



NEW SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

7491 Island View Dr. NE Turtle River, MN 56601

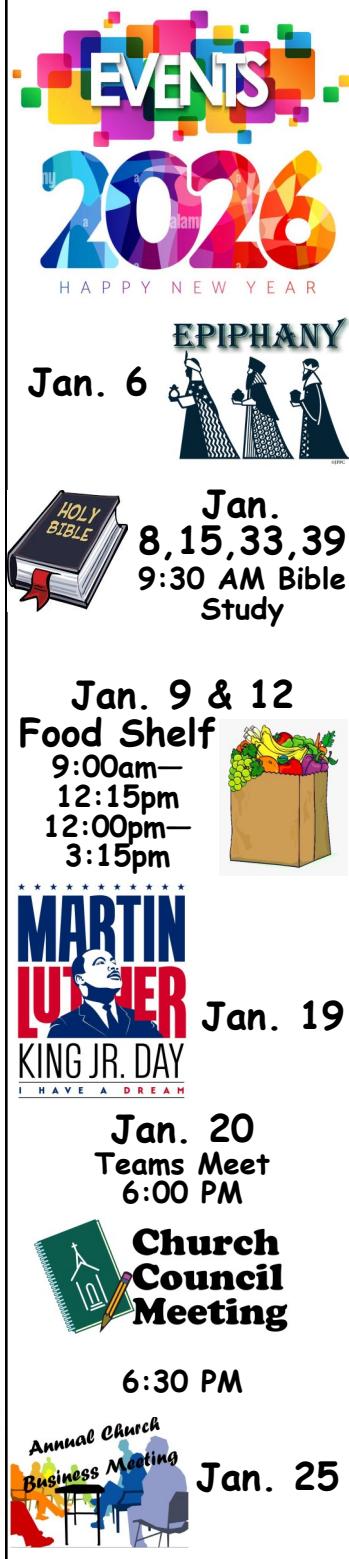
Pastor Terry Hagensen

E-Mail Address: newsalem@paulbunyan.net

Web Site: newsalem.lutheran.org

Church Phone: 218-586-2262

JANUARY 2026



Dear Holy and Beloved Children of God,

Happy New Year, we are off to a new start, with new desired goals, with determination to see them through, remember to be gracious to yourself and others. "An Attitude of Gratitude Will Change Your Attitude"

I have this written on one of my "Clouds of Wisdom" in my office, where I will see it every time, I look out the window. I have started practicing this, as a life long goal, to help lift my spirits when things do not look so great, or I am feeling bummed, when things do not go my way. I have a very long list of people, things, and times to be grateful for, many of them I have taken for granted. I am grateful to have a warm home, an amazing husband, who is trying to grow his angel wings. Family and friends who love me just as I am. I am ever grateful to be fulfilling God's calling, with an amazing church family. "O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

It seems we allow ourselves to get caught by the negative things we hear in the news or that flash though our minds, to where we do not see the blessings surrounding us. If I could give each of you a goal for the coming year it would be to work on having an attitude of gratitude. To open your eyes and ears to see and hear how God has so richly blessed you, start with what you have taken for granted. When you are complaining about the cold, give thanks for your warm home and indoor plumbing, not everyone is so blessed. When you are frustrated with someone, be grateful you have someone in your life who frustrates you. You get it.

I can almost guarantee if we are willing to try having an attitude of gratitude, our attitudes will change, we will start to see the blessings surrounding us, and it becomes easier to push through the negative. All it requires is the desire to see the world through the eyes of being blessed. Join me as we work to have an Attitude of Gratitude, for it will change our attitudes. We will find it easier to follow Jesus's command to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

May we all have a blessed 2026
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.



Our Annual
Congregational Meeting
Will be on Sunday
January 25th
immediately after our
9:30 service

Potluck follows the meeting.

January

DEADLINE!

All Reports for the
Annual Meeting

are due on January 12th

Please note, the church office will be
closed December 31st—January 2nd for
the Holidays.



In its Spirit of giving, the Service Group recently made the following donations. The priorities for donating primarily focus on homelessness, hunger, and children.

| | |
|--|---------|
| United Way Backpack Buddies (weekend food program) | \$2,000 |
| Peoples Church | \$1,000 |
| Evergreen Youth & Family Services | \$1,000 |
| Northwest Battered Women's Shelter | \$500 |
| Village of Hope Shelter | \$500 |
| New Salem cow project (food shelf) | \$300 |
| Tall Pines 4-H Club | \$200 |

Thank you for supporting these worthy causes through your weekly fellowship contributions, the annual rummage/bake sale, the Bemidji Area Church Musicians Luncheon, and the annual fall event. ALL proceeds directly benefit the community in which we live, work, and play. Together, we can make a difference! Since 2019, \$43,500 has been donated to worthy causes through this community's generous support.



Readings for JANUARY:

JANUARY 4: Epiphany Sunday Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

JANUARY 11: Baptism of our Lord Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

JANUARY 18: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

JANUARY 25: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23





New Salem Council Minutes Meeting of December 16, 2023

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Eric Medberry.

Devotion – Bob, January will be Sonya.

Approval of the December 16, 2025 Meeting Agenda: Nora moved to approve the agenda; Graig seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the November 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Nora moved to approve the previous minutes; Sonya seconded .Carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's vacation is scheduled for December 29, 2025 – January 6, 2026. Tim Lutz will be providing service during this time. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:30pm on Wednesday, December 24th. The purchase of three cows is confirmed. Processed meat will be donated to the Bemidji Food Shelf.

Financial Report: Year to date numbers are on track, nothing out of the ordinary, no concerns noted. November ended above. No concerns noted. Report requested to be filed.

Old Business: None

New Business: Nominations for council 2026. Terms that expire:

Rick Bogart, one year remaining; Eric Medberry, 3 year term (has already fulfilled two terms); Calli Ferdig, 3 year term (can be reelected); Bob Wagner, 3 year term (can be reelected)

Team Reports

Worship and Music: No report.

Stewardship and Outreach: 2026 benevolences have been proposed and set for next year.

January: Churches United

February: Bemidji Community Food Shelf

March: Peoples Church

April: Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji

May: Evergreen Youth and Family Services

June: Boys and Girls Club of Bemidji Area

July: Hope House

August: NW Battered Women's Shelter

September: Village of Hope

October: The Nameless Coalition

November: Northwoods Caregivers

December: ELCA World Hunger (Good Gifts)

Water Tree for the well donations are still going strong. The goal is \$2,500. More to come on final total.

Building and Grounds: Great feedback from MJs for snowplowing, he is on time and does a good job. No additional report.

Youth and Education: Kids Christmas Program went well. We will meet again in January.

Proposal for 2026 budget. Discussion ensued; 2025 budget was reviewed against actual costs year to date. Proposed 2026 budget was evaluated and changes were considered.

Annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 25th, 2026

Next Meeting: Next meeting is Tuesday, January 20th at 6:30 pm. Teams will meet at 6 pm.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Happy New Year!

Although the year-end numbers aren't yet in, the food shelf helped tens of thousands of people in the community suffering from food insecurity. New Salem recently provided three cows to the food shelf. What a blessing for the clients to have access to ground beef.

Welcome to the new Executive Director, Jennifer Aakre! We're excited to see where her leadership and experience take the food shelf in the New Year.

How about a New Year's resolution to give back what we've so freely been given? Join the fun at one of these shifts:

Friday, Jan. 9, from 9:00 – 12:15

Monday, Jan. 12, from 9:00 – 12:15

Monday, Jan. 12, from 12:00 – 3:15



Contact me to become involved in this fun, 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.

Isaiah 58:7: "Share your food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless".

In His Service,

Karin Snortland

Council of Churches Representative



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



COMMUNION
Assistants



USHERS

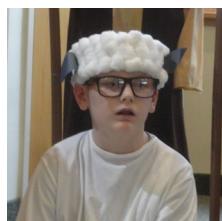


Volunteers Enhance the Worship Experience for Everyone!



Christmas Program

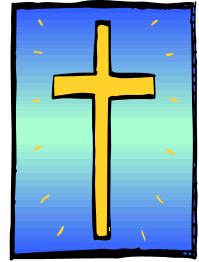
December 14th



New Salem's Highlighted Mission Partner — January 2026

Churches United

"Welcoming the stranger as Jesus."



Churches United of Bemidji was first organized in 2002, when a number of clergy and lay persons came together to address the city-wide problem of the numerous low-income and homeless people and families who were frequenting the churches of Bemidji in need of financial assistance. As a result, after numerous meetings and discussions, it was decided that if all the various churches could come together we might find a way to pool our resources and therefore become more effective in assisting the poor. This, we all agreed, would also relieve pastors and church staff from the often time-consuming task of having to deal with those in need by referring them to a central location where trained volunteers and staff could be of greater help than we could accomplish by acting alone. Since that time, with the support of the many community churches, Churches United has successfully achieved our goal and continues to this day to be a place "where ministry happens" as we work cooperatively to "welcome the stranger as Jesus".

New Salem Lutheran has supported Churches United since its beginning and continues to be a strong partner.

Churches United is currently looking for individuals who are willing to donate 1-4 hours per month to helping in the office. Activities volunteers may be involved in include: greeting individuals as they come in, interviewing clients, photocopying, data entry, filing, donations inventory, fetching items from the backroom to meet client needs, and more. There is something for everyone and no need for everyone to do everything.

A love for people and a desire to make a difference are the main requirements. If you are interested, contact the director by stopping into the office business hours or calling and leaving a message anytime. Churches United is open from Noon to 4, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Through the various services it provides, *Churches United* assists impoverished people and people experiencing homelessness. There are specific areas in which **you can help Churches United** transform the lives of those *Churches United* serves.

1. Financial Support: *Churches United* relies upon financial contributions from its participant churches to provide these diverse services but contributions from individuals are also quite important. *Churches United* accepts donations year round (cash or check). Note: All donations are tax deductible.
2. Volunteering: *Churches United* is open and continuing to follow COVID 19 protocols. We ask for just four (4) hours of your time per month. We have a job for you, no matter what your skill set is. If you like helping people, greeting people, filing paperwork, data entry, or just organizing the office; we have a job for you.

Winter is here, please help us provide for the needs of our homeless neighbors.

Please call 218-444-1380 to be sure that we are open, before coming to our office.

God's Work, Our Treasure—January 2026

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, **Churches United**, 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 **Churches United**

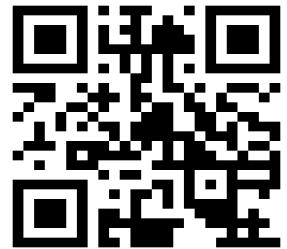
And we will forward your gift to them. <https://bemidjicu.org>

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](#)



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.