

# The Salem News

Salem Covenant Church  
7811 135<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Pennock, MN 56279

Address Correction Requested



## **Salem Covenant Church**

Website: [salemcovpennock.org](http://salemcovpennock.org)  
7811 – 135<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Pennock, MN 56279

### **Pastor Rich Theilen**

Interim  
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*Office Hours Mon. & Thurs. 8am-2pm*

## **Weekly Church Schedule**

### **Sunday:**

9am-Confirmation 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
9:15am-Sunday School, 2 years-102!  
10:30am-Worship Service

### **Wednesday:**

5:45pm-Supper (during the school year)  
6:30-8pm-AWANA, 3yr's.-6<sup>th</sup> grade (during the school year)  
6:30pm-Heart Association 7<sup>th</sup>-12 grade  
7pm-Adult Bible Study

**“Heartfelt Worship”**  
**(Fifth in a Series on Being a “Healthy Missional Church”)**

Over the years, I’ve had the opportunity to worship in many different churches in many different places, not only here in America, but in other parts of the world as well. Some have been large churches, others small ones. Some have been in urban settings, others in rural areas or small towns. Some have been part of so-called “liturgical” traditions, others have been wildly contemporary, charismatic congregations. Some services have been extravagant “productions,” but many others have been relatively simple events. And while most of my worship experiences have been in Covenant Churches, others have not. In fact, the most moving worship experience I have ever been part of was at the Cathedral in Saint Paul.

I’ll be honest: some worship experiences have been more personally engaging than others. And yet, I think I can honestly say that—with a few notable exceptions (like the service where the “preacher” quoted the Qur’an as if it were equal to the Bible—Cheryl and I walked out of that one)—with a few notable exceptions, I don’t think I’ve ever been to a “bad” worship service.

The reason is that I seem to have an ability to worship in just about any style, provided two basic things are true: (i) the worship is focused on Jesus, and (ii) the people leading worship are there to actually lead *worship*, not perform for an “audience.” And even when the second of those is not entirely true, as long as the first is there, I’m usually pretty good.

One thing God has increasingly impressed on me is that worship is not about me. It’s not about what I like or don’t like. It’s not about how I feel or don’t feel. It’s not about getting my batteries charged or any of the other things that, humanly speaking, I could get focused on. Worship is about God, the gospel, and my *response* to both. And to be honest, some of the times I have been most uncomfortable in worship have been precisely the times that I have had the clearest sense of who God is and what his call on me might be (that’s probably *why* I was so uncomfortable). Therefore, the most important question to me is not about whether or not a worship service pleased me, but whether or not it pleased *God*.

A second thing that has helped me over the years is the notion that it is important for me to be willing to worship in a way that helps *others* worship. It strikes me that much of the trouble so many churches have experienced in terms of worship stem from one very basic issue: people demanding something from others, rather than offering something to them. The first produces division. The second creates unity. And there is nothing that should be more unifying than worship.

In a few weeks, we’ll be looking at this issue of worship in our sermon series on “Being a Healthy Missional Church.” Until then, let me encourage you to think about just two questions:

- When you come to worship, where’s your focus?
- When it comes to worship at Salem, is there something you can do to help others worship the same God you do?

--Pastor Rich Theilen

## MISSION MOMENTS

By Kent Syverson

2018: A new year, a new start.



A brochure from *Samaritan's Purse: Feeding Families in Crisis*. "Ongoing civil war has forced hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese to flee their homes and farms and find sanctuary in overcrowded refugee camps." More than 400,000 people are living in the refugee camp. They get rations of sorghum, lentils, cooking oil and salt, among other things. The people of Samaritan's Purse then share God's love, which gives them opportunities to attend to their spiritual needs as well. They offer Bible literacy and discipleship programs, crisis counseling, and church partnerships. Meanwhile, they also have sent emergency food supplies to places stricken by war, such as Iraq, and stricken by drought, such as Kenya. "As our staff provides physical nourishment, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, who alone satisfies a person's deepest needs as the true *"bread of life."* (John 6:48) Please pray for them.

Matthew 4:4b says, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."*

A letter from *Hope Pregnancy Center* November 20, 2017: An unnamed woman and her husband had walked in to their clinic with their baby. She said, "If you hadn't been here, my baby wouldn't be here." Earlier in 2017, she came in to confirm her pregnancy. She was afraid and in tears. After the test came back positive, they arranged for her a free doctor's appointment and gave her some much needed supplies. "She had been estranged from her family for some time and had even told them she had had an abortion." She has since reconnected with her family, and now they help her and her family. Please pray for them.



A letter from *Mercy Ships* November 2017: Three children--Jacques, Elodie and Marie, all siblings--had been blind. "They once spent every moment bound together in darkness. Now they're free." The cataracts that blinded them had been removed. Their mother Amina said, "Their eyes are bright now." Jacques returned to school, and the sisters will soon join him (if they haven't already). The lame, disfigured, blind and outcast people will continue to come to the Mercy Ships, all hoping for the "miracle of surgery." Please pray for them.

A map from *40 Days For Life* has a series of blue dots and red dot. The blue dots indicate areas where abortion centers have closes, including one in Minnesota. The red dots indicate areas where abortion facilities are going to be targets for vigils, including four in Minnesota. I still have the map in case anybody wants to see it. Please pray for them.



## January 2018 Family Prayer List

- 1 Jim & Carol Arends
- 2 Scott & Christy Arends, Aric
- 3 Nick & Abbie Ardoff
- 4 Elliot & Erin Balance, Theolena (Lena) & Penelope (Poppy)
- 5 Bev Barnes
- 6 Brant & Samantha Beckman, Maclynn
- 7 Gary & Julie Beckman
- 8 Herb & Joyce Beckman
- 9 Marc & Leah Beckman
- 10 Paul & Kali Beckman
- 11 David & Angie Beyerl, Avery, Ella & Brienna
- 12 Gerald & Lynette Braun, Cayden
- 13 Bill & Dorothy Broberg
- 14 Maybelle Broberg
- 15 Doris Broberg
- 16 Tim Broberg
- 17 Jonathan & Taya Broberg, Gavin, Emmett, Colby & Leo
- 18 Derrick, Kyle & Preston Broberg
- 19 Randy & Paula Broberg
- 20 Ethan & Sharon Calvin
- 21 David & Dawn Capp, Hannah & Lydia
- 22 Alan & Jill Carlson
- 23 Amber Carlson
- 24 Howard & Terri Carlson, Travis
- 25 Tayler Carlson
- 26 Grant Carlson
- 27 Jerome & Gretchen Carlson
- 28 LuAnn Carlson
- 29 Marvin & Pat Carlson
- 30 Vonnie Carlson
- 31 Mark & Tonia Danielson, Caden & Ryley



### January Anniversaries

2<sup>nd</sup> 8 yrs Elliot & Erin Ballance  
3<sup>rd</sup> 14 yrs Lee & Stephanie Tollefsrud



### January Birthdays

- 1 Jerome Carlson
- 1 Katelyn Friedlein
- 9 John Kluver
- 13 Lynette Braun
- 15 Jonah Tollefsrud
- 16 Samantha Beckman
- 18 Gavin Broberg
- 19 Joanne Tofte
- 19 Grace Tollefsrud
- 20 Nathan Thompson
- 22 Dan Roepke
- 23 Jill Carlson
- 25 Cooper Peterson
- 26 Lee Tollefsrud
- 29 Jean Halverson
- 29 Marc Beckman
- 30 Pat Schemmel

## January Servers 2018

### Greeters

- 7 Bruce & Patti Hoaglund
- 14 Herb & Joyce Beckman
- 21 Craig & Renee Johnson
- 28 John & Lucinda Kluver



### Nursery – Toddler Rm.

- 7 Kara Rothers & girls
- 14 Chad & Rochelle Kallstrom
- 21 Ron & Karen Johnson
- 28 Duane & Brianna Holmgren



### Infant Rm.

- 7 Brant & Samantha Beckman
- 14 Paul & Kali Beckman
- 21 Haylee Johnson & Sara Rothers
- 28 Leah Beckman & Katelyn Friedlein



### Wednesday Night Serving Teams

- 10 Gretchen Carlson's Team 1
- 17 Sheila Geurtz Team 2
- 24 Karen & Ron Johnson's Team 3
- 31 Maria Hulscher's Team 4



Fellowship Meal

### Ushers

\*Lane Johnson, Jesse Hulscher, Howard Carlson, Steve Geurtz, Lucas Friedlein, Dan Toledo, John Kluver, Todd Johnson & Warren Johnson. \*Denotes head usher



USHERS

## January Coming Events

### Sunday, January 7

Secretary & Treasurer annual reports are due. Please email your report to Bernadette at [salemcovenant@mvtvwireless.com](mailto:salemcovenant@mvtvwireless.com). If you don't have email please put your report in Bernadette's church mailbox.

### Sundays, January 7 & 14 – Baptism Class

This two-week discussion is for anyone interested in learning more, or in actually being baptized. Topics will include:

- Some basic history on baptism
- The variety of biblical images associated with baptism
- Why the Covenant recognized both believer and infant baptism
- Questions to consider when making decisions about baptism

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### Monday, January 8

6pm – CE Board meeting with both the former & newly elected board members.

7pm – 7pm – Vitality meeting in the library

### Tuesday, January 9

7pm – Executive Board meeting with both the former & newly elected board members

### Thursday, January 11

11:30am - Are you over 55? Do you enjoy good food and having fun? Please Join us at the Kerkhoven Civic Center on A light noon lunch consisting of homemade soups, sandwiches, bars, milk and coffee will be served for a free will donation. After the lunch, Diane Shuck and Shirley Simmonds will be presenting a musical program. There will be door prizes!!! If you'd like transportation, please call the city office at 264-2581 by 3pm on Tuesday, January 9. Rustad Bus Service will be providing transportation.

### Monday, January 15 – Friday, January 19

Salem needs drivers for "Meals on Wheels" for the week of Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. If you're able to help out, please sign up on the bulletin board.



### Tuesday, January 16 and Friday, January 19

5pm - Salem serves supper for Family Promise at New London Covenant Church. We are responsible to make and serve the supper, as well as being the evening host. We should "hang out" until the overnight hosts come at 8:00pm. Please let Linda Friedlein know if you are willing, or have any questions.



### Friday, January 19-Sunday, January 21 - Men's Retreat (*Designed for adult and teen men (9th grade & up)*)

\*A NEW RETREAT for men who want to enjoy the Winter Adventures at Lake Beauty. Tons of opportunities to go snow tubing, to skate and/or broom ball on the lake, AND a Saturday Snowmobile Day Trip out-and-about on some of Todd County's greatest snowmobile trails (bring your own snowmobile).

\*Lodging is in Loon Lodge. Bathrooms with showers are located in the retreat center. Please bring your own bedding and towels. Check-in Friday evening from 6-8pm at the Welcome Center.

\*Included in your weekend adventure is 2 nights lodging, Friday evening Pizza Snack, Saturday Breakfast, Lunch (either at camp or on the snowmobile trail), and Supper, as well as Sunday Breakfast. Cost: \$135, Registration Deadline is Monday, January 8, 2018. Check-in: Friday evening 6-8pm at the Welcome Center.

### Sunday, January 21

11:30am – Potluck dinner

12:30pm – Annual Business meeting

### Monday, January 22-Friday January 26

Northwest Midwinter Conference in Chicago

### Tuesday, January 30

7pm – June 4-8 VBS planning meeting at the Kerkhoven Free Church. If you would like to help plan this year's VBS, please come! For more information please contact Bernadette Fuchs at 320-894-9305.



## **Some Highlights of February Events!**

### **Thursday, February 1**

6:30pm – Covenant Women, “Summertime in the Winter!” at Salem. Planners are Maria Hulscher and Leah Beckman



### **Friday, February 2 – Sunday, February 4** Youth Winter Retreat (*Open to 7th-12th grade students*)

\*You’ll finally get to enjoy the winter at Lake Beauty!!! Tons of time for; snow tubing, broomball, big snow games on the field, challenging chapel sessions, great food, and more. Lots of opportunities to connect with old camp friends, and generate some new friends. With the theme of *#Selfie* - it's a retreat not to be missed!

\*Winter Retreat includes a yummy Friday snack, but be sure to eat supper before you come or along the way on Friday.

Cost: \$135, after January 29th: \$145. Meals included: Saturday Breakfast - Sunday Brunch.

Arrival/Check-in: Friday 7-8pm, Departure: Sunday 12:30pm

\*Guest speaker will be Joe Lomando - favorite color: navy blue - shoe size: 10 {Keep checking LBBC website for more Joe-information }

### **Sundays February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> – Inquirers’ Class**

This four-week discussion is for those who are new to Salem, or who have been here for a while and may be thinking about membership. Among the topics we cover will be:

- The history, mission, and ministry of Salem
- The history, principles, and ministry of the Covenant Church
- What church membership is all about
- Possible next steps in your own journey at Salem. While participation is required for church membership, it does not obligate you to join the church.

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.**

### **Thursday, February 21-Sunday, February 25**

Men, sign up and come with me (Craig Dischinger) and Jonathan Broberg to Oklahoma! We are taking the on the Xtreme Character Challenge and we would love for you to join us. I have twisted many arms but they have not broken... yet... The purpose of the Xtreme Character Challenge is to *"Draw men to the highest place on earth, the foot of the cross."* If you feel stuck in the rut with your walk with Jesus or want to take it to the next level, get out of your comfort zone and come with! (*The fieldwork can wait until you return*). There is still time to sign up. Go to [the4thmusketeer.org/xcc](http://the4thmusketeer.org/xcc) for registration and a cool promo video. Just think, Oklahoma will be warmer than Minnesota in February! Please contact Craig at 320-420-4012 for more information.



## **Remember to Pray & Visit our Nursing Home Love Ones**

### **Bethesda Grand**

Maybelle Broberg - #306

Josie Tollefsrud - #206

### **Copperleaf Senior**

Liz Rundquist - #206

## **Praying for our Covenant National Missionaries**

Jan. 7 – Esau Vega & Heather Caraway – Mission Team Facilitation, Merge. 2016-present

Jan. 14 – Rudel & Jenifer DeCastro - Mission Team Facilitation, Merge. 2012-present

Jan. 21 – Jim & Joan Gustafson – Development – 2008-present; 1971-2002

Jan. 28 – Peter & Katherine Choi-Lee – Evangelism & Outreach. 2017-present, 1996-2003 (Katherine)





## Merry Christmas from all of us at Lake Beauty Bible Camp

2017 has been an amazing year. I may say that often, but it is absolutely true for this past year. We were privileged to see close to 100 kids make first time professions of Faith and many more who made re-commitments to allow God to "Set them Free". We saw God show up in the lives of young and old, camper and staff.

### The below paragraph is from the Member Church Year End Letter:

Lake Beauty is all about life transformation. One of the most amazing opportunities I had this Summer was week one with Junior High 1 camp. It was Tuesday night which is "U-Turn" night. This year as students left the chapel they were encouraged to write things on a piece of paper that they wanted to leave at the cross. As they exited the chapel a Summer Staffer would take their piece of paper and nail it to the cross. They were told that if once they had nailed their "junk" to the cross they could come back to the chapel and do business with God or head back to their cabin and get ready for bed. That first U-Turn night, 2 boys went back into the chapel to finish their business with God. Once they were finished they walked out of the chapel and as they looked at the cross, all the 100's of pieces of paper were gone. As those two boys walked towards the cross, they both went to their knees and began to pray together.

Christmas is all about Jesus and him coming to meet us. As I have thought about that reality, that is what we are preparing for and praying for as each person enters this place. So it's kinda like Christmas all year long at camp.

Because of so many walking along side of us and the increased attendance that we have seen, we are continuing to work on making much needed improvements to the camp. We are so grateful to all that we have been able to do so far and are making plans as we continue the updating and improving.

We want to wish all of you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

With Much Gratitude,  
Lake Beauty Bible Camp Staff and Students