

# SALEM LUTHERAN



## HISTORY

Salem Lutheran Church was organized in the fall of 1885 with 10 charter members. The community held its first worship service on November 22, 1885. The Herman Busch family donated two lots on what is now the corner of 92nd Street and Haskins in Lenexa. A wood-frame church building was constructed and the building was dedicated on October 14, 1888. Although that church building burned down in October 1922, it was re-built and opened for worship on May 25, 1924. That sanctuary is the one we use today, as our ministry and community here at Salem continues to evolve and grow.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Although Salem is over 130 years old, we are, demographically, a relatively young congregation.

Our Old Town Lenexa campus consists of three buildings — the aforementioned sanctuary; Luther Hall, which houses our children's education rooms and fellowship space; and Koinonia Hall, which contains offices and a conference room, as well as a smaller fellowship area. We are currently developing a long-term facility plan that will help us prepare for updating, remodeling, and expansion of our facilities.

Based on the needs of our multigenerational congregation, we offer thriving children's, student, music, outreach, and adult ministries, to mission partners in various stages of life. Each is supported by an active worship ministry that seeks to offer a meaningful experience where we can encounter God and grow in our faith.

## Mission Statement

*Encounter God, Grow in Faith, Serve the World*

## Vision Statement

*Salem is a vibrant body of Christ devoted to engaging and impacting the community by loving all people, serving those in need, and developing spiritual maturity.*

## Welcome Statement

*We, the members of Salem Lutheran Church, affirm the belief that we are all created in God's image and are called to love one another as God loves us. We are a community that welcomes people of all ages, cultures, economic statuses, ethnic backgrounds, family blends, gender identities, physical and mental abilities, races, and sexual orientations. We seek to provide a safe and caring community where all people can grow in their faith. We encourage you to join us as we develop relationships with each other and discover the depth of God's love for us all.*



## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

**8 a.m. Classic and Traditional Worship Service:** This worship service offers a traditional Lutheran liturgy, is accompanied predominantly by the organ and piano, and offers communion at the rail.

**10:30 a.m. Jubilant and Energized Worship Service:** This service combines more traditional worship styles with contemporary music and worship styles. This worship service does not use specific liturgies, and music is led by our worship band. This service offers creative opportunities to give praise to the LORD and is much less formal than the traditional worship service.



## MUSIC MINISTRY:

Music is an integral part of how the Salem community chooses to share and grow in our faith. Our music ministry is often said to be one of our most vibrant ministries, and we attempt to offer multiple opportunities for our people to participate and experience our music ministries.

**Adult Choir:** Our adult choir shares our joy for music in both worship services via anthems, Christmas cantatas, and Good Friday tenebrae services.

**Praise Band:** Our praise band leads the 10:30 a.m. worship service with energetic liturgy and praise songs. Instrumental and vocal enthusiasts who wish to help create a meaningful worship service through music are invited to join us.



**Children and Youth Singers:** Children of all ages have many opportunities to sing together at Salem. All ages frequently and enthusiastically perform in our worship services.



**Children's Musicals:** Bible stories are recreated through children's musicals during week-long summer camps, and are performed in our worship services.

**Children's Christmas Program:** All kids are invited to participate in our children's Christmas program.

**Special Music and Drama:** All ages and abilities of performers are encouraged to share their creative talents to enhance the worship experience at Salem.



## OUTREACH MINISTRY:

Jesus commanded his church to go and make disciples of all nations. Here at Salem, we believe that if we are going to be the church, we must take this command seriously, and one way we do that is to make sure we are serving the wider community. We currently have a few very specific outreach service ministries that are vital to our community.

**Pantry Pack Ministry:** Our Pantry Pack program began in 2011 as a response to the significant rise in poverty in Johnson County. We are a Harvester's agency, which allows us to provide fresh produce to clients needing food. We are open Thursday mornings and Thursday late afternoons for the community.

**Children's Memorial:** Children's Memorial is an ELCA church community in the urban core of Kansas City. Salem provides food and volunteers to serve meals and share in fellowship with those at Children's Memorial every other month.

**Meals on Wheels:** Salem works two routes for Meals on Wheels through Johnson County. We have two teams of people that pick up meals through Johnson County and deliver meals in Lenexa and Overland Park.

**HopeBUILDERS:** Volunteers offer home repair assistance and help homeowners regain hope that their community cares about them.



## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Social opportunities abound at Salem Lutheran Church, including regular offerings that are well attended.

**Salem Café:** Every Sunday the Salem Café, located in the lower level of our sanctuary, is open for fellowship and relaxing. Coffee, tea, water, and other beverages are available, along with snacks.

**Fall Kick-Off Sunday:** Every September, as all programming is starting up again, Salem celebrates with a Kick-Off Sunday event.

**Annual Picnic and Softball Game:** In early October, the community gathers at a local park for a softball game where all talent levels are welcome, and a community picnic that follows.

**Bingo Night:** This past year we held our first ever Bingo Night in late February, and it was such a hit that we intend to make this an annual event. The evening begins with a meal and then the fun begins with bingo and prizes for all ages.

### **Salem Women:**

- *Fellowship of the Vine:* Each month, the women's group offers an evening opportunity to gather for an activity.
- *Book Club:* This group of women usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to discuss their most recent book and to have fellowship.
- *Thursday morning Bible Study:* This group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:15 in Koinonia Hall from September – May. During the summer months they meet at a local restaurant once a month.



**Salem Men's Group:** Our men's ministry is an active group involved in service and fellowship.

- **Monthly Saturday Breakfast:** On the first Saturday of each month the group meets for breakfast, either in Koinonia Hall or at a local restaurant.
- **Service Projects:** The men's ministry also actively seeks to be involved in service projects here at Salem and in the greater Kansas City area.
- **Fellowship of the Stein:** Each month, usually the 2nd Thursday evening, the group selects a local brewery to meet for fellowship, food, and fun.



**Salem Seniors:** Anyone is welcome in this group, even though most of the attendees happen to be over 50. This group meets four or five times a year for lunch — usually at a local restaurant.

**Student Ministry:** Our student ministry program is divided into middle school (7th-8th grade) and senior high (9th-12th grade). We offer weekly gatherings for faith discussion, activities, and events, and confirmation instruction. Each summer our middle school students attend confirmation camp at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado. Our senior high students have the opportunity to go on an annual mission trip each summer.



#### **Visitation Ministry:**

This team of trained mission partners visits those who are homebound, those who are ill, and anyone who simply needs a visit for any number of reasons. In addition, this team will offer home communion, as desired, and inform the pastor of any pastoral calls that need to be made.

## **EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Children's Ministry Sunday School:** Our amazing volunteer team seeks to provide a caring environment where children can build community and grow in their faith.

**VBS:** Each summer we offer an awesome week of Vacation Bible School. This is usually in June and is for children ages 3 through 6th grade

**Middle School (7-8 grades):** Youth gather each Sunday for breakfast, "highs & lows" and faith conversation.

**Senior High (9-12 grades):** Youth gather each Sunday for breakfast, "highs & lows" and faith conversation.

**Adult Sunday School:** This class is led by Pastor or other educators from the community. Class usually addresses various issues of the day using a biblical approach.

**Adult Education:** During the summer, periodic classes are offered in the evenings that are topical and faith-based.

**DABS (Dudes Afraid of Bible Study):** DABS meets each week during Sunday School in the Koinonia conference room. The group welcomes adult men of all ages for fellowship, faith exploration, and fun.

#### **Wednesday Evenings:**

- **Oasis:** A weekly gathering for all ages from 6-8 p.m., Oasis begins with the sharing of a meal before we divide into age-appropriate small groups for faith development. Three or more times per year, we engage in a combined service project for all ages.
- **Confirmation Class (7th -8th Grade):** Salem's confirmation is a two-year program for 7th-8th grade students covering the Old Testament, New Testament, and Luther's Small Catechism. Learning sessions include both large- and small-group environments, giving students an opportunity to build connections with peers, adults, and God.