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# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 10 - 16

### The Cosmic Love of God

The prologue of John's gospel begins with the story of creation, connecting the Word that became flesh in Jesus with the bringing forth of life and all things. Then, as the gospel continues, the testimony of John the Baptist is shared, which continues to point the reader to Jesus' significance for the whole world, not only one group or people. John, upon seeing Jesus approach him in the wilderness, declares "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). The Gospel of John highlights the cosmic reach of Jesus and the purpose for which Jesus was sent. God loves the whole world, not just part of it. And God loves us, all of us. God's purpose in sending Jesus is "that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).

Our world and our lives include darkness and sin, evil and brokenness. But God's love for us and for the world is complete, passionate, and sacrificial. God is not willing to settle for part of the world, or for some of us. Instead of condemning all that is not pleasing, God gave God's own son, lifted up on the cross, so that all might have the possibility of eternal life. The light of God's love shining down from the cross demonstrates the totality of God's love and proclaims God's desire to transform the dark places in this world into places of light, healing, and salvation.

#### THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21



#### NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.  
THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Gloria Langerud, Sue Langerud, Ron Langfald, Andrew, Heather, Autumn & Summer Lauen, Kenneth Lein

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

10-Willie Skellenger	12-Emily Brackey	14-Steven Helgeson
10-Paisley Merritt	13-Lois Fritz	14-Sharon Casey
11-Nicholas Langenbau	13-Alyssa Holtan	14-Dennis S. Thompson
12-Kit Byars	14-Makenzie Budach	15-Brian Sterrenberg
12-Samantha Lampman	14-Tyler Dahlberg	15-Dana Knutson
		16-Andrew Fjelstad

**-WEEKLY GIVING-**

**LAST SUNDAY 3/3/24:** \$ 5,902  
**YEAR-TO-DATE: 3/6/24** \$ 37,011  
**LAST YEAR: as of 3/6/23** \$ 33,492  
**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:** \$ 3,519

**-Last Weeks Attendance-**

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**Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:** Total received as of 3/6/24 **\$160,762**  
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!

**Memorials Given in January and February:**

Martin & Mabel Lande--\$250 General Fund

Adrian Halvorson--\$25 Building Maintenance, \$200 Cemetery Fund

**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!

**WELCA:** Thursday, March 21 at 2:00pm in the Lounge. Kathy VanHove will be the speaker. She will talk about her journey with type 1 diabetes.

**Bake Sale Fundraiser:** The Youth Board is hosting a Bake Sale Fundraiser on Sun. March 10th in the Narthex, after the worship service. The funds raised will go towards Faith Formation & Confirmation events, activities, snacks and supplies. Make sure to check it out! Free will offering.

**Easter Egg Candy:** The Board of Youth is asking for donations of candy that can put into plastic Easter eggs, for our Faith Formation Easter egg hunt. Donations can be left in the tote across from the office until March 21st. 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).

**Noisy Offering:** The Stewardship Committee would like to announce our first Noisy Offering campaign of the year. We will be supporting the Good Samaritan Ministries. This campaign will begin Sunday, March 3rd and continue until Sunday, March 31st. Good Samaritan Ministries, or Good Sam was created to assist people in need in emergency situations. In the past Good Sam has helped with housing emergencies, medical issues, and situations relating to abuse and domestic violence. If you or someone you know is in need please contact Marci in the Salem office. Please keep the people this program helps in your prayers.

**Worship 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, so 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) If you have any questions call 592-1771

**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!**

**Lake Mills Community Blood Drive:** Thursday, March 21 in the Fellowship Hall. 1:00pm-6:00pm. Appointments Are Encouraged. Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or Call: 800-287-4903 or visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org) **Did you know** that 1 in 7 people entering a hospital will need a blood transfusion? Most people wake up on the day of their transfusion not knowing or realizing that they will need blood that day - and that it will come from a volunteer blood donor - that could be you. Are you ready to donate and do your part to save lives?

**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](http://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)**

**A Day For Women:** Kinship Radio presents their 15th annual “A Day for Women” on Sat. April 13th at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato. This year’s Special Guest is Ginny Owens. She has spent the past two decades sharing her heart with listeners and readers as a singer/songwriter, author, teacher and advocate. There will be music, ministry, lunch and mini-sessions. Space is limited to call 800-810-5559 or go online to [KinshipRadio.org](http://KinshipRadio.org) to register beginning Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. Cost is \$40, doors open at 7:15am, starts at 8:30am.

**The Living Last Supper** will be presented at Pilot Knob Lutheran Church on Palm Sunday, March 24 at 2:00pm (2391-330<sup>th</sup> St. Forest City, IA)

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

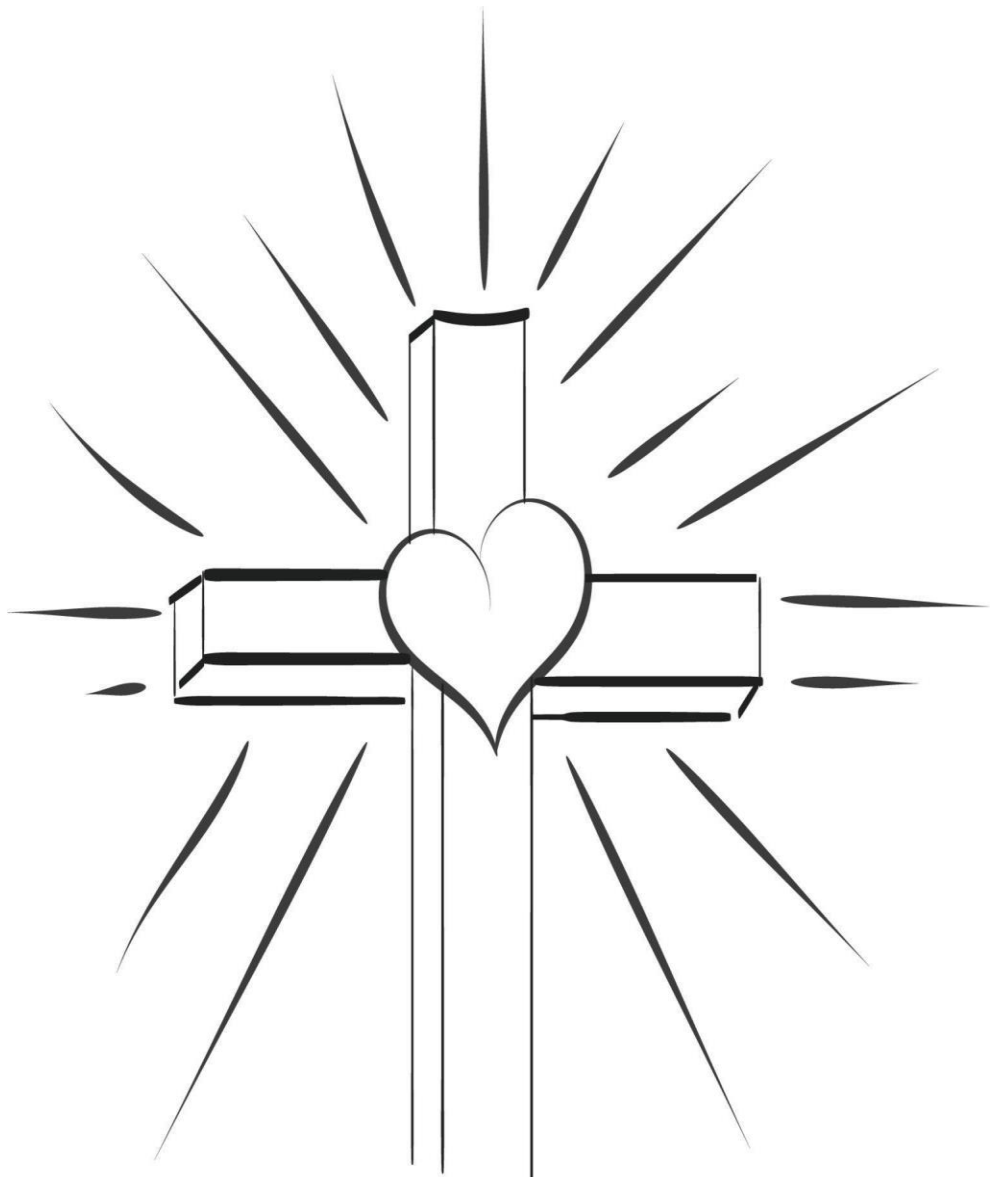


**The Lake Mills Food Shelf** is open 2:30-5:00pm every Monday for anyone in need of additional food. The only criteria for eligibility is to reside within the Lake Mills School District. The Food Shelf is located at Salem and can be accessed at the south entrance. Anyone in need of food when the food shelf is not open, please feel free to call and leave a message at 641-592-1771.

**Collections:** We collect pop tabs, eyeglasses and receipts from David's Marketplace and Hy-Vee. The WELCA group receives 1 tenth of 1% of all receipts collected from David's. The Hy-Vee receipts go towards a cure for cancer. The baskets for all of these are in the Narthex (under the coat rack). Please do not roll the receipts and keep David's separate from Hy-Vee. Thank you!

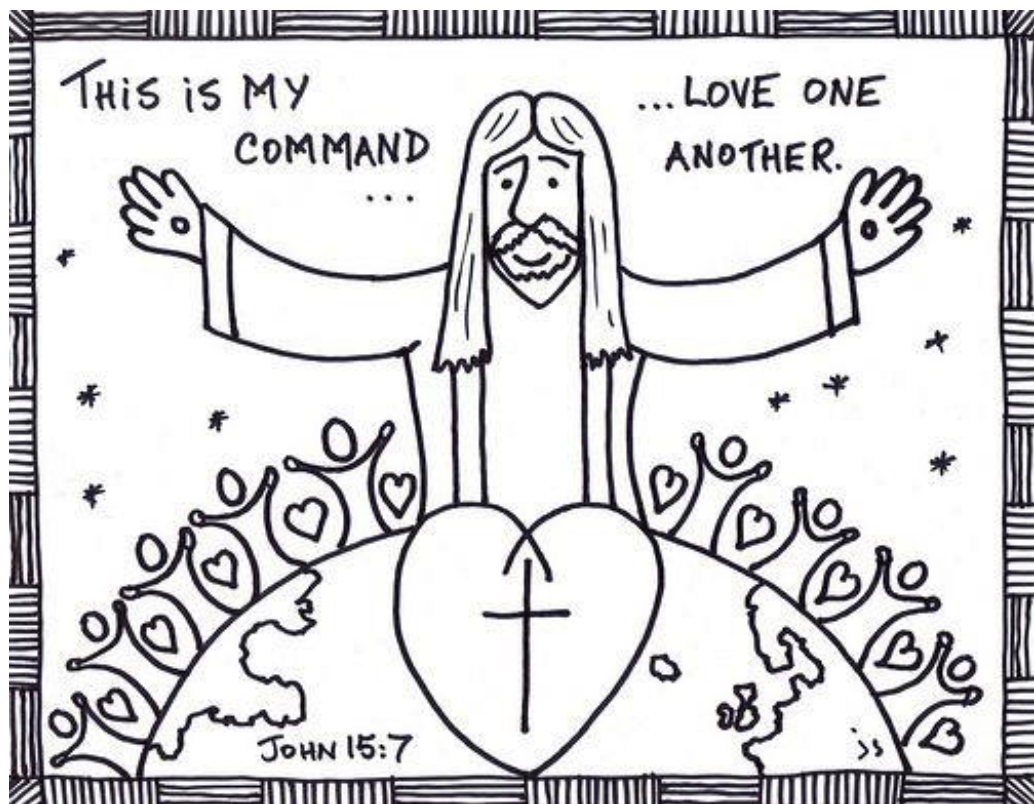
**North Iowa Hospice Volunteer Training** will be on Thursdays-March 28, April 4 and April 11 from 9:30am to 4:00pm at Mercyone North Iowa Hospice located at 232 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE in Mason City. Pre-registration is due by Thursday March 21. Class is free but there is a limited number for the class. Call 641-428-6236 to register.

**Understanding Grief and Loss Support Group** is an adult support group that will provide grief education and support to individuals who've experienced the death of a family member or friend. There is no charge, but space is limited, so please call to register 641-428-6267. The next scheduled group will meet 5 Monday evenings: April 1 - April 29; 5:30-7:00pm at the Mercyone North Iowa Hospice Conference Room (232 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE, Mason City).



*We love Him Because  
He first loved us*





# **ALL ARE INVITED DOWNSTAIRS FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE SERVICE**

## **SUNDAY 3/10**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Ken Jensen)

9:30am-10:30am Bake Sale Fundraiser-Narthex

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am First Communion Class-Lounge

## **MONDAY 3/11**

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters-Fellowship Hall

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

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

## **TUESDAY 3/12**

8:30am-10:00am Larson's Retiree Coffee-Salem Library

## **WEDNESDAY 3/13**

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

## **THURSDAY 3/14**

9:30am Fine Arts Guild-Lounge

## **SUNDAY 3/17**

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

(No Classes-Spring Break)

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

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

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771** (Marci) Monday-Friday 11am-5pm.

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