



Salem Lutheran Church

401 SOUTH LAKE STREET LAKE MILLS, IA 50450

Phone (641)-592-1771

www.salemlakemills.com

OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: To be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

WEEKLY ANOUNCEMENTS FOR PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – APRIL 5-12

THIS WEEKS TEXTS – Sunday of the Passion

PROCESSION WITH PALMS Matthew 21:1-11

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

PSALM: Psalm 22:1-21

GOSPEL: John 18:1-19:42

TRUE HUMILITY



The servanthood of a teacher in Isaiah, the outcast in the psalm, those who bow down in Philippians: today's readings teach humility. On this day we move from Christ's triumphant ride on a humble donkey to the humiliation of the cross. The

humility of the characters in the passion story is in question: Judas, Pilate, the Twelve, chief priests and elders, Barabbas, the crowd, the soldiers, two bandits. Among other things, their lack of humility is what brings about the passion of Christ. There is only one truly humble person in this story: Jesus the Christ. Matthew's humble Jesus cries out from the cross to ask God why he has been forsaken.

Only in the stories of the resurrection do other humble characters appear: the centurion, the women, Joseph of Arimathea. A careful look at the complexity of humility in the palm and passion stories could set up a reflective theme carried through to Easter. Who in each story do we regard as humble? Why? How does our humility compare?

Are there characters who seem to gain or lose humility in the course of the story from the triumphant entry to the resurrection?

A deep and meaningful understanding of humility is a worthy and lasting gift to take away from the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter.

Joseph of Arimathea is a particularly good character on which to base an understanding of humility. A close look at all references to him in the Gospels, and a bit of creative narrative, create an image of a truly humble believer. He is referenced in both canonical and apocryphal texts. His devotion represents deep humility that leads to the very finest of good works as he cares for the body of Jesus.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Due to Salem's Phase #4 Status of our Covid-19 Plan and Governor Kim Reynolds' emergency proclamation; "all planned large gatherings and events must be canceled until after the termination of this disaster" we will not be posting our regular week at a glance calendar of events.

When no one is in the office, calls to Salem are being forwarded remotely to staff. Pastor Joel can be contacted on his cell phone #641-596-0535. Emails will still be monitored daily. Although Pastors are currently restricted from making personal home visits we hope to stay connected via phone calls and social media. We as a congregation will be working to keep our members from feeling isolated or without help. Some members have already volunteered to pick up medications or groceries for those who are unable to do so. Please don't hesitate to keep in touch with those you normally share the peace with on Sunday mornings and offer God's peace remotely through the week and this time of uncertainty.

Currently Salem's 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship and 8:30 a.m. Worship Service will be live streamed. We will continue to have our regular live radio broadcast on KIOW 107.3 Sunday Mornings at 8:30.

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY – WEEKLY GIVING

Please don't forget to mail in your weekly offering or go to our website and donate by PayPal or credit card. You can also sign up for automatic donations. Call Helen at 641.592.1771.

We as a church still have financial obligations to meet at this time. I pray that you are all practicing COVID-19 safety procedures. Stay calm & healthy.
Blessings, Sondra

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY – WEEKLY GIVING

LAST SUNDAY: 03/29/20	\$1,595
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 04/01/20	\$58,558
LAST YEAR: as of 04/01/19	\$62,119
DIFFERENCE YEAR-TO-DATE	-\$3,561

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HEALTH KITS

Items will be collected in Lent. You may place your donated items in the basket in the Narthex.

KITS INCLUDE: 1 light-weight bath sized towel, dark color; two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8-9 ounces, in original wrapping; 1 adult-sized toothbrush in original packaging; 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging; 1 metal nail clipper, remove packaging.

Salem's council has proposed changes to our worship and faith formation schedule; moving to just two services per week, 5:30 pm on Saturday and 9:30 am on Sunday mornings beginning April 19. The Recommendation will be the 9:30 service will be a blended (traditional/contemporary) service. This proposed change will move Faith Formation to 10:30 am beginning April 19, as well.

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS –

Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

GOSPEL READING: Mark 16:1-8

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

PSALMODY: ELW #835

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 12

8:30 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship

The 8:30 a.m. service will be live-streamed on our website, www.salemlakemills.com
The service can be heard on KLOW FM 107.3 at 8:30 a.m. and on WCTA Cable Channel 2.

MONDAY, APRIL 13 OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED Salem's COVID-19 Plan

Salem is now in Phase #4 of the COVID-19 Plan.

Phase #4

In the event that the Lake Mills Community School District closes and/or faith communities are asked not to gather in any way, we will move all worship services online or via video. The building will remain open to the public; however, hours are subject to change. Staff will work remotely or in the building.

The Clothes Closet is NOT accepting donations at this time.

Upcoming Faith Formation Events...

All activities/services dependent on COVID-19 STATUS
MAY

3 Confirmation Sunday

10 Last Day of Faith Formation
Play & Pray 9:35 a.m.

4 year old-2nd grade sing at 10:30

17 Graduation Sunday

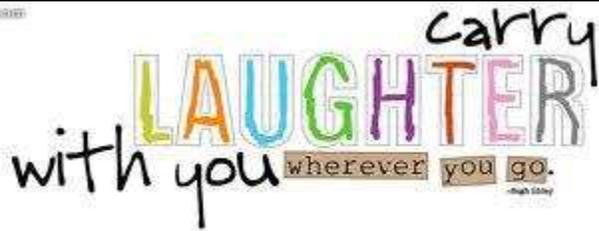


"National Stamp Out Hunger" is Saturday, May 9th

Postal residents are invited to place a sack of non-perishable food

items next to their mailbox before their letter carrier delivers mail. All donated food collected will be given to the LM Food Shelf.

Food items that are always needed are: Baked or Pork n' beans, canned vegetables, beef stew, chili, spam, tuna, hamburger helper, peaches, pears, pasta noodles, rice, peanut butter, cold cereal and paper products. Of course, we will accept all donations. However, please check that food containers have not been opened or have reached their expiration date.



HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY – APRIL 19, 2020

The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy may be new to me, but it's got a long and rich history in many congregations around the world.

Laughter Sunday (also known as *Holy Humour Sunday*, *Hilarity Sunday*, *God's Laughter Sunday*, *Bright Sunday* or *Holy Fools Sunday*) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun.



April 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,967 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect in 2018. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2019, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 11,000 in-home visits to families.

LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 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 and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

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A Future Full of Hope

Last year, Jaqashia didn't know what to do.

She was expecting her first child, and she felt stressed and overwhelmed. She didn't have a job or a home to provide for her new baby.

When she was referred to LSI's Early Childhood Services, she didn't know if the program could help her. But after just two months with her LSI worker, Jaqashia says the services made a life-changing difference.

Her LSI worker, Pam, helped Jaqashia find an apartment. Every week, she visited Jaqashia in her new home to provide helpful parenting tips she could use to raise a happy, healthy baby. With a comfortable home ready for her child, Jaqashia felt confident and empowered to find a job. And Pam was there, ready to encourage her and walk alongside her every step of the way.

Jaqashia is now the proud mother of a baby boy, A'Kani, and she is determined to be the best parent she can be. Pam still stops by for her regular visits but now, Jaqashia feels ready to raise her son in a safe and loving home.

"LSI made a huge difference. They made a big positive change," Jaqashia says. "I feel very confident that I can actually raise my son now, and I have my own place. I'm feeling great."

Reserve your special date to sponsor a 2020 8:30 a.m. radio broadcast. The service is heard on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City and on cable channel 2. Cost for 2020 is \$83. CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR DATE - 641.592.1771.

2020 BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

May 3, 10, July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 9, 30, Sept. 6, 20, Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, Dec. 6, 13, 27

