



LUTHERAN CHURCH

# NEW SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

7491 Island View Dr. NE Turtle River, MN 56601

Pastor Terry Hagensen

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## DECEMBER 2022

### Upcoming Events



Dec. 5, 12, 19  
9:30 AM  
Bible Study

Dec. 7, 14, 21  
Advent Services  
7:30 pm

Dec. 12  
Service Group  
Meeting @ 6:30pm

Dec. 19  
Teams Meet  
6:00-7:00 PM  
Council 7:00 PM

Dec. 21  
Winter  
Begins



December  
24th  
Christmas  
Eve  
Services  
4:30pm & 9:00pm



December 25  
No Service



MERRY  
Christmas  
Dec. 31  
New Year's Eve

Sisters and Brothers,

Isaiah 11:1-10, the Old Testament reading for the second Sunday in Advent, paints with words a beautiful image of peace.

*The wolf lives with the lamb; the leopard lies with the kid; the calf and lion together; the cow and bear graze together; the nursing child shall play over the asp's hole, and the child shall lead them. They will not hurt or destroy all of God's Holy mountains.*

I close my eyes and imagine what this might look like, and it's a perfect picture of peace. I imagine a world where differences aren't as important as what we have in common. Where we live with less anxiety and fear, there's a calmness and peace that can only be felt and experienced, and there are no words to describe it.

This morning, I preached at Neilson place for their mid-week worship; I used this passage to describe what I see as a true picture of peace for the residents. The peace that passes our understanding is a gift of God for all who welcome it. The folks living there have their kind of struggles. They, too, have feelings of loneliness and despair. My prayer for them was that if only for a moment, they could escape those feelings and feel God's peace.

We hear that the level of anxiety some people are experiencing is on the rise. I'm thankful for the medications available, I couldn't do it without them, but sometimes I need more. So, I add the calming experience of sitting and inviting God's peace to fill my heart and soul. For me, it's essential to take time away from all that needs completion and welcome a picture of peace, like that of Isaiah's, to surround me. It all doesn't happen instantly, but God has never failed me.

Advent is about taking time to experience the peace the Christ child brings. Sit quietly, remove all distractions, and invite true peace into your heart and soul. Advent, the Latin word for "coming," is a time of conscious waiting. It can be difficult to wait. It can be tempting to distract ourselves with time-consuming but unfulfilling or unproductive tasks. Yet, waiting can be helpful when we take the time to settle, pause, and center on the stillness that resides within us and the peace surrounding us.

For Christmas to be more than gifts, food, and family, we need to use the Advent season to focus on the peace brought by the Christ child.

May the true peace from our Lord fill your hearts and souls.

Pastor Terry



WAMM Wednesday Evenings Dec. 7, 14, 21

5:45 pm Supper

6:30 pm WAMM for children

6:30 pm Confirmation

6:30 pm discussion group for adults

7:30 pm Advent Service on Dec. 7, 14, 21

# FALL

BAZAAR

# &



**Thank You to everyone who helped make this event a big success!  
Crafters, Bakers, Workers ... those who set-up, staffed, & cleaned-up!**

**Booth rentals: \$720 (to general fund)  
(12 Turtle River Artisans participated)**

**Raffles: \$938**

**Crafts: \$764.75**

**Baked Goods: \$1,275.80**

**Coffee donation: \$20.00**

**To Service Group: \$3,098.55**

**Grand Total: \$3,818.55**

# THANK YOU!

**This is a 40% increase over last year!**

# DECEMBER

**Service Group Meeting  
6:30 pm Monday  
December 12th**



**Everyone is Welcome!  
Don't hide your light under a bushel.**

**"TO KINDNESS AND LOVE, THE THINGS WE NEED MOST!"**

- GRINCH



**RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS  
FOUNDATION**  
[www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org)

## November 2022 Income vs Expenses thru November 28

(Note this is NOT the complete month  
It does NOT include the this month's  
second payroll nor late month bills)

**Income \$ 20,187.50**

**Expenses \$ 11,594.90**

**Surplus/(Deficit) \$8,592.60**

**Thank you for your generous giving.**

**give. grow imagine**  
GENEROUS GOD | GENEROUS PEOPLE

# Come Celebrate Christmas with us!

**Christmas Eve Services at 4:30pm and 9:00pm  
Please note, no service on Christmas Day.**

## Readings for the Sundays DECEMBER

**DECEMBER 4:** Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**DECEMBER 11:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**DECEMBER 18:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

**DECEMBER 25: Christmas Day** Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20





## New Salem Church Council Minutes November 21, 2022

**Present:** Rick Bogart, Eric Medberry, Sue Rosselet, Janet Tiegen, Jon Severson, Pastor Terry

**Absent:** Dave Johnson, Deb Sovde

**Guest:** Fred Sanford

The meeting was called to order at 6:54 pm.

**Officers:** President: Rick Bogart, V- P: Jon Severson, Sec: Eric Medberry, Treas: Sue Rosselet

**Devotion** - Rick      Next month's devotion - Dave

### **Approval of the November 21, 2022 Meeting Agenda:**

Janet moved to approve the agenda; Jon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Approval of the October 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes:**

Janet moved to approve the previous minutes; Jon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Pastor's Update:**

Christmas Eve services: one at 4:30 pm and one at 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 25th - no musicians are available

Sue moved and Jon seconded that we do not have service on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion ensued and motion carried

Name lanyards - we are having lots of new folks attending, we will order them and have them available for Sundays and encourage our congregation members to wear them. We continue to have new guests each week!

### **Treasurer's Report: Sue Rosselet:**

November giving has been really strong so far. We are still in the black for the month.

Year-to-date we are still in the red, but giving tends to increase during the holidays as we make progress these last two months

Announcing and sharing of the QR code and URL for the new/additional online opportunity to make a donation (Vanco). QR codes are available to try tonight and a successful donation was made

Report was accepted and filed.

### **Old Business:**

Council positions to be filled in January of 2023

Both 1-year positions and one of the 3-year positions have names for the ballot. One 3-year position remains open.

Council will continue to talk with potential candidates

### **New Business:**

Announcing and sharing the QR codes and URL for the new/additional online volunteer sign-up (SignUp.com).

Reminders through email also come to those that sign up

Inviting the First City Bells to play on a Sunday in January - possibly the 8th or 15<sup>th</sup>. If the schedule does not work out, we will try to arrange it in the spring

Arranging for Thrivent to offer an "estate planning" session for the congregation, probably in the early spring

Additional handrail on the north side of the altar is in the process of being ordered, made, and installed

**Team Reports** - we need to get members back involved in our team meetings

If teams meet at other times, please send a report to the council

### Education

WAMM is scheduled through the Christmas program. We will be practicing during WAMM the next two weeks with no Saturday practices scheduled. We are suggesting that we take a break during the winter months and do a kickoff for a 'Spring Semester' starting in March

### Worship and Music

Did not meet. Christmas program - 12/18/22

Stewardship and Outreach Will meet again soon, probably via Zoom

Buildings and Grounds Discussion about putting reflectors up along the driveway. Jon will look into it and proceed

Proposed 2023 Budget

Expenses without Compensations

Compensation Budget

### **Next Meeting:**

Next meeting is Monday, December 19th at 7 pm. Teams will meet at 6pm.

### **Adjournment/Lord's Prayer:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:54

Eric Medberry, Recording





As we enter Advent Season, my heart is filled with prayerful anticipation; for the baby Jesus, for the coming year, and for peace and justice for all. Our food shelf is celebrating 40 years of serving this community. New Salem plays an integral role in its success, providing nearly 10% of the 300 volunteers – thank you!

The “personal care” item drive last month was met with HUGE success! This powerful little congregation contributed donations over 650 items. A special thanks to our partner, Northland Thrivent, who donated \$1,000 to the food shelf on our behalf. Food Shelf staff/volunteers were elated when we unloaded TWO vehicles full of goods!

The New Salem team **will not be scheduled for our regular shifts in December**, due to a flooring upgrade in the food shelf. *[Editor's note: this has changed, we are scheduled.]* All hands back on deck in January! We're looking for additional volunteers as many of our regulars head to warmer climes during the winter. All ages and physical abilities are welcome and appreciated. Please contact me at 612.940.7312 or ksnortland5@gmail.com to join us!

As always, drop off non-perishable food items, grocery bags, and Our Family UPC labels in the church narthex. Look for the baskets near the credenza when you enter. Please note, **we do NOT need egg cartons** at this time.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Romans 15:13**

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can play a role in this meaningful ministry.

With much celebration,  
*Karin Snortland*  
Council of Churches  
Representative



Worship & Music  
Youth & Education  
Outreach & Stewardship  
Building & Grounds

## Team Night

Monday, December 19th, at 6:00 PM, the Teams of New Salem will meet to share ideas and plan events. Everyone is welcome!!

**T**OGETHER  
**E**VERYONE  
**A**CHIEVES  
**M**ORE

Join the fun and make a difference.  
Meetings are held to a strict 1 hour time limit and there is no long term commitment.  
Share your talent and ideas.



**CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.**

**Your New Salem Family Needs YOU ...**

**This is OUR church**

**ALL of us need to step-up and help.**

**On Sunday mornings we need  
ushers, readers, communion assistants,  
and fellowship hosts.**

**None of this is difficult, it just takes a little of your  
time. Who will do this if not YOU?**

**Volunteer ... don't wait to be asked or  
expect someone else to "ask" you to help.**

**Let's fill up those sign-up sheets!**

**Benefits of Volunteering**

- ◆ Gain confidence.
- ◆ Make a difference
- ◆ Meet people
- ◆ Be part of a YOUR  
New Salem community
- ◆ Learn new skills
- ◆ Be of service to others
- ◆ Take on a challenge
- ◆ Have fun!



**Let's help our kids!**

**WAMM needs parents  
and others to fulfill those  
promises made at  
baptism.**

**These are OUR KIDS and  
they deserve our time and  
effort. Step-up and teach  
those lessons and/or  
prepare & serve supper.**

**Our kids are worth our  
time and energy.**

**VOLUNTEER!!**

When children are presented for Holy Baptism, the parents, sponsors, and congregation promise to faithfully bring them to the services of God's house and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grow, we promise to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith. Lutheran Book of Worship

## The Purpose and Symbolism of the Advent Wreath and Candles

Advent, which begins the Church's liturgical year, began on Sunday, November 29th. Advent encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation of our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.



Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world. In Scandinavia, Lutheran churches light a candle each day of December; by Christmas, they have twenty-four candles burning. Another Advent candle option is a single candle with twenty-four marks on the side--the candle is lit each day and allowed to melt down to the next day's mark.

In recent times, Advent has undergone a shift in emphasis, reflected in a change of colors used in many churches. Many Protestant churches now use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. Royal Blue is sometimes used as a symbol of royalty. The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday.

**First Advent Candle:** The first candle symbolizes hope. Also known as the "Prophecy Candle" in memory of the prophets, particularly Isaiah, who prophesied the birth of Christ. It symbolizes the anticipation felt in awaiting the coming Messiah.

**Second Advent Candle:** The second candle symbolizes faith. Also known as the "Bethlehem Candle," signifies Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

**Third Advent Candle:** The third candle is ordinarily pink and represents joy. Also known as the "Shepherd's Candle." This candle is pink because the rose color represents joy. The third Sunday of Advent is meant to remind us of the world's joy at the birth of Jesus and that the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent.

**Fourth Advent Candle:** The final candle marks the last week of Advent as we anticipate the birth of our Savior. This final candle, also known as the "Angel's Candle," signifies peace. It reminds us of the angels' message: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men" ([Luke 2:14](#)).

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

***Join us in-person or online for our weekly Advent services at 7:30 pm on Wednesdays.  
We'll be using the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer.***

***Also join us in-person at 4:30 pm or 9:00 pm for our Christmas Eve Services  
Or join us online, the 4:30 service will be streamed and available on YouTube.***

*I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia. (Luke 2:10-11)*



The WAMM adult discussion group is currently exploring systemic racism and what that means. We have a group reference list; meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30-7:30; and keep in touch via email for the agenda. The group is designed so that each can explore their own reading and bring discussion ideas to the group. You don't need to be in attendance every week to attend. If you would like to be on the email list, email Linda Hendrikson at [linda.hendrikson@gmail.com](mailto:linda.hendrikson@gmail.com)

## A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America TO AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE

[https://download.elca.org/ELCAResourceRepository/Declaration\\_to\\_American\\_Indian\\_Alaska\\_Native.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCAResourceRepository/Declaration_to_American_Indian_Alaska_Native.pdf)

In 2016, the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), its highest legislative body, adopted the “Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.” The Doctrine of Discovery originated with a papal bull in the 15th century and codified both colonialism and religious intolerance into international law.

As Native theologian George “Tink” Tinker (Osage) explains:

“We need to understand that the Doctrine is explicitly theological and Christian legal discourse, firmly predicated on a global pronouncement made by a catholic pope more than two decades before the Lutheran reformation. Nevertheless, it was also the legal principle used by every protestant Christian group who made claims to Native land in north America, from the Episcopalians at Jamestown to the puritans and pilgrims in new England — and Lutheran immigrants who swept across the northern tier of the U.S. claiming Indian land as their own properties.”<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, the Doctrine of Discovery created a theological framework that supported racism, colonialism, and the annihilation of Indigenous people. Today it continues to support those evils and injustices found in our church, U.S. law, and legal interpretation. The Doctrine of Discovery has been pervasive throughout the world and has benefited the Church and ELCA Lutherans in every way, which requires us to address our own context in the United States and the Caribbean as well as how our U.S. economic interests have exacerbated life internationally. Further, the Doctrine of Discovery is not simply a historical document and is not only about the past. Rather, it is indeed about our present, and impacts the future.

The theological witness upon which the ELCA is built includes an implicit critique of colonial understandings of how we stand in relationship to others. In *The Freedom of a Christian*, Martin Luther spoke of how “by faith” Christians are “lord of all, subject to none,” but he also immediately qualified that premise by adding that the Christian is completely “servant of all, subject to all.” In the same treatise (and in many others) he sternly warned against the misuse and abuse of spiritual authority as if it somehow granted political or civil power to the church or Christian rulers. The Doctrine of Discovery is an example of such abuse, an ecclesial manifestation of being “lord of all” that the Lutheran movement, and the Christian church in general, must intentionally repudiate.

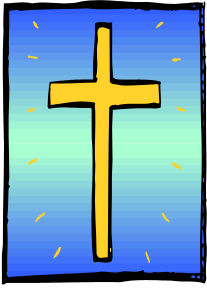
This *Declaration to American Indian and Alaska Native People* is presented as part of the implementation and in obedience to the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly mandate:

“To repudiate explicitly and clearly the European-derived doctrine of discovery as an example of the ‘improper mixing of the power of the church and the power of the sword’ (Augsburg Confession Article XXVIII, Latin text), and to acknowledge and repent from this church’s complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, which continue to harm tribal governments and individual tribal members.”<sup>2</sup>

In this Declaration, we humbly address three groups: ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native communities, the broader Indigenous community in the U.S., and the non-Indigenous communities of the ELCA.

1 George “Tink” Tinker, “The Doctrine of Christian Discovery: Lutherans and the Language of Empire,” *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* (March 2017), Volume 17, issue 2, ¶6.

2 ELCA Social Policy Resolution CA16.02.04, “Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.”



## New Salem's Highlighted Mission Partner for December 2022



See the full catalog of gifts at:  
<https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

### Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?

Christmas is a time of gifting one another in response to God's greatest gift to us in becoming human and walking among us, and ultimately, dying on the cross to bring us salvation once and for all.

**When we celebrate a birthday, we are careful to give what the person really wants or needs.** Is there any doubt what Jesus wants from us? He insists that in order to give to him, we must find him in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. By helping to provide clean, safe water for a family in the Central African Republic, shelter for a homeless woman in Bemidji, a goat for a farmer in Malawi, assistance for a congregation serving the poor and disadvantaged, you can give Jesus a birthday gift he really wants.

**So for Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by actually giving Jesus a birthday gift.** For each dollar you spend on someone, go the second mile and consider giving at least one dollar to a mission partner, social cause, or benevolence of your choice. If you're not certain of the possibilities and would like some ideas, check out New Salem's Advent Giving Tree!

During Advent, you will have the opportunity to purchase ELCA "Good Gifts" ornaments and help decorate our Advent Giving Tree. Ornaments are on the table beneath the tree. When you purchase one, you can hang it on the tree or take it home if you prefer. Your purchases of ornaments will provide livestock such as chicks, honeybees, pigs, goats, or items such as school fees and supplies, food and water. Gift amounts start at just \$10. Join with some friends and purchase an entire barnyard!



Envelopes are available. Indicate what you've purchased, put your cash or check in the envelope, and put the envelope in the "gold" box on the table by the sign-up sheets.



In past years, matching funds have often been offered through the ELCA to increase our purchasing power and help more people in need. Consider purchasing your gifts early so we can take full advantage of such an offer.





## Christians Against Christian Nationalism

A statement from the ELCA

As Christians, our faith teaches us everyone is created in God's image and commands us to love one another. As Americans, we value our system of government and the good that can be accomplished in our constitutional democracy. Today, we are concerned about a persistent threat to both our religious communities and our democracy — Christian nationalism.

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. Christian nationalism demands Christianity be privileged by the State and implies that to be a good American, one must be Christian. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. We reject this damaging political ideology and invite our Christian brothers and sisters to join us in opposing this threat to our faith and to our nation.

As Christians, we are bound to Christ, not by citizenship, but by faith. We believe that:

- People of all faiths and none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square.
- Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.
- One's religious affiliation, or lack thereof, should be irrelevant to one's standing in the civic community.
- Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion.
- Religious instruction is best left to our houses of worship, other religious institutions and families.
- America's historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions.
- Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and other marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.
- We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation—including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship—against religious communities at home and abroad.

Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.

Hear Bishop Eaton's message: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yx\\_PR7ZKX0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yx_PR7ZKX0)





We're introducing alternative ways to do a couple of traditional activities.

Yes, collection plates are still passed during services, but you can also donate electronically to support the mission of New Salem.



You can use your phone to scan this QR code. It'll take you to a secure Vanco page where you can quickly and easily make your donation. This can be a regularly scheduled or a one time donation.

**You might also want to:**

- 1.) Download the Vanco mobile app from the App store or Google Play Store
- 2.) Search for New Salem Lutheran Church
- 3.) Follow the instructions to set up an account

Or, if you're on your computer, you can simply click on this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z88A> to get to the same Vanco site.

Please try out these QR codes and URL links. If you have problems or need help, contact Sue ([susan.rosselet@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rosselet@gmail.com))



**General Fund**  
Support the general operations of our congregation.

Donate



**Mission Partners**  
Donation for Mission Partners. Help causes such as hunger, homelessness, and other needs in our society.

Donate

We're also making it possible for you to sign-up electronically to help on Sunday mornings. Yes, there will still be sign-up sheets on the table at church, but now you don't have to physically be there to sign-up.



Using your phone, scan this QR code.

The software is called SignUp.com Or, from your computer, click this link: <https://signup.com/go/dvjkCSH>

Either way, you'll get to the site where you can sign-up to help at the service of your choice. Select the date and you'll be shown which "spots" are available.

You'll be asked for your name and email address. You'll get an email acknowledgement and then, a couple days in advance, you'll get an email reminder that you've offered to help. It's that simple.

**New Salem Sunday Volunteers**  
Sun Nov 13, 2022 - Sun Jan 1, 2023

Thank you for your willingness to help on Sunday mornings.

[Share this Invite](#)

Find Spots By Date