

---

# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

---

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 8 - 14

### Jesus, Cornerstone of Our Faith

God has showered humanity with gifts and blessings, but humanity continues to abuse those gifts. We have been entrusted with a creation to care for, and in our shortsightedness we abuse and pollute the earth, even bringing about the extinction of entire species. We abuse the gift of our bodies when we overindulge in food or alcohol or drugs. We have been given the ability to create so many wonderful things, and even this gift we abuse as we gather and keep as much as we can for ourselves.

This is nothing new. Even in the days of Isaiah it was clear the people turned away from God's gifts. God expected righteousness and justice. Instead the people responded with bloodshed and suffering, turning away from God.

Even if you can think of all the ways you have not turned from God and all the ways you have been faithful, it does no good. As Paul reminds us in the reading from Philippians, "Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ" (Phil. 3:7). Even all of Paul's good and faithful acts add up to nothing. For Paul, and for us, all that matters is Jesus.

As Christ himself reminds us, he is our rock, our cornerstone. Jesus is the foundation for our faith and the foundation for our lives. Even as we turn from Jesus, even as we reject Jesus, he returns to us with love and forgiveness. This is the grace of God, the love of God coming into our world and into our lives. To our joy we discover the open arms of Jesus on the cross, bringing life into this world even where there is death; bringing hope where there is despair; and bringing resurrection to all creation.

## THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:7-15  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46



## NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 25:1-9  
Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

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

### THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Charles, Dianne and Laura Gardner, Mike, Deb, Marcus and Katie Gaskill, Timothy, Lori, Matthew and Andrew Gerdes, Jason, Stephanie, Madison and Jackson Gilbertson, Jeremy, Janelle, Josie and Joa Gilbertson

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

7-Violet Kvale	8-Carlton Shaw	12-Kallie Christian
8-Charles Gardner	8-Lois Jamtgaard	14-Tanner Fjelstad
8-James Nielsen	10-Samuel Grothe	14-Dennis Madson

### -WEEKLY GIVING-

**LAST SUNDAY:** 10/1/23

**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 10/1/23

**LAST YEAR:** as of 10/1/22

**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**

No update this

week due to

Financial Secretary

being unavailable.

### -Last Weeks Attendance-

75

**Memorials Given In September:** Darlene Banwart: \$30-Cemetery Board

**Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:** Total received as of 10/1/23 **\$158,882**

All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Tuckpointing Project or Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

**Results from 9/21/23 Blood Drive:** 22 Donors, 1 First Time Donor, 26 Units collected, Up to 78 lives saved or sustained! Thank you!

**New Devotionals** for October/November/December have been placed in the narthex and at the south entrance. Feel free to take one.

**Noisy Offering** will be collected **October 1-29** for those who are suffering as a result of the wild fires in Hawaii. Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, these fires have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders. Wildfires are also burning on the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors and will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires. Please pray for the Maui communities impacted by the wildfires. May God's healing presence bring them peace and hope in their time of need and give strength to those working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities. -The Stewardship Board

**Trunk or Treat:** The Youth Board is hosting Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 29th; 4:30pm-5:30pm on the west side of Salem. Everyone is welcome! To host a trunk, sign up in the Narthex, across from the Chapel, or call the office.

**Baked Goods:** The Youth Board is looking for donations of cookies, bars or snack mix that can be served at the Trunk or Treat event on October 29th. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office if you would be willing to help. Then drop them off in the lounge by 2pm on October 29th. Thank you!

**Congregational Birthday Party:** The Board of Life and Growth invites everyone to a Congregational Birthday Party on November 5th in the Fellowship Hall, right after worship. This is to honor all of our members birthdays! There will be a table for each month, sit at the table of your birth month. There will be birthday games and prizes too! Everyone is welcome! It will be fun for all ages!

**Volunteers:** The Board of Life and Growth is asking for volunteers to decorate tables/make center pieces for the Congregational Birthday Party. Pick a month and sign up in the Narthex. All decorations/centerpieces need to be on the tables before worship on November 5th. Thank you!

**Live Stream Sponsorship:** Call the office to reserve your date. Cost is \$40.  
**Dates available 2023:** Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 31

## **What Prayer Is and How It Works**

Smith Wigglesworth was a great preacher. But before he was a preacher, he was a plumber who wasn't a Christian—nor a very nice man.

Fortunately for him, he had a godly wife.

He didn't want her to go to church, but she went anyway. When she did, he'd lock her out of the house, and when she came home, she'd have to sleep on the back porch. In the morning he'd unlock the door and she'd come in and say, "Good morning, Smithy!" and make him breakfast.

She was a godly example for him. She prayed for him and God gave her the grace to be good to him in spite of his rude behavior. And because she continued to be so good to him, he eventually came to know the Lord and was radically changed. As a result, he became one of the greatest preachers who ever lived.

That's the power of prayer.

## **Understand What Prayer Really Is**

Prayer is simply conversation with God. It's asking Him to meet your need or someone else's. It's praising Him and thanking Him. It's about committing things to Him and consecrating things to Him. We need to pray about everything and anything.

I think some people don't pray much because they don't understand how powerful prayer really is. The truth is it's one of the greatest privileges we have as Christians.

When we pray, we open the door for God to come into our problems and situations and work on them. Prayer makes us partners with God. And while we can't really change people and make them love God, He can minister to their hearts and reach them.

I also believe that prayer is easier than we think it is. And it can be so much a part of our life that we don't even realize how much we pray – like breathing.

## What Makes Prayer So Powerful?

The Bible teaches us in [James 5:16](#) that “the earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].” Prayer is passionate. It’s about sincerity of heart and putting your whole heart into it.

Prayer doesn’t have to be eloquent or long. And prayer isn’t better if it’s loud or if you’re on your knees, folding your hands or bowing your head. It’s good to humble yourself, but it’s not your posture or how long you pray that makes it effective.

I remember a time when God challenged me to ask for what I wanted and needed in the least amount of words possible. This was hard at first. For example, when we do something wrong, it’s hard just to say, “God, I know that was wrong and I admit it. I ask You to forgive me. Thank You, Lord. Amen.”

Instead, it’s common to hear something like this, “Oh, God! I need You to forgive me. God, forgive me. Please, God, forgive me. Oh God, You’ve got to forgive me! Please, God...I promise not to do it again.”

**Hebrews 11:6** says that faith pleases God, and if we believe He exists and seek Him, He will reward us. We don’t have to beg and plead with Him to help us. God is a good God! He loves you and wants what is best for you.

Spend time with God. Talk to Him sincerely and honestly. Cast your cares on Him. Then find out what He wants to do and then follow His lead.

Source: [What Prayer Is and How It Works \(joycemeyer.org\)](http://joycemeyer.org)



**Operation Christmas Child Project:** The Board of Life & Growth will be collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for the Operation Christmas Child Project. There are brochures in the Narthex with information, instructions and labels. It's fun to go shopping and pack a box with gifts for a child, but if you don't have time for that, you can build a box online! All you have to do is go to their website, scan the QR code in the brochure or visit [samaritanspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanspurse.org/buildonline), to make your donation online, pick what you want in your box and the Samaritan's Purse will do the rest! The Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world since 1993, more than 188 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love. All boxes need to be turned into the church office by November 19th. If no one is in the office, please leave them by the door.

**Fall Dinner:** West Prairie Lutheran Church in Leland has invited us to their Fall Dinner on **October 8th, 11:00am-2:00pm**. BBQ Meatballs, Cheesy Potatoes, Southern Green Beans, Dinner Room, Dessert and Beverage. Adults: \$10, Ages 5-10 years old: \$5, Ages 4 and Under: Free

**Women's Day Away: October 14th** at Ingham Lake Bible Camp, Wallingford IA. Theme: ABIDE Ladies, can you imagine what it would be like if we would ABIDE in Christ at every turn? To truly live with, to make our home with, to spend time with...our Savior! During our time together we will dive into what Jesus has for us when we set aside our own agenda and all the things that distract us! He has a lot...a lot of love, grace, forgiveness, healing, fruit and peace. Enjoy...wonderful sessions and discussion, a banquet meal, worship, time to relax in a beautiful setting and connect with other women! And free time options such as pontoon rides, crafts, nature walks and pampering stations. Speaker: Susan Kliment. \$15 non-refundable deposit. Total cost: \$49. To get a registration form, contact Marci in the office or register online at [www.okoboji.org/register](http://www.okoboji.org/register)

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771** (Marci) Mon-Fri: 11am-5pm  
(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)

**Salem's Clothes Closet** is open every Monday from 2:00-4:00pm; and can be accessed at the south entrance. Clothes, shoes, boots, coats, jackets and a few other kids' items are available for free. We also accept donations; please make sure donations are folded and have no holes, tears or stains. Donations can be left inside the south entrance anytime.



**The Lake Mills Food Shelf** is open 2:30-5:00pm every Monday for anyone in need of additional food. The only criteria for eligibility is to reside within the Lake Mills School District. The Food Shelf is located at Salem and can be accessed at the south entrance. Anyone in need of food when the food shelf is not open, please feel free to call and leave a message at 641-592-1771 and someone will call back.

**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!

**Collections:** We collect pop tabs, eyeglasses and receipts from David's Marketplace and Hy-Vee. The WELCA group receives 1 tenth of 1% of all receipts collected from David's. The Hy-Vee receipts go towards a cure for cancer. The baskets for all of these are in the Narthex. Please do not roll the receipts and keep David's separate from Hy-Vee. Thank you!



# All are invited downstairs after the worship for Fellowship

## **SUNDAY 10/8**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Ken Jensen)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

## **MONDAY 10/9**

11:00am Caregivers Support Group-Lounge

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

2:00pm Sons of Norway-Lounge

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

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

6:00pm Call Committee Meeting-Salem Library

## **TUESDAY 10/10**

8:30am-10:00am Larson Retiree Coffee-Salem Library

6:00pm Stewardship Board Meeting-Salem Library

## **WEDNESDAY 10/11**

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

## **THURSDAY 10/12**

6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Salem Library

## **SUNDAY 10/15**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Steve Smith)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am 3rd Grade Bible Class-Lounge

**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](http://www.salemlakemills.com)

-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for weekly or monthly 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)