

Salem Lutheran Church
2101 North Virginia
PO BOX 1897
Port Lavaca, Tx 77979
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2025



12-25
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"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!"



Salem Lutheran Church
" Sharing the love of Christ "

2101 N. Virginia
PO Box 1897
Port Lavaca, Texas 77979
361-552-9379
pastor@salemportlavaca.org
secretary@salemportlavaca.org

Pastor	Pastor Nancy Jaster	630-605-8528
Office Manager	Terri Malaer	920-4013
Financial Secretary	Retha Hahn	920-1248
Choir Director	Kay Ham	484-5386
Organists	William Hahn, Jr.	552-7750
	Kay Ham	484-5386
	Kathy Riske	484-0835
Prayer Chain	Steve Bales	482-6646
Clothing God's Children		
	Gail Wehmeyer	920-0826
Altar Guild Leader	Retha Hahn	920-1248

Executive Council

President	Steve Bales	482-6646
Vice President	Eddie Witt	482-8025
Secretary	Cheryl Caraway	801-244-1368
Treasurer	Karen Blinka	649-8241

Council Ministry Teams

Proclaim	Dorothy Witt	782-8186
Nurture	Dottie Caldwell	571-0668
Response	Larena Hahn	746-0999
Property	Bobby Hahn	655-4318

Pastor's Ponderings

Greetings all as the holiday season is in full swing with Thanksgiving being a few days ago and Christmas coming in a few weeks. Gratitude and hope together are a way through the darkness of winter, the chaos of this time of year and the discouragement that comes when life is so uncertain. It is helpful to remember the blessings we have been given. I am so very thankful for you, your faithfulness, generosity, and dedication to being the hands, feet and voice of God. Our ministry here in Calhoun County is important and makes a difference. You also make a difference to those in far off places with the Shoe Boxes, water wells and gifts through disaster relief.

The hope that comes with the birth of Jesus makes all the difference in the world when the world seems to be falling apart, or our life seems to be coming apart at the seams. This hope is much deeper and more solid than the hope of Santa Claus. And as good and as important as family is, this season of hope is not about that, but about Jesus who comes to be with us and dwell with us.

As important as giving and sharing is, it is not about that in an of itself. It is about giving and sharing to show love and care, to lift up those that are struggling, to care for those whom God loves and humans tend to disregard. We love and care for others because God loves and cares for us with no strings attached.

Peace and hope with gratitude.
Pastor



December Announcements



Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 21st! The Children's Sunday School will be singing during worship and that is always such a treat. Come and see all the joy and Christmas delight in their faces!

.....
We will go Caroling on December 21st, meeting here at Salem at 3PM. If you know of a family, who enjoy the caroling, please let Pastor know. If you would like to join in the Caroling fun, please let Pastor know that too!



.....
December 24th at 7:00PM Salem
will hold our annual
traditional Candlelight
Christmas Eve Worship
.....

The church office will be closed
December 25 and 26th for Christmas.

The office will closed on January 1 and 2, 2026
for the New Year.

.....
Pastor Jaster will be gone and out of the office
December 28-31, 2025.

Please do not hesitate to call
the church office
or ask a councilperson if you need anything.
.....



Advent starts next Sunday, November 30, 2025.

Salem will have Wednesday evening Holden Evening Prayer worship services with a meal before. The meal will start at 6:00PM and worship will begin at 7:00PM. The mid-week offering of Advent will be gifted to The Calhoun Co. Food Pantry and The Oasis Showers organizations.

We are passing a sign-up for host families to help with the setting up, with additional sign-up for soups, sandwiches, etc..

Salem is excited to announce that the Seadrift Community Choir will visit us on the Wednesday night of December 10th and share their musical gifts.

All are welcomed!

Sharing the **L**ove of **C**hrist with
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love



OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX

WOW! 31 Boxes

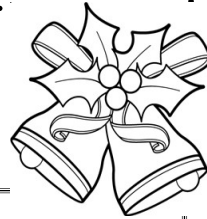
and \$230 extra to help with shipping costs

WOW! Salem Lutheran Church members did 31 shoeboxes and provided an additional \$170 for shipping to Samaritain's Purse.

Thanks to everyone who participated: filling a box, helping pay for shipping. These boxes are a blessing to everyone, recipients and those filling boxes.

Thanks again for supporting this ministry of Salem Lutheran Church.

De Colores!



We will be printing a 2026 Church Telephone Directory.
A clipboard with information I currently have
will be passed during the December worship services.

PLEASE, PLEASE PLEASE!

check it for you and your family
to make sure all information is correct.

From the Church Council



December 14, 2025 - next Council meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT

*November's offering totaled: \$ 25,288.13
(a full report was not ready for the newsletter)*



*Information regarding Christmas Pointsettias will
be coming SOON!*



*Are you a Thrivent member and have "Choice
Dollars"? Consider sharing them with Salem
Lutheran Church for a Christmas gift or a simple
tax donation.*



*January 25, 2026 -
Annual Congregational Meeting*



From the SLC Council Council

These are the open 2026 Council positions:

Vice- President

Proclaim Ministry

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for the open positions,
and speak to any Council Member.

**Salem Lutheran Church
(Un-official Minutes from last meeting)
August 10, 2025, at 10:15 AM**

Council Members Present: Pastor Nancy Jaster, Steve Bales, Cheryl Caraway, Bobby Hahn, Larena Hahn, Dottie Caldwell, Dorothy and Eddie Witt.

Prayer Concerns: No new concerns.

Approval of Agenda: Cheryl moved to approve, Bobby seconded, motion passed to add Fall Festival Results to the agenda and to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting: Cheryl moved to approve, Bobby seconded, motion passed to approve October minutes.

Reports:

Treasurer: Submitted as information.

Pastor: Submitted as information.

Proclaim: Nothing to report.

Nurture: Sunday School kids will sing and play hand bells on December 21.

Response: There was a suggestion to not always have soup for our Wednesday night dinners. Decided to continue with soup suppers for Advent and look into changing it up for our Lenten suppers.

Property: The AC and heater are working well. The carpet in the Fellowship Hall will be cleaned on November 24; therefore, the table and chairs will need to be taken down on the Sunday before.

Old Business:

- Fall Festival results were looked at. Pastor moved to approve, Dorothy seconded, motion passed to move \$7,000.00 from the fall festival account to the bottom line to help with the year end totals. The purpose of the fall festival was to bring money in to supplement our offerings. Our goal was accomplished!
- The Salem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall Policy was revised. Please get the copy of the policy emailed to the council members.

- The 2026 Council Nominations will be for the Vice President and Proclaim ministry team leader. Notify the Nomination committee to gather members for nomination. Nomination committee is Lydia Strakos, Dave McAfee, Lindsey Smith and Gail Wehmeyer.

New Business: Steve and Cheryl volunteered to review and amend the church constitution to be consistent with the currently updated Model Constitution for Congregations of the E.L.C.A.

Calendar: All ok.

Dates to Remember:

- First Sunday of Advent is November 30, 2025
- CCMA Christmas Dinner is December 4, 2025

Adjournment: Cheryl moved to adjourn, Dorothy seconded, motion passed and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Caraway, Secretary

+++++

Fall Festival Update

Thank you to everyone who worked, donated and supported our 1st Annual Fall Festival and Market Day.

It was a huge success and Salem had \$ 7000 in proceeds.

We are blessed beyond measure.



"Sharing the Love of Christ"
ATTENDANCE:

SUNDAYS of November: 02 09 16 23 30
Worship Service: 48 45 45 47 54

.....



December Birthdays

- 2nd: Damon Vickery*
- 4th: Bernice Haith*
- 7th: Clint Myers*
- 8th: Martha Vickery*
- 12th: Ronnie Riske*
- 16th: Hannah Bales*
- 20th: Bethanie Caldwell*
- 21st: Laurel Myers*
- 24th: Marvin Strakos*
- 29th: Gail Wehmeyer*

.....

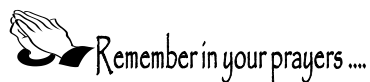
*Please call the office with corrections or additions to
 Birthday's and Anniversaries*

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December Anniversary's

- 9th: Steve & Pam Bales*



**ANSWERED PRAYERS:****NEW PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Kathy Raven	Brent Marek	Richard Horn
Lloyd Bales	Willie Garza	Debra Harabis
Serenity Harabis	Aaron Ray Harabis	Asher Harabis
Dustin Caraway	Jack Thormahlen	Margaret Gosnell
Martha Smith	Janie Garza	Kelly Tomlison
Billy Guenther		

CONTINUED PRAYER CONCERNS:

Virginia Hahn	Dorothy Caraway	Damon Vickery
William Witt	Joyce Schaefer	Rita Boudreaux

HIS SAFE HARBOR: Marilyn Jaster

SOLDALIS SENIOR LIVING RESIDENTS: Ruth Hahn

TRINITY SHORES RESIDENTS: Bobby and Margaret Gosnell
Vera Hahn and Paul Kelm

THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES:

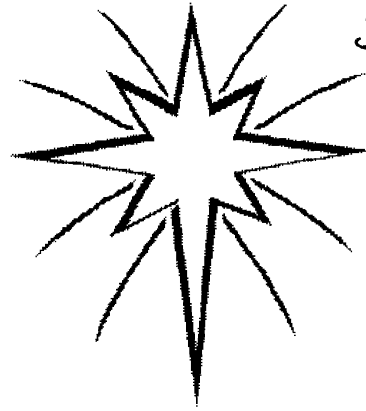
The family of Kathy Konrad in her death.

Please help us keep our Prayer list up to date and call the church office at 361-552-9379 with Answered Prayers, New prayer concerns or Continued prayer concerns.

Our Prayer list helps us focus on those with specific needs whether they are members, family or friends.

"We have seen his star in the east and
have come to worship Him."
Matthew 2:2

The
Salem
star



"Sharing the Love of Christ"

Salem Lutheran Church
2101 North Virginia Street
PO BOX 1897
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
361-552-9379

Web site: www.salemportlavaca.org
Emails: pastor@salemportlavaca.org
secretary@salem-portlavaca.org

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Closed for Lunch from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.