
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 27 – November 2

Restored by Grace

The word for today is *restoration*. Both the Old Testament reading and the psalm speak of God's restoration of the people of Israel, gathering them from sorrowful exile into joyful community. The gospel tells the story of Jesus healing Bartimaeus, restoring his sight in response to his faith. Today we do not have the same understanding of "clean" and "unclean" people; however, those who are sick still need restoration. There are people who are hospitalized for extended periods of time who need to be restored to the community. There are folks in nursing homes who long for the connections they once had to a worshiping community. There are people in prison who are cut off. There are even people who have been hurt or disappointed by the church who need restoration.

This same Jesus, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us, is our great high priest who continually restores us to right relationship with God. This hope of restoration is echoed in the reading from Jeremiah. Here God promises to gather and restore the people of Israel from their exile.

This promise of restoration is acted out through worship. Much of what happens in worship is concerned with restoration. In the word, in the meal, in confession and forgiveness, we are restored to wholeness (and *holiness*) with God and with one another. In the sharing of the peace we act out the restoration and reconciliation we all need. In the Lord's Prayer we ask, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." What is this if not a plea for restoration? This restoration is not through our own merit, but through the love of Christ and the faith we have been given.

Prayer Pen Pals: The Board of Life & Growth is seeking Prayer Pen Pals for 1st graders. This includes sending a letter to a 1st grader and keeping them in your prayers. If you would be willing to do this, please sign up in the Narthex.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Psalm 119:1-8
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Scott, Lori and Madison Westcott, Daniel, Denise, Danielle, Dakota and Danika White, Hazel Willert, Jeffrey Willert and Patty Jo Sanderson, Tracy Willert

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

27-Bryce Budach

28-Emma Hoffman

30-Tiffani Linquist

27-Klye Helgeson

29-Joe Jamtgaard

31-Cody Cox

27-Samantha Jamtgaard

30-Madison Shifflett

1-Faith Cox

2-Beverly Mannes

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAYS: 10/20/24:

No update this

Last Weeks Attendance

YEAR-TO-DATE: 10/20/24:

week due to the

92

LAST YEAR: as of 10/20/23:

financial secretary

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:

being unavailable

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 10/2/24 **\$166,687**

Total available balance as of 9/30/24 **\$59,949.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Steeple Project" in the memo when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

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)

Guest Book: If you are visiting Salem today, we welcome you and invite you to sign our guest book, located in the Narthex, and we hope to see you again!

Trunk or Treat: The Youth Board is hosting a Trunk or Treat event, this Sunday, Oct. 27th; 4:30pm-6:00pm. Please consider hosting a trunk! The more we have participating, the more fun it is for everyone! Please sign up in the Narthex if you will host a trunk. Come early and set up on the East side of Salem.

Goodies: The Youth Board is asking for donations of bars/cookies for the Trunk or Treat event, this Sunday, Oct. 27th. If you are willing to donate some goodies, please sign up in the Narthex and have them in the lounge by 3:30pm, Oct. 27.

Noisy Offering: The Stewardship & Board has decided to support ELCA World Hunger, for this sessions Noisy Offering. We will be running our Noisy Offering campaign until Nov. 3rd. Containers are in the Narthex. Hunger facts: *More than 820 million people, or about 11 % of the world's population, are hungry. *According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population. *At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from. *39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017.

Faith Formation Volunteers Needed: The Youth Board is making weekly plans for music, activities, games and crafts, BUT...we need YOUR HELP to make this year a success! Please consider donating your time to supervise and interact with our children. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin across from the chapel. No planning or experience necessary, a youth board member will be leading.

Many Thanks to all that contributed and made our fall Lutheran Relief shipment great. Wayne for loading and Steve for delivering our offerings to Albert lea on the 11th and 12th, was much appreciated. We sent 100 quilts, 93 school kits, and 24 baby care kits. Lutheran World Relief is now delivering these offerings to our country, in areas of need—the Rockies and Carolinas. 15 quilts will be delivered to Mason City's Salvation Army for those in need.

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 10, 2024 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Delane Behr, Doug Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Mary Peterson, Dan Rice, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Laura Gardner, Marci Prescott, Mike Swenson.

Guests: Kari Osheim, Paul Oppedahl and Erik Samuelson via Zoom.

Kari Osheim shared perspectives as a young family at Salem and the struggle they have experienced since the vote failed to allow for the marriage of Derek Harmon and Jesus Gonzales in 2019, as well as the recent devastating death of Derek. Kari reflected on the positive, traditional faith experience she had as a child, adolescent and young adult at Salem; noting feelings of regret, shame and disappointment for this as she has grown to understand that this same experience is not available to all. While their first child was baptized at a Salem service, she and Jerod chose to have private baptisms for this second and third children because it seemed that having the congregation say “We welcome you into the Lord’s family” could end up being untrue later in their life, they may indeed not be welcome to be part of the family anymore. To be truly welcomed is to feel safe, even without fitting a desired mold. She challenged the council to consider the posture Salem takes going forward. Salem can either become a safe place where individuals can be who they are within the community of the faithful or Salem can continue to push people away. Kari closed with her intention to promote advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community and mental health through a community educational opportunity through the Trevor Project, a leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention nonprofit organization for LGBTQ+ young people. She welcomes Salem participation if interested.

Zoom meeting: Transition coaches, Paul Oppedahl and Erik Samuelson, presented a proposal to provide coaching services at Salem. They reviewed the proposal, shared examples of previous positive experiences with other

congregations and engaged with council member questions. This coaching process with the call committee at Salem is designed to help clarify present challenges and opportunities, identify actionable next steps, update the MSP as appropriate and offer support to Salem during the current prolonged call process.

Shannon opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

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

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

Communication and correspondence – One anonymous donation of \$50 was received and deposited in the general fund.

Treasurer's Report: Doug provided a written report.

Total income for September 2024 \$16,782.52

Total Expenses for September 2024 \$10,360.43 (Income less expense \$6,422.09)

Checking account balance (9/30/2024) \$80,606.10

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (9/30/2024) \$53,544.32

CD's at FTSB (9/30/2024) Reserves \$48,334.93

CD at MBT (9/30/2024) Ness Estate \$26,014.17

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

2024 YTD total offerings (10/01/2024) \$147,171

2023 YTD total offerings (10/01/2023) \$142,053

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

Board Reports

Enduring Gift Fund – Third quarter report (July/Aug/Sept) will be due in November based on reporting schedule.

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a verbal report: No meeting in the last month.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a written and verbal report: Participated in the Fall Festival in Oakwood Park; Lyle has begun plans on the Nativity Scene in the Narthex; Plan to help out with the Trunk or Treat event; will be sending postcards to members about upcoming Advent events in early November; there are 2 first graders looking for prayer pen pals; looking ahead to planning for 2025.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: No report.

Board of Property and Management: Mike was not present, a written report was provided: Heating and A/C will need to be approved for the east wing of the education unit, there is a bid received from Kirschbaum for \$35,000 – at this time over half of the cost has been committed to pay for this project; Midwest Roofing has been here and did the repairs on the Education flat roof; the ceiling in the Chapel can now be repaired; Still waiting for Young Construction to shingle the south steeple – have talked to them about a firm date; North sink in the kitchen is being repaired – there was a leak and waiting for a part to finish repairs.

Delane requested a vote on the Kirschbaum Heating and A/C bid. The Bid and a vote will need to be addressed at the next meeting as it was not on the agenda for this meeting. Shannon requested that Mike, as board chair, be in attendance for Council members to have the opportunity to ask questions, understand for pledged funding and to address additional funding.

Board of Youth: Marci was not present, a written report was provided: Faith Formation is going well, but need more volunteers; 3rd grade students will have bible class on October 13 & 20 – they will receive new bibles on Bible Sunday (October 27) as well as 4 year olds; Will host a Trunk or Treat event on the east side of Salem – there are sign up sheets for people to host trunks and donate goodies for that event; Faith Formation Christmas program is on December 15 and Christmas Caroling on December 18.

Pastoral Care Support: Funeral services have been held at Salem with support of area Pastors.

Pastor Report: None

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

Old Business:

A. Call Committee Report

a. Coaching Program – Council discussed the coaching proposal which would involve 6 individual coaching sessions and 3 group sessions (primarily with call committee members). Council discussed potential benefits to Salem during the continued call process with this support and guidance. It would show that Salem is motivated and willing to take additional actions to attract a new Pastor. Other comments shared the potential for no added benefit to Salem. The cost of \$3000 would not appropriately come from the Call process budget, however, there is money available through Thrivent funds that would cover most of the fee. Sue moved that we approve the proposal for coaching services with Erik and Paul to work with the call committee, seconded by Cindy. A verbal vote of 5 members in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed.

B. Capital Project Update - see Property and Management report.

- a. Midwest Roofing/Roof repair – see Property and Management report.
- b. Chapel Ceiling repair – see Property and Management report.
- c. Bell Tower repair/removal project – no update.

C. Stewardship Drive Update – Sharing Gifts/Time and Talent surveys will be mailed to all members; Stewardship video will be shown on November 10, Stewardship Sunday will be November 17 with Pastor Liz Bell from the synod preaching.

New Business:

A. 2025 Budget Planning – Doug is working on the proposed 2025 budget and will present at the November meeting.

B. 2025 Annual Meeting

- January 19 – Fellowship Hall/Coffee fellowship or meal to follow

C. New members – None

D. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None.

E. Next meeting will be held Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Mary 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

[Live Stream Sponsorship: Dates available in 2024: Nov 24. Dec 29.](#)

[Dates available 2025: Jan 5, 19, 26, Feb 9, 16, 23, March 9, 16, 23, 30, May 4, June 8, 15, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept 14, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Dec 7, 28. Cost is \\$40. Call the office to sponsor.](#)

ALL ARE INVITED FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY 10/27

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

4:30pm-6:00pm Trunk or Treat Community Event (East side of Salem)

MONDAY 10/28

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

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

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

TUESDAY 10/29

6:00pm-8:00pm Enduring Gift Fund Meeting-Library

WEDNESDAY 10/30

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

SUNDAY 11/3

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (All Saint's Sunday) (Pastor Judy Wozniak)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel