
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 24 - 30

Those Who Hear and Do

Who is God's family? Where is God's home? In the church we often speak of our home parish as a family. Many of us grew up thinking of the church building as God's house. But the readings for this day call us to anticipate that Emmanuel might understand kinship and home in different ways. As we approach Christmas, which in our culture is increasingly a celebration of hearth and home more than a public festival, the inclusiveness of God's promise rings out from these readings.

The temple often stood in the imagination of Israel as the "house of God," but in 1 Samuel God expresses reservations before the temple is even built. The promise made to David is not about the building. Instead of the expected places of wealth and power, God chooses to dwell in a *people* instead of a "house of cedar" (2 Sam. 7:2, 7).

So if God is dwelling in a people, who is included in *that* promise? Although no one disputes that Jesus is born of the "house of David," Luke's gospel stresses Mary's lowliness instead of her bloodlines, reminding us that Christ became flesh in the most unlikely circumstances. Later in Luke's gospel, when someone mentions his family to Jesus, he says his family includes all "who hear the word of God and do it" (8:21). In today's gospel we see Mary acting out that definition of family.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Charles Henderson, Travis Henderson, George & Kathy Henderson, Michael, Donna and Bryan Hengesteg, Richard, Tanya, and Jadyn Hengesteg, Steven Hengesteg

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

25-Tre Thorson

26-Mitch Turnbull

29-Clyde Sletten

26-Carter Helgeson

27-Erich Stene

30-Doris Tweed

27-Adam Ritter

20-Wesley Turnbull

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 12/17/23: \$ 4,140

YEAR-TO-DATE: 12/19/23 \$ 194,321

LAST YEAR: as of 12/19/22 \$ 206,894

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -12,573

-Last Weeks Attendance-

45

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 12/19/23 **\$160,242**

Total available balance as of 11/30/23 **\$53,519.32** 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.

Taking Down The Greens: January 6th, starting at 9:00am. Please join us for taking down the Christmas decorations.

Devotionals: There are copies of the January/February/March devotionals in the Narthex and by the south entrance. Feel free to take one.

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. The Clothes Closet will also be closed on these 2 Mondays, but open on Tuesday.

Fellowship-December 31: Please bring Christmas goodies to share.

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

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. Thank you to everyone that is helping to create memories for these children.

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.

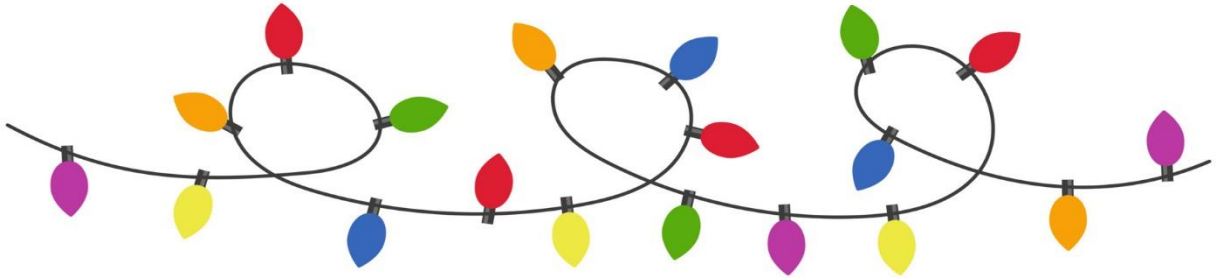
(We are charged a much lower service fee through the Simply Giving Program)

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!



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

Merry Christmas



SUNDAY 12/24

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

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

TUESDAY 12/26

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

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

WEDNESDAY 12/27

5:45pm Worship & Music Board Meeting-Salem Library

SUNDAY 12/31

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

10:00am Fellowship-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: CLOSED, Tues: 11am-5pm, Wed: 11am-2pm, Thurs-Fri: 11am-5pm

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