

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 5 – 11

Questions Come to Light

What is it about the night that invites questions? As our head rests on the pillow and shadows stretch out on the bedroom wall, questions, like field mice, begin to emerge from the nooks and crannies of our mind. At first, the questions are utilitarian: Did someone let the dog out this evening? Are the kids' lunches packed for school? When am I going to get to the grocery store this week? And then, without warning, the questions morph: Is Grandma going to recover from this illness? Why are my prayers so short these days? Does Jesus really care about us—about me? At this point we know that night has truly descended. Truth uttered in darkness. Naked honesty feels much safer, much less exposed when light's reach seems a day way.

Maybe that is why we can relate to Nicodemus. For when did Nicodemus come to Jesus? By night! Though we can easily skip over the setting's description in this gospel encounter, it is so very important. With shadows dancing in the torchlight, Nicodemus makes his way to Jesus, beset by questions he can ask only under cover of darkness. Though the darkness is Nicodemus' security blanket, he cannot help himself. Like a moth fluttering in the night sky, Nicodemus is irresistibly drawn to the light. Not just any light: Jesus, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. As people filled with our own questions, we follow in the furtive footsteps of Nicodemus, falsely believing our naked honesty will remain hidden in the gloom of night. But the Spirit, through the light of Christ, calls us out from the shadows, and in fact, exposes us to the brilliance of God's love—a love that meets our questioning hearts with nothing less than life eternal.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Thelma Stene, Gene Stensrude, Karen, Justine and Spencer Stensrude, Allen Sterrenberg, Brian, Karen, Summer, Hannah and Tori Sterrenberg

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

5-Mark Brackey

7-Bonnie Steffens

10-Paisley Merritt

5-Hayden Iverson

10-Willie Skellenger

11-Nicholas Langenbau

-WEEKLY GIVING-**LAST SUNDAY:** 2/26/23 \$ 3,785**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 3/1/23 \$29,763**LAST YEAR:** as of 3/1/22 \$29,752**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:** \$ 11**-Last Weeks Attendance- 64**

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 www.salemlakemills.com and clicking the donate button at the bottom of the page OR **Scan the QR Code.**

-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for weekly or monthly 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)

Supplies: There are face masks, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer on the high top table in the Narthex. Please leave them on the table; they must be accessible to anyone who may want to use them. Thank you!

-Shannon Bruhns, Council President & The Board of Property & Management

Tuckpointing Project Update:

Total received as of 3/1/23 **\$126,814 (This total includes the \$50,000 match)**
 All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note "Tuckpointing Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

BINGO: The Youth Board is hosting Family Bingo on **March 5th** in the Fellowship Hall after worship. (Faith Formation students will be singing on this day as well). All are Welcome to join us for Fellowship and Fun!!!



Baby Care Kits: If you would like to help assemble baby care kits, please meet in the Fellowship Hall on **March 9th** at 9:30am.

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!

WECLA will meet on Thursday, **March 16th** at 2:00pm in the Lounge. Pastor Joel will lead the Bible Study from the Gather Magazine.

Upcoming Community Blood Drive

Thursday, **March 16th**

1:00pm-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Appointments Are Required

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or Call: 800-287-4903

or visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org

LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Soup & Holden Prayer Around the Cross in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday in March

- 11:30 AM – 12:00PM Soup & Bread
- 12:00 – 12:30 PM Prayer Holden Prayer Around the Cross
- 5:00 – 5:30 PM Soup & Bread
- 5:30 – 6:00 PM Prayer Holden Prayer Around the Cross

Thrivent Choice Dollars:

The Stewardship Board would like to remind everyone 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).

Online option: 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

Floyd Thomas Prints: March 5th is the last day these prints will be available.

Faye Aamodt has graciously offered Floyd Thomas nature prints for free will donation opportunity. These prints have been a part of Lake Mills history for many years appearing on calendars and the cover of the WCTA telephone books. If you would like a print, or several, please take what you would like! Donations will be designated for the tuckpointing project. Prints will be available in the Narthex before worship and after worship. We thank Faye for her generous gift!

MercyOne North Iowa Hospice Volunteer Training: If you’ve been meaning to get involved, call today to attend the **FREE** volunteer training. Pre-Register before Thursday, March 23rd by calling 641-428-6236. Class sizes are limited, so please call today to reserve your seat. Training Date/Time: Thursdays-March 30th, April 6th & 13th; 9:30am-4:00pm. Location: First United Methodist Church 119 S. Georgia Ave. Mason City. Get more information or register at by calling 800-297-4719 or 614-428-6208

Summer Camps: Reminder to sign up your children for summer camps before the early bird deadlines! Check out the camp websites for more information. In the past, the Enduring Gift Committee has helped to pay the remaining balances, after parents make the down payment. After you have registered your child and paid the deposit, forward your receipt email from camp to the Salem office. (Salem@wctatel.net)

thrivent®

Thrivent Choice® — Generosity Strengthens Communities

Thanks to Thrivent and its clients, **Salem Lutheran Church** has received \$11,781 Choice Dollars® grant funds since 2020

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 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.

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!

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 26th. Thank you!

Salem's Clothes Closet is also open every Monday from 2:00pm-4:00pm at Salem's south entrance. Clothes, shoes, boots, coats, jackets and a few other kids items are available for free. We also accept donations; they can be left inside the south entrance anytime. We ask that donations are folded and have no holes, tears or stains.

The Lake Mills Food Shelf is open 2:30-5:00pm 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 now located at Salem and can be accessed at the south entrance. Anyone is 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 get back to you.

Volunteers Needed: 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. Thank you!

Collections: We collect used stamps, pop tabs, eyeglasses and receipts from David's Marketplace and Hy-Vee. The WELCA group receives 1 tenth of 1% of all receipts collected from David's. Hy-Vee receipts go towards a cure for cancer. The baskets for all of these are in the Narthex. Please do not roll the receipts and keep David's separate from Hy-Vee. Thank you!

Live Stream Sponsorship: Call the office to reserve your special date. Cost is \$40.
2023 Dates available: March 26 April 16, 30 May 7 June 18 July 9, 16, 23, 30
 Aug. 6, 13, 20 Sept. 17 Oct. 8, 15, 22 & 29 Nov. 5, 12 & 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 Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci) Mon-Thurs: 10am-5pm, Fri: 10am-4pm
(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, 5:30pm Altar Guild)

Wed: Noon-8:00pm

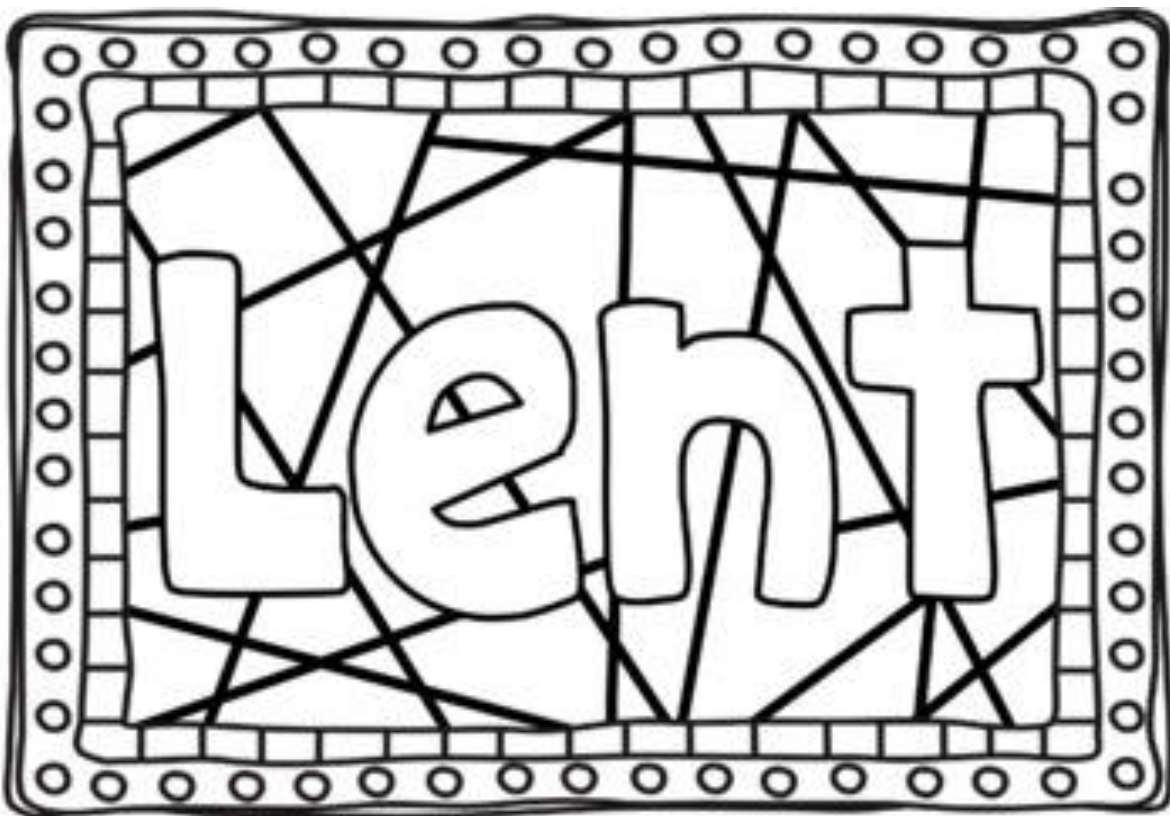
(10am Bible Study, 11:30am Soup/Devotions, 5pm Soup/Devotions, 6pm Stewardship)

Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study, 6:30pm Church Council)

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

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship)



**All are invited downstairs after the worship service for BINGO
and Fellowship with Coffee, Juice and Donuts.**

SUNDAY 3/5

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am BINGO-Fellowship Hall

11:30am Youth Board Meeting

MONDAY 3/6

2:00pm Sons of Norway-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)

TUESDAY 3/7

5:30pm Altar Guild-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 3/8

10:00am Adult 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 Stewardship Meeting-Salem Library

THURSDAY 3/9

9:30am Assembly of Baby Care Kits-Fellowship Hall

9:30am Fine Arts-Lounge

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study

3:15pm Juniors-Room 2

6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Salem Library

SUNDAY 3/12 (Daylight Savings Time Begins)

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

10:00am Confirmation-Youth Room