



Salem Lutheran Church

401 SOUTH LAKE STREET LAKE MILLS, IA 50450

Phone (641)-592-1771

www.salemlakemills.com

salem@wctatel.net

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 – SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST– JULY 19-JULY 26

THIS 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

Judgment and Mercy

Matthew's gospel knows little compromise: sheep or goats, wheat or weeds, good or evil. Finding the good news of God's love for all people, for all creation, can be a challenge in this book. Today's gospel is no exception. Jesus interprets a parable for the disciples; he announces that all evildoers will be thrown into the furnace of fire, while the righteous will shine like the sun. The "Son of Man" will judge the world. Matthew's phrase "for the kingdom of heaven may be compared to . . ." occurs here for the first time in this gospel. Jesus' parable is a genuine metaphor—it is best viewed as a whole with no point-by-point comparison. The kingdom of believers has the same potential as those of the world to do good and to do evil. Jesus' allegorical interpretation encourages believers to strive for righteousness, and emphasizes God as judge.

St. Paul, however, in his letter to the church at Rome focuses on God as merciful judge. He proclaims that all creation will be freed from decay and receive redemption. Paul reminds us our hope lies with God, our parent through a spirit of adoption. This dichotomous picture of God as judge and giver of mercy began with last Sunday's texts and evidences itself in readings from Romans and Matthew across the next four Sundays. In some cases the God of mercy is highlighted in Paul's letter, at other times in the gospel. This good news, however, is always present!

The exercise of judgment and mercy reflects God's emphasis on justice over fairness. A fair God condemns those who do evil. A just God moves beyond fairness to justice, peace, and reconciliation. As evil doers, sinners, one and all, we are grateful for God's justice towards us and all people.

Salem's COVID-19 Plan

Salem is now in Phase #1 of the COVID-19 Plan.

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

In-Person 'Soft Opening' Worship Service
8:30 am, starting June 28th.

- *10 people in the sanctuary per current guidelines
- *Northwest entrance doors by elevator will be unlocked
- *We will be broadcasting the service over K10W.
- ***For those that would like to gather together to worship under the big tree.**
 - *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 collection pail will be set out in south entrance along with the bulletins
 - * Restrooms along east hall will be available
- * No communion
- *Sharing of the Peace by waving at fellow worshippers
- *No Fellowship
- *Radio/livestream remains available
- *Funerals follow 'soft opening' protocols
- *Weddings follow 'soft opening' protocols
- *Sanctuary cleaned and sanitized

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) 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: 07/12/20	\$ 5,905
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 07/13/20	\$ 125,244
LAST YEAR: as of 07/13/19	\$ 139,369
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -14,125



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS – EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

PSALM: 119:129-136

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Treasure the present

Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest ... to taste the here and now, to be where we are.

When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else.

Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.

—Henri Nouwen



“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Colossians 3:12

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