

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 25 - 31

Traces of Light

“The light shines in the darkness.” We know the darkness—even in the merriment of Christmas we need not travel too far to see it. When the prophet Isaiah proclaimed words echoed in our reading, he did not need to go into too much detail as to what the darkness was. This was the darkness of the battlefield, of war and captivity. Our daily headlines remind us of today’s darkness, which Henri Nouwen says “is so visible and tangible . . . that it is often difficult to believe that there is much to think, speak, or write about other than our brokenness” (*Life of the Beloved*, New York: Crossroad, 1992, p. 69).

But it is into this brokenness that the life and light of the world descends, not to terrify or shame it, but to create it anew. From the beginning this Word was active in creation, speaking obliquely to every culture and era, until the particular time of incarnation. God risks vulnerability in order to reach out to the wounded, and places in creation’s trust the caretaking of a fragile grace. Will the world receive him?

The rest of the story will painfully answer this question. Events at Gethsemane, Gabbatha, and Golgotha will dramatically declare our rejection of the life and light of the world. But the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. We wrestle with the paradox that the world did not recognize its own light by which it sees, or its own life from which it has life, or the Word that gives it meaning. Yet we also treasure the wonder by which we have been granted eyes to see and ears to hear. At Christmas we perceive the light in infancy, but, grace upon grace, he is a trace of joy given for us.



THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:15-21

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Anthony Ranes, Jordynn Finer, Diane Ranes, Samantha Rasmussen, Shane & Jean Reinlasoder, Daniel, Allison, Jackson and Jolie Rice

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

25-Tre Thorson

26-Carter Helgeson

-WEEKLY GIVING-**LAST SUNDAY:** 12/18/22 \$ 4,986**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 12/19/22 \$ 206,894**LAST YEAR:** as of 12/19/21 \$ 231,115**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:** \$ - 24,221

Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, January 6th; 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 youth activities.

Devotionals: There are copies of the January/February/March devotionals in the Narthex, by the south entrance and by the Chapel.

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

2023 Dates available: Jan. 1, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb 12, March 12, March 26, April 16, April 30, May 7, June 11, June 18, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, Aug. 6, Aug. 13, Aug. 20, Sept. 3, Sept. 17, Oct. 8, Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, Dec. 10, Dec. 31

TUCKPOINTING PROJECT UPDATE

Total received as of 12/21/2022
\$63,580

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



Updates: If your phone number or address has changed and you forgot to notify the church, please contact Marci in the office and let her know so that she can update your information before printing the annual yearbook. It is important to let the office know your current information so that you can be reached.

January 1st we ask that you bring your holiday treats to share for fellowship.

Council Minutes will not be printed in the Dec. 25th announcements, due to no fellowship on that day. The minutes are discussed during fellowship the week they are printed; therefore they will be printed on January 1st.

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

Salem Office: 641.592.1771

Mon-Thurs: 10am-5pm

Fri: 10am-4pm

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Mon: Off, but on-call

Tues: 10am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (2:30pm Text Study)

Wed: Noon-8:00pm (10am Adult Bible Study, 1:30pm Mills Harbour Communion Service, 2:30pm Lake Mills Care Center Communion Service, 6pm Property Board Meeting)

Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study)

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

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship)



Merry Christmas!

SUNDAY 12/25

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

MONDAY 12/26

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters

2:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is CLOSED (To schedule a different time, call 592.5085)

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN (101 S. Mill St.)

WEDNESDAY 12/28

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

1:30pm Mills Harbour Communion Service

2:30pm Lake Mills Care Center Communion Service

6:00pm Property Board Meeting-Library

THURSDAY 12/29

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study

SUNDAY 1/1

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

Happy New Year!

