

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL MINUTES

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
–Fourth Sunday of Easter–

SATURDAY 4/24

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 4/25

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:15am Faith Formation-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 4/26

Clothes Closet (Open by appointment)
(Call Rita Anderson 641-592-5085)

TUESDAY 4/27

2:30pm Pastor Text Study

3:15pm Juniors-Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Stephens Ministry

WEDNESDAY 4/28

8:30am Staff Meeting

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

2:30pm Confirmation-Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 4/29

3:30pm Life & Growth Board Meeting-Fellowship Hall

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

SATURDAY 5/1

7:30am Confirmation Retreat group leaves Salem

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 5/2

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:15am Faith Formation-Fellowship Hall

12:00pm Confirmation Retreat group returns to Salem

Faith-Sustaining Patterns in a World of Stockpiles

Faith cannot be stockpiled. It needs a pattern of replenishment. Today, the disciples are hungry. While their stomachs may not be rumbling, their hunger is shown in their lack of certainty about who Jesus is. Even though they were just talking about how Jesus walked with two of them on the road to Emmaus, his real presence now frightens them. Doubt, disbelief, and fear are like hunger to the disciples.

Jesus relieves the hunger with his risen presence. When the disciples are unsure what to make of the mess that life has become, Jesus shows up. When their hunger for truth and certainty is most apparent, Jesus walks into the room. The answer to someone's hunger is not to ask why they are hungry. Nor is the answer to doubt a question about why they cannot believe. The answer is food. The answer is the real Jesus showing up and easing fears. Everyone's faith needs sustenance. Those who listen to the preacher and gather at the table today are looking for the God of truth and love to settle their doubts.

Even though Jesus' disciples had been speaking about his appearance to two of them on the road to Emmaus just verses earlier, Jesus does not become agitated at the fact that the disciples are afraid of him. Jesus expects the fears and the doubts about his presence in the room. He knows that one post-resurrection appearance to them will never be enough. There will need to be more appearances to sustain the faith of generations of disciples!

The appearances become a pattern, with Jesus entering into the lives of his disciples, eating with them and teaching them. Finally, Jesus sends the disciples out as witnesses. Today the witnesses come back into the pattern of Jesus' appearance to remember what was witnessed—so that their own testimony of a Savior who sets their fears at ease will also ease the doubts and fears of other hearers.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 4:5-12

Salvation in the name of Jesus

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

1 John 3:16-24

Love in truth and action

John 10:11-18

Christ the shepherd

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 8:26-40

Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian

Psalm 22:25-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

1 John 4:7-21

God's love perfected in love for one another

John 15:1-8

Christ the vine

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: 4/18/21 | \$ 4,297 |
| YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 4/20/21 | \$ 70,398 |
| LAST YEAR: as of 4/20/20 | \$ 78,235 |
| DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: | \$ -7,837 |

Total donation for Feed My Starving Children during Lent \$924.22

A heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all those that worked behind the scenes to put together a very special Holy Week at Salem. A grateful "THANK YOU" to those that participated in the events of Holy Week. So many blessings!!

Shannon Bruhns

A sincere "Thank You" to those that contributed to Salem through the recent Thrivent Choice Dollars program. A total of \$3,420 was given which has been set aside until further decisions are made for disbursement. God's Blessings!!
Members of Salem Council

The last day of Faith Formation will be May 2nd and the kids will be singing for us that day at the 9:00am worship service.

The Easter Egg collection box has been put out by the office again if anyone wants to drop off their plastic eggs now that Easter is over and they can be used again next year.

2021 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS will be sent home with kids. VBS will be Monday, June 7th—Thursday, June 10th--9am to 11:30am at Winnebago Lutheran Church and the closing program will be at Salem.

Registration forms are due May 21st.

DAY CAMP AT SALEM: SAVE THE DATE

Salem will be hosting Ingham-Okoboji Day Camp the week of August 2, 2021

Faith Statement Night: May 12th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Affirmation of Baptism: May 16th at 9:00am during the worship service

"The Girl Who Believes In Miracles", rated PG

A Christian Movie playing at The Mills Theater

Sponsored by LMAMA (Lake Mills Area Ministerial Association)

It will start now on April 16th and run through the following:

Saturday, April 24 - 3:30 and 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 25 - 3:30 pm

Thursday, April 29 - 7:30 pm

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 6

7:00am at Asbury Methodist

The Lake Mills Area Ministerial Association is sponsoring the National Day of Prayer service. The National Day of Prayer was started by President Lincoln during the Civil War. Since then, Presidents and Congress have designated the first Thursday in May to ask the nation to set time aside to pray for our nation. This year the National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 6th. We will have a worship service beginning at 7:00 am at Asbury Methodist. The service will be around thirty minutes for those needing to get to work. For those who don't need to rush off, Asbury Methodist will host some coffee and bars for fellowship following the service. If you can't join us, please set some time aside in your day to pray for leaders of our nation.

SUMMER CAMPS

The Board of Youth would like to remind everyone to sign up for summer camps. In the past, the Enduring Gift Committee has helped to pay remaining balances after parents make the down payment. Please forward your receipt email from camp to the Salem office after you have registered and paid the deposit.

**Salem has a wheel chair available for use.
It is kept in the narthex closet near the coat rack.**

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. The baskets for these items have been moved to the Narthex. They ask that receipts do not get rolled up.

DONATIONS

--The Board of Life & Growth is collecting Donations in the Narthex.

--PERSONAL CARE KITS are needed now more than ever, to help protect vulnerable families from COVID-19. Items needed are bath towels (dark colors), 4 oz. bars of soap and toothbrushes.

--HAND TOWELS in good condition are needed for Baby Care Kits.

--SHEETS in any condition are needed for backing and lining of quilts.

Reserve your special date to sponsor an 8:30 a.m. radio broadcast. The service is heard on KLOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City and on cable channel 2.

This year has quickly filled with sponsorship and only a few dates are still available. Don't miss your chance to sponsor a radio broadcast this year. Cost is \$83. CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR DATE. 641.592.1771

2021 RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

May 2, May 23, July, 11, July 18, August 1, August 15, August 29, September 5, October 17, October 24, October 31, November 21, December 5, December 12, December 26

We also have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the worship service. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday. CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR DATE 641.592.1771

Attend the Children's Ministry Rally

Fri, Apr 30, 2021, 12:00 PM
New Hope Assembly of God Student Center
6800 Townsend Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322

Come together with fellow children's ministry leaders and hear a special message from Go Fish guest speaker, Jamison Statema. He's a Dove Award-winning producer, songwriter, and performer who loves to make music for kids of all ages! Lunch will be provided.

To RSVP go to the following website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/iowa-celebration-childrens-ministry-rally-tickets-145553645873>

Strive for What Endures

Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life...
John 6:27

Our culture trains us in striving and suffering, competition and comparison. If we work in the pursuit of what the world tells us, we end up uncertain, exhausted, unfulfilled...empty.

Food that goes bad represents things that do not nourish, things that do not satisfy, things that do not last. We have all experienced how it feels to yearn and earn. The unsettling emotion of "I'll be happy when____," only to realize that each time we fill in the blank, we feel oddly blank. There is no way to get there from here—to bridge the great chasm of desire and fulfillment—without recognizing that our only deep longing is for God himself. The only way to fill the cavern of human need is with Divine Love.

This verse reminds us that our efforts are wasted if not aligned with what is eternal. We are designed and destined to transcend. We were created to crave what is everlasting. All other nourishment spoils.

- Kristin Armstrong

Acts 6:8-15 • Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 John 6:22-29

Source: livingfaith.com

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, April 8, 2021 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Heather Mannes, Al Skellenger, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal

Member absent: Scott Hagenson, Sondra Nelson (left after giving her report) (Senior Expo conflict for both)

Devotions and Prayers: Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report: March minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

Drake moved to accept the March minutes as written, Marci seconded the motion. All approved.

Communications and Correspondence – Letter from the ELCA regarding support for programs, such as World Hunger, etc. This will be passed on to Board of Life and Growth with suggestion to consider a "Noisy" offering in the future.

Treasurer's Report: Report was available for review.

Total income for March \$18,992.31

Expenditures for March \$25,234.11 (-6,241.80)

Checking account balance (3/31/2021) \$42,860.91

Building Fund balance (3/31/2021) \$1,631.36

CD's at Farmer's Trust Bank \$26,014.17/\$10,526.47

CD at MBT \$30,000/\$151.23

Drake clarified that the expenses in March were increased due to 1) health insurance payment for February was paid in March along with the March payment; 2) budgeted synod benevolence for January and February was sent in March.

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

2021 YTD total offerings (4/6/2021) \$58,884

2020 YTD total offerings (4/1/2020) \$67,563

Lenten “Noisy” offering total was \$322.12 This was raised to support the Living Waters Conference Feed my Starving Children meal preparation/packing events. Heather moved to accept treasurer/financial secretary reports, Sue seconded the motion. All approved.

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music – Heather provided a written and verbal report. Holy week services were very successful. Work continues for upcoming services. The pipe organ is needing attention, Heather will be researching history/resources for organ maintenance. Marci added that there is \$4,602.00 in a fund from Darlene Groe designated for the organ.

Board of Life & Growth – Sue Langerud provided a written and verbal report. Updated status of the Virginia Thomas memorial hymn sing/concert with members of the National Lutheran Choir planned for July 10, 2021 at 4:00 pm. Sue is working with Diane Fleming. David Cherwien will be playing the organ. Sue also provided an update on plans for commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the Dedication of Salem on May 22, 2021, including memorabilia on display and a social event.

Board of Stewardship – Al Skellenger had nothing to report.

Board of Property and Management – Scott Hagenson was not present – no report. Shannon shared an update she had received from Scott regarding a proposed campaign to retire the cemetery board loan.

Board of Youth – Jennifer provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Easter “egging” activities last Sunday; Last day of Faith Formation will be May 2 and children will sing in church that day; agenda for Confirmation retreat was confirmed, updated remaining Confirmation schedule and plans for Faith statements (May 12) and Confirmation (May 16); Graduation (May 23) blankets have been ordered for Salem Seniors.

Pastor Report – Complete Pastor reports are available for review in the church office. Pastor Joel submitted a written report which included Pastoral acts in March and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- Pastor Joel’s COVID-19 Journey – Pastor Joel shared an update on his continued symptoms related to COVID infection. He has had his first Covid vaccine and will have his second on April 21.
- Summer Day Camp – Scheduled at Salem August 2-5, 2021. Pastor and Board of Youth continue to work with Okoboji team on preparation and promotion.
- Confirmation Retreat – 5 youth are registered/paid to attend the Confirmation Retreat on May 1-2. Four adults have volunteered to chaperone. Pastor continues to work with retreat coordinator to finalize plans and shared the proposed schedule with council. Has applied for a Thrivent grant to fund the canoeing and breakfast.
- Faith Formation – Reported on First Communion classes and Confirmation classes. Confirmation is scheduled May 16, 2021.
- National Lutheran Choir Concert – Plans continue for the Virginia Thomas memorial concert/hymn sing with National Lutheran Choir members (approximately 10). Diane Fleming and Sue Langerud are working together.
- Safe Gatherings – Marci has now completed the training and is the administrator of the training at Salem. She will assist other members with training. Council still needs to review a Child Protection Policy for Salem.
- Synod Reports – we reviewed annual Synod reports that Marci has worked on with Helen’s help.
- VBS with One in Christ – Pastor provided an update for VBS scheduled for June 7-10 with One in Christ. Salem will be hosting the evening closing on Thursday, June 10.
- Senior Baccalaureate – Tentative dates are Tuesday or Wednesday, May 18 or 19 with Pastor Bill Peters and Pastor Doug Domokos working with the seniors. Salem has indicated availability for hosting if asked. Shannon

will reach out to Pastor Bill to see where they are at with planning and if Salem will be asked to host.

- NEIA Synod Assembly – The Northeastern Iowa Synod Council has approved moving the 2021 NEIA Synod Assembly to a one-day online virtual event set for Saturday, June 12. Pastor Joel reported that the Living Waters Conference pastors are currently discussing how to best address and participate with it being a virtual Synod Assembly. Shannon and Sondra are also planning to attend virtually.

Heather moved to approve board/pastor reports, Al seconded the motion. All approved.

Old Business:

- A. Cemetery Loan – see Board of Property and Management report.
- B. Thrivent Choice dollars for 2021 - Shannon and Marci are working to verify how much Salem received through this process.
- C. Covid-19 Management Team Update: the following activities went well and there were no concerning issues.
 - a. First Communion Meal
 - b. Palm Sunday/Easter Sunday – larger crowds with most masking/families sitting together.
 - c. Next Steps – looking ahead at management strategies to maintain safety for upcoming events.
- D. Board By-Laws Review/Revision (continued) Shannon is continuing to review with individual boards.

New Business:

- A. Administrative Assistant Position – Shannon and Pastor Joel expressed that they are very pleased with how Marci has been performing in her role as Office Administrator. Marci has expressed interest to take on this role full time. Shannon led a discussion regarding job description including the number of hours required to complete tasks and responsibilities, a review of compensation and potential consideration of additional benefits such as a stipend toward coverage of health care (as was done with Helen

previously). There was also discussion of how this role has a ministerial aspect and how that could be defined.

- B. Vote to accept Confirmands for Affirmation of Baptism on May 16. Sue moved to accept the roster of candidates; Al seconded the motion. All approved.
- C. Pastor Joel Mobility Papers Status – Pastor Joel updated the council on his current plans re: mobility/call process. Pastor shared that he has decided to put this process on hold and intends to remain committed to his call here at Salem for at least 2 more years, when he is eligible for retirement. It is his hope and prayer that we can find a more honest and transparent way to address our challenges.
- D. Other New Business – Summer feeding program will be coming up and Shannon will be looking into the logistics, including a review with the Covid management team.
- E. New Members: None
- F. Transfers: William and Debra Georgia have withdrawn their membership at Salem, they have not requested membership transfer location yet. They are now living in Florida.
- G. Next Meeting Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Sue moved that the meeting be adjourned, Al seconded the motion. All approved, meeting adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal