

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH –Fifth Sunday of Easter–

SATURDAY 5/1

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

7:30am Confirmation Retreat group leaves Salem

SUNDAY 5/2

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:15am Faith Formation-Fellowship Hall

12:00pm Confirmation Retreat group returns to Salem

MONDAY 5/3

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

3:15pm Cadets-Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY 5/4

2:30pm Pastor Text Study

3:15pm Daisys-Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Altar Guild

WEDNESDAY 5/5

8:30am Staff Meeting

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

2:30pm Confirmation (8th grade only)-Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 5/6

3:15 Brownies-Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY 5/8

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 5/9

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

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

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

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 10:44-48

The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

1 John 5:1-6

The victory of faith

John 15:9-17

Christ the friend and lover

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: 4/25/21	\$ 2,392
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 4/26/21	\$ 72,790
LAST YEAR: as of 4/26/20	\$ 82,118
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -9,328

DAY CAMP AT SALEM:

Salem will be hosting Ingham-Okoboji Day Camp for kids entering 1st grade- thru 6th grade. August 2-5, 2021; 9am-2pm with a celebration Thursday evening. Registration forms will be sent home with kids.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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:

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

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

A Voice Over the Din

...and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice.

John 10:4

I laid flat as a medical technician fastened straps and prepped me for an hour-long test. She slid me into the confined space of the MRI machine and left the room. The foundation beneath me shook. Bangs and clangs reverberated in my covered ears. Then barely audible above the clanging, my husband, in his constant familiar voice reading inspirational stories from beside the machine, led me through despite the incessant noise. Recognizing his voice over that din reminded me of our Good Shepherd's voice and how his sheep listen for him.

Today, I, too, need to strive to hear and recognize Jesus' voice above the daily clamor. Even in this noisy, sometimes unsettling world, our Lord is that constant familiar voice of the Shepherd calling—calling us to recognize and follow. It is he who leads us through the cacophony.

Lord, please help us to always recognize your voice and follow where you lead.

- Kathleen Swartz McQuaig

Acts 11:1-18 • Psalms 42:2-3; 43:3-4 John 10:1-10

Hidden Potential

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Psalm 118:22

It is not easy to judge potential. In the NFL draft, for example, sometimes a prospect many teams pass on turns out to be a great player. One notable example is star quarterback Tom Brady—the 199th pick in 2000! Perceiving hidden potential is one of the great themes in Scripture too. The Hebrews appeared to be a small and insignificant tribe, but God selected them to be the Chosen people. David was a mere shepherd boy when Samuel anointed him king of Israel. Mary, a lowly maiden from Galilee, became the mother of the Messiah. And Jesus, the carpenter's son from Nazareth, became the savior of the world. Is there anything in my life that has potential that I am overlooking? Perhaps it is a family member, a co-worker, a student, a plan, a difficult situation—or even me. What might I do to help nourish and release that potential?

All-perceiving God, give me the eyes to see the hidden potential in someone or something today.

- Sr. Melannie Svoboda, S.N.D.

Acts 4:8-12 • Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29 1 John 3:1-2 • John 10:11-18

