

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 31 – August 6

Dying to be Rich

“All is vanity and a chasing after wind,” says Ecclesiastes, yet we chase wealth like it will last forever, forgetting that we ourselves will one day die and that everything we have stored up here will be useless to us. Into the tragedy of our human drive to be rich in possessions, even at the cost of being poor in everything else, Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool. It is first told to brothers squabbling over an inheritance, and now it is told to us, some of us squabbling with our relatives or neighbors over wealth and possessions. The rich fool, despite his great wealth, is poor in every other way, eating alone, and even dying alone. In Jesus’ depiction of this fool our own sinful hearts are exposed. We too vainly chase after even more, sacrificing right relationship with God and neighbor in the process. Death comes to the rich fool when he least expects it, as it must come to all of us. How, then, are we to be “rich toward God”? Paul reminds the Colossian Christians of their own unexpected deaths in the waters of baptism: “you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” In baptism we are joined to Christ’s death, and we are to be dead to all foolish chasing after more possessions. We have died, not alone, but with Christ. Our lives now are hidden with Christ in God, and in Christ we share a fortune of true riches that also are good for our neighbors. Death will come, but our treasure is already secure. By faith we have acquired abounding riches above, and by faith we are freed from storing up treasures for ourselves here on earth.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

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

[Psalm 49:1-12](#)

[Colossians 3:1-11](#)

[Luke 12:13-21](#)

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

[Genesis 15:1-6](#)

[Psalm 33:12-22](#)

[Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16](#)

[Luke 12:32-40](#)

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:** Alyson, Ashley & Tiffani Linqvist, Duane and Hadleigh Linqvist, Lou Lorensen, Steph, Nate & Courtney Lorensen, David & Loraine Low

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

31-Kristal Sprecher	1-Gary Helgeson	5-Lexi Groe
31-Sheri Schmidt	3-Mercedes Scarborough	5-Luke Groe
1-Melissa Odom	3-Christian Delzer	6-Blake Hansen
1-Zachary Gulick	4-Kane Koch	6-Gretchen Skellenger
		6-Doug Hugo

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 7/24/22 \$ 1,967
YEAR-TO-DATE: 7/25/22 \$ 108,343
LAST YEAR: as of 7/25/21 \$ 130,852
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ - 22,509

Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast: Come have breakfast! It's on Pastor Joel! The next Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, August 5; 8:00am – 10:00am in the lounge, across from the office. Everyone is welcome! Breakfast will be served until the food runs out or its 10:00am, whichever comes sooner. Breakfast is free. Donations collected will go towards youth activities.

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 entitled “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 Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 14, 2022 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sondra Nelson, Mary Peterson, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal.

Absent: Sue Langerud, Al Skellenger

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

Secretary’s Report: June Minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

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

Communication and correspondence – Thank you’s from Megan Knudtson, the 2022 Lake Mills After Prom Committee and Ruth Sheldon; Anonymous donation for \$50 that was deposited into the general fund.

Treasurer’s Report: Drake provided a written and verbal report.

Total income for June 2022 \$11,763.38

Total Expenses for June 2022 \$20,323.53 (Income less expense -\$8,560.15)

Cemetery fund (dedicated account for cemetery maintenance/expenses) paid for cemetery expenses this month.

Checking account balance (6/30/2022) \$30,705.03

CD’s at FTSB (6/30/2022) Reserves \$26,014.17/Ness Estate \$10,614.41

CD at MBT (6/30/2022) Ness Estate \$52,215.45

Financial Secretary's report: Sondra provided a written and verbal report
2022 YTD total offerings (6/30/2022) \$94,747
2020 YTD total offerings (6/30/2021) \$103,429

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

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a written and verbal report. Topics discussed were feasibility of having outdoor services w/livestreaming; Interest in resuming a Handbell choir; Liturgical choir taking a break for summer; Organ repair will be starting soon by Hendrickson Organ Company, estimated cost was \$2,400; Pastor Joel vacation Sundays will be covered by Pastor Steve Smith (7/24) and Sondra (7/31); The Board recommends resuming passing the offering plate during service, this will begin this Sunday, 7/17; the Board discussed the timing of services and Faith Formation for fall with Board of Youth and Education and have agreed to keep the Sunday Service at 9:00 and Faith Formation at 10:00.

Board of Life & Growth: Sue provided a written report: Song Fest on Saturday of July Jubilee was attended by 44 people and \$215 was donated to the Lake Mills Mini Golf Course. The Birthday Party Celebration has been rescheduled for October 16, 2022. Faith Formation kids will sing. New & Renewing Membership opportunity is scheduled for August 14 and 21 with a lunch following.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Al was absent, no report.

Board of Property and Management: Shannon provided a written and verbal report. The Board agreed to pave the south boulevard; a church member has volunteered to do some interior plaster repair work, looking into this; talked about opportunities for using the Chapel space/removing pews (stored in a vacant room) for a trial of alternative uses; discussed the status of the dishwasher (leaking and repair could be \$5,000, new would be \$6-7,000) - holding any repairs for now.

Board of Youth: Jen and Marci provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Not much to report this month – next meeting is August 4 for Fall/Winter planning.

Pastor Report – Complete Pastor reports are available for review in the church office.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel shared a written report that included Pastoral acts in April and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- Vacation – Will be on vacation July 18-August 2. Pastor Steve Smith preaching on 7/24 and Sondra Nelson on 7/31.
- Pastoral Care in case of emergency – As with previous vacation time – Pastor Joel will manage phone calls/text messages and remain in contact with Marci and provide pastoral care remotely if needed during his vacation. Pastor Randy will be on call for Pastor Bill during this time. Pastor Randy will be gone to attend his father's funeral next week.
- Congregational Discernment – Pastor Joel presented a comparison of Salem's 2015 Ministry Site Profile when he was called to the status of Salem currently. He has presented the following questions to the council at council the last few months – what kind of church do we want to be? How can we be that church together? What resources do we have or need to be that church? Copies of the 2015 Salem Ministry Site profile are available by request in the church office.
- New and Renewing Membership – reviewed plans for classes being offered on Sunday, August 14 and August 21 from 10:30-11:30 in the chapel with lunch served following the classes in the lounge. For those attending the classes and desire to become 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 Sunday, September 18.
- Stewardship Program & Faith Formation continuing education – Shared planning for stewardship and confirmation for this fall. Confirmation will begin September 25 with a parent/student orientation to the class and worship service opportunities.
- Sunday Worship and Events Planning – upcoming events include: September 11 – Quilt Sunday with a version of a God's Work Our Hands Liturgy and a congregational monthly birthday sponsored by Life & Growth; Sunday September 18 – Rally Sunday, Stewardship coordinating with Faith Formation on an activity that includes inflatables, Music and Worship thinking about an outdoor worship, Faith Formation singing?, Students/Teachers/backpack blessings? Details and coordination being worked out.

- Presiding for Pastoral Acts at Salem – Pastor Joel shared examples of requests for pastoral care at Salem with Pastor Joel, Salem’s called and ordained pastor, being left out of the planning and delays in Pastor Joel being notified and involved in planning or addressing requests. Further discussion included a reference to the model ELCA constitution that would clarify and allows for some flexibility and openness to inactive and non-members pastoral care while maintaining some best practices for the sake of good order.
- Vandalism and Conflict – reviewed recent vandalism to cars in the church parking lot and dissatisfied neighbor who had used Salem’s dumpster without authorization.
- Portico Update – Nancy has completed paperwork for Medicare Parts A and B and this will affect Salem healthcare expenses beginning in October 2022.

Mary moved to approve Board/Pastor reports, seconded by Sondra. All approved.

Old Business:

A. Constitution (Continued)

- a. Review ELCA Model Constitution and Guidelines – work continues to complete the constitution. Shannon presented/highlighted some proposed changes for council to consider and review. Council is to review prior to next meeting and present recommended changes at August meeting.

B. Member Connection Program – continue development of this program.

New Business:

- A. Drainage Ditch Repair – Drake explained how this is assessed and managed.
- B. 2023 Portico’s Annual Enrollment Checklist will be reviewed.
- C. New members – None.
- D. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None.
- E. Next meeting will be held Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 6:30 pm

Mary 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

SUNDAY 7/31

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 8/1

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

2:00pm Sons of Norway-Fellowship Hall

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

(To schedule a different time, call 641.592.5085)

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN (101 S. Mill St.)

TUESDAY 8/2

9:30am Miriam Circle-Salem Library

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

5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting-Salem Library

WEDNESDAY 8/3

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

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

THURSDAY 8/4

9:30am Grace Circle-Salem Library

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

1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study

FRIDAY 8/5

8:00am-10:00am Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast-Lounge

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

SATURDAY 8/6

8:00am-8:00pm Fellowship Hall reserved for a private event

SUNDAY 8/7

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Mon-Tues: Vacation

Wed: Noon-8:00pm (10am Adult Bible Study)

Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study)

Fri: 8am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (8am-10am Pastor's Breakfast)

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship Service)

Salem Office: 641.592.1771

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