

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 24 – July 30

Our Persistent, Negotiating Prayer Life

Today's readings incorporate several themes: negotiation, commands, persistence, and expectation. And surrounding all these themes is a bigger theme: boldness. Abraham is bold in speaking with God, so bold in fact that he not only negotiates with the Almighty, the Almighty willingly grants his request. Abraham had no fear in speaking in such a way to God, because he knew that God was listening and appreciating his concern. The disciples, too, speak with boldness. They don't ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, they *tell* him to teach them how to pray. Their imperative sets up a pattern of imperatives as Jesus teaches them the prayer that has been prayed unceasingly in the church catholic. These themes continue in boldness as persistence is encouraged, even to the extent of being able to ask, search, and knock, knowing that the Lord says we will receive what we ask for. And God wants to give to those who ask God. We are to ask in boldness, which comes from being "rooted and built up in [Christ]" (Col. 2:7). Strengthened by the Lord's supper, we are filled with God's Spirit to speak boldly and to be persistent in our prayers, and to be ready to receive the things for which we ask. The question becomes, then, what is it we want and need?

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

[Genesis 18:20-32](#)

[Psalm 138](#)

[Colossians 2:6-15 \[16-19\]](#)

[Luke 11:1-13](#)

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

[Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23](#)

[Psalm 49:1-12](#)

[Colossians 3:1-11](#)

[Luke 12:13-21](#)

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

We ask that you also remember them in your daily prayers.

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Andrew, Heather, Autumn & Summer Lauen, Kenneth Lein, Matthew, Jennifer, Chance, Hope, Madison & Claire Levine, Avah Klebsch, Dashawn Linnen

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.

24-Teagan Flo	25-Toni Hukill	26-Mike Henderson
24-Isaac Thompson	25-Jessica Humburg	28-Carter Gerdes
24-Evelyn Thompson	26-Jill Flugum	28-Camdon Nelson
25-Max Bergo	26-Richard Hengesteg	29-Kylie Okland
		30-Sterling Gonzalez

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 7/17/22 \$ 2,932
YEAR-TO-DATE: 7/17/22 \$ 106,376
LAST YEAR: as of 7/17/21 \$ 115,693
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -9,317

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

There will be another opportunity to participate in a New and Renewing Membership Class in August. Classes will be offered Sunday, August 14 and 21 from 10:30 – 11:30 in the chapel. A lunch will be served following the classes in the lounge.

Three ELCA publications will be used for our discussion, “Honoring Our Neighbors Faith,” “Baptized We Live: Lutheranism as a way of life,” and “Called Forward Together in Christ: ELCA Future Directions 2015.” These three documents provide a roadmap of sorts helping us discern together how Lutherans are similar to other Christian traditions and yet distinct in some significant and important ways. “ELCA Strategic Directions 2025 tells the story of the church we are becoming – a church that is confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. The directions are presented in three parts: 1. The ELCA – who we are; 2. What unites us as a Church; and 3. Our goals and priorities” (p.4 Together in Christ).

That the ELCA has a document intitled “Honoring Our Neighbors Faith” says a lot about how we view ecumenical partners in our denomination. “Baptized We Live” provides a look at our Lutheran heritage as a way of “seeing, hearing, teaching and following,” that both grounds us and sets us apart from others. “Together in Christ,” boldly envisions a future church that is connected, thriving, relevant, relational, vocational, welcoming, ecumenical, well-governed, and sustainable.

Why attend a new and renewing membership classes? Past attendees learned that we all come from differing backgrounds and have different faith stories, and that’s okay, in fact it’s an asset to a healthy, diverse, dynamic congregation. We give thanks for the stories of “lifelong Lutherans” who can share our cultural roots. We also want to invite, hear from, and welcome to the conversation those who have come from other faith traditions or spiritual paths. It’s also important for new and renewing members to get to know each other and have a common aspiration, that Salem’s mission and ministry makes a difference in Lake Mills and beyond.

The milestones of baptism, faith formation, first communion, affirmation of baptism, weddings and funerals and all other celebrations that make up the life and ministry of people in this place can only continue with the commitment of active new and renewing members. As a new and renewing member, honoring our individual and collective past, keeping our baptismal and affirmation of baptism calling is a lifelong gift of grace and commitment:

- to live among God’s faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ Jesus
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Whether a life-long, seasoned, new, discerning, or questioning person, this class offers an opportunity for conversations about why membership at Salem matters. If you know someone who is new or inactive participating in new and renewing membership classes is an opportunity to join in the conversation. For those who attend the classes and desire to become “Confirmed” members of Salem, their names will be brought to the Church Council for a vote on September 8. A new and renewing member reception is scheduled for Rally Sunday, September 18th.

Copies of the three resources used for class discussion and a sign-up sheet are in the Narthex. Please sign up or call the church office if you plan to attend so we can have enough books and know how much food to prepare for the lunch following the class. We hope to see you there!

Live Stream Sponsorship: Call the office to reserve your special date. The cost is \$40 per Sunday. **2022 Dates available:** Aug. 7, Aug. 14, Aug. 21, Oct. 16, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11

Salem Office: 641.592.1771

Mon-Thurs: 10am-5pm, Fri: 10am-4pm

Pastor Joel Guttormson:

Vacation July 19 – August 2nd

SUNDAY 7/24

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 7/25

11:00am-12:00pm Free lunch for Youth-Fellowship Hall

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters-Fellowship Hall

2:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is OPEN

(To schedule a different time, call 641.592.5085)

3:00pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN (101 S. Mill St.)

TUESDAY 7/26

11:00am-12:00pm Free lunch for Youth-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY 7/27

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

11:00am-12:00pm Free lunch for Youth-Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 7/28

11:00am-12:00pm Free lunch for Youth-Fellowship Hall

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study

4:00pm Worship & Music Board Meeting-Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY 7/29

11:00am-12:00pm Free lunch for Youth-Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY 7/31

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Sondra Nelson)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall