
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 5 - 11

Invited into Friendship

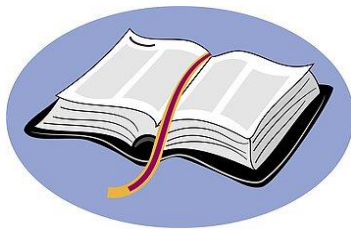
Ask any child who has moved to a new place and they will probably confirm that their biggest worry was if they'd make new friends. Parents worry for their teenager and young adult in each stage of growth, wondering if new friends will be kind and generous, if their daughter or son will find mutually beneficial relationships. Adults are not immune from their own relationship trials. Busy lives, competing priorities, transitions and death can mean the end of sustaining relationships. Bullying, fear-tactics and misuse of others are common problems, so friendship is precious. We treasure new friendships and work to keep tending those that last for many years—because we need them.

Today's readings inspire and compel us to love one another and see one another as God does. As the Holy Spirit falls on those outside the inner circle of the circumcised, Peter asks how the water of baptism can be withheld. In 1 John we hear that those who love the parent love the child. Jesus says followers are no longer servants but friends. So whether they are a stranger with different customs and practices, our family member, or closest friend, we are called today with the challenge and opportunity to love them. The promise is that this unconditional love that comes first from our Creator and Parent, expressed through the person of Jesus and through the Spirit, is splashed all over us, and will make our joy complete.

For those who have experienced great relationships in their lives and for those who have never yet quite tasted that sustaining fruit, Jesus shows how much he loves us and the ways to cultivate deeper relationships. Jesus laid down his life to show his great love. We're invited to love expansively and experience the joy of friendship with Jesus and through the body of Christ.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

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



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

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

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Fred & Beth Nelson, Gary & Kimberly Nelson, Kevin & Kathy Nelson, Robert, Nicole and Haylie Nelson, Sondra Nelson and Michelle Jones

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-Steven Hengesteg

8-Kimberly Olson

9-Jennifer Sauer

5-Randy Grothe

9-Andrew Gerdes

9-Ellianna Mosby

8-Dianne Gardner

9-Rhonda Schriever

11-Summer Sterrenberg

11-Rhonda Harmon

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 4/28/24: \$ 4,715

YEAR-TO-DATE: 4/29/24: \$ 72,291

LAST YEAR: as of 4/29/23: \$ 66,175

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ 6,116

Last Weeks Attendance

132

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!'"

The June 1st “C3 Ministry Fair”: All congregation members from the North-eastern Iowa Synod are invited to attend the synod’s **first Creative Collaborative Congregations (C3) Ministry Fair, June 1, at Wartburg College, Waverly**. This will feature workshops, service opportunities, networking, worship and more **for any and all congregation members to attend**. This year’s Ministry Fair replaces the Synod Assembly, which will take place every other year and will meet again in 2025. Everyone will be able to attend 2 workshops in the morning, beginning at 9am and 2 in the afternoon, concluding at 3:45. Check-in for the fair will begin at 8:30am. **Here is a look at some of the workshop topics:**

Overview of the call process, Role of mutual ministries, Action plans for strategic ministry, Faith formation and volunteer recruitment, Mission trip to serve the homeless, Planning a congregational legacy, Responding to those with addiction issues, Repurposing a church sanctuary, Campus ministry impact and trends, First-hand account of a mission trip to Ukraine, Outdoors as a spiritual play-ground, Communication tips for congregations, Parents and grandparents keeping children safe, Youth ministry ideas for leaders & parents, Lay ministry training, Planned giving as a personal legacy, Art as spiritual practice, Care for creation ideas, Racial justice opportunities, LSI’s expanded services for immigrants, Mosaic services for people with complex needs, Spiritual care in the hospital & hospice and more!

Anyone who plays a musical instrument is invited to sign up to be a part of the worship band. The band will play at the 11:30am worship service. Sign up for the band when registering for the ministry fair.

The Hunger Network invites congregations to bring birthday cake kits and packages of sanitary products to be distributed to food pantry ministries in this synod (please contact the office for items to include for the cake kits)

This years worship offering will support the Synod Companion—Hungary Fund. The synod’s Global Mission Network is organizing a group trip to Hungary June 21-28, 2024, led by Bishop Kevin Jones.

The cost to attend is \$50 per person, which includes access to workshops, a box lunch and a welcome packet. Online registration is due by Friday, May 24th. www.neiasynod.org/ministry-fair or call 319-352-1414.

Please contact the Salem office for more information and full details.

The Day of Pentecost: The birthday of the Christian Church is May 19th. We will celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit by filling the sanctuary with red geraniums. If you would like to sponsor a geranium, please fill out an order form, (found in the Narthex) and return it to the office, or place it in the offering plate by May 12th. Cost is \$9 per foil wrapped geranium. Anyone who sponsored a flower may take it home after the service.

Memorials Given In April: Barbra Nickson—Steeple Project \$25

T-shirts and Sheets: The Mission Quilters are collecting white or light colored cotton T-shirts (new or used). They will use them to make diapers. They are also collecting white cotton sheets (new or used). They will cut them and roll them to make bandages for Global Missions. There is a basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

Upcoming Blood Drive: Thursday, May 16th; In the Fellowship Hall 1:00pm-6:00pm. Appointments Are Encouraged. Call: 800-287-4903 or Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 4/30/24 **\$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!

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.

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Marci Prescott, Delane Behr, Doug Bruhns, Sondra Nelson, Mary Peterson, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Laura Gardner, Dan Rice, Mike Swenson,

Shannon opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

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

Mary moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Sondra. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – Two anonymous donations of \$50 have been received and \$100 deposited in the general fund.

Treasurer's Report: Doug provided a written report.

Total income for March 2024 \$28,958.61

Total Expenses for March 2024 -\$13,903.63 (Income less expense \$15,054.98)

Checking account balance (3/31/2024) \$104,945.98

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (3/31/2024) \$54,314.32

CD's at FTSB (3/31/2024) Reserves \$48,334.93

CD at MBT (3/31/2024) Ness Estate \$26,014.17

Financial Secretary's report: Laura provided a written report.

2024 YTD total offerings (4/3/2024) \$57,706

2023 YTD total offerings (4/3/2023) \$48,965

Sondra moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Mary. All approved.

Board Reports

Enduring Gift Fund – Account balance 2/29/2024 is \$466,355.

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a verbal and written report:

Reviewed services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday; reviewed the Worship Coordinator role and schedule; discussed livestream buffering issues, Brad Evenson continues to work on this; talked about planning for one outdoor service per month in June, July and August.

Board of Life & Growth: Sondra provided a verbal report: The board is exploring a prayer chain, discussed associated privacy issues; talked about improving the courtyard and will work with Board of Property and Management.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Dan was absent, Doug reported that they will meet next Monday to finish planning the Congregational Barbecue scheduled for Sunday, April 28.

Board of Property and Management: Mike was absent but had messaged members per text with the following information – Mike made a call to Young Construction regarding the steeples, they are putting their schedule together for the summer and will let Mike know when they have details, If they only need to do the south steeple we may get some money back because they won't need as large a lift; Still awaiting to hear further from Ken Kaiser regarding if repairing/restoring the bell tower is possible and quote; We have pictures and quotes from Randall Construction for removal/rebuilding the bell tower; Randall Construction was paid up to date for site visits to Salem and time spent on proposal for bell tower work, this included all visits/time spent on Salem bell tower evaluation in the last 5 years.

Board of Youth: Marci provided a verbal and written report: Fifth graders finished First Communion on Maundy Thursday; had an Easter egg hunt for Faith Formation kids on March 24 – thanks to all who donated candy; the last day of Faith Formation will be April 28th, the kids will sing and after worship there will be a spring clean up in the Lake Mills area for a service project, we invite all families and congregation

Pastoral Care Support: 1 funeral scheduled for Monday, April 15.

Pastor Report: None

Doug moved to accept Board reports, seconded by Delane. All approved.

Old Business:

- A. Call Committee Report – Mike had shared via text with council that he has been approached by members wanting to discuss the status of finding a new Pastor and if the Synod is not having success in getting interest in our area of the country, then maybe it is time to explore other options. Shannon shared email and phone conversations she has had with Bishop Jones about the status of our Pastoral call process. He recognizes our impatience and frustration as a year without a Pastor approaches. Our situation is not unique to the ELCA Synod nor in other Lutheran church organizations. Salem was advised by Bishop Jones at the beginning of the call process that it could take 1-2 years or more to fill this position. Shannon reviewed that Salem has continued to offer weekly worship services along with Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services. We have also continued the confirmation program and other youth education opportunities and have provided pastoral care with the help of other clergy during this time. It was suggested that we ask Bishop Jones or another Synod representative to come to Salem for a congregational forum to offer members the opportunity to hear directly from our Synod offices and ask questions and voice concerns.
- B. Capital Project Update
 - a. South Steeple Project – See property and management report.
- C. Summer Feeding Program Update – Status of summer feeding program this year is still pending. LMAMA is working on renewing the food service license.

New Business:

- A. New members – None
- B. Transfers/statistical adjustments – Request from Jordan Colby to transfer membership to West Prairie Lutheran Church in Leland, Iowa. Mary moved to accept request for transfer, seconded by Marci. All approved.
- C. Next meeting will be held Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Doug moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Marci. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Haugsdal

ALL ARE INVITED DOWNSTAIRS FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE SERVICE

SUNDAY 5/5

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 5/6

3:00pm Fellowship Hall reserved for Sons of Norway

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

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

TUESDAY 5/7

9:30am Miriam Circle-Lois Johnson's Home

6:30pm Altar Guild-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 5/8

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation-Choir Room

THURSDAY 5/9

9:30am Fine Arts Guild-Lounge

6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Salem Library

SUNDAY 5/12

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Steve Smith)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

Thrivent Choice Dollars: The total amount allocated to Salem through the Thrivent Choice Dollars program was \$2,537. Thank you to all that chose Salem.

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: 11-5, Wed: 12-2:30 & 3:30-6, Thurs-Fri: 11-5
(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)