using technology!

And always remember to

#BeJoyful

#Smile

#DoSomethingKindForSomeone



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS!!!

Dylan Jacobs

Kevin Hategekimana



ALTAR GUILD HELP NEEDED

Interested in helping at church? Prayerfully consider helping with setting up the Altar for Sunday services. It takes approximately 30 minutes to set up and about the same to clean up. Duties include getting the bread ready, pouring the wine and juice and getting those trays ready and putting water in the font and then cleaning up afterwards. If you have an interest please sign up in the office or if you have any questions please call Cheryl Felt at 360-391-2220



COMING SOON!
THE SKAGIT COUNTY FAIR
AUGUST 7-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED



Salem Lutheran Church Scholarships Awards 2025

The Salem Scholarship Committee received and reviewed 5 applications from Salem students who will be attending an accredited university, college, community college, technical/vocational school, or seminary on a full-time basis for the 2025-2026 academic year. Selection criteria include: church participation, school activities, financial need, scholarship, application effort and the Essay of Life Goals. We are pleased to award scholarships to each of the 5 applicants as follows:

Hamburg Scholarship of \$2,000 to **Quinn Swanson** for his studies at the University of Providence in Montana.

Loft Scholarship of \$2,000 to **Dylan Jacobs** for his studies at Edmonds College.

Jurgens Scholarship of \$2,000 to **Jason Grinaker** for his studies at Skagit Valley College.

Sunnell Scholarship of \$2,000 to **Aleksei Ruby** for his studies at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Salem Scholarship of \$2,000 to **Joel Votipka** for his studies at Wenatchee Valley College.

Congratulations Salem students!

Salem Scholarship Committee: Nancy Raschko Chairperson, Barbara Gurney, Muriel Neely, Lynne Rittenhouse.

We continue to keep these young adults in our prayers as they pursue their educations.



APPRECIATION



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Thank You!

May 19, 2025

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$108.00 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund!

Quilts and kits bring immense comfort to people as they endure difficult times. We hear it every day. For families navigating the hardships of war, disaster, displacement or extreme poverty, these are not just blankets or bundles of supplies. Embedded in each handmade gift is a message of hope reminding them that they are not alone. The difference is the love that quilters and kit makers put into each one.

As you know, the sewing, assembling, packing and blessing of these gifts require a ton of work and dedication, but they are only the beginning of the process. Getting quilts and kits into the hands that need them is the essential next step, and I am so grateful for your thoughtful support in making shipping and distribution possible! We simply cannot do it without you.

Thanks to you and our wider Quilt & Kit community, this beautiful ministry—which dates all the way back to the beginning of Lutheran World Relief in 1945—will continue to bring Christ's comfort and love to the next generation! YOU are Lutheran World Relief, and I deeply appreciate you.

Thank you,

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

P.S. God bless you and your generous spirit.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to the church staff and the members who so graciously helped to make my dad's memorial service so nice! Thank you so much for providing cookies, for setting up the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, serving and making sure the food and beverages were stocked and for the clean up. I know it takes many hands and I'm grateful to you all! **Thank you!!**

Cheryl Felt

Dear Salem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for participating in and contributing to the Community Connect event (held on 4/25)! Our community members really benefited from the services that were provided. These events wouldn't be possible without your generosity. Thank you!!

Skagit County Public Health Dept.

****CONGREGATION****

****SPOTLIGHT****



Ron White



Laureen (Rene) White

Ron and Rene (Laureen) White became members of Salem in 2017 having moved from Lisle, Ill., a western suburb of Chicago. In 1982, on a June Sunday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Naperville, Ill., Pastor Gerald Nelson intentionally introduced us during a coffee hour. One year later, he officiated at our wedding and liked to say that he never introduced anyone else to keep his record perfect.

Ron was raised in Mineral Point, WI. (population 2000). His father was the town dentist, who freely made mouth guards for the football team! Ron sang with his mom in the church choir, but his favorite memory came from the church basement where potlucks were held and "Pasty", a Cornish meat and potato pie was frequently served.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Madison's ROTC program, Ron served 3 years active duty with the Navy on the Hull (a destroyer) out of San Diego, and 17 years reserve out of Great Lakes, Ill. After returning to Wisconsin for his masters, he worked in the HR departments of Waste Management and Safety-Kleen, Inc.

Rene grew up in Maywood, Ill., a western suburb of Chicago where she attended all Lutheran parochial schools. The principal from Walther Lutheran High School brought Rene's diploma to her Westlake hospital bed, where she lay recovering from an emergency appendectomy during "finals week". It was a painful way to avoid all the senior final tests. After graduating from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN., Rene taught first grade in the public school systems of Indiana, Florida, and Naperville, Ill.

Ron and Rene love Sundays being surrounded by others worshipping together through hymns, choir anthems, readings of God's word, prayers, sermons, communion and casual conversations. They are thankful to hear about opportunities like Family Promise, about ways others serve, and of local and synod activities. Each Sunday, they leave church blessed by this congregation and positive about the week ahead.

COUNCIL

SLC Church Council Minutes June 23, 2025. 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Present: Amy Benson, Laurie Benson, Greg Grinaker, Debbie McManus, Don Moe, Karen Nelson, Sue Ney, Susan Ragan, Nancy Raschko, Lynne Rittenhouse, Peter Swanson, Treva Votipka, Pastor Lori Cavender

Absent: None.

Call to Order: 5:30pm.

Prayer – Pastor Lori opened with prayer.

Approval of May 27th Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve: Treva V.

Second: Sue N. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion with Pastor Andy Yee - Pastor Andy Yee (Assistant to the Bishop) as requested by the Mutual Ministry Team and the Salem Council, conducted a discussion and informational meeting regarding ongoing conflicts at Salem. His recommendation was that the Salem Council contacts the Synod's Church Wellness Network (CWN) Mediation Program for intervention. Amy Benson will make the contact to determine details and the fee schedule.

Pastor's Report: (Pastor Lori)

Pastor has been visiting parishioners who have not been attending services lately.

A new member class began Sunday, June 22 following the regular service. Twelve were in attendance with more expected to attend.

Ministry Teams Activity

Finance (*Peter/Susan*) (Detailed reports available)

Peter presented the balance sheet of May 31, 2025. He noted that a \$116,000 payment to Piazza for the downstairs construction project, and an extra payment of \$10,000 from Welcome Home Skagit will be recorded in June.

The ECLA Mission Investment Fund Loan is in process awaiting review and approval of required paperwork. As approved in April by the Salem Council, \$20,000 has been transferred from the ECLA Investment Fund to the ECLA Mission Investment Fund for a 1-year term fixed interest rate loan.

Peter and Greg gave an update on the downstairs construction project reporting that it is on time and close to budget with an outstanding balance of approximately \$140,000. A detailed presentation will be given to the congregation on Sunday, June 30.

Property (Greg)

We are now 5 months into the downstairs construction project and are on time for the targeted August 1 completion.

Approximately \$475,000 has been paid to Piazza Construction for completed work. Work change orders have totaled about \$13,000.

It is expected that the majority, if not all remaining contract fees will be due the first week of July.

Welcome Home Skagit will move downstairs full time about July 15.

\$10,000 requested from Skagit County by WHS to be used for Salem operating costs has been approved and received.

Worship & Music (Lynne)

The team met to discuss the past few months' services and music. They will meet next in August to plan for Fall.

COUNCIL

Education (Treva)

Vacation Bible School (VBS) begins July 27 hosted by Salem. Salem will provide the beginning night's dinner and craft activities. Help is wanted. A planning meeting will be held June 24 at 5:30.

Salem Scholarships were awarded to the following five Salem students in the amount of \$2,000 each: Dylan Jacobs, Jason Grinaker, Aleksei Ruby, Quinn Swanson and Joel Votipka. Congratulations all!

Fellowship (Sue N)

The Pentecost Multi-Church Worship Service and Potluck were a vibrant celebration!

Thanks to Greg and Cory Grinaker, along with Kay Stendal for stepping in to set up, serve and clean up coffee hours.

Nurture and Care (Don)

Family Promise Returns to Salem for the week beginning August 3. Help with dinners, food and overnight chaperones is needed.

Upcoming Family Promise fundraising events include: 1) Sleepless in Skagit July 17 and 2) 10 Year Anniversary Fall Gala September 6. For more information visit: www.familypromiseskagit.org.

Old/New Business

Reminder – Council Retreat August 23rd 9am – 1pm – Susan Ragan will host.

A Salem Community Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 19 from 5:00 -7:00pm.

Ribbon Cutting and Open House for Salem's New Downstairs will be held on Sunday, September 21 from 11:30 – 1:30.

Future Meetings:

Next Council Meeting: July 28 – 5:30pm.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer at 7:18pm.

CHURCH COUNCIL VOTING MEMBERS:

2023-2026

Sue Ney
Greg Grinaker
Peter Swanson
Don Moe

2024-2027

Amy Benson (P)
Nancy Raschko (S)
Lynne Rittenhouse
Debbie McManus

2025-2028

Laurie Benson
Treva Votipka
Susan Ragan (T)
Karen Nelson





7/01 Robert Jewell
7/04 Lyle Archer
7/06 CJ Jewell
7/07 Myrene Moller
7/07 Treva Votipka
7/11 Patti Burkland
7/21 Linda Castleberry
7/22 Mike McManus

7/22 Elyse Robbins
7/23 Janice Lanier
7/24 Donna Johnson
7/24 Judy Koetje
7/25 Connor Swanson
7/27 Susan Hall
7/29 Jenny Kress
7/31 Jackson Benson

7/02 Roger & Wendy Ragusa 37 yrs
7/09 Chris & Cheryl Felt 37 yrs
7/14 Mel & Alice Takehara 35 yrs
7/22 Torey & Lisa Swanson 25 yrs
7/23 Lori Lacey 48 yrs
7/25 Karen Nelson 35 yrs



Year-to-Date Financial Comparison for Salem

	Jan - May ACTUAL	Jan - May ACTUAL	2025 to	BUDGET	Act 2025 to Bud
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2025
TOTAL INCOME	\$129,168	\$134,337	4.0%	\$140,588	-4.4%
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$60,348	\$52,523	-13.0%	\$64,161	-18.1%
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSES	<u>\$96,022</u>	<u>\$105,551</u>	<u>9.9%</u>	<u>\$99,734</u>	5.8%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$156,370	\$158,074	1.1%	\$163,895	-3.6%
RESERVE FOR CHURCH OPERATIONS	-\$27,202	-\$23,737		-\$23,307	

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
2529 N. LAVENTURE RD.
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273
(360)336-3600



****For Synod news please visit
 their website:**

www.lutheransnw.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

It is our mission as members of this congregation to share the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ with all people, and to serve God by serving others.



**Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America**
 God's work. Our hands.

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Amy Benson
 President
Susan Ragan,
 Treasurer
Nancy Raschko,
 Secretary
Sue Ney
Peter Swanson
Don Moe
Greg Grinaker
Laurie Benson
Lynne Rittenhouse
Debbie McManus
Treva Votipka
Karen Nelson

Lori Cavender

Pastor
 (360)230-8507
 PrLori@slcmv.org

Laurie Benson,
 Church Administrator
 (425)931-1445
 office@slcmv.org

Cory Grinaker
 Office Assistant
 office@slcmv.org

Bonnie Thoreson
 Music Director

Greg Grinaker
 Custodian

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.
 Dinner Church Wednesday 5 p.m

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday

WEBSITE:

www.slcmv.org

"Salem ELCA" App

(Apple & Google Play Stores)

Like us on Facebook

@Salem Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

