



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 – NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST–AUGUST 2nd–AUGUST 8th

THIS 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

Abundance from Scraps

Jesus is able to feed us abundantly, even with scraps. He meets earthly needs by feeding the crowds and continues now to offer himself as holy meal, freely given to all, no matter their income or rank in society. Advertisers have trained us that what's proclaimed as FREE usually isn't. More often, it's a ploy to get our money for some other, larger, purchase. Today we are invited to trust and receive Jesus' free gift of love without mistrusting that he's got up his sleeve some scheme to swindle our money.

It can be hard to relax and trust God to take care of us and nourish us with the mere scraps we often see around us. We panic and take matters into our own hands instead of trusting. We experience that crushing sense of responsibility, not just to ourselves, but to our children or parents or other loved ones to keep them fed and clothed and healthy. Trusting as the crowd did that day seems completely foreign to those of us living in North America, abundant in resources.

With food freely given, with quantity enough to feed only a few, Jesus makes this miracle, and there are leftovers to clean up. But for most of us, belief comes slowly and warily when we've been burned by experience: how will there be enough for all of us, when we've been the last one at the lunch line, the late arrival at the party, and everything's gone? What if we see people in the crowd we don't want fed and jostle our way to the head of the line to get first choice? Will it be fair? Trusting that our daily bread and even our very lives are in God's hands is hard to do as we grow older and burdened by responsibility, but God has compassion for every member of the crowd, and we are blessed and invited to be joyful recipients of that generosity.

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 KLOW.
- ***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: 07/26/20 \$ 1,870

YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 07/28/20 \$ 130,796

LAST YEAR: as of 07/28/19 \$ 152,344

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -21,548



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS – TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

PSALM: 85:8-13

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

KINDNESS... it often seems in short supply these days.

In a world divided politically, racially, economically, and theologically we struggle to get along, often even in our congregations. Oh sure, there are those random acts of kindness done in secret that surprise us and make us smile. But what about kindness as a way of life? Kindness, lived daily caring for others

Empathy rather than judgment
Friendship rather than fear
Uniting rather than dividing
Listening rather than talking

Sharing rather than hoarding
Open rather than closed
Love rather than hatred
Community rather than me
Together rather than alone.

Let us be about building up the body of Christ.

Together we pray -

Spirit of the living God breathe on me your transforming grace.

Spirit of the living God open my entire being to the gift of your presence.

Spirit of the living God cultivate in me kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness.

Amen.

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