



Salem Lutheran Church OUTREACH

July 2016

We invite you to join us for our weekly Worship Services:

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays:

6:00 p.m. Casual Worship Service— Chapel

Prepare to . . .



. . . for Christ's sake

Pastor Joel Guttormson

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Pastor Melinda McCluskey

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Helen Rice, Church Secretary

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Ruth Sheldon, Organist

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MISSION

Salem Lutheran Church members have known and now extend to others the invitation from Jesus Christ to know him and his gifts of forgiveness, hope, peace, and purpose. Our desire is to be a welcoming place in service to the Lord who has welcomed us. We seek to grow in our faith through meaningful worship and study. We seek to share the gifts of Christ, both as individuals who reach out in love to our families, our community, our workplaces, and our world, and also as a congregation reaching out with meaningful and supportive services and programming to people of all ages. We seek to be servants, following the example of our Lord Jesus, who said that the greatest life is not the one lived simply for itself, but for the benefit of others.



Message from Melinda McCluskey

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Psalm 8 NRSV

I write this newsletter article as I sit on the porch of the lodge where we are attending Luther Academy of the Rockies (LAR). This Psalm is just one of many that express the wonderment of God's creation. The beauty and the majesty of the mountains, especially the Rockies never fail to amaze me. But it is the details that I find when I stop to explore the woods that is even more amazing to me. If you only drive through the Rockies and never get out of your vehicle, one misses the fullness of God's creation.

There are flowers in every shade of red, yellow, purple, orange, and blue blooming on the forest floor. Outside my cabin door are several blue columbines in bloom. Once nearly extinct, the blue columbine now bloom all over the national park. The aspen and pine protect the fragile plants beneath their canopy.

The detail in which God created the earth is not to be overlooked. A drive on US Highway 34, known as Trail Ridge Road, takes one through

three ecosystems, the montane, subalpine, and alpine. Viewed from a distance the alpine tundra appears to be green grass, green ground cover. Yet, when you stop to look closely there are over 250 species of plants that hug the fragile alpine soil.

I am reminded of these words of Jesus in Luke 12:27-28: *Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you-you of little faith.*

God has created all that is seen and unseen. God created and cares for the plants of the alpine tundra and the Rocky Mountains. How much more God cares for us whom he set as caretakers for creation.

O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Pastor Melinda



The voting members from Salem Lutheran at Northeast Iowa Synod Assembly. From left...Pastor Melinda McCluskey, Pastor Joel Guttormson, Sharon Johnson, Pay Young, Al Skellenger, Willie Skellenger, and Pastor Randy Baldwin



Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson

“Let’s Get on Board”

This is the second in a series of “let’s get on board!” articles I hope to share with you. As I shared with you last month, I really do believe God has great plans for us at Salem (Jeremiah 18:11). Surely God has planned for us a great and hopeful future. We just have to “get on board” pray, listen, worship, have open conversations and participate in those plans!

As I shared with the call committee during our first conversations, I have a fascination for boats and boat stories. The ship has been used as a metaphor for the church since its inception. Images of boats and ships have been found in ancient archeological sites. Stories of faithful, and sometimes not so faithful people, sailing in ships are found in scripture and nautical words and phrases have found their way into our language of faith.

The main part of the sanctuary in which the assembly is seated has been called the “nave,” a medieval Latin word which means ship. Some ship metaphors and idioms used in our common language, include: don’t abandon ship, it’s time to jump ship, you run a tight ship, show me the ropes, all hands on deck, the ship has run aground, it’s all smooth sailing from here, that ship has sailed, this ship is well anchored. You may know of some other seafaring phrases. All of these phrases could be used to describe our life together in church.

As I was being called to Salem, I was intrigued by something Pastor Peter Soli shared in the Salem Outreach newsletter back in December of 2015, “It can feel like the church is a boat on the sea but the boat is in the middle of a dense fog. Because of the fog, we simply cannot see the shore. These times require us to navigate using a compass. First we find true North.” How right he is to see the importance of successful navigation! Especially

finding our way through the fog in these times of troubled waters!

I have the one-hundred- year-old toy ship in my office made by my great-grandfather; and I shared how it symbolically holds my heritage. I wrote an application paper for entrance into seminary telling about how this ship has, “sailed through calm and rough waters. It is filled with the memories of the important people in my life. It is fragile but still holding together except that I lost its rudder. The rudder broke and I didn’t realize it was such an integral part of the ship...I have come to understand that rudder is Jesus.” I have copies of my entrance paper in my office next to my ship that I would love to share with you if you desire. Perhaps we could have a bible study in the future to have conversations about the ship stories of scripture.

I recently took off the shelf an important book that looks at the disturbing question of “Why Nobody Wants To Go To Church Anymore.” In the book authors, Thom and Joani Schultz, founder and CEO of Group Publishing write, “Our Church has become something that’s easy to ignore. It’s become something that fewer and fewer people want to be a part of. We can’t help but wonder what needs to be done to keep this ship from sinking or drifting into obscurity.”

One of the first ship stories in the bible is the story of Noah’s Ark (Genesis 7:15-19). Actually it wasn’t Noah’s Ark it was God’s. Noah was just asked to build it and he had the faith and integrity needed for the task. Then the floods came and Noah commanded all to come, two by two and “get on board!” There may be some parts of this story that troubles you and that might be a healthy conversation for us to have. “Jesus calls us; o’er the tumult of our life’s wild restless sea, day by day his clear voice sounding, saying ‘Christian, follow me’” (Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal #696).

Shalom

Pastor Joel

Update from the Council

June 13, 2016

President Scott Hagenson called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Members present were Scott Hagenson, Brad Evenson, Mike Swenson, Deb Throne, Yvonne Beenken, Bruce Adams, Roy Kvale, Wayne VanVeldhuizen, Willie Skellenger, Ashley Hoffman, Pastor Joel, and Pastor Melinda. Pastor Joel opened the meeting with devotions. It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Deb to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All approved.

Secretary's Report: A note of thanks was received from Sara Knudtson for her graduation blanket.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported a checking account balance at the end of May of \$41,569.03. Total income for the month was \$29,052.40 and expenses were \$34,072.22.

Financial Secretary's Report: Deb reported income year- to- date of \$123,969 which is down \$2,357, or about 1%, from this time last year. She also submitted a final report of the Library/Lounge remodel project. Total expenses for the project were \$17,158.30 and total donations were \$12,388.99. It was moved by Brad and seconded by Roy to accept the financial reports. All approved.

Board of Worship and Music: Bruce reported that they are scheduling readers and communion servers for the summer, as well as special music. They plan to have a special service on July Jubilee weekend with the help of Okoboji Bible Camp. The radio broadcast of Sunday service needs improvement. We have only the hour from 8:30 to 9:30 to work with. It is noted that the broadcast is an important ministry of our church. After discussion, it was decided to use a recording of the previous week's service with the current week's announcements. This plan will start as soon as possible, hopefully, June 19, through the summer until Labor Day. It will be re-evaluated at that time. Bruce will work with the pastors and radio

station to work this out. They will continue to combine communion styles for a while.

Board of Stewardship: Wayne reported that they have not met. They are tentatively planning to go ahead with another Save Your Fork event this year.

Board of Education: Ashley reported in Stephanie's absence. They are considering the possibility of combining the Board of Ed with the Board of Youth. They are also planning some changes to Sunday School due to the lack of teachers and drop of student participation after the Christmas program. An ice cream social is planned for the closing day of VBS and volunteers are needed for this event.

Board of Youth: Scott reported in Brook's absence. Five graduating seniors were recognized at Sunday service and each received a gift from the congregation. They are working on planning summer youth events. They plan to have the float in the July Jubilee parade this summer.

Board of Life and Growth: Willie reported that they continue to work on organizing service groups. She also mentioned that 2017 will be the five-hundredth anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Planning for any celebration that Salem would like to have should start soon.

Board of Property and Management: No report.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel submitted a written report for the month of May. In addition to this work within the congregation, he has also attended many community events. There is a continuing education event he is considering for the Fall. He will be attending an Executive Board meeting to discuss the call process for Pastor Melinda as her current call is coterminous with Pastor Soli and has time constraints to meet.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Melinda also submitted a written report for the month of May. She thanked the congregation for her vacation May 25-29. She will be attending continuing education in Colorado June 20-30.

Update from the Council continued

Communication Director Report: Ashley reported that daily devotions has been added to the Facebook page. The most liked posts are the pictures, especially of our youngest members. She will update the Website. She would like new software for the electronic sign that is more user- friendly. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Bruce to accept the above reports. All approved.

Old Business: Brad is working on improving the live stream broadcast. The Council would like to find someone willing to serve as a grant writer as funds are available for Salem projects from outside sources.

New Business: The Enduring Gift Fund donated \$100 to Caitlin Porter for her summer service project. Noisy Offerings will be scheduled and designated by the Stewardship Board. A Council workshop is planned for Monday, June 27, to evaluate Pastor Melinda’s contract. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Bruce to move the cemetery fund accounting to the church office and Helen will administrate. All approved. A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce and seconded by Wayne. All approved. The next regular Council meeting will be July 11. We closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Beenken

SALEM RECORDS JUNE 2016

Memorials:

Darlene Madson: Mission Quilters \$55,
Good Samaritan \$225

Harlan Meland: Cemetery \$20

JoAnn Hanna Butcher: Library Project
\$65



The Vacation Bible School program and ice cream social was held at Salem on Tuesday, June 14th. Over 100 kids and 7 churches participated!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL— FOLLOWING JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Our participation in the One in Christ Lutheran Parish VBS program was filled with fun, fellowship and learning about our faith. Each of the four days of songs, bible stories, crafts and games illustrated the lessons of how Jesus gives us hope, courage, direction and love. Forty youth from Salem made up the group of one hundred participants among seven churches. In addition, there were thirty-nine volunteers, four pastors and one parish administrative assistant who helped make this program a success. In response to the program, \$542.46 was collected in support of “Kids Feeding Kids” during the daily offering and the closing program. In support of the Lake Mills Summer Food and Fun program, 1594 sturdy plates, 1261 disposable cups, 1908 pieces of silverware and two packages of napkins were collected. We have two more weeks of post VBS celebrations in our Sunday worship services in July. Join us in worship singing some of the favorite VBS songs and inviting all children to come and help Pastor Joel sing and teach the actions to the songs.

July Prayer Families

July 3 Mark and Tamara Alphs, Sheriff Amusa, Beverly Anderson, Alexis Anderson, Bruce Anderson, Jill Anderson

July 10 Darlene Anderson, Darrel and Andrea Anderson family, David Anderson, Denise Anderson, Alec Anderson, Glenn and Glenda Anderson

July 17 Jakobe Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Mya Anderson, Randi and Joni Anderson family, Rita Anderson, Steven and Leanna Anderson

July 24 Molly Andrusyk, Caleb Angel, Dwight Angel, McKinnley Arnold, Susan Ashley, Terry Ashley, Quint and Susan Askildson

July 31 Lois Aspland, Andrew and Holly Aukes family, David Back, Joel and Yvonne Back, Richard and Juli Baird family, Willian and LaRita Bakken

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2016 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City. The service can also be heard at 8:30 a.m. on cable channel 2. Call the office to reserve your dates. Cost for 2016 is \$83.

Available dates are:

**October 23
November 20
December 4, 11**

July Volunteers

Sunday 9:00 Worship

- 3** Communion Servers: Pat Young, Yvonne Back
Reader: Roy Kvale
Ushers: Ron and Ardis Langfald
- 10** Reader: Tyler Helgeson
Ushers: Doug and Vivian Richards, Gary and Linda Helgeson
- 17** Communion Servers: Laura Gardner, Rhonda Schriever
Reader: Elijah Stene
Ushers: Don and Nancy Knudtson
- 24** Reader: Ryan Knudtson
Ushers: Russ and Sue Myli
- 31** Reader: Becky Shaw
Ushers: Lyle and Orloue Thompson

SALEM WOMEN of the ELCA

Altar Guild

Tuesday, July 5, 7:00 p.m.

Mission Quilters

Monday, July 11, 1:00 p.m.

WELCA Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Sarah Circle

Program: Mission Quilters

Altar Guild for July

Ardis Langfald, Milly Miller

Communion Schedule

Sundays, July 3 & 17

Wednesdays, July 6 & 20

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, July 27

Lake Mills Care Center

Birthdays: Grace Circle

Program: Miriam Circle

Last November, Harris Honsey was walking by the library when there was a circle meeting being held in the room. Larita Bakken stopped him and invited him to come in. The ladies were wondering if anything could be done to make the library a better place to hold meetings. The room had become a place to store unused and outdated material and anything else that needed a place to be kept. It took a few months, but today you can see the many improvements that have been made.

The original plan was to put in a new window on the north wall, new carpet, a new conference table and chairs, and place the picture Pastor Soli gave the church over the fireplace. The Enduring Gift Fund Committee designated \$4,000 to the project. The LCW voted to pay for half of the carpet, and the former Lutheran Brotherhood donated \$1,400.

The project was enlarged to include the north wall of the lounge, so the entire wall was replaced. A steel door replaced the old door in the lounge and window air conditioning units were purchased for each room. A new table and twelve chairs were ordered and Delane and Darlene Behr put the chairs together. As Delane was putting the chairs together, he decided that he and Darlene would purchase two chairs at \$100 each. Word spread, and soon enough, money was collected for seventeen chairs. Sue Myli was asked to decorate the room and did a wonderful job of selecting a pair of chairs, a small table and other decorations.

The financial report on the entire project has been published (see next page) and it shows a very successful outcome. A big thanks to everyone who has helped to make this project such a nice improvement to our church. The rooms are being used more each month, and everyone is enjoying the nice, comfortable new area.



Pictured above from left: Harris Honsey, Helen Rice, Sue Myli, Delane Behr and Scott Hagenson, in the newly remodeled library.

Library Remodel Project

Donation and Expenses

Donations:

Salem WELCA– 1/2 carpet	\$1,150.00
Salem Enduring Gift Fund	\$4,000.00
Salem Lutheran Brotherhood	\$1,414.13
Member Donations	\$2,710.00
Memorial Donations	\$1,576.00
In-Kind Dnations– Lights	\$58.16
Total Donations	\$12,388.99

Paid Expenses:

Lake Mills Lumber Co.	\$4,402.00
Singelstad's (air conditioner)	\$524.28
Singelstad's (sealant, paint, etc)	\$287.01
Christianson Interiors	\$2,685.01
Price is Right Construction	\$4,925.00
Kirschbaum Electrical & Plumbing	\$702.33
Visa (conference table)	\$1,299.00
Total Paid Expenses	\$14,824.63

Outstanding Expenses:

Staples (chairs)	\$1,433.67
Sitting chairs (approximate cost)	\$900.00
Total Outstanding Expenses	\$2333.67
Total Expenses	\$17,158.30

Net Project Cost: **(\$4,769.31)**

Meet the Council...

Brad Evenson, current vice president of the church council, has been a member of Salem his entire life. He was baptized and confirmed at Salem and has continued to be an active member. Brad has been an usher, helped with the sound system, taught Sunday School, and served on the call committee.

Brad and his wife Darla have been married for twenty years. They have four children; Scott and his wife Sophia, Drake, Amelia and Hannah, and are lucky to have them all living close by. Brad has worked for Lake Mills Community School as the transportation supervisor for the last twenty-eight years, and has driven school bus for a total of thirty-six years for the district. He also farms with his brothers.

Brad is looking forward to working with our new pastors and watching Salem grow.



The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Gandhi

Volunteers Needed

Salem is in need of volunteers to help with the Summer Lunch Program on Tuesdays in July and August. Volunteers would help with set-up, serving and clean-up. Help is needed from 10:45am to 12:30pm. If you are able to help, please contact Sondra Nelson at 641-909-4596.

JULY JUBILEE CELEBRATION

On Sunday, July 10th, Salem will be offering two services; an 8:30 am service in the sanctuary and a 10:00 am outdoor service under the great elm tree across from the school. Our 8:30 service will be the final service using songs from our summer Cave Quest Vacation Bible School program. Our 10:00 service will bring the Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp staff to our July homecoming celebration, to share a bit of Summer Camp with us. Salem has fond memories of “summer worship under the tree” and we are excited to again offer this fun informal style worship for our community. There will be an ice cream social following the 10:00 service.



A Message from LSI

God's work. Our hands.

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry! We give special thanks for the many congregations making LSI the focus of their "God's work. Our hands." projects.

Past "God's work. Our hands." projects have included donations of tools for dads enrolled in our early childhood programs, plus children's books, towel bundles, school supplies and backpacks. LSI has also been blessed to receive "noisy" offerings, special offerings and proceeds from yard work or luncheons. Some Sunday School classes and youth groups have also encouraged youth at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers through quilts and letters.

We thank you for your witness of God's love and your service! If you are interested in ministering to those served by LSI and would like to know more about current needs, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org.

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa

Finding Help and Hope

Bernie's daughter-in-law walked into her house and set her new baby on the living room sofa. She told Bernie the baby was a mistake; and that she couldn't parent him. She never returned. At age 50, Bernie became a mom to her 2-month-old grandson, Bryce. Bernie's son—the baby's biological father—had medical and mental health issues that left him unable to care for the child.

When Bryce was young, he was diagnosed with ADHD, ODD (Oppositional Defiant Disorder), fetal drug and alcohol syndrome, mental retardation, and partial bipolar disorder. As he grew older, Bryce began to develop anger issues. Bernie knew he was struggling, so she reached out to LSI. Soon, Bryce began receiving regular home visits from a Behavioral Health Intervention Services worker, who coached Bryce on anger management. Bryce also began

seeing an LSI therapist.

Today, Bryce is 15 years old. He attends special education classes, and is doing wonderfully. When he is upset, he reaches out to his LSI therapist for help. Bryce still struggles with anger, but Bernie and his LSI support team work together to meet Bryce where he is. "I want to thank each and every one of our workers from LSI"; Bernie says. "They are doing marvelous work with him."

And thanks to LSI donors, Bryce receives the help, hope, and support he needs.

Care Giver's Support Group

Tuesday, July 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge

This meeting is open to anyone who is caring for a person with any type of chronic illness. There is no fee, you do not have to sign up to come, you are not obligated to anyone. For more information, call Rachel at 641-530-5577.

*You're
Invited!*

The Emmons Lutheran Church Women cordially invite you to their guest night on July 20th at 7pm in their large social hall at Emmons Lutheran Church, at 409 Pearl St.

The program will be by the 3 CDs.

Salem Lutheran Church

401 South Lake Street

Lake Mills, IA 50450

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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