

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 12 – March 20

Purpose and Perseverance

This week's gospel text from Luke presents another temptation for Jesus. The Pharisees approach Jesus with a warning about his safety, telling him to "get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you" (Luke 13:31). Not only do the Pharisees want Jesus to leave, but one can assume they also want Jesus to stop doing what he was doing: speaking against the Pharisees, teaching about God, and healing on the sabbath. We know the Pharisees are "very hostile" (Luke 11:53) toward Jesus, so we can conclude that their warning is not a genuine expression of concern but rather an attempt to stop his mission and ministry.

However, Jesus will not be distracted or turned away from his purpose, even if that includes moving toward his own death in Jerusalem. In Jesus' ability to fulfill his purpose, even in the midst of opposition, we find inspiration as we seek to live our lives in concert with God's purposes. As Christians, Jesus' purpose is our purpose. The church, the body of Christ, doesn't exist for itself. Rather, the church exists to be a partner with God in God's mission to love, bless, and reconcile the world.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The covenant with Abram and his descendants

Psalm 27

In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)

Philippians 3:17--4:1

Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior

Luke 13:31-35

I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood

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: 3/6/22 \$ 3,867

YEAR-TO-DATE: 3/7/22 \$ 33,619

LAST YEAR: as of 3/7/21 \$ 40,775

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ - 7,156

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 55:1-9

Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the LORD

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians

Luke 13:1-9

Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree

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

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

Call the office to reserve your date. 641.592.1771

2022 RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE: March 27, May 1, 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



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: Kevin & Janet Hebrink, Sylvia Heimdal, Heinz Family (Kasey, Hadley, Briar), Devan Helgeson, Helgeson Family (Bradley, Jolene, Mason, Kenley, Reece)

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

13-Lois Fritz	14-Sharon Casey	18-Jeff Pederson
13-Karen Belville	14-Dennis S. Thompson	18-Darrel Belville
13-Alyssa Holtan	15-Brian Sterrenberg	18-Kendra Stene
13-Lillian Brackey	15-Dana Knutson	18-Brett Nickson
14-Makenzie Budach	15-Jeremy Ostrander	19-Ovila Hanna
14-Tyler Dahlberg	16-Andrew Fjelstad	19-Grace Okland
14-Steven Helgeson	17-Kayla Monaghan	19-Ardis Langfald
13-Leighton Flugum	17-Alayna Pederson	

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

Memorials Given in February

Norma Thompson--\$990 General Fund, \$25 Cemetery Fund

Ila & Don Grothe--\$50 General Fund

Ila Grothe--\$2,586 General Fund, \$50 Building Fund, \$40 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!

Easter Eggs & Candy: The Board of Youth and Education is asking for donations of Plastic Eggs (used or new) and Candy to fill the eggs, for Easter. There is a tote for donations outside the church office. Thank you!



Thrivent Choice®—Generosity Strengthens Communities

Thanks to Thrivent and its clients, Salem Lutheran Church has received \$15,171 Choice Dollars® grant funds since 2018

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 J. 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 announce 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).

Other options are Online: [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.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

BINGO: On March 13th there will be no confirmation or faith formation classes. The Board of Youth & Education is hosting BINGO in the fellowship hall at 10:00am. Everyone is welcome! Breakfast provided--Rolls, Coffee and Juice. Please join us for Bingo—it’s fun for all ages!!!

WECLA will meet on Thursday, March 17th at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Joel will lead the Bible Study from the Gather Magazine

Pastor’s Schedule

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Monday: Off, but on-call

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

Wednesday: Noon-8:00pm (10am Bible Study, 5:30pm Soup & Study, 7pm Worship)

Thursday: Noon-8pm (2pm WELCA, 4pm Life & Growth Board Meeting)

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

Saturday: Vacation

Sunday: Vacation

Secretary

Marci Adeogun

Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm

Fri 10am-4pm

Sat-Sun: Off

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 assess 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.

SATURDAY 3/12

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 3/13

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Bingo-Fellowship Hall (EVERYONE WELCOME!)

MONDAY 3/14

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

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)

3:15pm Daisies-Room 2

WEDNESDAY 3/16

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

3:15pm Juniors-Room 2

5:30pm Soup and Study-Library

7:00pm Service of Word & Prayer-Chapel

THURSDAY 3/17

2:00pm WELCA-Fellowship Hall

3:15pm Cadettes-Room 2

4:00pm Board of Life & Growth Meeting-Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY 3/19

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 3/20

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

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

10:00am Confirmation-Choir Room