
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 16 – 21

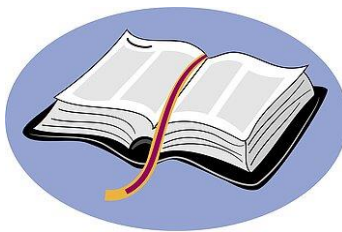
Life in Every Direction

We can identify death in every direction. We see war, hunger, addiction, poverty, a dying planet, and broken hearts. This is not a new story. The children of Israel surely saw death in every direction, wandering in the desert and at least occasionally wondering about their next meal. Paul looks at his own life and, at first, sees nothing beyond spiritual death. He reminds us that death is not just physical, but also spiritual. Then, in the parable of the sower, three-fourths of the seeds die and three-fourths of the sections of the field are inhospitable to flourishing life. Sometimes, life isn't even given a chance. We might look at the world and ourselves and only see the places that are absent and inhospitable to God's love.

Today's texts all go a step further, however, to articulate or reveal God bringing forth life where there is only death and God's absence in every direction. First, God renews the covenant with the children of Israel. After their own failures and disobedience, God restores a relationship with the children of Israel and gives them "the best of all the land in Egypt" (Gen. 45:20) and "provisions for the journey" (Gen. 45:21). Paul reflects on God growing new branches where old tree branches had fallen away. The parable of the sower elicits reflection, repentance, and, ultimately, new life from its readers and hearers in considering the sort of spiritual life they practice. Are we hospitable or inhospitable to God's word? This parable is a vivid reminder of all God has overcome—rocks, scorching sun, thorns, and snatching—to bring life to the world. God brings forth life in places where people see only death.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Brian, Jill, Makenzie and Kallie Budach, Christopher, Christine, Bryce and Jersey Budach, Tammy and Clayton Butler, Lucy Carlson, Sharon Casey

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

16-Jack Olson	17-Elizabeth Sprecher	20-Essabel Sauer
16-Tori Holtan	20-Lori Groe	21-Kray Grothe
		22-Courtney Lorenson

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 7/9/23	\$ 3,785
YEAR-TO-DATE: 7/11/23	\$ 100,497
LAST YEAR: as of 7/11/22	\$ 103,444
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -2,947

-Last Weeks Attendance-

51

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 7/11/23 **\$131,759**

All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note "Tuckpointing Project or Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

Songfest Donations: On July 8th we had Songfest here at Salem with the Sletten Family. \$250 was donated and \$100 was given for Floyd Thomas prints; this money was given to the city to purchase a bench for Kruggel Park.

Emmons Lutheran Church has invited Salem members to their WNALC Guest Night. **July 19th** at 7:00pm. Program by Mark Waldeland Trio (Venus & Mars). Refreshments will also be served.

"Thank you" Brian Hanson/Turf Trimmers Plus for the recent work done on the south boulevard. It looks wonderful paved! - Members of Salem

Upcoming Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall, **Thurs. July 20th**, 1:30pm-6:00pm
Appointments Are Encouraged; Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777
or Call: 800-287-4903 or visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org

Cowboy Church: The Board of Music & Worship presents "Cowboy Church" on **Sunday, July 30th**. This worship service is brought to Salem by Midwest Cowboy Ministries which is a nonprofit organization out of Osage, IA formed to spread the Gospel of Christ. Pastors Paul Brown and Karen Hahn-Brown provide the worship service and music for this service which promises to be a wonderful way to share the Gospel with members of Salem. Dress casually and join us for this special worship time!!

A Potluck Picnic for the entire congregation will be held on **Sun. August 6th at 4:00pm** in Oakwood Park. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, to ensure we have a variety of delicious food for everyone to enjoy. Mark your calendars for this fun filled evening with food, fellowship, yard games, mini golf & BINGO. We will provide plates, silverware, napkins and bottled water. -Youth Board

Volunteers Needed: Salem members help serve the Summer Feeding Program on Tuesdays from 10:45am-12:00pm, please contact Margaret Okland if you have any questions or would like to help. 641.590.2891 Thank you!

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!

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 July 20 and July 21 at 7:00pm or July 16 at 1:00pm. Call 641-390-3155 to reserve seats.

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

All are invited downstairs after the worship service for fellowship, coffee and a sweet treat.

SUNDAY 7/16

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 7/17

11:00am-12:00pm Free Lunch-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm-4:00pm Salem's Clothes Closet is OPEN (Enter at South Entrance)

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

6:30pm Quilt Club-Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY 7/18

11:00am-12:00pm Free Lunch-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY 7/19

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

11:00am-12:00pm Free Lunch-Fellowship Hall

6:00pm Youth Board Meeting-Salem Library

6:00pm Call Committee Meeting-Lounge

THURSDAY 7/20

9:00am Life & Growth Board Meeting-Salem Library

11:00am-12:00pm Free Lunch-Fellowship Hall

1:30pm-6:00pm Blood Drive-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm WELCA-Lounge

FRIDAY 7/21

11:00am-12:00pm Free Lunch-Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY 7/23

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Ken Jensen)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

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

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