



LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEW SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

7491 Island View Dr. NE Turtle River, MN 56601

Pastor Terry Hagensen

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MARCH 2026

Monthly Events

March
4th
Noah
Day



DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
TIME

March
8

March
5, 12, 19, 26

9:30 AM

Bible Study



March 9 & 13
Food Shelf

9:00am—
12:15pm
12:00pm—
3:15pm



March 14

March
17



March 17

7:00 pm Council

6:00 pm Teams

March
20



Spring begins

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are now in the season of Lent—a time when we are invited to make space in our lives for reflection, prayer, on our relationship with God and how that relationship is lived out each day.

Humanity's relationship with God reaches all the way back to creation itself. We are told we were created in the image and likeness of God, and that God looked upon all that had been created and declared it good. During Lent, we are invited to pause and reflect on what it means to be created in God's image. There are many ways Scripture speaks of God, but perhaps the most enduring and life-giving image is love. If God is love, then we are created through love and for love to live in relationship with God and to reflect that love in our care for ourselves and others.

Yet we are also fully human. We forget. We lose sight of how deeply loved and cherished we are. Lent gently calls us back to the cross, where we are reminded that God stands not against us, but for us with forgiveness and mercy when we step outside the life-giving boundaries God has set. Some may say when we sin and fall short of the glory of God, remembering God does not abandon us.

We are living in a time marked by pressure, anxiety, and confusion. Many are unsure who to trust or what to believe, and we find ourselves hoping and praying for things to change. This constant pressure can give rise to fear, anger, and even hopelessness. During what I sometimes call "the craziness," we can forget a central truth of our faith: we are not walking this road alone. God walks with us, loves us, and remains faithful to all God has created.

So, this Lent, I invite you to center your reflection on what God says about you, and how God looks upon your life. Make space to hear again, how deeply you are loved and forgiven. Let this season renew your heart and soul with God's promise:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

Grace and peace,
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: Nora Illes

Vice Pres: Fred Sanford

Secretary: Calli Ferdig

Treasurer: Jerry Illes

Graig Gilbertson Sonya Kraft

Shannon Pitt Bob Wagner

Council meets at 7:00 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.

MARCH

Wednesday
Lenten
SERVICES



Join Us at 6:30 pm

March 4, 11, 18, 25



Saturday, April 18th
has been set as the date
for our

Spring Rummage Sale

and Bake Sale

Start collecting your items.

Watch for announcement about
how YOU can help.



We are collecting items for our next round of
Birthday Bags for our Food Shelf.

We need **cake mixes** (white, yellow,
chocolate), full-sized containers of **frosting**
(chocolate, vanilla, Funfetti), and luncheon
size birthday **napkins**.

We have enough candles.

Our goal is 150 bags.

Watch for sales, start collecting cakes, frosting
and napkins. Bins are in the narthex.



Service Group
Meeting March 8th
after service.
Everyone is welcome!



Remember to
SPRING AHEAD
on March 8th



Readings for MARCH

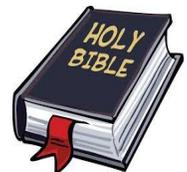
MARCH 1: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

MARCH 8: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

MARCH 15: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

MARCH 23: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

MARCH 29: Procession with Palms: Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14—27:66





New Salem Council Minutes February 17, 2026

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

Officers Present: Vice President: Nora Illies, Secretary: Calli Ferdig, Treasurer: Jerry Illies

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Nora Illies.

Devotion – Fred, March will be Graig.

Approval of the February 17, 2026 Meeting Agenda:

Jerry moved to approve the agenda; Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of January 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Jerry moved to approve the previous minutes; Sonya seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Starting Birthday Bags soon, plan to assemble the Sunday following Easter.

Financial Report:

Jerry reported that the month of January ended in a surplus. On budget for the year. Nothing out of the ordinary, no concerns noted. Report requested to be filed. Request to remove Rick Bogart from the CD account at First National Bank. Bob moved to remove Rick as a signer on the CD, Fred seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Review Annual Meeting Minutes. No concerns or questions noted.

New Business:

Welcome new council member, Shannon Pitt.

Election of Council Officers:

President: Nora was nominated to serve as council President. Jerry moved to approve the nomination; Fred seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vice President: Fred was nominated to serve as council Vice President. Bob moved to approve the nomination; Nora seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Jerry was nominated to serve as council Treasurer. Sonya moved to approve the nomination; Graig seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Secretary: Calli was nominated to serve as council Secretary. Nora moved to approve the nomination; Sonya seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Salem Members:

Per church constitution, the following people have met the requirements and are deemed to be voting members of New Salem Lutheran Church as stated in C8.02C of the Church constitution, retroactively effective January 1, 2026; Susan Whalen, Jerry & Nora Illies, Megan Comfort, Carmen Garrigan, Steve & Robin Gipson, Arlyn & Joan Dvergsten, Jon & Donna Laasko, Daniel & Michelle Luby, Michael Naylor, Justin, Shannon, Otis, and Presley Pitt, Monica Roeder, Diane Winter, Gabriella Garrigan, and Dona Speda. Sonya moved to accept; Fred seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Team Reports

Worship and Music: No report.

Stewardship and Outreach: Nora reported that Stu Rosselet has resigned as leader of the Stewardship and Outreach Team. The team is working on recruiting new members to join.

Building and Grounds: Bob reported that maintenance on the garage will be done this spring. Gutters to be added over the garden area to prevent washout.

Youth and Education: Calli reported that the Team will meet again soon to discuss spring/summer activities with the kids including sending kids to Pathways Camp Emmaus.

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

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Updates from the Synod



March 6

In-Person Boundaries & Anti-Racism Training

March 9-11

Senior Pastor Retreat

March 21

The Great NWMN Synod Get Together

March 29

Palm Sunday

March 2026

APR

April 11

Conference 2 Summit

April 13-May 22

Online Boundaries & Anti-Racism Training

April 16

Joint Theological Day

April 24

In-Person Boundaries & Anti-Racism
Training

April 25

Synod Council | SAM Retreat

April 26-28

First Call Retreat

THE GREAT NWMN SYNOD GET TOGETHER

MARCH 21 | 10AM-3:30PM Calvary Lutheran Church, Bemidji MN

Join us at Calvary Lutheran in Bemidji for this one-day gathering designed to reconnect, learn, and share ministry together.

We'll begin and end grounded in worship and enjoy dedicated conference time to prepare for the upcoming Synod Assembly on May 30. Throughout the day, participants can choose from practical and theologically grounded workshops and hear from keynote speaker Pastor Ian McConnell as we explore this year's theme: Grace in a Digital Space.

This is a day for **ALL** who care about the shared work of our synod.



**registration
link**



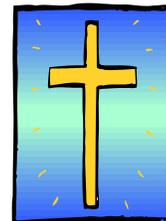
From the Bishop's Desk

As we continue through this season, I give thanks for the faithful witness of congregations across our synod. In changing times, we remain rooted in the steady grace of God and connected in shared ministry.

Thank you for the many ways you embody Christ's presence in your communities.



*New Salem's
Highlighted Mission Partner
March 2026*



Mission

We strive to provide a sanctuary for prayerful worship within a respectful and welcoming environment and to meet the spiritual needs of our parishioners and community using Christian values while respecting the 'One God with Many Names.' After 25 years of seeing who shows up to worship with us, it is clear we are largely an indigenous church. We celebrate Cross and Feather and are very sensitive to justice issues for Native Peoples.

Peoples Church exists to help serve not only the spiritual needs but basic living needs of many who would go without. Shelter and food—that's where healing begins.

We are a multicultural and indigenous ministry of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). We live out our faith by showing Creator God's love for all people by offering shelter, hot meals, and community.

Sunday Feast 12:00pm and Worship 12:30pm

Peoples Church offers overnight shelter year-round. Our hours are 5:00p to 10:00a everyday and open all day on Sundays.

Peoples Church offers overnight shelter year-round. We have a hot evening meal on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays served beginning at 5:00pm and breakfast 7 days a week from 8-10am. Anyone in the community is welcome to share in our meals, you do not have to be a shelter guest to eat with us.

Sundays we have a feast with a hot meal at 3:00 pm 824 America Ave. NW

Food pantry with canned goods is available to everyone during our open hours: 8-10a and 5p-10p every day.



God's Work, Our Treasure—March 2026

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, the **Peoples Church**, 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 **Peoples Church**

And we will forward your gift to them. peopleschurch-elca.org



While the ground soon thaws and winter takes its leave, the food shelf is bright and sunny year-round! The first month of the year proved to be very busy, as expected, with nearly 77,000 pounds of food distributed to over 3,300 people.



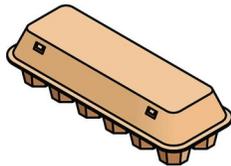
Have you heard? On April 12, we're assembling Birthday Bags! Next time you're grocery shopping, please throw some (full-size) frosting, cake mix, and birthday napkins (check dollar stores!) in your cart. Our goal is to assemble 150 bags. Birthday bags are given to Food Shelf clients celebrating a birthday in their household.

Please consider joining our teams for a three-hour shift this month. I guarantee you'll feel good and have fun, too!

- Monday, Mar. 9, from 9:00 – 12:15
- Monday, Mar. 9, from 12:00 – 3:15
- Friday, Mar. 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 are accepted in the basket next to the double doors in the narthex. Non-perishable food, egg cartons (one dz. only, please), bags (reusable, too!), Our Family UPCs, books (especially kids), and \$\$ are also welcome.



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” – Matthew 25:35

Thank you for being part of the Light of our community!
In His Service, Karin Snortland Council of Churches Representative

Our Impact In 2025...

13,063

Households Served

41,576

Individuals Served

891,576

Pounds of Food Distributed

New Salem Land Acknowledgement

New Salem Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, Assiniboine, & Dakota people[s], and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous sisters and brothers who have and continue to call this land their home.

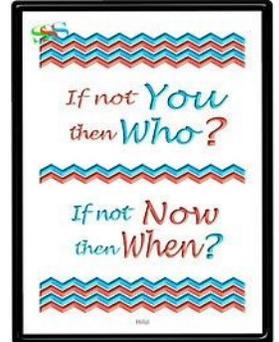


The Service Group Needs a President

The New Salem Service Group is once again in search of a President/leader. This volunteer position is open to all women and men – perhaps there's a couple in the congregation that would like to take on this project?

Note that there is a dedicated Treasure and a dedicated Secretary. Plus others have stepped into leadership roles for the main activities of this Group, such as the Rummage Sale, the Fall Bazaar, the Funeral Coordinator, and stocking the kitchen supplies, so the President has plenty of willing help. Also, the men and women of the congregation are terrific at volunteering to help on the various activities. The Group usually meets every other month on the second Monday.

For more information and a list of responsibilities, please contact interim leader Karyn Lutz at lutz@paulbunyan.net or 218-280-7488.



**YOU are an Important Part of New Salem
Volunteer to assist with some part of worship!
Volunteers Enhance the Worship Experience**

for Everyone!

**Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex.
Instructions are available as needed.**



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

Yes, collection plates are still 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 a part of our New Salem family. Vanco makes it safe and easy to support our mission.