
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL MINUTES

March 26 – April 1

The Hope of New Life

Hope overcomes despair for God’s people: this is the message of the readings for today. The hope of new life is evident in the story of “dry bones” from Ezekiel. The children of Israel declare their hope is lost. The prophet’s experience in the valley of dry bones inspires him to preach renewed hope to the people. Psalm 130 sings of hope in God and God’s word. The work of God’s Spirit gives hope of new life in Paul’s letter to the church at Rome. The Gospel of John tells the hope-filled story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. The gospel gives us encouraging words to sustain us through the approaching despair of Christ’s passion and brings us to the fulfillment of hope on Easter. Martha’s wistful words to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here. . . . But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him” (John 11:21-22), reflect the hope of God’s people in the face of despair, even in the face of death.

Each text encourages hearers to hope in God and God’s word. How do Christians experience unfulfilled hope? This is the challenge for those who interpret today’s texts for hearers. Israel’s woes are not at an end; other psalms tell of struggle and pain; the Christ-believers at Rome are persecuted; Jesus who raises Lazarus from the dead soon dies. And yet hope is fulfilled as Paul proclaims “all Israel will be saved” (Rom. 11:26). Psalm 46 sings of God’s presence in time of trouble. A preview of the hope of the resurrection will sustain believers in these final days of Lent (John 20:17). The Christian’s confidence in the resurrection of the dead epitomizes their hope in Christ.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14--27:66

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Arlin & Pat Thorson, Craig Thorson, Darrin, Laura and Amanda Thorson, Kim, Darin and Tremaine Thorson, Todd, Jill and Dalton Thorson

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

27-Andrew Knudtson

28-Abby Beaty

30-Katlyn Eidness

27-Clayton Helgeson

28-Gracie Order

31-Heather Mannes

29-Brittany Benjegerdes

31-Kelly Kloster

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 3/19/23 \$ 4,415

YEAR-TO-DATE: 3/21/23 \$ 41,038

LAST YEAR: as of 3/21/22 \$ 44,751

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -3,713

-Last Weeks Attendance-

63

Lenten Midweek Worship: Please join us for the last Soup and Lenten Prayer Around the cross in the Fellowship Hall, Wednesday March 29th

11:30am-Noon Soup & Bread, Noon-12:30pm Holden Prayer Around the Cross.

5:00-5:30pm, Soup & Bread, 5:30-6:00pm Holden Prayer Around the Cross.

Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for **April 14th (Note this is the 2nd Friday)**

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.

Living Water's Cluster Spring Salad Luncheon will be held at Salem on Saturday, April 29th at 8:30am. Please RSVP to Margaret by April 27th. 641.590.2891

Bishop Kevin Jones will join the Call Committee in the Fellowship Hall after worship on **April 2nd** for an informal discussion regarding Salem's call for a Pastor. All are welcome to join the conversation during this important time in Salem's mission. - Members of the Call Committee

Thrivent Choice Dollars:

If you would like to participate in the Thrivent Choice Dollars Program, the mail in date has passed. The deadline for this is **March 31st**. Call Pete at the local Thrivent office 641.592.0064 or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice"

Online option: [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. Thank you!

Tuckpointing Project Update: All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note "Tuckpointing Project" when submitting your contribution. Total received as of 3/21/23 **\$127,309** 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 29th**. 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!

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!

Devotionals: April/May/June devotionals are in the Narthex & at the south door.

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

2023 Dates available: April 16, 30, May 7, June 18, July 9, 16, 23, Aug. 6, 13, 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 10, 31

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

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 9, 2023 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members present: Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Doug Bruhns, Laura Gardner, Dan Rice, Mike Swenson, Cindy Haugsdal and Pastor Joel Guttormson.

Absent: Mary Peterson, Sue Langerud

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report: February Minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

Doug moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Dan. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – Anonymous donation of \$50 will be deposited in the general fund.

Treasurer's Report: Doug provided a verbal and written report.

Total income for February 2023 \$15,319.21

Total Expenses for February 2023 \$23,985.28 (Income less expense -\$8,666.07) Gas and electricity above budget this month.

Checking account balance (2/28/2022) \$167,511.21

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance \$125,222.70

CD's at FTSB (2/28/2023) Reserves \$26,014.17/Ness Estate \$3,230.02

CD at MBT (2/28/2023) Ness Estate \$52,215.45

Financial Secretary's report: Laura provided a verbal and written report

2023 YTD total offerings (2/20/2023) \$25,978

2022 YTD total offerings (2/20/2022) \$24,662

Floyd Thomas prints donated by Faye Aamodt brought in \$849 for Tuckpointing project.

Mike moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Dan. All approved.

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a written report: The board met on 2/23/2023 and items discussed included: Lenten services, Palm Sunday (palms), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter; Easter flowers with upcoming deadline; Liturgical planning and pulpit supply after Pastor Joel retires.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a written report: Hosting soup and Lenten services; 24 hour prayer vigil following Maundy Thursday service; Farewell party for Pastor Joel on May 14; this board will take one Sunday/month to supply goodies for coffee fellowship.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Dan provided a verbal report: Stewardship letter was mailed out; continue planning for BBQ celebration; planning a quarterly food and fellowship event; Noisy offering future plans; Thrivent Choice dollars deadline coming up, will remind congregation this Sunday; Lenten services donations discussed, planning to give to Lutheran Disaster relief.

Board of Property and Management: Mike provided a verbal report: working on ceiling repairs in the church building; Young Construction will be looking at the steeple and will see what can be done and costs to follow up after tuckpointing is completed; Johnson Heating will be contacted to explain if/what heat/cooling is available on East/West corridors/rooms from new heating/cooling system.

Board of Youth: Marci provided a verbal and written report. Finalized plans for First Communion Classes and Maundy Thursday meal; Faith formation singing on Palm Sunday along with bake sale and following Faith Formation Easter Egg Hunt; April 30 is the last day of Faith Formation with a Spring Cleanup around town; Faith Statement night will be on May 3, with Confirmation pictures and Pizza party; Confirmands will make stoles and be fitted for robes on April 26 with lunch provided by Pastor Joel; Confirmation Sunday will be May 7; Graduation Sunday will be May 21; VBS will be held at Winnebago Church this summer, if anyone is interested in helping with VBS let Marci know.

Pastor Report – Complete Pastor reports are available for review in the church office.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel shared a written report that included Pastoral acts in February and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- Pastoral care being provided to multiple families
- Summer feeding program leadership still uncertain.

Laura moved to approve Board/Pastor reports, seconded by Mike. All approved.

Pastor Joel left the meeting following his report.

Old Business:

- A. Constitution (Continued)
 - a. Review ELCA Model Constitution and Guidelines – 2022 Amendments
- B. Call Committee Report – Compiled data from congregational surveys was reviewed. Copies were shared with members on Sunday. Small group discussions are scheduled and dates/times will be published in the bulletins this Sunday. Working on scheduling Bishop Jones to come to Salem.
- C. Board Invoicing Approval Process Updates – the process seems to be going well.
- D. Food Shelf Update – Continue to make room adjustments to meet temperature requirements/comfort; the future of the food shelf long term appears to be a plan to return to the Civic Center building once demolition and rebuilding is completed; Salem will continue to provide space for the Food shelf as long as needed.

New Business:

- A. Corrected 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes re: Cemetery Board annual report. Shannon and Cindy provided clarification regarding a correction to the cemetery annual report within the annual meeting minutes. Mike moved to accept this change to the minutes, seconded by Doug. All approved.
- B. Baccalaureate – the Senior Class of LMCS has requested to have Baccalaureate service at Salem on May 17 at 7:00 pm. Marci moved to agree to have Baccalaureate at Salem as requested, seconded by Dan. All approved.
- C. Weather policy - Ash Wednesday services had to be cancelled due to weather; Shannon presented and reviewed the Weather/Emergency cancellation Procedures.

- D. Accounting Adjustment – Shannon, Doug and Drake have met to address the Unassigned Restricted Parsonage Sale account under dedicated accounts which continues to show a balance that is not actual funds. The history of this account was reviewed as was the need to clean this up to have accurate balance sheets. Doug moved that the unassigned restricted Parsonage Sale account be adjusted to the actual balance, seconded by Dan. All approved. Doug would also like to provide a quarterly budget report to congregation during the year.
- E. New members – Kyle Sprecher has requested membership and is working with Pastor Joel. Mike moved to accept Kyle Sprecher as a new member, seconded by Laura. All approved.
- F. Transfers/statistical adjustments – In a continuing effort to achieve a more accurate listing of active members of Salem, Marci presented an additional listing of 153 members currently on an inactive list proposing that the names be moved to Friends of Salem. Laura moved that this list of inactive members be moved to Friends of Salem list, seconded by Mike. All approved.
- G. Next meeting will be held Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Doug moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Dan. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci) Mon-Wed: 10am-5pm, Thurs-Fri: 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

Tues: 10am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (2:30pm Text Study. 1pm Enduring Gifts Meeting)

Wed: Noon-8pm (10am Bible Study, 11:30am Soup/Devotions, 5pm, Soup/Devotions)

Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study)

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

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship, 10am Confirmation)

All are invited downstairs after the worship service for fellowship.

SUNDAY 3/26

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

MONDAY 3/27

1:00pm-4pm 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 3/28

1:00pm Enduring Gift Committee Meeting-Library

WEDNESDAY 3/29

10:00am Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
11:30am Lenten Soup & Devotions-Fellowship Hall
12:00pm Cadettes & HS-Room 2
5:00pm Lenten Soup & Devotions-Fellowship Hall
6:00pm Bell Choir Practice-Choir Room

THURSDAY 3/30

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study

SUNDAY 4/2 (Palm Sunday)

8:30am & 10:00am Bake Sale Fundraiser-Narthex
9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Kids Sing)
10:00am Fellowship with Bishop Jones-Fellowship Hall
10:00am Confirmation-Youth Room
10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel
10:35am Easter Egg Hunt