



# Salem Lutheran Church

401 SOUTH LAKE STREET LAKE MILLS, IA 50450

Phone (641)-592-1771

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**OUR MISSION:** We are God forgiven and mission driven.

**OUR VISION:** To be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

## WEEKLY ANOUNCEMENTS

March 20th – March 28th

–Fifth Sunday In Lent–

### THIS WEEKS TEXTS

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*A new covenant written on the heart*

**Psalm 51:1-12**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)*

**Psalm 119:9-16** (alternate)

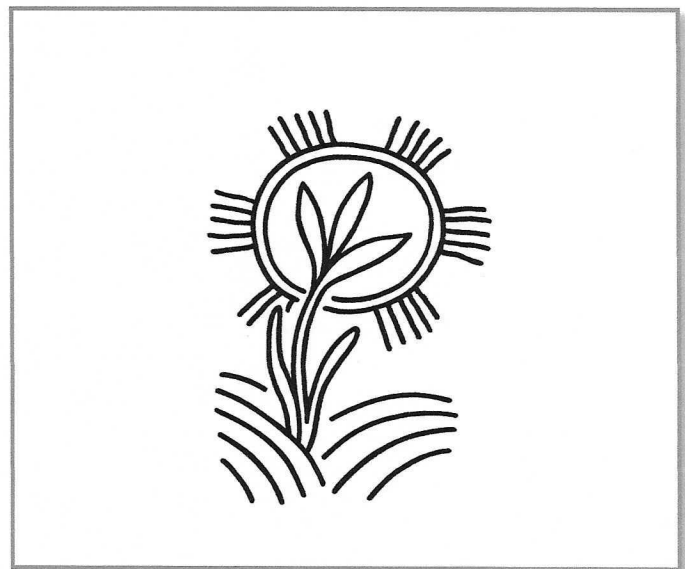
*I treasure your promise in my heart. (Ps. 119:11)*

**Hebrews 5:5-10**

*Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation*

**John 12:20-33**

*The grain of wheat dying in the earth*



### 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 Week At A Glance**

### **SATURDAY 3/20**

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

### **SUNDAY 3/21**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

### **MONDAY 3/22**

Clothes Closet (Open by appointment)

(Call Rita Anderson 641-592-5085)

### **TUESDAY 3/23**

2:30pm Pastor Text Study

7:00pm Stephens Ministry

### **WEDNESDAY 3/23**

8:30am Staff Meeting

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service-Sanctuary

### **THURSDAY 3/25**

5:45pm Worship and Music Board Meeting

### **SATURDAY 3/27**

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

### **SUNDAY 3/28**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:15am Faith Formation-Fellowship Hall

10:15am First Communion Class-Choir Room

## **NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

### **Mark 11:1-11**

*Jesus enters Jerusalem*

### **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The servant of the LORD submits to suffering*

### **Philippians 2:5-11**

*Humbled to the point of death on a cross*

### **Mark 14:1--15:47**

*The passion of the Lord*

## **March 4, 2021 Blood Drive Results**

Total Donors: 50

Lives Saved: 138

First Time Donors: 8

Convalescent Plasma Donors: 2

The Board of Life & Growth is looking for volunteers to be Prayer Pen Pals with 1st Graders. Please call Sue Langerud if you have questions or would like to volunteer. 641.568.3620

Due to spring break there will be No Faith Formation and No First Communion Class TODAY. On Wednesday (3-24) there will be No Confirmation Class. Have a great week!

## **CELEBRATING GENEROSITY**

During this time of social distancing, there are several ways to continue your giving.

-- By mail.

-- By "Simply Giving"- Sign up for weekly or monthly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to get a form.

-- By PayPal- Go to our website home page ([www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com)) and scroll to the bottom left- there is a Donate button. Click on that and it will take you to a PayPal or credit card donation page.

## **-WEEKLY GIVING-**

<b>LAST SUNDAY:</b> 3/14/21	\$ 5,467
<b>YEAR-TO-DATE:</b> as of 3/17/21	\$ 46,242
<b>LAST YEAR:</b> as of 3/17/20	\$ 56,079
<b>DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:</b>	\$-9,837

## **NOISY OFFERING**

TOTAL AS OF 3/10/21 \$192.28

## **BLOOD DRIVE—March 29, Noon-5pm**

Lake Mills Community High School Blood Drive

Sponsored by Salem Lutheran Church

For an appointment:

Call 800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

By donating at this blood drive, you are helping one or more graduating seniors earn a scholarship!

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass!

Visit [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) for more information.

## **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

The Stewardship Board would like to announce that the Thrivent Choice Dollars program is in process. There are forms available in the church office, the Narthex, west entrances and the south entrance for those that would like to participate. The deadline for this is March 31st (if sent in the mail, March 17 is the deadline to mail them). Other options are Online:

[Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice)

If you haven't registered on Thrivent.com, you will have to register and create a user ID, password and security questions. Or you can call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice", or call Pete at the local Thrivent office 641.592.0064

Salem has a wheel chair available for use. It is kept in the narthex closet near the coat rack.

### **FAITH FORMATION MUSIC**

There will be Faith Formation Music during the Palm Sunday Worship Service--March 28, 2021

**COLLECTIONS**--The Board of Life & Growth collects used stamps, pop tabs, eye glasses and receipts from David's Marketplace. The WELCA group receives 1 tenth of 1% of all receipts collected. This can really add up and help. The baskets for these items have been moved to the Narthex. They ask that receipts do not get rolled up.

**DONATIONS**--The Board of Life & Growth is collecting Donations in the Narthex.

--PERSONAL CARE KITS are needed now more than ever, to help protect vulnerable families from COVID-19. Items needed are bath towels (dark colors), 4 oz. bars of soap and toothbrushes.

--HAND TOWELS in good condition are needed for Baby Care Kits.

--SHEETS in any condition are needed for backing and lining of quilts.

### **DAYCAMP AT SALEM**

Save the date—Salem will be hosting Ingham-Okoboji Day camp the week of August 2, 2021

### **SUMMER CAMPS**

The Board of Youth would like to remind everyone to sign up for summer camps. Early Bird deadlines are quickly approaching. In the past, the Enduring Gift Committee has helped to pay remaining balances after parents make the down payment. Please forward your receipt email from camp to the Salem office after you have registered and paid the deposit.

### **THANK YOU**

The Board of Life & Growth would like to thank everyone who has contributed supplies for making quilts and everyone who has helped in putting quilts together. They would also like to thank everyone who has donated items for the Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits as well as the stamps, pop tabs, eye glasses and receipts from David's Marketplace.

### **2021 KJLY Women's Conference**

Fierce Faith Saturday - April 24  
Music, Ministry, Mini Sessions & Lunch  
Speaker: Alli Worthington (Author of Fierce Faith; A woman's Guide to Fighting Fear, a podcaster and blogger)

Also, The Looney Lutherans (A trio of wacky gals who use music, comedy and their audience to share their wisdom for living a lively life. \$37 per person)

Conference time 8:00am-3:45pm  
(doors open at 7:00am)

Registration opens March 15, 2021 at 8:00am.

KinshipRadio.org or 1-800-810-5559

Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato MN

Reserve your special date to sponsor an 8:30 a.m. radio broadcast. The service is heard on KLOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City and on cable channel 2.

This year has quickly filled with sponsorship and only a few dates are still available. Don't miss your chance to sponsor a radio broadcast this year. Cost is \$83.

CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR DATE. 641.592.1771

Palm Sunday is still available!!! (March 28th)

2021 RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

March 28, April 18, April 25, May 2, May 9, May 23, June 13, July, 11, July 18, August 1, August 15, August 29, September 5, October 17, October 24, October 31, November 21, December 5, December 12, December 26

We also have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the worship service.

Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday.

CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR DATE 641.592.1771

### **NOISY OFFERING IN LENT**

The \$1,700 debt held by our Living Waters Conference has been paid. We will continue to collect noisy offering for our future Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC works with food distribution partners that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development. Our Living Waters Conference together with Feed My Starving Children are committed to the goal that no child goes to bed hungry.

**Wednesday Lenten Services**  
**CREATED FOR COMMUNITY**  
**Feb. 24th – March 24th at 7:00pm**

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “with the whole church” It goes on to state that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,” Lent is also a time for deepening of community.

In the early church, the weeks before Easter were a time in which the whole community took responsibility for the training of catechumens. Not only were the catechumens enriched by this formation, but those already within the community were strengthened in their faith along with them.

Using readings from Mark’s gospel, this series invites the assembly to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.

## Seeing Flaws

*The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, “O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector.”*  
Luke 18:11

While visiting my daughter’s home last summer, I noticed that weeds were overtaking her luscious flower garden. She is a busy working mom of two young children, and although I resisted the impulse to mention it to her, I still judged her a little. Any feelings of superiority I had quickly vanished when I watered my yard later that day and discovered an abundant crop of weeds in my own garden.

How easily I may overlook my own flaws yet criticize those same shortcomings in others. This is especially tempting today on so many levels, both personal and corporate. I know that it is only when I take time for quiet meditation that I notice where my sincere desire to grow in faith, hope and love has become tainted with self-righteousness.

- Terri Mifek

Hosea 6:1-6 • Psalm 51:3-4, 18-21 Luke 18:9-14

Source: <https://www.livingfaith.com>



## Envisioning the Kingdom

*Lo, I am about to create new heavens and a new earth. Isaiah 65:17*

Isaiah describes a new creation of universal happiness, ample food and good health for all. His words seem a stark contrast to our usual headlines. Is this wishful thinking? Not really. Isaiah envisions a future not yet fully realized, a future in-process.

Jesus shared Isaiah’s vision. He called it the kingdom of God. Jesus came to make this vision a reality, not merely by curing physical illnesses, but curing selfishness, pride, greed and hatred.

What’s more, Jesus said this kingdom was already in our midst. We get glimpses of it if we look closely: strangers helping strangers, selfless parents, devoted nurses, dedicated educators, smiling octogenarians, caring neighbors, teenage volunteers, generous donors, families welcoming newborns and much more.

*Jesus, teach me to catch glimpses of the kingdom of God. And help me to do my small part today to make that kingdom present wherever today takes me.*

- Sr. Melannie Svoboda, S.N.D.

Isaiah 65:17-21 • Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13

John 4:43-54

Source: <https://www.livingfaith.com>

## What's in it for the organization?

### Thrivent Choice:

- Is easy to administer.
- Can provide your organization with monthly electronic grants as eligible clients direct Choice Dollars to your organization.
- Provides an online platform for donors to make donations and Thrivent will pay the processing fees.\*
- Offers the support of Thrivent's financial professionals, volunteers and resources to help put the program to work for your organization.
- Gives you greater visibility by placing your organization in an online catalog.

If your organization is already enrolled, be sure to review the available tools and resources to promote your organization's participation in Thrivent Choice. You'll find them at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

## About Thrivent

We exist to help people achieve financial clarity.

At Thrivent, we believe money is a tool, not a goal. Driven by a higher purpose at our core, we are committed to providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking and generosity programs to help people make the most of all they've been given.

At our heart, we are a membership-owned fraternal organization, as well as a holistic financial services organization, dedicated to serving the unique needs of our clients. We focus on their goals and priorities, guiding them toward financial choices that will help them live the life they want today—and tomorrow.

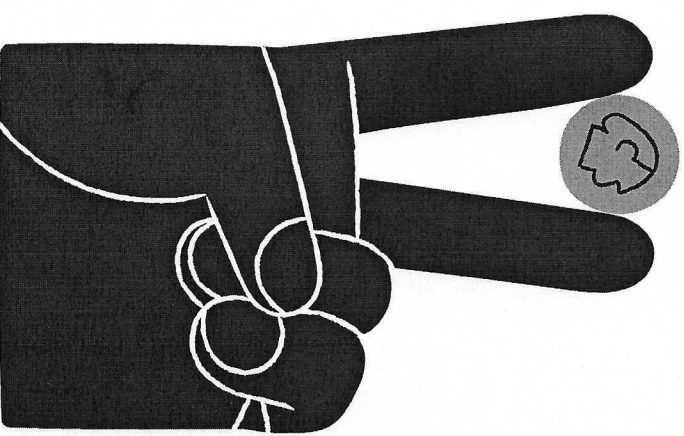
\*All online donations are made through InFaith Community Foundation. Thrivent will pay the online processing fees for personal donations made through InFaith Community Foundation up to \$100,000 per calendar year.

The Thrivent Choice charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Organization enrollment in and receiving grant funding through Thrivent Choice® is subject to the Terms and Conditions for Organizations Receiving Choice Dollars® Grant Funding.

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# Thrivent Choice®

Strengthening communities.  
Changing lives.



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# Thrivent Choice®—Generosity Strengthens Communities

Thanks to Thrivent and its clients, Salem Lutheran Church has received \$7,713 Choice Dollars® grant funds since 2019

## Grant funds distributed nationally

The Thrivent Choice program has helped support churches and other nonprofit organizations since 2010:



**More than \$458 million  
in Choice Dollars grant  
funds distributed**



**More than  
585,800 clients  
participated**



**More than 41,500  
organizations received  
outreach funding**

## Help strengthen communities and change lives

Eligible Thrivent clients can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds by directing Choice Dollars.

## You can have an even bigger impact

Clients and others can also make personal donations. Thrivent, in partnership with InFaith Community Foundation, provides an online platform for donations to enrolled organizations. Thrivent will cover all the processing fees, so 100% of your donation goes to help.\*

To learn more, visit [thrivent.com/thrivent-choice](http://thrivent.com/thrivent-choice) or contact:

**Peter Zwart**

**641-592-0064**

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