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# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 23 - 29

### Judgment and Mercy

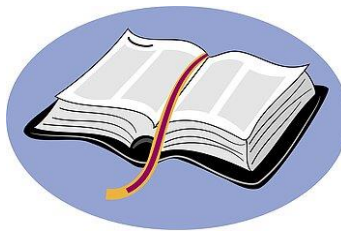
Matthew's gospel knows little compromise: sheep or goats, wheat or weeds, good or evil. Finding the good news of God's love for all people, for all creation, can be a challenge in this book. Today's gospel is no exception. Jesus interprets a parable for the disciples; he announces that all evildoers will be thrown into the furnace of fire, while the righteous will shine like the sun. The "Son of Man" will judge the world. Matthew's phrase "for the kingdom of heaven may be compared to . . ." occurs here for the first time in this gospel. Jesus' parable is a genuine metaphor—it is best viewed as a whole with no point-by-point comparison. The kingdom of believers has the same potential as those of the world to do good and to do evil. Jesus' allegorical interpretation encourages believers to strive for righteousness, and emphasizes God as judge.

St. Paul, however, in his letter to the church at Rome focuses on God as merciful judge. He proclaims that all creation will be freed from decay and receive redemption. Paul reminds us our hope lies with God, our parent through a spirit of adoption. This dichotomous picture of God as judge and giver of mercy began with last Sunday's texts and evidences itself in readings from Romans and Matthew across the next four Sundays. In some cases the God of mercy is highlighted in Paul's letter, at other times in the gospel. This good news, however, is always present!

The exercise of judgment and mercy reflects God's emphasis on justice over fairness. A fair God condemns those who do evil. A just God moves beyond fairness to justice, peace, and reconciliation. As evil doers, sinners, one and all, we are grateful for God's justice towards us and all people.

## THIS WEEKS TEXTS

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



## NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

1 Kings 3:5-12  
Psalm 119:129-136  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.  
**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:** David & Marlys Cavett, Earl & Cheryl Cavett, Gordon Cavett, John & Cathy Charlson, Janet Chiu

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

23-Matthew Levine                      23-Christi Grothe                      26-Richard Hengesteg  
28-Camdon Nelson

## -WEEKLY GIVING-

**LAST SUNDAY:** 7/16/23                      \$ 3,270  
**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 7/19/23                      \$ 103,767  
**LAST YEAR:** as of 7/19/22                      \$ 106,376  
**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**                      \$ -2,609

**-Last Weeks Attendance-**  
80

**Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:** Total received as of 7/19/23 **\$132,289**  
All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note "Tuckpointing Project or Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

**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

**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.

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

**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!

**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.

**All are invited downstairs after the worship service for fellowship.**

**SUNDAY 7/23**

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY 7/24**

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

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters

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)

**TUESDAY 7/25**

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

**WEDNESDAY 7/26**

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

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

5:45pm Worship & Music Board Meeting-Salem Library

**THURSDAY 7/27**

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

**FRIDAY 7/29**

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

**SUNDAY 7/30**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Cowboy Church)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

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

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

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771** (Marci)

Monday 11am-5pm, Tues: 10am-2:45pm Wed-Fri: 11am-5pm

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