
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 10 – 16

Prophecy, Patience, and Promise

Advent is a season of expectation, the word itself meaning “coming.” Many families spend these four weeks waiting for children to come home from college, or for grandparents to come for Christmas dinner. For young children, these days of waiting can seem like a thousand years. Others are amazed at how quickly time is flying, as they sense the end of their own lives drawing near. In the interval, stories from the past are told and retold as a way of remembering the significance of these waiting days.

The arrival scripture speaks of is both more profound and more sublime. It is the coming end of a way of being that has seemed like exile, like imprisonment. It is salvation from all that has torn us and our world apart. As we wait alongside the readers of Mark’s gospel, we too hear voices from the past in the prophetic words of Isaiah (and Malachi and Exodus) that prepare us to receive the one who is coming into the world: Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 1:1).

As with any long period of waiting, we know that the final days are the hardest to bear. We struggle to understand why we ourselves, never mind the rest of creation, must wait any longer for the salvation and redemption God has promised. Our salvation is bound up with one another’s though, and we are reminded that God has been patient with us, “not wanting any to perish” (2 Peter 3:9). We therefore practice patience with God as we remain steadfast in hope and lead lives of holiness and godliness worthy of the new era that is coming (2 Peter 3:11-12).

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Gary & Linda Helgeson, Janice Helgeson, Jon & Rebecca Helgeson,
Matthew, Mae and Julie Helgeson, Michael & Rosalie 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

10-Andy Stene

12-Lori Smeby

-Margaret Okland

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 12/3/23: \$ 6,978

YEAR-TO-DATE: 12/6/23 \$ 182,975

LAST YEAR: as of 12/6/22 \$ 192,284

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -9,309

-Last Weeks Attendance-

71

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 12/6/23 **\$160,217**

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



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

Poinsettias: If anyone would like to share a poinsettia with Salem for Christmas, we welcome you do so. If you plan to bring one in honor of or in memory of someone, please let Marci know and we will include it in the bulletin.

Memorials Given In November:

Viola Simmons--\$15 Steeple Project

Travis Hoffman--\$50 Building Fund, \$20, General Fund

Frank & Joann Ostby--\$50 General Fund

Mary Coffey--\$500 Cemetery Fund

Roger D. Peterson--\$170 General Fund, \$20 Cemetery Fund

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 know of someone who needs some Christmas cheer, please call the office. 592-1771

Goodies: If you would like to donate goodies for those that are Christmas Caroling on Wed. Dec. 20th, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please have them in the Fellowship Hall by 6:30pm.

December 24th we will have our usual 9:00am worship service and then at 5:00pm we will have our Christmas Eve service.

Annual Meeting is scheduled for 10:00am on Sun. Jan. 21 in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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

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)

ALL ARE INVITED TO THE BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY 12/10

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

10:00am Birthday Party for Jesus-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 12/11

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

TUESDAY 12/12

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

WEDNESDAY 12/13

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation

THURSDAY 12/14

6:30pm Church Council-Salem Library

SUNDAY 12/17

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

Food Shelf Hours: Due to Christmas and New Years falling on Mondays, the Food Shelf will be open 2:30pm-5:00pm on Tues. December 26 and Tues. January 2.

Volunteers Needed: The food shelf will be distributing Christmas Food Baskets on Mon. Dec. 18th and will need volunteers to help carry boxes to cars and other tasks as needed (1-5pm). They will also need help setting up the night before-Sun. Dec. 17th at 5pm (for about an hour). There will be heavy lifting both days. Please call 590-0817 or 590-1778 if you are willing to help.