



NEW SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

7491 Island View Dr. NE Turtle River, MN 56601

Pastor Terry Hagensen

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FEBRUARY 2026



Feb. 2



Feb. 5,
12, 19, 26
9:30 AM
Bible Study

Feb. 9
& 13
Food
Shelf

9:00am—12:15pm
12:00pm—3:15pm



Feb. 14



Feb. 16



Feb. 17

6:00 PM Teams Meet

6:30
PM



**Church
Council
Meeting**

Feb.
18



Beloved and holy people of God,

Micah 6:8 reminds us:

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

When we look around us, we make a choice about how we will see the world. Will we focus on the darkness, or will we look for God's light shining through? At times it is hard to see the light. We have almost been conditioned to notice the darkness first, and before we know it, we have wandered down that rabbit hole.

In the sixth chapter of Micah, we are invited to bring our whole selves before God — to plead our case, to name our fears and frustrations, to be honest about the darkness we feel and see. Yet even there, it is God's love that meets us, calling us out of the darkness and into hope. God opens our hearts and eyes to glimpses of light, peace, and possibility. Then comes verse eight — God's clear call: to work for justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. We remember that we cannot find the light on our own. We need God's presence to guide us. And as we walk with God, we are called to speak up for justice, to be a voice for those whose voices have been silenced. When our hearts are filled with God's light and hope, we discover the courage to stand alongside the marginalized in our community and beyond.

Jesus echoes this truth in Matthew 5:11–12: *"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account... Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

Jesus reminds us that doing the right thing will not always be the easy thing. Walking humbly with God means choosing what is faithful and loving, even when it costs us something. We seek to be a blessing to others, knowing that blessing may not always be returned. Still, we trust that God is at work.

As people who long to be part of God's work in the world, we are invited to help others notice the light — to point it out, to name it, to live it. We must not let the darkness in people's lives have the final word. God's light and hope are stronger. The world around us is counting on us to do and say the loving thing. **God, help us stand strong and be your light.**

Light and peace be with you always,

Pastor Terry

*New Salem Lutheran Church is a Community of Christians having a mission to serve others through **Hospitality** and **Caregiving** and inviting all people into a life-giving relationship with Jesus through worship and discipleship.*

Meet your 2026 New Salem Council

President: Eric Medberry

Vice Pres: Nora Illies

Secretary: Calli Ferdig

Treasurer: Jerry Illies

Graig Gilbertson Sonya Kraft

Fred Sanford Bob Wagner

Council meets at 6:30 on the 3rd Tuesday
of each month.

Join our Ministry Teams

Worship & Music

Youth & Education

Building & Grounds

Stewardship & Outreach

Teams meet at 6:00 on the same evening.

February



Lent



February 18: Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM Service

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25:

6:30 PM Midweek Lenten Services

April 2: Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM Service

April 3: Good Friday 6:30 PM Service

April 5: Easter Sunday 9:30 AM Service



*Thank You to everyone
who donated for the
“cows” for the Food Shelf!*



Bemidji Community Food Shelf
2025 end of year statistics.

13,063 Visits in 2025

41,359 Individuals served in 2025

891,576 Pounds of food distributed in
2025

786 Households came to us for the
first time ever in 2025

Readings for FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

FEBRUARY 8: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

FEBRUARY 15: Transfiguration Sunday Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

FEBRUARY 18: Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

FEBRUARY 22: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11





New Salem Council Minutes Meeting of January 20, 2026

Present: Pastor Terry, Eric Medberry, Calli Ferdig, Graig Gilbertson, Nora Illies, Bob Wagner, Jerry Illies, Sonya Kraft, Fred Sanford

Officers Present: President: Eric Medberry, Secretary: Calli Ferdig, Treasurer: Jerry Illies

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by Eric Medberry.

Devotion – Sonya, February will be Fred.

Approval of the January 20, 2026 Meeting Agenda:

Nora moved to approve the agenda; Sonya seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of December 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Nora moved to approve the previous minutes; Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Lent 2026: Theme is 'Unbound, Longing for Wholeness'. The story of Joseph from Genesis.

Ash Wednesday: February 18th at 6:30pm

Midweek Lent services: February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6:30pm

Maundy Thursday: April 2nd at 6:30pm

Good Friday: April 3rd at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday: April 5th at 9:30am

Delivered 850 pounds of beef to the food shelf on January 2, 2026. Lots of kids were able to meet at the food shelf and help drop it off. The story made the front page of the Pioneer and was a top story on their website for four days.

Prayer gathering resumes tomorrow (01/21/26) at 6:30pm. Will continue on the third Wednesday of each month.

Discussed pushing back the start time of scheduled monthly Teams and Council meetings from 6:30pm to 7:00pm.

Fred moved to move Teams meeting to 6:00pm and the full Council meeting to begin at 7:00pm. This allows the Teams to meet for an hour prior to the full Council meeting, if they so choose. Bob seconded, motion carried.

Financial Report:

The month of December ended in a surplus. 2025 year-end was also surplus. No concerns noted. Report requested to be filed.

January 2026 is currently at a surplus.

CD Rollover balance of \$11,436.64

Old Business:

Roadside sign warranty: \$3,872 is left over in the designated account for sign repairs. Unsure of how much the sign costs to maintain but the donor's intent is to not saddle the church with sign costs, per Glen Lindseth.

Council nominations for 2026: One 1-year term Three 3-year terms

Calli and Bob are eligible for a second 3-year term.

Shannon Pitt agreed to run for council.

New Business:

Team Reports

Worship and Music: Sonya reported that she is no longer involved with choosing music. Traci will be taking over music selection.

Stewardship and Outreach: Nora reported that the Water/Well goal from the giving tree was met.

Building and Grounds: Bob reported we will continue to pursue the repair and painting of the garage this spring.

Youth and Education: Eric and Calli reported that Noisy Offering was used for the beef project and Backpack Buddies for 2025.

2026 proposed budget: Council reviewed and discussed the proposed budget to present to the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday. Annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 25th, 2026 immediately following service.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00pm. Teams will meet at 6:00pm.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.



New Salem Annual Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2026

NOTE: these minutes will not be approved until the next annual meeting

Call to Order: The annual meeting was called to order at 10:30am by Eric Medberry, Council President.

Approval of the January 25, 2026 Meeting Agenda: Bob Wagner moved to approve the agenda. Sonya Kraft seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the Annual Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2025: Mike Moen moved to approve last year's minutes. Val Wagner seconded. Motion carried.

Pastors Report:

Reiterated that we are truly 'Living Our Mission'. We live out the mission to care for others and show support to those who need it in our community as shown through the time and monetary commitment to local our mission partners.

We continue to grow as a congregation. We are strong in our faith, in our community, and we care about each other.

Thanked council members and staff. We are blessed with amazing leadership, council members, staff and others who are all appreciated in leading and living our mission.

Highlights of the year: Trunk or Treat, Summer Day Camp, showing a strong presence in our community through support of our mission partners. We set a strong example for other churches in our community and should be proud.

Old Business: Staff recognition. Thanks and appreciation extended to our current staff. Traci Schanke, Cheryl Durant, Eric Wickstrom, Annalisa Aakhus, and Nora Illies. Without them and their hard work, most of which goes on behind the scenes, we would not be able function at such a high operational level as we do now.

New business:

Presentation and Approval of the Financial Report and Mission Plan for 2026 by Jerry Illies, Council Treasurer.

Started with a review of giving for 2025. Giving was up from 2024 to 2025 by about \$10,000. We continue to operate at a surplus year over year. The 2025 surplus in general giving was over \$11,000.

Second item reviewed was the budget increase from 2025 to 2026. The budget has increased by \$7300.

Notable reasons include: increase in insurance premiums by \$2,000, prepayment for snow removal by \$1,500, the addition of a Social Media Coordinator adding \$2,400 annually, and a 4% salary increase to all staff members to offset the increased cost of living.

Review of Designated Giving/Mission Partners. We ended the year strong with our total Mission Partner and Designated Giving for 2025 at \$33,323.53. We should be so proud of what our small but mighty church does for the community and the example we set for other churches.

Review of purpose and need to the Capital Improvement Fund. Budget increase to transfer an additional \$2,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund in 2026 with a goal to reach a balance of \$100,000 in the next five years.

Review of proposed 2026 budget. No questions or oppositions were noted by the congregation. Donna Zelinsky moved to accept the 2026 budget as presented. Bob Wagner seconded. Motioned carried to accept 2026 budget proposal and file the 2025 report.

Minutes continued on the next page

Continuation of Annual Meeting Minutes:

Presentation and Approval of the Endowment Fund by Glen Lindseth:

Glen thanked the current committee members for their service and reviewed the history and importance of the Endowment Fund which is going on its tenth year. Noting that Glen and Mike Moen have expiring terms this year, a vote later will elect two additional committee members.

The fund was started with approximately \$100,000 by an anonymous donor and a match. The money is invested in an ELCA pooled investment fund which includes a mix of securities to generate income.

The Designated Fund accept gifts from outside of budget that are specific to a need. Examples for 2025 include the paving of the parking lot and the addition of the electronic sign.

Reviewed Endowment Fund and Designated Giving Fund as presented on page 16. Noting that the Endowment Fund and Designated Giving Fund are kept separate from the Church general bank accounts.

Reminder that while estate planning or giving please consider a donation to the Endowment Fund. The committee meets three times a year or as needed when requests come in. If interested in joining the committee, please reach out to a committee member.

Gary Danielson moved to approve the reports. Fred Sanford seconded. Motioned carried.

Approval of all Team Reports as presented in the Annual Report.

Glen Lindseth moved to approve reports as presented. Sonya Kraft seconded. Motioned carried.

Voting for New Council Members:

Proposed candidates include: Calli Ferdig (3 year term), Shannon Pitt (3 year term), Bob Wagner (3 year term), Jerry Illies (2 year term).

Three calls for nominations from the floor. No nominations from the floor.

Glen Lindseth moved to accept the ballot as presented. Joy Johnson seconded. Motioned carried.

Recognition of current and immediate past council members by Eric Medberry, Current Council President.

Thank you to current council members and officers for their service and dedication to New Salem.

Thank you to past Treasurer, Sue Rosselet, and to past President, Rick Bogart for their time and commitment serving as officers.

The congregation would like to extend thanks and gratitude to Eric Medberry for his role as current Council President and his two terms served as council member.

Voting for New Salem Endowment Fund Candidates:

Proposed candidates include: Mike Finkenbinder (3 year term) and Paul Kraft (3 year term).

Three calls for nominations from the floor. No nominations from the floor.

Bob Wagner moved to accept the ballot as presented. Gary Danielson seconded. Motioned carried.

Voting for Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly Delegate Candidates.

Calls for nominations from the floor. No nominations from the floor. No volunteers.

With no volunteers or nominations from the floor, the item will be tabled to February's Council meeting.

Additional comments: No additional comments from the congregation.

Motion to adjourn: Dave Johnson moved to adjourn the 2026 Annual Meeting. Joy Johnson seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

In closing, Pastor Terry lead us in the Lord's prayer and table grace.



Our local food shelf recently took part in the 2025 Minnesota Food Shelf Survey. The results are in and, not surprisingly, the most important items requested continue to be meat, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy, fresh fruits, and veggies. The biggest challenge facing Minnesota food shelves is funding. As visits and number of households served increase, food shelves often struggle to keep up with the needs, both with food and volunteers. Thank you for your continued support of this crucial ministry in our community.

Your time and treasure truly do make a difference!



Last month our youth delivered a TRUCKLOAD of ground beef to the food shelf! The bulk of money raised from their monthly "Noisy Offering" paid for two cows to be donated. For those of you who volunteer at the food shelf, you realize how impactful this gift is for the clients. Thank you to our generous congregation and our fabulous youth!



Please consider joining our fun teams for a three-hour shift in February. I guarantee you'll feel good and have fun, too! Monday, Feb. 9, from 9:00 – 12:15

Monday, Feb. 9, from 12:00 – 3:15

Friday, Feb. 13, from 9:00 – 12:15

Simply reach out to me to become part of this meaningful, fulfilling ministry. 612.940.7312, ksnortland5@gmail.com. All ages and abilities are welcome.

A reminder that donations go in the basket next to the double doors in the narthex. Egg cartons (one dz. only, please), bags (reusable, too!), Our Family UPCs, books (especially kids), and \$\$ are also welcome.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." Proverbs 19:17

In His Service,
Karin Snortland Council of Churches Representative



We ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering even once for one of these ministries on



READER

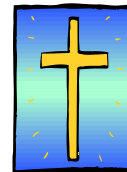


Volunteers Enhance the Worship Experience for Everyone!

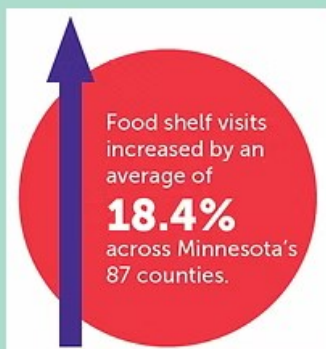


New Salem's Highlighted Mission Partner

January 2026



Celebrating 43 Years of Serving the Community



Food Shelf Visits up in Minnesota

Food insecurity is a statewide issue impacting Minnesotans of all ages. In 2024, Minnesota's 87 counties saw an 18.4% average increase in food shelf visits. The ten counties with the most significant jump included both urban and rural areas. 53% of 2024 Minnesota food shelf visitors were adults; 36% were children; and 11% were seniors.

Volunteer your time. More than 300 volunteers give their time, energy, and compassion to help their neighbors, and we welcome anyone who wants to join them—there's a role for every ability.

BCFS is a 501c3 non-profit organization and has been in existence since 1982.

Our mission statement: *The Bemidji Community Food Shelf is a faith-based, caring place that listens to those who are experiencing food insecurity. We work with our partners to be inclusive and to provide fresh, nourishing foods for those living in Beltrami County and the Bemidji School District.*

Make a monetary donation. We purchase two-thirds of the food we distribute, making monetary donations essential to the success of our mission. We can turn every \$1 donated into \$4 thanks to our amazing partners.

Donate goods. Every month, generous contributions from members of our community help support local households with food, personal care products, and other essentials.

God's Work, Our Treasure—February 2026

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, the **Bemidji Community Food Shelf**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable ministry.

You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for the work of the **Food Shelf**

And we will forward your gift to them. <https://www.bcfsmn.org/>

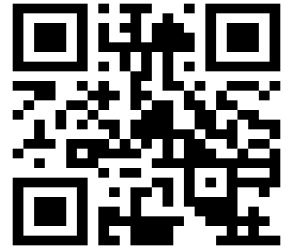
Please prayerfully consider how you might support the work of this important ministry.

Do you know that you can support the mission of New Salem electronically?

Yes, collection plates are still be passed during service!

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.



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



General Fund

Support the general operations of our congregation.

Donate

The General Fund supports the everyday operations of our church. It pays salaries, the mortgage, the utilities, the routine costs of operation as we share the Good Word with our neighbors.



Mission Partners

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

Donate

Each month, our Stewardship Team designates a Mission Partner to support with our "second mile" giving. These are organizations that help our neighbors within our community or help ELCA efforts like disaster relief.



Building Fund

Even a house of God sometimes needs repairs!

Donate

The Building Fund supports the repair and maintenance of our church building, which was completed in January of 2005. Just like our own homes, regular upkeep is essential.



New Salem Service Group

Women and men of New Salem united in their efforts to serve the needs of our church and our community.

Donate

This dedicated group sponsors events like an annual rummage sale and an annual craft sale. They also serve at funerals. Funds raised are dispersed back into the community.



to all of you who are currently using Vanco to make donations to the mission of New Salem. Your support is much appreciated.

Life is busy for all of us and giving electronically can help simplify that. Whether you join us in-person or online, YOU are Welcome and part of our New Salem family. Vanco makes it safe and easy to support our mission.