

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 11 – December 19

No More Business as Usual

Lutherans looking for gospel may hear John the Baptizer's preaching as primarily law. It can be difficult to reconcile his fire-and-brimstone style with the joy that traditionally belongs to the third Sunday of Advent. Yet despite John's harsh words for the crowds, the people seem eager for his teaching—"What then should we do?" They keep asking questions fervently, even when the answers call them to higher expectations of moral and selfless living.

It's the kind of teaching that people associate with the Messiah: good news that business as usual is on the way out and something new is on its way in. The status quo of greed, selfishness, scarcity, and complacency no longer has power. A new day of mutual sharing and justice is almost here. Images of the winnowing fork and the ax at the root of the tree suggest clearing out old habits and fears to make room for something new. In calling people to repentance, John invites them to turn away from the old life and turning toward God's new life.

John has even better news: The Messiah is indeed coming, one who will not only call people to high expectations, but also enable that faithful living. Because the Messiah is coming to baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire," life will never be the same. Through baptism business as usual will be replaced by a fruit-bearing, joy-yielding, grace-filled relationship with God. It's an excellent reason to "rejoice always" (1 Thess. 5:16): The Lord is near!

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: 12/5/21	\$ 4,137
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 12/6/21	\$ 215,234
LAST YEAR: as of 12/6/20	\$ 218,757
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -3,523

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst

Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice, the Lord is near

Luke 3:7-18

One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Micah 5:2-5a

From Bethlehem comes a ruler

Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

Hebrews 10:5-10

I have come to do your will

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Blessed are you among women / My soul magnifies the Lord

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:

Cynthia and Laura Fjelstad
 Glenavonne Fjelstad
 Morgan Fjelstad
 Roger & Dorothy Fjelstad
 Fjelstad Family (Ryan, Matthew, Andrew)

This week the following members will be celebrating their birthdays and we would like to wish them a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

12- Brooklyn Abrams	14-Dennis Rognes	17-Caleb Angel
12-Lori Smeby	16-Margaret Okland	18-Julie Helgeson
14-Ciera Askildson	16-Mark Odom	18-Linda Kane

If you have an upcoming birthday and want it to be listed, please call the office to make sure we have your birthday in our records. 641.592.1771

Memorials Given in November:

Martin & Mabel Lande	General Fund-\$250
Betty Colby	General Fund-\$20
Betty Peterson	General Fund-\$220
Michael Gardner	Youth -\$500
Clarine Moe	Organ Maintenance-\$100, General Fund-\$250 Music-\$110, Youth-\$360, Cemetery-\$25, WELCA-\$30

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.

Toys for Tots: There is a donation box across from the Chapel if anyone would like to make a donation. Toys are to be new and unwrapped. The last day to donate will be Sunday, December 12th.

Birthday Party for Jesus: The Board of Youth and Education invites you to a Birthday Party for Jesus in the fellowship hall following the Christmas Program on December 12th. (There will be no faith formation or confirmation on this day)

WECLA will meet on Thursday, December 16th at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Joel will lead the Bible Study from the Gather Magazine.

Christmas Caroling: The Board of Youth would like to invite all Salem members and non-members to join them for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 19th. Everyone will meet in the Lounge at 4:30pm and then carpool together to go Christmas Caroling. Dress warm and bring a light to see the sheet music.

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.

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

Christmas Eve Service & Communion Kits: Salem will have one Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM on December 24, 2021. It will be live-streamed as well and posted on YouTube for later viewing. The Service will be rebroadcast on Sunday, December 26 on KIOW Radio and Channel Two.

For those who are worshipping with us online communion packets can be made for your household. Please notify the office to let us know how many communion packets you would like for your household by Friday, December 17. The communion kits will be prepared and placed on the table in the first Sunday school room at the south, fourth avenue entry. They can be picked up during the office hours 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Tuesday, December 21 and Wednesday, December 22. In town delivery can be arranged if needed. We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior and worshipping together as a community however that may be.

Operation Clothes for Kids: 12th Annual Operation. Let's clothe our Children! Donations will be distributed throughout the Lake Mills Community School District ages birth to 18.

- Purchase the items on the child's tag, wrap in one box, attach the original tag to the gift and deliver/return them by Sunday **December 12th**. Feel free to team up and share costs.
- Cash donations are accepted at the banks or send to LMCS Nurse's office, 102 S. 4th Ave East, Lake Mills IA 50450. Make checks payable to LMCS Clothes for Kids. Questions: LMClothesForKids@gmail.com



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

Radio sponsorship costs \$83. Call the office to reserve your date. 641.592.1771
(Live Internet Broadcast Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday)

2022 RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

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



Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Monday: Off, but on-call

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

Wednesday: Noon-8:00pm (10am Bible Study)

Thursday: Noon-8pm (2pm WELCA meeting, 4pm Board of Life & Growth Meeting)

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

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

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

Secretary

Marci Adeogun

Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm

Fri 10am-4pm

Sat-Sun: Off

SATURDAY 12/11

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 12/12

9:00am Faith Formation Christmas Program-Sanctuary

10:00am Birthday Party for Jesus-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 12/13

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

2:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is Open

(Call 641-592-5085 to schedule alternate time by appt.)

TUESDAY 12/14

10:00am Caregivers Support Group-Lounge

WEDNESDAY 12/15

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

3:15pm Juniors (Christmas Party)-Preschool Room

7:00pm Choir Practice-Choir Room

THURSDAY 12/16

2:00pm WELCA-Fellowship Hall

3:15pm Cadettes (Christmas Party)-Preschool Room

4:00pm Board of Life & Growth Meeting-Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY 12/18

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 12/19

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Confirmation-Choir Room

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

4:30pm Christmas Caroling-meet in the Lounge

