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Salem Lutheran Church OUTREACH April 2015

LABEL

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

Sundays:

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

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

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service – Sanctuary

Wednesdays:

6:15 p.m. Casual Worship Service– Chapel



Pastor Peter Soli

507.369.6303

Peter.Soli@DialogWorks.org

Pastor Melinda McCluskey

563.581.9965

melindamcmc@gmail.com

Bill Georgia, Contemporary Worship Director

bgeorgia@wctatel.net

Ruth Sheldon, Organist

641.927.4671

Janelle Gilbertson, Communications Director

janelle.gilbertson@yahoo.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.

Message from Pastor Peter Soli



Style Matters

By Pr. Peter Soli

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...Philippians 2:1-5

These words from Paul were shared at the start of the Let's Talk sessions. They remind me of two things. First is the joy and strength that comes when people share the same mind. Second is that God is telling us that this is how we ought to live. While the Let's Talk sessions allowed for the expression of diversity and divisions which have been a part of the congregation's past, the sessions clearly indicate that members of Salem want to come together. We desire to be of one mind and are willing to set aside their own interests in order that the church would be strong and whole. I believe this has positive implications for the future.

The congregation and community is strengthened when communication skills are strengthened. To this end it helps when we understand our own and other people's personal styles of communication. Simply said, communication style matters.

There are five clearly identifiable communication styles: 1) directing, 2) avoiding, 3) harmonizing, 4) compromising, and 5) cooperating. Each of these styles have to do with the way we approach people and issues. Each style comes with benefits but also comes with costs if it is overused or used inappropriately.

The "directing" style emphasize agenda, goals, and getting things done. It is the "I win/you loose" style. This style is necessary when there is a crisis. It is fast. It provides some stability. However, when overused or used when it is not necessary, it breaks down relationships. Peace, goodwill, and harmony are the casualties of overuse.

"Harmonizing," which is the opposite of "directing," is the "I loose/you win" style. Peace and good feelings abound. The cost of too much harmonizing is that real problem solving and getting things done take a back seat.

A Message from LSI (cont)

Through Families Together, LSI can partner with families at any time from before their child is born up to age 18. On average, an LSI case-worker will meet with a family for 10 – 12 months. That approach, which builds trust and relationships, is comforting, Kalee said.

"Gaylene feels like a part of our family," Kalee said. "Gabe always asks when she's coming. Having her here also helped prepare Gabe for school."

Kalee hopes her two children will grow up happier than she was, she said.

"I don't think it will be as much of a struggle for them to succeed," she said. "They will feel more secure and loved than I felt growing up."

LAKE MILLS FOOD SHELF

The Food Shelf is open every Monday from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. It is located in the lower level of the Civic Center. If you have any questions contact Pastor Bill Peters, 641.590.2737 or Pastor Doug Domokos, 641.590.3762.



Please remember: Milk, eggs and fresh meat are always in demand and cash donations are appreciated for frozen/refrigerated items.

Items that are in high demand:

Corn, Peas, Carrots, Green Beans, Tuna Helper, Paper Products, Pasta Noodles, Cereal – Hot and Cold, Four, Sugar, Shampoo/Conditioner, Disposable Diapers: sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, Baby Wipes: Unscented

Cash donations are appreciated for items such as: milk, eggs, butter, hamburger, chicken, hot dogs, etc., which is purchased at David's Foods.

A Message from LSI

April is Month of the Young Child & Child Abuse Prevention Month

In 2014, LSI's early childhood programs made more than 14,900 home visits to Iowa families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. These programs help parents learn about child development, parenting strategies and community resources, and they can also help reduce some of the risk factors that may lead to child abuse or neglect, such as critical stress. LSI often partners with parents who grew up in unstable home environments and desire to give their own children a different quality of life. Your support helps our youngest Iowans grow up healthy and safe!

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

A New Parenting Path

When Kalee became a young mom in high school, she knew exactly what kind of parent she *didn't* want to be.

"My childhood was very different," she said. "There was a lot of mis-communication on all levels and yelling all the time. I had a lot of trouble growing up, and I didn't want my kids to go through that."

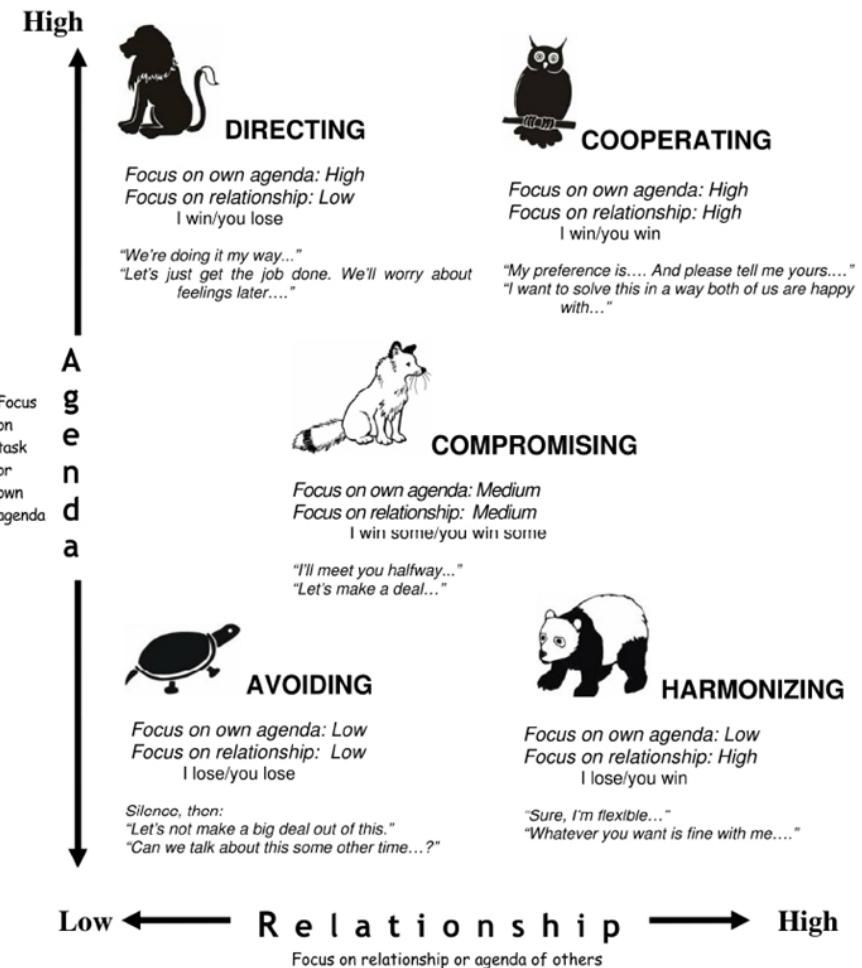
Instead, Kalee and her partner Shane are finding their own parenting style, thanks to some support from LSI's Families Together program. Families Together is a voluntary home visitation program that offers families parenting education, community resources, support and more.

"Kalee and Shane are so much fun to work with," said Gaylene, an LSI caseworker. "They are very good parents. They just needed a little more confidence in their skills."

For example, the family learned new communication tips to use with their son Gabe, age 4.

"Before we started the program, Shane and I fought a lot about different parenting styles," Kalee said. "We would get frustrated when we couldn't get Gabe to understand what we wanted him to do. We learned how to talk to him better, and now we're on the same page."

Five Styles of Responding to Conflict



8

We are probably all familiar with the "avoiding" style. As it suggests, this person simply avoids conflict or withdraws and doesn't engage. There is no action and when overused there will be no relationship. It is "I lose/you loose."

If Salem wants to move in the direction that Paul writes about in his letter to the Philippians, then it needs leadership to put a high value on both relationships (not the "avoiding" or "directing" style) and gets things done

Message from Pastor Peter Soli (cont)

(not the “harmonizing” style). This means that the best leaders for ELC are people who have “cooperating” and “compromising” styles and skills.

People with the “cooperating” style are people who place a high value on both relationships and agenda. This is the “I win/you win” style. This leader might say, “I believe that we should make the decision to” and then go on to say, “And, I really want to hear what you think. Let’s make a decision we all can live with and support.” As you might imagine, this sort of style will consistently build both relationships and results. It represents the ideal that we can work together to “be of the same mind” (even though we might not start there).

The cooperative approach takes time, which is its chief drawback, and is not appropriate for every decision. For example when there is deadlock or an impasse (or if the matter is less critical) there is a need for **compromising**. This is splitting the difference...let’s make a deal... “I win some/you win some.”

The future for Salem opens up and brightens as we grow and strengthen relationships and make decisions that we can all live with and support. The Christian life is all about style and style matters.

Let's Talk Update

By Pr. Peter Soli, Interim

At the time of writing this, leadership has hosted six Let’s Talk sessions with attendance of over 50 people. However, the Transition Team and Call Committee members report that many congregational members have declined the invitation to participate in Let’s Talk sessions saying that, “We have good people on the Call Committee...we trust them to do a well.” Given the small number who had signed up for the remaining sessions the Transition Team and Call Committee met and made a decision to wrap up the Let’s Talk sessions on Palm Sunday. This will not change any of the plans going forward into the call process. Leadership is still aiming for a planning retreat at the end of April and to complete the Mission Site Profile by the first Sunday in June. A complete report on the results of the Let’s Talk will be made available after Easter.

Home Blessing

Blessing of the, Tractors, Tillers, Gardens, Seeds, and Lawn Mowers

Celebrate the Vocation of Agriculture



If you are a farm family, invite your pastor over to bless the tractors at home. Let the kids have their toy tractors blessed too!

We are told in Ecclesiastes 3

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²
a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up
what is planted;

L: Let us pray.; Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

L: The Lord be with you. C: And with you.

L: To Thee, O Lord, we cry and pray: Bless these seeds and the soil they are
planted in. Strengthen the tender plants in the gentle movement of soft
winds, make the soil fertile, refresh it with the dew of heaven at the right time
and in the right amounts, and let the plants grow to full maturity for a bountiful
harvest that will be used for the good. Bless these tractors, that till the soil
and plant the seeds. Bless these farmers and gardeners that plant the seeds.
Keep them hopeful and confident. Watch over them as they till the soil and
plant the seeds, give them refreshment and nourishment when they are tired,
patience when they are frazzled, and rest when they are weary. All this we
humbly ask in the Name of

the Father, Son and Holy

Spirit. Amen! (Make a sign

of the cross on the tractors)

...Bless this tractor, the

work that it does, and the

fruit that is produced. Go

with God....Amen!

You can find out more about creation and Farming in the Bible in these places:

Genesis 1-Creation

Luke 8:4-8-Parable of the Sower

Luke 12:22-34-Do Not Worry

Matthew 13:31-32 Parable of the Mustard Seed

Mark 4:26 – The Growing Seed

Upcoming Events! Mark your calendars!**Vacation Bible School****Monday, June 8th – Thurs., June 11th**

Join us on a trip to Everest

"Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power"

*Registration Forms will be available end of April.***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING**4:30 pm Sunday, April 12th @ Winnebago

We have started making plans and we need to begin to fill them out and finalize. Think Summer. Think VBS! If you have any questions, please call Pastor Randy.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Minnesota Twins vs. Chicago Cubs

Saturday, June 20th

Game Time 1:10 pm

*Bus will leave at 10:00 pm***Cost - \$70.00 (Bus and ticket)***Left – Field Box Seats**(lower level sect 126 seats under overhang – shade!)*

Call the Parish Office 641-567-3550 to reserve your seat(s).

Sign-up & payment before May 18th*Fifty-five tickets/bus seats are reserved.**Sponsored by One In Christ Lutheran Parish & Salem Lutheran***Message from Pastor Melinda McClusky****Thoughts on Holy Week**

The season of Lent and Holy Week is the most meaningful time of the church year for me. It doesn't sound right to call it my favorite season; but this it is spiritually significant for my faith journey. It is a time of self-reflection where I walk with the disciples; listening and learning just who Jesus is, the Son of God. The journey to the cross is a reminder of how much God loved the world.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The procession with palms and the singing of "All Glory, Laud, and Honor", all five verses! The sweet sounds of hosannas ringing throughout the church as children of all ages sing out.

Then Maundy Thursday arrives. In the readings, we hear Jesus predict his betrayal by one of the twelve. We celebrate the Eucharist, the breaking of the bread and blessing of the wine, as our Lord Jesus taught us on that last night with his disciples. We hear Jesus predict that all his followers will become deserters. And we, like Peter, deny that we would desert our Lord but deep inside we realize we too would likely run and hide. The story continues with Jesus taking the disciples to the Mount of Olives and going to Gethsemane to pray. The hymn, "Go to Dark Gethsemane", a haunting tune; is sung during this part of the service.

The service ends with the stripping of the altar. The reading of Psalm 22, during the removal of the paraments all the items that beautify the altar, brings to mind Jesus being stripped and beaten by the soldiers. The silence. The darkness. One hears through the words of the Psalm the isolation and abandonment of Jesus.

Good Friday arrives. We walk into a silent sanctuary, the altar stripped. We hear the seven last words of Christ. The hymns of the service, "Ah, Holy Jesus", "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded", and "Were You There" cry out our sense of loss. The cross is central to the service on this day. Even though we know the rest of the story, there is sadness to this day. There is an emptiness that is deepened by the silence in which we leave the sanctuary.

And then we arrive early on Easter Sunday the light is coming through the windows of the sanctuary. The altar is clothed in white. The flowers of spring adorn the sanctuary. Our hope is renewed, the tomb is empty, the Lord is risen! The Alleluias are returned to the worship service. We sing out in song "Jesus Christ is Risen today!" Alleluia! "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done". Alleluia!

The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! Pastor Melinda

Update from the Council

Council Minutes from March 9, 2015

President Harris Honsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present were Harris Honsey, Scott Hagenson, Mike Swenson, Deb Throne, Yvonne Beenken, Wayne VanVeldhuizen, Al Skellenger, Karla Eaton, Janelle Gilbertson, and Pastor Soli. Pastor Soli opened the meeting with devotions. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Mike to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. All approved.

Secretary's Report: There was no correspondence to present.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported a checking account balance of \$26,821.88. Total income for February was \$20,082.34 but expenditures were \$38,972.04. All office equipment needed for the second Church office has been purchased. Pastor Soli will send out a letter prior to Easter with an offering envelope and an Easter schedule to stimulate some additional giving. It was moved by Deb and seconded by Wayne to accept this report. All approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: Deb reported that she is busy working on the transition to the new accounting program. She repeated Mike's concern about the poor financial giving, down 8% from January to February. It was moved by Al, with a second by Mike, to accept this report . All approved.

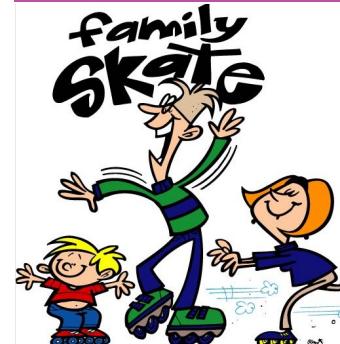
Board of Worship and Music: Al reported that they are working on getting more Communion helpers and making use of the Time and Talent Sheets. They would recommend not having the Easter sunrise service this year and revisit this issue next year. An 8:30 and 10:30 Easter service will be held as usual. Ruth Sheldon will return as Salem's regular organist but will have a regularly scheduled Sunday off.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Wayne reported that they did not meet.

Board of Education: Janelle reported that the Sunday School students will sing at worship on Palm Sunday. Plans have been made for Vacation Bible School. The final program will be on June 11 at 6:00 followed by refreshments. The First Communion class went well.

Board of Youth: Karla reported that they are planning for an Easter breakfast served from 7:30 to 10:30. Another skating party is being planned due to the excellent turnout in February. It will be held with One In Christ Parish.

Board of Life and Growth: Harris reported in Tami's absence. They are plan-



You're invited!
Roller Skating @
Roller City
April 12th 4:00pm!



Top left, Kirby from WCTA works on updates for our live streaming. Top Right, Terry serves food to the confirmation kids. Left, Linda fills in for Helen while she's on vacation

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked his disciples to watch and pray for an hour. We, too, are asked to watch and pray at a Prayer Vigil in the Chapel starting after the April 2nd Maundy Thursday evening service until the start of the April 3rd Good Friday evening worship. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. The time slots are for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour but you can sign up for a full hour if you wish.



Highlights from March



Confirmation Students, along with their families, served us Lenten suppers. Thank you to Lund Food Holdings for donating the soup!



Pastor Soli began the First Communion Classes for the 5th grade students.



Ruth Sheldon returned to bless us with her music at the Traditional Worship Service!



Items were collected for Baskets of Promise

ning a prayer vigil for Holy Week. It will start after worship service on Holy Thursday and continue until 6:00 PM on Good Friday. The "Let's Talk" sessions have been scheduled.

Board of Property and Management:

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Soli reported that we are working with a full staff with the addition of Pastor Melinda and Janelle Gilbertson. They are transitioning the Office Administrator position to include some financial duties. It is hoped that the new computer program will be fully in used by the end of March. Orloue Thompson will continue to do the payroll until that time. He has held two of the "Let's Talk" sessions at this point. The Lenten schedule has been interrupted by bad weather. The Soup and Sandwich suppers have been going well. He is considering contacting the Bishop to come and discuss the relationships among the congregation, the Council, and the Synod. He could address questions regarding roles of authority and responsibility. The Council is in favor of such a meeting or, if that is not possible, a letter from the Bishop to the Congregation. It was moved by Janelle and seconded by Al to accept these reports. All approved.

Old Business: The Wednesday night meals did not meet expectations as far as participation. They did not have to be subsidized by the Congregation. At this point we are not planning to continue them but can revisit this issue in the Fall. The janitors have been locking most of the doors early in the evening. The doors that remain open will be lock later by computer.

New Business: There were no visitors. The Council considered the possibility of owning a parsonage and how this would affect our search for a new pastor. We would like the congregation to become informed on this issue and offer feedback to the Council.

Mike expressed financial concerns regarding this question. Thirty percent of the pastor's base salary is the housing allowance at present. A vote on ownership of a parsonage could be scheduled for a Congregational meeting on June 7. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Wayne to hold informational meetings on Sundays, April 12 and 19, at 9:45 on the issues involved. All approved.

Plans are being considered to upgrade the audio/visual plans for the Sanctuary. Online streaming of the second service is being done with a computer and camera in the balcony at present. KIOW radio station has given some valuable advice to improve the audio quality of the radio broadcast. Pastor Soli presented the costs of recommended equipment to improve the radio and video broadcasts. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Scott to approve \$2285.00 for the purchase of this equipment. All approved. An inven-

Update from the Council (cont)

tory of unused equipment, especially electronic equipment will be done. The removal of play items in the courtyard will be discussed by the Board of Education. It was moved by Al and seconded by Karla to have an 8:30 and 10:30 service on Easter and no Sunrise Service. All approved. It was moved by Scott, with a second by Al, to approve the transfer of Tyler Tweeten to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Austin, MN. All approved. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Al to adjourn the meeting. All approved. The next regular council meeting will be April 13. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.



Please join members of the council to discuss the possibility of purchasing a parsonage for our new pastor. We want our members to be well informed about this topic.

Sunday April 12th @ 9:45am Financial end of the purchase

Sunday April 19th @ 9:45am Pastoral view point of the purchase

Sunday June 7th @ TBD Congregational meeting with the Call Committee (including a vote to purchase a parsonage)

SALEM RECORDS for**MARCH:****BAPTISMS:**

Henry Meyer

FUNERALS:

Richard Benson

TRANSFERS:

Tyler Tweeten

MEMORIALS:**Given by the family of**

Don Twito

Everett Shaw

Harlan Evenson

Alvira Kloster

Leo Rosheim

Ministry Opportunities**Trust Me!**

Has someone ever told you

"Trust me," and then let you down? Our Stephen Ministers are people you really can trust. They are committed to providing the best Christian care possible

to their care receivers. They are people you can trust and depend on. If you would like to consider having a Stephen Minister, please call Pastor Randy at

641-590-0727.

Stephen Ministry is a shared ministry between One in Christ, Our Savior's and Salem.

We are looking for volunteers to help run the video equipment for the contemporary service.

You will be trained! Please let us know if you are interested!



Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2013 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 2015 is \$83.

Dates available for 2015:

May 3, 10, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, 15, 29,
Dec. 6, 13, 27

Care Giver's Support Group

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. in Salem's 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.



Ministry Opportunities**Prayer Families****April 5**

Gary/Linda Helgeson, Janice Helgeson, Jon/Rebecca Helgeson, Matthew Helgeson, Michael/Rosalie Helgeson, Milford Helgeson, Ryan Helgeson Family, Scott/Elaine Helgeson, Shawn/Julie Helgeson Family, Steven/Allison Helgeson Family

April 12

Verna Helgeson, Charles/Kathy Helland, Keith/JoAnne Helland, Lee Helland, Logan Helland, Aason/Melanie Henderson, Charles Henderson, George/Kathy Henderson, Mike Henderson, Travis Henderson

April 19

Adam Hengesteg, Andrew Hengesteg, Michael/Donna Hengesteg Family, Richard/Tanya Hengesteg Family, Steven Hengesteg, Brandon Hermanson, Jeff/Marlene Hermanson, Jerome/Judy Hermanson, Michelle Hermanson, Nicole Hermanson Family

April 26

Tel Hermanson, Thomas Hermanson, Timothy Hermanson Family, Tyrell Hermanson, Bradley Hill, Dennis/RoseAnn Hill, Jeffrey Hill, Jerry/Marilyn Hoffman, Travis/Ashley Hoffman Family, Sharon Hoffman



Please make sure we are good neighbors to the St. James Catholic church.

SALEM WOMEN of the ELCA**Altar Guild for April**

Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Mission Quilters

Monday, April 13, 1:00 p.m.

WELCA Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Serving Committee

Program: Hannah Circle

Altar Guild for April

All Members

Communion Schedule

Sundays, April 5, 19

Wednesdays, April 8, 2

Thursdays, April 2

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, April 29

Lake Mills Care Center

Birthday Gifts: Martha Circle

Program: Deborah Circle

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week

Sunday, March 29th

9:00 am Sunday School

9:30 am Palm Sunday Worship Service, Students sing

10:30 am Final "Let's Talk" Session

Wednesday, April 1st

6:45 pm Choir Practice for Easter Sunday

Thursday, April 2nd

6:00 pm 5th Grade Family Meal

7:15 pm Maundy Thursday Worship, First Communion

7:15 pm 24 Hour Prayer Vigil begins (See page 15)

Friday, April 3rd

7:15 pm Good Friday Worship

Sunday, April 5th

7:30 am-10:30 am Sunrise Breakfast

8:30 am Traditional Easter Communion Worship Service

10:30 am Contemporary Easter Communion Worship Service