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# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**December 3 – 9**

### Old Problems and New Beginnings

By now the last of the leaves have likely fallen from trees in northern climes, and any still holding on look dry and dead. Snow has arrived, and its thick blanket shows the stains of city filth and grime, reminding us of the waste we are pouring over the land and into the water. This is the season we begin a new year in the life of the church and, as with our worship, we begin with a confession of our participation in the world's suffering.

Heavy hearts and burdened consciences will relate to Isaiah's confession, "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away" (Isa. 64:6). Then, just as the cold nights in the northern hemisphere reach their longest, Mark addresses us with promises that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man will include the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars. Hold on, there is hope!

The promise of Advent is that God is always at work in the world, bringing new beginnings and a new creation to people and powers long bent on destruction. Yet, because we live in the generation that exists between the "already" of Christ's resurrection and the "not yet" of God's full restoration of the creation, we cannot know when that final day will arrive. Instead of becoming preoccupied with the end times, we are counseled to live our lives in a state of preparedness—trusting that our home is God's home and that God is coming once again to dwell with us. That trust is the strength that sustains us as we "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7).

## THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37



## NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.  
**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:** Brian, Lauren, Clayton and Weston Helgeson, Christopher & Kirby Helgeson, Daniel, Emily, Cooper and Emmett Helgeson, David Helgeson, Don & Julie Helgeson

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

3-Kathy Henderson

8-Faye Aamodt

9-Kati Smalley

5-David Hanson

8-Mitchel Anderson

9-Madison Holtan

7-Matthew Fjelstad

8-Morgan Fritz

9-Miranda Nelson

7-Rachel Groe

8-Megan Ritter

9-Carter Bloomingdale

## -WEEKLY GIVING-

**LAST SUNDAY** 11/26/23: \$ 6,480

**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 11/29/23 \$ 175,997

**LAST YEAR:** as of 11/29/22 \$ 192,284

**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:** \$ -16,287

## -Last Weeks Attendance-

64

**Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:** Total received as of 11/29/23 **\$160,217**

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



**Weather Policy:** Just a reminder that the weather may not be as friendly this time of year as this snowman! Should there be an emergency schedule change an announcement will be made via the following: --Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills Facebook page --KLOW Radio 107.3 (Forest City) --KIMT TV Channel 3 Contact Shannon Bruhns at 641-592-5978 / 641-590-1532

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

**Poinsettias:** If anyone would like to share a poinsettia with Salem for Christmas, we welcome you do so. If you plan to bring one in honor of or in memory of someone, please let Marci know and we will include it in the bulletin.

**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 invited and welcome to join in. Lyrics will be provided. We will meet at **6:00pm on Wed., Dec. 20th**, in the Fellowship Hall and then car-pool 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 and goodies in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join us, please call the office so we can plan ahead (if we have enough people, we can split into 2 groups, and make a route for each group to follow). If you know of someone who needs some Christmas cheer, please call the office. 592-1771

**Goodies:** If you would like to donate goodies for those that are Christmas Caroling on Wed. Dec. 20th, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please have them in the Fellowship Hall by 6:30pm.

**Free Movie:** "The Star" will be playing at the Mills Theater on Sat. Dec. 9th at 1:00pm. This movie is being sponsored by Citizens Community Credit Union.

**"Thank You"** to those that filled shoeboxes with gifts for the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Project. 14 shoeboxes were received and delivered.  
-Board of Life & Growth

**December 24th** we will have our usual 9:00am worship service and then at 5:00pm we will have our Christmas Eve service.

**Volunteers Needed:** If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read or sing in the liturgical choir, please sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, call the office. Thank you!



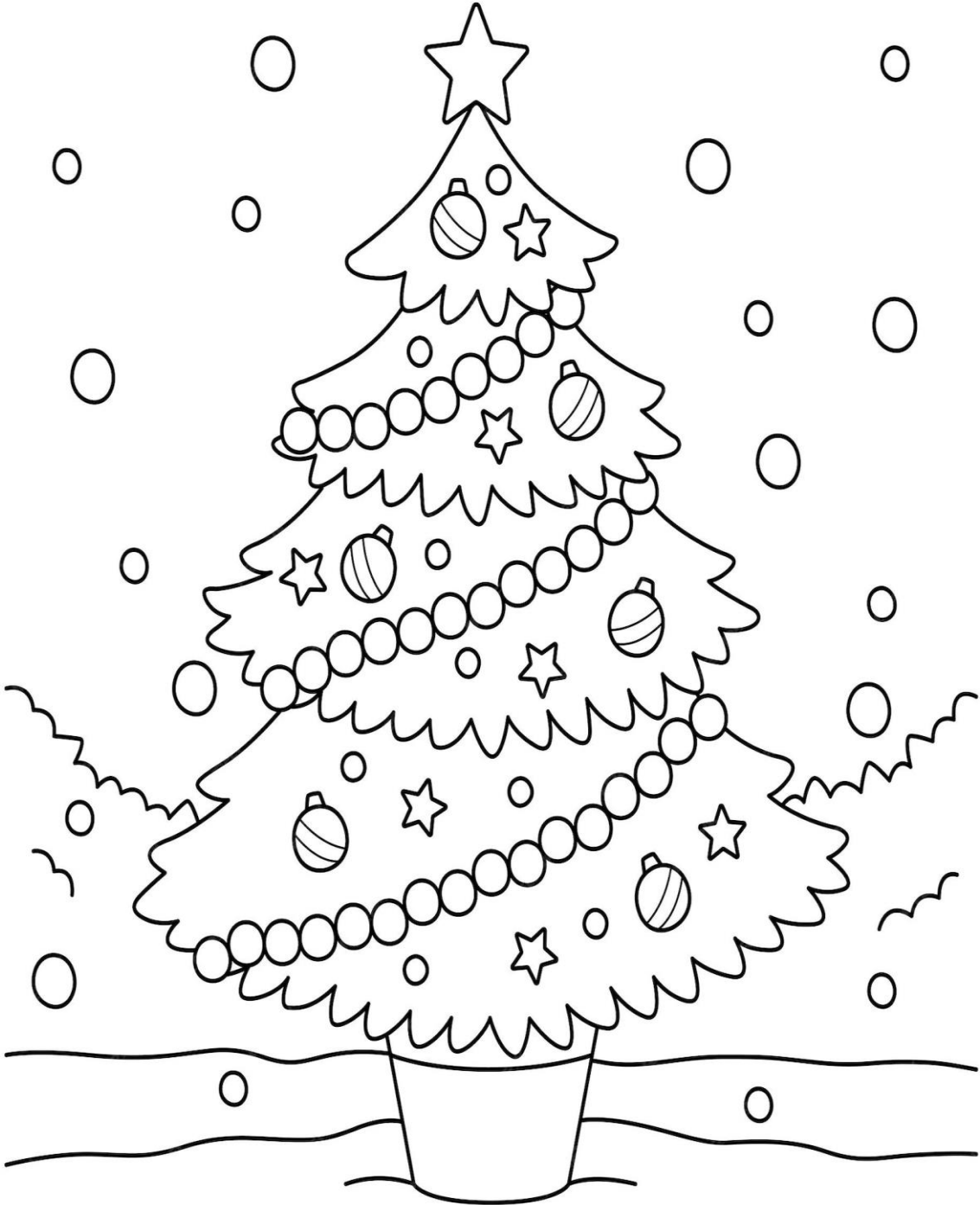
**Toys for Tots:** The collection box for new unwrapped toys is across the hall from the Chapel. The last day to donate will be **December 5th**.

**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](http://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](mailto:LMClothesForKids@gmail.com)*

**Salem's Clothes Closet** is open every Monday from 2:00-4:00pm; and can be accessed at the south entrance. Clothes, shoes, boots, coats, jackets and a few other kids' items are available for free. We also accept donations; please make sure donations are folded and have no holes, tears or stains. Donations can be left inside the south entrance anytime.



**The Lake Mills Food Shelf** is open 2:30-5:00pm every Monday for anyone in need of additional food. The only criteria for eligibility is to reside within the Lake Mills School District. The Food Shelf is located at Salem and can be accessed at the south entrance. Anyone in need of food when the food shelf is not open, please feel free to call and leave a message at 641-592-1771 and someone will call back to make arrangements.





# **ALL ARE INVITED DOWNSTAIRS FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE SERVICE**

## **SUNDAY 12/3**

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Program Rehearsal

## **MONDAY 12/4**

12:00pm Sons of Norway-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm-4:00pm Salem's Clothes Closet is OPEN

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN

## **TUESDAY 14/5**

11:00am Miriam Circle-Teluwut

5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting-Salem Library

## **WEDNESDAY 12/6**

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

## **THURSDAY 12/7**

11:00am Ruth Circle-Teluwut

11:30am Grace Circle-Teluwut

## **SUNDAY 12/10**

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

10:00am Birthday Party for Jesus-Fellowship Hall

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

**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

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771** (Marci)

Mon-Tues: 11am-5pm, Wed: 11am-1pm, Thurs-Fri: 11am-5pm

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