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# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 22 – 28

### The Most Challenging Spiritual Practice

The writers of today's readings express to God their fears about death and those who do evil. They rage against the cravings, coveting, envy, and selfish ambition that lead to disorder and war, within and around us. They describe one caught in this reality who is led to slaughter, tested with insult and torture, and faces a shameful death. Through our lenses we see Jesus. In fact, Jesus keeps describing what is going to happen to him, but his followers can't understand. They don't want to understand. Instead, they argue about who is greatest. Putting a quick end to that line of argument, Jesus brings a child into their circle. Embracing the child, Jesus invites disciples into humble service—this is how we draw near to God and God to us.

It is easy to be fearful in view of events outside us. It is easy to be thrown off course by feelings inside us or to work hardest for the wrong things. But Jesus invites us to practice what may be the most challenging spiritual practice of all. Jesus invites us to love our neighbor. Jesus asks that we look around for someone concrete to invest our time and energy in, someone who cannot necessarily return the favor. Jesus challenges us to receive others' ministry to us, since we are also little children in faith.

In real life, there is no way to avoid shame and death. At some point, it comes to each of us. However, for now, wherever we are, we can participate in God's way of life. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, disciples look where Jesus points and see those whom they can serve. They do not escape death but can know that resurrection is on the other side. Each day, God is with us through dying and rising.

**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!

**THIS WEEKS TEXTS**

Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Psalm 54  
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37



**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

Each week we will lift up five church families/ members in prayer.

**THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:**

Betty Thompson, Bradlee, Robin and Paige Thompson, Dennis Thompson, James & Kathy Thompson, Lyle & Orloue Thomson

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

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|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 22-Kevin Sprecher   | 24-Bennett Eaton   | 26-Daniel Rice       |
| 22-Morgan Christian | 24-Reece Helgeson  | 26-Adam Sauer        |
| 22-Ashley Brackey   | 25-Jacob Langenbau | 26-Ben Stene         |
| 23-Nicholas Barrett | 25-Dan Schriever   | 27-Kristopher Belica |
| 23-Peyton Severson  | 25-Dalton Thorson  | 27-Kyle Sprecher     |
|                     |                    | 28-Randy Anderson    |

**-WEEKLY GIVING-**

**LAST SUNDAY:** 9/15/24:           \$    4,630  
**YEAR-TO-DATE:** 9/18/24:       \$ 141,048  
**LAST YEAR:** as of 9/18/23:     \$ 131,455  
**DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:**   \$    9,593

**Last Weeks Attendance**

76

**Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:** Total received as of 9/15/24 **\$166,647**  
Total available balance as of 8/30/24 **\$59,139.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the “Steeple Project” in the memo when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

**WELCA Church Bazaar:** We have received an invitation to the WELCA Church Bazaar at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Manly IA. There will be baked goods, including lefse, basket/quilt donations, breakfast, crafts, garden goodies, mugs & cookbooks. Saturday, October 5th; 8:30am -11:00am. (248 W. Walnut St)

**Faith Formation Volunteers Needed:** The Youth Board is making weekly plans for music, activities, games and crafts, BUT...we need YOUR HELP to make this year a success! Please consider donating your time to supervise and interact with our children. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin across from the chapel. No planning or experience necessary, a youth board member will be leading.

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**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](http://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)**

**A Gathering Of Faithful Men** will be held Sept. 28th at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato. This year's special guest is Michael Franzese. He is an American former mobster who was a caporegime in the Colombo crime family. He went from the Godfather to God the Father. There will be music, ministry and breakfast. Tickets are \$25. Space is limited so call 800-810-5559 or go online to [KinshipRadio.org](http://KinshipRadio.org) to register.

**Understanding Grief and Loss Support Group** is an adult support group that will provide grief education and support to individuals who've experienced the death of a family member or friend. This group is sponsored by MercyOne North Iowa Hospice. The next scheduled group is: 5 Monday evenings; Sept. 30th – Oct. 28th 5:30 - 7:00 PM in the MercyOne North Iowa Hospice Conference Room (232 2nd St SE, Mason City). There is no charge for this group, but space is limited. Call 641-428-6267 to register.

**Consumed by Fire** is coming to Story City, IA! Experience a night of worship in the Riverside Chapel led by this up-and-coming Contemporary Christian Music band. Friday, October 4; 6:30pm. Check the bulletin board across from the Salem office for the QR code to buy tickets.

**Fall Recharge**: Sign up for a super fun weekend that like a whole week of camp smashed into 40 hours! High energy worship, games, free time, small group time and awesome food! \$95 per person. Dates: October 18-19 for grades 3-6, November 8-9 for grades 6-9, November 22-24 for grades 9-12. Find friends from your school/church to be in a cabin with and register online. Check the Faith Formation bulletin board by the Pastor's offices to scan the QR code or go to [riversidelbc.org](http://riversidelbc.org)

**Fall Dinner and Quilt Raffle**: West Prairie Lutheran church (40041-150<sup>th</sup> St. Leland) had invited us to this community event on Sunday, October 13; 11:00am-1:30pm. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the local chapter of FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN. Cost is \$12 adult, \$6 child (5 and under free) at the door. Tickets can be pre-purchased at David's Grocery Store Saturday September 28, 10:00am-2:00pm. They will be serving BBQ meatballs, cheesy potatoes, southern style green beans, roll, dessert and beverage. Dine-in, take out, or free home delivery. Delivering to Forest City, Thompson, Leland, Lake Mills and Scarville. No beverage will be provided with home delivery. New this year. Call in for the FARMERS IN THE FIELD SPECIAL! Free delivery to a central location in Forest City, Thompson, Lake Mills, Leland and Scarville for farmers in the field. **Pre-orders only. Orders must be received by Friday, October 11 by leaving a message at (641) 567-3733.** They will return calls to confirm orders and time for deliver, so please remember to include your phone number in the message. Beverages will be provided with the Farmer's Special. Cost for that is \$8. The quilt raffle is \$1 per chance or 6 chances for \$5. Quilt measures 72 inches x 72 inches. Tickets can be purchased At David's Grocery Store prior to the dinner or the day of the dinner at the church. The winner will be contacted by phone and need not be present to win. Questions? Call (319) 931-3570

**Annual Gold Classic** at Ames Golf & Country Club, Friday September 27. Register by calling the riverside office or visiting their website. Cost is \$125/player. Includes 18 holes with card, goodie bag, lunch, ice cream afterward and prizes. Join them and enjoy great food and great fellowship, with the while day devoted to supporting the continued mission and ministry of Riverside. They are thankful for the 120+ supporters who come out to support this great event. To register call (515) 733-5271 or visit [www.riversidelbc.org](http://www.riversidelbc.org) or scan the QR code on the bulletin board across from the Salem office.

**“One Year to Live” Men’s Retreat:** Registration is now open for this event. The retreat is set for Nov. 1-3 at Camp Ewalu, Strawberry Point. The retreat is an opportunity for men of all ages to rethink how they set their priorities & discover how God has equipped them to live. It is led by lay members and presented by Lutheran Men in Mission, in partnership with the NEIA Synod & Camp Ewalu. Cost is \$175 for those who register by Oct. 7. After that date, the rate is \$200, due by Oct. 21. Lodging, six meals and materials are included. To download the brochure/ registration form and to register online, visit [www.neiasynod.org/oyt/](http://www.neiasynod.org/oyt/)

**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. If there is no answer, leave a message and we will send out the request ASAP. All requests will be confidential among the prayer chain ministry. Thank you!

**Live Stream Sponsorship: Dates available 2024: Oct 20. Nov 24. Dec 29.**

**Dates available 2025:** Jan 5, 19, 26, Feb 9, 16, 23, March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 20, May 4, June 8, 15, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept 14, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Dec 7, 28. Cost is \$40. Call the office to sponsor.

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

**Retired Senior Volunteer Program:** Reading Buddy pairs 1 volunteer to 1 student to read & practice literacy skills. The program at Lake Mills Elementary currently serves Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. Volunteers typically serve 1 day per week for approx. 1 hour. Teachers provide all the necessary materials. The volunteer reads, works on sight words, literacy games, etc. and helps the student form a positive relationship around reading & also becomes a trusted, caring adult in their life. Lake Mills hopes to add MORE classrooms this year, so please tell a friend! To sign up, call 641-422-4304 or visit [www.niacc.edu/rsvp](http://www.niacc.edu/rsvp) to enroll. All volunteers will be provided orientation and training in Lake Mills so they feel confident and ready to help students have a successful experience.

**Salem's Clothes Closet** is open every Monday from 2:00-4:00pm; and can be accessed at the south entrance. Clothes, shoes, boots, coats, jackets and a few other kids' items are available for free. We also accept donations; please make sure donations are folded and have no holes, tears or stains. Donations can be left inside the south entrance anytime.



**The Lake Mills Food Shelf** is open 2:00-5:00pm every Monday for anyone in need of additional food. The only criteria for eligibility is to reside within the Lake Mills School District. The Food Shelf is located at Salem and can be accessed at the south entrance. Anyone in need of food when the food shelf is not open, please feel free to call and leave a message at 641-592-1771 and someone will call back.

## **LSI September 2024 – Impact of In-Kind Donations**

At LSI, in-kind gifts (non-monetary) are just as impactful as financial donations. Director of Philanthropy, Deb Whitford, was inspired by the song “If I Could Dream” by Elvis Presley. She wondered, “What would I dream about for our clients? What would our clients dream for?”

A Story by Deb Whitford: When is a yardage not just pieces of fabric? In the hands of someone learning to sew, fabric becomes a blank canvas of possibilities. A nearly empty closet containing the few items a refugee could fit in their suitcase when traveling to the US turns into a place of pride when filled with hand-sewn clothes made from that fabric. If I could dream...I dream of curtains for bare windows and cloth to cover worn tables. I dream of the magic of small pieces of fabric fitting into beautiful patterns in quilts to brighten homes and become treasured wraps providing comfort and warmth. These dreams are becoming a reality thanks to the generosity of an LSI donor.

Connie Hansen from Audubon, Iowa, is no stranger to fabric and sewing. Connie has enjoyed sewing for much of her lifetime. In her younger years, she shared her passion for sewing, serving as a 4-H leader in Melville Township, sewing clothes for herself and daughter. Through the years, her love and passion for quilting has grown friendships with others who love the craft. Connie dreamed of keeping her newest neighbors warm with her remaining fabric and donated the yards to LSI. This fabric will be used by our newly resettled immigrant and refugee families to create quilts and clothing, helping them feel more comfort-able in their new homes. We hear about dreams every day at LSI from our direct service providers, team members, and clients. Thanks to your generosity, these dreams can become reality.

Help our clients’ dreams become reality by donating in-kind gifts to LSI. To learn more, contact [philanthropy@LSIowa.org](mailto:philanthropy@LSIowa.org). For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

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

(Hours subject to change. Feel free to call the office to ensure it’s open.)

Visit us at [www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com) or Facebook: Search Salem Lake Mills

**All are invited downstairs after the worship service for fellowship, coffee and a sweet treat. Fellowship is great opportunity to connect with others while students attend Faith Formation.**

**SUNDAY 9/22**

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

**MONDAY 9/23**

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 9/25**

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

**SUNDAY 9/29**

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

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

**Created To Be Connected: High school youth and adult leaders from the Northeastern Iowa Synod are invited to come together for an afternoon of games, Bible study and other fun activities on Sunday, Nov. 3, at the "Created to Be Connected" event.** This new event will take place 2-5 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. Youth and leaders will have an opportunity to connect with one another, share ideas and get energized and inspired in their faith. Special guest Aaron Shoppa, program director for Youth Ministries for the ELCA, will share about youth ministries and other programs of the wider church. **Register by Oct. 28** The event is open for all youth in grades 9 through 12 and their youth leaders, whether they attended the 2024 Youth Gathering or not. The cost to attend is \$5 per person, which includes refreshments. Check-in will begin at 1:30 p.m. Questions about the event? Call 319-352-1414.