

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Permit No. 33  
PAID  
Lake Mills, IA 50450

Salem Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 25, 2015  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
10:30 a.m. Brunch  
11:15 a.m. Annual Meeting

LABEL



# Salem Lutheran Church

# OUTREACH

January 2015

**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:**

**6:00 p.m.** Casual Worship Service - Chapel



**Pastor Peter Soli**

507.369.6303

Peter.Soli@DialogWorks.org

**Melinda McCluskey, Lay Ministry**

melindamcmc@gmail.com

**Bill Georgia, Contemporary Worship Director**

music@salem.lakemills.com

**Office e-mail:** salem@wctatel.net

**Website:** salem.lakemills.com

**Phone:** 641.592.1771

**Facebook:** Salem Lutheran Church Lake Mills

## 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.



By Pr. Peter Soli,  
Interim Pastor

## Is anything too wonderful for the LORD?

Genesis 18:14

It seems unlikely and somewhat unbelievable that God would come to us in the form of Jesus, born a child of a virgin, dangerously exposed to all the threats of this world. But, is anything too wonderful for the LORD?



It seemed equally unbelievable that when Abraham and Sarah were way past the age of bearing children that the three strangers they entertained would turn out to be angels. Not only that but that these three would bring the news that they would conceive! After Sarah laughed, one said, “Is anything too wonderful for the LORD?”

During this season of Epiphany we will hear stories of Jesus calling men to follow him and become his disciples. It seems improbable that God would invite a collection of commonplace folk to do the holy work of spreading the gospel. But then, is anything too wonderful for the LORD?

I can only imagine what God might have in store for the members of Salem Lutheran in these next few months...in the next few years. What would God want with the everyday ordinary lives of the people living in Lake Mills?

I see that God has equipped, fashioned, and prepared you for a brilliant God future. The congregation is filled with intelligent, creative, caring, people who want to follow God. I have to believe that together and with God’s leading the people of Salem will accomplish a great ministry in Lake Mills and beyond. The Holy Spirit is stirring in the life of this congregation and I feel like it is moving toward a healthy and vibrant future.

What does this future look like? Where is it? How do we get there? Other people and congregations have asked this same question as it is easy to feel a little uncertain as they begin the journey. Just imagine what it was like for the fisherman who Jesus invited to follow him. The most important and difficult step is the first. The map for the journey is incomplete, the destination a little foggy, but the LORD will guide and direct the journey.

The LORD continues to recruit, equip, and accomplish miraculous things through people like you and me. We may be tempted to ask, “LORD, what are you thinking? Me? Us?” This would be a good time to remember Sarah and what the angel said, “**Is anything too wonderful for the LORD?**”

By the grace of God and  
the call of the church

Melinda McVey McCluskey  
will be ordained  
to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament  
in Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church

on Sunday, the eighth day of February  
in the year of our Lord  
two thousand fifteen  
at three o'clock in the afternoon

at Salem Lutheran Church  
401 South Lake Street  
Lake Mills, Iowa

the Reverend Doctor Steven L. Ullestad  
Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, presiding.

Your prayers and presence are requested.  
All ordained, consecrated and commissioned  
ministers are invited to process.  
The color of the day is red.

## **Salem Lutheran Church Council Minutes – December 8, 2014**

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, Karla Eaton, Allison Rice, Keith Johnson, and Pastor Soli. Pastor Soli opened the meeting with devotions. It was moved by Deb, with a second by Mike, to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. All approved.

**Secretary's Report:** There was one piece of correspondence from Lutheran Disaster Relief and Hunger Appeal acknowledging a donation.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike reported a checking account balance of \$38,841.91. He reminded the Council that we have additional funds held in a money market account. Total income for November was \$46,711.18 and total expenses were \$27,494.74. The Finance Committee will meet on December 15 to discuss the budget for 2015. Wednesday night meals have been attended by an average of 43 people each week. The meals no longer operate at a loss. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Keith to accept this report. All approved.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Deb reported an increase in giving in November. Total giving for the month was \$36,443.91. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Keith to accept her report. All approved.

**Board of Worship and Music:** Pastor Soli and Harris reported that arrangements are being made for substitute musicians during Ruth's leave of absence.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Keith reported that the stewardship drive ended with favorable results. There was an increase in the number of pledges from 101 to 105 and also an increase in the amount pledged. Time and talent sheets are being tabulated.

**Board of Education:** There was no report. Allison reminded the Council of the Sunday School Christmas Program and the birthday party for Jesus, both scheduled in December.

**Board of Youth:** Karla reported that they have not met but plans are being made to continue with the Fifth Quarter events.

**Board of Life and Growth:**  
No report.

**Board of Property and Management:** Written notes from their meeting were submitted in Steve's absence. The new floor polisher is in use. They will look for more bids on a door locking system. Pastor's Report: Pastor Soli reported that the meetings concerning the confidential questionnaire went well. He will have conversations with the Bishop regarding his interim work at Salem. He will soon have a rough outline for the goals he would like the congregation to work toward next year. Melinda has returned from her medical leave and they are working to sort out each person's responsibilities. **Minutes continued...**

## **Dec. Council Minutes Continued**

It was moved by Deb and seconded by Allison to accept these reports. All approved.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**New Business:** There were no visitors. Harris reminded the Council of the annual meeting on January 25, 2015. There will be one service that Sunday at 9:30, followed by a meal, and the meeting. Delegates to the Synod Assembly will be included on the ballot. Helen would like information for reports by January 7. Salem has received a bequest from the Judy Colby estate in the amount of \$2834.22. It was moved by Keith and seconded by Mike to give half of that amount to the Good Samaritan Fund and half to the Lake Mills Food Bank. All approved. Melinda McCluskey has accepted and signed her contract. Her paperwork has been returned from the Synod. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Mike to set her start date at December 15. Arrangements will soon be made to get a Call Committee organized. Names of possible members would be suggested by the congregation and voted on at the Annual Meeting. They will work with the Transition Team to develop a mission profile for Salem. The Council is working to make the position of the Church Secretary comparable with other similar positions in Lake Mills. In that effort, \$1700 would be added to that yearly salary in January and reviewed in July 2015. It would be

allocated between salary or retirement benefits as the employee wishes. A motion to that effect was made by Scott and seconded by Keith. All approved. \$5800 was received from the Enduring Gift Fund and used to purchase new vacuum cleaners and a floor scrubber/polisher. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Keith to adjourn the meeting. All approved. The next Council meeting will be on January 12, 2015. The Council then attended a presentation by Pastor Soli regarding the roles of tradition and innovation in the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Yvonne Beenken



We have many people to thank for their help with the Christmas Eve services: Steve Peterson at Three Oaks Greenhouse, for donating the use of the pew candelabras, the candles and their installation, organists Beverly Lombardi & Ruth Sheldon, vocalists Bruce Adams and James & Jennifer Hilton, the Altar Guild members, the Worship & Music Board members, ushers and acolytes, those who donated candles and poinsettias and our custodians. If we missed your name know we are thankful for what you did. Thank you all. You are very much appreciated!

**FINANCIAL REPORT December 2014**

**December Income: \$62,280**

**November Expenses: \$43,985**  
**\$18,295**

**Year to Date**

**Income: \$385,968**

**Expenses: \$384,806**  
**\$1,162**

**FUNERALS:** Duane Seedorf,  
Dawn Westrum, Rachel Bolinger,  
Harlan Evenson

**MEMORIALS**

**Given by the family of**

**Viola Bendickson:** Organ \$10,  
Good Samaritan \$50

**Dawn Westrum:** Youth \$10,  
Altar Guild \$10

**Mark Chose:** The Bridge \$10

**Ross Throlson:** Cemetery \$50

**Salem’s Annual Meeting  
will be held Sunday, January 25.**

One service will be held at 9:30 a.m., followed by a brunch. The Annual Meeting will begin at 11:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

The meeting agenda and ballot have been posted.

<b>Wednesdays are Church Night Ruth Willier is serving meals with fresh bread from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.!</b>
<b>JANUARY 7 Meal Canceled</b>
<b>January 14 Roast Pork</b>
<b>January 21 BBQ Ribs</b>
<b>January 28 Meat Loaf</b>



**Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2013 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KIW (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:**

Feb. 22, April 12, 26, May 3, 10, 31,  
June 21, July 12, Aug. 16, Oct. 18,  
Nov. 1, 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 27



**Did you know?**

- Did you know: the seventh and eighth grade confirmation students made Christmas cards that were sent to members of Salem at the Care Center?
- You may have been already thanked but...those who donated candles for the Christmas Eve worship services. The additional candles were a beautiful addition to the evening services.
- January 25th we will have one service at 9:30 a.m. Brunch and Annual Meeting to follow.

## Ministry

**Prayer Chain Ministry** is a network of people who are committed to prayer and will take action on behalf of others. If you will pray for those in need, signup to be notified either by email or phone. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call the office and the prayer requests will go right out, via email and phone. All requests will be confidential among the prayer chain ministry.

**Call Helen at the office (592-1771) with requests.**

## Worship Ministry for January

### **Greeters (8:30 a.m. only)**

**January 4, 11:**

Delane & Darlene Behr

**January 18, 25**

John & Connie Sabin

### **Readers (8:30 a.m. only)**

**January 4:** Milly Miller

**January 11:** Wayne VanVeldhuien

**January 18:** Willie Skellenger

**January 25:** Connie Sabin

### **Communion Servers January 4/18**

**8:30 a.m.:**

Bruce & Dolly Gregor

Margaret Okland

Justin Okland, Alan Skellenger

**If you are unable to greet, read or serve, please find a substitute and let the office know.**

**If you would like to have communion served to you in the pew please make this known to an usher.**

## Opportunities

A **Prayer Shawl** is for anyone in need of prayer, hope, comfort and love of a community. Prayer Shawls, hand knit or crocheted by Salem members, are available in the narthex for you to wrap someone in need. There is also a Prayer Book. You may sign the name of someone you take the shawl for and they will be included in our weekly prayers of the church.



**5-CENT BOTTLES AND CANS CAN BE RETURNED TO THE RECYCLING CONTAINER AT THE SOUTH END OF ALLEY.** Bottles and cans should be rinsed, and then placed in plastic bags (either garbage bags or grocery sacks). **Funds are split between the Education & Youth Boards.**

**David's Super Foods and Bills Grocery receipts, Kemps milk tops, pop tabs, Campbell soup labels and eye glasses** may be left in the baskets on top of the coat rack in the west hall of the Education unit. Please do not roll up grocery receipts.

**Pop Can Tabs** for Ronald McDonald House may be deposited in the container near the pop machine.

## PRAYER FAMILIES

### January 4

Ryan Fjelstad Family, Sheri Fjelstad, Chris/Molly Flo Family, Josh/Cassie Flo Family, Alison Flugum Family, Michael/Jill Flugum Family, Jozi Flynn, Tara Frank Family, Bradley Freeman, Brian Freeman

### January 11

Dennis/Lu Friesenborg, Rhonda Friesenborg, Derek/Samatha Friest, Family, Lois Fritz, Teresa Fritz Family, Bryan Frondal, Shannon Furst Family, Santos/Rajeana Garcia Family, Brett/Rachel Gardner, Charles/Dianne Gardner

### January 18

Laura Gardner, Michael Gardner, Mike/Deb Gaskill, Marcus Gaskill, Emily Georgia, Bill/Deb Georgia, Andrew Gerdes, Chris/Crystal Gerdes Family, Matt Gerdes, Tim/Lori Gerdes

### January 25

Jason/Stephanie Gilbertson Family, Jeremy/Janelle Gilbertson Family, Steve/Kathy Gilbertson, Ben/Chelsey Gjere, Curt/Linda Graham, Sean Greenfield, Andy Gregor, Bruce/Dolly Gregor, Steve/Rosalie Greiman, David/Lory Groe



## LAKE MILLS FOOD SHELVE

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.



### Care Giver's Support Group

**Next meeting is Tuesday, January 13, 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.



- No Bible Study Jan 7 or 14
- Look in the February Newsletter for upcoming Bible Study opportunities. With the cold and unpredictable weather of January, we will be suspending Tuesday and Wednesday Bible study sessions.
- A noon alternative to evening Lenten worship will be offered Wednesday's at noon during Lent. This alternative worship service will be held February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

#### Pastoral Care

A reminder: please let the church office or Pastor know if you are in the hospital. Hospitals can longer contact churches about your hospitalization. We would like to visit, pray, and support you during your stay.

#### Small Group Ministries

**Stephen Ministry Training Class** – We have enough participants signed up for the course and classes will be held on Thursday evenings, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Immanuel in Scarville. Our first session will begin, Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join this class, please contact Pastor Randy at (641) - 590 -0727. Stephen Ministry is a shared ministry between One in Christ, Our Savior's and Salem.

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church holds Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. Please be a good neighbor and do not park in their parking lot. Thank you!**



# Hospice OF NORTH IOWA

*A partner with Mercy Health Network-North Iowa*



### ***Understanding Grief and Loss Support Group***

Sponsored by Hospice of North Iowa

Understanding Grief and Loss is an adult support group that will provide grief education and support to individuals who have experienced the death of a family member or friend.

The next scheduled groups are listed below.

7 sessions Friday mornings ~ **Mason City**  
January 23 – March 6, 2015  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Hospice of North Iowa Conference Room  
232 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE, Mason City

Or

7 sessions Sunday afternoons ~ **Hampton**  
January 25 - March 8, 2015  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
First Christian Church  
605 4<sup>th</sup> St NE, Hampton

Or

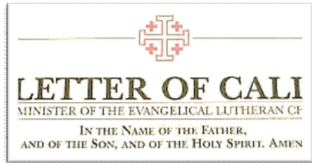
7 sessions Thursday evenings ~ **Mason City**  
February 5 - March 19, 2015  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Building to be determined, Mason City

There is no charge to participate.

Space is limited. Groups fill up quickly  
To register please call **Hospice of North Iowa** at  
**1-800-297-4719 or 641-428-6208.**

## Call Committee to be elected at Annual Meeting

One item on the agenda for this year's Annual Meeting will be the election of a seven member Call Committee. The Call Committee will begin its work early this year as they will coordinate their efforts with the Transition Team and Church Council. Pr. Soli will provide leadership so that in helping the full congregation identify a vision and plan for the future. A key part of this plan will be the new lead pastor.



The Church Council will be asking congregational members to nominate up to three people to serve on the Call Committee. The Council is looking to balance the Call Committee with members that include: both younger and older, male and female,

those who might favor traditional worship and contemporary worship, as well as both longtime and newer members to the congregation. The Council will receive the nominations, develop a slate of candidates for election, and put these names into nomination at the Annual Meeting. The congregation will vote to make the final decision on who will represent the congregation in the call process.

Members are encouraged to pray about these nominations and to be open to serving on the Call Committee if asked. Members are also encouraged to place their own name into nomination if they feel lead to do so.

Eventually the Call Committee will be meeting with pastoral candidates, conducting interviews, and representing the congregation to the candidates. The Call Committee will select one person and recommend that pastor first to the Church Council and the Council will vote to recommend the candidate to the congregation. Finally, the congregation will be asked to vote on the recommended candidate. To be successful, the candidate must receive a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

## SALEM WOMEN of the ELCA

### Altar Guild for January

Tuesday, January 6, 7:00 p.m.

### Mission Quilters

Monday, January 12, 1:00 p.m.

### WELCA Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: TBD

Program: TBD

### Bible Study Leader

No Meeting

### Altar Guild for December

Joan Kloster & Phyllis Moen

### Communion Schedule

Sundays, January 4, 18

Wednesdays, January 7, 21

### Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, January 28

### Lake Mills Care Center

Program: TBD

Birthday Gifts: TBD

## Is Church Still On?

It's 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:

- KLOW Radio 107.3 FM (Forest City)
- KIMT TV (Channel 3)
- Through the Salem website: [www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com). The first page you see will tell you what has changed.
- Through e-mail (provided you have signed up for this service on the website. Go to "Salem News" on the right and select "Subscribe to e-mail updates."

### Salem Lutheran - Call Committee Nomination

*(Nominate up to three individuals who are members of Salem Lutheran.  
Detach and return to the church office before January 18th.)*

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