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# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 16 - 22

### 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 READINGS**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Luke 13:31-35

#### **NEXT WEEKS READINGS**

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Each week we will lift up five church families/ members in prayer.  
**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:** Matthew & Julie Helgeson, Michael & Rosalie Helgeson, Ryan, Kelli, Hayden, Conner and Josie Helgeson and Drew Woodley, Shawn, Julie, Karli and Carter Helgeson, Tyler Helgeson

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

|                  |                 |                   |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 18-Jeff Pederson | 18-Kendra Stene | 20-Tyler Helgeson |
|                  | 19-Ovila Hanna  | 20-Dennis Miller  |

**-WEEKLY GIVING-**

|                                 |                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>LAST SUNDAY:</b> 3/9/25:     | No update       | <b><u>Last Weeks Attendance</u></b> |
| <b>YEAR-TO-DATE:</b> 3/9/25:    | this week       | 50                                  |
| <b>LAST YEAR:</b> as of 3/9/24: | due to office   |                                     |
| <b>DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:</b> | computer issues |                                     |

**Guest Book:** If you are visiting Salem today, we welcome you and invite you to sign our guest book, located in the Narthex, and we hope to see you again!

**Easter Candy:** The Board of Youth is asking for donations of candy which will be used to fill the plastic eggs for the Faith Formation Easter Egg Hunt. Donations can be left in the tote by the lounge until March 30th. Thank you!

**Upcoming Blood Drive:** Thursday, March 20; In the Fellowship Hall 1:30-6:00pm. Appointments Are Encouraged. Call: 800-287-4903 or Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org)

**Living Water Cluster Spring Salad Luncheon** will be on April 26 at Rock Creek Lutheran Church, 3269 Foothill Ave, Osage, IA. Coffee and goodies will begin at 8:30am. They ask that each church give a 5 minute account of what your gals do, a show and tell. A brief business meeting will be held and then the special feature will be gals from the local Cluster churches sharing what their church gifts to others. It will be enlightening how we continue to serve others with the individual and great tasks accomplished yearly. The Salad Lunch will start at 11:30am. Call Bev Mathers (641-395-2924) for all reservations by Thur. April 24

**Tori Holtan Writes To Salem:** This summer, I am answering God's call to serve by going on a mission trip, where I will use my hands to do His work and my heart to share His love. I am excited for the opportunity to make an impact, deepen my faith, and spread the message of Jesus to those in need. From July 20th to 28th, I will be serving in Burnsville and Asheville, North Carolina. While there, our team will help communities with house repairs, debris cleanup, and building a garden shed in the aftermath of Hurricane Helena. I ask for your thoughts, prayers, and, if possible, monetary donations to support this mission. The Youth Board and I will also be hosting a bake sale on Palm Sunday to help fund this trip. Thank you for your support as I serve God and His people.  
(Donations can be left for Tori in the church office, if it's closed slide under door)

**Easter Resurrection Garden:** Help us celebrate Easter Sunday by sponsoring potted flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones to brighten our sanctuary to proclaim he is risen! All tributes will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Following Easter Sunday service, all flowers may be taken home by those who sponsored them. Even if you plan to bring your own flowers, please fill out a form so we can add your tribute to the list. Order forms are in the Narthex. All order forms must be returned by Sunday, March 30th. Thank you!

**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 until the end of April. Thank you!

**Volunteers Needed for Worship and Faith Formation:** If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read or sing in the liturgical choir, please sign up in the Narthex. If you are willing to supervise and interact with the children of Salem, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the chapel. No planning, experience or training needed. A Youth Board Member will plan & lead, you will be a helper.

**Live Stream Sponsorship:** Dates available--March 23, 30, June 29, July 13, 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Oct 5, 19, 26, Nov 16, 23, 30, Dec 28. Cost \$40

## **No Faith Formation on Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, due to Spring Break.**

**Prayer Shawls**, hand knit or crocheted by Salem members, are available in the Narthex for you to wrap someone in need. A Prayer Shawl is for anyone in need of prayer, hope, comfort and love of a community. If you would like the person included in the prayer chain, please call the office.

**Prayer Chain Ministry** is a network of people who are committed to prayer and will take action on behalf of others. If you will pray for those in need, sign-up in the Narthex. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call the office and the prayer request will get sent out. If there is no answer, leave a message. All requests will be confidential among the prayer chain ministry. Thank you!

**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 2:00-5:00pm 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 and someone will call back.

**Steeple Project Update:** The total available balance as of 2/28/25 is **\$62,554.32**. The total received as of 3/12/25 is **\$168,782**. All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Steeple Project" when submitting a contribution. Thank you!

**Thrivent Choice Dollars:** To those Salem members with Thrivent financial products, the deadline to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars is approaching at the end of March. 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!

**How to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® Online:**

Step 1—Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

Step 2—Click on “log in” at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and password. (If you haven’t registered on Thrivent.com, click on “register” to register.)

Step 3— Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen.

Step 4—Click on “Direct Choice Dollars” in the Thrivent Choice® box on your MyThrivent page.

Step 5— Search the catalog of organizations to find the organization you want to select.

Step 6—Click on “Direct Choice Dollars Now” to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit that organization.

**How to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® By phone:**

Step 1—Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say “Thrivent Choice.”

Step 2— When prompted, say “Choice Dollars.”

Step 3— Say or enter your Social Security number.

Step 4— Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars

Step 5— A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

**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. Forms are in the Narthex.

**(There is a much lower service fee with the Simply Giving Program)**

# SPRING IS IN THE AIR

T X S E V A V L E T K S L F A C P K J G H H O K  
Y W B Q H Y D Q Q D L J F Q G U A A J G Z C O K  
G S S Y Y X H T L P S H Y B D L R A E R A R Z F  
O E U F V L R A S C E Z Y Y X Z E X C O U A G S  
P P V N W V K C Z Y D S K M T U L I P W C M T P  
T I V U S V Q S E E D S K O Y V Z D R I V R H C  
M N J J O H D A I E F I U Y F F E D E L L H P O  
G T A K P W I P I C N I C C S P B L O S S O M X  
H F G L A G Z N E J O K E U W C L I U Q N O J S  
M D A V P B N S E D P V P K B Q A F V I P J S O  
X J W G R Q W I O H N J A P A V M L U U N I A R  
K X K J I R D R N I G A Z O Z H J O B M B V L N  
O J T O L V W A D E L F Y R G H E W D R W U G J  
D L H Z J S A J F L D A A S I T K E F C Z R D N  
N W Q G T L L S X F M R J V E L N R A M T O P N  
E G U Z B Z K D A V O U A P B I V X A N Q P Y T  
D S W T D T I R Q K T D U G P G P M C P H U K I  
R E G Z Z F N I Z P Y Q I M G I M T G O D S O R  
A N E V Q P G B Q H S G R L B W W N E Y X H D K  
G W P N J H B S X N C L U E Y R W D X A L M I F  
J O U S F H L H H P Z L F D F U E E D X D G D C  
D Y B K M M O R G O L F B C N M E L C Z F G X E  
M V L I L I O Y P U X T F J D P W N L H D G R J  
Y X B Z U I M F B E E P Y O R J K S M A M H B P

|           |          |          |          |         |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| GARDENING | UMBRELLA | SUNSHINE | DAFFODIL | BLOSSOM |
| WALKING   | JONQUIL  | GARDEN   | PICNIC   | FLOWER  |
| PLANT     | BLOOM    | SEEDS    | TULIP    | MARCH   |
| BIRDS     | APRIL    | GROW     | SOIL     | RAIN    |
| GOLF      | SKY      | MAY      | BUD      | BEE     |



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

**SUNDAY 3/16**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Judy Wozniak)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

**MONDAY 3/17**

2:00pm-5:00pm Clothes Closet and Food Shelf OPEN

6:00pm Quilt Club-Fellowship Hall

**WEDNESDAY 3/19**

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

**THURSDAY 3/20**

10:30am Life & Growth Board Meeting-Library

1:00pm-6:00pm Blood Drive-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm WELCA-Lounge

**SUNDAY 3/23**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Judy Wozniak)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

**Salem Office: 592.1771** This week...Mon, Wed, Fri: 10-2, Tues & Thurs: 10-5  
(Hours subject to change, feel free to call ahead to ensure the office is open)