

---

# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

---

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**May 7 - 13**

The words of today's gospel are most often heard during a funeral service. It is a popular choice of scripture for that occasion because the words provide wonderful assurance that the one who has died in Christ has now taken up residence in their heavenly home. The gospel begins by Jesus saying that he will prepare a place for each one of us. But as the text continues, we can see that our place is not an isolated room of our own in a giant heavenly mansion. Jesus' words are less about a place than a relationship: our relationship with Jesus and God the Father. They tell us that in Jesus we know all we need to know about God, and just as we can have a relationship with another human person, we can also have a relationship with God that will one day be as real and obvious as are our relationships with one another. The hope of one day being with Christ fully and forever is as real as the works we are called to do in his name today.

This text allows us the opportunity to contemplate what is ultimately unknowable, yet is also a central part of our faith: what heaven will be like.

### THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14



### NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

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

**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:** Faye Aamodt, Carol Abbey, Drake Abbey, Bruce Adams, Christopher, Diane and Paige Adams

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

6-Dianne Gardner

9-Rhonda Schriever

11-Summer Sterrenberg

8-Kimberly Olson

9-Jennifer Sauer

11-Rhonda Harmon

9-Andrew Gerdes

9-Ellianna Mosby

### **-WEEKLY GIVING-**

**LAST SUNDAY:** 4/30/23           \$ 4,545

**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 5/1/23           \$ 68,291

**LAST YEAR:** as of 5/1/22       \$ 67,773

**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**   \$ 518

### **-Last Weeks Attendance-**

83

**Tuckpointing Project Update:** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note "Tuckpointing Project" when submitting your contribution. Total received as of 5/1/23 **\$127,554** Thank you!

**AED/CPR Training** is being offered Saturday, May 20th in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00 - 3:30 pm. Beth Aschenbrenner will be the instructor. Those completing the class will become designated responders which are required by our insurer, Grinnell Mutual. Please contact Marci if you are interested in attending this class. Thank you!

**Walker:** Is anyone missing a walker? It was sitting by the north door for several weeks. It is now by the office if anyone is looking for it.

**Baccalaureate** will be held at Salem on May 17th at 6:30pm.

**Upcoming Blood Drive:** Lake Mills Community Blood Drive  
Thursday, May 18th; 1:00pm-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall  
Appointments Are Encouraged; Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or  
Call: 800-287-4903 or visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org)

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

**2023 Dates available:** June 18, July 9, 16, 23, Aug. 6, 13, 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 10, 31

**Farewell Party:** Please join us in the fellowship hall after worship on May 14th for Pastor Joel's Farewell party.

**WECLA** will meet on Thursday, May 18th at 2:00pm in the Lounge. Pastor Joel will lead the Bible Study from the Gather Magazine.

**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:** 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

**Collections:** We collect used stamps, 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. Please do not roll the receipts and keep David's separate from Hy-Vee. Thank you!

**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. After you have registered your child and paid the deposit, forward your receipt email from camp to the Salem office. ([Salem@wctatel.net](mailto:Salem@wctatel.net))

## **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 [www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com) and clicking the donate button at the bottom of the page.

-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for weekly or monthly 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)**

**Church Basement Ladies:** Cedar Summerstock Theatre Company will be performing this musical comedy at the Cedar River Complex-Krapek Family Fine Arts Center in Osage IA (809 Sawyer Drive) on June 29, June 30, July 1, July 15, July 20 and July 21 at 7:00pm or July 2 & July 16 at 1:00pm. Call 641-390-3155 or email at [carrieb.cst@gmail.com](mailto:carrieb.cst@gmail.com) to reserve seats for your group. 20% discount for groups 10 or more, reserved seating, dress like a church basement lady and get your name entered into a drawing for CST gifts.

**Volunteer Opportunity:** Urban Servant Corps, an ELCA ministry partner located in Denver, Colo., offers one-year, fulltime experiences for young adults to live in community in downtown Denver while serving as volunteers at nonprofit organizations that work with low-income and at-risk populations. Food, housing, health insurance, a monthly stipend and an annual “growth and development” allotment are provided. Additionally, spiritual direction, alumni mentorship, and professional development opportunities are offered as part of this experience. To learn more and apply, visit [www.urbanservantcorps.org](http://www.urbanservantcorps.org)

### **Pastor Joel Guttormson**

Mon: Off, but on-call

Tues: 10am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (2:30pm Text Study)

Wed: Noon-8pm (10am Bible Study)

Thurs: Noon-8pm (9:30-12pm LW Conference, 1pm Bible Study, 6:30pm Church Council)

Fri: 8am-Noon, 1pm-5pm

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship)

Youth who are currently in grades 8 – 12 are invited to participate in this summer's Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event (WIYLDE), set for June 19 – 22, 2023, at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point.

The event will feature Peer Ministry Leadership Training from Lyle Griner, National Peer Ministry Director. Peer Ministry Leadership Training is based on the Good Samaritan story to train youth in relational leadership skills.

Youth who come to WIYLDE will learn about how to live like the Good Samaritan – listening to, helping, welcoming, and caring for those around them. They will be equipped to be leaders in their congregations, peer groups, schools and communities, learning how to help others who are dealing with difficult issues.

WIYLDE participants will have opportunities to practice these relational and leadership skills with each other and with younger campers at EWALU, along with opportunities to experience some of the fun camp activities that EWALU has to offer.

Accommodations will be at Ewalu's Stone Center with various activities each day at the main site. The week will conclude June 22 at 3 p.m. with a WIYLDE-led worship service, which family members, pastors, youth directors, and other guests will be invited to attend.

### **Register by June 1st**

The cost for WIYLDE is \$200 per participant (Salem will pay this). Download the registration forms from the synod website, [www.neiasynod.org](http://www.neiasynod.org). The registration deadline is June 1. For more information, email [Pastor Kristen Rod](mailto:Pastor Kristen Rod) or call the synod office, 319-352-1414

## **Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 16, 2023 – 10:00 am**

Due to multiple council members unable to attend the scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 13, the April Salem Council meeting was rescheduled to Sunday, April 16 to address Call Committee Report.

On Friday/Saturday, April 14-15, the New business agenda items (see \* below) were addressed via email (note that Mary was not available via email and did not participate in voting).

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Doug Bruhns, Laura Gardner, Sue Langerud, Dan Rice, Mike Swenson, Cindy Haugsdal, Pastor Joel Guttormson.

Absent: Marci Adeogun, Mary Peterson, Pastor Joel Guttormson (did not attend as meeting was to address call committee information/discussion).

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

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

Communication and correspondence – Anonymous donations of \$200 will be deposited in the general fund. Salem sincerely appreciates these donations.

**Treasurer's Report:** Doug provided a written report.

Total income for March 2023 \$19,407.99

Total Expenses for March 2023 -\$27,812.87 (Income less expense \$47,220.86)

Includes accounting adjustment to close out the dedicated parsonage fund that listed \$49,646, however, as noted in previous minutes, there were no longer any funds in this account.

Checking account balance (3/31/2023) \$38,591.82

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance \$127,309.00

CD's at FTSB (3/31/2023) Reserves \$26,014.17/Ness Estate \$3,230.02

CD at MBT (3/31/2023) Ness Estate \$52,215.45

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

2023 YTD total offerings (3/28/2023) \$46,033

2022 YTD total offerings (3/28/2022) \$45,551

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

## **Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music:** Mary provided a written report: Reviewed planning that took place for Palm Sunday and Easter; working on Pulpit supply and Liturgy planning.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a written report: Working on Pastor Joel's Farewell party scheduled on May 14 at 10:00 am.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Dan provided a written report: Reviewed planning for Congregational "Thank you" Barbecue lunch on April 30 which will be prepared and funded by committee members.

**Board of Property and Management:** Mike provided a written report: Quote for steeple repair is \$82,657; Johnson Heating coming on Friday to assess the heat situation in the education wing.

**Board of Youth:** Marci provided a written report: Reviewed youth events that took place on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday; the board will meet on 4/23 and will be finalizing planning for final Faith Formation, Faith Statement night, Confirmation Sunday and Graduation Sunday.

**Pastor Report – Complete Pastor reports are available for review in the church office.**

**Lead Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joel shared a written report that included Pastoral acts in March and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- Summer Feeding program – At the March LMAMA meeting Pastor Ryan Henkel was chosen to take over as Summer Food and Fun Administrator.

Pastor Joel continues to share information required for providing the meals at Salem.

- Confirmation Students have completed their required work and are prepared to be received into full membership. Faith statement night is May 3 and Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) is on May 7.

### **Old Business:**

- A. Constitution review and revision (Continued)
  - a. Ongoing – no update.
- B. Call Committee Report – addressed in person on Sunday, April 16 rescheduled Council meeting.
  - a. Lead Pastor Duties and Responsibilities – Shannon shared this document to be included in the Ministerial Site Profile (MSP).
  - b. MSP Update – Shannon shared the summary of the Ministerial Site Profile that will be presented for congregational endorsement at a special congregational meeting. Salem’s Purpose, Giftedness and Mission descriptions were reviewed. Leadership needs were also reviewed and were based on survey results and small group meeting input.
  - c. Special Congregational Meeting April 23, 2023 at 10:00 following services with purpose to vote on the MSP.
  - d. Proposed Interim Intentional Pastor – When the Call Committee and Bishop Jones met on 4/2/2023, Bishop Jones offered the potential availability of an Intentional Interim Pastor to Salem. It is noted that previously, Salem had been advised that an interim pastor would not be available. The Call Committee reserved the right to meet to further discuss this new development which was done at the earliest on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the Intentional Interim pastor would be to serve the Salem congregation onsite during this transition and act as an impartial outside resource to help Salem membership address issues of conflict with healthy and loving conversations in preparation for moving forward in the call process and for welcoming and



supporting a new pastor. The Intentional Interim pastor would continue to work closely with the Call Committee as they prepare for interviews. The Call Committee members discussed and are in favor of interviewing the proposed Intentional Interim Pastor. The Council needed to approve this and would also be involved in the interview process. The Council had a lengthy discussion, reviewing the pros and cons. Mike moved to proceed with an interview of the proposed Intentional Interim Pastor, seconded by Dan. All approved.

**New Business:** \* (addressed via email – see above notation)

- A. Approve Confirmation students
  - a. Hayden Wempen, Gavin Paton, Makenzie Budach, Cora Sauer, Tori Sterrenberg, Kaylie Sylvara have completed the requirements for Confirmation. Cindy moved that these students be approved for Confirmation, seconded by Mike. All approved.
- B. Facilities Use Agreement Form – This agreement form is required by our insurance carrier, Grinnell Mutual. Mike and Board of Property/Management have approved this form. Marci will be the point of contact for new groups using our facility. Current groups using facilities at Salem will be contacted by Shannon to complete this form. This works in conjunction with the Certificate of Liability Insurance document which most groups have already submitted. The newest group to submit the Certificate of Liability Insurance document is the Food Shelf. This insurance is carried by LMAMA which also then works for the Summer Feeding Program. Cindy moved to approve the Facilities Use Agreement form and to fully implement this program which is required by our insurance carrier, seconded by Mike. All approved.
- C. AED/CPR Training and Policy – Grinnell Mutual requires designated AED responders, initial training, refresher training in AED use, maintenance of on-site training records and a description of the training program. Also, all

designated responders for AED training complete American Heart Association CPR/AED course. Shannon has arranged for Beth Aschenbrenner to provide CPR/AED training Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00-3:30. This will be included in the bulletins and several members have already agreed to be responders.

- D. 2022-23 Thrivent Choice Dollars Allocation – The campaign to allocate Thrivent Choice Dollars to Salem resulted in our receiving \$2,422 so far. Dan will have ‘Thank you’ in the April 23<sup>rd</sup> bulletin. This will allow for any late monies received to be added and also is good news to share the day of the Special congregational vote to approve the Ministerial Site Document.
- E. Administrative Assistant Computer Hard Drive – Because the hard drive crashed and needed to be replaced, a text vote to Council members on March 19 requesting money be taken from the Thrivent Choice Dollars to cover these costs. Doug moved to pay for the new computer and any service fees, seconded by Laura. All approved. \$1,362.54 was paid from the account to cover the cost of the new hard drive/service fees.
- F. New members – None
- G. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None
- H. Next meeting will be held Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

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

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

**Salem Lutheran Church Special Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, April 23, 2023 10:00 am -- Salem Fellowship Hall**

Call to Order: President Shannon Bruhns established that a quorum of active members (61) were present. Shannon called the meeting to order.

Opening prayer/ELCA Call Committee prayer – Shannon Bruhns

Purpose of the Meeting – Vote to accept the Ministerial Site Profile (MSP) summary prepared by the Call Committee. Copies of this document were provided.

Shannon began with new information provided by Bishop Jones and the synod regarding the unexpected availability of an Intentional Interim Pastor to serve Salem through the call process. Shannon provided a description of the role of an Intentional Interim Pastor. She reviewed that this information was shared with members of the Call Committee and Salem Church Council and both have endorsed an interview with the Intentional Interim Pastor. Details regarding when the interview will take place and when the pastor would be available are not yet confirmed, but will be communicated to the congregation when available. Shannon then went through the MSP summary document requiring approval today. This document still needs to be approved today in order to move forward in the call process, even though there may be revisions in the future under leadership of the Intentional Interim Pastor.

Salem members present were given the opportunity to ask questions and/or comment on the document. There were no questions or comments from the floor.

Shannon requested a motion to accept the proposed MSP summary document. Heather Mannes moved that to accept the MSP, seconded by Doug Bruhns. A voice vote was taken, with all in favor, none opposed.

We prayed the Lords Prayer.

There being no further business, Sue Langerud moved the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Larry Rice. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Haugsdal

**All are invited downstairs after the worship service for fellowship, coffee and a sweet treat. Fellowship is the perfect time to connect with your fellow members of Salem.**

**SUNDAY 5/7**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Confirmation Sunday)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY 5/8**

10:00am Caregivers Support Group-Lounge

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is OPEN (South entrance at Salem)

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN (South entrance at Salem)

3:15pm Daisies-Room 2

**WEDNESDAY 5/10**

10:00am Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

12:00pm Cadettes & HS-Room 2

**THURSDAY 5/11**

9:30am Fine Arts-Lounge

9:30am Living Waters Conference-Fellowship Hall

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study

6:30pm Church Council-Salem Library

**SUNDAY 5/14**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Farewell Party-Fellowship Hall

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771** (Marci)

Mon-Wed: 11am-5pm, Thurs: 11am-1:30pm. Fri: Closed

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