



Salem Lutheran Church

401 SOUTH LAKE STREET LAKE MILLS, IA 50450

Phone (641)-592-1771

www.salemlakemills.com

salem@wctatel.net

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 – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SEPTEMBER 12th- SEPTEMBER 19th

THIS 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



Deep Waters of Forgiveness

Churches have different practices around baptism. In some churches, a small bowl holds just enough water to trickle a few drops over the head. In others, the bowl is wider and the water is splashed with the whole hand. In yet other churches, the person is fully immersed in a font large enough for them to go all the way underwater. Sometimes the water stays in the bowl, sometimes a bit splashes out, and sometimes the whole area around the font gets wet. But no matter the amount of water used, there's always more where it comes from. God's waters of forgiveness run deeper than we will ever know.

The waters of baptism are so deep that even a few sprinkles cover a lifetime of falling short. We are forgiven time and again for a myriad of sins. And because the weight of sin has been lifted from us, we are free to extend such forgiveness to others.

In fact, our faith depends on it. In the Lord's Prayer, our petition for forgiveness is directly tied to our own willingness to forgive others: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Thankfully, we are not expected to conjure up such forgiveness on our own. We draw from the endless supply of divine reserves. Where we, and Peter, might have difficulty forgiving a mere seven times, Jesus reminds us that his kind of forgiveness can be measured on an exponential scale.

While our capacity for forgiveness may be limited, Jesus' well of forgiveness is deep enough for all people and all matters of sin. When we find ourselves struggling to extend forgiveness to others, we return to the baptismal font. This is an overflowing well of love. Drawing from this water, we draw from the limitless supply of forgiveness.

Remembering our baptism, we are reminded not only that we are forgiven, but that we, too, are agents of forgiveness in the world.

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

SUNDAY 08/31/20	\$ 5,842.14
LAST SUNDAY: 09/06/20	\$ 2,760
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 08/26/20	\$ 153,466
LAST YEAR: as of 08/26/19	\$ 184,249
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -30,783

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 –SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

PSALM: 145:1-8

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

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.



WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY-1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
(Open by appointment)

1:00 p.m. Mission Quilters—
Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY- 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Senior Choir

THURSDAY- 2:00 p.m. WELCA

Reminder: Keep saving David's Grocery Store Receipts. They can be left in the church office or in the basket in the hall. They will be picked up and added for Salem WELCA. Thank you.

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 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:

Oct. 11, 18, 25,

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, Dec. 13