
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 31 – January 6

Go in Peace

With Simeon and Anna we receive consolation (Luke 2:25) and good news: Jesus frees us to go in peace. God’s Word is incarnate, and we have seen the light of our salvation (2:29-32). “Go in peace” is our call to action—a reminder that we are freed from sin and death and sent out to share that good news with the world. “Go in peace” is also our prayer as life ends—a reminder of a love more powerful than death.

And yet . . . right along with these words of peace come troubling words from Simeon. The infant Jesus will be a source of turmoil for his people and his family. The words “and a sword will pierce your own soul too” (Luke 2:35) must have been the opposite of peaceful and comforting to young mother Mary. Luke even includes the detail that Mary and Joseph offered the least expensive purification sacrifice, a reminder that Jesus was born into poverty (Lev. 12:8). Even in the presence of God’s incarnate peace, all is not well with the world.

This is where we enter the story, full of questions. How do we experience God’s peace in our broken world? Faced with the reality of war, poverty, hunger, destruction, and loss, how do we speak of peace? How do we live God’s peace in our lives? Like Simeon and Anna, we have faith in God’s promise of peace because we have faith in the promiser. As Simeon and Anna witnessed, God’s word has been, is, and will be fulfilled.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.
THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Brandon and Michelle Hermanson, Jeffrey, Marlene, Tel and Tyrell Hermanson, Judy Hermanson, Thomas Hermanson, Dennis and RoseAnn Hill

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

1-Chelsey Kopp	2-Ronald Langfald	5-Drake Abbey
1-Hallie Mannes	3-Matt Helgeson	5-Hannah Evenson
1-Christopher Adams	4-Sтивен Bendickson	5-Phyllis Moen
2-Alexander Mosby	5-Jolie Rice	5-Kaci Osheim
		6-Christopher Jamtgaard

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 12/24/23: \$ 10,345
YEAR-TO-DATE: 12/27/23 \$ 204,666
LAST YEAR: as of 12/27/22 \$ 219,186
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -14,520

-Last Weeks Attendance-

45 (9am) 205 (5pm)

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 12/27/23 **\$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!

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 New Years falling on Monday, the Food Shelf will be open 2:30pm-5:00pm on Tues. January 2. The Clothes Closet will also be closed on Monday, but open on Tuesday.

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

Council Minutes will be published in the announcements next week, January 7th, due to Council President Shannon Bruhns not being available this week.

Upcoming Blood Drive: Thursday, January 18th; In the Fellowship Hall 1:00pm-6:00pm. Appointments Are Encouraged. Call: 800-287-4903 or Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org

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

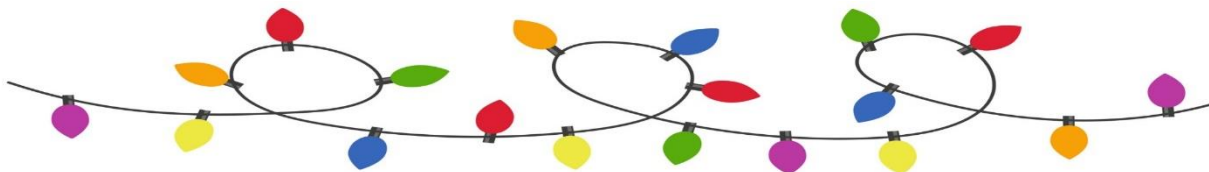
-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for monthly or weekly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to have a form sent to you or stop by the office. We also have forms in the Narthex. Please return forms to the office.

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

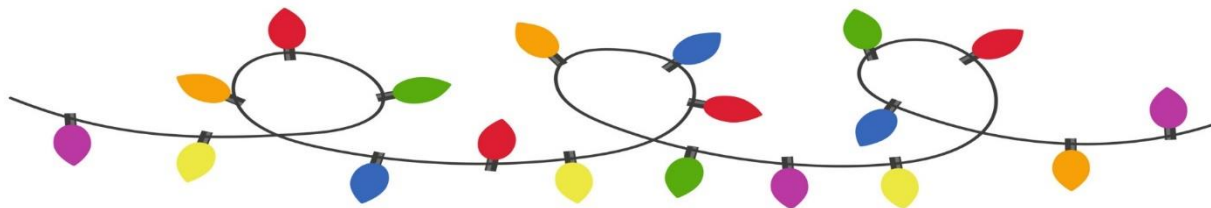
Worship Volunteers Needed: If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read or sing in the liturgical choir, please sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, call the office. Thank you!



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



HAPPY NEW YEAR



SUNDAY 12/31

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY 1/2

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

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

5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 1/3

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

SUNDAY 1/7

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

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 13, 20. Nov 3, 10, 17, 24. Dec 1, 29

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)