
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES August 4 – 10

From Rumbling Tummies to Living Bread

Today's texts move us from rumbling tummies and flaring tempers to a refocusing on the blessings poured out and the primary benefactor. We see the gifts of God, which come in a variety of ways: physical nourishment, roles and talents lifted up in community, new life given now and into the ages of ages. We find that the gifts are responses to various actions—complaining, building for the future, longing for signs of promise and hope. Yet each of these actions and the gifts mean little if we are not able to see the one who is the giver and to recognize that the gifts are not merely about what we can do to get them or what signs are needed to prove them; rather, it is about trust in God, who is the source of life and living—the one who provides the true bread from heaven. Our role in this story is to tell the history of God's giving, similar to the psalmist. It is to open our eyes to the way the bread of heaven is sustaining us today, physically and spiritually. And as a community living in God's promise, we look to the one God sends to us as *the* bread of life. In many early Hebrew and Greek writings, the stomach was a driving force and a place where hope and faith were lodged. The readings point us to see how a longing for food opens a greater dwelling place for the gifts of faith and promise. From our physical depths we are called to experience a greater spiritual reality.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Psalms 78:23-29

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalms 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

Each week we will lift up five church families/ members in prayer.
THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Loren & Sandy Skatter, Alan & Willie Skellenger, Gretchen Skellenger, Clyde Sletten, Rebecca Sletten

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

4-Kane Koch

5-Luke Groe

9-Mason Fritz

5-Lexi Groe

6-Gretchen Skellenger

9-Anna Ramaker

6-Doug Hugo

10-Arlene Sprecher

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 7/28/24: \$ 4,880

YEAR-TO-DATE: 7/30/24: \$ 118,129

LAST YEAR: as of 7/30/23: \$ 107,526

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ 10,603

Last Weeks Attendance

93

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 7/22/24 **\$164,247**
Total available balance as of 6/28/24 **\$55,159.32** 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!

Baptism: Sunday, July 28th, we welcomed into the family of God through Holy Baptism Sullivan Allen Hengesteg. Sullivan's parents are Adam & Krystal Hengesteg. His sponsors are Faith, Laela and Nova Rice. Grandparents are Jeff & Sheila Chose, Donna & Mike Hengesteg, Ryan Benson, Chris & David Cichosz.

Noisy Offering: We all have seen the devastation that flooding has brought to many of the communities of northwestern Iowa. This quarter we will be designating our "Noisy Offering" to those affected by the floods. Donations will be sent to the Clay County Community Foundation Disaster Recovery Fund. Noisy Offering will begin on August 4 and end August 25.

Memorials Given In July:

Tessie Severson--\$50 Good Samaritan Fund (back to school supplies)

Violet Kvale--\$2,090 Steeple Fund, \$45 Cemetery Fund

Thank you to the person/people that cleaned up the courtyard!

Results from the Lake Mills Community Blood Drive on July 18, 2024

28 Eligible Donors, 2 First Time Donors, 31 Units Collected, Up to 93 lives saved or sustained! **Milestone Donors:** 1 Gallon - Jody Olson, 5 Gallons - Diane Roper, 7 Gallons - Terri Drugg, 8 Gallons - Dwight Angel and Anita Levorson

Nathan Elsbernd Organ Recital: Nathan is a church musician who advocates for community-centered music. Currently, he is the Organist and Director of Music at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Additionally, he studies at the Yale School of Music and the Institute of Sacred Music. Last year, Nathan graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa where he was the first Luther College Church Music Fellow, serving as an organist, collaborative pianist, and conductor. Nathan was named as a member of The Diapason's "20 Under 30" Class of 2023 and played as a "Rising Star" at the 2024 National American Guild of Organists Convention. He looks forward to presenting this recital at his home church, **Trinity Lutheran, 213 N. Pennsylvania Ave. Mason City, IA. Wednesday, July 31; 6:00pm.**

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!

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.

Live Stream Sponsorship Dates avail: Aug 25. Sep 1. Oct 20. Nov 24. Dec 29. \$40

School Kits: Education is important for any community, especially where poverty or disaster has limited the options for young people to reach their potential. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue their learning despite the hardship they face. And that learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Salem will be collecting School Kits and supplies to make the kits. Donations can be left in the Narthex.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN EACH FABRIC KIT:

*Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8"x10¹/₂", no loose-leaf paper
*One 30-centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
*Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
*Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

*One box of 16 or 24 crayons
*One pencil sharpener
*One eraser
*One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
*One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14"x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks); recommended fabric include heavy cotton, canvas, denim or twill

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Remove any excess packaging, pack all items in the bag and close. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags. Visit lwr.org/beinvolved and click on School Kits or call 800.597.5972 for an easy-few backpack-style bag pattern and tips for purchasing pre-made bags.

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)

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 11, 2024 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Delane Behr, Doug Bruhns, Laura Gardner, Sondra Nelson, Marci Prescott, Dan Rice, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Mary Peterson, Mike Swenson.

Shannon opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

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

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

Communication and correspondence – One anonymous donation of \$50 was received and deposited in the general fund; \$1000 was received from Sylvia and Mark Gulick, this gift was designated for Salem Cemetery maintenance, Cindy will send them a thank you from Salem.

Treasurer's Report: Doug provided a written report.

Total income for June 2024 \$18,546.31

Total Expenses for June 2024 -\$21,680.14 (Income less expense -\$3,133.83)

Checking account balance (6/30/2024) \$109,656.68

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (6/30/2024) \$55,159.32

CD's at FTSB (6/30/2024) Reserves \$48,334.93

CD at MBT (6/30/2024) Ness Estate \$27,287.12

Delane asked what happens with the Sunday morning coffee money each week and Laura reported that it is deposited into the general fund.

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

2024 YTD total offerings (7/2/2024) \$102,170

2023 YTD total offerings (7/2/2023) \$94,186

Delane moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Sondra.

All approved.

Board Reports

Enduring Gift Fund – Second quarter report will be due in August based on revised reporting schedule.

Board of Worship and Music: Mary was absent. No meetings/no updates this month.

Board of Life & Growth: Sondra provided a written and verbal report: Served cookies and ice cream following the outdoor service on June 9th; a guestbook has been placed in the Narthex; continue to work on a prayer chain.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Dan provided a verbal report: Plan to do a Noisy offering collection later this summer; making plans for Rally Sunday meal.

Board of Property and Management: Mike provided a written report: Steeple/Young Construction – Rain has upset their schedule with all scheduled projects and therefore pushed our shingling project back as well, they will let Mike know when they can come to Salem; Education Wing roofing repair with Midwest roofing – delays due to rain, they will contact Mike when ready to begin repairs; Belltower – Nothing new to report, Ken Kaiser never got back to Smokey Kloster regarding his opinion as to repairing the bell tower vs removal, No further contact with Randall Construction or Jared Beenken for quite some time as we were waiting to hear from Kaiser, we have to assume that nothing will happen this year with the Bell Tower as these firms have lined up other jobs; Chapel ceiling will be taken care of when the roof is repaired; Mike also messaged Council members per text on Monday, 7/8, with information re: Renovations to the East educational wing to improve the rooms used by the LM Food Shelf and the Clothes Closet with funding from a bequest from the Adrian Halvorson estate (\$50,000). Price is Right construction/Andy Stene has submitted a bid for \$54,800. Mike has discussed the construction issues with the Food Shelf and Clothes Closet. Approval of this bid will be addressed in old business at this meeting.

Board of Youth: No updates this month

Pastoral Care Support: Shannon reported a Baptism on June 29 officiated by Pastor Melinda McVey; funeral planning for July 13 which will be officiated by Pastor Dennis Hanson; Baptism planning for July 28.

Pastor Report: None

Laura moved to accept Board reports, seconded by Sondra. All approved.

Old Business:

A. Call Committee Report

- a. Lay Ministry Program – Shannon presented information regarding a Lay Training program for Synod Authorized Ministry personnel that could serve congregations that are in Pastoral Transition. The education/training/costs for candidates was included in the information provided. Costs would be shared by the Synod, the congregation and the candidate. Sondra Nelson has expressed interest in this training and serving in this capacity for Salem. Shannon has reached out to discuss this further with Bishop Jones. Council members have been asked to review this information and further discussion was tabled until the August meeting. (Sondra left the meeting during this discussion).
- b. The Call committee has not received any candidates for review. There continues to be a discrepancy between the number of available calls and the numbers of pastors available for in the ELCA. This discrepancy is consistent with other denominations.

B. Capital Project Update

- a. South Steeple Project Update – see Property and Management report
- b. Bell Tower repair/removal project – see Property and Management report

C. Project Plan Building Maintenance Projects

- a. Midwest Roofing/Roof repair – see Property and Management report.
- b. Chapel Ceiling repair – see Property and Management report.
- c. East Educational Wing renovation funded by Adrian Halvorson Estate Bequest
 - i. The bid from Price Right Construction was reviewed – Dan moved that the council approve the bid from Price is Right Construction for \$54,800 for renovation of the East Educational Wing with funding from the \$50,000 bequeath from the Adrian Halvorson Estate, seconded by Laura. All approved.

New Business:

- A. 2024-2025 Confirmation Classes – Pastor Melinda McVey has agreed to

- B. teach Confirmation classes for both 7th and 8th graders for 2024-2025. Shannon reported that she will have Pastor Melinda sign an agreement as she did last year and needs council approval. Doug moved to renew the agreement with Pastor Melinda McVey to teach Confirmation for 2024-2025, seconded by Laura. All approved.
- C. New members – None
- D. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None.
- E. Next meeting will be held Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

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

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Haugsdal

ALL ARE INVITED DOWNSTAIRS FOR FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY 8/4

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 8/5

2:00pm Sons of Norway

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

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

TUESDAY 8/6

5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting-Library

WEDNESDAY 8/7

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

THURSDAY 8/8

6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Library

SUNDAY 8/11

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

Salem Office: 592.1771 Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-1:30pm. Tues & Thurs 10am-5pm