
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 26 – December 2

We Embody the Presence of Christ

It is possible that the biggest barrier to accepting this as our lifelong vocation is not a lack of faith but a lack of imagination.

On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, we receive a parable from Jesus challenging and inspiring our imaginations to grasp our whole vocation that is celebrated in baptism: to embody Christ in every moment and to engage every part of our world as Christ's redeemed creation.

The parable of the sheep and the goats has sometimes been used to instill fear of God's judgment. However, it is possible that Jesus' point here is to urge his disciples to share God's generous saving grace with all. Jesus' parables consistently offer a simple setting and story, but behind them lie a world of rich meaning that takes a lifetime to unpack. For this reason, Jesus' parables are important texts for the postmodern church, which is hungry for story, for connection, and for meaning for our faithful lifelong questions.

With shepherding texts from Ezekiel and the Psalms as well as Ephesians, an epistle written to build faith, we have a constellation of texts that make the shape of God's intimate—even incarnational—love of creation. The parable even suggests that being merely intentional about ministry in the name of Jesus is not the point. After all, both "sheep" and "goats" groups are equally shocked at the news that Jesus was present in those relationships involving thirst, imprisonment, and so forth. Instead, Jesus seems to invite us to wonder what's at the deepest foundation of our presence and purpose—and perhaps even walk away faithfully bewildered at the possibilities of God's kingdom being practiced on earth as it is in heaven.

What if we really do embody the presence of Christ?

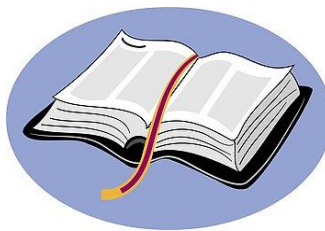
THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Doug & Rhonda Harman, Craig & Cindy Haugsdal, Kevin & Janet Hebrink, Sliva Heimdal, Bradley, Jolene, Mason, Kinley and Reece Helgeson

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

28-Spencer Jensen

29-Glenavonne Fjelstad

2-Connie Sabin

28-Courtney Bloomingdale

30-Darrel Davidson

2-Christine Budach

2-Cassidy Cox

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 11/19/23: \$ 1,880

YEAR-TO-DATE: 11/21/23 \$ 169,517

LAST YEAR: as of 11/21/22 \$ 184,494

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -14,977

-Last Weeks Attendance-

67

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 11/21/23 **\$160,217**

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

Hanging Of The Greens will be on December 2nd, starting at 9:00am. Anyone willing to help, please mark your calendars and join us in decorating.

Toys for Tots: The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during Oct., Nov., & Dec. each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. There is a collection box for toys across from the Chapel. **The last day for collection will be December 5th.**



Christmas Program: Our Faith Formation kids will present their Christmas Program on **Sun. Dec. 10th** during the 9:00am service with a **Birthday Party for Jesus** in the Fellowship Hall after the program. **Everyone is Welcome!**

Christmas Caroling: Please join the Salem Confirmation Students for Christmas Caroling. It's fun to share Christmas cheer with others and as always, the more the merrier! Everyone is invited and welcome to join in. Lyrics will be provided. We will meet at **6:00pm on Wed., Dec. 20th**, in the Fellowship Hall and then car-pool to the care center, assisted living and other community members' homes. Dress warm and bring a flashlight if you have one. After caroling we will gather for hot chocolate and goodies in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join us, please call the office so we can plan ahead (if we have enough people, we can split into 2 groups, and make a route for each group to follow). If you would like to donate goodies, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you know of someone who needs some Christmas cheer, please call the office and let Marci know. 592-1771.



LAKE MILLS CLOTHES FOR KIDS 2023: *Let's clothe OUR children. Donations will be distributed throughout the Lake Mills Community School District to children ages birth to 18. Pick a Christmas Tag (with a child's needs/sizes on it) from the electronic sign-up (tinyurl.com/LMClothesForKids) or from the tree at Salem. Both electronic and physical tags will be available starting Nov. 19th. Purchase the items on the child's tag, wrap in one box, attach the original tag to the gift, and deliver them to the Salem office by **Sun. Dec. 10th**. Once again, this year each child's requests have been divided into two tags. One for clothing and the other for shoes and socks. This is an effort to keep costs affordable for the givers and be able to provide for the child's needs. Monetary donations are accepted at FTS Bank and MBT Bank in Lake Mills or send to the LMCS Nurse's Office, 102 S 4th Avenue East, Lake Mills. Questions: LMClothesForKids@gmail.com*

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 9, 2023 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Marci Adeogun, Laura Gardner, Sue Langerud, Mary Peterson, Dan Rice, Mike Swenson, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Doug Bruhns

Secretary's Report: October council minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

Mary moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Dan. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – Two anonymous donations of \$50 each have been received and \$100 deposited in the general fund.

Treasurer's Report: Doug provided a written report.

Total income for October 2023 \$22,919

Total Expenses for October 2023 -\$9,747.51 (Income less expense \$13,171.49)

Checking account balance (10/31/2023) \$56,001.18

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (10/31/2023) \$52,509.32

CD's at FTSB (10/31/2023) Reserves \$48,334.93

CD at MBT (10/31/2023) Ness Estate \$26,014.17

Financial Secretary's report: Laura provided a verbal and written report.

2023 YTD total offerings (10/29/2023) \$156,887

2022 YTD total offerings (10/29/2022) \$174,958

Mike moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Sue. All approved.

Board Reports

Enduring Gift Fund – Quarterly report is due in January 2024. Following up from October Council Meeting – available interest is \$27,764.16.

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a verbal and written report: Continue to work on pulpit supply for Jan-March 2024; Organizing Christmas Eve special music and organist; discussed Advent services and upcoming baptisms.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a verbal and written report: Reported good attendance at the congregational birthday party which was funded by Thrivent moneys; Christmas decorating of the Sanctuary and Narthex scheduled on December 2; Fellowship coffee hour continues to be well funded and supplied with goodies; Children's clothes tree will be outside of the church office.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Dan provided a verbal and written report: Fall fundraising campaign underway with letters sent out to members of the congregation asking all to consider a 15% increase in giving in order to fund both the day-to-day operations of the church and mission and outreach activities as well as asking them to indicate if they would be willing to usher, read or help serve communion; Requesting that estimate of giving forms be returned by Sunday, November 19, some forms have already been returned; Quarterly noisy offering for the Lutheran Disaster response for the people of Maui amounted to \$502.52.

Board of Property and Management: Mike provided a verbal report: See below in Old Business re: Bell Tower/Steeple; Winnebago County election was held in the Fellowship Hall on November 7th, and all went well; Food Shelf will continue to utilize our facility at least until the end of the year and probably into 2024; Volunteers are Insulating windows on the east side of the education building at no cost to Salem; a member has agreed to donate funds to pay for insulating the Chapel, Mike is looking into what this would involve for materials and volunteer labor (no cost to Salem and will be working with Board of Youth and Faith Formation use of Chapel to determine project timing, etc.); Boiler inspection will be in early December (new contact for Salem as a result of insurance change in July).

Board of Youth: Marci provided a verbal and written report: Bibles were given to 4 year olds and 3rd graders on October 29; Trunk or treat was later that day and was well attended; Faith Formation Christmas program rehearsal will be on 12/3 and the program will be 12/10 with a party in the fellowship hall following; Money from the Board of Youth dedicated fund was used to purchase new Nativity costumes; Making plans for Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 pm with community welcome to join in; No Faith Formation on 11/26, 12/24, 12/31 due to holidays; Faith Formation kids will be singing on March 10, there will also be a bake sale; 5th grade students and families will have First communion classes on March 3, 10 and 24 with First communion on Maundy Thursday on March 28.

Pastoral Care Support:

Pastor Report: None

Laura moved to accept Board reports, seconded by Mike. All approved.

Old Business: 2 funerals were held in the last month.

- A. Call Committee Report – Bishop Jones updated the committee that they have not had any new candidates with an interest to interview at Salem. Bishop Jones noted that the number of people turning in the Rostered Minister Profiles have been lower lately.
- B. Capital Project Update – Mike and Shannon received an email earlier today with information from Jared Beenken from Dean Snyder construction in Clear Lake regarding recommendations for repair/removal of the Bell Tower/Steeple. Shannon will set up a meeting for council to meet with Jared and Dave Randall (Randall Construction) to go over findings, options recommended and potential cost. These considerations are necessary before moving forward.
- C. Stewardship Drive – see Board of Stewardship report.
- D. 2024 Annual Meeting Planning – will plan a meal in the Fellowship Hall following the meeting.
- E. 2024 Budget Planning – Board chairs have budget worksheets to be working on.

F. Nominating Committee Update – Shannon shared the 2024 proposed Ballot that the nominating committee has thus far. There are still a few openings, including Vice President. This document will be published for the congregation on December 3. Mike moved to approve the 2024 Ballot, seconded by Mary. All approved. Shannon will advise Council and request approval if any additional names are added to the Ballot before official posting date.

New Business:

- A. New members – None
- B. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None
- C. Next meeting will be held Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Mike moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Laura. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Haugsdal



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 --KIOW Radio 107.3 (Forest City) --KIMT TV Channel 3 Contact Shannon Bruhns at 641-592-5978 / 641-590-1532

“Thank You” to those that filled shoeboxes with gifts for the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Project. 14 shoeboxes were received and delivered.
-Board of Life & Growth

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

Dates available 2023: Dec. 31 **Dates available in 2024:** Jan 7, 21, 28. Feb 11, 25. March 10, 17, 24, 31. April 21. May 5. June 9, 16, 30. July 7, 14, 21, 28. Aug 4, 11, 18, 25. Sept 1, 15. Oct 6, 13, 20. Nov 3, 10, 17, 24. Dec 1, 29

ALL ARE INVITED DOWNSTAIRS FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE SERVICE

SUNDAY 11/26

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 11/27

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 11/29

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

SATURDAY 12/2

9:00am Hanging of the Greens

SUNDAY 12/3

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Program Rehearsal



Free Movie: "The Star" will be playing at the Mills Theater on Dec. 9th at 1:00pm. This movie is being sponsored by Citizens Community Credit Union.

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)

Mon-Tues: 11am-5pm, Wed: 11am-1pm, Thurs-Fri: 11am-5pm

(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)