



Salem Lutheran Church OUTREACH

April 2017

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

Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship- Fellowship Hall

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

Saturday:

5:30 p.m. Casual Worship

Prepare to . . .



. . . for Christ's sake

Pastor Joel Guttormson

703.581.4672 ~ joelguttormson@gmail.com

Pastor Melinda McCluskey

563.581.9965 ~ melindamcmc@gmail.com

Helen Rice, Church Secretary

641.592.1771 ~ salem@wctatel.net

Ruth Sheldon, Organist

641.592.0184

Ashley Hoffman, Communications Director

641.590.3087 ~ SalemLMinfo@gmail.com

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.

A Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson...

One of the things typical of a week at camp, or at some point in a youth group setting, is the acting out of bible stories. Each group is assigned a parable, miracle or healing story and is given a few minutes to plan and act the scripture story out. In my years participating in youth ministries I have both acted and witnessed many, some inspiring retelling of these scriptures and one that sticks in my mind is the story of the separating of the sheep and the goats in Matthew.

The skit version goes something like this....a young person gets a call that someone important is planning to come to their home and in haste they begin to clean up the place, rearranging the furniture, making a snack, frantically preparing for his/her special guest. But there are all these interruptions. People keep coming to the door asking for stuff...favors...help. They need a cup of sugar for cookies they are baking, they need to borrow a sweater, they need a ride to their doctor's appointment. With each interruption, the soon to be host to this someone special gets more and more agitated. Finally having turned all the interlopers away and with the place ready to receive guests, there is no knock at the door. That's when the verse from the parable can be heard.

I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me; Then they also will answer,; Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you; Then he will answer them; Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me; (Matthew 25:43-45)

The apostle Paul encouraged the Hebrews to, "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:1-3). It would be good for us to practice hospitality with each other, asking open questions about how things are going and really taking time to listen and maybe ask some deeper questions avoiding the urge to share one's own story. Sometimes we have a tendency to respond to someone else's conversation with a follow up, "that reminds me..." which all too often brings the focus back to "me".

For those of us who have known each other for a long time this habitual sharing between two people who tend to share stories all about “me” can draw all the focus off the stranger or guest in our midst. How might we come to a greater understanding of how important it might be for you and I to come to better understand it’s not always about “we and me!” Who among us is ignored? Who might be knocking at the door but not feeling welcomed and included in our conversation. How many of us have taken the time to get to know the name and story of someone new on a Sunday morning? Or perhaps got to better know someone outside of church and asked them to share something about their faith?

Some of our leadership team have been discussing a couple of books and viewing a video I have shared information about in prior newsletters. They are resources made available by Group Publishing “Why Nobody wants to go to Church Anymore” and “When God Left the Building” Their work soulfully looking at those two questions have led them to some hopeful discoveries. You can learn more by looking at the website; <http://lifetreecafe.com/> Thom and Joani Schultz’s thirty years of ministry has led to a focus on four acts of love that will make your church irresistible and it can begin with a cup of coffee a listening ear and a question like:

- ☐ What was your experience with church when you were growing up?
- ☐ How has your experience with church shaped your view of God?
- ☐ What questions do you have – if any – that don’t feel safe asking out loud at church?
- ☐ If you could fix one thing you see as broken about church, what would it be?

Wonder why people don’t go to church anymore? Buy someone a cup of coffee or something else to drink and ask in a simple, non-judgmental, loving way. What you and I may find and what many rarely get the opportunity to experience a meaningful, relevant, revealing conversation. This type of conversation can be transformative, mutually inspiring. By doing that some have entertained angles without knowing it. Others have avoided being labeled as just another Old Goat!

Shalom, Pastor Joel

Update from the Council...

Salem Church Council - March 13, 2017

President Scott Hagenson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present: Scott Hagenson, Brad Evenson, Mike Swenson, Deb Throne, Kathy Chose, Linda Helgeson, Wayne Van Veldhuizen, Stephanie Steffens, Willie Skellenger, Steve Nelson, Pastor Joel Guttormson, and Pastor Melinda McCluskey. Pastor Joel opened the meeting with devotions.

Secretary's Report: A thank you from Wayne and Judy Nyguard was shared. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Wayne to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as written. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported month end balance in checkbook of: \$30,984.26. Total income for January was \$34,753.224 with expenses of \$31,637.11.

Financial Secretary's Report: Deb reported year to date contributions of \$47,761.00; this is a 19.3% increase in comparison to last year totals. Motion made by Steve and seconded by Brad to approve the financial reports. All approved.

Board of Worship and Music: Kathy reported the Contemporary 10:30 service has been well attended since it began. Board members have received much positive feedback from congregation members. Kathy and Linda both reported that they would like to have more volunteer board members and will reach out to potential individuals.

Board of Stewardship: Wayne reported that the board would like to have a Noisy Offering every other month. He is asking for suggestions of potential recipients for these offerings from other boards and council members. This board will be studying the DVD "When God Left the Building." This will be used to help determine how to move forward in growing/maintaining our congregation. Next month the board will begin reviewing the membership list and determine if something should be done to reach out to our inactive members.

Board of Youth: Stephanie reported on upcoming events for the spring. On Palm Sunday the PreK – 2nd grade will sing. Easter Sunday there will be coffee and rolls between the 8:30 and 10:30 services in the Fellowship Hall.

Faith Formation will participate in an Egg Hunt. Faith Statement Night will be May 3rd with a catered meal served by the 7th grade class. This year confirmation students will wear stoles they create to represent their faith statement. Graduation Recognition Sunday is May 21. Seniors will be given a blanket and recognized during the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

Board of Life and Growth: Willie reported on the continuing preparations for the Prayer Vigil immediately following Maundy Thursday service April 13 and continuing until the Good Friday service April 14. Announcements will be made and a sign-up sheet available to those who want to participate. The board is exploring learning opportunities in conjunction with the upcoming 500th anniversary of the reformation and who Martin Luther was.

Board of Property and Management: Steve reported there is nothing major needing attention right now.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel presented a written report with pastoral acts during the month of January. He would like to take 5th graders to Riverside from August 6-11. In addition, Pastor will attend, along with a congregation member, a continuing educational opportunity to learn financial development and fund-raising strategies. This is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly on April 27. He suggested we place an announcement in the bulletin inquiring a congregation member to attend with him.

Associate Pastor's Report: Written report submitted.

Communication Director's Report: Written report submitted.

It was moved by Kathy and seconded by Wayne to accept the above reports. All approved.

Old Business: Nothing has been organized for the Exploratory Building committee members. This will be done before next month's council meeting.

New Business: Brad met with Next Generation Technology (NGT) about updating the service presentation software. New software would make presenting in the sanctuary easier. They discussed some good possibilities and will receive a quote from NGT in the near future.

Update from the Council continued...

A request of transfer to Emmons Lutheran Church by Joel and Carol Twedt was presented. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Brad to accept this transfer. All approved.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Linda and seconded by Willie. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next regular council meeting will be April 10. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Throne

SALEM RECORDS MARCH 2017

Funerals: Blanche Grunhovd

Memorials: Christopher Nyguard

Bible Camp Scholarships, Altar Guild \$5, Cemetery
\$10, Worship and Music \$20

Transfers: Joel and Carol Twedt

If you would like to donate an Easter lily for our Easter Sunday services

in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please call the office (641.592.1771) or email (salem@wctatel.net) with that information by **WEDNESDAY MORNING, April 12th**. Lilies may be brought to the sanctuary on Friday or Saturday before Easter. Please put your name on the bottom if you would like to pick it up after the 10:30 worship service on Easter Sunday.

Registration packets for summer camp at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp are on the table beneath the Sunday School bulletin board.

Registrations must be turned in by Easter Sunday!

24 Hour Prayer Vigil

The night before Jesus was crucified, he went to the upper room and had the last supper with his disciples. Afterwards, he went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He asked his disciples to watch and pray for an hour. Jesus went further into the garden and prayed "Father— if it be possible, take this cup from me. But not my will but Thine be done." After an hour, he went back to his disciples and found them asleep. He woke them and again asked them to watch and pray for an hour. He went back to pray to his Heavenly Father. When he returned an hour later to his disciples, they were still asleep.

To commemorate Jesus hour of trial in the Garden of Gethsemane, Salem will be holding a 24 hour prayer vigil in the chapel. It will take place from after the Maundy Thursday, April 9th, until the Good Friday service begins on April 14th. Please sign up for one hour time slots to "watch and pray with Jesus" Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Each week during the Lenten Services (March 1– April 12), we will be collecting personal care items for the Promise Project. There will be a basket in the Narthex. Items include: lightweight bath towels, bars of soap, sturdy combs, adult sized toothbrushes, and metal nail clippers. All items should be new and in good condition.

Sunday School Reminder

- * 3 year olds thru 2nd grade will be singing on Palm Sunday, April 9th at the 10:30am service in the sanctuary.
- * There is no longer a Faith Formation service in the chapel. We encourage everyone to join us for our new 10:30 contemporary service in the sanctuary.

First Communion- Maundy Thursday

Our fifth-grade students and their parents have gathered the Sundays in Lent with Pastor Melinda to learn more about the sacrament of Holy Communion using a resource called “fed and forgiven.” Hopefully, they will have learned something about what we as Lutherans believe about The Lord’s Supper. They will be receiving their first communion at our Maundy Thursday Service on April 13, 2017 to be held at 7:15 PM.

When the disciples gathered for the Passover meal (the Last Supper), Jesus washed and fed them as they received the new covenantal instruction to “do this and remember me.” It’s interesting in some ways that the disciples first experienced this bath (foot washing) and (Passover) meal and only later began to figure out what it all meant. We tend to invert that process making learning the precursor to the experience of these sacraments. First Communion instruction marks the beginning of a lifelong practice of coming to this table to be strengthened and renewed. We are drawn deeper into our understanding of this sacrament as we continue to share in this holy meal.

Our hope and prayer will be that the practice of regular eating of this meal will broaden and deepen our understanding. We continue after our first communions, to come together on Sunday’s to celebrate and remember what God has done for us. We learn God’s story. God’s story teaches us something about who and whose we are. We belong to God. We are washed and fed and sent out to serve, returning often to be renewed and strengthened for our lifelong journey of faith.

Think about it like this. God’s Spirit calls us together. God speaks to us through readings from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Through preaching, prayer, and song God feeds and nourishes us in a saving way. In the midst of all our acts of worship, and uniquely in this meal of bread and wine, the crucified and risen Christ is truly promised to be mysteriously present, joining us to the community and communion of all the saints of every time and place. Together we are bound to God’s love revealed in the fullness of Christ Jesus in the midst of this meal. “Do this in remembrance of me,” our Lord commanded. Lord’s Supper is at the center of our worship on Sunday mornings. Welcomed to the table, each person is united with God in Christ, with each other, and with Christ’s mission in the world. In worship, we are

gathered, we hear God's Word, we share in the Lord's Supper and God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.

Maundy Thursday (a Latin word which means "mandatory") is the day in Holy Week in which the church celebrates and remembers the Lord's Supper Jesus shared with his disciples instituting this new commandment. On this holy night, our youth will prepare for their first communion in the fellowship hall to participate in a foot washing and a Seder-like four course meal of soup, bread, grapes and chocolate. Interspersed with each course will be one of the four scripture readings from which the words of institution (the word of God) is recorded. Set within our Eucharistic prayers these words, a meal of bread and wine, and our conversations at tables will help connect God's Word to their own understanding of what it is Jesus came to offer us in this meal we share.

We will join these first communion fifth graders for our Maunday Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' command to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Jesus Washed the feet of his Disciples

Foot washing was an act of hospitality performed in the ancient Near East when a guest entered a house. In the home of wealthy Jews, a slave would loosen the sandal straps of those who entered and wash their feet.

On Maundy Thursday, the day before Jesus crucifixion is observed, Lutheran congregations read about foot washing in John 13. John does not record Jesus last supper. At the place where the supper occurs in the other Gospels, John offers this story with its commandment to love others as Christ has loved us, an act of humility and love demonstrated through footwashing. The Latin word for commandment is *mandatum*, which became Maundy in latter-day English.

The early church practiced foot washing following Jesus example of humble service. Ambrose of Milan (339-397) called foot washing a part of the

mystery of baptism because Christ says that through it we participate in him.

We hear nothing about ceremonial foot washing in liturgy, however, until Augustine. In his writings called "Letters" (400AD), Augustine said it was part of the liturgy for Easter baptism and first communion. A seventh century Spanish liturgy was the first to use it on Maundy Thursday. Lutheran congregations have the choice to use it on that day as well.....

The foot washing ritual connects us with the forgiveness and life Christ gives us through his cross. It creates in us a discipleship shaped by Christ's humility. Rituals are part of the human fabric, whether in daily life or in the church. They mark special moments, enabling us to experience their life-shaping power.....

Foot washing is new among Lutherans. For centuries groups like the Mennonites, the Amish and the Church of the Brethren were the only ones who kept this ritual. And now, like anything new, we feel awkward about it.

It's easy to see how the church is to act in the world when you wash feet. It's risky. It's messy. You feel inept and silly. You have to roll up your sleeves and go to work. You have to kneel to perform the act. You get wet and so does the floor. You touch people in ways you would not touch them outside the ritual.

Those who receive the gift have to be humble as well. They have to be receptive and willing participants. There is a bond of Christian affection that ties the washer to the person whose feet are being washed.

This humble gesture of foot washing points us to the path of service, compassion and love. All of this silliness and riskiness are at the bottom of Christian action in the world. For precisely this reason, foot washing may be a rite we need to jar us out of complacency and conformity into the riskiness of serving Christ. Foot washing is more than a gesture. It is a model for living the Christian way.

From The Lutheran, April 1996 "Improve Your Serve, Foot Washing Jars us out of Complacency"

Salem Women of the ELCA

Altar Guild

Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00 pm

Altar Guild for April

All Members

Mission Quilters

Monday, April 10th at 1:00 pm

WELCA Meeting

Thursday, April 20th at 2:00 pm

Program: Miriam Circle

Hostess: Serving Committee

Communion Schedule

Sundays, April 2nd and 16th (8:30)

Sundays, April 2nd, 9th, 16th,
23rd, and 30th (10:30)

Saturdays, April 1st and 15th

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday,
and Easter

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, April 26th

Birthdays: Martha Circle

Program: Elizabeth Circle

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2017 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KLOW (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 2017 is \$83.**

Available dates are:

April 23, 30

May 7

July 9, 16

August 13

September 17

October 29

In 2016, thanks to the generosity of Lutherans across the US, Lutheran World Relief shipped 534,144 quilts and kits to 16 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America! We give thanks to the quilt and kit makers who gather throughout the year to assemble these gifts of love for our brothers and sisters around the world!

April Volunteers

Saturdays, 5:30pm in the Chapel

- 1st** Acolyte: Dylan Sanden
8th Acolyte: Morgan Brainerd
15th Acolyte: Michelle Jones
22nd Acolyte: Sam Hagenon
29th Acolyte: Lindy Brekken

Sundays, 8:30am in the Sanctuary

- 2nd** Acolytes: Alex Beaty, Morgan Christian, Tyler Christian
Communion Servers: Craig and Cindy Haugsdal
Reader: Cindy Haugsdal
Ushers: Shawn and Julie Helgeson family
- 9th** Acolytes: Josie Gilbertson, Megan Knudtson
Reader: Drake Abbey
Ushers: Shawn and Julie Helgeson family
- 16th** Acolytes: Jack Ramaker, AJ Ramaker, Caleb Swanson
Communion Servers: Brian and Deb Throne, Kathy Chose, Laura Gardner
Reader: Tami Alphs
Ushers: Dan and Allison Rice family
- 23rd** Acolytes: Morgan Brainard, Nicole Canny
Reader: Carol Abbey
Ushers: Dan and Allison Rice family
- 30th** Acolytes: Jadyng Hengesteg, Madison Levine
Reader: Jackson Rice
Ushers: Dan and Allison Rice family

Sundays, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

- 2nd** Acolyte: Emma and Thea Hoffman
- 9th** Acolyte: Riley and Kelsey Kirschbaum
- 16th** Acolyte: Emma and Thea Hoffman, Jadyn Hengesteg

April Lenten Volunteers

Meal 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Lent Service in the Sanctuary 7:15 pm

- 5th** Meal: Caleb Swanson family, Christopher Jamtgaard family,
Michelle Jones family, Dalton Thorson family
- Ushers: Emma Hoffman family, Kayler Jensen family
- Acolyte: Armani Garcia, Summer Sterrenberg
- 13th** Meal: Pastor Joel and Nancy
- Ushers: Kaitlyn Anderson family, Bennett Berger family
- Acolyte: Nicole Canny, Morgan Brainerd
- 14th** Ushers: Megan Knudtson family, Kit Byars family
- Acolytes: Sam Hagenson, Dalton Thorson
- 16th** Meal: Catered brunch
- Acolytes: Jack and AJ Ramaker, Caleb Swanson
- 29th** Meal: Bennett Berger family, Jack and AJ Ramaker family, Brooke
Bergo family, Lindy Brekken family
- Ushers: Carson Eaton family, Sam Hagenson family
- Acolytes: Courtney Lorenson, Christopher Jamtgaard

Salem Lutheran Church

401 South Lake Street

Lake Mills, IA 50450

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 33

LABEL