

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 19 - 25

Finding God in the Clouds

We often speak of mountaintop experiences as those joyous times we look forward to with excitement and look back upon fondly, such as summer camp or an annual hiking trip. The mountaintop moments in today's readings were different: awe-inspiring, yes, but also full of devouring fires, clouds, and fear. Vision is obscured, the familiar becomes unknown, and nothing is the same. People get lost in fires, clouds, and fear, unable to find their way, but God's presence is where we get both lost *and* found. Many biblical encounters with God involved fear, pointing to the awesome reality of God that is much more than the gentle shepherd we often imagine (though God is that, too). God is, as C. S. Lewis famously said, "not a tame lion" (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001, p. 197). The truth is, we can no more plan our mountaintop times with God than we can stay there forever, as much as we think we would like to. God's place is to invite, ours to respond, faces bowed to the ground.

Eventually, of course, the time comes to leave that mountain, walking with Jesus down to the valley and getting dusty with the ashes of daily life. Many churches symbolically "roll up the Alleluias" today, recognizing that this is the end of a glorious season celebrating Christ's light and the entrance to a no-less-real season of Jesus' and our own lives, the "valley" season of Lent. But that doesn't mean there is nothing to do down in the valley. On the contrary, the traditional disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor—all help us maintain the eyes, ears, and heart to see and hear God whenever and however God appears.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Jeffrey, Megan and Alayna Steele, Steve & Sue Steele, Bonnie Steffens, David A. Steffens, Stephanie Steffens and Olivia and Isabelle Schoonover

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

19-Caleb Swanson

21-Jennie Knudtson

23-Tracy Cox

21-Michael Olsen

21-Spenser Brackey

24-Gracie Pederson

24-Debra Throne

-WEEKLY GIVING-**LAST SUNDAY: 2/12/23** \$ 2,307**YEAR-TO-DATE: 2/13/23** \$22,336**LAST YEAR: as of 2/13/22** \$22,250**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:** \$ 86**-Last Weeks Attendance- 91**

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 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)

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

2023 Dates available: March 26 April 16, 30 May 7 June 18 July 9, 16, 23, 30 Aug. 6, 13, 20 Sept. 17 Oct. 8, 15, 22 & 29 Nov. 5, 12 & 19 Dec. 10, 31.

Tuckpointing Project Update:

Total received as of 2/13/23 **\$125,654 (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!

Personal Care Kits: The Board of Life & Growth is collecting donations to make Personal Care Kits. Items needed are: bath towels (dark colors, approx. 52x27), 4 oz. bars of soap, toothbrushes in original packaging, sturdy combs and metal nail clippers. Donations can be left in the narthex. Thank you!

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

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!

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)

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

thrivent®

Thrivent Choice® — Generosity Strengthens Communities

Thanks to Thrivent and its clients, **Salem Lutheran Church** has received \$11,781 Choice Dollars® grant funds since 2020

Grant funds distributed nationally

The Thrivent Choice program has helped support churches and other nonprofit organizations since 2010:



**More than \$458 million
in Choice Dollars grant
funds distributed**



**More than
585,800 clients
participated**



**More than 41,500
organizations received
outreach funding**

Help strengthen communities and change lives

Eligible Thrivent clients can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds by directing Choice Dollars.

You can have an even bigger impact

Clients and others can also make personal donations. Thrivent, in partnership with InFaith Community Foundation, provides an online platform for donations to enrolled organizations. Thrivent will cover all the processing fees, so 100% of your donation goes to help.*

To learn more, visit thrivent.com/thrivent-choice or contact:

Peter Zwart
641-592-0064

*Thrivent will pay the online processing fees for personal donations made through InFaith Community Foundation up to \$100,000 per calendar year.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's [Terms and Conditions](#) available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Thrivent Choice Dollars:

The Stewardship Board would like to remind everyone that the Thrivent Choice Dollars program is in process. There are forms available in the church office and the Narthex for those that would like to participate. The deadline for this is **March 31st**. (if sent in the mail, **March 17** is the deadline to mail them).

Online option: Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

If you are not registered on Thrivent.com, you will have to register and create a user ID, password and security questions.

Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice"

Or call Pete at the local Thrivent office 641.592.0064

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

Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for **March 3rd**; 8:00am – 10:00am in the lounge, across from the office. Everyone is welcome! Breakfast will be served until the food runs out or its 10:00am, whichever comes sooner. Breakfast is free. Donations collected will go towards youth activities.

Upcoming Community Blood Drive

Thursday, **March 16th**

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

BINGO: The Youth Board is hosting Family Bingo on **March 5th** in the Fellowship Hall after worship. (Faith Formation students will be singing on this day as well). All are Welcome to join us for Fellowship and Fun!!!



Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Leland has sent us an invitation to their Annual Soup Supper. **March 4th** from 4:30pm to 7:00pm with a free will offering. They will have chili, chicken noodle, vegetable beef and wild rice soups along with bread and pies.

Hy-Vee Receipts: We are now collecting receipts from Hy-Vee to help find a cure for cancer. This is in addition to the receipts from Davids. Please keep them separate. Baskets are located in the Narthex.

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>

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.)

All are invited downstairs after the worship service for fellowship.

SUNDAY 2/19

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

MONDAY 2/20

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)
 6:00pm Quilt Club-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY 2/22

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
 12:00pm Cadettes & HS-Room 2
 1:30pm LMCC Communion Service
 2:30pm Mills Harbour Communion Service
 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Service-Sanctuary

THURSDAY 2/23

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study
 5:45pm Worship & Music Board Meeting-Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY 2/26

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

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, 1:30pm MH Service, 2:30pm LMCC Service, 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Service)

Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study, 5:45pm Worship/Music)

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

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

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