
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 28 – May 4

Connected for Life

A parent stands at the bus stop on the first day of school with a kindergarten student. Another parent lingers in the doorway of a first-year dorm after unloading the final box from the car. These parents are entering new times they will not be present to help their children make some important life choices, and words of advice slip from their lips—eat your sandwich before your dessert, share with others, don't drink and drive, remember who you are. After years of preparation, their children step toward greater independence.

Jesus lingers with the disciples before his death and prepares them for the time when he will no longer be present day to day to help them make their way in the world. Words slip from his mouth: “Apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). These are difficult words as the disciples try to make sense of Jesus' impending death and the promise of his continued presence.

“Apart from me you can do nothing” may also be a difficult word for a self-reliant, individualistic culture such as our own, focused on personal achievement and success. God is the vine grower, Jesus the vine, and we the branches, who, separated from the life-giving vine, can do nothing.

Yet, these are gracious, gospel words from Jesus. He's been preparing his disciples for years to take this step. These are words that point not toward individualistic, self-reliant independence but toward dependence on the one whose life defies death and whose perfect love casts out all fear. Connected to the vine, these branches are given a death-defying life free from fear. These are gracious, gospel words from Jesus that point to a community nourished by this life-giving vine and bearing fruit for the sake of the world.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Each week we will lift up five church families/ members in prayer.
THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Kelley, Hazel and Henry Myers, Sue Myli, Anthony, Miranda, Sophia, Camdon and Calvin Nelson, Arlene Nelson, Donna Nelson

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

30-Kevin Hebrink

1-Brian Hanson

4-Jennifer Levine

2-Beckham Fjelstad

4-Marjorie Senne

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST 2 SUNDAYS 4/21/24: \$ 4,729

YEAR-TO-DATE: 4/23/24: \$ 67, 576

LAST YEAR: as of 4/23/23: \$ 61,680

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ 5,896

Last Weeks Attendance

69

April Council Minutes will not be published this week, please look for them in next week's announcements.

WELCA Salad Luncheon: Elk Creek Lutheran Church (rural Kensett) has invited us to their WELCA Guest Day on May 16th at 11:00am. Program by Kim Dickey from Global Health Ministries, lunch following the program. Please RSVP by calling 641.845.2580 before May 13th. Leave a message if there is no answer.

SWO Annual Gathering: Mark your calendars for the 36th Annual Synodical Women's Gathering set for Sat. June 15th at Redeemer Lutheran, Waverly 8:30am-2:00pm. Registration forms are in the Narthex. There is an option to attend by Zoom as well. Early Bird discount if its postmarked by May 20th. This year's theme will focus on "Rejoice and Renew," based on Philippians 4:4 — "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

April 28th: Save the date! 1 Day--4 Special Events!

1. Rev. Kristen Corr Rod will be our guest preacher from the Northeast Iowa Synod. Rev. Kristen Corr Rod is the Director for Evangelical Mission. Her primary responsibilities include congregational vitality, new ministry development, synod justice issues and youth and young adult ministries.

2. The Faith Formation kids will be singing during worship.

3. After worship, the Youth Board invites everyone in the congregation to join the Faith Formation families for a **service project (Gods Work Our Hands) and pick up trash in the Lake Mills area OR have coffee in the Fellowship Hall. Service project people--meet in front of the Chapel--all supplies provided. **If weather prevents us from doing this, we will have an indoor activity.****

4. At 11:00am, everyone will gather in the Fellowship Hall for our **3rd Annual BBQ Lunch, hosted by the Stewardship Board.**

Vacation Bible School for children 4 years--6th grade will be held Mon. June 3rd--Thur. June 6th at Winnebago Lutheran Church; 9:00am-11:30am. "SCUBA" Diving into friendship with God. Get ready to dive into Fun! Explore God's word in unforgettable ways! New friends, fun snacks, great crafts, incredible music and surprising adventures! Registration will be handed out in the near future.

Vacation Bible School Volunteers: Prayerfully consider volunteering to help with VBS--whether one day or all 4 days. June 3 – June 6; 9am-11:30am. Youth (7th-12th grade) or adults who would like to help in any way, please contact the Parish Office at 641-567-3550. Thank you!

Items Needed for VBS: *DC/DVD disks. *Pint plastic jars (like peanut butter jars) with their lids (CLEAN). Items can be left at any of the One In Christ Churches.

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

-- **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. **(There's a much lower service fee with the Simply Giving Program)**

ALL ARE INVITED DOWNSTAIRS FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE SERVICE

SUNDAY 4/28

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Judy and Rev. Kristen Corr Rod)

10:00am Service Project-Meet in front of the Chapel

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

11:00am 3rd Annual BBQ Lunch-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 4/29

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

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

WEDNESDAY 4/30

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation-Choir Room

THURSDAY 5/2

9:30am Ruth Circle-Mills Harbour

SUNDAY 5/5

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

National Day of Prayer Program: Thursday, May 2nd; 7:00am at Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Lake Mills. There will be coffee and bars for fellowship following the service. Service is expected to last about 35 minutes.

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:

Total received as of 4/10/24 **\$161,257**

Total available balance as of 3/29/24 **\$54,150.52** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

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

Dates available: Aug 4, 25. Sep 1. Oct 20. Nov 17, 24. Dec 29

Salem Office: 592.1771

Mon-Tues: 11am-5pm, Wed: 3pm-6pm, Thurs: 10am-5pm, Fri: 11am-5pm
(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)