

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 25 – January 2

For Us and for Our Salvation

If the Christmas (I and II) gospels from Luke are all about the invisible God made visible in the flesh of the baby of Bethlehem, the Christmas (III) gospel from John is about the cosmic Christ who was present before the birth of the whole world.

The prologue to the Gospel of John is creed. It is faith claims. It is poetry, really, and it moves us into that space of belief, beyond what we can see. It is a set of beliefs that are absolutely theological in their composition, beyond history and fact-checking. It is the opposite of those shows cropping up on the History Channel that offer hour-long investigations of whether or not there was a star in the sky, as scripture reports, in the year of Jesus' birth; or whether or not there is any record of Herod's slaughter of the holy innocents; or what Jesus' face would have looked like.

The gospel moves from faith claims about the preexisting Word that undergird our creeds to a story located in history beginning, not with Jesus, but with John the Baptist. It moves from the creation of the world to the re-creation of the human being that takes place in baptism. Ultimately, John's prologue makes faith claims not only about God, about Jesus as the preexisting logos, but about us as well. The beginning of the story is not just Jesus born in the stable in Bethlehem, it is us reborn as children of God at baptism. This is why we retell the story of our faith using the words of the creed each time an infant or an adult is brought to the font, because we believe that on Christmas something happened for us, and for our salvation.

Christ is born this day in you, in us, in the church. We have seen it, in ourselves, in one another, in the world. The God who has existed since before the story of time began has entered into history again this morning to remake us all, to give us new life, light for all people that cannot be overcome.

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: 12/19/21	\$ 8,274
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 12/20/21	\$ 231,115
LAST YEAR: as of 12/20/20	\$ 233,717
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -2,602

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 62:6-12

God comes to restore the people

Psalms 97

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. (Ps. 97:11)

Titus 3:4-7

Saved through water and the Spirit

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock

Psalms 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

Ephesians 1:3-14

The will of God made known in Christ

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

God with us: the incarnation of the Word

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:

Jozi Flynn

Angie Franks & Travis Manley

Bardley Freeman

Dennis & Lu Friesenborg

Samantha Friest

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

26-Carter Helgeson

27-McKinnley Arnold

30-Justin Okland

26-Michell Turnbull

28-Mary Coffey

30-Joshua Thompson

27-Toni Nicol

29-Gabriel Rogstad

1-Chelsey Kopp

27-Ashley Dennhardt

29-Clyde Sletten

1-Hallie Mannes

27- Erich Stene

29-Colin Schmidt

1-Christopher Adams

27-Adam Ritter

29-Grayson Peterson

1-Heather Davis

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

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.

Collections: The Board of Life & Growth collects used stamps, pop tabs, eye glasses and receipts from David's Marketplace. The WELCA group receives 1 tenth of 1% of all receipts collected. This can really add up and help. They ask that receipts do not get rolled up. Collection baskets are in the Narthex.

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

Thank you! We would like to thank Bruce Adams for the new computer he donated to the sanctuary to be used for music/worship services, in memory of his Dad, Don Adams.

Upcoming Blood Drive

Lake Mills Community Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 12th

1:00pm-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Appointments Are Required

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or Call: 800-287-4903

or visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org

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.

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, December 9, 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.

Member absent: Scott Hagenson

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

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

Marci moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Sue, all approved.

Communication and correspondence – Thank you notes shared; Request from LMHS for support of the Yearbook, Marci moved to contribute \$50 to LM Yearbook, seconded by Heather, all approved; an anonymous donation of \$100 has been deposited in the general fund.

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

Total income for November 2021 \$21,075.29

Total Expenses for November 2021 \$19,649.09 (Income less expense \$1,426.20)

Checking account balance (11/30/2021) \$34,301.58

Building Fund balance (11/30/2021) \$181.36

CD's at FTSB (11/30/2021) Reserves \$26,014.17/Ness Estate \$10,526.47

CD at MBT (11/30/2021) Ness Estate \$52,176.00

Northeastern Iowa Synod 3rd quarter donation statement has been received.

Financial Secretary's report: Sondra provided a written and verbal report

2021 YTD total offerings (11/30/2021) \$211,097

2020 YTD total offerings (11/30/2020) \$201,403

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

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music: Heather provided a verbal report. Discussed Advent services which will include a choir offering special music at the Sunday services; Faith Formation Christmas program on 12/12/2021 at 9:00; Christmas Eve Communion service will be held at 5:00 pm which will be live streamed and later put on YouTube for viewing as well as recorded and aired on Sunday 12/26/2021 on KLOW; Communion packets will be available for those who will be worshipping with us online on Christmas Eve, notify Marci with the number of packets you need by 12/17; Communion packets will be available in the first Sunday School classroom on the south side of the church and can be picked up during office hours (10:00am-5:00pm) on Tuesday, 12/21 and Wednesday, 12/22, delivery can be arranged if needed; There will be no services on Christmas Day; a new computer for worship music/services has been donated by Bruce Adams in memory of his father, Don Adams.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a written/verbal report. Nineteen Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoe boxes were collected and sent. The children's clothing giving tree is up and are due by Sunday, December 12. Christmas decorations in the Narthex and Sanctuary were completed last Saturday. Member's birthdays are being remembered weekly. Lutheran magazine/devotionals have been adjusted as to use.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Al provided a verbal report. The board assisted with God's Work, Our Hands, which was successful. Planning education in January regarding planned giving.

Board of Property and Management: Scott provided a written report. The heating pipe in the church basement has been fixed, working on repairing the wall near this area. Barb is spending extra time in sanctuary cleaning before Christmas Eve. LM Pump will be doing snow removal this winter.

Board of Youth: Jen and Marci provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Youth Christmas program will be Sunday, December 12 at 9:00 with a Birthday Party for Jesus in the fellowship hall. Cake

and punch will be served. Faith formation will do Christmas Break Out Box activities on Sunday, Dec 19th. No Faith Formation on 12/26/2021 or 1/2/2022. Youth are sharing Christmas stories on Facebook again this year. We will be hosting a Christmas Caroling event on Sunday, December 19. Meet at the church at 4:30 pm.

Pastor Report – 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 November and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- New and Renewing Membership Program – Pastor presented 3 resources that could be incorporated to provide a formal membership class. These resources would have 3 themes: Where have we come from? Who are we now? Where are we going? Council members are asked to review these resources and provide feedback. The resources also include the future ELCA strategic directions for 2025.
- Visitations – Pastor Joel has been reaching out to members/community through monthly communion services at the Care Center/Mills Harbor, the monthly Pastor’s Fellowship Breakfast, participating with youth in the cribbage and chess program for 5th and 6th graders.
- Safe Gatherings – Jennifer Sauer and Jill Budach have completed the child protection training. Pastor Joel would like to set a goal of parents/adults who will be chaperoning the confirmation retreat in April to complete the training prior to the retreat.

Sondra moved to approve board/pastor reports, seconded by Sue. All approved.

Old Business:

- A. Financial Statement Update – Drake has been reviewing and auditing our current financial statements and presented a list of accounting adjustments to make Salem’s financial statements more precise. The goal is for the numbers reported on the balance sheet to reflect financial reality. Although the dollar amounts are significant, making these adjustments to these entries will not cost Salem any money. All the

proposed adjustments have origins in prior accounting periods; thus, it is too late to correct the financial statements for those years. These proposed adjustments would use a new expense account (“Accounting Adjustments”) to make corrections in the current accounting period which will artificially inflate the reported expenses for 2021, but these entries do not require any cash to be disbursed. Drake presented 7 specific transactions/adjustments identifying the background, origin of error and recommended correction on the financial statement for each transaction. Drake provided explanation and there was discussion of these proposed transactions.

Al moved to approve the accounting adjustments as recommended, Sondra seconded. All approved.

New Business:

- A. 2022 Budget Review
 - a. Council reviewed and discussed planning for the 2022 Budget. Boards should send proposed budgets to Drake by 12/31/2021.
- B. 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda, Ballot and Board reports.
 - a. 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda was presented and reviewed. Heather moved to accept the agenda for the annual meeting, seconded by Al. All approved. The Agenda will be posted on December 23, 2021.
 - b. 2022 Annual Meeting Ballot was presented and reviewed. There are openings that still need to be filled and one clarification that needs to be addressed. Council will vote via email once clarification has been made. The approved Ballot will be submitted to be posted by 12/13/2021.
 - c. Annual meeting Board reports are due to Marci by 12/23/2021.
- C. New members – none
- D. Transfers/statistical adjustments
 - a. Kevin Olson and Quint Askildson asked for their names to be removed from member list. Marci moved to accept these adjustments, seconded by Sue. All approved.

E. Next meeting Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Al moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Heather. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

ADDENDUM: On Sunday 12/12/2021 Shannon emailed the proposed ballot to council members for review. Al moved that the ballot be accepted and posted 12/13/2021, seconded by Heather. All approved. The approved ballot will be posted tomorrow, 12/13/2021.

Radio Sponsorship: Reserve your special date to sponsor an 8:30am radio broadcast. The service is heard on KIW (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



December 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Merry Christmas from LSI!

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
— John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been another difficult time for all of us, and we are grateful for the lowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping the people LSI is privileged to serve. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. LSI’s annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Never Alone

Two years ago, Kayla knew it was time for a change in her life. She had struggled with substance use for years. When she was pregnant with her youngest son, Rafe, she was determined to build a brighter future for him. She entered treatment to become sober and create a healthy home for her baby.

While in treatment, Kayla enrolled in the HOPES program through LSI Early Childhood Services, which provides in-home parenting education and guidance for parents of young children. Kellie, Kayla's LSI worker, met with her every week to ensure she had all the resources and support she needed to raise Rafe in her home. They kept track of all his important developmental milestones, sharing smiles and laughs along the way. Whether it was supplying diapers or being a listening ear, Kellie was always there for Kayla.

Kayla is now two years sober, has a job as a chef, and feels empowered and confident that she has everything she needs to help her family thrive.

"I just feel overwhelmed and overjoyed. I never thought I could do all this, so I'm proud of myself," she says. "There are people at LSI that care about you. They are there to support you and they are willing to help."

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

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

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

Sunday: 8am-Noon (9am Worship Service)

Secretary

Marci Adeogun

Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm

Fri 10am-4pm

Sat-Sun: Off

SUNDAY 12/26

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 12/27

Clothes Closet will be CLOSED

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

WEDNESDAY 12/29

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY 1/1

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 1/2

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall