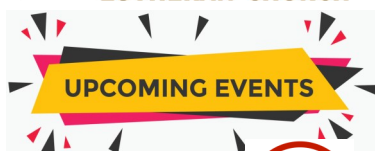




LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sept. 1



September 4,11,18,25  
9:30 AM



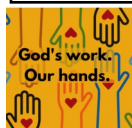
Food Shelf

Sept. 8: 9:00—12:15  
12:15—3:15  
Sept. 12: 9:00—12:15



September 7

Blessing of the Backpacks



September 14

God's Work  
Our Hands



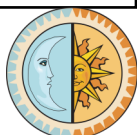
Church Council

Sept. 16 6:30 PM

Team Meeting 6:00 PM

September 22

Fall Equinox



## NEW SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

7491 Island View Dr. NE Turtle River, MN 56601

Pastor Terry Hagensen

E-Mail Address: [newsalem@paulbunyan.net](mailto:newsalem@paulbunyan.net)

Web Site: [newsalemlutheran.org](http://newsalemlutheran.org)

SEPTEMBER 2025

### Salt and Light

Beloved and holy people of God,

This past week I spoke with our council about the next step in our growth and mission at New Salem. In so many ways we already share the love of Christ within our congregation and community—we are certainly not standing still. We should all be proud of the ways God is working through us. Yet we also need to keep having these conversations, so that our focus remains on Christ's call and command.

Jesus often used everyday images to describe the life of a disciple. In Matthew 5:14–16 he says, "You are the light of the world." Light is not meant to be hidden, but lifted high so that all may see and give glory to God. We are the light of the world, called to let Christ's light shine through us. Still, we must ask: are we doing all we can to let that light be seen?

When I look at the world around us, I see so much injustice and suffering. My heart aches at the violence, division, and inequality we witness every day. (As I just heard of the tragic shooting at Annunciation Catholic School, in Minneapolis) I often find myself asking: What can I do? What can we do, as Christ's people, to make a difference?

In Matthew 5:13, Jesus also says, "You are the salt of the earth." Just as salt brings out the flavor in food, we are called to bring hope, healing, and God's goodness into the world. The question is: how can we bring out the best in a world weighed down by so much pain?

One way is to come together in prayer. We can pray for hearts and minds to be changed, for those who work tirelessly on behalf of justice, and for God's healing presence among us. I invite you to join me in beginning a monthly evening gathering for prayer—both guided and silent. Together, we will lift our voices and trust that God hears our cries, and that through us, God's justice and peace may be restored.

If this is something you are interested in being part of please let me know.  
In Christ's light,  
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.*



## New Salem Council

### Minutes of August 19, 2025

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

Congregational Officers: President: Eric Medberry, Treasurer: Sue Rosselet, Secretary: Calli Ferdig

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

**Devotion** – Pastor Terry, September will be Fred.

Approval of the August 19, 2025 Meeting Agenda:

Nora moved to approve the agenda. Graig seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the July 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

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

**Pastor's Report:** Looking to take possible vacation in September, pending finding an available supply pastor. Talked about focusing on racial injustice within our community. Feeling a pull to work towards awareness or creating an action group. Emphasis on seeing these issues as *human* issues, not *political* issues.

**Financial Report:** July was a decent month. Nothing out of the ordinary, no concerns noted.

Annual audit was completed on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and will be presented at the September meeting. The report was accepted and filed.

#### Old Business:

Playground update: Youth and Education Team organized the installation of additional equipment including accessible swing and tether ball. Kids have played on it and are loving the new additions. Looking at the addition of a tire swing for next summer.

Parking lot update: Line painting is TBD, Glen Lindseth is overseeing this. Waiting on paving company to fix the low spots that are not draining properly.

Filling vacant position on council. Still seeking to fill position.

#### New Business:

Pre-buy propane through Bemidji Coop, we have a credit of \$1,192.45 on our account. We used 1560 gallons from June 2024 – June 2025. We have until August 27<sup>th</sup> to get the price of \$1.65 per gallon. Motion to buy 1,900 gallons at \$1.65 per gallon = \$3,135, minus our credit of \$1,192.45 for a total of \$1,942.55. Council authorizes Traci to write a check for this purchase. Sue moved to approve, and Nora seconded, motion carried.

Bell tower has not been working properly. Could be an issue with recent power outages. Will keep monitoring it.

#### Team Reports

Worship and Music: Sonya Bemidji Area Church Musicians concert was a success. Served 114 meals, big success, lots of compliments and appreciation from attendees.

Stewardship and Outreach: Nora Committee has not met yet this month. Stu is working on organizing a meeting day and time.

Building and Grounds: Pr. Terry Bob Wagner has begun filling in cracks and holes in the cement in front of the building. Parking lot update; see above.

Youth and Education: Calli/Eric Day Camp 2025 was a huge success! Pathways counselors were helpful and the kids had a great time with them. Kids kept busy with outside activities, inside crafts, worship, music, lots of play and fun. Had 17 kids total over the four days. Family night with worship, potluck and together packed 164 birthday bags.

Truck or Treat will be Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm. More details to come.

Sunday school will continue after communion when children are present.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Teams will meet at 6 pm.

Adjournment/Lord's Prayer: Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.



## Mid-year review

Last year we provided emergency food support to 42,500 people in the community. By the end of this year, we expect to serve 47,000 people, an increase of 9%. With the recent cuts to federal, and expected reductions in state support, we expect that number to increase in 2026, cuts to SNAP having the largest expected impact on this growth.

### July 2025 Stats

Individuals 3,275  
Households 1,066  
83,933# Food

### Year to date (Jan. 1- Aug. 1)

Individuals 23,624  
Households 7,506  
517,722# Food

Birthday bags were packed by the Vacation Bible School students last month. **164 bags** were packed, another successful service project for New Salem! Thank you to all who donated goods and helped assemble the bags.

As the kids return to school, so do some volunteers. Are you available to help at the food shelf this month? Contact me to become involved.

### Sept. Shifts:

Monday, Sep. 8, from 9:00 – 12:15  
Monday, Sep. 9, from 12:00 – 3:15  
Friday, Sep. 12, from 9:00 – 12:15



Donations of non-perishable groceries are easy, even if you cannot get to the food shelf. Drop off items in the basket conveniently located next to the double doors in the narthex. Bags (reusable, too!), Our Family UPC codes, books (especially kids), and \$\$ are always welcome, too.

### Thank you for your generosity!

*"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled... But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry." Luke 6:20-21, 24-25*

In His Service,

*Karin Snortland*

612.940.7312

ksnortland5@gmail.com

Council of Churches Representative

### Readings for SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 7: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33  
SEPTEMBER 14: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10  
SEPTEMBER 21: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13  
SEPTEMBER 28: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31







Church Musician's Recital  
August 6th





# God's work. Our hands.



## September 14, 2025

### **“God’s work. Our hands.” is Sept. 14, 2025!**

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year the ELCA has encouraged this activity. New Salem Lutheran will celebrate after the service with a variety of activities. Bring and/or wear your grubbies.

- Completing the pollinator garden the children started at summer camp  
bring wheel barrows and tools to remove rock, lay dirt, and plant perennials and seeds
- Clean Turtle River Cemetery—They will provide tools and bags
- Prepare and serve a soup lunch for the workers. There is a signup sheet in the narthex.



Some of the New Salem volunteers at the Bemidji Food Shelf during Volunteer Appreciation Week



Thanks to Mike Naylor for providing special music for our service.



*New Salem's  
Highlighted Mission  
Partner  
September 2025*



## WE ARE AN EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

We work with the families who seek shelter with us so much more beyond putting a roof over their heads. We work with them to identify and achieve their goals and dreams. We give them the tools and connections they need to move from homelessness into a home they can call their own.

### Emergency Shelter

Village of Hope provides safe, secure emergency housing for families 24 hours/day ~ 7 days a week. We are open 365 days a year.

The environment that a family experiencing homeless comes into is very important. We work to create a calm, safe environment in which families can build a future.

Families can stay with us for 90 days, as long as they are actively looking for housing.

Each family has their own apartment. This preserves the family unit and provides privacy.

### Removing Barriers

There is no "one size fits all" solution for homelessness. Every family has unique barriers and requires a intervention that fits. The case manager will begin this process by talking with the family and helping them set goals they want to achieve and looking at strengths and barriers to overcome. Then the networking starts! We work with many agencies and organizations to create the family future.

### Families

What is our definition of family? Each family is unique and has their own composition. They do need to be looking to move into a house together. We have single moms with kids, single dads with kids, sisters raising kids together, grandparents raising kids and couples. Every combination possible!

### School Attendance

Because graduation is one factor in success, attending school is very important at Village of Hope. We work with the district 31 Homeless Liaison for transitions to help kids stay in their own school or get them registered if school is new. Keeping the routine of attending school is a goal that every family must achieve during their stay.

### HOPE

When families come to Village of Hope, they are at the lowest spot in their lives. They are exhausted and frustrated. They don't trust themselves or others. By working together, and building relationships, we start to rebuild their confidence and hope. We are so much more alike than different and pointing that out makes all the difference to a heartbroken family.

## ***God's Work, Our Treasure—SEPTEMBER 2025***

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, the Village of Hope, 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 Village of Hope

<https://www.bemidjivillageofhope.org/>





Pathways Councilors  
Marisa, Nicole, Oliver, Ryan



## Day Camp August 11-14



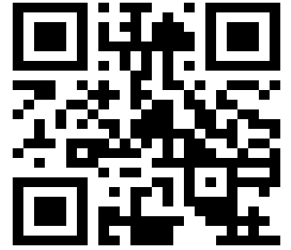


Do you know that you can support the mission of New Salem electronically?

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.