
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 15 - 21

Expensive Wedding. Expensive Grace.

On a recent reality TV show entitled *Wedding Wars*, engaged couples competed for a complete wedding wardrobe. The winning couple received the bride's dress and the groom's tuxedo as well as proper attire for their entire wedding party. The estimated cash value was \$30,000. Getting married is not cheap.

In today's gospel Jesus tells a parable about a wedding invitation, a banquet, and God's grace. Jesus teaches about a king who ultimately invites all people to a wedding banquet. At first this parable seems to portray a wide open and gracious invitation to a wedding celebration. However, by the end it is hard not to feel sorry for the poor guy who gets a last-minute invitation but gets thrown out for not wearing the correct wedding duds! He apparently wasn't a winner on that era's counterpart of that reality TV show! Again, getting married is not cheap—but neither is grace.

Jesus tells this parable as a way of teaching us that receiving God's grace changes people. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer taught, God's grace is not cheap, it comes at a great cost upon the cross. Once we receive this costly grace, our lives are never the same. This grace compels us to act and calls us to bear fruit with our lives. Ultimately we are led to share this grace with others. To continue to live in the same way after receiving this gracious invitation is not an option. So what are we to do? We simply receive the gracious invitation to the banquet and find a changing room—it's time to live a new life.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalms 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Jacob, Chelsey, Stella and Sterling Gonsalez, Curtis & Linda Graham, Gary Heimdal, Dolly and Andrew Gregor, Stephen & Rosalie Greiman, Alexandra Groe and Alexander Teig

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

15-Denis White

18-Bradly Helgeson

19-Kayler Jensen

17-Austin Henderson

18-Adelyn Brackey

21-David Groe

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST 2 SUNDAYS TOGETHER: \$ 11,368

YEAR-TO-DATE: 10/11/23 \$ 147,699

LAST YEAR: as of 10/11/22 \$ 164,420

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -16,721

-Last Weeks Attendance-

72

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 10/9/23 **\$159,207**

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

Noisy Offering will be collected until **Oct. 29th** for those who are suffering as a result of the wildfires in Hawaii. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors and will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires. Please pray for those 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

Trunk or Treat: The Youth Board is hosting Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 29th; 4:30pm-5:30pm on the west side of Salem. Everyone is welcome! To host a trunk, sign up in the Narthex, across from the Chapel, or call the office.

Congregational Birthday Party: The Board of Life and Growth invites everyone to a Congregational Birthday Party on November 5th in the Fellowship Hall, right after worship. This is to honor all of our members birthdays! There will be a table for each month, sit at the table of your birth month. There will be birthday games and prizes too! Everyone is welcome! It will be fun for all ages!

This years congregational birthday party will also be an opportunity to help our local food bank. They are in need of items to fill holiday bags with groceries for families in need. A free will donation of cash or non-perishable food items will be collected at the birthday party. This is optional and not required to attend the party. Items in high need are: canned vegetables, canned pasta meals, stuffing mix, mac & cheese, cream soups, cold cereal, pancake mix & syrup, brownie, cake & cookie mixes.

Volunteers: The Board of Life and Growth is asking for volunteers to decorate tables/make center pieces for the Congregational Birthday Party. Pick a month and sign up in the Narthex. All decorations/centerpieces need to be on the tables before worship on November 5th. Thank you!

Operation Christmas Child Project: The Board of Life & Growth will be collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for the Operation Christmas Child Project. There are brochures in the Narthex with information, instructions and labels. If you don't have time to pack a box, you can build a box online! All you have to do is go to their website, visit samaritanspurse.org/buildonline or scan the QR code in the brochure to make your donation online, pick what you want in your box and the Samaritan's Purse will do the rest! *The Samaritan's Purse has collected shoeboxes for children around the world since 1993, more than 188 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.* All boxes need to be turned into the church office by November 19th. If no one is in the office, please leave them by the door.

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

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

All are invited downstairs after the worship for Fellowship

SUNDAY 10/15

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am 3rd Grade Bible Class-Lounge

MONDAY 10/16

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

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

6:30pm Quilt Club-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY 10/18

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

THURSDAY 10/19

2:00pm WELCA-Lounge

4:00pm Life & Growth Board Meeting-Salem Library

SUNDAY 10/22

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am 3rd Grade Bible Class-Lounge

10:45am Youth Board Meeting-Salem Library

Baked Goods: The Youth Board is looking for donations of cookies, bars or snack mix that can be served at the Trunk or Treat event on October 29th. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office if you would be willing to help. Then drop them off in the lounge by 2pm on October 29th. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed: If you would be willing to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, please call the office. 641-592-1771. Thank you!

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)