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# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 31 – April 6

### Middle of the Story

Literarily and theologically, Mark's gospel ends awkwardly at 16:8. The women are astonished and afraid, and what most scholars consider the original ending of Mark seems more like the middle of the story than its end. What about appearances of the risen Christ? What about the joyful proclamation that death has not had the last word? Mark's gospel is problematic for those anticipating the more complete story of resurrection recounted by other gospels. For some circumstances, however, Mark's ending hits just the right note—especially for those who aren't sure about resurrection themselves, or whose own lives are in an awkward, unresolved limbo.

In Mark's version, all we have to depend on are Jesus' earlier words, the realization that the women must have shared their experience eventually, and the intriguing possibility of the empty tomb. Somehow the women's fear must have eventually become courage, but Mark leaves it up to his readers to wonder how. Still, Mark's "ending" contains hope: even in times of uncertainty and fear, we can *live* the story of resurrection, depending on Jesus' words, the church's testimony, and the intriguing possibility of new life in Christ.

As we too are still in the middle of our life stories, Mark's gospel is a good companion. Most of the time we live with an awkward, unresolved mix of fears and possibilities, in which resurrection is hinted at rather than completed. This is true for the church as well; this story may appear to be the end, but it's really just the middle. The story of the risen Jesus continues in the mission of the church, Christ's body. The possibility of resurrection draws us into a community that lives out the middle of its story in the hope and witness of Christ's new life.

## THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8



## NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1--2:2  
John 20:19-31

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.  
**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:** Heather, Hallie and Maddie Mannes, Daniel Martinson, Ryan & Jessi Mary, Fabian, Lindsay and Griffin McCord, Bob & Lori McLaughlin

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

31-Heather Mannes	4-Doug Bruhns	5-Ema Anderson
31-Kelly Kloster	4-Andrew Lauen	5-Bart Winter

## -WEEKLY GIVING-

**LAST SUNDAY 3/24/24:** \$ 7,045  
**YEAR-TO-DATE: 3/27/24:** \$ 51,882  
**LAST YEAR: as of 3/27/23:** \$ 44,837  
**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:** \$ 7,045

## -Last Weeks Attendance-

54

**Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:** Total received as of 3/27/24 **\$161,012**  
Total available balance as of 2/29/24 **\$54,064.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the “Steeple Project” when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

**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. Call the office to have a form sent to you or stop by the office. We also have forms in the Narthex. Please return forms to the office.  
**(We are charged a much lower service fee through the Simply Giving Program)**

**Thrivent Choice Dollars:** To the Salem members with Thrivent financial products, the deadline to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars is approaching. Here are the deadlines to designate your dollars: By Mail & Phone: Past due. Online: **March 31**. **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.**

**Baby Care Kits** will be assembled on Monday, April 1st at 1:00pm, in the Choir Room. If anyone is willing to help, please this group on Monday.

**Noisy Offering:** The Stewardship Committee will be collecting noisy offerings for the Good Samaritan Ministries until March 31st. “Good Sam” was created to assist people in need in emergency situations. In the past Good Sam has helped with housing emergencies, medical issues, and situations relating to abuse and domestic violence. Please keep the people this program helps in your prayers. If you or someone you know, is in need of assistance, please call the office.

**Donations:** The Board of Life & Growth is collecting donations to make Personal Care Kits. Items needed: metal nail clippers, 4 oz. bars of soap, bath towels (dark colors, approx. 52x27), toothbrushes in original packaging and sturdy combs.

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**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 would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, call the office. If you are willing to help with Faith Formation, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the chapel. No planning or experience needed. Youth Board leaders do all the planning.

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

### **SUNDAY 3/31**

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

### **MONDAY 4/1**

2:00pm Sons of Norway-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm-4:00pm Salem's Clothes Closet is OPEN

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN

### **TUESDAY 4/2**

9:30am Miriam Circle-Marilyn Pederson's Home

5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting-Salem Library

### **WEDNESDAY 4/3**

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation-Choir Room

### **THURSDAY 4/4**

9:30am Ruth Circle-Mills Harbour

9:30am Grace Circle-Salem Library

### **SUNDAY 3/31**

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Choir Room

**Blood Drive Results** from March 21st: 27 Eligible Donors, 31 Units collected,  
Up to 93 lives saved or sustained!

**March Council Minutes** will not be published the last week of March, instead they will be published the first Sunday in April.

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

**Dates available:** July 14, 21.Aug 4, 11, 25.Sep 1.Oct 20.Nov 17, 24.Dec 29

**Salem Office: 641.592.1771** (Marci)

Monday: 9am-12pm, Tuesday 9am-2pm, Wednesday-Friday: 11am-5pm.

(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)