
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 25 – March 2

Promises, Promises

The story of God's relationship with God's people is a story of promises fulfilled. We hear about God's covenant with Sarah and Abraham in today's Genesis reading and about its fulfillment in the New Testament texts. As Paul reminds us in Romans, we are the multitude of nations that were promised to Abraham; we are his descendants in faith. "Kings of peoples" (Gen. 17:16) descended from Sarah's offspring; Jesus Christ, the King of kings, is Lord of all through his death and resurrection.

From generation to generation, God is steadfast. No matter how many ages pass or how often we turn away, God remains faithful. This is the great hope of our faith—no matter how often we stray or how great our sin, God persists in loving us. Jesus Christ binds us to God through our baptism into his death. In worship—especially through confession, affirmation of baptism, and communion—we continually remember the lengths to which God goes to keep covenant with us. The promise of salvation extends even into the future, as the psalmist reminds us: Our children and our children's children will proclaim God's salvation to generations yet unborn.

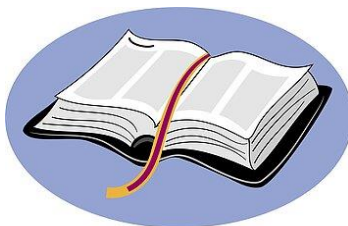
THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.
THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Dana & Tonja Knutson, Joel, Jennifer, Kane and Tucker Koch, Jacob, Jaclyn and Molly Koeppen, Alex and Abby Beaty, Chelsey Kopp, Gloria Kvale.

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

26-Scott Helgeson

28-Kenley Helgeson

28-Chelsey Holtan

28-Jersey Budach

28-Andrea Rodberg

1-Emeryn Wempen

28-Nora Hanna

2-Alayna Steele

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 2/18/24: \$ 1,375

YEAR-TO-DATE: 2/21/24 \$ 28,200

LAST YEAR: as of 2/21/23 \$ 24,982

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ 3,218

-Last Weeks Attendance-

78

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 2/4/24 **\$160,712**

Total available balance as of 1/31/24 **\$53,814.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

Easter Flowers: If you would like to order Easter Flowers, please fill out an order form, found in the Narthex, and place it in the offering plate or return it to the office by Sunday, March 10th. Following Easter Sunday Service all flowers may be taken by those who sponsored them. Flowers available to order are: Easter Lilies (\$21) Tulips (\$17) Hyacinths (\$17) Daffodils (\$17) Hydrangeas (\$31).

Summer Camps: Reminder to sign up your children for summer camps before the early bird deadlines! Check out the camp websites for more information. In the past, the Enduring Gift Committee has helped to pay the remaining balances, after parents make the down payment, so after you have registered your child and paid the deposit, forward your receipt email from camp to the Salem office. Salem@wctatel.net If you have any questions call 592-1771.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: To the Salem members with Thrivent financial products, the deadline to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars is approaching. Here are the deadlines to designate your dollars: By Mail: Must be received by **March 17** to guarantee designation. By Phone: **March 28** (before Easter weekend / Good Friday. Online: **March 31**. **In the past this has meant thousands of dollars, at no cost to you, to help with projects at Salem and we ask that you please continue to support this valuable program. Thank you!**

Snowtubing/Skiing Event: On March 3rd, the Youth Board is planning a snow tubing and skiing event at Mount Kato (in Mankato MN). Everyone is welcome! No pre-registration required. Upon arrival, just tell them that you are with Salem Lutheran Church to get the church discount. Must be 42 inches to snow tube.

Goodies: The Board of Youth is asking for donations of goodies for their bake sale fundraiser on March 10th. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and on the table across from the chapel. Please have them wrapped or pre-packaged and in the Narthex by 9:00am on March 10th. Thank you!

Noisy Offering: The Stewardship Committee would like to announce our first Noisy Offering campaign of the year. We will be supporting the Good Samaritan Ministries. This campaign will begin Sunday, March 3rd and continue until Sunday, March 31st. Good Samaritan Ministries, or Good Sam was created to assist people in need in emergency situations. In the past Good Sam has helped with housing emergencies, medical issues, and situations relating to abuse and domestic violence. If you or someone you know is in need please contact Marci in the Salem office. Please keep the people this program helps in your prayers.

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)**

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Delane Behr, Doug Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Marci Prescott, Dan Rice, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Laura Gardner, Mary Peterson

Guests: Kevin Hardy

Kevin Hardy, certified arborist from Cutting Edge Tree services and Arbor master services, provided an update of recommendations regarding planned treatment of the Elm Tree on the south lawn, including the likelihood of treatment prolonging the viability of the tree. The council had previously approved to move forward with this treatment plan at the August 10, 2023 council meeting. Delane Behr and Mike Swenson were not present for the vote in August 2023 and expressed dissent to spending money to treat the tree and preferred to consider taking the tree down. Members present that had voted to go ahead with treatment to save the tree stood by their vote.

Shannon started the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report: January Minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

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

Communication and correspondence – Anonymous donation for \$50 deposited into the general fund.

Treasurer's Report: Doug provided a verbal and written report.

Total income for January 2024 \$15,255.50

Total Expenses for January 2024 \$11,001.79 (Income less expense \$4,253.71)

Checking account balance 1/31/2024) \$86,043.01

Building Project account balance 1/31/2024 \$53,814.32

CD's at FTSB (1/31/2024) Reserves \$26,014.17

CD at MBT (1/31/2024) Ness Estate \$48,334.93

Financial Secretary's report: Laura provided a written report:

2024 YTD total offerings (1/29/2024) \$14,930

2023 YTD total offerings (1/29/2023) \$14,511

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

Board Reports

Enduring Gift Fund report: The next quarterly report (Jan-March 2024) is due at the April Council meeting.

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a written report: Board met on 1/31/2024; reviewed worship coordinator role, weekly sign-up sheets and future board meeting dates; Lenten Season and Easter planning with Pastor Steve Smith will be with us for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; supply pastors for April through June reviewed.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a verbal report: Plan to distribute a document, "40 Days of Lent" at services on February 11 and available in the Narthex for members to use to enhance the Lenten season in their homes; this Board is serving coffee hour on February 11 in the fellowship hall.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Dan provided a verbal report: Working on Thrivent Choice information; making plans for Noisy Offering for Good Samaritan ministry in March; planning Barbecue along with other events on the final Sunday of Faith Formation/Community Clean up April 28.

Board of Property and Management: Mike provided a verbal report: Mike continues conversations with Jared Beenken and Dave Randall regarding a revised rendition/picture of the bell tower removal with the spire remaining and quotes for this project. Mike talked about possibly doing the project in phases with the first one being removal of the bell tower. The disposition of the bell itself will also need to be considered.

Board of Youth: Marci provided a verbal and written report: Snow tubing/skiing event scheduled March 3 at Mt. Kato with a discount for church groups that day, those attending will meet at the church (all members are welcome to attend); Faith Formation kids will sing again on March 10th along with a bake sale fundraiser, will be needing donations for the bake sale; Letter with information for parents of 5th graders regarding first communion classes which will be held at 10:00 am in the lounge on March 3, 10 and 24th with Maundy Thursday (First Communion) on March 28; the board will host the “Welcome to the Table Meal” for the fifth graders and families in the Fellowship Hall before the Maundy Thursday Service.; Easter Egg hunt during Faith Formation on March 24 and will be asking for donations of plastic eggs and candy to fill eggs; Faith Formation last day will be on April 28 with the kids singing in church and after worship a spring clean up in the Lake Mills area for a service project is planned (open to all members/families); Confirmation classes will be completed on May 1 with a May 8 pizza party planned; Graduation Sunday will be on May and graduation gifts have been ordered; still looking for more volunteers to help with Faith Formation with a sign up sheet on the bulletin board across from the chapel.

Pastoral Care Support: No funerals in the last month.

Pastor’s Report: None

Doug moved to approve Board reports, seconded by Mike. All approved.

Old Business:

- A. Call Committee Report – Met with Bishop Jones via Zoom on February 7. There have not been any new candidates to be considered, hoping this improves in the spring; the committee asked about a possible candidate that is rostered with the Disciples of Christ Church. The Disciples of Christ Church does not have full communion partner with the ELCA, an exclusion as a candidate. Mike suggested Salem consider opening a conversation with One in Christ Parish.
- B. Capital Project Update
 - a. Next Steps – See Property and Management report above.

- C. Food Shelf – a Special Council meeting was held on Monday, February 5, to discuss the request from the LM Food Shelf and LMAMA to locate the food shelf at Salem permanently. The council voted to accept this request. (See Special Council Meeting minutes). Shannon shared a completed copy of the agreement document that has now been signed by LM Food shelf administrators, LMAMA representatives and Salem representatives.

New Business:

- A. Summer Feeding Program – status for this summer is yet unknown.
- B. Winnebago County Public Health Blood Pressure Screening
 - a. Scheduled in the lounge the first Monday each month, the same hours as Food Shelf and Clothes Closet.
- C. Sanctuary Worship Computer
 - a. Virus Scan Diagnostics – Phil Seifert checked out the computer and took care of issues.
- D. New members – None.
- E. Transfers/statistical adjustments – Request to transfer from Michael Adam Hengesteg and Andor Hengesteg to Trinity Lutheran Church in Webster City, IA; Request to transfer from Taylor Nelson to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Forest City, IA. Dan moved to accept these requests for transfer, seconded by Marci. All approved.
- F. Next meeting will be held Thursday, March 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Sue moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Doug. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

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

Dates available: Feb 25. Mar 17, 24, 31. May 5. June 30. July 14, 21. Aug 4, 11, 25. Sept 1. Oct 20. Nov 17, 24. Dec 29

Please Join Us Downstairs For Fellowship After The Service

SUNDAY 2/25

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

MONDAY 2/26

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 2/28

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

SUNDAY 3/3

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am First Communion Class-Lounge

Personal Care Kits: The Board of Life & Growth is collecting donations to make Personal Care Kits. Items needed are: bath towels (dark colors, approx. 52x27), 4 oz. bars of soap, toothbrushes in original packaging, sturdy combs and metal nail clippers. Donations can be left in the narthex. Thank you!

Volunteers Are Needed for both WORSHIP and FAITH FORMATION. If you would like to volunteer to read, usher or serve communion, please sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to help with sound or live-streaming, please call the office. If you would like to supervise and interact with the children during faith formation, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the chapel or call the office, no planning or training required. 641.592.1771

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci) Monday-Friday: 11:00am-5:00pm
(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)