



Salem Lutheran Church

401 SOUTH LAKE STREET LAKE MILLS, IA 50450

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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 – EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST– JULY 26-AUGUST 1ST

THIS 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

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like . . .

A string of parables describe the kingdom of heaven, and then we hear Jesus' question: "Have you understood all this?" The mustard seed, yeast, hidden treasure, pearls—these bring good news of growth and joy and riches. Then come the fish, the furnace of fire, and the weeping and gnashing of teeth. Once again this week we hear of a God of mercy and justice. Once again there is good news to be heard in Paul's letter to the church at Rome—nothing will ever separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. How will we reconcile these two images of God?

"Kingdoms" are not common in our world. When most of us think about kingdoms, we call up images of British royalty—Queen Elizabeth, Princess Diana, jeweled crowns, a palace. At the time the Gospel of Matthew was written, the people were subject to the empire, or kingdom, of Rome. Perhaps the writer wants us to contrast the oppressive rule of Rome with a vision of heaven's kingdom of love and mercy. The translation of the Greek *basileia*, a feminine word, usually rendered in English as "kingdom" is difficult. The writer of Matthew may have used the expression "kingdom of heaven" instead of "kingdom of God" in order not to offend Jewish Christ-believers who honored the word for God by avoiding its use.

King Solomon asks God for the wisdom to discern between good and evil, for the understanding to live out both justice and mercy as a ruler of God's people. God was pleased with Solomon's request. The wisdom Solomon seeks to rule his earthly kingdom reflects the wisdom of the kingdom of heaven. King Solomon was variously successful in his discernment of good and evil, as are we.

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
*We will be broadcasting the service over KIOW.
***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: 07/19/20	\$ 1,503
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 07/22/20	\$ 128,444
LAST YEAR: as of 07/22/19	\$ 147,196
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -18,752



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS – NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5

PSALM: 145:8-9,14-21

SECOND READING: Romans 9:1-5

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

*God, thank you that by your power, small things like seeds — and faith — can grow big and strong. Nurture my growth in you always.
Amen.*



Faith formation will meet at 7:00 pm on July 28th around the Big Tree, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather we will meet in the fellowship hall.

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