

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL MINUTES

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## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

**February 26 – March 4**

### **The Devil Doesn't Wear Tights**

No one believes in the existence of the devil these days, do they? Do you? Perhaps we can thank Hollywood and Halloween's marketing blitz for our casual if not incredulous approach to the devil's existence. Pointy horns, pitch forks, red costumes, and box office ticket sales continue to shape our culture's collective consciousness of the devil. Though red tights and long tails may be a frightening thought as you consider a costume for a Halloween party, they do nothing to communicate the true terror of an honest-to-God encounter with the devil's power.

This Lent we are called to expunge the fantastical images of the devil from our minds and think seriously about the real presence of evil in our world. We know firsthand about the sin that caused, causes, and will cause suffering to us, our loved ones, our neighbors, our global communities, and creation itself. Sin is real; suffering is real; evil is real; indeed, the devil is real. This oppressive, tangible reality is as real as the air we breathe—felt but not always seen. Greed, envy, rage, hatred, war, discrimination, and apathy are just some of the ways the devil's forces wreak havoc upon us. These forces have one goal and one goal only: to turn us away from the will of God.

Matthew's gospel reorients us to the truth of the devil's power, and calls us to name Satan's presence in the world. In the wilderness Jesus encounters an evil as real as its opposite, resurrection. The great tempter seeks to undermine Jesus' mission before he even begins; testimony that evil has much to fear of our Jesus! Nonetheless, Jesus will not be dissuaded. "Away with you, Satan!" proclaims the redeemer of the cosmos. Thus, the Lenten journey begins—a journey that takes us to the cross, where the devil is named and crushed underfoot.

**THIS WEEKS TEXTS****Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7****Psalms 32****Romans 5:12-19****Matthew 4:1-11****NEXT WEEKS TEXTS****Genesis 12:1-4a****Psalms 121****Romans 4:1-5, 13-17****John 3:1-17**

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

**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:** Daryl & Linda Steller, Andrew, Kendra, Annaston, Austin, Zachary and Faith Stene, Benjamin & Anna Stene, Erich, Julie, Elijah and Ella Stene, Rodney & Beth Stene

**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

25-Scott Helgeson

28-Nora Hanna

3-Allen Mannes

28-Jersey Budach

28-Chelsey Holtan

4-Larry Rice

28-Kenley Helgeson

1-Emeryn Wempen

4-Michael Colby

28-Andrea Rodberg

2-Alayna Steele

4-Brian Helgeson

**-WEEKLY GIVING-****LAST SUNDAY: 2/19/23**      \$ 3,642**YEAR-TO-DATE: 2/13/23**      \$25,978**LAST YEAR: as of 2/13/22**      \$24,662**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**      \$ 1,316**-Last Weeks Attendance- 57**

**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)

**All Are Invited** to a Town Meeting at the City Hall on Monday, January 27th at 7:00pm to discuss what should be done with the Civic Center.

### Tuckpointing Project Update:

Total received as of 2/20/23 **\$126,744 (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!

**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.

**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.

**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!!!



**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!

### LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP

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

**WECLA** will meet on Thursday, **March 16th** at 2:00pm in the Lounge. Pastor Joel will lead the Bible Study from the Gather Magazine.

### 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](https://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

### 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](https://lifeservebloodcenter.org)

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.



# 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](http://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](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) available at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

**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 now located at Salem and can be accessed at the south entrance. Anyone is 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 get back to you.

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

### **Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 9, 2023 – 6:30 pm**

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members present: Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Doug Bruhns, Laura Gardner, Sue Langerud, Mary Peterson, Dan Rice, Cindy Haugsdal and Pastor Joel Guttormson.

Guests: Mike Swenson attended and volunteered to fill the vacancy for Board chairman for the Board of Property and Management. Mike was thanked and the council will vote to accept Mike as the acting chairman of the Board of Property and Management and Shannon will contact him regarding this vote.

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

**Secretary's Report:** January Minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

Mary moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Sue. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – Anonymous donation for \$50; Anonymous benefactor has contributed \$50,000 to the Tuckpointing Project and will be thanked by Salem through Al Skellenger; Request from LMCS After Prom Committee for donation. Mary moved to support with a \$50 donation, seconded by Laura. All approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Doug provided a verbal and written report.

Total income for January 2023 \$16,205.00

Total Expenses for January 2023 \$22,830.09 (Income less expense -\$6,625.09)

Checking account balance 1/31/2022) \$174,841.31

CD's at FTSB (1/31/2023) Reserves \$26,014.17/Ness Estate \$3,230.02

CD at MBT (1/31/2023) Ness Estate \$52,215.45

**Financial Secretary's report:** Laura provided a verbal and written report

2023 YTD total offerings (1/30/2023) \$15,107

2022 YTD total offerings (1/30/2022) \$14,717

Marci moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Sue. All approved.

## **Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music:** Mary provided a verbal and written report: The board met on 1/26/2023 – discussion included: new payment schedule for live stream; Hand bells need reconditioning; welcomed new board member Bruce Adams and will send thank you notes to Krishna Hansen and Nancy Guttormson; plans for Ash Wednesday and Lenten services which will be focused on Prayers Around the Cross with soup provided by Life and Growth Board; Pulpit supply beginning in June.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a verbal and written report: Coffee fellowship and goodies management; Ash Wednesday service will be February 22 at 5:30 pm and Lenten services on Wednesdays March 1-29; Devotions and Soup and Bread on Lenten Wednesdays at noon after bible study and prior to Lenten devotions.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Dan provided a written and verbal report: The board met on 2/8/2023 – Dan led a discussion of items in the report that included: Letter addressing Salem mission and stewardship and role in the community will be mailed later this month; planning quarterly reports to congregation at coffee time by stewardship and treasurer; planning a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

Salem BBQ Luncheon in April; Participation in the Thrivent Choice dollars program continues to be encouraged by members who are eligible.

**Board of Property and Management:** Shannon provided a written and verbal report: Board met on 1/18/2023 – Shannon led a discussion of items in the report that included: Chapel update is pending; Grinnell insurance continue to collect Certificate of Liability Insurance from groups who use our facilities; Tuckpointing project continues to grow and we have received the \$50,000 anonymous donation to match our giving; Congregational ‘Work Day’ is pending; Food Shelf status and temperature issues continue to be reviewed and discussed; discussion on developing a plan for Phase 2 of Bell Tower project.

**Board of Youth:** Marci provided a verbal and written report. Marci led a discussion of items in the report that included: Faith Formation will be singing during worship on March 5 and April 2; Family Bingo in the Fellowship Hall following the March 5 service; There will be a bake sale (looking for donations of baked goods) before and after worship on April 2 (Palm Sunday); Easter egg hunt for Faith Formation students on April 2, 2023; First Communion Classes scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> graders/parents; last day of Faith Formation will be April 30, along with spring clean-up with students/parents/families and a meal in fellowship hall following.

**Pastor Report – Complete Pastor reports are available for review in the church office.**

**Lead Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Joel shared a written report that included Pastoral acts in January and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- Highlighted the Living Waters Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2023, at 3:00 pm. At First Lutheran Church in Northwood, Iowa.

Mary moved to approve Board/Pastor reports, seconded by Sue. All approved.

Pastor Joel left the meeting following his report.

**Old Business:**

- A. Constitution (Continued)



- a. Review ELCA Model Constitution and Guidelines – no new report.
- B. Call Committee Report – Surveys continue to be returned and completed online. The committee is reaching out to LM Chamber to get demographics of our community as well as other data collection for the Ministerial Site Profile.

### **New Business:**

- A. Open Council/Board positions – Mike Swenson has volunteered to fill the vacancy for Board Chair of Property and Management. Marci moved to accept Mike Swenson as acting Board Chair of Property and Management, seconded by Doug. All approved. The vacancy for Vice President was discussed.
- B. Board Contact Information – Council members should provide Marci with current email, phone, and address information to compile a current contact sheet.
- C. Bank Signatories – Shannon will take care of updating at MBT and FTSB.
- D. Board Invoicing approval process – Doug reviewed his role as a licensed CPA and ethical obligations linked to licensing that follows him in his volunteer role as Treasurer at Salem. He recommends that all invoices for board expenses be signed by Board Chairperson prior to checks being issued. Logistics of this process were reviewed.
- E. Tuckpointing Project Funds – Discussed moving these funds to the FTSB Building Account. Doug moved to transfer Tuckpointing Funds to the FTSB Building Account, seconded by Dan. All approved.
- F. Move undesignated memorials/giving to General Fund annually. Dan moved to place all undesignated memorials/giving to the General Fund annually, seconded by Laura. All approved.
- G. New members – None.
- H. Transfers/statistical adjustments – In a continuing effort to achieve a more accurate listing of active members of Salem, the following members/families do not have a current address at Salem based on returned letters with unknown addresses: Jeremi Throne, Ashley Buol,

Alana Throne, Chrissy and Claire Grothe, Beau Honsey, Anthony Ranes, Jamie Turnbull, Kevin Knudtson, Jayde Thompson, Ben Moretz. Kathy and Rich Wirt have requested being moved to the friends list. Doug moved to transfer these members to the Friends of Salem list as a statistical adjustment, seconded by Marci. All approved.

- I. Next meeting will be held Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Dan moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Doug. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

**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

**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!

**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))

**Collections:** We collect used stamps, pop tabs, eye glasses and receipts from David's Marketplace and Hy-Vee. The WELCA group receives 1 tenth of 1% of all receipts collected from Davids and Hy-Vee receipts go towards a cure for cancer. Please do not roll receipts. Collection baskets are in the Narthex.

**Supplies:** There are face masks, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer on the high top table in the Narthex. Please leave them on the table; they must be accessible to anyone who may want to use them. Thank you!

-Shannon Bruhns, Council President & The Board of Property & Management

### **Salem Lutheran Church Minutes of the Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, January 22, 2023 – Salem Sanctuary – 10:00 am**

The Salem Lutheran Church annual meeting of the congregation was held January 22, 2023. President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order at 10:00am. There were 59 members present.

- I. **Devotions deferred as the Annual Meeting was included as part of the worship service today.** The worship service included an Annual Meeting Opening Liturgy, Sermon and Affirmation of Faith based on Salem's Mission and Vision statements and the installation of council and board members.
- II. **Approval of the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes:** The Annual meeting minutes from the January 23, 2022 were included in the Annual Report for review. Bruce Adams moved to accept the 2022 Annual meeting minutes as written. Larry Rice seconded the motion. All approved.
- III. **Reports:**
  1. **Pastor's Report:** A written report was included in the Annual Report. Pastor Joel reflected on his past calls and then his call to Salem. He discussed his decision to retire and his future transition into retirement.
  2. **President's Report:** A written report reviewing the year was included in the Annual Report. Shannon reflected on 2022 being a year of rebuilding and transition, highlighting special events, congregational worship changes, bell tower repair project and

Pastor Joel's planned retirement in May of 2023. Shannon shared that she feels we are making good progress toward rebuilding Salem. We are moving forward with new/revised traditions while also returning to some of our past traditions. She expressed gratitude for all the efforts of our members in this rebuilding process.

### 3. Treasurer's Report:

- a. **2022 Financial Report** – The 2022 Financial report was included in the Annual report. Drake Abbey reviewed the 2022 Financial statements, noting total income of \$240,617.87 and total expenses of \$243,731.81 (Income less expense -\$3,113.94). Checking account balance on 12/31/2022 was \$125,222.70. Salem's certificate of deposit balances on 12/31/2022 were \$81,459. Salem received the allowed 10% of the original principal balance distribution. General offerings for 2022 were \$226,287.69/budgeted amount of \$245,700. Mission support to the Northeastern Iowa Synod in 2022 totaled \$21,687.42/budgeted amount \$24,000. Drake noted that energy costs were higher than anticipated and shared that day-to-day operations of the church will bring challenges for the new year.
- b. **Enduring Gift Fund Report** – The 2022 Enduring Gift Fund report was included in the Annual report. Account Value as of 12/31/2022 was \$427,061.83.
- c. **Cemetery Board Report** – The 2022 Salem Cemetery Report was included in the Annual Report. Account balance is \$11,683.75. The Cemetery committee Endowment Fund has two CDs, one for \$20,000 and one for \$54,000 plus \$600 held in dedicated Salem Account. Lyle reviewed that there were 17 burials and 3 lots purchased. Mowing was the largest expense. Income covered only half of the expenses; Salem paid the difference.
- d. **Financial Secretary Report** – Sondra Nelson reported income through member offerings in 2022 were \$205,000 and in 2021

were \$230,127. Sondra encouraged members to increase stewardship.

Sue Myli moved to approve the above reports, Al Skellenger seconded the motion. All approved.

#### **IV. Business Items:**

- 1. Adoption of the 2023 Budget** – Drake Abbey presented the 2023 budget. He noted changes from the 2022 budget, including increased amounts budgeted for utilities and building maintenance and improvements.  
Bruce Adams moved to approve the 2023 Budget as proposed, Laura Gardner seconded the motion. All approved.
- 2. Nominations for Council and Boards** – The ballot was presented by Shannon Bruhns, new nominees are:
  - a. Vice President – OPEN
  - b. Financial Secretary – Laura Gardner
  - c. Treasurer – Doug Bruhns (replacing Drake Abbey)
  - d. Nominating Committee – Craig Haugsdal
  - e. Board of Youth – Co-Director/OPEN; Krishna Hanson; Jennifer Sauer
  - f. Board of Life & Growth – Joan Kloster; Yvonne Beenken; Linda Helgeson
  - g. Board of Property & Management – Director/OPEN; Dan Kirshbaum; Erich Stene; Andy Stene; Shawn Helgeson
  - h. Board of Music & Worship – Shannon Bruhns; Bruce Adams
  - i. Board of Stewardship & Social Ministry – Dan Rice; Brian Hanson; Spenser Brackey; Doug Bruhns
  - j. Synod Assembly Delegate – Sondra Nelson, Shannon Bruhns, Al Skellenger
  - k. Enduring Gifts Committee – Bill Tweeten
- 3. Election of Council and Boards** – Larry Rice moved that the Ballot be accepted as presented, Jerry Hoffman seconded the motion. On voice vote, there was a majority in favor with 1 opposing vote, the

motion passed. Dianne Gardner commented that her opposition vote was because the ballot had multiple openings. No concerns raised with Doug Bruhns as Treasurer and Shannon Bruhns as President.

4. **Continuing Resolutions for 2023** – Shannon reviewed the continuing resolutions.
  - a. **Constitution and By-laws** – Work on review and revision continues.
  - b. **Capital Project Phase I-3** – Phase 1 will be the tuckpointing repair; Phase 2 will be work on the steeple (working on plan); Phase 3 will be plaster repair and additional repairs needed.
  - c. **Pastoral Call Support** – Salem Church Council does not guide the call committee but listens and assists with any needs they may have.
5. **Installation of Council and Boards** – Pastor Joel Guttormson installed council and board members that were present.

- V. **Benediction** – Pastor Joel Guttormson  
 Brian Hanson moved that the meeting be adjourned, Spenser Brackey seconded the motion. All approved.  
 The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Mary Peterson, Acting Secretary

**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 Bible Study, 11:30am Soup/Devotions, 5pm Soup/Devotions)

Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study)

Fri: 8am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (8am-10am Fellowship Breakfast)

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)      Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship, 11:30am Youth Board)



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

**SUNDAY 2/26**

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

**MONDAY 2/27**

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 2/28**

6:00pm Call Committee Meeting-Salem Library

**WEDNESDAY 3/1**

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall  
11:30am Lenten Soup & Devotions  
3:15pm Brownies-Room 2  
5:00pm Lenten Soup & Devotions

**THURSDAY 3/2**

9:30am Grace Circle-Salem Library  
9:30am Ruth Circle-Mills Harbour Activity Room  
1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study

**FRIDAY 3/3**

8:00am-10:00am Fellowship Breakfast-Lounge

**SUNDAY 3/5**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary  
10:00am BINGO (everyone is welcome)-Fellowship Hall  
11:30am Youth Board Meeting