

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 26 – April 3

Less Grumbling, More Humbling

Grumbling! The crowd around Jesus—the “in” crowd, that is—was grumbling. Grumbling because Jesus welcomed those who traditionally had been set apart: tax collectors and sinners. Who are those who cause us to grumble? Whose seemingly undeserved handout or unearned status change filled our hearts with resentment this week? Jesus speaks to us today because we too often see life as a game with winners and losers, points and playbooks, offense and defense. Can we open our hearts and minds to hear today’s humbling good news? God’s love is freely shared with all: we cannot earn it, we cannot deserve it. When we attend worship, we do so out of thanksgiving and praise for God’s glory, hunger and thirst for God’s word and sacrament. We do not attend worship to achieve some status within God’s kingdom. When we help a neighbor, share with a stranger, assist the afflicted, or acknowledge the overlooked we do so because Christ first did the same for us. We respond to God’s grace and mercy with our own feeble attempts to emulate God’s perfect love. It is challenging, exhausting, never-ending, perspective-altering, radically humbling work. It’s work that is impossible to do without the inspiration of Christ, the nourishment of wine and bread, and the strength of the saints who have gone before us and with whom we walk Christ’s path today. Let us find those in our world who teach us about Christ’s unending reconciliation, so that we can all celebrate and rejoice as the family of God.

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: 3/20/22 \$ 3,067

YEAR-TO-DATE: 3/21/22 \$ 42,611

LAST YEAR: as of 3/21/21 \$ 48,914

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ - 6,303

THIS 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

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 43:16-21

The LORD gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people

Psalms 126

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

Philippians 3:4b-14

To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings

John 12:1-8

Mary anoints Jesus for his burial

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: Gary, Linda and Ryan Helgeson, Janice Helgeson, Jon & Becky Helgeson, Michael, Rosalie and Matthew Helgeson, Scott Helgeson

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

27-Andrew Knudtson	28-Gracie Roder	31-Heather Mannes
27-Clayton Helgeson	29-Brittany Benjegerdes	31-Kelly Kloster
28-Abby Beaty	30-Katlyn Eidness	

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!

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.

Collections: The Board of Life & Growth collects used stamps, pop tabs, eye glasses and receipts from David's Marketplace. The WELCA group receives 1 tenth of 1% of all receipts collected. This can really add up and help. They ask that receipts do not get rolled up. Collection baskets are in the Narthex.



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**. It is past the deadline to mail in.

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

Fundraiser: The Board of Youth is hosting a Bake Sale Fundraiser on April 10th from 8:30am-10:30am in the Narthex to support the activities, events and supplies provided to our youth. (Will also be set up on April 9th at 5:30 service).

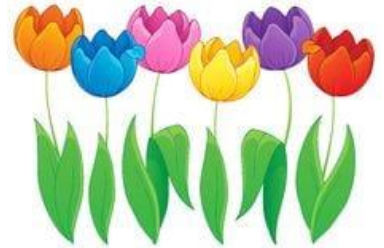
Baked Donations: If you are able to donate baked goods for the Youth Fundraiser, please sign up in the Narthex or call the office, then drop off items in the **Lounge by noon on Saturday April 9th**. Thank you!!!

Devotionals: There are copies of the April/May/June devotionals in the Narthex, by the south entrance and by the office.

Special Music: Faith Formation Kids will sing on April 10th during the worship service.



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.**



Foundations of Parenting: April 1st & 2nd—Fri. 6pm-7:45pm, Sat. 8:30am-2pm. First Baptist Church, Forest City. \$20 for individuals, \$35 for Couples. Childcare will be available for ages birth-5th grade. Refreshments provided throughout the weekend and lunch on Sat. Register online at fbcforestcity.org

Parents! Your role as a parent is your most important ministry. This exciting, yet humbling challenge should drive us to ask the question, "How do I parent most effectively?" Let's go after that answer together! Join in and explore the foundational truths that God desires us to understand as we love, teach and train our children. During this conference you will enjoy fellowship, worship, Q&A and have opportunities to build relationships with other parents who are in the trenches with you.

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, 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 Stream Sponsorship is \$40) 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

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, March 3, 2022 – 6:30 pm

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

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sondra Nelson, Mary Peterson, Al Skellenger, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal.

Member absent: 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.

Sondra moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Al. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – None

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

Total income for February 2022 \$18,698.10

Total Expenses for February 2022 \$22,064.75 (Income less expense -\$3,366.65)

Checking account balance (2/28/2022) \$38,986.94

CD's at FTSB (2/28/2022) Reserves \$26,014.17/Ness Estate \$10,614.41

CD at MBT (2/28/2022) Ness Estate \$52,215.45

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

2022 YTD total offerings (2/28/2022) \$29,752.00

2020 YTD total offerings (2/28/2021) \$35,998.00

Al moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Mary. All approved.

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a verbal report – Working on Lenten soup/study and services, Palm Sunday, and Easter; the board will continue to recruit readers and liturgical choir participants; march Pastor schedule/replacement in his absence was reviewed; Easter Resurrection Garden will be repeated this year – information will be included in future Worship bulletins.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a written report. The board compiled a list of activities conducted at or by Salem Church to be posted on Facebook and in a

letter to the Graphic; reviewed board responsibilities as described in the constitution; supplying and serving the Wednesday evening New and Renewing Membership soup/study meal during Lent.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Al provided a verbal report – planning an educational activity focusing on thankfulness, generosity and gratitude on Sunday, May 1 worship service with a meal after the service.

Board of Property and Management: Shannon shared minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday, 2/23/2022 with all but one member in attendance. Members agreed to meet monthly onsite; discussed the concept of a “walkabout” to identify areas of need; 2 areas in need of significance are tuck pointing and roof repair; water and furnace filter schedules as well as water softener salt delivery will be arranged; use of the building for ministry and how that correlates with the need for repairs/upgrades needs to be a consideration on setting priorities; the membership and responsibilities of this board according to the constitution are being reviewed; a Loss Control report from Grinnell Mutual with a listing of recommended actions is under review; developing a plan to review incoming bills in order to approve expenditures from the board budget, excluding normal monthly expenses.

Board of Youth: Jen and Marci provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: First Communion Class schedule/details being sent home to the 5th grade families; Children singing at Sunday service on March 13, April 10 and May 8; Confirmation Retreat April 2-3; Confirmation Faith Statement Night is May 11 with pictures and pizza before; Confirmation on Sunday May 15; 7th grade Confirmation students will have an end of the year pizza party/games on 5/18 after school; Graduation Sunday is May 22 and seniors will be invited to be recognized at worship and a breakfast celebration following the Sunday service; Bingo and breakfast/rolls planned for all ages after the Sunday Church service on 3/13; Bake Sale fundraiser for youth activities on Saturday 4/9 and Sunday 4/10; Youth board will “egg” houses for Easter celebration – requesting donations of plastic eggs and candy; VBS meeting was held 2/27 at Winnebago and board will be assisting with the set design for the week; Registration for Summer camps with deposit deadline is 6/5/2022 – Board will write a letter to Enduring Gifts to request financial support for remaining costs.

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:

- Vacation/Renewal – planning a week of vacation (including 1 Saturday and 1 Sunday) in June after VBS and Synod Assembly.
- Jury Duty – Pastor has been called for Jury Duty, current trial dates are 4/22, 5/4 and 6/1.
- Administration and Planning – 24 worship liturgies were planned last month (includes funerals, midweek services, Sat/Sun services for Lent) and working on finishing up planning through Easter.
- Confirmation – Riverside Retreat preparation continues, Hannah Sterrenberg and Maddie Mannes will attend as Junior leaders; will finish the year with planning/preparing stoles, faith statement preparation and pizza party.
- VBS scheduled June 6-9 at Winnebago; Salem will host the closing celebration with an ice cream social.
- Altar Guild – decreased membership and participation has generated discussion of alternative strategies to prepare and serve communion regularly. Discussion of options and what this would look like are being considered.
- Saturday evening service – the feasibility of continuing the Saturday services will be due for reconsideration in April 2022.
- Living Waters Conference Synod Resolution – A resolution to clarify how lay people are equipped, qualified, supervised and supported is being developed by the Living Waters Conference.
- Pastor Joel shared that Pastor Steve Smith’s mother passed away recently; Cindy will send a sympathy card to Pastor Smith from the Salem Council on behalf of the Salem congregation.

Drake moved to approve Board/Pastor reports, seconded by Marci. All approved.

Old Business:

A. Constitution

- a. Review ELCA Model Constitution and Guidelines – Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing resolutions were each defined, and Shannon and Pastor Joel led a discussion on each of these parts. Shannon is working with the boards to be clear on the responsibilities and membership requirements for each board within the constitution.

New Business:

- A. IRS notification – Drake provided clarification regarding 2 notices from the IRS (notice CP080) regarding federal income taxes and payroll taxes withheld from employees' wages (Form 941) in 2020. After investigation into these notices, Drake reported that the taxes were paid at the time and both tax return forms were found and have now been mailed to the IRS. We are awaiting a response from the IRS. Drake also noted the possibility that the two returns may have been filed on time and that the IRS could just be behind in processing them. NOTE: Based on the dates of the two missing returns, it is possible that the return for the intervening quarter (the quarter ending September 30, 2020) may not have been filed but this has not been confirmed. There have been no IRS notices received regarding this time frame.
- B. New members – none
- C. Transfers/statistical adjustments - none
- D. Next meeting will be held Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 pm

AI moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sondra. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal



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

Friday: 8am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (8am-10am Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast)

Saturday: Noon-8pm (5:30pm Worship Service)

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

Secretary

Marci Adeogun

Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm

Fri 10am-4pm

Sat-Sun: Off

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

MONDAY 3/28

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)

TUESDAY 3/29

6:00pm Building & Property Board Meeting-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY 3/30

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

3:15pm Brownies-Room 2

5:30pm Soup and Study-Library

7:00pm Service of Word & Prayer-Chapel

THURSDAY 3/31

6:30pm Stewardship Meeting

FRIDAY 4/1

8:00am-10:00am Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast-Lounge

SATURDAY 4/2

7:30am Confirmation Students depart for Retreat

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 4/3

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

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

10:00am Confirmation-Choir Room

10:00am First Communion Class-Lounge

12:00pm Confirmation Students return from Retreat