
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 21 - 27

When Saying Yes Requires Saying No

It was one of those thought-for-the-day-calendars you find in your Christmas stocking. The sayings mostly were trite and pithy, but every so often there was a truth worth repeating, for example: “Decide what you want and what you are willing to exchange for it. Set your priorities and go to work.” In other words, if we’re serious, saying yes to one thing often requires saying no to something else.

Jonah—after fleeing from the mission to which God was calling him (and three days and nights in the belly of the fish!)—now says “No!” to his former urges and “Yes!” to God as he sets out as God’s prophet to Nineveh. Paul invites us to say “No!” to trivial matters and “Yes!” to the things of God that have serious and eternal consequences. Jesus calls the disciples to say “No!” to their boats and nets and families and much of everything else they have known and to say “Yes!” to his “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

We feel a kinship with Jonah’s situation, because he struggles. He runs away from God and only relents after a huge fish vomits him onto a distant shore. The call-response stories of Simon, Andrew, James, and John make it all seem so easy. One little word of invitation from Jesus and these men turn in an instant from fishers to disciples.

But most of us live somewhere in the middle, not resisting God’s call with the vigor of Jonah but certainly responding more slowly and ambiguously than the disciples. So a question for today is: To what is God calling us to say “No!”? Remember, it’s not just the ugly stuff but often good things that must be denied for the sake of following Jesus. And then we must also ask in faith: To what is Jesus inviting us to say “Yes!”?

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Joseph Jamtgaard, Lois, Samantha and Christopher Jamtgaard, Janice Janssen, Marcus, Tanner, Spencer and Kayler Jensen, Matthew, Lisa, Kyla and Aidan Johanson

This week the following members will be celebrating their birthdays and we would like to wish them a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Please call the office if you have an upcoming birthday, to ensure we have it in our records. 641.592.1771

21-Landyn Christian	23-Cory Christian	26-Samantha Rasmussen
21-Linda Tweeten	23-Randi Dilly	27-Jessi Mary
21-Becca Holtan	24-Morgan Scheib	27-Karli Helgeson
21-Daniel Swanson	25-Austin Mannes	27-Michelle Jones

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 1/14/24: \$ 2,715
YEAR-TO-DATE: 1/15/24 \$ 8,730
LAST YEAR: as of 1/15/23 \$ 9,608
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ - 878

-Last Weeks Attendance-

20

Worship Volunteers Needed: If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read or sing in the liturgical choir, please sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, call the office. Thank you!

Correction from last weeks announcements. The end of year giving difference from last year was actually \$ -11, 099. Not \$ -7,816.

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 1/2/24 **\$160,512**
Total available balance as of 12/29/23 **\$53,544.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

Annual Giving Statements will be mailed out by the end of the month for all offering contributions. These statements do not include donations that were given towards the steeple/tuckpointing project. If you would like a statement for your steeple/tuckpointing donation, please let Marci know by Tuesday, January 23rd. If there is no answer, please leave a message. 641-592-1771. Thank you!

Salem's Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 21st immediately after worship. Lunch will be provided following the meeting. Thirty members must be in attendance to meet the required quorum. There will be no Faith Formation. In the event of weather, the Annual Meeting would be held Sunday, January 28th.

Volunteers Needed: The Youth Board is making weekly plans for music, games, crafts & activities, **BUT.....we NEED** your help to make Faith Formation a success. Please consider donating your time to supervise and interact with the children of Salem. No planning, experience or training needed. Just pick a date that works with your schedule and sign up on the bulletin board across from the chapel.

Celebrating Generosity: Thank you for your support of ministry at Salem!

Go Green—Go Paperless by giving in one of the following ways...

-- Give through PayPal or Card by going to the bottom of www.salemlakemills.com

-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for monthly or weekly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to have a form sent to you or stop by the office. We also have forms in the Narthex. Please return forms to the office.

(We are charged a much lower service fee through the Simply Giving Program)



The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service.

SUNDAY 1/21

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Judith Wozniak)

10:00am Annual Meeting (with lunch to follow)-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 1/22

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm-4:00pm Salem's Clothes Closet is OPEN

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN

WEDNESDAY 1/24

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

SUNDAY 1/28

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Judith Wozniak)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

Live Stream Sponsorship: Call the office to reserve your date. Cost is \$40.

Dates available in 2024: Jan 28. Feb 11, 25. March 10, 17, 24, 31. April 21. May 5. June 16, 30. July 7, 14, 21, 28. Aug 4, 11, 18, 25. Sept 1, 15. Oct 13, 20. Nov 3, 10, 17, 24. Dec 1, 29

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci) M: 11-5, T: 11-2, W: 11-5, Th: 11-2, F: 11-5
(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)



Weather Policy: Just a reminder that the weather may not be as friendly this time of year as this snowman! Should there be an emergency schedule change an announcement will be made via the following: --Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills Facebook page --KLOW Radio 107.3 (Forest City) --KIMT TV Channel 3 Contact Shannon Bruhns at 641-592-5978 / 641-590-1532