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# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 17- 23

### New Perspective

Being a disciple requires an expansive perspective on forgiveness. Today our perspective is broadened by the good news that God's forgiveness is not based on our idea of fairness, but rather on abundant, unimaginable grace. God "does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities" (Ps. 103:10). The king forgives our entire debt, no matter how enormous it is (Matt. 18:23-27). We also are challenged to stretch our perspective and forgive each other. With Peter, we learn to stop keeping score (Matt. 18:21-22).

It's not an easy thing to do. Again and again we fall back on limited human understandings of what is "fair." Looking at the story of Joseph and his brothers, it's easy for us to say that his brothers really didn't deserve forgiveness. Even their plea for forgiveness is dishonest and manipulative—have they *really* repented (Gen. 50:15-17)? Joseph takes the wider view and realizes that it isn't his brothers' intentions that matter, but God's. God's forgiveness is much greater than what is fair, what we deserve.

So what does this new, broadened perspective look like in the lives of Christians and congregations? Paul provides a pragmatic glimpse: "Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them" (Rom. 14:3). If all are truly welcomed by God, we are called to share the good news of that welcome in all we say and do.

## THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Genesis 50:15-21  
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35



## NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Jonah 3:10--4:11  
Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

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

**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:** David & Julie Evenson, Jim Fagerness & Judith Levine, Cynthia Fjelstad, Glenavonne Fjelstad and James Fjelstad

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

18-Kalen Hanson

21-Linda Helgeson

22-Morgan Christian

19-Cymantha Bendickson

21-Laura Knudtson

22-Ashley Brackey

20-Tucker Koch

22-Kevin Sprecher

23-Nicholas Barrett

23-Peyton Severson

## -WEEKLY GIVING-

**LAST SUNDAY:** 9/10/23                   \$ 3,470

**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 9/13/23               \$ 130,401

**LAST YEAR:** as of 9/13/22           \$ 150,165

**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**       \$ -19,764

## -Last Weeks Attendance-

80

**Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:** Total received as of 9/13/23 **\$158,852**

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

**Rally Sunday:** (Sept. 17) Everyone is invited to the south lawn after worship for food and games. The Stewardship Board will be providing a meal for everyone, and The Youth Board will be providing games for the kiddos. All ages welcome!

**Upcoming Lake Mills Community Blood Drive:** Thursday. Sept. 21st; 1pm-6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Appointments Are Encouraged. Call: 800-287-4903 or Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or Visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org)

**Faith Formation Registration:** Each child needs to be registered so that we have the most updated info and can plan accordingly. You can register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFKZDRL> or fill out a registration form located on the bulletin board across from the chapel. Classes start Sept. 24th.

**WELCA** will meet on Thursday, September 21st at 2:00pm in the Lounge.

**Flu Clinic:** Winnebago County Public Health will be hosting a Flu Clinic in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, Sept. 22nd; 8:30am-11:00am.

**Cowboy Church** has been rescheduled for September 24th. Hats will be passed during the service for a free will donation that will be given to Midwest Cowboy Ministries. There will be an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary for Salem.

**2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 16-20: Who can attend?**

Anyone that will have completed 9<sup>th</sup> grade by June 2024. **Where do we start?** Go to the informational meeting about the trip on **Wed. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm** at Winnebago Lutheran Church, then call Marci in the office and let her know you are interested in going on the trip. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but you are interested in going on the trip, please let Marci know. We need to know how many students are interested in going as soon as possible so we can start planning/fundraising and register during the early bird registration time.

**Council Minutes:** Council President Shannon Bruhns is out of town Sunday, September 24th when Council Minutes would have been included in the bulletin announcements and then be discussed at Coffee Fellowship. Because of this absence, she has requested that Council Minutes be published Sunday, October 1st. Thank you for your understanding!

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

**Dates available 2023:** Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 31

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771** (Marci)      Mon: 12pm-5pm, Tues-Fri: 10am-5pm  
(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)

**Start Saving Loose Change:** We will be collecting “noisy offering” during worship **October 1-31** for those who are suffering as a result of the wild fires in Hawaii. Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, these fires have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders. Wildfires are also burning on the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors and will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires. Please pray for the Maui communities impacted by the wildfires. May God's healing presence bring them peace and hope in their time of need and give strength to those working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities.

-The Stewardship Board

**Living Waters Fall Cluster Invitation:** Are you feeling disconnected from your family/friends/community? Join Us for a conversation on making connections one on one, presented by Anna Jetson (Spring Grove, MN). Learn more ways to reach out to others. Live happier days. Learn how to share smiles with others. Invite others, all are welcome! **September 30th.** Coffee at 8:30am. Begins at 9:00am. Bethlehem Lutheran Church in **Manly, IA** (428 W Walnut St.) Call or text if you can attend. 641-494-7614. -Lea Norlinger, Cluster President.

**WELCA Church Bazaar:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Manly has invited us to their WELCA church Bazaar on Saturday **October 7th, 8:30am-11:00am.** There will be baked goods/ethnic (lefse), basket/quilt donations, breakfast, crafts, garden goodies, mugs and cookbooks.

**Fall Dinner:** West Prairie Lutheran Church in Leland has invited us to their Fall Dinner on **October 8th, 11:00am-2:00pm.** BBQ Meatballs, Cheesy Potatoes, Southern Green Beans, Dinner Room, Dessert and Beverage. 3 Dining Options: 1. Church fellowship Hall 2. Carryout 3. Delivery. For delivery, call the church at 641-567-3733, leave your name and phone number and you will be contacted for delivery details (Leland, Forest City, Thompson, Buffalo Center and Lake Mills) Adults: \$10, Children Ages 5-10: \$5, Children Ages 4 and Under: Free

## Back to School

Saying goodbye to summer and transitioning into a new school year can be a difficult time for many adolescents, especially those with emotional or behavioral disorders.

LSI has 27 therapists that provide mental health counseling to individuals of all ages through in-person therapy in over 20 locations across the state and virtual therapy in all 99 counties. In 2022, our Clinical Services team served more than 1,000 clients, totaling 14,000+ therapy sessions for Iowans of all ages.

In addition, our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team wraps care around a child's entire family to empower them with skills like anger management, healthy decision-making and problem-solving. In 2022, the BHIS team served over 250 clients, resulting in more than 3,900 therapy sessions for children and their families.

Through LSI's Trauma Informed Care program at the Juvenile Detention Center in Waterloo, our staff work with the teens by completing trauma assessments on each adolescent and providing a summary to their juvenile court officers. The LSI staff also facilitate both individual and group therapy sessions with the teens to help them deal with their trauma and work through it in a productive way.

If you or someone you know could benefit from therapy – even from the comfort of your own home – reach out by calling 888.457.4692 or visiting [LSIowa.org/therapy](https://LSIowa.org/therapy).

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children and families in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or [563-676-2065](tel:563-676-2065).

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](https://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.Iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.Iowa).*



**Rally**  
SUNDAY



Let  
The LOVE  
of **GOD**  
Live  
in your  
**HEART**

## **SUNDAY 9/17**

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

10:00am Rally Sunday Games & Food-Salem Lawn (Everyone Welcome)

## **MONDAY 9/18**

2:00pm-4:00pm Salem's Clothes Closet is OPEN

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN

6:00pm Call Committee Meeting-Salem Library

6:30pm Quilt Club-Fellowship Hall

## **WEDNESDAY 9/20**

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

## **THURSDAY 9/21**

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

2:00pm WELCA-Lounge

4:00pm Life & Growth Board Meeting

## **FRIDAY 9/22**

8:30am-11:00am Winnebago County Public Health **Flu Clinic**-Fellowship Hall

## **SUNDAY 9/24**

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

9:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

