

Mission statement:

(The reason why we exist)

“Connecting to Christ, Growing in Grace, Seeking to Serve”

Mission Goals:

(The special focus of our ministry in coming days.)

Outreach: “Salem is a community of believers who are willing and able to share the love of Jesus”

Young People and Families: “Salem is a community of faith where young parents learn to raise their children to live fruitful Christian lives of faith and service.”

Spiritual Maturity: “Salem is a community of disciples-in-progress who continually deepen their relationship with Christ and their capacity to serve. The writer of Proverbs wrote: *“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Proverbs 29:18.* Salem Lutheran Church and School is not without vision. Trusting in Almighty God and clinging to His promises, we are certain of our salvation. We boldly align ourselves to the vision He has for us, here in this place and in this time. Our mission is threefold. First, God through His Son Jesus has commanded us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Second, we are also commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves. Third, we are commanded to make disciples until the whole world hears of His saving love.

Salem Lutheran Church and School has Spirit-led, Christ-centered worship. Our worship is a celebration of spiritual nourishment, a dynamic and meaningful expression of our praise and thanks. We encounter Christ through the preaching of the Word and Sacraments. The Word is preached in purity and truth, communicating Law and Gospel, salvation by grace, and how to live as God’s disciples. The worship is relevant and thought-provoking, captures our attention, and motivates us to go deeper into God’s Word. It prompts people to have conversations with each other and to share this message with others. Acknowledging that we were created by God, we reflect this creativity back to Him by offering our praise through a variety of music and worship styles; from instrumental and choral arrangements to dramas and special messages. We do this to love God, to serve others and to make disciples.

Salem Lutheran Church and School is a house of Christian prayer for all nations. Trusting that God’s Word never goes forth without fulfilling His purpose, we work to advance the kingdom of God. Our first and best way to do this is the through privilege of prayer, a gift of the Holy Spirit. We pray and give thanks in all situations before we attempt to carry out His work, and we pray unceasingly, joyfully, and deliberately. We pray individually and in groups because God has promised that where two or three are gathered in His Name, God is near, and He hears our prayers. Salem’s faith family prays not only for each other but also for those who walk into our building and for those we encounter in the community. Our prayer for the church is from Ephesians: *“I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith ... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:16-19* We do this to love God, to serve others, and to make disciples.

Salem Lutheran Church and School emphasizes faith maturity. We are a family of believers, living by God's grace, according to God's commands, and in God-pleasing fellowship with one another. We believe that we are called to support, strengthen, and encourage one another to live lives of ever-deepening faith. We embrace the fact that we have peace with God and that we have His grace through Jesus Christ. In this faith family, we grow in the peace that we have with God, in Christ, even as we extend that peace to one another. We hold each other accountable to walking the faith walk, to upholding Law and Gospel, and to becoming disciples of His Word. Our caring ministries walk with others in times of transition, grief, and joy. We gather in groups – small and large - in homes, in fellowship halls, in school rooms, and in sports arenas. It is a privilege to share Christ through service and fellowship without fear of persecution, and we do not take this privilege for granted. We joyfully engage in this as often as possible, and we constantly create new groups that allow for deeper and broader Christian relationships. We do this to love God, to serve others, and to make disciples.

Salem Lutheran Church and School families grow in Christian living. We believe that the Christian home is the primary place for faith formation. Little in our secular culture conveys that God loves us. Salem equips and supports parents to bring up their children in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. In this effort, support groups, parenting classes, Bible studies, and mentors are available for moms and dads. Parents are given training to create teachable moments to help their families view the world as Christians and to have honest and appropriate discussions with their children. This training encourages parents to tell their children “Jesus loves you” in as many ways and situations as possible and to share their faith with others. As these children mature, they are welcomed into our active youth group where, guided by able and loving leadership, their faith and service grows stronger. Once they reach college age, they are connected to campus ministries where they will continue to grow stronger in their faith and their ability to share that with others. We cultivate and nurture relationships with those who are going through the transitions of their twenties and thirties as they deal with issues such as career decisions and relationship questions. We do this to love God, to serve others, and to make disciples.

Salem Lutheran Church and School excels in Christian elementary education. We hold our school ministry in high esteem. Our Christian school stands as a beacon in the Affton community, providing excellent education, bringing the truth of Jesus into the lives of students, and developing servant leaders in a family of believers. Our teachers and staff are caring professionals who constantly strive to meet the needs of all learners. We have a welcoming and safe family atmosphere where each student grows in his or her identity as a saved child of God. We do this to love God, to serve others, and to make disciples.

Salem Lutheran Church and School is a community of lifelong learners. On Sunday mornings, our members look forward to Bible studies offered for all ages, meeting throughout the church and school buildings. All through the week, our members engage in a variety of classes that help them grow in their faith, understand God's Word, and apply it to their life. New Christians are welcomed into classes that are tailored for their beginning discoveries in the Christian faith. We offer gender specific studies that encourage men and women to share their experiences and their faith in Jesus Christ. We have a vibrant small group culture, where there are abundant small group Bible studies that meet in individual homes and engage in service projects. These give us the opportunity to discuss Sunday's teachings in a more intimate atmosphere, to pray for each other, and to share in each other's lives. We do this to love God, to serve others, and to make disciples.

Salem Lutheran Church and School equips and prepares for ministry. We firmly believe that the Lord has given each person abilities to do His work. Every member is a minister of God's Word, telling the truth about God, supporting the work of the Kingdom, and sharing the story of Jesus so that people will come to a saving knowledge of Christ. In recognition of the astonishing gift of God's grace, we, in turn, respond generously and purposefully with our gifts of money, of time, and of talents. This enables the work of the church to continue in service and in outreach. Salem is committed to preparing God's people for the ministry to which they have been gifted and called, helping individuals discern, develop, and deploy their gifts to the glory of God and for the benefit of others. We do this to love God, to serve others, and to make disciples.

Salem Lutheran Church and School focuses on people coming to saving faith in Jesus. While we do believe that we are called to support, to encourage, and to care for one another, our vital mission is to reach people who do not know Christ and nurture them along the pathway to lifelong Christian maturity. Lost people deeply matter to God and, therefore, deeply matter to us. We see that the neighbors in our community are from different cultures, speak other languages, and may not have a faith in Jesus Christ. We talk about Jesus with friends and neighbors, including those from different cultures, warmly inviting them to become a part of our family of believers and to know Jesus. We do this to love God, to serve others, and to make disciples.

Salem Lutheran Church and School is a sending community. Salem's equipped people eagerly seek the lost. We recognize the gifts and talents of members to train as church workers and as missionaries. Because the need for the Gospel is so great, Salem regularly sends out mission teams to partner with others in our community, throughout the country, and around the world. We generously support and celebrate this mission work, both spiritually and financially. We do this to love God, to serve others, and to make disciples. We at Salem Lutheran Church and School keep our eyes open for the mission opportunities that God plans for us in our community. We are diligent in meeting those challenges as God places them in our path, and we are equipped to do so in a timely manner. We will continue to refine our methods of teaching, equipping, and goal-setting to be aligned with the opportunities that God provides. Salem Lutheran Church and School will do this until the fullness of God's vision is complete, until all things in heaven and on earth are together under one Head, Jesus Christ. *"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!" Ephesians 4:20-21*