

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

**February 12 - 18**

### **Risky Business**

Time after time we are called through the scriptures to leave behind familiar and predictable ways of life, risking a journey into the unknown and unknowable. Risks often have a very big and exciting “upside” which is matched by an equally steep and daunting “downside.” Many good and faithful people have a healthy fear of risk, but taking a risk with God is a very different venture. If God’s call to follow is risky, and we succeed, we can experience God’s presence and promise in profound new ways. However, if we follow God’s call to risk and it seems to fail, then we are still following in the footsteps of the one who formed us, loves us, and calls us by name.

In Deuteronomy, Moses had taken a risk and led Israel out of slavery and toward the Promised Land. He encourages the people to continue to risk by choosing life in God as opposed to the lures of life without him. Paul risked his life time and time again in order share the gospel, and he is encouraging the people of the Corinth to risk walking a different route in Christ. In today’s gospel we hear Jesus offer tough teachings which may seem risky to preachers everywhere! These readings all seem to be filled with tough, risky teachings, but dig a little deeper and we can experience the grace-filled message of hope and new life rooted in God’s love. We can clearly hear a call to risk, but also the promise of God’s steadfast presence to be with all who faithfully follow, no matter the outcome. So take a deep breath, dare to risk, crack open the “tough exterior” and experience the love and grace of these texts.

**THIS WEEKS TEXTS****Deuteronomy 30:15-20****Psalms 119:1-8****1 Corinthians 3:1-9****Matthew 5:21-37****NEXT WEEKS TEXTS****Exodus 24:12-18****Psalms 2****2 Peter 1:16-21****Matthew 17:1-9**

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

**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:** Danny & Debra Sollard, Brenda & Kristal Sprecher, Elizabeth, Mike Lane Sprecher, Taylon Virchow, Matthew and Andrew Fjelstad, Kevin & Amy Sprecher and Sean Smalley, Wayne & Arlene Sprecher

**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

12-Nathan Banwart

14-Bill Tweeten

16-Danika White

12-Ryan Knudtson

14-Heather Haney

16-Kaylie Sylvara

13-Hayden Wempen

15-Sue Langerud

17-Andrew Olsen

14-Tyler Christian

15-Chelsea Roder

18-Chelsey Gonzalez

14-Jason Peterson

15-James Weisenborn

18-Katelyn Grothe

14-Hannah Sterrenberg

16-McKinley Shifflett

18-Amanda Lampman

16-Jolene Helgeson

18-Riley Kirschbaum

**-WEEKLY GIVING-****LAST SUNDAY:** 2/5/23      \$ 4,155**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 2/9/23      \$19,262**LAST YEAR:** as of 2/9/22      \$18,709**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**      \$ 553**-Last Weeks Attendance- 84**

**Celebrating Generosity:** Thank you for your support of ministry at Salem!

**Go Green—Go Paperless by giving in one of the following ways...**

-- **Give through PayPal or Card** by going to [www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com) and clicking the donate button at the bottom of the page OR **Scan the QR Code.**

-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for weekly or monthly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to have a form sent to you or stop by the office. We also have forms in the Narthex. Please return forms to the office. (We are charged a much lower service fee through the Simply Giving Program)

## Tuckpointing Project Update:

Total received as of 2/9/23 **\$125,544 (This total includes the \$50,000 match)**

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

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday Worship February 22

- 1:30 PM Mills Harbour
- 2:30 PM Care Center
- 5:30 PM Salem Sanctuary

Soup & Holden Prayer Around the Cross in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday in March

- 11:30 AM – 12:00PM Soup & Bread
- 12:00 – 12:30 PM Prayer Holden Prayer Around the Cross
- 5:00 – 5:30 PM Soup & Bread
- 5:30 – 6:00 PM Prayer Holden Prayer Around the Cross

## Memorials Given In January

Charles "Doc" Nelson: \$10-General Fund, \$25 Kitchen Fund

Darlene Trytten: \$305 General Fund, \$10 Tuckpointing Fund

**Blood Drive Results** from January 19th.

41 Donors, 47 Pints collected, 141 Lives Saved.

**Floyd Thomas Prints:** Faye Aamodt has graciously offered Floyd Thomas nature prints for free will donation opportunity. These prints have been a part of Lake Mills history for many years appearing on calendars and the cover of the WCTA telephone books. If you would like a print, or several, please take what you would like! Donations will be designated for the tuckpointing project. Prints will be available in the Narthex before worship and after worship and in the office during the week (through February). We thank Faye for her generous gift!

**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

**Marriage Retreat at Riverside Bible Camp:** February 24-26, 2023

During this special retreat you'll experience fellowship with other married couples, enjoy plenty of free time to connect with one another, and laugh & learn from messages shared by our speakers.

Take advantage of this opportunity to get away for a couple of days & celebrate how God has and will continue to bless your marriage and family!

Look forward to being encouraged in your relationship, receiving prayer, enjoying meals lovingly prepared and served by the Riverside team, and so much more.

**Accommodations:** Couples are invited to enjoy private housing at Riverside, commute to Riverside daily, or stay at a hotel nearby in Story City.

**Schedule:** Arrive at Riverside between 6:30-7:30pm on Friday, February 24. The weekend will conclude following brunch on Sunday at 11:30am.

**Pricing:** Cost includes programming, meals, a spectacular date night & snacks.

- \$220/couple staying at camp
- \$170/couple commuting

**Register online at:** <https://www.riversidelbc.org/registration>

**MercyOne North Iowa Hospice Volunteer Training:** If you've been meaning to get involved, call today to attend the **FREE** volunteer training. Pre-Register before Thursday, March 23rd by calling 641-428-6236. Class sizes are limited, so please call today to reserve your seat. Training Date/Time: Thursdays-March 30th, April 6th & 13th; 9:30am-4:00pm. Location: First United Methodist Church 119 S. Georgia Ave. Mason City. Get more information or register at by calling 800-297-4719 or 614-428-6208

**Summer Camps:** Reminder to sign up your children for summer camps before the early bird deadlines! Check out the camp websites for more information. In the past, the Enduring Gift Committee has helped to pay the remaining balances, after parents make the down payment. After you have registered your child and paid the deposit, forward your receipt email from camp to the Salem office. ([Salem@wctatel.net](mailto:Salem@wctatel.net))

## **February 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story**

### **Happy Valentine's Day from LSI**

At LSI, loving our neighbor is an essential value that we continuously work and grow towards. This Valentine's Day, take time to share with your friends, family and neighbors how important they are to you. February is a time of giving, a time of love and a time of gratitude. Share with those around you how much they mean to you and the impact they have had on you.

It's also a time when we want to thank you, the congregations that so generously support the work of LSI throughout the year. We are blessed by your love and support. Your generosity has continued to offer hope and healing to Iowans of all ages.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*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 [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **Love Your Neighbor**

At LSI, loving our neighbor is an integral value. Our staff continuously work towards loving their neighbors and investing their time, energy and resources into helping their neighbors.

"I love getting to know my LSI colleagues and teammates, and I feel fortunate to be surrounded by such talented, passionate and inspiring individuals," said Nick Wuertz, Director of Immigrant and Refugee Community Services (IRCS). "The team around me makes me better, and by getting to know my team and understanding their unique skills and perspectives, I feel I can love and support them in sharing those gifts with others on our team, our clients and the broader community."

Barbra Jotzke-Torrier, Director of Philanthropy, shared that loving her neighbor means treating others with respect. “It means remembering my way is not always the best way, and certainly not the only way to live, love, make a home or be a part of a family.” Barbra shared that her job at LSI has given her the opportunity to share people’s stories and to connect people with programs they are passionate about.

“Loving my neighbor means caring for them and being there for them in good times and hard times,” shared Patrick Karemera, a Resettlement Caseworker. “Loving my neighbor through my job is about welcoming our new neighbors from all over the world who flee their homes in hopes of a better life.”

As Nick shared, loving your neighbors is complex and requires you to take the time to get to know them on a personal level. This Valentine’s Day, we invite you to take that step and get to know your neighbors.

**Live Stream Sponsorship:** Call the office to reserve your special date. Cost is \$40.  
**2023 Dates available:** March 12, 26 April 16, 30 May 7 June 11, 18 July 9, 16, 23, 30 Aug. 6, 13, 20 Sept. 3, 17 Oct. 8, 15, 22 & 29 Nov. 5, 12 & 19 Dec. 10, 31.

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)** Mon-Thurs: 10am-5pm, Fri: 10am-4pm  
 (Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open.)

### **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)

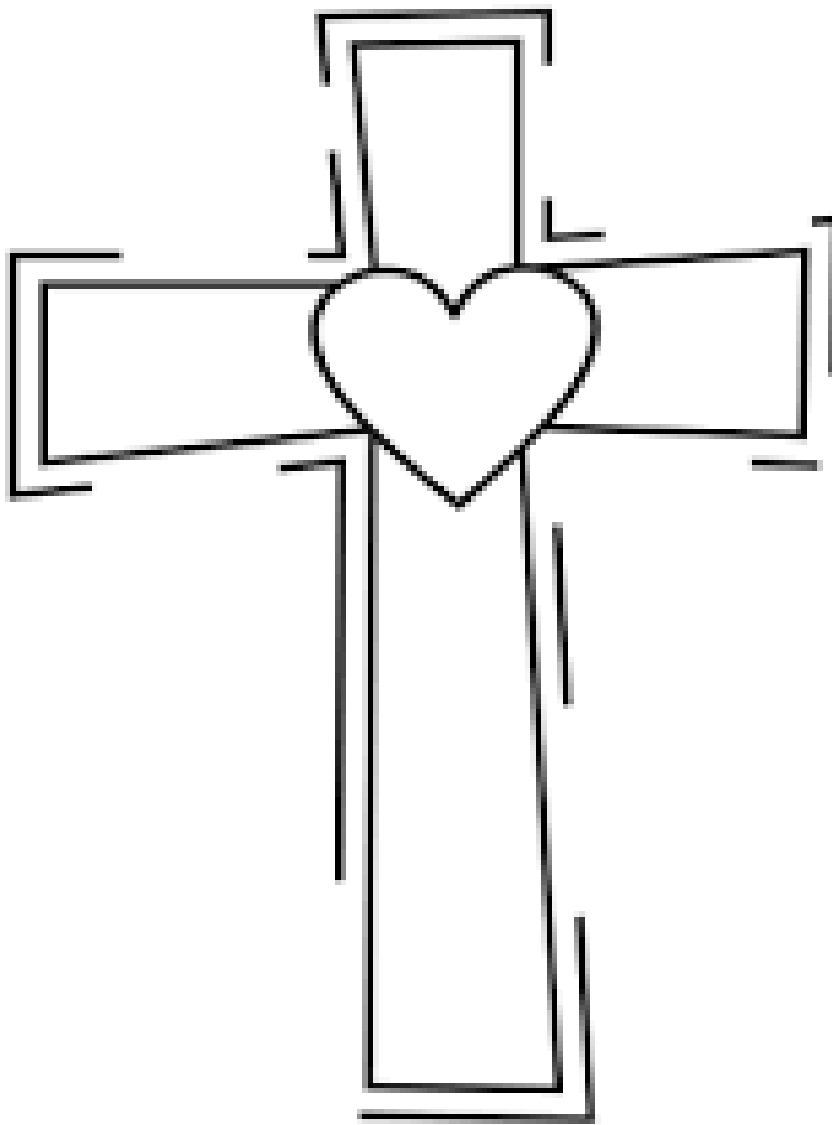
Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study, 3:30pm Life/Growth)

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

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-NOON (9am Worship, 10am Confirmation)

 Happy Valentine's Day! 



❤️ Jesus Loves You! ❤️

**All are invited downstairs after the worship service for fellowship.**

**SUNDAY 2/12**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary  
10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall  
10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel  
10:00am Confirmation-Youth Room

**MONDAY 2/13**

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters-Fellowship Hall  
2:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is OPEN (South entrance at Salem)  
2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN (South entrance at Salem)  
3:15pm Daisies-Room 2

**TUESDAY 2/14**

6:00pm Property Board Meeting-Library

**WEDNESDAY 2/15**

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall  
3:15pm Brownies-Room 2  
6:00pm Call Committee Meeting-Salem Library

**THURSDAY 2/16**

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study  
3:15pm Juniors-Room 2  
3:30pm Life & Growth Board Meeting-Library

**SUNDAY 2/19**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary  
10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall  
10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel  
10:00am Confirmation-Youth Room