
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 17 - 23

Give Witness and Rejoice

The third Sunday of Advent—also known as *Gaudete (rejoice)*—is one in which the church has rejoiced as the advent of the Messiah draws nearer. Whether or not you mark this Sunday with a pink candle on the wreath, the texts for the day echo this rejoicing, this “we’re almost there” excitement, in a multitude of ways. Isaiah couples images of a people restored with images of weddings and springtime and oak trees. The psalmist offers up images of a harvest festival, and Paul urges us to rejoice “always.”

John the Baptist, in his own way, calls for rejoicing by his acknowledgment that he is *not* what we are waiting for. John, like us, has a mission to bear witness, but when he says “I am not,” we hear a clear contrast to all the ways Jesus will identify himself with the Father: “I am the bread of life.” “I am the resurrection.” “I am the good shepherd.” All these things Jesus will be for God’s people, but John’s job is simply to bear witness to the light.

How do we bear witness, while still waiting? Or can joy in the midst of waiting be that very witness? In Advent we are not called to act as though we do not know how this story ends, as though Jesus’ birth and life, death and resurrection, are still before us. But we *do* know that sense of longing for God’s salvation to be fulfilled, and the temptation to imagine that we have to save ourselves, instead of waiting for God’s purposes to be worked out in God’s time. John reminds us that there can be joy in taking our proper place, pointing to Jesus without needing to *be* Jesus.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Ryan, Kelli, Conner, Hayden and Josie Helgeson and Drew Woodley, Scott Helgeson, Shawn, Julie, Tyler, Karli and Carter Helgeson, Steven, Allison, Scott and Kyle Helgeson and Ellie Redig, Keith & JoAnn Helland

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

18-Julie Helgeson

19-Candy Olsen

19-Karen Sterrenberg

19-Sean SMalley

19-Lori Westcott

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 12/10/23: \$ 7,206

YEAR-TO-DATE: 12/12/23 \$ 190,181

LAST YEAR: as of 12/12/22 \$ 201,908

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -11,727

-Last Weeks Attendance-

150

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 12/12/23 **\$160,242**

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

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

AFTER SERVICE ALL ARE INVITED TO FELLOWSHIP IN THE BASEMENT

SUNDAY 12/17

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

MONDAY 12/18

1:30pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Christmas Box Distribution-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm-5:00pm LM Clothe Our Kids Distribution-Salem Alleyway

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

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

TUESDAY 12/19

1:00pm Life & Growth Board Meeting-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 12/20

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Christmas Caroling, everyone in the community is invited, meet in the Fellowship. (hot chocolate and bars/cookies in the fellowship after)

THURSDAY 12/21

2:00pm WELCA-Lounge

SUNDAY 12/24

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Judith Wozniak)



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

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)

Mon-Tues: 11am-5pm, Wed: Unknown, Thurs: 11am-5pm, Fri: 11am-3:00pm.

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