

Shout Out



SUMMER 2024-2025

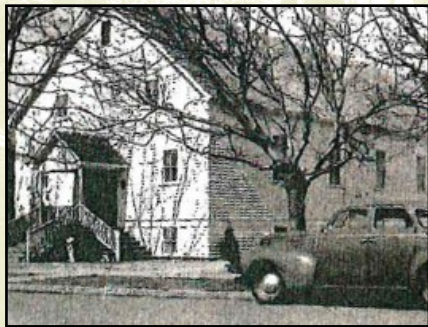
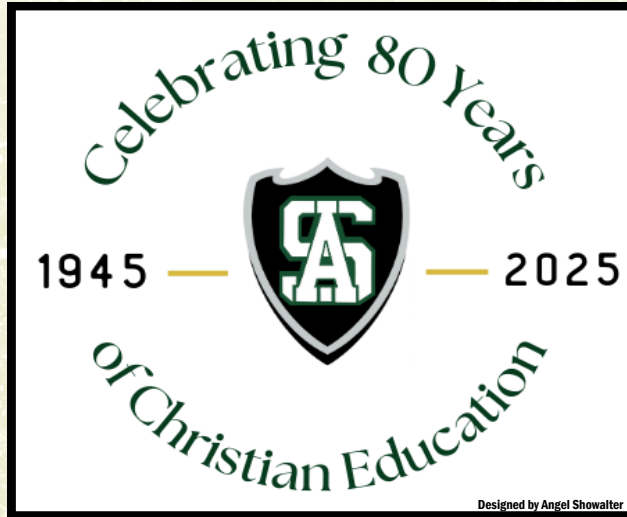
Shout Out

SALEM ACADEMY

KNOW AND FOLLOW

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SA Shout Out is posted for the Salem Academy community.

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PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.



Dear SA Family and Friends,

I want to start by thanking the entire Salem Academy Christian Schools family– SA Board of Trustees, SA staff, SA parents, and SA students. We could not provide an excellent education, from a Christ-centered biblical perspective, so that our students may know and follow God, without strong support from each of you.

The 2024-2025 school year has been a time of spiritual growth and academic excellence. Our spiritual focus has been to know and follow Jesus, emphasized in John 10:27. So much positive interaction has been seen between students, including upper classmen mentoring younger students, and several student-generated Bible studies. We have welcomed several individuals into the body of believers and witnessed 21 baptisms of students' 6th through 12th grade during spiritual emphasis week. The Lord has had an impact on lives and families for His glory and our good. As we move forward into the 2025-2026 academic school year, our next step after "know and follow Jesus" is to "know and grow in Jesus" coming from Ephesians 4:15. We must continue to become mature like Christ in every way. Please pray with us this summer as we prepare to see how the Lord will further impact His school.

The staff meets for prayer every Tuesday morning to commit our school, students, families, and each other in prayer before the Lord. We desire to be a school of prayer focused on having faith-driven requests presented before the Lord.

We are continuing to meet with people concerning our capital campaign. God has provided about \$8.5 million toward our \$14.6 million goal. Please continue to pray with us so that decisions made are done according to God's plan and that the financial commitments needed for the new building are received as we move forward to start this amazing new addition to Salem Academy.

I am thankful for the faithfulness and support I have seen in the Salem Academy Christian Schools family. May the Lord continue to bless our alumni, donors, friends, parents, students, and all our staff. Please keep our school in your prayers.

To God be the glory,

Tim Peterson

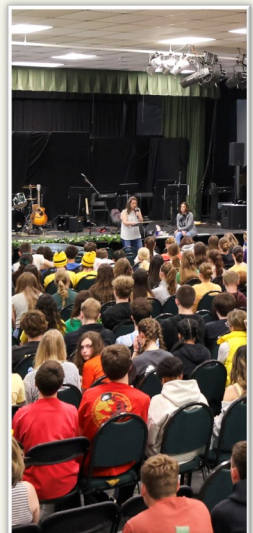
Superintendent





80TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1945, 76 students enrolled in the inaugural year of Salem College and Academy, later renamed Salem Academy. More than 4,000 alumni later and with a student body of 783, we are kicking off 80 years of excellent Christian education, praise Jesus! As we look forward to glorifying this monumental anniversary, we invite you to join in the celebratory events being planned for the 25-26 school year. Be on the lookout for announcements of these upcoming events!



2025 AUCTION RECAP

The 2025 auction kicked off Salem Academy's incredible 80th anniversary, a celebration that will continue into the 2025-2026 school year. The auction brought together school families, alumni, and friends of SA to fundraise and celebrate the school's past and the many years to come. Event emcee and Secondary Principal Lindsay Brownell started the program in prayer, followed by a Capital Campaign update by Superintendent Tim Peterson. SA parent and teacher Lindsay Walker

spoke of how God has worked in her family's life during tragedy and His blessing to keep her children at SA, followed by the scholarship paddle raise. Auctioneer Paul Schultz led guests in an exciting evening of live bidding, with a break for the dessert dash—a crowd favorite. Thanks to our sponsors, donors, committee members, and guests for this fun and blessed event. Your generous support helped us raise nearly \$160,000 for the school!



Elementary teacher Melissa Nordgren and her husband, Fred, won the auction package called "Hands for Hire: Varsity Football Team."

Salem Academy varsity football players came to the Nordgrens to spread bark dust as part of this package.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

"I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."
Luke 15:7

This past school year has brought countless blessings from God. We saw His provisions poured on Salem Academy during Spiritual Emphasis Week, when we witnessed students accepting Christ, being baptized, and heard impactful messages from student peers. God has changed many hearts of the kids who come through our doors, and we have a special opportunity to foster even more students' growth in their faith and relationship with Christ through SA's capital campaign. This campaign will equip us to have a larger impact on the community by welcoming an additional 119 secondary students. Salem Academy's capital campaign will also enable us to lead the development of Christ-centered 21st Century skills by providing innovative technology and educational space that equips

students with the knowledge, skills, and faith built on a personal relationship with God. Tech-ready classrooms will elevate programming, including computer-aided design, robotics, life sciences, and physical sciences.

With a goal of \$14.6M, and after receiving generous donations from SA families, friends, and in-kind donations from local businesses, the campaign is in need of a little more than \$5M. Rich Duncan Construction has been selected as the contractor and permits should be secured by winter 2025, with a construction completion goal of fall 2027. Praise God for His provisions through our generous donors!



New Salem Academy Building Concepts



New Building Timeline:

- Winter 2025—Selected contractor, architect, process securing permits
- Spring 2026 —Groundbreaking
- Fall 2027—Complete construction

THANK YOU DONORS

Thank you to our 1945 Society and Sustainer Club members!

1945 Society Members



Established in 2016, this society includes donors who give \$1,945 or more annually to our General Fund.

Bob Cannon

Carl and Malinda Wilson

Drew and Chris Clarke

James and Heather Wilson

Jeff and Joan Gladow

Larry and Cathie Raaf

Lloyd and Kathy Hiebert

Mack Living Trust

Michael Regan and Donna Faith

Michelle Cummings

Scott Morrison

Steven and Mitsuko Walker

Wilbur and Doris Rickard Trust

Sustainers Club Members



This club includes donors who give a recurring gift to our General Fund.

Carrol Klingbile

Craig Charbonneau

Doug and Michele Smith

Fred and Melissa Nordgren

Judy Smith

Neal and Marcia Jones

Patrick Harlan

Peggy Erland

Rev. Donald and Anita Tonack

Ronald Goertzen and Joan Sumpter

Ross and Leslie Lewis

Ryan and Lisa Morris

Shirley Berlik

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PRINCIPALS

ELEMENTARY: JEFF BENJAMIN



Jeff Benjamin at Elementary's 2025 Field Day

When I reflect on my first year as Elementary Principal at Salem Academy, I can't help but think of all of the alumni, former parents, retired teachers and long-time supporters of SA who still remember and reflect on their time here connected to the school. Whether it was for a year, 10 years, or longer, these individuals left an impact.

A school that has been around for 80 years has a legacy of individuals who have gone before to create the foundation that we stand on today. I am drawn to the words in Esther, in which she is encouraged that her time is now. Many have had their time at Salem Academy; my time is now, and I do not take my responsibility lightly. I know that the Lord has called me to SA "for such a time as this," and like so many of you, I make it my mission at this time to be faithful to His call on my life and to add the legacy of this great institution.

Thank you for what you left behind here. God is still at work at Salem Academy!

Mr. Benjamin

SECONDARY: LINDSY BROWNELL

As the school year draws to a close, we reflect not just on academic accomplishments or extracurricular successes but also on the deeper journey we have taken together to know and follow God. We know in all things His presence has gone before us, walked beside us, and sustained us through both victories and valleys. Throughout the year, we have learned what it means to know God more deeply- not merely through Bible classes or chapel messages, but through lived experiences. As prayer is our lifeline, we have seen God move unexpectedly- opening doors, softening hearts, and giving strength when our hearts were broken. Following God wholeheartedly through moments of celebration, academic breakthrough, new friendships, and spiritual growth. Students discovered gifts they didn't know they had, teachers led with boldness and compassion, and families stood together through intense challenges. These moments remind us that God is with us, guiding our steps and lighting our path. As we end our school year, we celebrate every victory, honor our tears, and give glory to the God who has never left our side.



Lindsay Brownell at 2025 Senior Walk

Mrs. Brownell

2025 GRADUATION RECAP



The Class of 2025 is called to endure as their path takes them into the world, which Jesus knew it would. They must endure the trappings of the enemy, the temptation to slow down or stop when it gets tough, keep their pace and consistency, and remember to follow Jesus's example.

"My prayer for each of you - as the disciple Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 2: 5 - is that you endure... let yourself be built into a living stone...firmly placed on Jesus the Cornerstone...so you can be built into a spiritual house to bring Jesus to your generation!"

-Tricia Peterson, English III/IV & Honors English
III/IV Teacher (2025 Graduation Speech)



"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

-1 Peter 2:5



SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS ATHLETICS

SOFTBALL

Softball had an outstanding season! Our Crusaders are 18-0 in the league, securing their second consecutive undefeated league title. Our Crusaders made it to the Semifinals at the OSAA Playoffs, where their season ended. Overall, sitting at 23-5, the team is ranked 5th in the state for their division!



BASEBALL

The baseball program has made great strides this year. A wave of new players brought fresh energy to the team, and although the varsity roster is young, they've demonstrated tremendous growth. The addition of a JV team has also been a valuable development tool. Varsity is currently in 4th place in the Special District with an overall record of 8-17. The outlook for the future of the program is very promising.



TRACK & FIELD


Both the boys and girls track teams are on a historic path. Both squads won their district championships and brought home dual trophies for the first time in 30 years. Two school records have already been broken on the girls side (including one dating back to the 1980s), with more expected to fall. This senior class is leaving a lasting legacy on the program.



GOLF

The golf program is thriving with 16 boys and 8 girls participating this season. The girls team won the team title at state with a score of 654,30 strokes ahead of second-place. They've been competing with just four players—three sophomores and one junior—and they have been invited to the PGA National High School Golf Association, in North Carolina! On the boys side, interest continues to grow, though most players are still developing competitive experience. The team represented Salem Academy well at their district meet on May 12–13, finishing out a solid season.





FAREWELL

Onto a new adventure!

Melissa Nordgren (8 years)



2nd Grade Teacher

I began my journey at Salem Academy as a substitute teacher. From the very beginning, I was drawn to the friendly, dedicated staff, and students. I quickly realized how much I enjoyed teaching at SA and knew I wanted to become a permanent part of the team. I was thrilled to be hired as the second grade teacher! Being part of this community has been a true blessing. Over the course of my 10 years here, I've had the privilege of working with around 150 students—sharing the love of Jesus, providing instruction, building meaningful relationships with students and parents. Salem Academy will always hold a special place in my heart. I've made lifelong friendships and will always look back fondly on my time as an educator here. I'm especially thankful for the professional growth I've experienced and the way I have been shaped as a teacher. As I move to retirement to spend time with my husband Fred, daughters, son-in-laws, and four grandchildren, I leave Salem Academy with a full and grateful heart. I will continue to pray for the school—its future, its families, and staff.

Annika Pears (3 years)



Bridge 56 Administrative Assistant

It is bittersweet to me that we often only realize how much we appreciate something when the Lord is bringing that chapter to a close. Salem Academy was not something I ever saw ending until our girls' graduation day. However, God has made it clear that is not His plan for them or for our family. I know the best place to be is within His will, but this step of obedience feels harder somehow. I could not even bring myself to read the cards from the elementary party because in my heart that meant it was truly happening. Salem Academy is a place of inspiration and hope. It is a school filled with imperfect people serving a perfect God and trying to discern how to best guide kids towards relationship with Christ, all while giving them an education through a biblical lens. It is NOT an easy task, yet with Christ in us – He enables us and empowers us to walk in His Spirit and proclaim His truth. He has enabled YOU! It is with this knowledge, I can walk forward with boldness and confidence to where He is calling me knowing that He has already provided you with everything you will need, now and in the future for Salem Academy.

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"

Philippians 3:14

Charity Batson (3 years)

Bridge 56 Band & Secondary Band/Choir

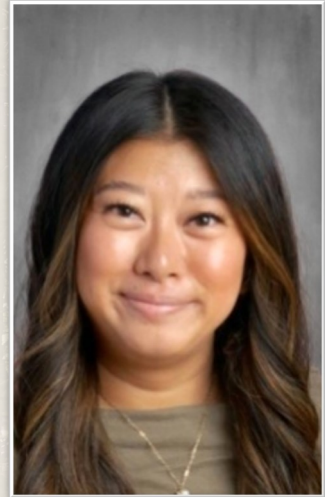
The past three years as middle school/high school music teacher at Salem Academy have been incredibly rewarding. I have absolutely loved every one of my students. They are so talented, and it has been a joy to watch them grow in their skills and in their teamwork. I will miss every one of them. Thank you, Salem Academy, for hiring me. I will miss you all!

Lindsay Imig (5 years)

Secondary Office Manager

Lisa Stolfi (3 years)

Educational Support Services Teacher

Esther Kruse (3 years)

5th Grade Teacher



P L E A S E

We are excited about the possibility of a new building for our school. This new space will help us grow and serve our community better. We pray that this dream becomes a reality soon, providing a place for learning, worship, and gathering.

As we look ahead to the next school year, we hope to have a full staff ready to support our students. Having enough teachers and helpers is important for creating a positive learning environment. We pray that the right people find their way to join our team, bringing their talents and passion to our school.

Unity among our community is another important prayer we have this year. We hope to create a positive and supportive atmosphere for everyone at Salem Academy. We pray that all can focus on what truly matters—helping our students grow.

We also seek greater fellowship with other Christian schools in our area. In the future, we hope to host multiple schools for student prayer events so our students can support each other in their walk with Christ. We pray for opportunities to collaborate and grow together in faith and service.

Finally, in our community, many people are facing health problems and requesting prayer as they face their challenges. We will continue praying for well-being and recovery for those who are hurting.



THANK YOU

This year we were blessed with amazing teachers, faculty, and staff who brought a lot of knowledge and passion for the gospel to Salem Academy.

Despite the challenges we faced this year, Salem Academy has been blessed with a profound sense of peace and comfort that helped us navigate these difficulties.

During our Spiritual Emphasis Week, we saw more than 20 students come to accept Jesus as their savior. It was genuinely moving to witness each student being baptized and sharing their testimonies of faith.

We are grateful for the growth in our community this year and the opportunity to support one another in our spiritual journeys. As we move forward, we will continue encouraging prayer and deepening our collective faith.



Heavenly Father,

We come before You today with hearts full of gratitude, seeking Your presence as we reflect on the challenges and blessings of this school year. We thank You for Your unwavering guidance and for walking alongside our community—parents, staff, and students alike. Your hand has been present in every moment, shaping and molding us into a family that seeks to live in accordance with Your will.

We are especially thankful for Your powerful impact during Spiritual Emphasis Week. We are in awe of how You have touched the lives of our students, igniting a spark of faith in their hearts, and leading many to know You more deeply. We pray earnestly that these students, who have taken their first steps with You, continue to walk in Your light. May they find strength in their newfound faith, just as the disciples did when they first followed You. Let their journeys be filled with the joy of Your presence and the assurance of Your love.

As we look to the future, may our community remain a place of support, love, and encouragement. Help us to uplift one another, to celebrate each other's victories, and to stand together in adversity. Instill in us a collective hope that transcends our circumstances and a faith that anchors us during uncertain times.

We trust in Your divine plan for each of us, knowing that You are with us every step of the way.

In the name of Jesus, we pray,

Amen.

