
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 17 - 23

The Attraction of the Repellant Cross

Two themes vie for attention in the readings: divine forgiveness (with attention paid to the human sinfulness that makes it necessary!) and the cross's mysterious power.

Jeremiah prophesies of God's desire and ability to wipe the slate clean and to come even closer than before, in the form of a "new covenant" with God's people. But how is this possible? God and God's people were already as close as husband and wife—one flesh! Even so, God promises to forgive the divorce and forge an even more profound unity and intimacy with God's people.

The composers of both psalm alternatives (51 and 119) sing of the relief and joy of being forgiven and then taught, sustained, and sanctified by God's Spirit. Both psalmists testify that relief and joy more than balance the agony of confessing their unworthiness and brokenness and their own culpability for both.

In the gospel, Jesus plants the image of the (dead) seed coming to life and bearing fruit, as a metaphor for his own crucifixion and being "lifted up" on our behalf. The Greeks ask to see Jesus. We might paraphrase Jesus' oblique response this way: "If you want to see me, first look down into the dirt; then look up to the cross."

The connection point for the two themes is deep (even intimate) service to the other. Jeremiah tells us that God will come closer to us than a husband to a wife—directly into our hearts! Deep in this mystery we will be known—truly known even beyond our fear of being known—and forgiven and loved. Jesus then promises that through his life in us, we will be drawn into a similar emptying of selves as we enter richly into the lives of others so that they too will know the joy and relief of being known and loved. In this way, confession leads finally to mission.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1--15:47

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Matthew, Jennifer, Chance, Hope, Madison and Claire Levine, Darren, Becky and Gavin Levorson and Ava Klebsch, Katrina, Dashawn, Tatyana, Deshia and Taniyah Linnen, Alyson, Ashley and Tiffani Linqvist, Duane and Hadleigh Linqvist

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-Jeff Pederson

20-Tyler Helgeson

22-Gregory Turvold

18-Kendra Stene

20-Dennis Miller

23-Matthew Gerdes

19-Ovila Hanna

21-Kevin Nelson

23-Anthony Ramaker

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 3/10/24:

No update this

YEAR-TO-DATE: 3/10/24

week due to the

LAST YEAR: as of 3/10/23

financial secretary

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:

being unavailable

-Last Weeks Attendance-

110

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 3/13/24 **\$160,762**

Total available balance as of 2/29/24 **\$54,064.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

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: **Past due**. 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.**Noisy

Memorial Donation: Shas been notified by the estate of former member Adrian Halvorson, brother to Janet Vinson and Orloue Thomson, that monies will be given designated to the Cemetery Endowment fund and to Building, Repair and Maintenance fund. Salem is extremely grateful for this memorial giving which will be published upon receipt.

Lake Mills Community Blood Drive: Thursday, March 21 in the Fellowship Hall. 1:00pm-6:00pm. Appointments Are Encouraged. Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or Call: 800-287-4903 or visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org

Noisy Offering: The Stewardship Committee will be collecting noisy offerings for the Good Samaritan Ministries until March 31st. "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. Please keep the people this program helps in your prayers. If you or someone you know, is in need of assistance, please call the office.

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

Easter Egg Candy: The Board of Youth is asking for donations of candy that can put into plastic Easter eggs, for our Faith Formation Easter egg hunt. Donations can be left in the tote across from the office until March 21st. Thank you!

Thank You to everyone that donated goodies for the bake sale and thank you to those that made purchases. We appreciate all of you so much!

The Living Last Supper will be presented at Pilot Knob Lutheran Church on Palm Sunday, March 24 at 2:00pm (2391-330th St. Forest City, IA)

Collections: We collect pop tabs, eyeglasses and receipts from David's Marketplace and Hy-Vee. The WELCA group receives 1 tenth of 1% of all receipts collected from David's. The Hy-Vee receipts go towards a cure for cancer. The baskets for all of these are in the Narthex (under the coat rack). Please do not roll the receipts and keep David's separate from Hy-Vee. Thank you!

Salem's Clothes Closet is open every Monday from 2:00-4:00pm; and can be accessed at the south entrance. Clothes, shoes, boots, coats, jackets and a few other kids' items are available for free. We also accept donations; please make sure donations are folded and have no holes, tears or stains. Donations can be left inside the south entrance anytime.



The Lake Mills Food Shelf is open 2:30-5:00pm every Monday for anyone in need of additional food. The only criteria for eligibility is to reside within the Lake Mills School District. The Food Shelf is located at Salem and can be accessed at the south entrance. Anyone in need of food when the food shelf is not open, please feel free to call and leave a message at 641-592-1771 and someone will call back.

Volunteers Needed for Worship and Faith Formation. 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. If you are willing to help with Faith Formation, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the chapel. No planning or experience needed. Youth Board leaders do all the planning.

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)

WELCA: Thursday, March 21 at 2:00pm in the Lounge. Kathy VanHove will be the speaker. She will talk about her journey with type 1 diabetes.

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.

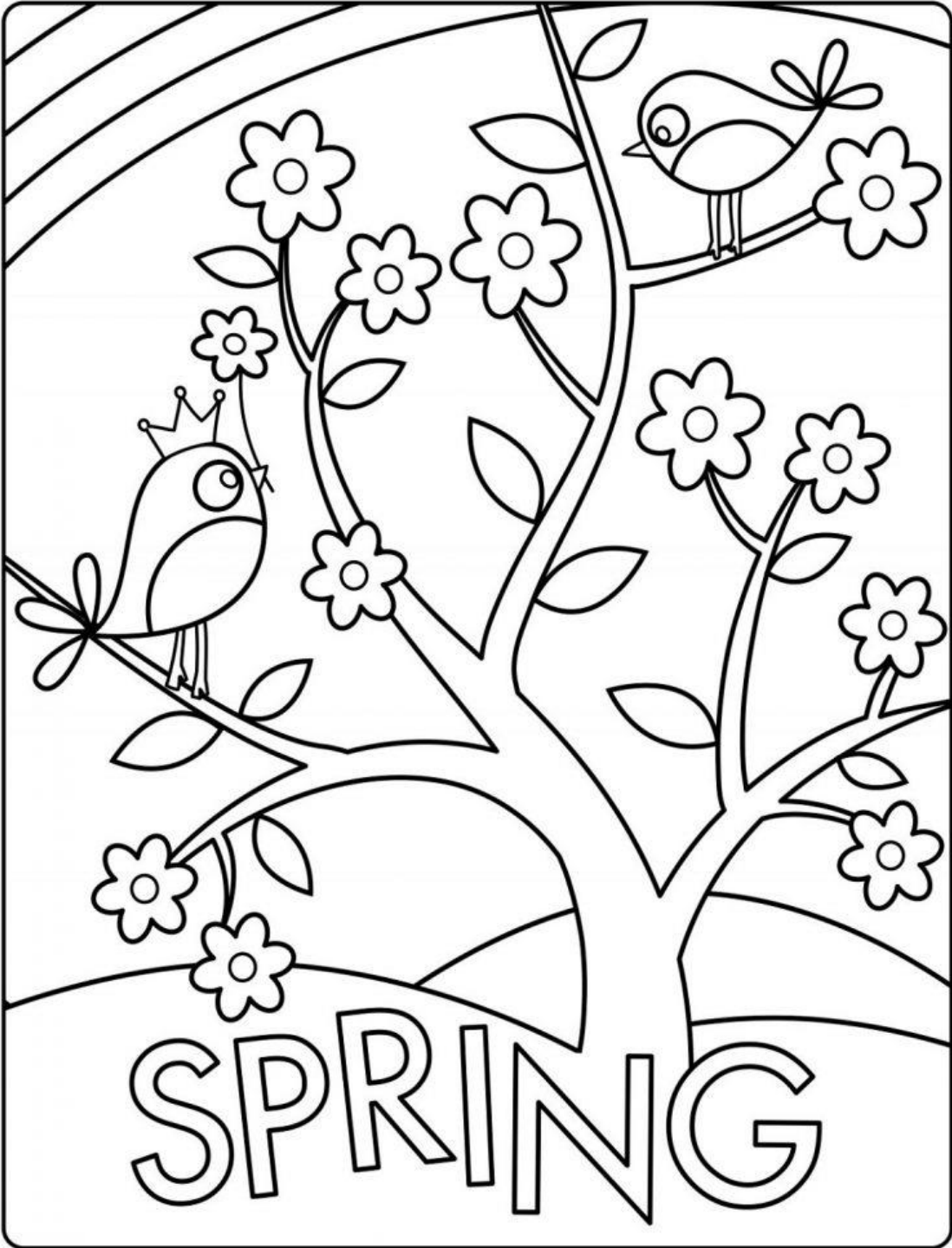
Understanding Grief and Loss Support Group is an adult support group that will provide grief education and support to individuals who've experienced the death of a family member or friend. There is no charge, but space is limited, so please call to register 641-428-6267. The next scheduled group will meet 5 Monday evenings: April 1 - April 29; 5:30-7:00pm at the Mercyone North Iowa Hospice Conference Room (232 2nd St. SE, Mason City).

North Iowa Hospice Volunteer Training will be on Thursdays-March 28, April 4 and April 11 from 9:30am to 4:00pm at Mercyone North Iowa Hospice located at 232 2nd St SE in Mason City. Pre-registration is due by Thursday March 21. Class is free but there is a limited number for the class. Call 641-428-6236 to register.

A Day For Women: Kinship Radio presents their 15th annual "A Day for Women" on Sat. April 13th at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato. This year's Special Guest is Ginny Owens. She has spent the past two decades sharing her heart with listeners and readers as a singer/songwriter, author, teacher and advocate. There will be music, ministry, lunch and mini-sessions. Space is limited to call 800-810-5559 or go online to KinshipRadio.org to register beginning Monday, March 18th at 8:00am. Cost is \$40, doors open at 7:15am, starts at 8:30am.

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

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





SPRING



Word Search

Search for the twelve Spring themed words below.

Y	L	E	E	V	K	C	Y	E	I	B	T	M	Y	N	N	U	B
R	R	Q	W	N	Z	W	F	S	I	U	G	J	W	Y	I	U	O
E	C	M	Y	A	K	H	O	Z	M	T	Q	G	J	D	H	U	G
W	J	A	X	U	L	J	B	S	F	T	B	N	X	H	W	S	M
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A	X	M	V	U	S	I	S	M	S	R	Z	A	B	F	I	X	N

APRIL

BUTTERFLY

RAINBOW

BIRDS

FLOWERS

SPRING

BLOOM

GARDEN

SUNSHINE

BUNNY

MAY

WARM

ALL ARE INVITED DOWNSTAIRS FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE SERVICE

SUNDAY 3/17

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 3/18

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

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

6:00pm Quilt Club-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY 3/20

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

THURSDAY 3/21

1:00pm-6:00pm Blood Drive-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm WELCA-Lounge

SUNDAY 3/24

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am First Communion Class-Lounge

Salem Office: 641.592.1771

(Marci) Mon: 11am-5pm, Tues: 11am-2pm, Wed-Fri: 11am-5pm.

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