
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 7 - 15

Breath of God

Breath figures frequently in Scripture. God's breath or Spirit hovers over the chaos in creation in Genesis. Breath or Spirit enters the nostrils of the created in the story. Breath and Spirit is breathed onto the disciples by Jesus when he appears to them after his resurrection. In the gospel text, as Jesus rises from the waters, the Spirit, the breath of God, descends like a dove. Jesus, having held his breath under the water, rises as a model of death and life for us, breathing in the life of the Spirit. He is a risen and claimed by God as the beloved with whom God is pleased.

Of course, breathing is two things, breathing in and breathing out. You can hold your breath, but there is no way to hold it forever. Consider how this reflects the Spirit's power in Jesus and then in our baptism. In baptism, the gift is not just one of repentance and forgiveness, but, as the Acts text emphasizes, also involves the Spirit living and acting in the baptized. While it is a gift for our own lives, like the gift of breathing in, it is also encouragement and life, a breathing out of the Spirit into the world. Baptism is both for our own sake and for the world. In our baptism, we breathe in forgiveness and reconciliation and breathe out the Spirit in our life and works. That's the full life of the baptized disciple.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Jerry & Marilyn Hoffman, Ashley, Emma and Thea Hoffman, Donald Holst, Donald, Alyssa, and Chelsey Holtan and Kaylie Adams, Jason, Abby, Madison, Becca and Tori Holtan

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

7-Dakota White	9-Donna Harig	12-Brooke Christianson
7-Tonja Knutson	9-Jessica Colby	12-Ellie Redig
8-Beth Dahle	10-Jill Budach	12-Joshua Hanson
8-Emmett Helgeson	11-Allan Zabel	12-Darlene Anderson
		12-Alex Beaty

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 12/31/23: \$ 3,421
YEAR-TO-DATE: 12/31/23 \$ 208,087
LAST YEAR: as of 12/27/22 \$ 215,903
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -7,816

-Last Weeks Attendance-

52

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 1/2/24 **\$160,492**

Total available balance as of 11/30/23 **\$53,519.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the “Steeple Project” when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

Devotionals: There are copies of the January/February/March devotionals in the Narthex and by the south entrance. Feel free to take one.

Upcoming Blood Drive: Thursday, January 18th; In the Fellowship Hall 1:00pm-6:00pm. Appointments Are Encouraged. Call: 800-287-4903 or Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or visit: lifesesrvebloodcenter.org

Worship Volunteers Needed: If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read or sing in the liturgical choir, please sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, call the office. Thank you!

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 14, 2023 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Doug Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Mary Peterson, Dan Rice, Mike Swenson, Cindy Haugsdal.

Absent: Laura Gardner

Guests: Delane Behr

Delane was present to express his interest in fulfilling the term of the vacant Vice President. His interest in this role was reviewed last week by the nominating committee once they were made aware. This position is vacant and needs to coincide with the President term, therefore, the council will need to vote to approve him as Vice President for this current term, 2023-2024. Delane left the room while the council engaged in discussion and proceeded with a vote. Doug moved to accept Delane as Vice President, seconded by Mike. All approved. Delane then returned to the meeting.

The next order of business was a Zoom meeting with Jared Beenken (Atura Architecture) and Dave Randall (Randall Construction) to review their inspection and evaluation of the bell tower. Jared shared pictures that were taken of the bell tower showing the bowing and poor state of repair of the tower. Jared also presented 2 options of how the church would look after removal of the bell tower. Dave explained that removal of the bell tower without damaging the surrounding church roof and building will require extensive scaffolding and engineering input to stabilize while removing the bell tower. After discussion, the council has requested that they provide 2 pictures - one of full removal of the bell tower and one with partial removal of the bell tower with a spire/steeple for presentation to the congregation. The council requested a “ball park” figure for cost of this project, however, Jared and Dave explained that this is very difficult until it is known exactly what is going to be done.

Shannon opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report: November Minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

Mary moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Doug. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – received 2 anonymous donations of \$50 each and which will be deposited in the general fund; received a request for financial support/opportunity to advertise in the 2023-2024 LMCS Yearbook; a request for financial donation from the Lake Mills Scholarship Foundation. Mike recommended that we table the Scholarship Foundation for further consideration at a future meeting as this is a new request to Salem. Doug moved to give \$50 to the LMCS Yearbook, seconded by Mike. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Doug provided a written and verbal report.

Total income for November 2023 \$22,531.29

Total Expenses for November 2023 \$18,292 (Income less expense \$4,239.29)

Checking account balance (11/30/2023) \$59,695.55

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (11/30/2023) \$53,519.32

CD's at FTSB (11/30/2023) Reserves \$26,014.17

CD at MBT (11/30/2023) Ness Estate \$48,334.93

Financial Secretary's report: Laura provided a written report.

2023 YTD total offerings (11/29/2023) \$175,997

2022 YTD total offerings (11/29/2022) \$192,284

Mike moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Dan. All approved.

Board Reports

Enduring Gift Fund: 2023 4th quarter report is due in January.

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a written and verbal report: Pulpit Supply is complete for Jan – March of 2024, which includes ; Poinsettias for altar & around Christmas Tree; Advent services; Faith Formation Christmas Program;

Christmas Eve Service at 5:00; January 14th Baptism; Piano tuner was here and the piano in the sanctuary needs some repair, Mary will get more details.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a written and verbal report: 14 shoe boxes were sent to Christmas Samaritan's Purse; the congregational Birthday Party was well attended; a good group attended to help decorate the church narthex and sanctuary on 12/4; placed lighted trees in the Lake Street windows; looking into new ideas for activities for next year.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Dan provided a written and verbal report: Fall fundraising campaign is completed and the board met to compile data collected and discuss what went well and what we thought we could improve; compiled a list of members who are willing to assist as ushers, readers and communion servers which will be shared with the Board of Worship; planning for the next Noisy offering in March; started making plans for annual barbecue at the end of April.

Board of Property and Management: Mike provided a written and verbal report: The windows and east walls of the classrooms on the East hallway in the Education with have been insulated; Have been putting insulation in the vents on the north wall of the chapel, put in new lights, cleaned the west wall where there has been leaking and installed plexiglass in the sky lights to reduce cool air coming in; Dan Kirschbaum got the lights in the back section of the sanctuary working.

Board of Youth: Marci provided a written and verbal report: Faith Formation Christmas program and party was well attended; Confirmation class will be caroling on 12/20 and all in the congregation and community are welcome to join – meeting at Salem at 6pm and will have hot chocolate and bars/cookies afterwards; no Faith Formation on 12/24 and 12/31 due to the holidays; Faith Formation will be singing on 3/10 and having a bake sale; 5th grade students and families will have First communion classes on 3/3, 3/10 and 3/24 with First communion on Maundy Thursday on 3/28; working on plans for more activities

for Faith Formation and Confirmation before May; Last day of Faith Formation will be on 4/28 and planning a service project.

Pastoral Care Support: Funeral planning for 1 service at Salem.

Pastor's Report: none

Mike moved to accept board reports, seconded by Dan. All approved.

Old Business:

- A. Call Committee Report – Nothing new to report currently. Call committee plans to get together again in late January early February and will discuss arranging to meet with Bishop Jones.
- B. Capital Project Update – see above Zoom meeting.
- C. 2024 Budget planning – Board chairs need to provide Doug with 2024 budgets before 12/31/2023.
 - Office Administrator Salary – (Marci left the room for this part of the agenda). Shannon presented a favorable review of our Office Administrator and recommend an increase in salary for 2024. Mary moved to increase her salary as recommended, seconded by Sue. All approved. (Marci returned to the meeting).

New Business:

- A. USD Chamber Singers in Lake Mills – David Holdhusen, Director of Choral Activities University of South Dakota is looking for a venue to hold a USD choral concert. There would be 40 choral members that would need housing and a meal beforehand. This concert would be held Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 7:00. Because of the short notice and requirements, Council declined the request, but will offer for future consideration.
- B. Lay Ministry Training for Worship and Ministry Leaders – The Northeast Iowa Synod is requesting support for this program which will be shared with the congregation.
- C. 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda – January 21, 2024 with a meal following by the Council. Shannon reviewed the proposed agenda and meal planning.

- Annual Meeting Board Reports are due to Marci by 12/21/2023.

D. New members – None

E. Transfers/statistical adjustments – Pastor Joel and Nancy Guttormson request transfer to Immanuel in Tower, MN. Doug moved to accept the transfer, seconded by Sue. All approved,.

F. Next meeting will be held Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Mike moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mike. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Haugsdal

Volunteers Needed: The Youth Board is making weekly plans for music, games, crafts & activities, **BUT.....we NEED** your help to make Faith Formation a success. Please consider donating your time to supervise and interact with the children of Salem. No planning, experience or training needed. Just pick a date that works with your schedule and sign up on the bulletin board across from the chapel.

Celebrating Generosity: Thank you for your support of ministry at Salem!

Go Green—Go Paperless by giving in one of the following ways...

-- Give through PayPal or Card by going to the bottom of www.salemlakemills.com

-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for monthly or weekly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to have a form sent to you or stop by the office. We also have forms in the Narthex. Please return forms to the office.

(We are charged a much lower service fee through the Simply Giving Program)



Weather Policy: Just a reminder that the weather may not be as friendly this time of year as this snowman! Should there be an emergency schedule change an announcement will be made via the following: --Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills Facebook page --KIOW Radio 107.3 (Forest City) --KIMT TV Channel 3 Contact Shannon Bruhns at 641-592-5978 / 641-590-1532

EVERYONE IS INVITED DOWNSTAIRS AFTER WORSHIP FOR FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY 1/7

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Judith Wozniak)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

MONDAY 1/8

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

2:00pm-4:00pm Salem's Clothes Closet is OPEN

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN

TUESDAY 1/9

8:30am-10:00am Larson's Retiree Coffee-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 1/10

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

THURSDAY 1/11

6:30pm Church Council-Salem Library

SUNDAY 1/14

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Steve Smith)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

[Annual Meeting](#) is scheduled for 10:00am on Sun. Jan. 21 in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Dates available in 2024: Jan 7, 21, 28. Feb 11, 25. March 10, 17, 24, 31. April 21. May 5. June 9, 16, 30. July 7, 14, 21, 28. Aug 4, 11, 18, 25. Sept 1, 15. Oct 13, 20. Nov 3, 10, 17, 24. Dec 1, 29

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)

Mon: 11am-5pm, Tues: 11am-2pm, Wed-Fri: 11am-5pm

(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)