

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 19 – March 27

Fertilized, Fruitful, and Free

God's word for us today is nutritious and wholesome, though hard to digest. The gospel reading seems oddly brutal alongside the abundance and comfort of the texts from Isaiah ("delight yourselves in rich food") and Psalm 63 ("My spirit is content as with the richest of foods"). Even Paul finds himself using physical sustenance as a metaphor ("they drank from the spiritual rock, . . . and the rock was Christ"). Surrounded by this food imagery, we now find Jesus using some horrific events as illustrations. After the mingled blood and fallen towers, it may be hard to hear the fig-tree parable as the grace-full story it really is. But here is Christ himself as gardener: digging, fertilizing, protecting, and nurturing us. We are fragile creatures, living in a world of tragedy and terror, but God does not punish fragility with death. On the contrary, God sent Jesus to us so that we may live.

Living in that nurtured garden of Christ, tended to and cared for as we grow in that love, how can we keep from blossoming? Live, yes, and live fruitfully, our gospel proclaims! Grow, yes, and grow gloriously! Now the good news of Christ's redeeming mercy becomes clear: we are each treated with boundless mercy, not impartial justice. While the world may want to blame the withering tree for its inability to be productive, our Savior and Lord reaches into our lives, reminds us of our roots, nourishes us with grace, and allows us to bloom, to flourish, to freely share our gifts with the world.

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: 3/13/22 \$ 5,925

YEAR-TO-DATE: 3/14/22 \$ 39,544

LAST YEAR: as of 3/14/21 \$ 46,242

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ - 6,698

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 55:1-9

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

Psalms 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

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Joshua 5:9-12

Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land

Psalms 32

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The mystery and ministry of reconciliation

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son

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: Brian, Clayton and Weston Helgeson, Christopher Helgeson, Daniel, Emily, Cooper and Emmett Helgeson, David Helgeson, Don & Julie Helgeson.

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

20-Michael Flugum	22-David Rygh	24-Summer Lauen
20-Tyler Helgeson	22-Gregory Turvold	25-Justine Stensrude
20-Dennis Miller	23-Matthew Gerdes	25-Finn Ritter
21-Kevin Nelson	23-Katy Naumann	
21-Benjamin Player	23-Anthony Ranmaker	

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

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!

Easter Resurrection Garden: Help us celebrate Easter by sponsoring potted flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones to brighten our sanctuary to proclaim he has risen! Potted flowers wrapped in foil will be provided and delivered by Three Oaks Greenhouse Floral and Gifts. 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. Price list and order forms may be found in the Narthex or outside the church office. Checks may be made out to Salem Lutheran Church. Orders must be placed by **Monday March 28th, 2022.**



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 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

First Communion Classes will start on March 27th during faith formation hour. We ask that a parent, sponsor or adult accompany participants to each class and to let Abby Holton know on March 27th, how many in your family will be attending the Maundy Thursday meal (April 14th), so we can prepare.

Pastor’s Fellowship Breakfast: Come have breakfast! It’s on Pastor Joel! The next Pastor’s Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, April 1st; 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.

March 10th Blood Drive Results:

Total Donors: 43, Units collected: 50, Lives Saved: 150, First Time Donors: 3

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

Radio Sponsorship: Reserve your special date to sponsor an 8:30am radio broadcast. The service is heard on **KIOW (107.3 FM)** radio and 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, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14, 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 27, Dec. 4, 11



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 or 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.

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

MONDAY 3/21

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)

6:30pm Quilt Club-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY 3/23

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

5:30pm Soup and Study-Library

7:00pm Service of Word & Prayer-Chapel

THURSDAY 3/24

5:45pm Worship & Music Board Meeting-Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY 3/26

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 3/27

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

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

10:00am Confirmation-Choir Room

10:00am First Communion Class-Lounge

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Mon-Sun: Vacation

Secretary

Marci Adeogun

Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm

Sat-Sun: Off