
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 30 – August 5

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like . . .

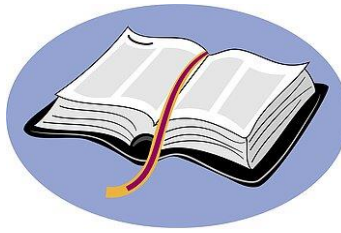
A string of parables describe the kingdom of heaven, and then we hear Jesus' question: "Have you understood all this?" The mustard seed, yeast, hidden treasure, pearls—these bring good news of growth and joy and riches. Then come the fish, the furnace of fire, and the weeping and gnashing of teeth. Once again this week we hear of a God of mercy and justice. Once again there is good news to be heard in Paul's letter to the church at Rome—nothing will ever separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. How will we reconcile these two images of God?

"Kingdoms" are not common in our world. When most of us think about kingdoms, we call up images of British royalty—Queen Elizabeth, Princess Diana, jeweled crowns, a palace. At the time the Gospel of Matthew was written, the people were subject to the empire, or kingdom, of Rome. Perhaps the writer wants us to contrast the oppressive rule of Rome with a vision of heaven's kingdom of love and mercy. The translation of the Greek *basileia*, a feminine word, usually rendered in English as "kingdom" is difficult. The writer of Matthew may have used the expression "kingdom of heaven" instead of "kingdom of God" in order not to offend Jewish Christ-believers who honored the word for God by avoiding its use.

King Solomon asks God for the wisdom to discern between good and evil, for the understanding to live out both justice and mercy as a ruler of God's people. God was pleased with Solomon's request. The wisdom Solomon seeks to rule his earthly kingdom reflects the wisdom of the kingdom of heaven. King Solomon was variously successful in his discernment of good and evil, as are we.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

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



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.
THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Gary, Debra and Sara Chodur, Dale Chose, Kathy Chose, Nancy Chose, Randy Chose

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

30-Sterling Gonzalez
31-Kristal Sprecher

1-Gary Helgeson
4-Kane Koch

5-Lexi Groe
5-Luke Groe

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 7/23/23

YEAR-TO-DATE: 7/23/23

LAST YEAR: as of 7/23/22

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:

No update this week due to the Financial Secretary being unavailable

-Last Weeks Attendance-

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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. Please join us for food, fellowship, yard games, mini golf & BINGO. We will provide plates, silverware, napkins, bottled water and pulled pork sandwiches. -Youth Board

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!

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

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

School Kits: Education is important for any community, especially where poverty or disaster has limited the options for young people to reach their potential. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue their learning despite the hardship they face. And that learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Salem will be collecting School Kits and supplies to make the kits. Donations can be left in the Narthex.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN EACH FABRIC KIT:

*Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8"x10¹/₂", no loose-leaf paper

*One 30-centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

*Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

*Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

*One box of 16 or 24 crayons

*One pencil sharpener

*One eraser

*One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

*One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14"x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks); recommended fabrics include heavy cotton, canvas, denim or twill



Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Remove any excess packaging, pack all items in the bag and close. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags. Visit lwr.org/beinvolved and click on School Kits or call 800.597.5972 for an easy-few backpack-style bag pattern and tips for purchasing pre-made bags.

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 13, 2023 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Doug Bruhns, Marci Adeogun, Laura Gardner, Mary Peterson, Dan Rice, Mike Swenson, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Sue Langerud

Secretary's Report: June council minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

Mary moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Laura. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – Three anonymous donations of \$50 each will be deposited in the general fund.

On June 29, 2023 the council conducted business by email to approve Salem's insurance policy through Church Mutual (5% discount to ELCA churches).

Shannon provided the quote and coverage specifics, including monthly estimated premiums of \$1,014 (previous policy was \$1043.99/month). Laura moved to accept the proposed quote, seconded by Cindy. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Doug provided a written report.

Total income for June 2023 \$14,921.86

Total Expenses for June 2023 -\$12,745.10 (Income less expense \$2,176.76)

Checking account balance (6/30/2023) \$39,695.92

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (6/30/2023) \$130,984.00

CD's at FTSB (6/30/2023) Reserves \$26,014.17

CD at MBT (6/30/2023) Ness Estate \$52,215.45

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

2023 YTD total offerings (6/30/2023) \$13,485

2022 YTD total offerings (6/30/2022) \$11,826

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

Board Reports

Enduring Gift Fund – Reports are due in Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec – Balance of \$472,670.67 on 6/30/2023. Members of this committee will hold a ‘coffee talk’ during coffee fellowship on July 23, 2023. This ‘coffee talk’ will include the significance of the Enduring Gift Fund, how monies can be accessed, and what monies can be spent per our constitution, etc.

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a verbal and written report: Cowboy Church is scheduled for July 30 at 9:00 and will be in place of our regular service/there is no set fee and a free will offering will be collected along with our regular offering for Salem, announcements will be made ahead of time to the congregation; continuing to fill pulpit supply through the end of the year; discussed finding special music and communion servers; reminder that we pay pulpit supply for each Sunday as well as for funerals and weddings out of the general fund. Because there are several scenarios regarding funerals, a procedure has been developed to allow for all types of situations. In some cases, pulpit supply compensation is not required.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a written report: Songfest on July 8th with the Sletten Family performing/\$250 was donated and \$100 donated for Floyd Thomas prints. These funds will be used to purchase a bench for Kruggel Park.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Dan provided a verbal report: considering options for stewardship drive this fall; considering an event for Rally Sunday.

Board of Property and Management: Mike provided a verbal report: A/C update – the north unit was leaking freon and Dan Kirschbaum is working on the unit; Shannon reported an update on facilities agreement adding that vaping is prohibited in the facility and that a tobacco free policy will need to be written for Salem (this will be discussed at the next Council meeting); Light bulbs in the sanctuary have been replaced; Plaster repair in the education unit and fellowship hall have been completed by volunteers; Sanctuary plaster repairs are still needed and this is planned to be done through an outside resource due to insurance concerns with setting up necessary scaffolding and to avoid damage to the altar and stained glass windows, also to avoid worship disruptions (this work

is Phase III of the Capital project); Issues regarding the Tuckpointing/Steeple projects will be discussed in Old Business.

Board of Youth: Marci provided a verbal and written report: Board will be meeting next week to finalize planning for the August 6, 2023, Picnic Potluck with a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Pastoral Care Support: Shannon provided an update of pastoral acts (Funerals/Weddings) taking place at Salem outside of Sunday services. Safe Gathering paperwork was adjusted to reflect status of leadership (Pastor Joel retirement/no current Pastor).

Pastor Report: None

Doug moved to accept Board reports, seconded by Mary. All approved.

Old Business:

A. Call Committee Report

a. Zoom call with Pastor Lanny Westphal/Bishop Kevin Jones on June 27, 2023 to continue work on the MSP to reflect the current status of Salem.

b. Pastor Lanny Westphal MSP Consultation scheduled on July 19, 2023.

B. Capital Project Phase I and II – Tuckpointing and Steeple repair updates – Tuckpointing is in progress with a down payment of \$20,000 and Young Construction contract (steeple repair/shingling) signed with a down payment of \$41,000. Pajic Tuckpointing has found significant damage to the bell tower (the wall of the bell tower is clay and deteriorating, there is nothing for the bricks to adhere to) consequently, tuckpointing on the bell tower was discontinued and work continues on other areas. Mike and the property and management board and Shannon are working on finding a company that could provide an assessment of what it would cost to remove the bell tower section – take steeple down and once bell tower section is removed, the steeple would be replaced on the existing tower. Once an estimate and resource to do the work is found, this will be brought to the congregation.

C. Church Mutual Insurance – Insurance coverage has been secured through Church Mutual Insurance. Premiums for worker's compensation will be paid annually (\$1,296) and the rest of the coverage twice a year (\$5,090 now and in December). Monthly premiums would incur an additional \$1,738.28 per year.

D. Elm Tree Update – Shannon has contacted an arborist in Mason City to come and check on the tree free of charge on July 18, 2023, Mike will meet with him.

New Business:

- A. Thrivent Monies Allocation – current money available of \$3,584.02
- a. Sanctuary Monitors/hardware – options for new monitors in the sanctuary and use of current monitors elsewhere in the church was discussed.
- b. Board of Youth Project – new laptop will be purchased using monetary gift given for youth (\$10,000).

Mary moved to use Thrivent funds for new monitors in the Sanctuary and relocating existing monitors, seconded by Doug. All approved.

- B. Drainage District #92 Construction Issues – letter received regarding a drainage ditch assessment at the Salem Memorial Cemetery which will incur an additional charge, yet unknown amount.
- B. ELCA Leadership/Stewardship Coaching Program – Shannon provided a review of this program presented at the Synod assembly in June. Discussed potential benefits of using this program at Salem and how this program would reflect positively when calling a new pastor. Council members encouraged to review the website.
- B. New members – None
- B. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None
- B. Next meeting will be held Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Mike moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Marci. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci) Monday 11am-3:30pm, Tues-Fri: 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.

SUNDAY 7/30

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 7/31

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)

TUESDAY 8/1

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

5:30pm Altar Guild-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 8/2

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

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

6:00pm Youth Board Meeting-Salem Library

THURSDAY 8/3

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

FRIDAY 8/4

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

3:30pm-6:30pm Sanctuary reserved for wedding rehearsal

SATURDAY 8/5

All Day - Sanctuary, Choir Room and Youth Room reserved for Wedding

SUNDAY 8/6

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

4:00pm Potluck Picnic-Oakwood Park (Everyone welcome)