
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL MINUTES August 25 – 31

Who Can Accept It?

“This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” (John 6:60). Jesus’ teaching about eating his flesh and drinking his blood isn’t something we can figure out and accept on our own. In his explanation of the third article of the Apostles’ Creed, Martin Luther writes these often-quoted and memorized words: “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him.” The question of accepting Jesus’ difficult teachings gets turned on its head. No one can accept it. The good news of Jesus is too radical, unsettling, and illogical for us to accept. Through the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit we are able to echo Peter’s profession of faith: “You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God” (John 6:68-69). Like Peter, we have come to believe—despite our doubts and weakness of faith—through the Spirit’s work in the word.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Each week we will lift up five church families/ members in prayer.
THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Bonnie Steffens, David A. Steffens,
Stephanie Steffens, Olivia and Isabelle Schoonover, Daryl & Linda Stelter,
Andy, Kendra, Annaston, Austin, Zachery and Faith Stene

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

25-Ronald Moen

25-Lucas Bellinger

29-Jeremy Gilbertson

25-Ryan Dilly

27-Kristi Comstock

30-Sara Chodur

28-Chuck Olson

31-Lindsay McCord

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 8/18/24:

No Update Due

Last Weeks Attendance

YEAR-TO-DATE: 8/18/24:

To The Financial

55

LAST YEAR: as of 8/18/23:

Secretary Not being

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:

Available This Week

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 8/14/24 **\$165,837**

Total available balance as of 7/31/24 **\$57,549.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Steeple Project" in the memo when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

Guest Book: If you are visiting Salem today, we welcome you and invite you to sign our guest book, located in the Narthex, and we hope to see you again!

Prayer Shawls, hand knit or crocheted by Salem members, are available in the Narthex for you to wrap someone in need. A Prayer Shawl is for anyone in need of prayer, hope, comfort and love of a community. If you would like the person included in the prayer chain, please call the office.

Prayer Chain Ministry is a network of people who are committed to prayer and will take action on behalf of others. If you will pray for those in need, sign-up in the Narthex. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call the office and the prayer request will get sent out. If there is no answer, leave a message. All requests will be confidential among the prayer chain ministry. Thank you!

Confirmation: On Wednesday August 28th at 6:00 pm, 7th and 8th grade Students & Parents will meet in the Sanctuary for Confirmation Orientation with Pastor Melinda and a member of the board of Music and Worship. Classes will

Many activities are scheduled for Sunday, September 8 th !

- Rally Sunday where everyone is invited to the south lawn after worship for food and games. The Stewardship Board will provide a meal for everyone, and The Youth Board will have games for the kiddos!
- Blessing of the Backpacks for students of all ages to bring a backpack to worship to receive blessings as a new school year begins!
- Installation of Faith Formation instructors and helpers during worship. We recognize the time and effort put into the Faith Formation program and appreciate all the volunteers that help nourish and grow the faith of our youth.
- Mission Quilters will display quilts in the sanctuary. As we enjoy the beauty and handiwork of these quilts, let's remember that they get sent around the world to be used as a warm blanket or perhaps as a baby carrier. They are used as market displays or maybe sacks. These quilts are a wonderful reminder that someone far away cares for them.

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 8, 2024 – 6:30 pm

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

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Delane Behr, Doug Bruhns, Laura Gardner, Sue Langerud, Dan Rice, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Mary Peterson, Marci Prescott, Mike Swenson

Shannon started the meeting with devotion and prayer.

Secretary's Report: July Minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

Delane moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Dan. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – Received 2 anonymous donations for \$50 each, \$100 deposited into the general fund.

Treasurer's Report: Doug provided a verbal and written report.

Total income for July 2024 \$17,508.38

Total Expenses for July 2024 \$11,929.10 (Income less expense \$5,579.28)

Checking account balance 7/31/2024) \$144,736.87

Building Project account balance 7/31/2024 \$57,549.32

CD's at FTSB (7/31/2024) Reserves \$27,287.12

CD at MBT (7/31/2024) Ness Estate \$48,334.93

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

2024 YTD total offerings (7/30/2024) \$118,129

2023 YTD total offerings (7/30/2023) \$107,526

Dan moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Delane. All approved.

Board Reports

Enduring Gift Fund report: The quarterly report (April-June 2024) is due in August. The report noted that there had been no requests, available Principal interest for this quarter is \$6,677.19 and current account values are \$263,557.42 and \$211,742.43 (total \$475,299.85). Next report is due in November (July-September 2024)

Board of Worship and Music: Mary provided a written report: Met on July 24 and the following items were discussed: Final outdoor worship service on Sunday, August 11; September pulpit supply changes; Worship coordinator schedule; Confirmation orientation and acolyte schedule; Rally Sunday; Lay ministry training program.

Board of Life & Growth: Sondra/Sue provided a written report and Sue provided a verbal report: Serving goodies and lemonade after the outdoor service on 8/11; Prayer chain is in place and working; reviewing reply cards for those that sign the guest book; planning a photo op for the LM Fall Festival on September 26 in the park.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Dan provided a verbal report: Noisy offering being collected in August for Clay County Community Foundation

Disaster Recovery Fund to assist cleanup efforts after flooding in the Spencer, IA area this past June, planning for Rally Sunday lunch on the south lawn.

Board of Property and Management: Mike provided a written report: Steeple shingling and Education wing roof repair will be taking place in the next 7-10 days; New Windows along with insulation, sheet rocking and painting of the indoor walls is complete in the east rooms of the Education wing with cleanup and final touches are in progress; the new siding on the exterior of the east education wing will need to be painted (recommend Council choose a color and this be done soon due to weather conditions); the Courtyard has been cleaned up and looks great thanks to two young men in our congregation and the board is welcoming ideas on what we should do with the courtyard long term. Delane will take care of finalizing the color for the siding.

Board of Youth: Marci provided a written report: Confirmation will be on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, meeting in the Choir room with Pastor Melinda McVey; a meeting for confirmation parents and students will be on 8/28 at 6:00 pm with classes beginning the week after; a Confirmation Kick-off event (a day on Clear Lake thanks to Bill and Linda Tweeten) is planned for the kids on Monday, 8/19; a letter has been sent out to confirmation families with all the details; Blessing of the backpacks will be on Sunday, September 8 with the Board of Youth providing a small gift; Rally Sunday will also be on Sunday, September 8 with games and Stewardship board providing lunch on the south lawn; Faith Formation will begin on September 15 meeting in the Chapel following Sunday services and will finish up at 10:45 am; Members of the Youth Board will lead Faith Formation each week, but 3 volunteers to help with activities will be needed each week – volunteer signup is posted on the bulletin board across from the Chapel; Registration for Faith Formation should be done ASAP and can be done online or forms are available on the bulletin board across from the Chapel, children should be registered each year to make sure there is current information and appropriate supplies are ordered; 3rd grade students will have Bible classes on October 13 and 20 at 10:00 am in the lounge; Sunday, October 27 will be Bible

Sunday with 4 year olds receiving Bibles, 3rd graders receiving Bibles, Faith Formation Kids singing and Board of Youth will host Trunk or Treat that afternoon from 4:30 – 6:00pm; Volunteers to host trunks and donations for goodies for Trunk or Treat will be needed; Faith Formation Christmas program is scheduled during worship on December 15 (weather date 1/5/2025); Christmas caroling is planned for Wednesday, December 18 with everyone welcome.

Pastoral Care Support: Planning for 1 funeral in July; 1 funeral, 1 graveside service, 1 memorial visitation service all taking place in August as well as 1 baptism in July.

Pastor's Report: None

Doug moved to approve Board reports, seconded by Laura. All approved.

Old Business:

- A. Call Committee Report – Shannon continues to communicate with the Synod regarding our call process. Pastor Steve Brackett responded this week and reported that there have been no new candidates to be considered for an interview at Salem.
 - a. Lay Ministry Program – Shannon provided a review of the Lay Training Program for Synod Authorized Ministry (SAM). The Northeastern Iowa Synod has joined with the Western Iowa Synod, Southeastern Iowa Synod and South Central Synod of Wisconsin to offer this coordinated lay ministry training. The two-year program will give lay leaders the tools and support they need to lead worship, preside over communion, preach, make home visits and do other basic pastoral ministries within their congregations while they are without an ordained pastor. Approved congregation members can take additional training to serve as Synod Authorized Ministers in specific circumstances. There was lengthy discussion on all aspects of this program. As this will be a paid position with pay scale undetermined at this time, Council members were concerned with cost. Pulpit supply is paid per worship service. Another concern was if having a lay minister would hinder obtaining a full-time

pastor. As current worship planning is in place, Doug moved that we pass on participating in the Lay Training Program for Synod Authorized Ministry at this time, seconded by Delane. All approved.

B. Capital Projects Update

- a. South Steeple Project – See Board of Property and Management report
- b. Midwest Roofing repair – See Board of Property and Management report
- c. Bell tower repair/removal – No updates provided.

New Business:

- A. Salem Cemetery Committee Endowment Fund: The Salem Cemetery committee received a \$50,000 bequest to their Endowment Fund. The money has been deposited into a savings account at MBT and can only be used for cemetery improvements and not mowing. The Committee will meet and decide on improvements at the three Salem cemeteries. Ideas that have been mentioned are black topping the roads, straighten stones, clean oak stain off stones, removal of dead trees and straighten and painting signs. The committee welcomes any other suggestions people might have for cemetery improvements.
- B. New members – None.
- C. Transfers/statistical adjustments – Request for transfer for Sullivan Hengesteg to Trinity Lutheran Church in Webster City, IA. Dan moved to accept request for transfer, seconded by Sue. All approved.
- D. Next meeting will be held Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

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

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

ALL ARE INVITED TO STAY FOR FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY 8/25

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Ken Jensen)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 8/26

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY 8/28

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 9/1

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

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. We also have forms in the Narthex. Please return forms to the office.

(We are charged a much lower service fee through the Simply Giving Program)

Live Stream Sponsorship Dates avail: Sep 1. Oct 20. Nov 24. Dec 29.

Cost is \$40. Call the church to reserve your date.

Salem Office: 592.1771 Monday-Friday 9:30am-1:30pm

(Hours subject to change. Feel free to call the office to ensure its open.)