

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 4 – 10

Pointing to Jesus

John the Baptist is a fitting messenger for the season of Advent, a time for the church to prepare for both the nativity of the Christ and for his second coming. John's call to repentance in preparation of Jesus' arrival carries a challenge for us to rid ourselves of everything that obstructs our view. His proclamation is filled with images of cleansing: straightening paths, cutting down useless trees, and burning away chaff. John's baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins means cleansing as well as a changing of the mind, a turning toward Jesus, so that one's whole self is pointed toward the Lord of this world and of eternity.

Undistracted even by thoughts of our own worthiness, the church's focus year round is turned toward the coming of Christ. John points to Jesus, never to himself, and in so doing becomes a model for discipleship. Having heard John's cry, we join the chorus, becoming messengers in turn. All our efforts in worship and evangelism, education and social ministry point, not to ourselves, our programs, our skill or our saintliness, but only to Jesus. Preparing the way of the Lord is very much about pointing others to his real presence in and among us.

This Sunday's Isaiah reading ("the grass withers, the flower fades") and that of 2 Peter ("all things are to be dissolved") reinforce the church's teaching that amidst all that is transient in our lives, and creation, only God's word is eternal. John the Baptist's testimony points us to that Word made flesh, who brings with him a new heaven and a new earth after all else has passed away. John directs us in our faith journeys as individuals and communities toward a witness that is forever pointing to Jesus.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm 146:5-10
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Barbara Peterson, Michael Peterson, Nicolas Peterson, Shane Peterson, Steve E. Peterson

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

5-David Hanson

7-Matthew Fjelstad

7-Rachel Groe

8-Faye Aamodt

8-Michael Anderson

8-Joy Evans

8-Morgan Fritz

8-Megan Ritter

9-Kati Smalley

9-Timothy Colby

9-Madison Holtan

9-Miranda Nelson

9-Carter Bloomingdale

10-Andy Stene

10-Lacie Eidness

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 11/27/22 \$ 7,790

YEAR-TO-DATE: 11/30/22 \$ 192,284

LAST YEAR: as of 11/30/21 \$ 211,097

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ - 18,813

Cookie Donations: The Board of Youth & Education is hosting a Christmas Party in the fellowship Hall on Sunday December 18th, after the Christmas Program. We are looking for cookie donations to be served at this event. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office if you are willing to donate. All donations need to be in the fellowship hall by 8:15am that day. 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.

TUCKPOINTING PROJECT UPDATE

Total received as of 12/1/2022

\$20,375

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



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 11th**.

Lake Mills Clothes For Kids: *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 or the tree in the Narthex. For electronic sign-up go to: **tinyurl.com/LMClothesForKids** Purchase the items on the child's tag, wrap in one box, attach the original tag to the gift, and deliver/return them to Salem by **Sunday, December 11th**. *Cash donations are accepted at the banks or send to the LMCS Nurse's Office, 102 S 4th Avenue E, Lake Mills, IA 50450 Questions: LMClothesForKids@gmail.com*

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, 5:30pm Altar Guild)

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

Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study, 6:30pm Church Council)

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

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship)

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

This meeting will be held Sunday, December 4th at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.
A quorum of 30 members must be met in order to hold this meeting.
Please attend this meeting as we continue to plan for Salem's future!!

The following Salem members have agreed to be on the Call Committee:

Kathy Chose, Bruce Adams, Dennis Madson, Spenser Brackey, Chike Ikefuama,
Larry Rice, Shannon Bruhns

All are invited downstairs for Fellowship after the Special Meeting.

SUNDAY 12/4

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am Confirmation-Youth Room

MONDAY 12/5

11:30am Sons of Norway-Fellowship Hall

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

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

3:15pm Daisies-Room 2

TUESDAY 12/6

11:30am Miriam Circle-Teluwut

5:30pm Altar Guild-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 12/7

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

3:15pm Brownies-Room 2

7:00pm Handbell Practice-Choir Room

THURSDAY 12/8

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study

6:30pm Church Council-Salem Library

SUNDAY 12/11

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Confirmation-Youth Room

10:00am-11:15am Christmas Program Rehearsal