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# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 1 - 7

### An Invitation to Grace

It is so easy and so tempting to build ourselves up at the expense of others. “I can’t imagine ever doing that.” “How can people live like that?” “Who would do such a thing?” At some point we all think or say these sorts of things. Like it or not, we use these words to comfort ourselves at the expense of others. These words are a reminder that all people stand in need of God’s grace.

Each of this day’s readings shows us this reality. In the parable of the two sons, Jesus invites us to choose between two sons when neither fully does the will of their father. Here Jesus makes the point that we are all equally in need of God’s grace. Ezekiel proclaims God’s invitation, “Turn, then, and live” (Ezek. 18:32). This is an invitation that extends to all people, from a God deeply desiring a loving and life-giving relationship with humanity.

In Philippians, we are reminded of Jesus’ act of grace on the cross, emptying himself, becoming sin so that all creation might be redeemed through him. In response, we discover a vision of the day in which all creation speaks with a unified voice, declaring Jesus Christ is Lord.

This is a day of confession and forgiveness. We confess our need for God, our distance from God, and our failures before God. In response, to our joy, we discover again the grace of God outpoured. All humans are in need of God’s grace; God extends grace to all, and one day we will confess that salvation as one people. All of today’s readings reveal the way in which all humans are equal in the eyes of God.

## THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32



## NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

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

**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:**

Dennis & LuEllen Friesenborg, Lois Fritz, Teresa, Morgan and Mason Fritz, Bryan Frondal, Santos, Rajean and Armani Garcia

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

1-Jadyn Hengesteg

3-Samuel Hagenon

6-Megan Knudtson

2-Knox Ritter

4-Thea Hoffman

7-Peter Hagenon

## -WEEKLY GIVING-

**LAST SUNDAY:** 9/24/23      \$ 1,950

**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 9/28/23      \$ 136,331

**LAST YEAR:** as of 9/28/22      \$ 156,299

**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**      \$ -19,968

## -Last Weeks Attendance-

121

**Start Saving Loose Change:** We will be collecting “noisy offering” during worship **October 1-29** for those who are suffering as a result of the wild fires in Hawaii. Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, these fires have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders. Wildfires are also burning on the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors and will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires. Please pray for the Maui communities impacted by the wildfires. May God's healing presence bring them peace and hope in their time of need and give strength to those working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities.

-The Stewardship Board

**Memorials Given In September:** Darlene Banwart: \$30-Cemetery Board

**Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:** Total received as of 9/28/23 **\$158,882**

All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the “Tuckpointing Project or Steeple Project” when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

**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. Thank you to everyone that is helping to create memories for these children.

**WELCA Church Bazaar:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Manly has invited us to their WELCA church Bazaar on Saturday **October 7th, 8:30am-11:00am**. There will be baked goods/ethnic (lefse), basket/quilt donations, breakfast, crafts, garden goodies, mugs and cookbooks. (428 W. Walnut St.)

**Fall Dinner:** West Prairie Lutheran Church in Leland has invited us to their Fall Dinner on **October 8th, 11:00am-2:00pm**. BBQ Meatballs, Cheesy Potatoes, Southern Green Beans, Dinner Room, Dessert and Beverage. Adults: \$10, Ages 5-10 years old: \$5, Ages 4 and Under: Free

**Women’s Day Away: October 14th** at Ingham Lake Bible Camp, Wallingford IA. Theme: ABIDE Ladies, can you imagine what it would be like if we would ABIDE in Christ at every turn? To truly live with, to make our home with, to spend time with...our Savior! During our time together we will dive into what Jesus has for us when we set aside our own agenda and all the things that distract us! He has a lot...a lot of love, grace, forgiveness, healing, fruit and peace. Enjoy...wonderful sessions and discussion, a banquet meal, worship, time to relax in a beautiful setting and connect with other women! And free time options such as pontoon rides, crafts, nature walks and pampering stations. Speaker: Susan Kliment. \$15 non-refundable deposit. Total cost: \$49. To get a registration form, contact Marci in the office or register online at [www.okoboji.org/register](http://www.okoboji.org/register)

## **Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes--Thurs. Sept. 14, 2023 – 6:30 pm**

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

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

Absent: None

**Secretary's Report:** August council minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

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

Communication and correspondence – Three anonymous donations of \$50 each have been received and \$150 deposited in the general fund.

**Treasurer's Report:** Doug provided a written report.

Total income for August 2023 \$12,069.98 (down 13% compared to last year)

Total Expenses for August 2023 -\$10,694.16 (Income less expense \$1,375.82)

Checking account balance (8/31/2023) \$42,154.51

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (8/31/2023) \$51,064.32

CD's at FTSB (8/31/2023) Reserves \$48,334.93

CD at MBT (8/31/2023) Ness Estate \$26,014.17

**Financial Secretary's report:** Laura provided a verbal and written report.

2023 YTD total offerings (8/28/2023) \$123,903

2022 YTD total offerings (8/28/2022) \$144,662 (this included an anonymous donation)

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

### **Board Reports**

**Enduring Gift Fund** – Reports are due in Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec – Reporting schedule will be amended to schedule reports to the council in the month following the end of the quarter as follows: April (January – March quarter), July (April – June quarter) January (October – December quarter). Shannon reviewed the appropriate use of funds based on the current Salem constitution. Only income from the interest

accrued on the principal can be used as defined in Article 20 Enduring gift fund of the constitution. Also defined in Article 20 Enduring gift fund is for monies requested outside of the accrued interest which must go before the congregational vote and pass with two thirds (2/3) approval.

**Board of Worship and Music:** Mary provided a verbal and written report: Cowboy Church is scheduled for September 24 at 9:00, free will offering to support the Cowboy church ministry will be collected as well as our usual Salem offering; Confirmation students/parents and Pastor Melinda met on 9/13 with board members to go over acolyte training/communion assistance; continue to work on pulpit supply for January – March 2024; Children’s time will return as part of some services now that Faith Formation resumes 9/17; Altar stairway railing is being left up to provide additional support/safety.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a verbal and written report: Food and decorations are lined up for fellowship following Cowboy Church on September 24; Congregational Birthday Party is scheduled for November 5; 2 first graders will be paired with prayer pals.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Dan provided a written and verbal report: Rally Sunday is this Sunday, September 17 with a cookout planned; Doug will provide a quarterly Salem financial report during the cookout; Discussed planning and expectations for Salem Stewardship drive this fall – will be encouraging members to consider a 10% increase in giving for next year; Next round of Noisy offering will be the month of October and will be designated to the Lutheran Disaster Response for Hawaii wildfires.

**Board of Property and Management:** Mike provided a verbal and written report: Continues to make contacts with companies regarding the bell tower; Met on 9/8 with Dean Snyder Construction in Clear Lake and provided blueprints and current bell tower information as well as education wing roofing situation – they will look things over and a visit is scheduled on Monday, 9/18, which will include a structural engineer and scanner to examine our building (there is no charge for the consultation at this time, but consultation would be included if a bid was offered);

contacted Young Construction regarding steeple work which is delayed due to the bell tower and they don't want to do one steeple at a time, we had paid 50% of the bid and Mike is working with them on perhaps a refund until they are ready to do the work (Young construction has purchased the supplies for the work); Looking into Faith Formation rooms and chapel heating issues as well as temperature control for the Food Shelf; Fax line was cancelled and turned out to be the same as the elevator telephone line, this number has been restored; Mike has a quote for insulation in the chapel for \$7,300 for supplies and volunteers doing the work – discussion on this is on hold until we have further information regarding bell tower costs.

**Board of Youth:** Marci provided a verbal and written report: Reviewed events thus far this fall (Confirmation boating/tubing event 8/15 and Blessing of the backpacks 8/20); Rally Sunday is this Sunday, 9/17, and the board will provide games and students will be asked to register with up-to-date information; Signup sheet for volunteers on the bulletin board across from the chapel, needing help with supervision during faith formation; Confirmation Student/parent meeting scheduled for 9/13 with classes starting the following week (classes will be on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the choir room); discussed future events – UNI Lock-in for confirmation students 10/6-7 and 2024 ELCA youth gathering for HS students in July 2024 (information will be mailed to Salem HS students); Bible Sunday will be 10/29 with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 4 year old receiving new bibles (postcards have been mailed out; Faith Formation kids will be singing on 10/22; Trunk or Treat event on 10/29 from 4:30-5:30 – will need volunteers to host trunks for this event; Christmas program rehearsal will be on 12/3 and the program will be 12/10 with a party in the fellowship hall following; No Faith Formation on 11/26, 12/24, 12/31 due to holidays.

**Pastoral Care Support:** Working with Pastor Melinda on Confirmation; Planning for Donald Thompson funeral this Friday, 9/15 with Pastor Melinda officiating; Planning with Pastor Judith for Baptism that took place on Sunday, 9/10.

**Pastor Report:** None

Mike moved to accept Board reports, seconded by Doug. All approved.

## **Old Business:**

- A. Call Committee Report – met with Bishop Jones on Saturday, 9/9, with discussion on preparations for the interview process so that the call committee is ready once they receive a candidate. Shannon reported that the MSP summary document that was approved by the congregation was updated prior to being submitted. The updates were not changes, rather more detailed descriptions to define what Salem is looking for in a pastor for this call. This work was accomplished with the assistance of Pastor Lanny Westphal via Zoom meetings.
- B. Capital Project Phase I and II – Tuckpointing and Steeple repair updates – see Property and Management Board report; Shannon reached out to WCDA for information regarding grant opportunities.
- C. Food Shelf Update – see Property and Management Board report.
- D. Tobacco/Nicotine Free Policy – Laura moved that we adopt the new policy to make Salem both smoke-free as well as nicotine-free (vaping/chewing), seconded by Mary. All approved.

## **New Business:**

- A. New Member Binder – Shannon shared a new member binder and wanted to make all aware.
- B. Nominating Committee – 2024. Shared the list of council and board members that will be ending their terms at the end of 2023 as well as those that have served the term limits defined by the constitution. The nominating committee will be looking for members to fill these positions.
- C. New members – None
- D. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None
- E. Next meeting will be held Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

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

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Haugsdal

# All are invited downstairs after the worship for Fellowship

## **SUNDAY 10/1**

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

4:00pm-7:00pm Visitation-Sanctuary

## **MONDAY 10/2**

1:00pm Visitation-Sanctuary

2:00pm Funeral-Sanctuary

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

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

6:00pm Call Committee Meeting-Salem Library

## **TUESDAY 10/3**

9:30am Miriam Circle-Salem Library

5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting-Salem Library

## **WEDNESDAY 10/4**

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

6:00pm Stewardship Board Meeting-Salem Library

## **THURSDAY 10/5**

9:30am Ruth Circle-Phyllis Moen's Home

9:30am Grace Circle-Salem Library

## **SUNDAY 10/8**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Ken Jensen)

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

**New devotionals** for October/November/December have been placed in the narthex and at the south entrance. Feel free to take one.

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

**Dates available 2023:** Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 31

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771** (Marci) Mon-Fri: 11am-5pm

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