
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 9 – 15

When a Yoke Means Freedom

Today's gospel reading contains iconic words from Jesus: "Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matt. 11:28-30)." Jesus offers a yoke to tired listeners and tells them that a yoke will give them rest. The yoke as a means to rest was a strange idea for the disciples. A yoke as a means to rest ought to sound strange to us, as well. The early hearers of this biblical passage would have known a yoke to be a means of engaging the energy of oxen as heavy lifters in the enterprise of farming. Yokes are still employed in our world and they are still a burden and a way of harnessing animal's hard work, especially in places where people don't have access to the internal combustion engine. The first ancient readers or hearers of Matthew also viewed a yoke as a symbol of obedience to God's law and wisdom. Generally, our instinct is to resist yokes *and* laws, or at least not immediately connect them with the idea of freedom. Through the image of the yoke, however, Jesus invites us to think of God's law and wisdom as a means to surrender, give way, and accept something graceful and positive—rest, ease, lightness. Jesus reframes the idea of a yoke by telling us that a yoke will help us grow as disciples. The gospel links humility to freedom.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

[Zechariah 9:9-12](#)

[Psalm 145:8-14](#)

[Romans 7:15-25a](#)

[Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30](#)



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

[Isaiah 55:10-13](#)

[Psalm 65:\[1-8\] 9-13](#)

[Romans 8:1-11](#)

[Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.
THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Vance & Kimberly Brackey, Wayne Brackey, Heather Brainerd, Gary & Laurie Brue, Doug & Shannon Bruhns

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

9-Kamden Larson	11-Donna Prescott	12-Cash Osheim
9-Hadleigh Linquist	12-Dottie Byars	13-Zachary Stene
9-Karla Eaton	12-Jackson Gilbertson	15-Nicholas Mosby
	12-Jeneva Order	15-Connie VanVeldhuizen

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 7/2/23	\$ 3,160
YEAR-TO-DATE: 7/3/23	\$ 96,712
LAST YEAR: as of 7/3/22	\$ 99,932
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -3,220

-Last Weeks Attendance-

82

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 6/20/23 **\$130,984**
All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note "Tuckpointing Project or Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

Memorials Given In June

Paul Kvale--\$60—Tuckpoint/Steeple Project

Devotionals: There are copies of the new July/August/September devotionals in the Narthex, by the south entrance and by the Chapel.

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.

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

Save The Date: The Board of Youth is hosting a Potluck Picnic for the entire congregation on Sunday, August 6th at 4:00pm in Oakwood Park. Mid July we will put 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 and more to be announced.

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 15, July 20 and July 21 at 7:00pm or July 2 & July 16 at 1:00pm. Call 641-390-3155 to reserve seats.

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

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

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 and clicking the donate button at the bottom of the page OR **Scan the QR Code.**

-- **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)**

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)

Mon: 11am-5pm, Tues: 10am-2pm, Wed-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, coffee and a sweet treat.

SUNDAY 7/9

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 7/10

11:00am Graveside Service for Betty Aasgaard w/Pastor Dennis Hanson

11:00am Caregivers Support Group-Lounge

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

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters-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 7/11

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

5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 7/12

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

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

THURSDAY 7/13

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

6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Salem Library

FRIDAY 7/14

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

SUNDAY 7/16

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall