



# Salem Lutheran Church

## OUTREACH

### August 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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**Ashley Hoffman, Communications Director**

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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 Pastor Joel Guttormson

“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 28:11).

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 38b).

At least a few of Jesus’ disciples knew about the possibility of storms on the Galilean Lake. They had after all spent their lives on the lake and in boats as fisherman. And yet faced with a great windstorm and waves beating against the boat, they asked, “do you not care we that we are perishing?” I promised at least a couple more articles written with some nautical theme. This is the third in what will be a series of four. The final one will be about how a storm and shipwreck leads to evangelism (Acts 27:13-44; 28:1-10). But how might this story from Mark’s gospel about Jesus stilling the storm inform our life and work in the Church.

Nautical language and ship metaphors have been used to describe our life in the church since the first century. We can still hear these themes today. I recently reviewed an article written by our Interim, Pastor Peter Soli, written about a year ago... “After the turbulent storms of the last few years, it must feel to faithful members like you to have been fighting to keep the church on course and from capsizing. It has been an exhausting battle and the worst of it is behind you. During the 17 months of intentional interim Salem Lutheran has been at port repairing the damage done and making plans to once again sail.” Life in the church can feel like that at times. Even the faithful disciples asked why Jesus didn’t seem to care that they were perishing. Why in the midst of the turmoil was

Jesus sort of uninvolved, asleep at the helm?

Turmoil can sometimes make us feel that way. In the midst of the storm our perceptions can lead us to think the worst and act accordingly. In these times we should remember Jesus always cares, will offer the help needed and as God incarnate, “never slumbers nor sleeps” (Psalm 121). God has a plan...for welfare and not harm...to offer a future with hope. When storms rage Jesus says, “Peace! Be still!” Psalm 46 comes to mind; the psalm where Martin Luther found comfort in the midst of the turmoil of the Reformation, “Be still, and know that I am God!” Though its waters roar and foam and mountains tremble with its tumult and nations are in an uproar, God is very much awake, involved, alive and calling. “Why are you afraid? Have you still know faith?”

Jesus had asked his disciples “to go across to the other side” a place of unfamiliar territory, a place outside their comfort zone; to meet people and do ministry in a way they hadn’t done before. The journey can be made better if we can go there at peace, unafraid, with faith and model the non-anxious presence of knowing God is with us.

Sailors find solace in the hymn, *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*. It was sung at my father’s funeral and at many another naval service men and women as well, “O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard, who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea” (ELW #756).

Shalom

Pastor Joel



## Message from Melinda McCluskey

It is a joy for me to hear my daughter in her room or riding in the car humming a Kyrie or Canticle of Praise that we sing at worship on Sundays. I also hear an occasional Christmas carol or two in July and find myself humming along with her!

Although she may not be able to tell me what the sermon or the scripture readings were on Sunday morning, hearing her sing the music of worship during the week is a reminder that she is creating a musical memory of Bible stories and the seasons of the church year.

I realized this past year how much music is a part of my faith journey. Yes, I've always enjoyed singing and coming to worship was one way to sing with a "live" organ, piano or band and with others. But I realized as I have assisted with confirmation, first communion, and vacation Bible school, just how many of the Bible stories or how many Bible verses I have memorized. Not intentionally memorized in, but rather because of music associated with scripture stories.

The words below come from a song entitled "My Life Flows On in Endless Song", ELW 763.

1 My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

3 What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

Refrain

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

This hymn started running through my subconscious the other day as I was listening to the news and thinking about world events. The earth's lamentations: be it grief in the form of weeping, crying and mourning, or anger is very real to us as we hear of shootings, terrorist attacks, and natural disasters.

How can I awake each day and maintain optimism? The refrain says it all, "No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm Clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"

Pastor Melinda

## Update from the Council

Salem Church Council - July 11, 2016

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

**Secretary's Report:** Letters of appreciation were received from Northwestern College and Youth for Christ.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike reported a checking account balance at the end of June of \$34,741.64. Total income for the month was \$18,698.07 and expenses were \$23,817.01. He expressed concern regarding our growing financial deficit but added that it was not unusual at this time of year. Scott asked the Board of Stewardship to look into ways to address this issue.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Deb reported that giving for the month of June was \$19,127. The difference year-to-date is down \$3658 from last year. She will prepare and send out mid-year giving statements. It was moved by Bruce and seconded by Brad to accept the financial reports. All approved.

**Board of Worship and Music:** Bruce reported that July Jubilee weekend services went well. They would recommend moving Wednesday evening services back to Saturday evening, probably early this Fall. Ruth Sheldon and Chris Johnson are willing to play piano on Saturday. They also would recommend resuming a second Sunday service, also in the Fall. These plans have not been finalized.

**Board of Stewardship:** No report.

**Board of Education:** No report.

**Board of Youth:** No report.

**Board of Life and Growth:** Willie reported that they continue to work on the service groups and are planning a leadership workshop for group leaders in August.

**Board of Property and Management:** No report.

**Lead Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joel reported a very successful Vacation Bible School. He would like the Board of Education to consider a VBS ReDo for the first five weeks of Sunday Faith Formation. He attended the Synod Assembly. He has been working on the website with Ashley. He would like to designate \$30,000 of his salary for housing allowance for 2016. This would not change his total compensation package. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Willie to approve \$30,000 of his salary as housing allowance. All approved. Pastor Joel will assist Pastor Doug Domokos with Fire Department Chaplain duties when needed. Pastor Joel will be on vacation July 12-19.

**Associate Pastor's Report:** Pastor Melinda submitted a written report for the month of June. She also considered VBS a big success. She enjoyed attending the Synod Assembly. Her vacation is planned for August 2-13.

**Communication Director's Report:** Ashly reported that the redesign of the website and mobile site is almost complete. She is beginning to work on the August Outreach. The electronic sign is not working at this time. She has been in touch with the sign company concerning a solution for this problem. It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Deb to accept the above reports. All approved.

**Old Business:** Brad reported that he has made some changes to the microphones in the sanctuary to improve the quality of the live stream broadcast. He would like to remodel the sound control area soon and have it done by Fall. He is training volunteers to help with the sound system. Scott will continue to look for someone to do grant writing. Cemetery accounts and bookkeeping will be combined into responsibilities of Mike, Deb and Helen. The Salem float made an appearance in the July Jubilee Parade.

**Update from the Council continued**

**New Business:** Scott asked Council members to become familiar with The Staff Management Committee description and responsibilities for discussion at the next meeting. It was moved by Bruce and seconded by Roy to appoint the Executive Committee to function as a call committee for the associate pastor position. All approved. Facility use and fee guidelines were reviewed. A motion to adjourn was made by Deb and seconded by Mike. All approved. The next regular council meeting will be August 8. We closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Beenken

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School is right around the corner for our youth and the clothes closet is in need of a few items! We are looking for new socks and underwear, for boys and girls, ages 5 to 15.

The closet will be open for “back to school” shopping. Parents will receive information regarding dates and times in the student packets when they register their children for school.

**SALEM RECORDS JULY 2016**

**Memorials:** Elaine Aamodt– Library \$95, Cemetery \$30, Clothes Closet \$25, General Fund \$25, WELCA \$25

Sterling Sanden– General Fund \$10

**Funerals:** Elaine Aamodt, Paul Johanson, Sterling Sanden

**Baptisms:** Molly Koeppen, Isaac Thompson, Evelyn Thompson



## *Ruby's Pantry*

Saturday, August 6th from 10am-11:30am

1540 S Shore Dr, Albert Lea

507-373-7989 for more information

No income or residency requirements

\$20 cash donation

Please bring two baskets for your food

Next Ruby's Pantry: Saturday, September

10th

## *Camp Greentree*

Sponsored by Hospice of North Iowa

Saturday, September 24th, 9:230am to 4:00pm

Camp Tanglefoot– 14948 Dogwood Ave, Clear Lake, IA

Camp Greentree is a free day camp for children, ages 7-14, who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Children will be educated on normal feelings of grief and ways to learn to cope with the changes following a death. Camp Greentree is facilitated by Hospice of North Iowa staff and trained volunteers.

Registration is required prior to participating in the camp, and we ask that completed forms (one per child) be submitted by September 19th.

For more information or registration materials, visit us online at [hospicenorthiowa.com](http://hospicenorthiowa.com) or call 641-428-6208





## **August Prayer Families**

**August 7** Debbie Ball and Trevor Marquez, Darlene Banwart, Thomas and Vicki Banwart family, Deborah Barrett and Bruce Cavett, Nicholas Barrett

**August 14** Lydia Bartness, Lynn and Cyndy Bartness, Suzanne Battleson, Shannyn Bechtel family, Nicole Bechthold, Angela Becker

**August 21** Yvonne Beenken, Joshua and Rebecca Beery family, Delane and Darlene Behr, Jarrod Behr, Markus Behr, Brooke Beise

**August 28** Jan Belica, Kristopher Belica, Andrea Belshan, Jason Belshan, Loren and Karen Belville, Cymantha and Jaeron Bendickson

*“Prayer is simply a two-way conversation  
between you and God”*

**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  
December 4, 11**

## August Volunteers

### Sunday 9:00 Worship

- 7** Communion Servers: Roy Kvale, Carol Abbey  
Reader: Mason Fritz  
Ushers: Erich and Julie Stene
- 14** Reader: Roy Kvale  
Ushers: Margaret Okland and Family
- 21** Communion Servers: Al and Willie Skellenger  
Reader: Tami Alphs  
Ushers: Randy and Christi Grothe
- 28** Reader: Bruce Adams  
Ushers: Jerry and Marilyn Hoffman

## SALEM WOMEN of the ELCA

### Altar Guild

Tuesday, August 2, 7:00 p.m.

### Mission Quilters

Monday, August 8, 1:00 p.m.

### WELCA Meeting

Thursday, August 18, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Miriam Circle

Program: Elizabeth Circle

### Altar Guild for August

Gloria Kvale, Jean Rondeau

### Communion Schedule

Sundays, August 7 & 21

Wednesdays, August 3 & 24

### Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, August 31

### Lake Mills Care Center

Birthdays: Elizabeth Circle

Program: Grace Circle

# *Staying Strong Appeal*

Midsummer last year, Interim Pastor Peter Soli sent out a letter on behalf of the Stewardship & Social Ministry Board as part of a midyear “Starting Strong Appeal” designed to raise \$32,000 above and beyond regular giving. The intent of this four-month campaign was to recognize the challenges of mission support in those summer months when attendance and giving is historically down. The appeal was designed to bridge that summer shortfall and give the congregation and newly called pastor a strong start. Through the generosity of its members the goal was exceeded! Now the Stewardship & Social Ministry Board is giving us the challenge of “Staying Strong” through participation in an August/September appeal to raise an additional \$20,000 above and beyond our regular weekly giving.

Heading into the fall, plans are being made with the leaders and members of our boards and council, to offer some new ministries, enliven some successful ministries from the past, and continue the support of Salem’s ongoing ministries and work of our fine staff. Our mission plan has started strong and to stay strong needs sustained support even in these summer months when summer vacations and activities lower our weekly attendance and giving.

To participate in the “Staying Strong Appeal” you can give a onetime amount anytime in the next eight weeks with a separate envelope or check, with “Staying Strong Appeal” written on the memo line or envelope back; or add to your giving anytime weekly in the months of August/September as our goal of \$20,000 is reached. It’s also possible to give to the appeal by giving online on our website. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in the ministry of Salem Lutheran. Starting Strong! Staying Strong! We celebrate the plans God has for us in the future, as we share the gospel and legacy all our church has to offer!

## *Hospice of North Iowa Happenings*

### *From Connie's Desk*

While all life is precious and sacred, there is something special about sitting across the table, or holding the hand of a United States Veteran that is an incredible honor! It is that honor that Hospice of North Iowa has recently begun to formally recognize.

“Honor our Vets” is a national Hospice movement which we have recently carried out on a local level. Recognizing time in the service may register a mixture of emotions. For those who are accepting of small scale attention for their courageous feat, our staff will enlist the help of a nearby veteran to conduct a pinning ceremony. With loved ones at hand, the patient is presented a special pin and certificate to commemorate their years of service. Having a local veteran in attendance is what really tops it off. This informal yet poignant ceremony compels the vets to connect in a way that leads to story swapping in which laughs outweigh the tears.

Recently a vet, who participated in such a ceremony, talked about the wrenching moment, having to wave goodbye to his wife and two month old baby, as his ship drifted from the shore. Such a ceremony is only one droplet of homage that can be paid to our men and women who signed up for an unselfish service in which many of their past and present comrades were not fortunate to have gradual hospice-like end of life passage.

What makes this pinning ceremony so meaningful? Aside from the vets themselves and the tales told, it truly is the vet that shows up that puts the explanation point on the event. We could use more of these giving folks, and I know that they are out there! Are you a vet that would be willing to honor another vet at the end of life? Do you know a vet that would be ideal for helping? If so, simply call Hospice of North Iowa (428-6208) and we will connect you to a memorable moment!

Connie Bleile, LISW, Director of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

## Meet the Council...

Deb Throne, Financial Secretary, has been a member of Salem since 1995. Since then, Deb has volunteered in a number of capacities: council treasurer; youth board; usher duties, and confirmation mentor.

She and husband, Brian, have been married for 22 years and have been life-long community members. They both feel extremely blessed that God has allowed them to have such great careers in their home town – Brian working for Larson Mfg. and Deb counseling LMHS students as a NIACC Enrollment Advisor. In addition, Brian and Deb are co-owners in Throne Landscape with their son Jeremi.

Deb enjoys reading, yoga, spending time with friends and family. She especially loves being with her granddaughter Alana.

Deb looks forward to the new beginnings of Salem. She feels that Salem is “Coming Home” again and encourages many of its members, past and present, to come back to Salem and do Christ’s work – together!



## Volunteers Needed

Salem is in need of volunteers to help with the Summer Lunch Program on Tuesdays in 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.

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Thank you to the Ingham-Okoboji camp counselors for helping with our special service during the Lake Mills July Jubilee Celebration!

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## Care Giver's Support Group

**Tuesday, August 9 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.

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## **A Message from LSI**

### **Back to School Month**

School is right around the corner! As children and teens adjust to a new classroom routine, the transition can often bring to light behavioral issues that may stem from a mental health diagnosis, such as ADHD, anxiety, depression, or oppositional defiant disorder.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services right in their schools? This makes it easier to collaborate with educators and reduce the transportation barrier that sometimes makes it hard for families to attend appointments.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

### **Becoming a kid again**

At 8 years old, Sofia was often the only one caring for her younger siblings. She worried constantly they didn't have enough food. She helped them hide in a closet when their mother's boyfriend began drinking and hitting their mother.

That all began to change when Mitch came into the children's lives. Mitch is a family care coordinator for LSI. His job is to keep Iowa kids and families safe. He made sure Sofia and her siblings had clothes for school. He helped transport them to doctors appointments. He remembered their birthdays. And when it became clear that living with their biological parents wasn't a safe option, Mitch was by the siblings side and advocated to keep them together. Kate and Mark, a couple who had provided foster care for two of Sofia's younger siblings, decided to adopt all five kids.

"We had faith. We knew it was the right thing to do. Why? Because they are worth it", Kate says. Sofia is now 12 and thriving. Kate has photos of Mitch visiting the kids on Halloween and dropping off presents from LSI on Christmas Eve. "Now Sofia gets to be a kid again", says Kate. "Every child deserves that."

## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Education is important for any community, especially where poverty or disaster has limited the options for young people to reach their potential. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children--and in some cases, adults—continue their learning despite the hardships they face. And that learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

### INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH KIT:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters and inches
  - One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
  - One eraser
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secured with a band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
  - One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks); fabrics include heavy cotton, canvas, denim, and twill



Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Remove any excess packaging, pack all items in the bag and close. Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags. Place kits in the box in narthex.

**Salem Lutheran Church**

401 South Lake Street

Lake Mills, IA 50450

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