



# SALEM

# LIGHT

*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. —Matthew 5:14*

**March 2025**

**Embracing Change: A Journey from Darkness to Light** Dear Church Family, As March unfolds, we find ourselves on the cusp of spring—a season that beautifully symbolizes renewal, hope, and transformation.

The days are growing longer, the air is warming, and the first hints of blossoms are beginning to peek through the ground. Just as nature undergoes this breathtaking metamorphosis, so too are we called to embrace change in our own lives.

With the arrival of spring, we also prepare to change our clocks—a reminder that time, like the seasons, is ever moving forward. This shift invites us to reflect on the passage of time and the opportunities it presents for growth. Just as the extra daylight encourages us to venture outdoors and engage with God's creation, it also serves as a metaphor for our spiritual journeys.

March also marks the beginning of Lent, a sacred season of reflection and preparation leading up to Easter. Lent invites us to delve deeper into our faith, often through fasting, prayer, and acts of service.

It's a time to confront the shadows within us, acknowledging our struggles and seeking God's light to guide us through them. While this period may feel challenging as we confront our weaknesses and temptations, it is essential to remember that such trials often lead to profound growth and transformation.

As we move from the darker days of winter into the vibrant light of spring, let us take heart in the knowledge that change, while often daunting, is a necessary step towards renewal and blessings.

Just as a seed must break open to sprout, we too may need to let go of the old to make way for the new. This can lead to unexpected and beautiful growth in our lives, our relationships, and our faith.

Scripture reminds us in Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" As we journey through this season of Lent, let us open our hearts to the new things God is doing within us, both individually and as a church family.

May we embrace the rain that nourishes our souls, understanding that even the storms we face can lead to a more profound understanding of God's grace and love.

I encourage you to take some time this month to reflect on the changes you are experiencing in your life. What old habits or burdens can you release? How can you open yourself to God's transformative work?

As we gather together in worship and fellowship, let us support one another in this journey from darkness to light, celebrating the blessings that await us on the other side. Wishing you a joyful and transformative March!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Lori



**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**2529 N. LaVenture Rd., Mount Vernon, WA 98273**  
**(360)336-3600**

**[www.slcmv.org](http://www.slcmv.org)**

### **SEWING FOR OTHERS**

Sewing for Others (aka Tying Knots) meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:15 am. We are putting together and tying LWR quilts. If you have a favorite needle, thimble and scissors — bring them. Otherwise, you can use our equipment. Questions — Linda Dunlap (253)548-6439.

### **FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

Friendship Circle this month will meet on Wednesday, March 12th at noon. Bring a hot dish, salad or dessert. If you have any questions, call Dee Archer at 360-982-7359.



### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Join us for great food and fellowship as we meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Curious Chef at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome!



### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The men at Salem invite you to a bible study on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 8:00 am. Come join the fun!



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**ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE 2024-2025**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Partner 1</b>	<b>Partner 2</b>	<b>Partner 3</b>	<b>Partner 4</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Deanna</b>	<b>Janice</b>		
<b>October</b>	<b>Kay D.</b>	<b>Ann</b>		
<b>November</b>	<b>Melody</b>	<b>Kay S.</b>		
<b>December</b>	<b>Cheryl</b>	<b>Lynne</b>	<b>Kay D.</b>	<b>Linda C.</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>Deanna</b>	<b>Janice</b>		
<b>February</b>	<b>Kay D.</b>	<b>Ann</b>		
<b>March</b>	<b>Melody</b>	<b>Kay S.</b>	<b>Helga</b>	<b>Linda C.</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Cheryl</b>	<b>Lynne</b>		
<b>May</b>	<b>Deanna</b>	<b>Janice</b>		
<b>June</b>	<b>Kay D.</b>	<b>Ann</b>		
<b>July</b>	<b>Melody</b>	<b>Kay S.</b>		
<b>August</b>	<b>Cheryl</b>	<b>Lynne</b>		<b>**</b>

\*\*If you're interested in helping with the Altar Guild, please contact Cheryl Felt at: [cherfelt@outlook.com](mailto:cherfelt@outlook.com) or contact the church office at: [office@slcmv.org](mailto:office@slcmv.org) or call (360) 336-3600

### Worship Assistants – March

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Communion Assistants</u>
<b>3/02</b>	<b>Dale Ragan</b>	<b>Shianne Wadewitz, (Pastor's Choice), Wendy Ragusa, Linda Castleberry, (MJ Bender)</b>
<b>3/09</b>	<b>Debbie McManus</b>	<b>Shianne Wadewitz, (Pastor's Choice), Mike McManus, Debbie McManus, (Cory Grinaker)</b>
<b>3/05</b>	<b>Kat Clark</b>	<b>Shianne Wadewitz, (Pastor's Choice)</b>
<b>3/16</b>	<b>Bob Slind</b>	<b>Shianne Wadewitz, (Pastor's Choice) Roger Ragusa, Wendy Ragusa, (Erin Moe)</b>
<b>3/23</b>	<b>Treva Votipka</b>	<b>Shianne Wadewitz, (Pastor's Choice) Michele Hander, Melody Kue, (Cory Grinaker)</b>
<b>3/30</b>	<b>Sharon Bowen</b>	<b>Shianne Wadewitz, (Pastor's Choice) Michele Hander, Erin Moe, (Cory Grinaker)</b>

# EVENTS CALENDAR

Mar 1	<b>St. David's Day</b>	
Mar 2	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study Forum-Library
Mar 3	3:00 pm	Property Committee Mtg-Library
Mar 4	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast Mtg
	1:00-3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study-Zoom&Library
Mar 5	9:15 pm	Sewing for Others-Rm 7&8
	1:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
	5:00 pm	Lenten Soup and Bread
	6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Mar 6	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	10:00 am	Barb's Craft Group
Mar 7	6:00 pm	Craft Group-Library
<b>Mar 9</b>	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS (set clocks 1 hour ahead/forward)</b>	
	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study Forum
Mar 10	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study-Library
	6:00 pm	Worship & Music Committee-Library
Mar 11	1:00-3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study-Zoom&Library
Mar 12	12:00 pm	Friendship Circle-Multipurpose Rm
	5:00 pm	Lenten Soup & Bread
Mar 13	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	3:00 pm	Friendship House Meal
Mar 16	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study Forum
	1:00 pm	Rehearsal for Good Friday
<b>Mar 17</b>	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	
<b>Mar 18</b>	<b>REPORTS TO COUNCIL DUE</b>	
	1:00-3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study-Library/Zoom
Mar 19	9:15 am	Sewing for Others-Rm7&8
	2:00 pm	Finance Team Meeting
	5:00 pm	Lenten Soup & Bread
Mar 20	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
Mar 21	10:00 am	Spaghetti Dinner Prep
Mar 22	5:00-7:00 pm	Spaghetti Dinner
Mar 23	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study Forum
Mar 24	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study-Library
	5:30 pm	Council Meeting-Library
Mar 25	1:00-3:00pm	Women's Bible Study-Library/Zoom
Mar 26	5:00 pm	Lenten Soup & Bread
<b>Mar 27</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE</b>	
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	12:00 am	Care Team Meeting-Library
Mar 30	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study Forum-Library

# LENTEN SEASON



## Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins

March 5	1:00 am & 6:00 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
March 12	5:00 pm	Soup & Bread Supper
	6:00 pm	Lenten Service
March 19	5:00 pm	Soup & Bread Supper
	6:00 pm	Lenten Service
March 26	5:00 pm	Soup & Bread Supper
	6:00 pm	Lenten Service
April 2	5:00 pm	Soup & Bread Supper
	6:00 pm	Lenten Service
April 9	5:00 pm	Soup & Bread Supper
	6:00 pm	Lenten Service
April 13	10:00 am	PALM SUNDAY & BRUNCH
	11:00 am	Palm Sunday Brunch
April 17	6:00 pm	Seder Meal/MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
April 18	7:00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
April 20	10:00 am	EASTER SERVICE

We begin the Lenten season with the imposition of ashes at two services on March 5. We will be holding weekly Lenten services midweek using the new BLESS THIS NIGHT vespers. Each Wednesday we will begin with Soup & Bread supper at 5:00 pm, followed by our service at 6:00 pm. Look for signup sheets in the Narthex for providing Soup & Bread. We celebrate Palm Sunday on April 13 with palm branches and a brunch hosted by council following service. On Thursday, April 17 we will hold a Seder meal followed by Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 pm. Good Friday services will be held in conjunction with our Cluster Congregations at 7:00 pm. And of course, we look forward to celebrating the Risen Lord on Easter Morning, April 20 at 10:00 am

# UGANDA UPDATE

## Transformative Change in Uganda: A Year of Progress

Dear Church Family, As I reflect on my recent trip to Uganda, I am filled with joy and gratitude for the remarkable changes I witnessed in the village since my first visit a year ago.

Thanks to your generous support and the collective efforts of our community, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of the villagers. One of the most significant improvements is the accessibility of clean water. The community has embraced the new well, and I observed villagers and members of the outside community gathering there daily. This vital resource has not only improved their health but also fostered a sense of unity as they work together to maintain it.

In the classrooms, I was thrilled to see new desks for the students, which have made learning more comfortable and engaging. The 200 children are now receiving better nutrition, with meals transitioning from corn mash to rice—an essential upgrade in their diet that promotes their growth and well-being.

A particularly proud moment for our partnership was the graduation of the first class from the technical school. We celebrated three skilled welders, six talented hair stylists, and nine dedicated seamstresses who are now equipped to support themselves and positively contribute to their community. These graduates are a testament to the transformative power of education, and I met with the local bank who is setting up small business loans for the women to use their skills to make money for their families to be fed and clothed. A great addition to the village.

Through your donations of vitamins, each child is now receiving a vitamin supplement once a week, which is crucial for their health. We are also seeing a decline in malaria cases, thanks to the mosquito nets provided to the families. Clean water, nutritious food, and preventive measures are paving the way for a healthier future. Our Christmas campaign raised an incredible \$2,000 in loose change, which funded essential medicine and a three-day health clinic for the entire community. Your kindness has brought healing and hope to many.

As we look to the future, our primary goal this year is to purchase six acres of land that will allow the village to create a sustainable community within the next five years. Currently, neighboring land is available for purchase, with an acre costing \$5,000. This land will enable them to cultivate crops for food and cash, ultimately leading to self-sufficiency. Most importantly, it will provide permanent housing for the 30 orphans who have found refuge at the school.

Let us continue to make a difference in Uganda! I encourage you to save your spare change and consider grabbing a change collection box from the table outside the office door. Every coin counts, and together we can change lives. Thank you for your past and continued support. Your generosity is transforming Uganda, and I am excited to see what God has in store for this community as we work together to create a brighter future.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Lori ♥♥



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Happy birthday to all of you who had birthdays in February!!**



2/01 Connie Anderson  
2/02 Sharon Rasmussen  
2/11 Donn Rasmussen  
2/15 Al Dunlap

2/16 Peter Swanson  
2/19 Robert Slind  
2/22 Gerry Christensen  
2/22 Helga Schink

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Construction underneath the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall began Feb 3. The first steps were to smooth and level out the ground. Then a trench was dug for piping. Then forms were put in so cement could be poured (photos on the next page).





# ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED



# ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

## HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE?

JOIN THE PASTOR SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9 AM FOR IN DEPTH DISCUSSION AND BIBLE STUDY

## COFFEE HOUR SIGN UPS!

Heartfelt thanks for all the cookies you have donated for memorial services and coffee hour. Please consider signing up as a coffee hour host! There are available dates in March and beyond. Feel free to call Sue Ney if you have any questions at 360-708-9142. Thank you!



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

The women of Salem are invited to join Pastor Lori and other women from around the area in person and on Zoom every Tuesday at 1:00 pm as we go through the Books of Esther and Ruth. Join us for a spirited discussion of the scripture and meet some new friends!

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85934346516>  
Meeting ID: 859 343 465 16

## REQUESTS FROM WELCOME HOME SKAGIT

Do you have any extra blankets or kennels laying around and are willing to donate? We are asking for these donations for Welcome Home Skagit pet owners. These items are for the cherished pets who need a warm place outside to stay during the day during the lower level remodel.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

## WELCOME HOME SKAGIT

Welcome Home Skagit currently is helping up to 80 homeless persons per day with some of their needs of daily living. This does not include all of what most of us would consider necessities. Items of clothing, personal hygiene, and food are not provided and many of these people do not have the financial resources to purchase these things themselves.

This brings me to a statement in the book of James 2:14-19: “What is it brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “go in peace, keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what good is that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

His exhortation goes on to the end of the chapter.

There is a “shopping list” posted on the kiosk in the narthex and extra copies on the table near the office door. Efforts will be made to keep the list updated.

Your help in this matter is likely to be the answer to somebody’s prayer.

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*“Wandering And Wondering with God”*  
**Women’s Retreat**  
 March 7-9, 2025



**Retreat Leaders Jean Wahlstrom and Rev. Jane Prestbye will walk us through a pilgrimage of faith.**

**Registration is open now and limited to 45 women.**

Costs vary.

Program brochure and registration forms are available on the web.

[www.https://oslcissaquah.org/womens-retreat/](https://oslcissaquah.org/womens-retreat/)

Save The Date

**SATURDAY**  
 MARCH 15, 2025  
 10 am - 4 pm

18101 Fir Island Road,  
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273



### We Need Your Help!

Join us regardless of your expertise level! You can:

- Help Cut Fabric
- Tie Layers Together
- Those with their own machines are welcome!
- If you’re looking to clear out your fabric stash, we’re accepting fabric donations! (no fleece or delicate fabrics please!)
- Monetary donations are welcome, too!

JOIN FIR-CONWAY LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR A DAY OF QUILTING SUPPORTING LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.



### NATIONAL QUILTING DAY 2025

For 80 years, people like you have been the heart and soul of Lutheran World Relief. Compassionate people just like you have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts — over 28 MILLION QUILTS! These gifts of love make life brighter, safer, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster and conflict.

Because of the incredible generosity of quilters and kit makers, the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry has expanded to reach neighbors in need in the United States. This expansion of love was divinely timed because LWR made deliveries almost immediately to our neighbors affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton in the Southeastern U.S. Ten tractor trailer trucks carried more than 136,750 Quilts and Kits in response to the devastation.

In times of natural disaster, such as the recent devastating fires in California, the time to come together and make quilts is more necessary than ever. Please consider joining us on March 15th for National Quilting Day and helping our neighbors around the world.

For More Information, email Angela at [secretary@firconwaylutheran.org](mailto:secretary@firconwaylutheran.org)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Thanks to all those who were willing and ready to help prepare for the dinner/auction that had been planned to help raise funds for the remodel project and to continue to help those in need. During the recent Church Council meeting, a motion was made to **cancel** the dinner/auction and move our focus to grants and community and congregation donation involvement. More details to be forthcoming!

# clínica dental gratuita



**MARZO 28 & 30, 2025**

<b>QUÉ:</b>	LIMPIEZA, RELLENOS, EXTRACCIONES
<b>DÓNDE:</b>	SKAGIT ADVENTIST ACADEMY - BURLINGTON, WA
<b>CUÁNDO:</b>	LAS PUERTAS ABREN A LAS 8:00 A.M.
<b>QUIÉN:</b>	POR ORDEN DE LLEGADA

ENCUENTRE TODA LA INFORMACIÓN EN LÍNEA:  
[WWW.NORTHCASCADECARES.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHCASCADECARES.ORG)

north  
cascade  
cares





# ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED



The graphic features a dark blue background with a red and white logo on the left that reads "free dental clinic". On the right is the North Cascade Cares logo, which consists of a stylized white heart shape with three horizontal lines inside, and the text "north cascade cares" below it. Below the text is a horizontal strip of three photographs showing dental professionals in blue scrubs and masks performing procedures on patients in a clinical setting.

## MARCH 28 & 30, 2025

<b>WHAT:</b>	CLEANINGS, FILLINGS, EXTRACTIONS
<b>WHERE:</b>	SKAGIT ADVENTIST ACADEMY, 530 N SECTION ST., BURLINGTON
<b>WHO:</b>	ANY IN NEED; FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON ON OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.NORTHCASCADECARES.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHCASCADECARES.ORG)

# APPRECIATION

Dear Salem Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Children of the Valley, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your continued support of the children and families we serve. This past year, we had the privilege of serving 190 students, and we could not have done this without you.

Because of your generosity, we are able to continue to provide daily after-school support at our four locations—two in Mount Vernon, as well as in Burlington and Sedro-Woolley. Through your support, we continue to offer our five cornerstones of care each day after school: academic assistance, enrichment activities, social-emotional learning, mentorship, and family support. Your commitment has made a lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most in our community. Your partnership and support is the only way we can continue to make a difference in the lives of these children and their families in our community.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you a prosperous New Year!

In gratitude,

Flora Lucatero

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Family Promise Friends,

What a year 2024 has been! Family Promise of Skagit Valley served 150 families including 300 children. It is amazing to see how many meals and hours you have given in the previous 12 months. It goes without saying that we truly could not do this without you. Family Promise continues to be successful in finding permanent housing for our guests and we are expanding! **Your help in meeting our guests' basic needs allows them the space to heal, to set goals, and to look ahead to a brighter future.** We thank you and appreciate all the hours and meals that you contributed.

**Congregation Statistics for 2024**

Congregation: **Salem Lutheran Church**

Number of Host Weeks: **3**

Number of Volunteer Hours: **232** (includes meal prep and service, overnights and activities)

Meals Provided: **120**

**These are funds we do not have to raise because your congregation has provided these contributions!**

**Thank you!**

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**Heartfelt thanks for all the cookies you have donated for memorial services and coffee hour. Please consider signing up as a coffee hour host! There are available dates in March and beyond. Feel free to call Sue Ney if you have any questions at [360-708-9142](tel:360-708-9142). Thank you!**



# **\*\*CONGREGATION\*\***

## **\*\*SPOTLIGHT\*\***

### **SALEM MEMBER PROFILE**



Connie Anderson

I was born in Lincoln, Nebraska 90 years ago. My dad worked for the railroad and was transferred out to Longview, WA. when I was 2 years old.

When I was in high school I worked at a 24 Flavor Ice Cream shop. It happened to be next door to a grocery store where my husband, Carl, worked. He came in one day for lunch and that's how we met. He asked me out and then we dated for 2-1/2 years before we married on June 30, 1953. We were married for 62 years.

I later worked as a bookkeeper for the Cowlitz Wholesale Candy Company. I worked there 15 years and then retired. My husband worked for the Longview School District Operations Security department and retired after 30 years.

I came to Mount Vernon from Longview nine years ago to be near my daughter after my husband, Carl, passed away. I live next door at Salem Village.

I have one daughter and son-in-law, one grandson and two great-grandchildren.

My first Sunday here at Salem, I was made to feel so welcomed that I knew I had found my church home.

I take part in Friendship Circle and the Quilting Group.

Blessings,  
Connie Anderson

# COUNCIL

## SLC Church Council Minutes February 24, 2025. 5:30-8:00 p.m.

**Present:** Amy Benson, Laurie Benson, Greg Grinaker, Debbie McManus, Don Moe, Karen Nelson, Sue Ney, Lynne Rittenhouse, Peter Swanson, Treva Votipka and Pastor Lori Cavender

**Absent:** Susan Ragan and Nancy Raschko

**Call to Order:** 5:31pm by President Amy Benson. Pastor Lori opened with a prayer.

**Approval of January 27 Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve:** Laurie Benson **Second:** Debbie. Pastor Lori states that several items will be discussed again in Old Business. **Approved unanimously.**

**Pastor Report:** Communication needs to be discussed. We have no open forum to ask questions. Council is in need of a retreat sooner rather than later.

### Ministry Teams Activity

**Finance** (Peter): Complete reports are available.

Peter noted that a category has been added for expenditures for the 2025 titled Lower Level Project on the Balance Sheets.

Don and Peter put together a letter that was sent to former members, non-attending members, pastors and the Bishop concerning the Legacy Fund. It was asked if this same letter with some changes be sent to the current congregation.

Peter made a **motion** that the corrected letter would be sent to those in the congregation. **Second:** Amy **Approved unanimously.**

ELCA Foundation request for withdrawal was sent with Susan Ragan's signature.

Peter makes a **motion** to approve 3 new signatures to withdraw funds from the ELCA Foundation.

Those signatures being Susan Ragan, Amy Benson and Treva Votipka. **Second:** Laurie **Approved unanimously.**

New signatures were collected and they will be notarized at the bank.

**Property** (Greg): Complete reports are available.

Construction has begun downstairs and the slab is completed. The framing is almost complete, doors are framed out and an adjustment was made to the building design due to a support beam in the middle of a proposed doorway.

Welcome Home Skagit will be moving upstairs on or around March 10.

A new grant through the City of Mount Vernon and HUD was submitted. Waiting to hear back on the status of the grant applications through Skagit Community Foundation.

### Worship and Music

 (Lynne)

No meeting in February.

New reading scheduler has been found and will start with the scheduling of April Readings.

### Education

 (Pastor Lori)

Nicky Ruby has expressed interest in being a Sunday School teacher. Confirmation will be starting with Hannah Kress soon.

### Fellowship

 (Sue Ney)

No report

### Nurture and Care

 (Don Moe)

Week to host Family Promise at Bethlehem Lutheran is going well. Winter shelter also is being served.

Upwards of 30 people being fed at night. Each are very grateful for the nourishment.

### Outreach

 (Laurie)

Last 2 spaghetti dinners have been less than 100 people. Hoping with the nicer weather coming that the numbers will increase again.

Finding a need to host more "church" center meals to create community

### Technology

 (Laurie Benson)

Going well.



# COUNCIL

## Stewardship (Don Moe)

Will talk to Pastor Lori in moving forward with this committee.

## Old/Continuing Business

### Auction Date

Don makes a **motion** to cancel the dinner/auction and move our focus to grants and community and congregation donation involvement. **Second:** Pastor Lori. **Approved unanimously.**

### Lenten Offering

Amy makes a **motion** to amend the January Meeting Minutes that the Good Friday Offerings will go to Uganda Missions. **Second:** Sue **Approved unanimously.**

## Update on Welcome Home Skagit

They are asking for blankets and kennels to help house animals during the remodel. The kennels will be placed outside on the southside under the eaves. An ask will be put into the newsletter.

## New Business

### Signature Cards

Amy and Peter working on this

### Signature Cards for ELCA Foundation Withdrawals

Was completed

### Seder Meal Planning

The Seder Meal will take place on Maundy Thursday before the Service of the Feet Washing on April 17. More details to come.

### Palm Sunday Brunch

Will be held April 13 with Council as the hosts. Sue Ney and Debbie McManus to coordinate.

### Council Retreat

Scheduled for May 3 from 9 am until 1 pm. Council to provide potluck dishes for lunch and Pastor Lori will provide breakfast. Agenda will be provided beforehand.

### Open Forum

Discussion was had concerning more conversation with congregation. It was stated that congregation needs to know that Pastor Lori is available at anytime when needed and where help is needed.

**Next Meeting is March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.** Debbie McManus stated she will be out of town for this meeting.

**Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer at 8:03pm.**

## CHURCH COUNCIL VOTING MEMBERS:

### 2021-2024

Don Moe  
Susan Ragan (T)  
Laurie Benson  
Treva Votipka (VP))  
Karen Nelson

### 2023-2026

Sue Ney  
Greg Grinaker  
Peter Swanson  
Barb Gurney

### 2024-2027

Amy Benson (P)  
Nancy Raschko (S)  
Lynne Rittenhouse  
Debbie McManus



3/01 Kay Horton	3/17 Laurie Benson	3/17 Mike & Debbie McManus	18 yrs
3/04 Ron White	3/18 Marlene Anderson	3/20 Bill & Barbara Gurney	32 yrs
3/05 Erin Holden	3/25 Pamela Van Selus		
3/05 Karen Nelson	3/27 Linda Henry		
3/07 Jim Bowers	3/28 Art Rorvik		
3/10 Bill Gurney	3/28 Joan Schmidt		
3/11 Aleigh Davis	3/28 Eunice Summers		
3/11 Tom Hulbert	3/30 Ann Oakland		

**Move your  
clock forward  
1 hour on:  
  
MARCH 9th**



## Year-to-Date Financial Comparison for Salem

	January ACTUAL	January ACTUAL	2025 to	BUDGET	Act 2025 to Bud 2025
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2025</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,884	\$22,259	1.7%	\$27,718	-19.7%
OPERATING EXPENSE	<u>\$10,981</u>	<u>\$11,238</u>	2.3%	<u>\$10,238</u>	9.8%
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSES	<u>\$19,526</u>	<u>\$16,880</u>	-13.6%	<u>\$20,564</u>	-17.9%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$30,508	\$28,119	-7.8%	\$30,801	-8.7%
RESERVE FOR CHURCH OPERATIONS	-\$8,624	-\$5,860		-\$3,084	

**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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**MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273**  
**(360)336-3600**

**\*\*For Synod news please visit  
 their website:**

**[www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org)**



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

It is our mission as members of this congregation to share the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ with all people, and to serve God by serving others.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
 Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

**CHURCH COUNCIL:**

**Amy Benson**  
 President  
**Treva Votipka**  
 Vice President  
**Susan Ragan**  
 Treasurer  
**Nancy Raschko**  
 Secretary  
**Sue Ney**  
**Peter Swanson**  
**Don Moe**  
**Greg Grinaker**  
**Laurie Benson**  
**Lynne Rittenhouse**  
**Debbie McManus**  
**Barb Gurney**  
**Karen Nelson**

**Lori Cavender**

Pastor  
 (360)230-8507  
 PrLori@slcmv.org

**Laurie Benson,**  
 Church Administrator  
 (425)931-1445  
 office@slcmv.org

**Cory Grinaker**  
 Office Assistant  
 office@slcmv.org

**Bonnie Thoreson**  
 Music Director

**Greg Grinaker**  
 Custodian

**OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.  
 Dinner Church Wednesday 5 p.m.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**WEBSITE:**

[www.slcmv.org](http://www.slcmv.org)

**"Salem ELCA" App**

(Apple & Google Play Stores)

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