

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 30 – November 7

Not Ashamed

In many congregations, Reformation Sunday is treated as a sort of “Lutheran heritage” day, a time for singing chorales and remembering the theological reforms of the sixteenth century that gave birth to Lutheranism. In other parishes, a greater focus is placed on the church’s need for continual reform; the church’s history is secondary to an emphasis on the issues and needs of the church today. Both approaches have much to commend them.

But the true center of this day is found in the appointed readings. In Jeremiah we are reminded of a new covenant and the promise that God will forgive, the promise written on our hearts. In Romans Paul brings the full force of the law to bear on our lives: “since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). With this reality, how can we have any hope apart from divine grace? Finally, in the gospel reading from John we are reminded that our freedom comes from Christ alone. We are neither bound to the past nor slaves to our anxieties of the present.

Psalm 46 brings all of this together with the powerful proclamation: “God is our refuge and strength.” The God we know in the person of Jesus is the one we can turn to in times of crisis, the one we call upon in times of fear, the one we trust to pour out mercy and forgiveness upon us. This Jesus is our solid foundation. In a world of chaos, confusion, and change there is a constant: the enduring and life-giving grace of God.

On Reformation Sunday—as every Sunday—we remember that we are not ashamed of this good news, this gospel.

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

During this time of social distancing, there are several ways to continue your giving.

-- By mail.

-- By "Simply Giving"- Sign up for weekly or monthly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to get a form.

-- By PayPal- Go to our website home page (www.salemlakemills.com) and scroll to the bottom left- there is a Donate button. Click on that and it will take you to a PayPal or credit card donation page.

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 10/24/21	\$ 3,292
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 10/25/21	\$ 187,316
LAST YEAR: as of 10/25/20	\$ 182,641
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ 4,675

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

I will write my law in their hearts, says the LORD

[Psalm 46](#)

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

[Romans 3:19-28](#)

Justified by God's grace as a gift

[John 8:31-36](#)

Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

[1 Kings 17:8-16](#)

God feeds Elijah and the widow at Zarephath

[Psalm 146](#)

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

[Hebrews 9:24-28](#)

The once for all sacrifice of Christ

[Mark 12:38-44](#)

A widow's generosity reveals the hypocrisy of the scribes

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer. We ask that you also remember them in your daily prayers.

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Kristi Comstock

Mark & Diane Cooley

Cox Family (Cory, Tracy, Cassidy, Faith, Cody)

Crail Family (Zach, Amber, Faith)

Jackolyn Cummins & Allison Kopp

Suggested Best Practices for Salem Members

As we continue to experience community spread of Covid-19 and we enter flu season please keep in mind the following recommendations and best practices to protect yourself and others while worshipping here at Salem:

- Monitor your own health – If you are not feeling well or have had a possible exposure to Covid-19, please stay home.
- Wash your hands often, hand sanitizer is available at the west entry doors and in the Narthex. Sharing the peace without contact is preferred and safer for all.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Masking is optional for those who have been vaccinated. Masking is strongly recommended for those not vaccinated. Show respect for all members who choose to wear a mask. Masks are available at the west entry doors and in the Narthex.
- Maintaining distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household provides you better protection from those without symptoms that could spread the virus.

Mission Quilters 2021 Totals Given to Lutheran World Relief: 258 quilts, 75 baby care kits, 94 care kits and 127 health kits. 64 quilts were given to Salvation Army in Mason City and 2 quilts were given locally. Thanks for items given, money, time given and drivers to get them to the gathering spots.

Card Shower: Lloyd Okland will celebrate his 95th birthday on November 9th. If you would like to send him a card, his address is listed below.

Lake Mills Care Center, Room 26
406 S. 10th Ave E. Lake Mills, IA 50450

Barbra Tweed's family would like everyone to know that she is now living at the Concord Care Center in Garner Iowa.

God's Work Our Hands: Please join the Faith Formation & Confirmation Students in using our hands to serve the community. We will be doing town and roadside clean up after church on Sunday, October 31st; 10:00am-11:30am. Lunch will follow at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall (soup and hotdogs). If you would like to help the Faith Formation students in town, meet them in the Chapel after church. If you would like to help the Confirmation students on the roadside, meet them in the Choir room after church.

Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast: Come have breakfast! It's on Pastor Joel! The next Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, November 12th; 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 10:00am, whichever comes sooner. Breakfast is free. Donations collected will go towards camp scholarships, retreat and the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Ila Grothe: The family of Ila Grothe is asking for prayers. Ila just had a pacemaker put in and they wanted to replace her aortic valve, but she's been losing blood so she needed a transfusion. Then they discovered a lot of blockages and wanted to do a TAVR. Now they found out she has cancer in her liver and lungs. If you would like to send a card to Ila, please send it to the address below.

604 S Mill St
Lake Mills, IA. 50450

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

2022 ELCA Youth Gathering Registration for the gathering in Minneapolis, MN July 24-28, 2022 is now open. Salem along with One In Christ are excited to take youth to this amazing event. Students that have completed 9th grade in 2022 are invited to attend the gathering. We are trying to gather interest numbers to start the planning process should there be enough interest. Please contact the office (641.592.1771) if you have a student interested in attending. This is not a commitment, but just seeing if there is interest. An informational meeting giving more information about the event, fundraising, etc. will be held if there is enough interested in attending.

Volunteers Needed: The Board of Worship and Music is looking for volunteers. If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read, sing in the liturgical choir or would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, please contact Heather at 641-909-4050 or write it on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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. It's fun to go shopping and pack a box with gifts for a child, but you don't have time for that, you can even build a box online! All you have to do is go to their website, samaritanspurse.org/buildonline or scan the QR code in the brochure, 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 shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items 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 at the church by **November 14th.**



Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 14, 2021 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Heather Mannes, Sondra Nelson, Al Skellenger, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal.

Members absent: Scott Hagenon

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

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

Drake moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Sondra, all approved.

Communication and correspondence - none

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

Total income for September 2021 \$17,255.02

Total Expenses for September 2021 \$19,681.14 (-\$2,426.12)

Checking account balance (9/30/2021) \$25,137.51

Building Fund balance (9/30/2021) \$181.36

CD's at FTSB (9/30/2021) Reserves \$26,014.17/Ness Estate \$10,526.47

CD at MBT (9/30/2021) Ness Estate \$52,176.00 (previously two CD's – now combined)

Financial Secretary's report: Sondra provided a written report

2021 YTD total offerings (9/28/2021) \$168,690

2020 YTD total offerings (9/28/2020) \$166,530

Noisey offering collected 9/26-10/10/2021 amounted to \$81.94 for Lutheran Disaster Response.

Sue moved to accept treasurer and financial reports, seconded by Heather. All approved.

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music: Heather provided a written/verbal report. Saturday evening service attendance was discussed, averaging 6-10 people attending; looking into the condition of computer used for screens and music/had trouble last Sunday; Special music planned for October 31 service, theme is "God's Work, Our Hands";

working on Advent services; always looking for members to sign up to help with worship and thank those who have already been helping!

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a written/verbal report. Samaritan's Purse/Operations Christmas Child fliers are out; offering support for serving the lunch on Sunday, October 31; creating a "suggestion list" for ways to serve/give/share with others; making plans for giving tree gifts for kids in need; working on Advent preparations; considering a birthday list of members.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Al provided a verbal report. Stewardship education will include a video about Lutheran Disaster response on 10/24/2021. Noisy offering for Lutheran Disaster relief – Hurricane Ida will continue through 10/24/2021.

Board of Property and Management: Scott provided a written report. Cemetery board approved taking out another CD with remaining funds from the building fund (heating/AC fund); 7 stones at Salem Sunnyside cemetery were repaired at a cost of \$2,443.50; oak trees trimmed at Salem Lutheran cemetery; LM Pump will be handling the snow removal for this winter.

Board of Youth: Jen and Marci provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Enduring Gift Fund provided financial assistance to pay the Ingham-Okoboji summer camp staff (funding from usual supporters was not available this year); made the decision to discontinue summer day camp due to lack of attendance and support; children's bulletins are available at worship services; Service project for "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, 10/31/2021 is being organized for faith formation and confirmation kids as well as welcoming all members of Salem to participate in cleaning ditches around town followed by a chicken noodle soup and hot dog meal in the fellowship hall; looking for volunteers to donate bars for the meal; 3rd graders class to prepare them for receiving new Bibles will be on 10/31/2021; 4 year olds will also receive Bibles; Faith formation will be singing at services on 10/31/2021; Christmas Program has been selected and will take place on 12/12/2021 at the 9:00 am service.

Pastor Reports – Complete Pastor reports are available for review in the church office.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel shared a written report that included Pastoral acts in September and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- Community Day Camp – discussed plans not to host summer day camp next year.
- Child Protection Policy – Reviewed Commitment statement from our Synod at the 2021 Assembly on Child protection; discussion on need for Salem to continue process of educating staff and congregation on this important topic and develop a Salem policy.
- 8th grade Washington DC Trip – Pastor will be attending this trip as chaperone for Chike Ikefuama 3/19/2022 – 3/26/2021.
- ELCA youth gathering is in Minneapolis, 7/24-7/28/2022 – Winnebago will be having an interest meeting on 10/17/2021 at 4:00 pm. Pastor will not be attending this gathering due to a prior family commitment.

Sue moved to approve board/pastor reports. Heather seconded the motion. All approved.

Old Business:

- A. Covid Management Review – Shannon advised regarding status and recommendations by executive Council for Covid practices at Salem. Discussion will continue at Altar Guild regarding communion kits vs disposable cups with bread offered with tongs. General reminders for everyone's safety will be included in bulletin weekly.
- B. Portico 2022 Annual Enrollment – Annual enrollment in Portico (health insurance plan for Pastor Joe/Nancy) is due in October. Shannon and Drake explained that the Synod has now recommended the Silver plan with a few options for HSA with and without congregational contribution. This would be a change to current Gold plan coverage. Following plan guidelines, the Executive Council recommends changing enrollment from the Gold plan to the Silver plan with HSA contribution (\$1800 up front). Pastor Joel supports and agreed to this change. Savings to the congregation will be about \$1000 for the year. Al moved to make the change – Marci seconded the motion. All approved.

New Business:

- A. Budget Reporting – Shannon reported that she and Drake are working on looking through financial reports and trying to clarify accounting processes.
- B. Saturday Worship service – The Executive Council has reviewed attendance numbers, which includes a core group of members. Shannon contacted some of these members to poll how they would feel if the Saturday service was not held.

Other discussion included the radio broadcast and Sunday service time. Pastor Joel is supportive of continuing the Saturday service. The Executive Council is recommending that we continue the Saturday services. After group discussion, the Saturday service will continue and be re-evaluated in 6 months (April 2022).

C. 2022 Annual Meeting

- a. Sunday, January 23, 2022 with a make-up date of January 30, 2022
- b. Nominating Committee – open Council/Board positions need to be identified.

D. Other New Business – None

E. New members – none

F. Transfers/statistical adjustments

- a. Sarah (Gudmonson) Roelfs and London
- b. Kjerstin (Back) Hulke and Morgan

Marci moved to approve statistical adjustments; Al seconded the motion. All approved.

G. Next meeting Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Sue moved the meeting be adjourned. Sondra seconded the motion. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal





Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin

God picks you from the patch and
brings you in. (John 15:16)

Then washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all the
yucky stuff. He removes the seeds
of doubt, hate, greed, etc.
(Romans 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling
face. (Psalm 71:23)

And He puts His light inside you to
shine for all the world to see.
(Matthew 5:16)

Happy Home Fairy

Radio Sponsorship: Reserve your special date to sponsor an 8:30am radio broadcast. The service is heard on KLOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City and on cable channel 2.

This year has quickly filled with sponsorship and only a few dates are still available. Don't miss your chance to sponsor a radio broadcast this year.

Cost is \$83. CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR DATE. 641.592.1771

2021 RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

Nov. 7, Nov. 14, Dec. 5, Dec. 12

2022 RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

Jan. 2, Jan. 16, Feb. 10, Feb. 20, March 13, March 27, April 3, April 24, May 1, May 8, May 22, June 12, July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, Aug. 7, Aug. 14, Aug. 21, Sept. 4, Sept. 18, Oct. 9, Oct. 16, Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 25

We also have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the worship service. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday.

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Monday: Off, but on-call

Tuesday: Off, but on-call (2:30pm Pastors Text Study, 5:30pm Altar Guild)

Wednesday: Noon-8:00pm (10am Bible Study, 6:30pm Stewardship Meeting)

Thursday: Noon-8pm (6:30pm Church Council Meeting)

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

Saturday: Noon-8pm (5:30pm Worship Service)

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

Secretary

Marci Adeogun

Mon-Thurs: 10am-5pm

Friday: 10am-4pm

Sat-Sun: Off

SATURDAY 10/30

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 10/31

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (3rd Graders & 4 year olds receive Bibles, Kids Sing)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am-11:30am Faith Formation-Chapel (God's Work Our Hands Service Project)

10:00am-11:30am Confirmation-Choir Room (God's Work Our Hands Service Project)

11:30am Chicken Noodle Soup and Hotdog Lunch after the service project

MONDAY 11/1

2:00pm Sons of Norway-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is Open(Call 641-592-5085 to schedule alternate time by appt.)

TUESDAY 11/2

9:30am Miriam Circle-Library

5:30pm Altar Guild-Library

WEDNESDAY 11/3

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

3:15pm Juniors-Preschool Room

6:30pm Stewardship Meeting

THURSDAY 11/4

9:30am Sarah Circle-Sharon Johnson's home

9:30am Ruth Circle-Janice Colby's home

9:30am Grace Circle-Library

3:15pm Cadettes-Preschool Room

6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY 11/6

9am-2pm Private Party-Fellowship Hall

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 11/7

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am-10:45am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am Confirmation-Choir Room