

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 26 – March 6

Lifting the Veil

The transfiguration is frustrating for disciples—past and present—who long for an unmediated experience of God. Jesus' glory is revealed, and then, just as suddenly, a cloud descends and the vision fades. And even though Paul contrasts the Christian's experience of God with Moses's veiled experience of God, he notes that we see the glory of the Lord "as though reflected in a mirror" (2 Cor. 3:18). Even with unveiled faces, we don't see directly, or even clearly. Even when God is revealed in shining glory, much remains veiled and hidden.

As he witnesses Jesus' transfiguration, Peter's understanding remains veiled; ours does too. The glimpses we get of God's glory—through the veil or reflected in the mirror—are expectation-shattering, alarming, overwhelming, and awesome. The love of God shines too brightly to view directly, and yet we do have the privilege of directly experiencing that love in baptism, in communion, in service to God, and in relationship with God's creation and our neighbors in need. The veils we contend with daily are the barriers that prevent us from truly loving those neighbors, caring for creation, and seeing the shining face of Jesus in the faces of people who are different, hungry, difficult, enemy, invisible, or poor. God is always revealed in ways that surprise and confuse us, whether shining on the mountaintop or dying on the cross.

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

During this time of social distancing, there are several ways to continue your giving.

-- By mail.

-- By "Simply Giving"- Sign up for weekly or monthly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to get a form.

-- By PayPal- Go to our website home page (www.salemlakemills.com) and scroll to the bottom left- there is a Donate button. Click on that and it will take you to a PayPal or credit card donation page.

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 2/20/22	\$ 2,412
YEAR-TO-DATE: 2/21/22	\$ 24,662
LAST YEAR: as of 2/21/21	\$ 32,561
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ - 7,899

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Exodus 34:29-35

Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shone

Psalm 99

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill. (Ps. 99:9)

2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

Romans 10:8b-13

If you confess that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved

Luke 4:1-13

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer. We ask that you also remember them in your daily prayers.

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Hanson Family (Brian, Krishna, Braylon, Kalen), David & Annette Hanson, Hanson Family (Dennis, Kathleen, Kevin), Hanson Family (Eugene, Julie, Joshua), Raymond Harang

This week the following members will be celebrating their birthdays and we would like to wish them a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

28-Jersey Budach	1-Gavin Thompson	4-Larry Rice
28-Kenley Helgeson	1-Emeryn Wempen	4-Michael Colby
28-Chelsey Ostrander	1-Matthew Vermedahl	4-Brian Helgeson
28-Ryan Wacha	2-Alayna Steele	4-Bram Story
28-Andrea Rodberg	2-Molly Henderson	5-Mark Brackey
28-Nora Hanna	3-Allen Mannes	5-Hayden Iverson
28-Chelsey Holtan	3-Khrystyne Bendickson	

If you have an upcoming birthday and want it to be listed, please call the office to make sure we have your birthday in our records. There are a lot of birthdays missing in our computer system. 641.592.1771



Weather Policy: Just a reminder that the weather may not be as friendly this time of year as this snowman! Should there be an emergency schedule change an announcement will be made via the following:
 --Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills Facebook page
 --KIOW Radio 107.3 (Forest City)
 --KIMT TV Channel 3
 Contact Shannon Bruhns at 641-592-5978 / 641-590-1532

Volunteers Needed: If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read, sing in the liturgical choir or would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, please sign-up in the Narthex.

Ash Wednesday Service: March 2nd at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Quilters: There will be **NO QUILTING** on March 28th.

Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast: Come have breakfast! It's on Pastor Joel! The next Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, March 4th; 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. Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast will now be on the first Friday of every month.

Upcoming Blood Drive

Lake Mills Community Blood Drive

Wednesday, March 10th

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

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!

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

Radio Sponsorship: Reserve your special date to sponsor an 8:30am radio broadcast. The service is heard on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City and on cable channel 2. Radio sponsorship costs \$83.

(Live Internet Broadcast Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday)

Call the office to reserve your date. 641.592.1771

2022 RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

March 27, May 1, May 8, July 17, July 24, July 31,
Aug. 7, Aug. 14, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Oct. 23,
Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, Dec. 11,
Dec. 25



MIDWEEK LENTEN SOUP, STUDY AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

5:30pm – 7:00pm in the Lounge: Beginning March 9 and continuing for the five weeks of Lent there is an opportunity for us to gather together in the lounge for a meal of soup and bread. The soup is being donated by Lunds & Byerlys and our Board of Life and Growth will be providing some hearty loaves of bread.

At 6:00pm: We will continue to meet in the lounge for a conversation about how to be “New and Renewing Members” of Salem. We especially encourage those who would like to become new members to consider attending as well as those who are wanting and willing to accompany us on the journey of becoming new and renewing members.

We are no longer a church of life-long Lutherans who marry Lutherans and have lots of babies who will populate the church of the future. Truth be told many of our members have come from other faith traditions or have grown up without a strong connection to a specific denomination. A now rather old statistic from the Pew Research Center (October 2012) reports one-fifth of the U.S. public and a third of adults under 30 are religiously unaffiliated today. Given the variety of experiences and traditions of many of us, taking time for some renewal seems appropriate in Lent.

In our vision statement we say we long to be, “that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, healing, growing, and serving are open to all, regardless of background, experience of aptitude.” Can we be that place where true evangelism happens, where people can experience being part of a new and renewing community?

The first resource we will be discussing is a newly revised edition of an ELCA publication called “Honoring Our Neighbors Faith.” It says a lot about who we are that we take the time to learn, and honor the variety of ways our neighbors see God working in their lives and communities of faith and express that in different ways. One of the goals of the ELCA is to “maintain our commitment to being a church deeply engaged in ecumenical dialogue, relationships and partnerships for the sake of Christian unity” (Together in Christ p.9).

The second resource we will be looking at is “Baptized We Live – Lutheranism as A Way of Life”. While honoring our neighbors faith and ecumenical work, there are distinctive ways we practice, teach and live out our lives from a unique Lutheran perspective. This resource though illustration and brief descriptions “avoids defining Lutheranism as primarily a system of doctrines” p.3. and focuses on Lutheranism as a way of “seeing, hearing, teaching, and following.”

Our third resource is the newest publication we will be looking at in this new and renewing membership class. This publication grew out of the ELCA “Living into the Future Task Force” formed in 2010 to discern the “ecology” of the ELCA. Ecology was the term used in Galatians 6 when the Apostle Paul refers to the work of mission and God’s people as, the “household” of God. In that sense the task was to consider, like the first century church, to access and discern our work together to get God’s house in order.

Looking back over 20 years of ministry since the merger of three predecessor bodies in 1988, the taskforce was led by two overarching questions

What is God calling this church to be and do in the future?

What changes are in order to respond most faithfully?

The result was the document we will be reading and discussing, “Called Forward Together in Christ – ELCA Future Directions 2025. It is my hope that together we can further our conversation and commitments to be new and renewing members of Salem living faithfully into our life together, honoring our past as we together discern our future.

7:00pm in the chapel– Whether you attend the Soup & Study or not, to close the day with a Service of Word and Prayer from “*All Creation Sings.*” This Lenten midweek service turns us toward God’s abundance by focusing on five divine attributes drawn from the gospel of Luke and the texts assigned for this season: faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and love. Each service is designed for sustained reflection on the gospel in the context of contemplative prayer, readings, silence, and song. This service is designed to unfold slowly with generous use of silence and space to breath, and hopefully within its pattern to draw leaders and worshipers alike closer to experiencing the abundant goodness of God.

Suggested Best Practices for Salem Members

As we continue to experience community spread of Covid-19 and we enter flu season please keep in mind the following recommendations and best practices to protect yourself and others while worshipping here at Salem:

- Monitor your own health – If you are not feeling well or have had a possible exposure to Covid-19, please stay home.
- Wash your hands often; hand sanitizer is available at the west entry doors and in the Narthex. Sharing the peace without contact is preferred and safer for all.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Masking is optional for those who have been vaccinated. Masking is strongly recommended for those not vaccinated. Show respect for all members who choose to wear a mask. Masks are available at the west entry doors and in the Narthex.
- Maintaining distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household provides you better protection from those without symptoms that could spread the virus

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 10, 2022 – 6:30 pm

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

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Sondra Nelson, Mary Peterson, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal.

Member absent: Al Skellenger

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

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

Sondra moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Drake. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – Request presented from LMCS After Prom 2022 Committee. Mary moved that we send a donation consistent with our previous years' donations, seconded by Sondra. Marci will check the records and send the donation.

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

Total income for January 2022 \$15,510.85

Total Expenses for January 2022 \$27,804.79 (Income less expense -\$12,293.94)

Balance sheet was not available due to software issues which continue to be addressed.

Financial Secretary's report: Sondra provided a written and verbal report

2022 YTD total offerings (2/1/2022) \$14,717

2020 YTD total offerings (2/1/2021) \$20,886

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

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music: Mary was welcomed as new chair.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a verbal report. Continue to work on New and Renewing membership classes/bible study, planning soup meal prior to the classes during Lent. Working on ways to display and provide education on symbols of the church. Exploring a musical event in the Sanctuary during July Jubilee weekend.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Al was absent. No report. Shannon will remind Al to raise awareness about donating Thrivent Choice dollars in March. Pastor Joel shared that the board had met and are planning a service of thankfulness with stories of what congregational gifts have done.

Board of Property and Management: No report – Shannon reported that the 1st meeting will be held on February 23 at 6:00 pm.

Board of Youth: Jen and Marci provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: First Communion Classes for 5th graders and parent, Maundy Thursday Meal for those receiving First Communion, Confirmation Retreat in April, Confirmation Plans for Faith Statement Night and Confirmation Sunday, Easter morning options and Summer Camp Registrations. Faith Formation will be singing in church once a month through May. The last day of Faith Formation will be May 8.

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:

- New and Renewing Membership program– Pastor provided more details on this program that will be piloted on Wednesdays in Lent starting March 9. The five week program will be based on three ELCA publications: Honoring our Neighbor’s Faith, Baptized We Live, and Called Forward Together in Christ – ELCA Future Directions 2025.
- Change in Porticoe Benefits – Pastor thanked those involved with assisting him to make the changes in his benefit package to include an HSA (Health Savings Account).
- Riverside Confirmation Retreat – Scheduled on April 2-3, Pastor shared the planned schedule.
- Living Waters Conference Meeting – Sunday, February 20 from 2-4 pm there will be a pre-assembly Zoom meeting. Pastor Liz Albertson, the new Assistant to the Bishop will preach at the opening worship. This meeting will include a presentation by Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to talk about the Afghan Refugee resettlement plans that are in the works. The Living Waters Conference is working on a possible resolution addressing the need for lay education, support and mentoring for persons providing pulpit supply and pastoral care alongside pastors or serving in congregations where there are vacancies.
- Covid Guidelines/Communion – Plan to continue with communion packets through Easter, 4/17/2022. Discussions in preparation to return to normal distribution of communion include adequate assistance through volunteers.
- Reconciling Works – Pastor shared personal reflections related to pastoral care that was recently provided to the Grothe family. He raised the question - How do we refuse access to some aspects of pastoral care and expect individuals and families to be cared and nurtured at other times?

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

Old Business:

A. Constitution

- a. Review ELCA Model Constitution and Guidelines – Shannon provided documents of the ELCA Model Constitution and the Guide for Use of the Model Constitution for Congregations. Requesting council members read and review these documents prior to the next meeting.

New Business:

A. Financial Secretary – Drake moved to appoint Sondra as acting Financial Secretary, seconded by Mary. All approved.

B. New members – none

C. Transfers/statistical adjustments:

- a. Joe and Lanelle Lawson – request membership transfer.
- b. David and Deb Kingland – request removal from membership list
- c. Jordynn Finer – request removal from membership list.

Cindy moved to honor requests for transfer and statistical adjustments, seconded by Sue. All approved.

D. Next meeting

- a. Due to a conflict, will reschedule March meeting to Thursday, March 3 at 6:30 pm
- b. Reschedule April meeting (Maundy Thursday is 4/14/2022) to Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 pm

Sue moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sondra. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Monday: Off, but on-call

Tuesday: Off, but on-call (2:30pm Pastors Text Study, 5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting)

Wednesday: Noon-8:00pm (10am Bible Study, 7pm Worship Service)

Thursday: Noon-8pm (6:30pm Church Council Meeting)

Friday: 8am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (8am-10am Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast)

Saturday: Noon-8pm (5:30pm Worship Service)

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

Secretary

Marci Adeogun

Mon-Tues 10am-5pm

Wed 10am-1:30pm

Thurs 10am-5pm

Fri 10am-4pm

Sat-Sun: Off



SATURDAY 2/26

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 2/27

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Confirmation-Choir Room

10:00am-10:45am Faith Formation-Chapel

MONDAY 2/28

2:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is Open

(To schedule a different time, call 641.592.5085)

3:00pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is Open

(101 S Mill, lower level of the Lake Mills Civic Center)

TUESDAY 3/1

5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting-Library

WEDNESDAY 3/2

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service-Sanctuary

THURSDAY 3/3

9:30am Ruth Circle-Faye Aamodt's Home

9:30am Sarah Circle-Marilyn Pederson's Home

3:15pm Juniors-Room 2

6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY 3/4

8:00am-10:00am Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast-Lounge

SATURDAY 3/5

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 3/6

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Confirmation-Choir Room

10:00am-10:45am Faith Formation-Chapel