



# Salem Lutheran Church

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**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 – SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST– JULY 12-JULY 19

### THIS WEEKS TEXTS – SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 55:10-13

**PSALM:** 65:[1-8]9-13

**SECOND READING:** Romans 8:1-11

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 13:1-9,18-23



### Life in Every Direction

We can identify death in every direction. We see war, hunger, addiction, poverty, a dying planet, and broken hearts. This is not a new story. The children of Israel surely saw death in every direction, wandering in the desert and at least occasionally wondering about their next meal. Paul looks at his own life and, at first, sees nothing beyond spiritual death. He reminds us that death is not just physical, but also spiritual. Then, in the parable of the sower, three-fourths of the seeds die and three-fourths of the sections of the field are inhospitable to flourishing life. Sometimes, life isn't even given a chance. We might look at the world and ourselves and only see the places that are absent and inhospitable to God's love.

Today's texts all go a step further, however, to articulate or reveal God bringing forth life where there is only death and God's absence in every direction. First, God renews the covenant with the children of Israel. After their own failures and disobedience, God restores a relationship with the children of Israel and gives them "the best of all the land in Egypt" (Gen. 45:20) and "provisions for the journey" (Gen. 45:21). Paul reflects on God growing new branches where old tree branches had fallen away. The parable of the sower elicits reflection, repentance, and, ultimately, new life from its readers and hearers in considering the sort of spiritual life they practice. Are we hospitable or inhospitable to God's word? This parable is a vivid reminder of all God has overcome—rocks, scorching sun, thorns, and snatching—to bring life to the world. God brings forth life in places where people see only death.

### Salem's COVID-19 Plan

Salem is now in Phase #2 of the COVID-19 Plan.

**NOTE: Wearing a mask is strongly encouraged. Wearing a mask will primarily protect others, especially the vulnerable.**

**In-Person Sanctuary Worship Service**  
**8:30 am, Sunday, July 12 and July 19**

\* The sanctuary will be opened for worship at 50% capacity – approximately 80 people.

\*Ushers will be assigned to seat those coming to worship.

\*Northwest entrance doors by elevator will be unlocked. South entrance door will be unlocked for outdoor worshipers to have access to restrooms. All other doors will remain locked.

\*Attendance will be taken for traceability purposes in the event of an outbreak

\*Hand sanitizer and masks will be available at the northwest entrance and by center door to sanctuary

\*Wearing a mask is strongly encouraged. Wearing a mask will primarily protect others, especially the vulnerable.

\*Liturgical choir will continue, no congregational singing

\*No passing of Offering Plates

## CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

During this time of social distancing, there are several ways to continue your giving.

- By mail.
  - You can sign up for a weekly or monthly ACH withdrawal (Simply Giving), or PayPal. For ACH, call the office and I can get you a form to complete.
  - By PayPal - go to our website ([www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com)) home page, scroll to the bottom left and there is a Donate button. Click on it and will take you to a PayPal or credit card donation page.
- Call the office with any questions.(641.592.1771)  
We as a church still have financial obligations to meet at this time. I pray that all stay calm & healthy.

## CELEBRATING GENEROSITY – WEEKLY GIVING

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| LAST SUNDAY: 07/05/20        | \$ 3,098   |
| YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 07/07/20 | \$ 118,957 |
| LAST YEAR: as of 07/07/19    | \$ 139,049 |
| DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:     | \$ -20,092 |



## NEXT WEEKS TEXTS – SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

PSALM: 86:11-17

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

\*No communion

\*Sharing of the Peace by waving at fellow worshippers

\*No Fellowship

\*Restrooms by elevator will be available  
For those that would like to gather together to worship under the big tree, we will be broadcasting the service over KIOW.

\*Follow social distancing guidelines

\*Wearing a mask is strongly encouraged. Wearing a mask will primarily protect others, especially the vulnerable.

\*Attendance will be taken for traceability purposes in the event of an outbreak

\*Worshippers must bring their own lawn chairs

\*Single use bulletins will be available in the south entrance

\*An offering pail will be set out in south entrance along with the bulletins

\*Restrooms along east hall will be available

\*Radio/livestream remains available for those not at the church

\*Funerals will be allowed following social distancing guidelines at 50% capacity

\*Weddings will be allowed with the practice of social distancing guidelines at 50% capacity

\*Sanctuary cleaned and sanitized

**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:

July 19, 26, Aug. 30, Sept. 6, 20, Oct. 11, 18, 25,  
Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, Dec. 6, 13