



Salem Lutheran Church

401 SOUTH LAKE STREET LAKE MILLS, IA 50450

Phone (641)-592-1771

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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 ANNOUNCEMENTS – FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST–SEPTEMBER 6th- SEPTEMBER 12th

THIS 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



Called to Community

Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). In these Sundays after Pentecost, we are repeatedly reminded that God has not abandoned us and that Christ's resurrection and ascension are a beginning for us, not an end. The readings this week focus on the practical work of the gathered Christian community: turning from sin to repentance, from conflict to reconciliation. The question is as relevant today as it was for the disciples and the first Christians: how do we live together, work together, as the body of Christ? We have been saved by grace, liberated by God's love to love one another. What does it mean for us and for our community to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 13:14) and to clothe ourselves in love?

We keep asking these questions because the way we gather as Christians continues to be profoundly countercultural. We do not gather as a social club, drawn and kept together only by shared demographics and interests. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to continue to gather if conflict arises, if uncomfortable issues are raised, or if "the way it's always been" begins to change. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to do the hard work of reconciliation and forgiveness.

God calls us into community knowing that being in community is hard. In scripture we can find practical guidance for gathering through good and hard times. The Holy Spirit is always at work—in, through, and among us—to gather and regather us again. In community we meet and become Christ's body in ways that are impossible for us as individuals; all the commandments are fulfilled in this call to neighbor-love (Rom. 13:9).

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: 08/30/20 \$ 0
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 09/02/20 \$ 144,766
LAST YEAR: as of 09/02/19 \$ 179,089
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -34,323

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. This will be the format for the first 5 weeks of Faith Formation.

Week 1: Jesus' Power Helps Us Do Hard Things

Story: Acts 9:1-19
Verse: Philippians 4:13

Week 2: Jesus' Power Gives Us Hope

Story: Acts 27
Verse: Psalm 31:24

Week 3: Jesus' Power Helps Us Be Bold

Story: Acts 3:1-4:31
Verse: Isaiah 40:29

Week 4: Jesus' Power Lets Us Live Forever

Story: Mathew 26:17-28:10
Verse: Romans 8:11

Week 5: Jesus' Power Helps Us Be Good Friends

Story: Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35
Verse: John 15:12



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

PSALM: 103:[1-7]8-13

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

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.

FYI: The church building is unlocked during the hours of 8-3:30 Monday through Friday. Please let the office know if you are needing access at other times or if you have a need to use the facilities so that proper sanitizing per COVID guidelines can occur.



WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY-1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet Open
1:00 p.m. Mission Quilters—
Fellowship Hall
TUESDAY- 10:00 a.m. Care Givers Support—
Lounge
1:00 p.m. Life Serve Bloodmobile—
Fellowship Hall
WEDNESDAY- 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Senior Choir
THURSDAY- 5:30 p.m. Executive Board
6:30 p.m. Church Council

Christ in our Home for October, November, and December 2020 are available in the air lock by the staff entrance.

Reserve your special date to sponsor a 2020 8:30 a.m. radio broadcast. The service is heard on K1OW (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:

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