

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

**August 7 – August 13**

### **A Kingdom for the Little Flock**

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Jesus promises the kingdom to us, his little flock, straining our minds with this uninhibited generosity. Even to us, so little and undeserving? Even to us, in the face of so many things to be afraid of? Suddenly everything we hold dear in this world is repriced, and the true value of things becomes plainly clear. We are being given the kingdom! So why not sell our possessions and give to those in need? We are being given the kingdom! So why not wait on expectant tiptoes for the master? When he comes he will wait on us! The Father’s free generosity calls forth in us a generosity we have never before known. Fear is now met with anticipation, and tightfistedness with open hands. We are being given the kingdom, so now we know what true treasure looks like. And yet, like our fathers and mothers in faith that the Hebrews reading speaks of, we too “desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.” But in Christ our heavenly country has already arrived. In him, God has freely given us the kingdom.

THIS WEEKS TEXTS	NEXT WEEKS TEXTS
Genesis 15:1-6	Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalms 33:12-22	Psalms 82
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Hebrews 11:29--12:2
Luke 12:32-40	Luke 12:49-56

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:** Dennis Madson, Janet Vinson and Heather Madson, Kristin & Brynna Mannes, Patrick Scheib, Beverly and Allen Mannes, Heather, Hallie & Maddie Mannes, Daniel Martinson

**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

7-Anthony Ranes	9-Anna Ramaker	12-Dashawn Linnen
9-Mason Fritz	12-Liah Naser	

### -WEEKLY GIVING-

**LAST SUNDAY:** 7/31/22           \$ 4,143  
**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 8/222           \$ 112,486  
**LAST YEAR:** as of 8/2/21       \$ 136,427  
**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**   \$ - 23,941

Memorial Service for Owen Solomonson will be at 2pm on August 19th. The family asks that everyone attending wear a mask and observe social distancing.

Volunteers Needed: If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read or sing in the liturgical choir, sign up in the Narthex or call the office. If you would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, call the office. Thank you!

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

Salem Office: 641.592.1771

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

**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 hardships 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"x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>";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 30-centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

\*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](http://lwr.org/beinvolved) and click on School Kits or call 800.597.5972 for an easy-sew backpack-style bag pattern and tips for purchasing pre-made bags.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>.

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!

**Collections:** We collect 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.

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

### **Pastor Joel Guttormson**

Mon: Off, but on-call

Tues: 10am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (2:30pm Text Study)

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

Thurs: Noon-8pm (1pm Mills Harbour Bible Study, 6:30pm Church Council Meeting)

Fri: 8am-Noon, 1pm-5pm

Sat: 10am-Noon (service prep)

Sun: 8am-Noon (9am Worship Service, 10:30am New & Renewing Member class & lunch)

## What Prayer Is and How It Works

Smith Wigglesworth was a great preacher. But before he was a preacher, he was a plumber who wasn't a Christian—nor a very nice man.

Fortunately for him, he had a godly wife.

He didn't want her to go to church, but she went anyway. When she did, he'd lock her out of the house, and when she came home, she'd have to sleep on the back porch. In the morning he'd unlock the door and she'd come in and say, "Good morning, Smithy!" and make him breakfast.

She was a godly example for him. She prayed for him and God gave her the grace to be good to him in spite of his rude behavior. And because she continued to be so good to him, he eventually came to know the Lord and was radically changed. As a result, he became one of the greatest preachers who ever lived.

That's the power of prayer.

## **Understand What Prayer Really Is**

Prayer is simply conversation with God. It's asking Him to meet your need or someone else's. It's praising Him and thanking Him. It's about committing things to Him and consecrating things to Him. We need to pray about everything and anything.

I think some people don't pray much because they don't understand how powerful prayer really is. The truth is it's one of the greatest privileges we have as Christians.

When we pray, we open the door for God to come into our problems and situations and work on them. Prayer makes us partners with God. And while we can't really change people and make them love God, He can minister to their hearts and reach them.

I also believe that prayer is easier than we think it is. And it can be so much a part of our life that we don't even realize how much we pray – like breathing.

## What Makes Prayer So Powerful?

The Bible teaches us in [James 5:16](#) that “the earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].” Prayer is passionate. It’s about sincerity of heart and putting your whole heart into it.

Prayer doesn’t have to be eloquent or long. And prayer isn’t better if it’s loud or if you’re on your knees, folding your hands or bowing your head. It’s good to humble yourself, but it’s not your posture or how long you pray that makes it effective.

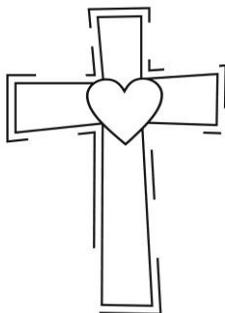
I remember a time when God challenged me to ask for what I wanted and needed in the least amount of words possible. This was hard at first. For example, when we do something wrong, it’s hard just to say, “God, I know that was wrong and I admit it. I ask You to forgive me. Thank You, Lord. Amen.”

Instead, it’s common to hear something like this, “Oh, God! I need You to forgive me. God, forgive me. Please, God, forgive me. Oh God, You’ve got to forgive me! Please, God...I promise not to do it again.”

[Hebrews 11:6](#) says that faith pleases God, and if we believe He exists and seek Him, He will reward us. We don’t have to beg and plead with Him to help us. God is a good God! He loves you and wants what is best for you.

Spend time with God. Talk to Him sincerely and honestly. Cast your cares on Him. Then find out what He wants to do and then follow His lead.

Source: <https://joycemeyer.org/everydayanswers/ea-teachings/What-Prayer-Is-and-How-It-Works>



**SUNDAY 8/7**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary  
10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY 8/8**

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

**TUESDAY 8/9**

10:00am Caregivers Support Group-Lounge  
11:00am-12:00pm Free lunch for Youth-Fellowship Hall

**WEDNESDAY 8/10**

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room  
11:00am-12:00pm Free lunch for Youth-Fellowship Hall

**THURSDAY 8/11**

11:00am-12:00pm Free lunch for Youth-Fellowship Hall  
1:00pm Mills Harbour Bible Study  
6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Choir Room

**FRIDAY 8/12**

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

**SUNDAY 8/14**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary  
10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall  
10:30am New & Renewing Membership Class-Chapel/Lunch to follow-Lounge