
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 18 - 24

The Power of Water

Water is an integral part of the created order. Water sustains and fosters life; too little or too much water can end it. A glance at the news headlines points out the destructive power of water's presence or absence: In the United States alone, 2011 saw severe droughts afflict several parts of the country. On the opposite end of the spectrum, floods ravaged the Plains states in the spring and summer, displacing from their homes many people who live near rivers and streams. For those dwelling on or near the Eastern Seaboard, hurricane season is a tense time every year. Yet we need water as much or more than we need food, shelter, or the other "staples" of human life. Since ancient times we have established our communities near sources of water. We cannot survive long without it.

The tension between the saving and destructive powers of water fills today's lectionary readings. The waters of the flood overwhelmed the world in the days of Noah, yet 1 Peter reminds us that God delivered Noah and his family from death. The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus only after his baptism by John, yet the Spirit immediately drives Jesus into the desert—a place defined by its lack of water. Through water and the word, in baptism our old, sinful self is put to death, and we are reborn as children of God. But the current that flows through these paradoxes is this: in death and life, in flood and drought, God remains faithful. As the psalmist reminds us, God's mercy and steadfast love "are from everlasting."

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.
THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Karla, Kaleb and Katelyn Rogstad, Nicholas and Jacob Langenbau, Kerby & Karen Knudtson, Michael & Kathy Knudtson, Sara Knudtson, Layla and Zachariah Davis

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

16-Don Knudtson	18-Riley Kirschbaum	21-Jennie Knudtson
18-Chelsey Gonzalez	19-Caleb Swanson	21-Spenser Brackey
18-Katelyn Grothe	19-Brooke Swanson	23-Tracy Cox
18-Amanda Lampman	21-Michael Olsen	24-Gracie Pederson
		24-Debra Throne

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY 2/11/24: \$ 3,800
YEAR-TO-DATE: 2/14/24 \$ 26,588
LAST YEAR: as of 2/14/23 \$ 21,340
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ 5,248

-Last Weeks Attendance-

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Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 2/4/24 **\$160,512**
Total available balance as of 1/31/24 **\$53,814.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

Easter Flowers: If you would like to order Easter Flowers, please fill out an order form, found in the Narthex, and place it in the offering plate or return it to the office by Sunday, March 10th. Following Easter Sunday Service all flowers may be taken by those who sponsored them. Flowers available to order are:
Easter Lilies (\$21) Tulips (\$17) Hyacinths (\$17) Daffodils (\$17) Hydrangeas (\$31).

Thrivent Choice Dollars: To the Salem members with Thrivent financial products, the deadline to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars is approaching. Here are the deadlines to designate your dollars: By Mail: Must be received by **March 17** to guarantee designation. By Phone: **March 28** (before Easter weekend / Good Friday. Online: **March 31**. **In the past this has meant thousands of dollars, at no cost to you, to help with projects at Salem and we ask that you please continue to support this valuable program. Thank you!**

Snowtubing/Skiing Event: On March 3rd, the Youth Board is planning a snow tubing and skiing event at Mount Kato (in Mankato MN). Everyone is welcome! No pre-registration required. Upon arrival, just tell them that you are with Salem Lutheran Church to get the church discount. Must be 42 inches to snow tube.

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, so after you have registered your child and paid the deposit, forward your receipt email from camp to the Salem office. Salem@wctatel.net If you have any questions call 592-1771.

Volunteers Are Needed for both WORSHIP and FAITH FORMATION. If you would like to volunteer to read, usher or serve communion, please sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to help with sound or live-streaming, please call the office. If you would like to supervise and interact with the children during faith formation, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the chapel or call the office, no planning or training required. 641.592.1771

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 the bottom of www.salemlakemills.com

-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for monthly or weekly 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)**

ALL ARE WELCOME DOWNSTAIRS AFTER THE SERVICE FOR FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY 2/18

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Steve Smith)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

MONDAY 2/19

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

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

6:00pm Quilt Club-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY 2/21

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

6:00pm Stewardship Board Meeting-Salem Library

SUNDAY 2/25

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

Goodies: The Board of Youth is asking for donations of goodies for their bake sale fundraiser on March 10th. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and on the table across from the chapel. Please have them wrapped or pre-packaged and in the Narthex by 9:00am on March 10th. Thank you!

North Iowa Hospice Volunteer Training: To register for this free training, please call 641-428-6236. Class size is limited. Registration deadline is March 21st. Classes will be March 28, April 4 and April 11; 9:30am – 4:00pm.

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

Dates available: Feb 25. Mar 17, 24, 31. May 5. June 30. July 14, 21. Aug 4, 11, 25. Sept 1. Oct 20. Nov 17, 24. Dec 29

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)

Mon: 11am-2pm, Tues 11am-5pm, Wed-Thurs: 10am-2pm, Fri: 11am-5pm

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