

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 22 - 28

A New Way to Follow

Nations wage war, gangs battle each other, families quarrel, communities of faith divide. We hear others say and even hear ourselves saying, "There is no other way."

In Jesus, the light of God's kingdom draws near and a new way shines for us to follow.

In today's gospel, Jesus first withdraws (Matt. 4:12). The word *anachoreo* (to withdraw) is used ten times in Matthew's gospel—each time as Jesus' response to violence or conflict. John the Baptist has been arrested, and tension is beginning to build. The way of God and the way of the world's rulers are beginning to collide.

In Jesus, a new kingdom has drawn near, a kingdom of nonviolence and non-retaliation. Jesus' withdrawal is not simply passivity but points to a vision of an alternate way of reigning as king. Jesus rules not with violence, abusive power, or through division but through voluntarily emptying himself of power, identifying with the oppressed and burdened, and healing that which is broken. Into this new reign, Jesus calls the disciples to follow him, a way that appears foolish and weak to those who cannot discern it. To those God calls, it is the wisdom and strength, the light and power of God.

To follow in the way of Jesus places one's life at risk, for it eventually leads to the cross. To follow, though, implies someone is leading. The way God calls us to follow has already been filled with the loving kindness and mercy of Jesus who has gone before us and who leads us to the foot of the cross. There, in the shadow of the cross, God makes a way for unity in the midst of division, for healing in the midst of brokenness, for peace in the midst of violence, for forgiveness in the midst of betrayal. Around the table, the kingdom of God draws near; Jesus' broken body announces forgiveness, healing, peace, and unity. Many bodies are nourished and formed into the one body of Christ, called and sent to follow in the way of Jesus, to be broken and shed for the sake of the world.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Robert, Rose, Crystal and Dylan Sanden, Adam, Jennifer, Cora, Tatum and Essabel Sauer, Morgan Scheib, Dan & Rhonda Schriever

This week the following members will be celebrating their birthdays and we would like to wish them a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! Please call the office if you have an upcoming birthday, to ensure we have it in our records. 641.592.1771

22-Jeremi Throne

24-Morgan Scheib

27-Jessi Mary

23-Cory Christian

25-Trevor Willert

27-Karli Helgeson

23-Randi Dilly

26-Samantha Rasmussen

27-Michelle Jones

28-Jessica Peterson

-WEEKLY GIVING-**LAST SUNDAY:** 1/15/23 \$ 9,608**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 1/17/23 \$ 9,608**LAST YEAR:** as of 1/17/23 \$ 8,358**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:** \$ 1,250**-Last Weeks Attendance- 76**

Floyd Thomas Prints: Faye Aamodt has graciously offered Floyd Thomas nature prints for free will donation opportunity. These prints have been a part of Lake Mills history for many years appearing on calendars and the cover of the WCTA telephone books. If you would like a print, or several, please take what you would like! Donations will be designated for the tuckpointing project. Prints will be available in the Narthex before worship and after the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22nd. We thank Faye for her generous gift!

Pastoral Visits: If you or someone you know would like a visit from Pastor Joel, please call the office to make an appointment. 641.592.1771

TUCKPOINTING PROJECT UPDATE

Total received as of 1/17/23

\$69,710

All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note "TUCKPOINTING PROJECT" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!



Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, February 3rd; 8:00am – 10:00am in the lounge, across from the office. Everyone is welcome! Breakfast will be served until the food runs out or its 10am, whichever comes sooner. Breakfast is free. Donations collected will go towards youth activities.

Summer Camps: Reminder to sign up your children for summer camps before the early bird deadlines! Check out the camp websites for more information. This is such a great opportunity for our youth! In the past, the Enduring Gift Committee has helped to pay the remaining balances, after parents make the down payment. After you have registered your child and paid the deposit, forward your receipt email from camp to the Salem office. (Salem@wctatel.net)

Supplies: There are face masks, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer on the high top table in the Narthex. Please leave them on the table; they must be accessible to anyone who may want to use them. Thank you!

-Shannon Bruhns, Council President & The Board of Property & Management

Live Stream Sponsorship: Call the office to reserve your special date. Cost is \$40.

2023 Dates available: Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb 12, March 12, March 26, April 16, April 30, May 7, June 11, June 18, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, Aug. 6, Aug. 13, Aug. 20, Sept. 3, Sept. 17, Oct. 8, Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, Dec. 10, Dec. 31

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)

Mon-Thurs: 10am-5pm, Fri: 10am-4pm

Looking ahead, the office will be closed on February 2nd

All are invited downstairs after the annual congregational meeting for fellowship, coffee and a sweet treat.

SUNDAY 1/22

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Annual Congregational Meeting-Sanctuary (Fellowship to follow)

MONDAY 1/23

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is OPEN (South entrance at Salem)

(To schedule a different time, call 592.5085)

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN (South entrance at Salem)

WEDNESDAY 1/25

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

12:00pm Cadettes & HS-Room 2

1:30pm Mills Harbour Communion Service

2:30pm Lake Mills Care Center Communion Service

THURSDAY 1/26

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study

3:30pm Board of Life & Growth Meeting-Library

5:45pm Board of Worship & Music Meeting-Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY 1/29

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am Confirmation-Youth Room

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Mon: Off, but on-call

Tues: 10am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (2:30pm Text Study)

Wed: Noon-8:00pm (10am Adult Bible Study, 1:30pm MH Communion Service, 2:30pm LMCC Communion Service)

Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study, 5:45pm Worship/Music Meeting)

Fri: 8am-Noon, 1pm-5pm

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship, 10am Confirmation)