



LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEW SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

7491 Island View Dr. NE Turtle River, MN 56601

Pastor Terry Hagensen

E-Mail Address: newsalem@paulbunyan.net

Web Site: newsalemlutheran.org

Church Phone: 218-586-2262

MAY 2026

Monthly Events

May 7, 14, 21, 28

9:30 AM

Bible Study



May 3

Service Group Meeting 10:30am

May 8 & 11

Food Shelf

9:00am—

12:15pm

12:00pm—

3:15pm



May 10

May 14



ASCENSION DAY



May 16

Highway Cleanup

May 19

7:00 pm Council

6:00 pm Teams

May 25



MEMORIAL DAY

Remember those who served

Beloved people of God,

There are many things we struggle to understand and practice as Christians. We often want a clear explanation of the “what” and “why” of God before we are willing to believe, trust, or act. Yet sometimes our human understanding gets in the way of God’s ways.

It can be hard to live within the mysteries of God when clear and satisfying answers do not come. Yet when we accept that God is, in many ways, a God of mystery, we open ourselves to spiritual growth and to experiencing God anew.

One of the struggles I hear about most often is this: **“Forgiving others as we have been forgiven.”** The struggle often comes from the belief that there must first be an apology before forgiveness can begin. Yet one of the mysteries of God’s grace is that we confess our sins because we first trust that God is merciful. If we did not believe God forgives, we would not dare to confess.

I believe God, through grace and forgiveness, desires for us to experience true freedom.

The truth of our faith is this: **forgiveness is about us, not the other person or system toward whom we hold anger.** Forgiveness is about the freedom God desires for us.

Let me also name a common misunderstanding: forgiveness does not mean saying that what happened was okay. It is never right or acceptable for someone to cause pain in another’s life through words, actions, or things left undone. There will also be times when someone may not even realize they have hurt us. If we wait for an apology that may never come, we may be left carrying the pain.

As I often say, when we refuse to forgive, we may be allowing someone to “live rent free” in our minds and spirits. I do not believe God wants us to carry that kind of anger. Unforgiveness affects our bodies, our spirits, and our relationships.

True forgiveness comes as we invite God to help us. We ask the Holy Spirit to heal the scars within us, trusting that we cannot do this by our own strength or power. Inviting God into our pain becomes the beginning of freedom and grace.

And perhaps the mystery before us is this:

Do we want to forgive, or do we want to keep carrying the anger and pain?

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.



To those who donated and helped assemble

160 Birthday Bags for our Food Shelf



Readings for MAY

MAY 3: Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

MAY 10: Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

May 17: Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

MAY 24: **PENTECOST** Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23

MAY 31: **TRINITY SUNDAY** Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20





New Salem Council Minutes

APRIL 21, 2026

Present; Pastor Terry, Graig Gilbertson, Nora Illies, Bob Wagner, Jerry Illies, Fred Sanford, Shannon Pitt

Absent: Sonya Kraft, Calli Ferdig

Officers Present; President Nora Illies. Vice President Fred Sanford, Treasure Jerry Illies

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

Devotion: Graig

Approval of meeting agenda for April 21; Jerry moved to approve; Bob seconded; The motion was carried
Approval of Feb.17 minutes. Jerry moved to approve; Fred seconded; Motion carried.

Pastors report:

- Post Cards: We liked the cards. Bob mentioned changing one of the words on the card for people that aren't members. The change would be changing the word in the first sentence from "join" to "visit".
- Anti-Racism Training: Pr. Terry will be attending on April 24 in Thief River.
- Barbecue after worship: We will be planning a barbecue after the June 14 worship
- Transfers: Looks like we will be getting more transfers to our church. More info later

Financial Report: Jerry gave us the latest. Looked good.

Old business: none

New Business:

- Rain Gutters for garage and S. E. corner of building. Pr. Terry and Bob will discuss and call ABC for some more advice.
- Parking lot striping: Pr. Terry will talk to Glen Lindseth. It was discussed that we should also include some issues about drainage on parking lot and fix prior to painting.
- Rummage Sale. Made \$5,700 this year. Went well.
- Birthday Bags. Did 160 this year. 10 more than we planned on. Hooray.

Team Reports

Worship: none

Stewardship and Outreach: We talked about adding an option to pay for items with card at rummage sale next year. Shannon made a motion to do it and Bob seconded the motion. It passed.

Building and Grounds condition: We will check with Mike Finkenbinder.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2026; Teams at 6 and council at 7.
Adjourn at 7:52pm

Submitted by:
Graig Gilbertson

Bemidji Community Food Shelf March Data:

Households Served: 1,034

Individuals Served: 3,088

Total Pounds of Food Distributed: 75,285

First Time Customers: 65



Thank You



To everyone who donated, baked, sorted, priced, cashiered, helped in any way to make our Rummage and Bake Sale a success.

We broke all records this year! We were at \$5,806.38 a couple days after the sale with more donations coming in.

What a wonderfully generous community and congregation we are blessed with!



We will distribute over \$6,000 in accumulated funds back into the community at our next **Service Group meeting on May 3**, following the service. All are welcome to help decide the recipients.

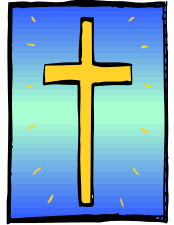


Evergreen

Youth & Family Services

Strengthening Youth. Preserving Families.

*New Salem's
Highlighted
Mission Partner
May 2026*



OUR MISSION

Evergreen Youth & Family Services is a community-based organization committed to strengthening youth, preserving families and building relationships with an emphasis on those living in Northern Minnesota.

OUR VALUES

Evergreen believes that communities are strongest when every individual is treated with dignity and respect and has support to achieve his/her full human potential. Evergreen chooses to remain client-centered with an emphasis on being responsive to each individual and families' needs while maintaining a high level of professionalism, compassion and empathy. We operate from a position of hope, faith and support. Our services and perspective are often grassroots in nature and it is because of our strong relationships and resources that Evergreen Youth & Family Services remains a catalyst in the region for proactive services, education and advocacy.

- ◆ Evergreen Youth & Family Services is a private, non-profit youth and family service provider.
- ◆ In the past 49 years, Evergreen has developed a safety net of services to strengthen youth, preserve families, and help support successful transitions to adulthood.
- ◆ Every year, over 1,000 children, youth, and young families come to us for emergency food and shelter, crisis intervention, mental health, and the skills and tools necessary to live a safe and healthy life.
- ◆ Youth and families of all backgrounds and walks of life are welcome. Approximately 60% of the youth we serve each year are Native American or mixed race, 30% are Caucasian, and 10% are African-American, Asian, Hispanic, or mixed race.

The Evergreen Youth & Family Services Shelter provides free shelter, coaching, and support services for **youth ages 9-17** who are experiencing an immediate personal or family crisis. The shelter can house up to 10 youth at a time and is **open 24 hours a day, 365 days per year**. Youth, their families, and other caregivers are also eligible to receive free drop-in counseling and/or family counseling services. All services are free.

God's Work, Our Treasure—MAY 2025

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, **Evergreen Youth & Family Services**, 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 **Evergreen YFS**

www.evergreenyfs.org



As we turn another page on the calendar, summer is fast-approaching. With the changing of the seasons come some changes at the food shelf. The Monday afternoon volunteer shift has been extended to 3:30 (if client load dictates). Doors remain open until 3:00 now. We're on track to distribute **one million pounds** of food this year, based on the first quarter distributions.

Like digging in dirt? Check out the farm at the food shelf! This new and improved project is always looking for volunteers and nature doesn't stop its processes when they don't show up! Make a big difference by helping us provide fresh produce to clients.

We recently received a special request for donations: **Refried Beans, Kidney Beans, Toothpaste.** And a HUGE Thank you to everyone who helped assemble, donate, and deliver 160 birthday bags to the food shelf last month. Wow!

Remember, 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.

Join this low-impact, high energy fun! What a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners and make new friends! Have teens who need something to do this summer? Bring them along to experience the blessings of serving others! 612.940.7312, ksnortland5@gmail.com

May shifts:

- Friday, May 8, from 9:00 – 12:15
- Monday, May 11, from 9:00 – 12:15
- Monday, May 11, from 12:00 – 3:30

*“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” – **Philippians 4:19***

Thank you for being part of the Light of our community!
In His Service,

Karin Snortland
Council of Churches
Representative



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.

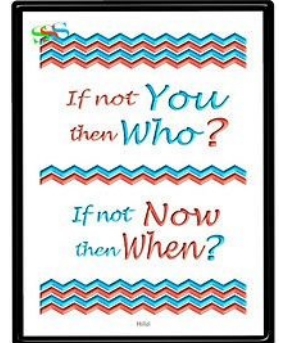


The Service Group Needs a President

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.

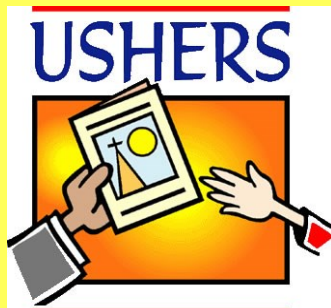


**Service Group Meeting
Sunday, May 3rd after service.
Everyone is Welcome!!**

**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.**

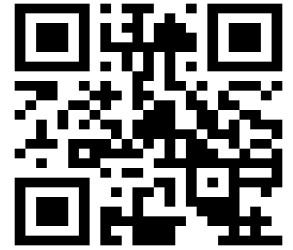


Do you know that you can support the mission of New Salem electronically?

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.

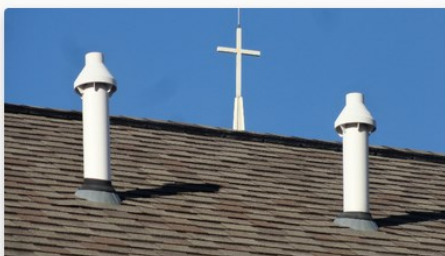


Mission Partners

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.