

Salem Lutheran Church
401 South Lake Street
Lake Mills, IA 50450

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Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

January 2018

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

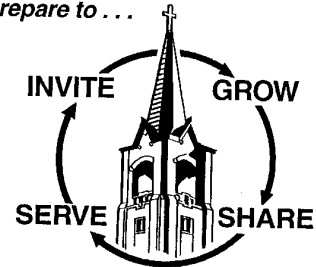
9:45 a.m. Faith Formation– Chapel

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

Saturday:

5:30 p.m. Casual Worship

Prepare to . . .



. . . for Christ's sake

Pastor Joel Guttormson

641.596.0535 ~ 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...

THE JOSHUA PROJECT

All members of Salem Lutheran are invited to attend the Discernment Retreat in January. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 and the Joshua Group will lead us through about a five-hour experience we hope will help provide clarity and enthusiasm for God's plans for us in the future.

“ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11).

On Saturday, January 13th from 8:30 – 3:30 we will be taking a next step towards Mapping Out our Future. 103 of our members responded to the request to fill out the “Missional Assessment Profile.” The respondents represented a pretty good cross section of our membership. In November the council and other leaders of the congregation had the opportunity to hear Bob Driver-Bishop and Tim Johnson from the Joshua project interpret the findings of the MAP Survey.

There were also six days in November and December when Bob and Tim scheduled half hour appointments to visit with individuals gaining a deeper more personal understanding of the culture of Salem and the Lake Mills Community. Over 60 individuals and couples took initiative to visit with Bob or Tim over the course of those six days. Offering the Joshua Group with a better understanding about our history and hopes for the future.

Pastor Joel and Tim visited Harbor Mills and the Lake Mills Care Center to visit with members there and although not all our residents there were available Tim was able to get the generational perspective of members who remember the Salem of the 50's and 60's and pastoral leadership that goes back as far as Joe Knutson (Salem's pastor who became president of Concordia College, Moorhead MN. Bob also met with community leaders and attended a breakfast meeting with Pastors Bill Peters, Randy Baldwin, Melinda McCluskey and Joel Guttormson.

Now Bob Driver-Bishop will take with us the next step in this journey. Bob will also be with us to preach on Saturday at the 5:30 service and Sunday at

Salem Women of the ELCA

Altar Guild

Tuesday, Jan. 2nd at 7:00 pm

Altar Guild for January

Candy Hanna

Medara Winter

Mission Quilters

Monday, Jan 8th at 1:00pm

WELCA Meeting

No WELCA meeting in January or February

Communion Schedule

Sundays, Jan. 7th and 21st (8:30)

Sundays, Jan. 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th (10:30)

Saturdays, Jan. 6th and 20th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, Jan 31st

Birthdays: Miriam Circle

Program: Ruth Circle

January Worship Schedule

Saturdays:

Casual worship at 5:30 pm in the lounge

Sundays:

Traditional service at 8:30am in the sanctuary

Coffee fellowship at 9:30am in the fellowship hall

Contemporary worship service at 10:30am in the sanctuary

There will be one service at 9:30am on Sunday, January 28th followed by the annual meeting.

Salem's Annual Meeting

Will be held *Sunday, January 28th* at 11:00am

There will be one church service at 9:30

With a potluck dinner to follow

Sandwiches and beverages will be provided

Families A-K: please bring a hotdish

Families L-Z: please bring a salad or dessert

Information for the annual report is due to the office by January 15th

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2018 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 2018 is \$83.**

Available dates are:

Jan. 14	May 6, 20	Sept. 2, 9, 16
March 25	June 10, 17	Oct. 7, 14, 21
April 1, 22, 29	July 8, 15, 29	Nov. 4, 11, 18
	August 5, 19	Dec. 2, 9, 23, 30

both the 8:30 and 10:30 Worship services.

The Saturday Retreat is a Biblically based spiritual event that enables us as a congregation to listen to God and each other. I have shared this discernment process at many other churches and participants have been thankful the many ways it help's integrate God's message, our lives, and work of the church together. Epiphany is the season of light. God will bless us that day! Bob+

Devoting a full day to a meeting may sound like a big commitment, one for someone older, younger to attend, one who has been a member for a shorter or longer amount of time, one who has been more active or less active in the life of the congregation. You might be thinking someone else rather than you have something more important to contribute. Nothing could be further from the truth. Everyone is welcome and we all have a vested interest in the future ministry at Salem in Lake Mills. We have set a goal for an attendance of fifty participants, fifteen from council, two or three from each board. That means our hopes is for twenty-five of our elected leaders and an additional twenty-five additional members of Salem attend.

I hope and pray you can attend.

Shalom,

Pastor Joel

A Message from Pastor Melinda McCluskey...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you all so much for your Christmas and New Year well wishes. It was a beautiful holiday season, the candlelight services and seeing so many families together makes this a special time of year. Many of you have asked about my vacation to visit my parents in Kerrville, Texas in November; we had a wonderful visit. I often say God gets you where you need to be when you need to be there and that happened again on this visit.

In September I made plans to visit in November not knowing how important it would be to be with my parents in November. Prior to my visit, my Dad had

a CAT scan and a PET scan as a follow-up to the pneumonia he had last winter. The day after I arrived, he found that he had a mass in in lower right lung and the doctor scheduled a biopsy for the following week. After I arrived home, Dad received word that it was indeed a cancerous tumor about 3 cm in size. The week before Christmas he had a visit with the oncologist and she suggested surgery to remove the tumor. We are waiting to hear when his consult with the surgeon and surgery will be scheduled.

This summer as I attended my class reunion I realized how blessed I am to still have both my parents living and in good health. I am planning to take some time off to be with my parents when my Dad has surgery. I ask your prayers for my parents as they journey together through this bout of cancer (two years ago my Mom had surgery for colon cancer).

We know not what the future will bring, but we do know who holds the future. God bless you all in the New Year. Pastor Melinda

SALEM RECORDS December

Memorials

Ruth Pederson: Good Samaritan \$550

Allan "Pete" Pederson: General Fund \$1355, Youth \$25
Altar Guild \$10, Clothes Closet \$20, Cemetery \$10, LMAMA \$200

Jim Tweed: General Fund \$15

Marilyn VanDenBosch: 4 round tables for the Fellowship Hall

Funerals

Allan "Pete" Pederson and Morris Levorson

Baptism

Jeneva Rose Roder

Transfers

Chelsea (Skellenger) Souder and
Miranda Souder

January 2018, LSI Article and Story

Raising our Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families living in poverty. Iowa children in need of a forever family. Former refugees building new lives. These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Thursday, February 8. Visit www.LSIowa.org/advocacy next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676- 2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Friendly Competition

When the time came to take their U.S. Citizenship Exam, Bhakti and Chhali felt overwhelmed. Originally from Bhutan, the couple moved to Des Moines from a refugee camp in Nepal. Since then, they have been busy improving their English and settling into their new home. They both worked seven days a week and struggled to find time to study for their exam.

LSI's Refugee Community Services were there to help. LSI provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and Bhakti and Chhali studied hard in class to prepare for the writing and reading component of their exam. They supported and competed with each other, pushing themselves to succeed.

Their work paid off, and Bhakti and Chhali recently passed their exam and are now U.S. Citizens. "We appreciate the help our LSI volunteers gave us on the Citizenship Exam," Bhakti says. "They are so committed to seeing us meet our goals."

Thank you for empowering your Iowa neighbors. We couldn't do this important work without you!

One In Christ/Salem Reformation 500

Giving/Expense Update

Giving:

Luther Movie	\$182
Luther Lecture	\$48
<u>Offering</u>	<u>\$2300</u>
Total Giving	\$2530

Reformation Benevolence:

Lake Mills Ambulance	\$632.50
LMAMA Food Shelf	\$632.50
<u>Lutheran Disaster Relief</u>	<u>\$1265.00</u>
Total Benevolence	\$2530.00

Meal Expense/Offering:

Meal Costs	\$1500.00
<u>Meal Offering</u>	<u>\$949.10</u>

Deficit **(\$550.90)**

One in Christ + \$225.45

Salem Balance **(225.45)**

Amanda:

A Life of Love

Virginia Kingland has donated this book, *Amanda: A Love of Life* to Salem's library. It is written by Virginia's sister, Kathleen Rhoads Carpenter. It is a dialog and scenes of their grandmother, Amanda Clark Rhoads, life. The story of a real woman who understood God's mission for her.



Update from the Council...

Salem Church Council December 11, 2017

President Scott Hagenson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present: Willie Skellenger, Deb Throne, Steve Nelson, Wayne VanVeldhuizen, Mike Swenson, Brad Evenson, Sondra Nelson, Pastor Joel Guttormson, Pastor Melinda McCluskey and Heidi Obermeyer.

Devotions and prayers were led by Pastor Joel.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Wayne to accept report as written, seconded by Deb. All Approved.

Treasurers Report: Mike reported month end balance in checkbook of \$12,934.35. Total income for November was \$25,074.55 with expenses of \$22,836.32. It was noted a check will be sent to the Synod office soon for our giving, we are close to fulfilling our gift. A review of our WCTA billing found that we could lower our overall costs. Thank you to Jeff Pederson and Kirby Holtan for their assistance in reviewing needs and usage of these services.

Financial Secretary's Report: Deb reported average weekly contributions \$5,237. It was reported that the percentage of givers is increasing and has passed the 50% mark. Year to date giving is 9.7% less than last year to date. Deb has been working diligently in implementing a great new way to give! Give+ Text is easy & convenient. Information has been shared on the Salem Facebook page, watch for more information in the weeks ahead. Giving envelopes for the year 2018 will be directly mailed to your home, watch for them soon! A motion to accept financial reports as presented was made by Willie, seconded by Brad. All approved.

Board of Worship and Music: Pastor Melinda provided an update for the upcoming Christmas service schedule. A pianist and guitarist have been secured for the Christmas Eve services. Ruth Sheldon has another commitment every 3rd year.

Dec 23rd 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

Dec 24th 8:30 AM Advent 4 service – one service only

Dec 24th 5:00 PM Christmas Eve service

Dec 24th 10:30 PM Christmas Eve service

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Wayne noted the group had not meet since the last council meeting. 2018 Pledge cards are out and will be available into early January.

Board of Youth: Report presented by Sondra. The Faith Formation kids have reached their goal of \$50 and purchased 50 chicks for the farm. They have set a new goal of a fish farm. Information is posted in the hallway about this unique giving opportunity. The book fair is completed and went well. Confirmation education is on schedule. The food drive was a success again this year. Upcoming events with more information to come: 1st Communion for 5th graders, updated acolyte schedule, confirmation mentors schedule, acolyte training for 6th graders. A tentative date of February 18 for a family game day has been set.

Board of Life and Growth: Willie reported that group will be taking down the Christmas decorations on January 4th at 4pm. All are welcome to help. Noisy offering containers are being worked on. The entire Church Council thanked the group for their wonderful efforts in decorating the church for the Christmas season.

Board of Property and Management: Steve presented a new job description for janitorial staff. Discussion was held on the hours and wage of the position, responsibility of opening the church in the mornings and doing a walk through before locking at night. A motion was made by Wayne and seconded by Mike to proceed with advertising for the position, it will remain open until filled.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel submitted a written report which highlighted many events and opportunities. Safeguarding God's Children – more information in the January newsletter. EWALU day camp July 15-20 2018, LMAMA will be sharing the cost of this event. Insurance Review with Sara Ostransky from American Church Group of Iowa/Nebraska. Joshua Group Discernment retreat, Sat January 13 from 8:30am to 3pm. Stewardship opportunity: an anonymous member of Salem has issued a challenge requesting "100 of our faithful and dedicated members join with him in giving \$500 to the Salem general fund by years end", in discussion with council this information will be presented to the congregation.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Melinda submitted a written report.

Your Life. Your Faith. Your gift to the future.

Our lives are journeys of faith and generosity. And as our faith matures and deepens, so does the way we support God's work in the world. We start as children, dropping a few coins in to a Sunday school donation box and watching as our parents make Sunday offerings. As we grow up (and older) in the church, our giving evolves as well, reflecting new depths of meaning, understanding and experience.

Major and planned gifts are a reflection of this trajectory. Yes, they are truly gift to the future. But they are also enduring testimonies of lives joyfully lived in faith – year after year.

The ELCA Foundation is a partner who shares your commitment. When you are ready to make transformational gifts – those that exemplify your lifelong commitment to ministry and mission – the ELCA Foundation is your partner. Working together, we can help you answer the call to live as a faithful and generous steward, while supporting and strengthening the financial capacities of ELCA churchwide ministries, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions.

Mike Klinefelter serves the ELCA Foundation as the Iowa Regional Gift Planner. He is available for personal consultation, a free and confidential assessment of one's assets and determination of how to make those significant gifts to the ministries you care about, all the while leaving gifts for family and friends. Mike will be available on Sunday, January 28 at Salem Lutheran Church to briefly present and answer questions. God's Work is calling you.

Save the Date!

Discernment Retreat for all Salem members

Saturday, January 13th from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Registration and coffee starts at 8:30

This is a powerful Bible Study. Many churches have found this opportunity as they listen to God and each other in making plans for the future. This is a unique opportunity you don't want to miss!

Safeguarding God's Children and God's People

Relationships among people are an important foundation of Christian ministry and are central to the life of the church. Relationships in ministry should, ideally, always be experienced as caring and without intention to do harm or allow harm to occur. In an effort to safeguard the children and all members of Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, we are working proactively to offer training for members of this congregation to provide a safe environment. We live in a fallen world and as faithful and responsible Christians we want to insure that members of all ages feel safe within our community.

We are working with the Northeastern Iowa Synod S.A.F.E. Ministry Team (Synodical Advocate Focused on Education, Prevention and Healing of Sexual Abuse) to provide Salem and other members of Living Waters Conference with a day of training. All rostered leaders, staff members, lay leaders and those who work with youth will be required to attend.

Following the training, Salem will develop a child protective policy to be adopted and implemented by the council. The congregation will be updated on the status of our progress and our compliance of the policy.

Is church still on? It is the time of year where we need to pay attention to the weather!

If we have an emergency schedule change, we will notify you through the following media:

KIOW Radio 107.3 FM (Forest City)

KIMT TV Channel 3

www.salemlakemills.com

Email– go to “Salem News” on the right hand side of the website and select “subscribe to email updates”



Communications Director's Report: no report

It was moved by Mike and seconded by Steve to approve all board reports. All approved

Old Business: Discussion was held on Board Terms and openings. Committee members will continue to look for people to fill boards. The overall experience with Kairos Group has been a very positive one. Following the retreat we are hopeful for a renewed excitement and energy. We are not far behind in our ELCA giving, as noted in Mike's report.

New Business: Following discussion, it was moved by Deb and seconded by Sondra to approve the combination of Board of Life and Growth with the Board of Stewardship and Ministry. All approved. This will be presented to Congregation for voting at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Date: Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 11am, with one church service to be held at 9:30am, Pot Luck Dinner to follow (more details to come) All board members should submit to Mike anticipated expenses they can think of for 2018 to assist him in preparing the budget. Set and Approve Annual Meeting Agenda, to be posted 30 days prior to annual meeting– Motion by Mike to accept, seconded by Wayne. All Approved. Approve Ballot, to be posted 45 days prior to annual meeting – Motion by Deb to accept, seconded by Steve. All approved.

Transfer membership away: Chelsea (Skellenger) Souder and Miranda Souder to Gloria Dei, Hampton VA. Motion by Mike to accept, seconded by Brad. All approved.

Next regular council meeting date: January 8th , 2018.

A motion to adjourn was made by Brad and seconded by Sondra. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7pm.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Heidi Obermeyer

The phone number for the Salem kitchen and hallway phones has changed to 641-592-1772.

