



# 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 – TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST–AUGUST 9th-AUGUST 15th

### THIS 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

### Silencing the Wind

In a world filled with noise and empty words, God comes to us as stillness and silence, even to the point that wind ceases (Matt. 14:32). Jesus walks over stormy waters to his disciples, entering their boat and being present with them despite their fears and doubts. Today's readings encourage us to keep our words spare and meaningful, lay aside our little faith with its wordy worries, and listen for God, who comes to us as quieting comfort.

The wind blows us powerfully, frighteningly, making even familiar places seem strange, stirring up the water to obscure our vision and make our journey fearful and slow. Today Jesus comes to us in our drowning panic, responding to our "Lord, save me" with a quick response. The little faith of Peter (and our little faith) is not only a chiding to "do better" in our faith lives and respond with discipline, but it offers forgiveness: even when we risk and screw up anyway, God's hand is there to reach out and catch us.

To command even the wind to be still is a powerful thing. If a very strong wind suddenly stopped near one of us, we would probably panic, wondering who did it, whether it was the calm eye of a storm, or whether a still bigger tornado is coming. There are giant turbines now that capture the wind to convert it to energy, but Jesus walked out upon the water and helped Peter in his fear to return to the boat's safety and security. Jesus gives powerful reassurance and the gift of presence. God is not distant from our fears, but close to keep us safe.

### 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](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: 08/02/20	\$ 2,353
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 08/03/20	\$ 133,726
LAST YEAR: as of 08/03/19	\$ 152,814
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -19,088



## CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

It has been over eighteen weeks since we have gathered together for Holy Communion. We hope to again celebrate Holy Communion together on Sunday, August 16 at our 8:30 Outdoor Worship under the big tree.

Following that we will also have small group Communion Services available. Call the church office 641-592-1771 to schedule a time for a small group (10 or less). These visits can happen at the yard of your home, at the Oakwood Park shelter, your garage or anywhere outdoors that groups of 10 can safely meet.

Best practices of physical distancing and prepackaged supplies will be used.

## NEXT WEEKS TEXTS – ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

PSALM: 67

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a,29-32

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20]21-28

## NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD HAS A NEW BISHOP

The Northeastern Iowa Synod is pleased to announce that they have extended a contract to Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl to serve as interim Bishop of the Synod beginning September 1.

Bishop Degroot-Nesdahl served a six-year term as South Dakota Synod's first female bishop in 1995. She was the second woman to serve as a synodical bishop in the entire ELCA. Before she was elected as bishop of the South Dakota Synod, DeGroot-Nesdahl was assistant to the bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod. She served several congregations in North Dakota and Wisconsin after she was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1997. In 1996, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Wartburg Seminary.

## ZOOM INTO A FRIDAY FORUM

Pastor Joel has signed up for and learning how to use Zoom for hosting, chats, forums, confirmation and faith formation meetings, online meetings, etc.

The area pastor's text study has been meeting weekly for about four months now. If you are new to Zoom, as Pastor Joel was, connecting to a meeting from an email invitation is simple from any computer, smart phone or cell phone. Even with an old fashioned landline one is able to dial in and enter an access number when prompted to listen in on a meeting or forum.

Pastor Joel has purchased an account that allows him to host meetings. We will try an Open Forum on Friday, June 21 at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. To be invited to an open forum all you will need to do is to send an email to Pastor Joel prior to the meeting and he can send you the link to enter the meeting. When you click on the link you can join in the conversation. This link offers a short YouTube tutorial to begin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIkCmbvAHQQ>

**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