

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

### SATURDAY 8/28

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

### SUNDAY 8/29

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

### MONDAY 8/30

1:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is Open

(Call 641-592-5085 to schedule alternate time by appointment)

### WEDNESDAY 9/1

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

### THURSDAY 9/2

9:30am Grace/Martha Circle-Fellowship Hall

9:30am Ruth Circle-Faye Aamodt's House

9:30am Sarah Circle-Carole Hagen's House

### SATURDAY 9/4

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

### SUNDAY 9/5

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

## The Heart of the Matter

When clay becomes a pot, it must first have a center. As a potter spins, pushes, and pulls the clay into its final form, it can easily lose its center and become misshapen. Having lost its center, it fails to fully be what it is being created to be—a pot, a pitcher, a plate, a thing of beauty, a vessel for others.

Faith and religious practice have lost their center in today's readings. Quoting Isaiah, Jesus calls into question "This people" that "honors me with their lips" but whose "hearts are far from me" (Mark 7:6). Some in the religious community have begun focusing on surface matters (the washing of hands, what one eats, the traditions of the elders) and have forgotten the core. What really matters is how one's faith is expressed in mercy, in words and actions that build up rather than tear down the neighbor.

In the second reading James wonders about those who look at themselves in a mirror and upon walking away forget who they are (James 1:23-24). For James, they are simply hearers of the word and not doers. Their lives do not reflect the love and mercy that has claimed them.

And so it is with us. We do not live as the people God has claimed us to be. Our lives lose their center. Our faith practices focus on surface things rather than the core. We fail to be what God has created and is creating us to be—vessels poured out for others. We look at ourselves in the mirror and upon walking away forget who and whose we are.

At the heart of the Christian assembly is Jesus—in word, in song, in prayer, in the neighbor, in water, bread, and wine. Jesus, who embodies forgiveness and mercy, is the heart. Again and again, life becomes misshapen. Again and again, the potter reshapes the clay. The splash of a watery cross, the taste of bread and wine: these things center life in Christ. God's mercy washes over us. God's mercy is implanted in us. God creates life anew; deformed hearts are reformed for works of mercy and love.

**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:**

**Tony Brezina**

**Daniel Bromley**

**Margie Brones**

**Gary & Laurie Brue**

**Douglas & Shannon Bruhns**

**THIS WEEKS TEXTS**

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

*God's law: a sign of a great nation*

**Psalm 15**

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (*Ps. 15:1*)

**James 1:17-27**

*Be doers of the word, not hearers only*

**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

*Authentic religion*

**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

**Isaiah 35:4-7a**

*Like streams in the desert, God comes with healing*

**Psalm 146**

*I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)*

**James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

*Faith without works is dead*

**Mark 7:24-37**

*Christ healing a little girl and a deaf man*

## **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](http://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-**

<b>LAST SUNDAY:</b> 8/15/21	\$ 2,202
<b>YEAR-TO-DATE:</b> as of 8/18/21	\$ 147,443
<b>LAST YEAR:</b> as of 8/18/20	\$ 144,209
<b>DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:</b>	\$ 3,234

**Pastor Joel is on vacation August 27 - 31.**

**Our Mission Quilters sent 15 quilts to Salvation Army in Mason City.**

**Card Shower:** Clarine Moe will be celebrating her 98th birthday on August 30th. Her family would like to honor and celebrate her with a card shower. Birthday wishes may be sent to: Clarine Moe, Lake Mills Care Center, 406 S. 10th Ave. East, Lake Mills IA 50450.

### **Upcoming Blood Drive:**

Lake Mills Community Blood Drive

September 9th, 1:00pm-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Appointments Are Required

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or Call: 800-287-4903

or visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org)

The Board of Life & Growth is seeking Prayer Pen Pals for 1st graders. This includes sending a letter to a 1st grader and keeping them in your prayers. If you would be willing to do this, please contact Sue Langerud. 641.568.3620

**Faith Formation:** Rally Sunday will kick off Faith Formation on Sept. 12th with registration, snacks and games at 10:00am. Faith Formation will be held on Sunday mornings from 10:00am-10:45am.

**Confirmation:** On Sept. 12th at 10:00am, Students & Parents will meet in the Sanctuary for Confirmation Orientation. On September 19th at 10:00am, Students & Parents will meet in the Sanctuary for Worship Service Orientation. Letters have been sent out to 7th & 8th grade families with detailed information, if you have not received a letter, please call the office. 641.592.1771

**9/11 Remembrance Service:** Saturday, Sept. 11; 10:00am at the Arlington Park.

**Pastoral Visits:** If you or someone you know would like a visit from Pastor Joel, please call the office to make an appointment. 641.592.1771

**Volunteers Needed:** The Board of Worship and Music is looking for volunteers. If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read, sing in the liturgical choir or would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, please contact Heather at 641-909-4050 or write it on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**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. They ask that receipts do not get rolled up. Collection baskets are in the Narthex.

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:**

Oct. 17, Oct.24, Oct. 31, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 12

## **Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 12, 2021 – 6:30 pm**

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

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Sondra Nelson, Al Skellenger, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugdsal. Becky Helgeson attended as representative of the Board of Music and Worship.

Members absent: Heather Mannes, Scott Hagenson

**Devotions and Prayers:** Sondra led us in devotions and prayer.

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

Becky moved to accept the minutes. Al seconded the motion. All approved.

Communication and Correspondence - none

**Treasurer's Report:** Drake provided a written report

Total income for July 2021 \$12,763.25

Total Expenses for July 2021 \$22,137.60 (-9,374.35)

Checking account balance (7/31/2021) \$28,862.53

Building Fund balance (7/31/2021) \$11,231.36

CD's at FTSB (7/31/2021) \$26,014.17/\$10,526.47

CD's at MBT (7/31/2021) \$30,000/\$151.23

There was discussion regarding the balance sheet and decreased income this month.

**Financial Secretary's report:** Sondra provided a written report

2021 YTD total offerings (8/3/2021) \$130,852

2020 YTD total offerings (8/3/2020) \$133,726

Cindy moved to accept treasurer and financial reports. Sue seconded the motion. All approved.

### **Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music:** Heather provided a written report and Becky presented a verbal report.

Per council recommendation at July meeting, the Saturday evening service attendance will be revisited in October; Contemporary music/words are difficult for some to read on the screens – working on making the words to these songs available in the bulletin; Board would like youth more active as ushers and acolytes – will be offering training to confirmation students on September 19.

**Board of Life & Growth / Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Sue provided a written/verbal report.

Membership review process continues – she presented a list of members that we have no way of contacting and request that they be placed on the “friends” list, 5 were known to council members and will attempt to obtain address/contact information; Children’s worship bags have been cleaned and restocked; with the success of the hymn sing during July Jubilee, considering having another similar event for next year’s July Jubilee; Advent services will begin November 28.

**Board of Property and Management:** Scott was absent, Shannon gave verbal report from Scott: Coffee maker is working; new pulpit microphone and microphone cords/headsets for pastor/assistant have been replaced; laptop and video equipment for livestreaming has been ordered (Thrivent dollars have been allocated); Courtyard has been cleaned up; Cementing the boulevard on the south side of the church property has been tabled; Carpeting in the elevator in need of replacement, bid from Christianson Interiors for \$300 to replace.

**Sue moved that elevator carpet be removed/replaced for quoted \$300, Becky seconded the motion. All approved.**

**Board of Youth:** Jen provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Blessings of the Backpacks for students/school staff on August 22; Rally Sunday on September 12; Faith Formation and Confirmation will be held from 10:00-10:45 am on Sunday mornings; Youth board will start recruiting teachers to assist with games and crafts for the year; Bibles to 4 yo preschoolers and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on October 31; Considering Trunk or Treat event on October 31; Christmas Program December 12 with weather make-up date December 19; Christmas caroling at 5:00pm December 19; Confirmation schedule is complete and will be mailed out to families; parent/confirmation student meeting on September 12 and 19; Pastor Joel is asking for at least 1 parent volunteer to be present at each session starting September 26.

**Office Administrator Report:** Marci provided a written report regarding member statistical adjustments that have been completed. These are members who requested they be removed from the membership list. They are now listed under non-member/friend. These names have been reported in previous minutes.

**Pastor Reports – 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 July and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- Pastor's fellowship Breakfast – Pastor Joel will host second Breakfast on Friday, 8/13/2021.
- NEIA Synod Assembly – Resolution calling for action on Child protection and a memorial to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly to develop and adopt a Social Statement on Child Abuse and Child Protection – Salem will need to develop a Child Protection Policy. Pastor Joel anticipates that the NEIA Synod staff will provide guidance for policy structure. Safe Gatherings trainings of staff and members in roles interacting with children will continue.
- Membership Roster Review process – previously discussed under Life and Growth. **Marci moved that members on the list with no contact information available be moved to non-member/friend of Salem status. Al seconded the motion. All approved.**
- Confirmation Classes Overview – Pastor Joel reviewed the preparation for Confirmation classes. Letters are going out for students/family.
- Stephens Ministry – Currently not an active ministry. There is a need for more participation for the ministry to be reactivated. A message for congregation will be developed to see if there is interest in continuing this ministry.
- Building Maintenance – the condition of our building and maintenance/repair needs and our ministry goals was discussed at length. Decreasing financial support and resources add to the ongoing dilemma of balancing the short-term fixes with what we should look at as long term goals.

Marci moved to approve board/pastor reports. Sue seconded the motion. All approved.

### **Old Business:**

- A. Safe Gatherings/Child Protection Policy – See previous discussion under Pastor's report; Shannon proposed that members of the Youth Board be the next to complete Safe Gatherings Education; we will await guidance from NEIA Synod to develop our child protection policy.
- B. Constitution and By-Laws – Al, Shannon and Pastor Joel are working through the model ELCA Constitution and By-Laws. They will be seeking guidance from the synod as to a resource person to address questions/concerns.

### **New Business:**

- A. Covid Management Team Update – The Delta variant of Covid 19 is causing increased concerns; the management team will be meeting again on 9/8/2021 to review guidelines. Suggestions in the meantime are to make masks available for those who wish to wear and make hand sanitizer available in the sanctuary.



- B. Cemetery Board Loan Update - \$8900 has been raised secondary to the mailing regarding the remaining cemetery loan for Heating/AC project. Plans are to assess any further giving and make a payment towards the loan next month.
- C. Portico 2022 annual enrollment – process is ongoing.
- D. ELCA “God’s Work, Our Hands” Service Project Day – Sunday, September 12 (Rally Sunday) – Shannon asked that all council members consider projects that could be done in our community. Life and Growth will also be looking into possibilities.
- E. Other New Business - none
- F. New members: none
- G. Transfers/statistical adjustments - none
- H. Next meeting Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm

All moved the meeting be adjourned. Sondra seconded the motion. All approved – the meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

### **Pastor's Schedule**

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Monday: Vacation

Tuesday: Vacation

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

Thursday: Noon – 8pm

Friday: 8am – Noon, 1pm – 5pm

Saturday: Noon – 8pm (5:30pm Worship Service)

Sunday: 8am – Noon (9am Worship Service)

### **Secretary**

Marci Adeogun

Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm

Saturday & Sunday: Off

## The Kindness of Strangers

*The LORD protects strangers.*

*Psalm 146:9*

She had no use for strangers. She didn't trust anyone she didn't know. It didn't dawn on her that she was just as much a stranger in the eyes of those who didn't know her—that is, until the day she went to a free outdoor concert.

When she arrived, she stood in the shade to escape the August sun. But her knees soon buckled. As she started to slump, a stranger caught her before she hit the dirt. He cradled her in his arms. Another ran for help, and a third brought water to hydrate her. They stayed with her until she felt better. How ironic when she learned they all lived a few blocks from her neighborhood. Once home, she thanked God for realizing we are all friends-in-the-making and we all have a role in protecting one another.

***God of love, may there be no strangers among us!***

[- Gail Goleas](#)

*Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 • Psalm 146:5-10 Matthew 22:34-40*

Source: livingfaith.com

## The King's Humility

*Whoever exalts himself will be humbled.*

*Matthew 23:12*

When Jesus proclaimed his Good News to the world, he spoke in his own characteristic way by amply filling his Gospel message with spiritual paradoxes. These unique teachings are seemingly contradictory statements that become impressive guidelines for Christian living. For example: In death, we find fullness of life. It is better to be a person who serves rather than be served. Anyone who boasts and brags about himself will not be exalted but humbled. These sayings are like spiritual conundrums stubbornly standing in opposition to mundane thinking and worldly values.

Most of all, Jesus himself is a paradox—the greatest and most dramatic paradox imaginable. Jesus is Lord, king, master and all powerful, and yet he voluntarily submitted to be arrested, beaten and nailed to the Cross. He was innocent and filled with life, but he chose to accept a most painful death in order to free the guilty.

***Jesus, king of heaven and earth, make us to be humble like you***

[- Fr. James McKarns](#)

*Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17 • Psalm 128:1-5 Matthew 23:1-12*

Source: livingfaith.com



**I Love My Church**