



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 – THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST–AUGUST 30TH-SEPTEMBER 5th

THIS WEEKS TEXTS –THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

PSALM: 26:1-8

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28



There Must Be Another Way

Peter may be the “rock” on which Christ will build the church (Matt. 16:18), but when Jesus reveals the suffering that will come first, Peter becomes a tempter and “stumbling block.” Assuming God must have a different way to save the world, Peter protests Jesus’ suffering and death. Jesus explains to Peter and all his disciples that, in fact, this is the way to life—losing one’s life in order to find it.

By tempting Jesus to an easier way than his journey through suffering to resurrection, Peter personifies a temptation common to all generations of Jesus’ disciples: seeking a way to avoid “losing oneself,” instead of surrendering all to and with the one we follow. Rather than losing our lives—our selves, possessions, and time—we hold on more tightly, afraid of what will happen to our comfort, success, and identity if we let go. Those things we hold onto then become, like Peter, stumbling blocks along the way of self-giving love.

But while “saving one’s life” sounds sensible, those things also stand in the way of the new life into which Jesus beckons us to follow him. Perhaps Peter’s problem is that he sees only the suffering and death, without grasping the new life that comes through it. In times when we too are tempted by worldly ways of comfort and success, convinced that *surely* God must have an easier way than the way of self-giving love, this gospel reminds us that resurrection and life await on the other side of suffering and death.

This is the way of our God who becomes human in Jesus: emptying himself of power and dignity, losing his very own life for the sake of the world’s life. Seen through the lens of resurrection just ahead on the journey, what other way could there be?

Adult Education Opportunities

“The Bible that Jesus Read” Philip Yancey

Wednesday Mornings

10:00 am @ Salem Lutheran, Fellowship Hall

Beginning Wednesday, September 9th

or Thursday Evenings

7:00 pm @ Winnebago – Fellowship Hall

Beginning Thursday, September 10th

Because we began this study before our Covid interruptions, we are going to start over from the beginning.

Philip Yancey has a way of confronting our most cherished but misguided notions about faith. In *The Bible Jesus Read*, he challenges the perception that the New Testament is all that matters and the Old Testament isn’t worth taking the time to read and understand. Yancey admits that, like many Christians, he usually avoided the Old Testament. After all, why bother with writings that can be so baffling, boring, even offensive to the modern mind?

But a surprising discovery awaited Yancey when he began to explore how the Old Testament related to his life today. Those seemingly irrelevant Hebrew Scriptures took on a startling immediacy, portraying a passionate relationship between God and people against the broad backdrop of human experience. Like nothing else, the Old Testament depicts the cries, the complaints, the deep, insistent questionings of the heart, the stuff of life we all must contend with. With his candid, signature style, Yancey interacts with the Old Testament from the perspective of his own deeply personal journey.

From Moses, the amazing prince of Egypt, to the psalmists’ turbulent emotions and the prophets’ oddball rantings, Yancey paints a picture of Israel’s God--and ours--that fills in the blanks of a solely New Testament vision of the Almighty. Probing some carefully selected Old Testament books--Job, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and the Prophets--Yancey reveals how the Old Testament deals in astonishing depth and detail with the issues that trouble us most.

The Old Testament in fact tackles what the New Testament often only skirts. But that shouldn’t surprise us. It is, after all, the Bible Jesus read. *The Bible Jesus Read* will give you abundant new insights into the heart of God the Father. And as you read with a fresh eye the prayers, poems, songs, and bedtime stories that Jesus so revered, you will gain a profound new understanding of Christ. “The more we comprehend the Old Testament,” Yancey writes, “the more we comprehend Jesus.”

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: 08/23/20 | \$ 1,663 |
| YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 08/26/20 | \$ 144,209 |
| LAST YEAR: as of 08/26/19 | \$ 176,183 |
| DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: | \$ -31,974 |

WELCOME ABOARD!

We are excited to kick off the beginning of our Faith Formation journey this fall with the VBS curriculum "Rocky Railway".

Starting Sunday, Sept 13th, the first 15 minutes of the church service will showcase the VBS story of the week along with Music, Dancing, and Bible Buddies. Tune in to [online-church](#) at 8:30am or watch the service on YouTube at [anytime](#). We will plan on this format for the first 5 weeks of Faith Formation.

In effort to deliver materials to the participating families, we ask that you complete the **registration** on the back of this form and deliver to the church office or email to jahelgeson@hotmail.com by **Sunday, August 30th**. Materials will include a music CD, crafts/activities, and Bible Buddy verses.

To kick off the new Faith Formation year, we will have a dance-party on Sunday, **August 30th from 10:30 to 11am** under the big tree at church. We will [social](#) distance as we learn the new songs for "Rocky Railway"! (weather permitting)

Week 1 – Sunday, Sept 13th

Jesus' Power Helps Us Do Hard Things
Story: Acts 9:1-19
Verse: [Philippians](#) 4:13

Week 2 – Sunday, Sept 20th

Jesus' Power Gives Us Hope
Story: Acts 27
Verse: Psalm 31:24

Week 3 – Sunday, Sept 27th

Jesus' Power Helps Us Be Bold
Story: Acts 3:1-4:31
Verse: Isaiah 40:29

Week 4 – Sunday, Oct 4th

Jesus' Power Lets Us Live Forever
Story: Matthew 26:17-28:10
Verse: Romans 8:11

Week 5 – Sunday, Oct 11th

Jesus' Power Helps Us Be Good Friends
Story: Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35
Verse: John 15:12

If anyone is interested in participating in the Rocky Railway music during 8:30am service, please contact Pastor Joel, Marci Adeogun, or Jennifer Sauer. THANK YOU!



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS – FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

PSALM: 119:33-40

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20



Today we welcome Charlotte Nicole Mosby, daughter of Nicholas & Kjerstin Mosby; Sterling Christopher Gonzalez, son of Jacob and Chelsey Gonzalez; and Zaylin Nichole Crawford, daughter of Zakary Crawford and Tori Adams into our Church family through Holy Baptism.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

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.



Greetings in the name of Jesus who calms the storm and feeds the hungry.

This morning a new web site was launched at <https://lsiowa.org/disasterrelief/> which can guide congregations and individuals toward opportunities to give, to volunteer, and to receive assistance following the recent storm.

Please help people to access this information and to give generously.

Your Grateful Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Mark A. Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop

[Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA](#)
[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

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:

Sept. 6, Oct. 11, 18, 25,
Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, Dec. 6, 13