



# 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 – ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST–AUGUST 16th–AUGUST 22nd

### THIS 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



### **We Are Beggars, This Is True**

"We are beggars; this is true," are reported to be Martin Luther's last written words. Christians are "beggars" for God's grace, undeserving but graced nonetheless. A beggar's faith focuses not on what is given or accomplished or believed, but on what is *received*: the healing and sustenance desperately longed for and needed.

In today's gospel, the Canaanite woman is such a "beggar" for Jesus' healing for her daughter. She is denied a place at the table at first, but she will accept even "crumbs" in the faith that Jesus' healing power and love are intended even for her. As a Gentile outsider, she inhabits the margins of Jesus' mission to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." Jesus' eventual response to her beggar's faith reveals that the love of God even encompasses the margins.

Marginalized or not, we are *all* beggars before God, as Paul reminds the Romans—all "imprisoned in disobedience" and dependent on God. Thus, our sense of "insider" and "outsider" crumbles in the face of our common need and God's abundant mercy to all. Instead of dividing people between those who have a place at the table and those who get crumbs, we have an opportunity to share hospitality with our fellow beggars.

It can be challenging to see ourselves as beggars. Today the Canaanite woman becomes our model, as she persists with both humility and audacity. As disciples of Jesus and "beggars" for God's grace, we live the same paradox of humility and audacity, boldly coming to Jesus and humbly acknowledging our need. Even though crumbs from God's table would be enough for us, we are offered instead the abundance of Jesus' own self in bread and wine and invited to share this abundance with insider and outsider alike.

### 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

## 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.

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## CELEBRATING GENEROSITY – WEEKLY GIVING

LAST SUNDAY: 08/09/20 \$ 4,695

YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 08/12/20 \$ 138,421

LAST YEAR: as of 08/12/19 \$ 161,849

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -23,428



## 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.

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## NEXT WEEKS TEXTS – TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

PSALM: 138

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

## 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.

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## 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 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