



## **KALEIDOSCOPE**

### **SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

#### ***February 2026***

#### **Salem United Methodist Church**

#### **Entering the Sacred Season of Lent By Rev. Eliud Martinez**

**Lent is a season of holy invitation**, calling us to slow our pace, quiet our hearts, and attend more faithfully to the voice of God. It is a time set apart by grace, in which we are invited to examine our lives in the light of God's love and to seek renewal of heart and mind. Through the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and acts of mercy, we turn away from all that distracts us from God and open ourselves more fully to God's forgiving and transforming grace.

As the people of God, **we journey together** through this season of repentance and hope. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we enter the forty days of Lent, remembering our mortality, confessing our sin, and trusting in the mercy of God. Throughout this season, the church offers opportunities for prayer, reflection, and service, that we may grow in love of God and neighbor. Whether through daily prayer, the surrender of habits that bind us, or acts of compassion toward the poor and vulnerable, we respond to God's call to faithful discipleship.

May this Lenten season be for us a time of **self-examination, repentance, and renewal**, as we are shaped by God's grace and strengthened for holy living. And as we walk this path together, may our hearts be prepared to share fully in the joy and promise of Christ's resurrection on Easter Day.

*With prayers for a blessed and fruitful Lent.*



**Check out Salem's Revised Website!!**

<https://www.fdlisalemchurch.com/>

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**IF YOU - or someone you know - needs to see this, please tell them that . . .**

**YOUR Senior Choir at Salem United Methodist Church  
is looking for**

**A FEW INTERESTED AND INSPIRED SINGERS**

Come **SING** with us and **ENJOY**:

- Associating and making music with great people
- Emotional and physical health benefits
- Meaning in musical expression
- Worshiping in an open and accepting environment

A long-term commitment, church membership,  
or a "professional" singing voice is not required.

For additional information please contact Jon Gilliland at [jonbgilliland@gmail.com](mailto:jonbgilliland@gmail.com) . . . or just talk to him.

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**Hal and Zoe Barfknecht Memorial Sweetheart Breakfast**

Please join us with your sweetheart on Sat Feb 14 at 8 AM for the Annual Hal and Zoe Barfknecht Memorial Men's Fellowship Sweetheart Breakfast at Rolling Meadows Restaurant. In memory of Hal and Zoe, we have renamed the event due to Hal's tireless efforts over many years to make it special for Zoe and all the Sweethearts of Salem. We will enjoy a good meal, fellowship, a short devotional, and celebrate Valentines. Feel free to invite any ladies from Salem you may wish to treat to a nice breakfast, she does not have to only be your wife, girlfriend, etc. Please contact Phil Corbin at 920-960-7559 or [pcorbin@jfahern.com](mailto:pcorbin@jfahern.com) or see Phil or Norm at church to let us know so we can give the restaurant a head count.



## **February Mission of the Month – Feed My Starving Children**

Did you realize that for \$106.00, that is \$.29 a day, you can feed a child for an entire year.

“Feed My Starving Children” (FMSC) is a Christian nonprofit dedicated to providing nutritious meals for children worldwide and is our February Mission of the Month.

Since 2017, Salem has participated and donated to this very important mission.

This event will take place at the Fond du Lac Fairgrounds Recreation Building.

The FMSC mobile pack date (when meal packs are assembled ) is Saturday, March 21, 2026, with three available packing time sessions: 9-11am, 12-2pm, 3-5pm, with a cleanup time after 5:00.

On Friday, March 20th the FMSC unloading time is 5-6pm and set up at 6-8 pm. You can sign up to do this also.

The 2025 FMSC mobile pack packed 139,968 Meals, for a total of 648 Boxes that fed 383 children for a year. These meals went to Liberia with our partner International Children’s Fund.

We had 50 members and friends of our congregation participate in this event last year. In addition, Salem contributed \$1,025 toward the \$41,000 needed to pay for last year’s meals.

We are signing up right now to participate in the packing sessions. Look for the sign up sheets in the Narthex or contact Deb Gilliland.

The “Have a Heart” part of our mission is your donation opportunity.

Please select a heart from the tree in the entryway and make your gift for that amount or donate any amount you wish. You can place the heart with your donation in the offering plate.

All money collected will be used to pay for the mobile pack meals.

Please consider this very important mission opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Gilliland.

# Adult Sunday School

## Sunday Morning Men's Bible Study

### ***Ecclesiastes: Chasing after Meaning*** by Bill Syrios and Teresa Syrios

This study was written about a book that takes on life's most difficult questions. As a matter of fact, the very first sentence lays out the author's stunning conclusion, "*Meaningless! Meaningless!*" says the Teacher. "*Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.*" ~Ecclesiastes 1:2 NIV

Ecclesiastes is the one book in the Bible that just does **not** seem to fit. What place could such a harsh assertion of *meaninglessness* have in a Scripture that intends to reveal the redeeming work of God in history? Along with the book of Job, Ecclesiastes reminds us that God is bigger, and our life in this world more unpredictable, than we might think. This study invites you to take a realistic tour of life.

All are invited to meet in the Gathering Room following the worship service for some "arm-chair" quarterback discussion, followed by digging into the Scriptures, and of course, great food. Weekly leadership (and food) is shared by class members. New members are always welcome to join!

## Visions

### **The Heart of the Psalms - God's Word to the World**, by Rev. James C. Howell

#### Understanding God's Word to the world

The Book of Psalms has been called a school of prayer, as these eloquent words to God become the Word of God for us and a road map to navigate life with God in this world. These final three psalms give a unique glimpse into God's heart and why they connect so deeply with us, the church, and beyond: Psalm 73 (Hope), Psalm 90 (Time), and Psalm 116 (Love). Throughout history, people have turned to these words at pivotal times, finding hope, comfort, and inspiration.

## Lenten Study

### **Why Did Jesus Have to Die? - The Meaning of the Crucifixion**, by Adam Hamilton

#### When Words Fall Short, the Cross Still Speaks!

The Gospel writers saw the Crucifixion (and the subsequent Resurrection) as the climax of God's work in the life of Christ. You cannot understand Jesus without understanding his crucifixion. The New Testament authors didn't settle on one meaning of the crucifixion but instead offered a dozen or more metaphors to explain how it saves, but often without a clear explanation of how Jesus's death accomplishes the saving work they describe. Because of this vagueness, wrapping our minds around the logic and meaning of the cross can cause us to miss the full impact it can have on our daily lives. *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?* is written to help make sense of the crucifixion, to listen for how God might speak to us through it, and that

we might say, along with Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." (Galatians 2:20). This six-week study begins on February 22. If you'd like the study book, cost is \$24.00 (large print).

Join Visions class for either of these studies following the worship service for some food, fellowship and discussion in Fellowship Hall. ~Julie Francis, Visions Class Leader

### **Sunday School Winter Mission - Holy Family Warming Shelter**

We are helping to support the Warming Shelter by collecting needed items of: laundry detergent, towels, full-size shampoo, full-sized bottles of shower gel, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes. Donations can be given during Children's Time through February 1.

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## **Lent begins**

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 6:00pm in the Chapel

Communion will be served along with the imposition of ashes.

## Tuesday Morning Lenten Study; 9:30-11:00am/Fellowship Hall

### **Why Did Jesus Have to Die? - The Meaning of the Crucifixion, by Adam Hamilton**

#### **When Words Fall Short, the Cross Still Speaks!**

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### **Sunday School Mission Lenten Mission - Birthday Boxes for Food Pantry**

Donations will be collected during Children's Time beginning Sunday, February 22 through Sunday, March 22. Each birthday box will include:



- Aluminum 9x13 pan with plastic lid
- Box of "Funfetti" cake mix (blue for boys, pink for girls)
- 1 tub of "Funfetti" frosting
- 1 can of white soda (used in place of water, eggs, & oil)
- Candles
- Balloons
- Birthday plates
- Whisk



**Prayer Chain:** Do you have a concern or a joy you'd like to share with the prayer chain? Call Julie Francis at 920-948-4032 with these requests. All prayer concerns are ***confidential and kept within the prayer chain***. Prayer requests are sent out via email; and if you're interested in being a prayer warrior, please contact Julie for more information.

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### **Women's Life Group Update**

Our **Women's Life Group** continues to meet on the **2nd Thursday of each month from 6:30–8:00 p.m.** All women are welcome!

Each month, the group selects a topic for open, honest, and faith-centered discussion. Together, we explore real-life experiences through the lens of **Scripture**, sharing insights, questions, and encouragement to help us better understand how God is leading us. These gatherings are **uplifting, safe, and filled with genuine connection** — a place where we can be real about life, faith, and the challenges we all face.

We hope you'll join this amazing group of women as we continue to **grow in faith, share in love, and support one another** in life's journey.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

|    |                 |    |                |
|----|-----------------|----|----------------|
| 2  | Sidney Schlies  | 3  | Taylor Hoaglin |
| 3  | James Stewart   | 4  | Maddy Abitz    |
| 5  | Carissa Bell    | 18 | Duncan Corbin  |
| 5  | Myana Kissinger | 19 | Ben Bengel     |
| 6  | Bailey McDowell | 19 | Benjamin Pertl |
| 9  | John Hicken     | 19 | Jordan Resop   |
| 9  | Brandon Smith   | 20 | Kari Tamminga  |
| 11 | Lynn Piepenburg | 25 | Gail Nickels   |
| 16 | David Bonlander | 28 | Jeremy Rasch   |
| 18 | Hanna Boelk     |    |                |

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

11 Donna & Perry Schaack



# February



| Sunday                                                                                                                                             | Monday                                                                                        | Tuesday                               | Wednesday                                            | Thursday                                     | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 <b>**SCRIP Due**</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service/Communion<br><b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>5 PM</b> Confirmation Class              | 2                                                                                             | 3                                     | 4<br><b>6 PM</b> Worship Mtg<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir | 5                                            | 6      | 7        |
| 8<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service<br><b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School                                                                               | 9                                                                                             | 10                                    | 11<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Worship<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir | 12<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Life Group              | 13     | 14       |
| 15 <b>**SCRIP Due**</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Fellowship<br><b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>5 PM</b> Confirmation Class | 16<br><b>6 PM</b> Mickie's Dance Class<br><b>6 PM</b> ALB<br><b>**Kaleidoscope Deadline**</b> | 17<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Lent Bible Study | 18<br><b>6 PM</b> Ash Wednesday Service              | 19                                           | 20     | 21       |
| 22<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship<br><b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>5 PM</b> Confirmation Class                                                    | 23                                                                                            | 24<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Lent Bible Study | 25<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir                           | 26<br><b>5:45 PM</b> Green Thumb Garden Club | 27     | 28       |
|                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                               |                                       |                                                      |                                              |        |          |

Salem United Methodist Church  
120 Sheboygan St.  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

***DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?  
IF SO, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW:  
office@salemchurch.com***

***IT'S A WAY TO SAVE SOME PRINTING  
AND MAILING COSTS!***

***SCHEDULE OF SERVICES***

9:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship Service

Pastor Eliud Martinez

Email: [pastorfdlsalemumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfdlsalemumc@gmail.com)

***CHURCH OFFICE HOURS***

MONDAY-THURSDAY

1-3 PM

*OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS*

920-921-8605

WEBSITE: [www.fldsalemchurch.com](http://www.fldsalemchurch.com)

## KALEIDOSCOPE ADDENDUM

### How to Spot Spam (Phishing) Emails

#### 1. Be suspicious of emails that create urgency or fear

##### Red flags include:

- “Act now!”
- “Your account will be closed today”
- “Suspicious activity detected”
- “I need your assistance right now”

**Simple rule:** If an email makes you feel rushed or fearful, **STOP**. DO NOT click links, open attachments, or reply to the sender.

#### 2. Who is the email really from?

When checking the **From** line, look at two things:

1. **Display name** – this is just a label and can be faked.
2. **Email address** – this shows who actually sent the message.

If you are unsure:

- Verify using a **phone call** or by looking up the sender **on your own** (for example, via Google).
- Check with a trusted friend, coworker, or contact.
- **Never reply to the email itself.** A scammer will always claim they are legitimate.

#### 3. Look for additional red flags

- Email address looks close but is not exact (e.g., **amaz0n.com** instead of **amazon.com**)
- Generic greetings like “Dear Customer” instead of your name
- Unusual grammar, spelling errors, or odd spacing
- Logos or graphics that look slightly “off” or low quality
- Read it as if the known person were speaking to you, does it sound natural or does it feel wrong?
- Requests for sensitive information, such as:
  - Passwords
  - Social Security numbers
  - Credit card details
  - Gift card numbers
  - One-time codes from authenticator apps
- Unexpected documents/attachments (these can contain malware)
- Buttons or links like “**Verify Account**” or “**Confirm Login**”, which may:
  - Steal your username and password, or
  - Install malware on your device

#### 4. When in doubt, throw it out

If something doesn't feel right, delete the email.

#### 5. Verify unexpected messages

If you were not expecting an email, document, or request from the sender:

- **Do not open attachments**
- **Do not click links or buttons**
- Contact the sender using **a known, trusted phone number** or website to confirm

**6. Remember this key rule---**Legitimate companies **never** ask you to provide your username, password, or other sensitive personal information via email.

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### Accountable Leadership Board (ALB)

Agenda/Minutes

January 19, 2026

Meeting convened at 6:05 pm

**Attendees:** Mark Runke, Mickie Anderson, Phil Corbin, Bob Mikkelsen, Pastor Martinez, Rick Roth, Doug Hammack, Penny Kottke, Amy Ahlstrom, Harry Classen (visitor)

**Excused:** Jon Gilliland

**Opening Prayer** provided by Penny Kottke

**Committee Reports** (follow up from 2025)

- **Trustees**-Phil Corbin-Handout given to all
  - Ovens repaired
    - Replaced thermostats and calibrating. Thermocouples replaced
    - Costs funded by Men's Fellowship and a private donor
  - Cold calls received for Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall during last cold snap
    - Outdoor air sensor shorted out due to ice on the sensor from dripping gutter
    - Temporary shield placed until warmer weather. New shield ordered
    - Cost of new shield donated
  - Security concerns in choir loft when Libby is practicing and only person in building
    - Involved Fire Marshall in investigation of East and West entrances
    - East entry will have new secure lever installed to be locked when Libby is present
    - West entry more complicated. Work in progress
    - Phil communicating with Libby as to progress
    - Estimated cost \$2,000.00 - \$3,000.00
  - Three year Boiler inspection is due 3/1/2026
    - Phil is in contact with insurance brokers for new inspectors as church insurance company has changed
  - Smoke Detector Battery replacement church wide
    - Norm and Phil will change to save church the cost of replacement
  - Snow Removal change

- Contract was change for services for parking lot snow removal to 2” depth or greater. Previously 1”. Cost per time remains at \$85.00. Salt is in short supply from snow removal company. Judi Balson has found another source.
  - Change in church insurance
    - Phil attended online conference and they are currently working with three companies to determine best cost effective company to go with.
    - More to come as proposals come in and are analyzed
  - Annual Fire Inspection
    - Scheduled for February 6, 2026 at 9:45 am. Phil or Norm will cover
  - Annual Lift Inspection
    - Phil will contact Arrow Lift to schedule
- **Missions**-Doug Hammack-1<sup>st</sup> quarter Missions of the Month
  - **Jan:** Holy Family Warming Shelter
  - **Feb:** Feed My Starving Children (Have a Heart Campaign) Mobile Pack is Mar 21
  - **Mar:** Sleep in Heavenly Peace (donations toward build a bed, local chapter)
- **Budget**-Penny Kottke-Handout given to all
  - Revenue-Met 2025 revenue budget by borrowing \$36,012 from the church’s emergency fund
    - Overall General Fund giving declined in 2025 compared to 2024
    - Special events revenue was lower than previous years, with Apple Harvest Fest generating less income
  - Expenses-Actual expenses were approx. \$36,000 less than 2025 budget
  - Custodian hours are 20 hours/week rather than 25 as originally in budget
  - Budget for 2026 was created from projections from 2025. Will need to watch expenses carefully.
  - Voted to accept 2026 budget by Mark Runke. All ALB members passed unanimously
  - Financials will be presented to congregation in the future

**Open Discussion included Organizational chart and how new meeting will flow, Roles and expectations**

- Transition to new ALB with using *Mission: Possible* book as reference. Will be a work in progress for first year or two. Mark agreed to Chair for 1 year to assist with transition.
- Committees of Stewardship, Missions, Trustees, Worship and SPRC will have task teams and items brought to ALB for final approval. Do background work and bring recommendations to ALB.
- Mark is still seeking a second person for Finance position on ALB
- **All members to read section from Mission: Possible, Phase Three: Implementing pg. 143-188**
- All ALB members to sign covenant (Mark will bring to February meeting)
- First year of implementation to have all members agree to two years then go on rotating basis of ideally three years
- Will set goals next meeting of how to grow and sustain
- Following the acronym of S.I.M.P.L.E.
  - **Shared Purpose:** Team members need a common goal that aligns their efforts.
  - **Interdependence:** Team members should rely on one another to achieve objectives.
  - **Mutual Accountability:** Members hold each other accountable for their contributions.
  - **Participation and Engagement:** Active involvement of all team members enhances creativity.
  - **Leadership:** There must be effective leadership to guide the team.
  - **Evaluation:** Regular assessment of team performance is crucial for improvement.

- Stewardship needs to be all year long, not just October. Ideally monthly
- Member at large representative will be eyes and ears of congregation
- Communication will increase with congregation to remain transparent
  - Simplified minutes will be included in monthly Kaleidoscope excluding personnel issues
  - Synopsis of ALB minutes will be included in bulletin insert on Sunday following meeting
  - Any meetings happening at church need to be on the church calendar. These will also be on church website and in weekly bulletin and E-news.

**Next meeting date** February 16, 2026 at 6:00 pm  
 Closing comments, close meeting with prayer by Mark Runke  
 Meeting concluded at 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted  
 Amy Ahlstrom, Communication Specialist

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**Having noisy children in the church is a far better sound  
 than the sound of no children in the church!**

Children are not a disturbance in the church they are a sign that the church is alive. Their laughter, whispers, and little footsteps remind us that God’s house is not a museum for the perfect, but a home for generations being raised in His presence. When we see children in the church, even when they are restless, it is a testimony that the Word of God continues to reach the hearts of families.

The absence of children in the church is far more troubling than their noise. It means the future is growing silent, and faith is not being passed down. Jesus Himself welcomed the children, saying, Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14, NJV). He saw their value, their innocence, and their place in His kingdom.

Let us, therefore, rejoice when children fill the sanctuary. Their presence is the sound of tomorrow’s worshippers, tomorrow’s preachers, and tomorrow’s intercessors. A noisy church is a living church because where there is life, there is hope, and where there is hope, Christ is still at work.

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**February Anniversaries**

Wayne & Gail Nickels Feb 21