
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 19 - 25

Awake to the Grace of God

Linked with the reading from 1 Thessalonians and Psalm 90, Jesus' parable of the talents invites a full-hearted response to God's lavish gifts of faith and purpose: "Use 'em if you've got 'em!" The people of God are meant to be engaged, alert, and ready to share what we have received from our prodigally (wastefully) generous God. While the parable has sometimes been interpreted in the context of judgment, a careful reading also spotlights the beauty of the faith-generated response to God's lavish grace.

One word for this is *stewardship*. Presented in light of God's gift of faith and purpose, this "churchy" term can today be transformed to new understanding in the proclamation of the gospel text. Instead of the weight of obligation and duty we so often associate with religion, we are invited today to another way: What does it mean to be awake to the grace of God?

On the surface Jesus' parable is a simple premise: the contrast of workers who please and workers who disappoint their master. Psalm 90 sings to us to carefully treasure our lifetimes, for there is something at stake. First Thessalonians is a letter reminding people they have exactly what they need to survive and thrive.

What does it mean to be awake to the grace of God?

In a time in history when so many people are discouraged with work, home, life, and church, a word from Jesus' parables may be healing, enriching, and startlingly attractive. The gospel text today is an opportunity to remind the people of God that there is a depth to faith that is sustainable. In fact, beneath the parables of Jesus is a depth it will take a lifetime to unpack.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: David & Annette Hanson, Eugene, Julie and Joshua Hanson, Kathleen & Kevin Hanson, Raymond Harang, Gary, Donna, Matthew and Merrick Harang

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

20-Justin Benjegerdes

23-Marci Adeogun

24-Levi Dahle

20-Ashley Linquist

23-Mark Smeby

25-Taryn Wempen

21-Alan Skellenger

23-Weston Helgeson

25-Kaitlyn Anderson

22-Jayce Roy

24-Kari Osheim

25-Calvin Nelson

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 11/12/23: \$ 5,255

YEAR-TO-DATE: 11/15/23 \$ 167,637

LAST YEAR: as of 11/15/22 \$ 182,536

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -14,899

-Last Weeks Attendance-

85

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 11/15/23 **\$160,217**

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

Hanging Of The Greens will be on December 2nd. Anyone willing to help, please mark your calendars. (start time to be determined, watch for updates)

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

Dates available 2023: Dec. 31 **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 6, 13, 20. Nov 3, 10, 17, 24. Dec 1, 29

Free Community Thanksgiving Meal will be served on **Thursday, Nov. 23rd, 11:00am-12:30pm** at Asbury United Methodist Church (107 E. Main St. Lake Mills). Meals may be eaten in the fellowship hall or picked up on the east side of the church (North Grant) Menu: Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, vegetable, roll, pumpkin pie. Meals will be in pre-packaged individual containers. People are encouraged to request the number of meals needed ahead of time by calling 641-592-5742 or 641-592-3389 by Monday, November 20th.

Christmas Program: Faith Formation will present their Christmas Program on December 10th during the 9:00am service with a Birthday Party for Jesus in the Fellowship Hall after the program. Everyone is Welcome!

Christmas Caroling: Please join the Salem Confirmation Students for Christmas Caroling. It's fun to share Christmas cheer with others and as always, the more the merrier! Everyone is welcome and invited to join in. Lyrics will be provided. We will meet at 6:00pm on Wed., Dec. 20th, in the Fellowship Hall and then carpool to the care center, assisted living and other community members' homes. Dress warm and bring a flashlight if you have one. After caroling we will gather for hot chocolate & bars in the Fellowship Hall. If you know of someone needing some Christmas cheer, call the office and let Marci know. 592-1771

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.

ALL ARE INVITED DOWNSTAIRS FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE SERVICE

SUNDAY 11/19

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

MONDAY 11/20

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

TUESDAY 11/21

5:45pm Worship & Music Board Meeting-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 11/22

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

SUNDAY 11/26

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

LAKE MILLS CLOTHES FOR KIDS 2023: *Let's clothe OUR children. Donations will be distributed throughout the Lake Mills Community School District to children ages birth to 18. Pick a Christmas Tag (with a child's needs/sizes on it) from the electronic sign-up (tinyurl.com/LMClothesForKids) or from the tree at Salem. Both electronic and physical tags will be available starting Nov. 19th. Purchase the items on the child's tag, wrap in one box, attach the original tag to the gift, and deliver them to the Salem office by **Sun. Dec. 10th**. Once again, this year each child's requests have been divided into two tags. One for clothing and the other for shoes and socks. This is an effort to keep costs affordable for the givers and be able to provide for the child's needs. Monetary donations are accepted at FTS Bank and MBT Bank in Lake Mills or send to the LMCS Nurse's Office, 102 S 4th Avenue East, Lake Mills. Questions: LMClothesForKids@gmail.com*

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)

Mon-Tues: 11am-5pm, Wed: 11am-3pm, Thurs-CLOSED, Fri: 11am-2pm

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