

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

**March 12 - 18**

### Our “Other” at the Well

The woman at the well is a familiar text for many people. This image of Jesus standing at a well talking with a Samaritan woman is emblazoned in our visual and theological imaginations, but as with all Bible stories that we *think* we know, we might do well to take another look! Perhaps relegating this text to the simple moralism “be nice to people who are different” causes us to miss how deeply radical and difficult the message really is. We may assume this gospel simply urges us to stand with the marginalized, especially women. Yet while standing with marginalized women is a commendable action it can lead us, after doing so, to congratulate ourselves for being just like Jesus. A more critical and searching look at this text calls us to the reality that Jesus doesn’t just stand with *the other*, Jesus stands with *your other*; *your church’s other*. Your church’s “Samaritans” may be homosexuals, evangelicals, urban people, rural people, conservatives, liberals, the poor, the rich, the dying, or single parents. Your church’s Samaritans could very well be the key to this text. Because, like it or not, when we draw lines between ourselves and other people, Jesus is always on the *other* side of that line. So communities and individuals who thirst for the living water would do well to look to who our own Samaritans might be. And when we find them we should perhaps not be surprised to also find Jesus; a Jesus we thought was all our own but who, in reality, is the living water who comes to us in the strange and the stranger.

**THIS WEEKS TEXTS**

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

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

**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:**

Marilyn Storby, Brooke, Caleb, Tasha and Jaden Swanson, Derek, Jamie and Daniel Swanson, Mary Swenson, Mike & Janet Swenson

**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

12-Kit Byars

14-Makenzie Budach

15-Brian Sterrenberg

12-Samantha Lampman

14-Tyler Dahlberg

15-Dana Knutson

12-Emily Brackey

14-Steven Helgeson

16-Andrew Fjelstad

13-Lois Fritz

14-Sharon Casey

18-Jeff Pederson

13-Alyssa Holtan

14-Dennis Thompson

18-Kendra Stene

**-WEEKLY GIVING-****LAST SUNDAY:** 3/5/23      \$ 4,825**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 3/6/23      \$34,588**LAST YEAR:** as of 3/6/22      \$33,619**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**      \$ 969**-Last Weeks Attendance- 107**

**Small Group Discussions:** The Call Committee is holding three small group discussion sessions as part of discerning for a new Pastor. Several survey participants responded that they would like to attend a discussion group such as this, however anyone is welcome to attend.

Sessions are available Tuesday, 3/21 at 11:00 am, Tuesday, 3/21 at 1:00 pm or Thursday, 3/23 at 6:30 pm. All sessions will be held in the Lounge. Please call Marci to schedule your session date/time. If there is no answer, please leave a message and you will get added to the session you specify. 641.592.1771

- Members of the Call Committee

### Tuckpointing Project Update:

Total received as of 3/6/23 **\$127,004 (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!

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

### Upcoming Community Blood Drive

Thursday, **March 16th**; 1:00pm-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Appointments Are Encouraged

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or Call: 800-287-4903

or visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org)

**LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP:** Please join us for 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

**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!

**Plastic Eggs & Candy:** The Youth Board is asking for donations of plastic eggs and candy to fill the eggs for the faith formation Easter egg hunt. Please leave donations in the tote outside the office by March 26th. Thank you!

**Goodies:** The Youth Board is planning a bake sale on April 2nd and they are asking for donations of baked goods, snack mixes or other goodies. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office. Donations need to be plated/bagged and delivered to the Narthex area by Saturday April 1st at 7:00pm. Thank you!

### **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](http://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

**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 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.

**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))

**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!

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

**Youth who are currently in grades 8 – 12 are invited to participate in this summer’s Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event (WIYLDE), set for June 19 – 22, 2023, at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point.**

The event will feature Peer Ministry Leadership Training from Lyle Griner, National Peer Ministry Director. Peer Ministry Leadership Training is based on the Good Samaritan story to train youth in relational leadership skills.

Youth who come to WIYLDE will learn about how to live like the Good Samaritan — listening to, helping, welcoming, and caring for those around them. They will be equipped to be leaders in their congregations, peer groups, schools and communities, learning how to help others who are dealing with difficult issues.

WIYLDE participants will have opportunities to practice these relational and leadership skills with each other and with younger campers at EWALU, along with opportunities to experience some of the fun camp activities that EWALU has to offer.

Accommodations will be at Ewalu’s Stone Center with various activities each day at the main site. The week will conclude July 22 at 3 p.m. with a WIYLDE-led worship service, which family members, pastors, youth directors, and other guests will be invited to attend.

### **Register by June 1**

The cost for WIYLDE is \$200 per participant; Salem will pay this cost. Registration forms are available to download from the synod website, [www.neiasynod.org](http://www.neiasynod.org) or can be picked up at the Salem office. The registration deadline is June 1. For more information, email [Pastor Kristen Rod](mailto:Pastor Kristen Rod) through the synod website; [www.neiasynod.org](http://www.neiasynod.org) or call the synod office, 319-352-1414. Please let the Salem office know if you plan to attend this event as well.

**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)

**Collections:** We collect used stamps, 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. Hy-Vee receipts go towards a cure for cancer. The baskets for all of these are in the Narthex. Please do not roll the receipts and keep David's receipts separate from Hy-Vee. 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

**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.

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)**

Mon-Tues: 10am-5pm, Wed: 10am-3pm, Thurs: 10am-5pm, Friday Closed

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

**Pastor Joel Guttormson**

Mon: Off, but on-call (10am Caregivers Support Group)

Tues: 10am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (10am LMAMA 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, 2pm WELCA, 4pm Life/Growth)

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

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship)

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

**SUNDAY 3/12**

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

**MONDAY 3/13**

10:00am Caregivers Support Group-Lounge  
 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 3/14**

6:00pm Call Committee Meeting-Salem Library

**WEDNESDAY 3/15**

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

**THURSDAY 3/16**

1:00pm-6:00pm Blood Drive-Fellowship Hall  
 1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study  
 2:00pm WELCA-Lounge  
 3:15pm Juniors-Room 2  
 4:00pm Life & Growth Board Meeting-Salem Library

**SUNDAY 3/19**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary  
 10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall  
 10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel  
 10:00am Confirmation-Youth Room  
 6:00pm Sliver Lake Huskers 4-H Meeting-Fellowship Hall