



Salem Lutheran Church OUTREACH

October 2016

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

9:30 a.m. Faith Formation

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation Worship

Saturday:

5:30 p.m. Casual Worship

Prepare to . . .



. . . for Christ's sake

Pastor Joel Guttormson

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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

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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

“Love the Lord your God, walk in all God’s ways, keep God’s commandments, hold fast and serve God with all your heart and with all your soul” (Joshua 22:5).

As Faith Formation, Confirmation and Worship Services get into full swing after summer hiatus, congregations often attempt to offer a full fall schedule of programs and services to meet the needs of its active members, inactive members and potential new members. The question becomes, “What services do you offer at your church?” We may wish to respond, “we offer some of the best services in the area!” We may be envious of those who seem to offer more and better “services” than we do, or be disheartened because our “services” are somehow not as attractive.

As a pastor I struggle to maintain that balance between “offering services” and living with integrity and proclaiming Joshua’s message, “to love God and serve God with all our heart and soul.” It was Joshua who remembered the failure of the people and the servanthood of Moses and said, “as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). We are called, gathered and sent, not to be served...but to serve. So how do we together become known as the place that loves God and serves?

This is the struggle...to serve and not be served, or perhaps to first be served and then be sent to serve. This is perhaps best illustrated on the night before his betrayal when Jesus washed his disciple’s feet, fed and served them (John 13:1-20). Remembering his life, love and promise of forgiveness, we gather on Sundays, the day of Christ’s Resurrection to do as he commanded; be washed and fed, worship and learn how to be sent out in service. Each week we end with some form of a sending, “Our worship has ended, go out in service!” to which we respond with a hearty, “Amen!”

But, sometimes we forget, in our use of language, that we don’t come to church (this building) seeking primarily “services.” Together we gather in this place for opportunities to worship, learn and serve. We are sent out with those experiences, equipped and inspired to be the church (God’s

people) in the world. Too often we come to church (the building) as consumers asking, “what services do you offer?” and when those services don’t meet our needs we complain or go church shopping, looking for the place that best serves us! We have come to see the church as a building, where another commodity to consume is offered, in an overly very busy world that saturates us with choices and lures us in by seeking to satisfy our wants and needs. Should this be the church’s mission?

With an increasing awareness of membership decline, church growth specialists - often for a substantial fee – gave advice on how to offer a better experience based on best practices in the service and hospitality industry. For over a decade churches were told how to have better signage, parking lots, bathrooms, webpages and effective social media and sometimes a menu of service times and styles to meet the expectations of that elusive group of individuals who were church shopping. That became the central focus, meeting the expectations of those seeking better “services.” But, Jesus did not look kindly on those who made places of worship into marketplaces (John 2:13-23).

After a decade of continuing decline, some church growth specialists began to realize something interesting. Of those churches that truly embraced membership growth based on the best practices of the service and hospitality industry, roughly a third saw some measure of increased attendance. Another third found the changes too difficult, divisive and expensive and it actually had an aversive effect on the congregation, and for a final third of the congregations, their attempts had no qualitative or quantitative effect at all. Perhaps there needs to be a different focus other than market driven analysis. So now we are hearing thankfully more about discipleship and faith formation and reclaiming our identity, becoming places where people have the opportunity for a deeper connection to their faith and learn how to practice that faith in their daily lives.

Churches can’t offer better coffee than Starbucks, we can’t out entertain or outperform the plethora of other opportunities available on Sundays. But we do have an unmatched identity! We belong to God! In our sometimes frenetic attempts to grow based on marketplace principles, maybe we lost our focus and mission. I wonder if we can now reclaim our identity and become

Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson continued...

a community that truly offers sabbath rest and the shalom, hope, love and forgiveness God offers and some still seek.

We are at our best when we are faithful to what has brought people together in almost every time and place, the good news and promise of good things to come, from God alone. Here we learn we are more just members of a consumer society who just happen to meet once a week at a building on 401 S. Lake Street, in Lake Mills, Iowa. Here we are set free, to live in God's kingdom and share that promise hope and vision with others, to love and serve God and our neighbor.

"The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to make of all the earth a better place to live. The angels are not sent into our world of pain to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name; that falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today" (Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal #538).

Shalom

Pastor Joel



Pastor Joel and his wife Nancy performing a skit during Faith Formation worship service.

Salem Church Council September 12, 2016

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

Secretary's Report: Notes of appreciation were received from the North-east Iowa Synod, Life Serve Blood Center, and Megan Knudtson.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported a checkbook balance of \$32,486.34. Total income for August was \$27,992.05 and expenses were \$24,000.10.

Financial Secretary's Report: Deb reported that total giving is down this year almost 11% compared to this time last year. The Staying Strong campaign continues until the end of September. So far \$7455.50 has been given toward the goal of \$20,000.00. It was moved by Bruce and seconded by Steve to accept the financial reports. All approved.

Board of Worship and Music: Bruce reported that they are starting the Fall schedule. Thirty people attended worship services Saturday evening, recently moved from Wednesday evening. They have a few issues to work out for the second service but, on the whole, things are going well.

Board of Education: Stephanie reported that the first Sunday of Faith Formation went well with over sixty students attending. Their board felt this was a successful beginning, but improvements will be made. They would like to work more closely with the Board of Youth and move toward combining the two boards.

Board of Youth: Pastor Melinda reported for Brooke. Salem will host Fifth Quarter activities for middle school students on September 16 and 30. It will start after the game and go until 10:00.

Board of Life and Growth: Willie reported that they are working to find volunteer drivers to provide rides to church on Sunday mornings. They plan to reinstate the Prayer Pal ministry. People are encouraged to sign up for this program on the forms in the narthex.

Update from the Council continued...

Board of Property and Management: Steve reported that they removed the carpet in the quilting room and new flooring will be installed. They are getting bids to repair moisture stains in the sanctuary and working to resolve tile issues on the north side of the church. A new coffee maker has been donated as a memorial from the Aamodt family. They would look into improvements into the educational unit including a new roof and heating system.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel presented a written report for his pastoral acts during August. He will check into renewing his bus driver's license. His preaching and on-call schedule is posted on the inner office calendar. At this point, he feels that the new worship schedule and Faith Formation are off to a good start.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Melinda reported that new chalices have been ordered. Fifth Quarter activities are scheduled and, in case of bad weather, will be moved inside. Two styles of serving Communion will continue.

Communication Director's Report: Ashley reported that she continues to make daily posts to the Facebook page along with weekly schedule and Confirmation reminders and information. On the website she has updated Faith Formation info and expanded the Pastor's Corner articles.

It was moved by Willie and seconded by Mike to accept the above reports. All approved.

Old Business: A special congregational meeting will be held on October 2 at 9:30. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on continuing Pastor Melinda's call as a part time associate pastor. A separate vote will be taken on her compensation package. Pastor Steve Brackett from the Synod office will attend.

New Business: A Council workshop will be held on September 19 at 5:30 to explore energy efficient opportunities for the education unit. The one-hundredth anniversary of the main church building is 2019. Planning for this celebration should be started soon. The Council is looking for some feedback from the Congregation on this. It was moved by Stephanie and seconded by Steve to bring a vote to the annual meeting to abolish the Staff Management Committee. All approved. Yearly reviews of employees have been done by

the Council members in the recent years and this committee has not been active. Pastor Duffus encouraged us to eliminate this additional layer of bureaucracy. It is provided for in Article 14 of the Constitution. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Steve to accept Zach and Amber Crail and Faith as new members. All approved. A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce and seconded by Willie. All approved. The next regular Council meeting will be on October 3. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Beenken

SALEM RECORDS SEPTEMBER 2016

Memorials:

Addie Rolands: Clothes Closet \$20, Bell Tower \$25,
Good Samaritan \$35, Cemetery \$20, Alter Guild \$5,
Mission Quilters \$5, General Fund \$50

Milford Helgeson: Clothes Closet \$10

John Kloster: Alter Guild (pouring chalices) \$170

Harold Groe: Cemetery \$10, Alter Guild \$5

Funerals:

Adeline "Addie" Rolands

Milford Helgson

Baptisms:

Keaton Jerry Flo

New Members:

Zacharia and Amber Crail and Faith

October Prayer Families

October 2: Leroy Brackey, Mark and Barb Brackey, Michael Brackey, Pam Brackey, Paul Brackey, Shirley Brackey, Spenser and Ashley Brackey family, Stephanie Brackey, Tyler Brackey

October 9: Vance and Kimberly Brackey, Wayne Brackey, Heather Brainerd, David and Lori Brekken, Grant Brekken, Jacob Brekken, Jason Brekken, Peter Brekken

October 16: Anthony and Amanda Brezina family, Daniel Bromley, Margie Brones, William Brooks, Carlie Brue, Gary and Laurie Brue, Peter Brue, Rhoda Brue

October 23: Douglas and Shannon Bruhns, Thelma Brunsvold, Brian and Jill Budach family, Christine Budach family, Gavin Budach, Ashley Burke, Zachary and Olivia Burtis family

October 30: Tammy Butler family, Dawn Butterfield family, Brook Byars family, Janice Canny, Thomas and Nicole Canny, Brianna and Tanner Carolus, Sharon Casey

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2016 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 2016 is \$83.

**Available dates are:
December 25**

October Volunteers

Sunday 9:00 Worship

- 2** Communion Servers: Larry and Helen Rice
Reader: Roy Kvale
Ushers: Lyle and Orlou Thompson
- 9** Reader: Connie Sabin
Ushers: Lyle and Orlou Thompson
- 16** Communion Servers: Larry and Helen Rice
Reader: Lexi Groe
Ushers: Lyle and Orlou Thompson
- 23** Reader: Margaret Okland
Ushers: Lyle and Orlou Thompson
- 30** Reader: Carlton Shaw
Ushers: Lyle and Orlou Thompson

SALEM WOMEN of the ELCA

Altar Guild

Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 7:00 pm

Mission Quilters

Monday, Oct. 10 at 1:00pm

WELCA Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 20 at 2:00pm

Hostess: Rhoda Circle

Program: Grace Circle

Altar Guild for October

Medara Winter, Candy Hanna

Communion Schedule

Sundays, Oct. 2, 16

Saturdays, Oct. 1, 15

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, Oct. 26

Lake Mills Care Center

Birthdays: Sarah Circle

Program: Hannah Circle

Confirmation

Beginning Wednesday, October 5th, the Confirmation class time will be changing. Class will be held after school from 2:30 to 4:00. There will no longer be a meal served. Confirmation students are also asked to be at Faith Formation on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30. They will be meeting in the library.



The seventh grade confirmation students are pictured above with the school kits that they put together for Lutheran World Relief.

Prayer Pals

We are looking for people who are willing to pair up with our Confirmation students! Your role would be to support, encourage and pray for them. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Rhonda Harmon at 641-590-0256. There is also a sign up sheet in the narthex. Thank you for your assistance!

October/November Confirmation Schedule

October 5: Class 2:30-4:00

November 2: Food Scavenger Hunt

October 12: Class 2:30-4:00

November 4: Field Trip

October 19: Class 2:30-4:00

November 9: Class 2:30-4:00

October 26: Class 2:30-4:00

November 12: Food Packing Event

November 16: Class 2:30-4:00

November 23: No class

November 30: Class 2:30-4:00

Faith Formation Reminder

Faith Formation is Sundays at 9:45am. Children meet in the chapel for songs, videos and a short lesson before dividing into small groups for games and crafts.

The Faith Formation Worship Service begins at 10:30.

Everyone is welcome!!!

If your child will not be attending the worship service, please plan to pick them up inside the church, at the entrance to the chapel, at 10:30.

Volunteers Needed

The Board of Ed is looking for volunteers to help with Faith Formation on Sunday mornings, from 9:45-10:30. All instructions and supplies will be provided! Please contact the office or any Board of Ed or Board of Youth member if you would be willing to help. There will also be a signup sheet on Sundays at Faith Formation.

Clothes Closet

The Good Samaritan committee is asking for donations to the Clothes Closet located at Salem. We are in need of new socks and underwear at this time. If shopping is difficult for you, we will also accept gift cards/cash for the committee to shop for needs. All donations can be left in the office. Thank you for your generous support of the Good Samaritan Ministry!

Ride Services

Senior citizens that are in need of a ride to church on Sundays can call the church office (641-592-1771) and a ride will be arranged for you. Leave a message if there is no answer.

If you would be willing to give rides, contact the church office, or there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Communion

Sending of Communion is the third Sunday of each month. Please call the office (641-592-1771) if you would like to receive communion at home on Sunday, October 16th.

Care Giver's Support Group

Tuesday, October 11th 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.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a shared ministry between One in Christ, Our Savior's and Salem. Pastor Randy is looking to begin a new training class of Stephen Ministers. If you think God is calling you to share your gifts of caring, please consider becoming a Stephen Minister and give Pastor Randy a call at 641-590-0727.

Benefits of Stephen Ministry Training- "I learned so many wonderful lessons in Stephen Ministry training, but the one that had the biggest impact on me is process versus results. I am a businessman who has always been 100% results-oriented. Stephen Ministry taught me the importance of the process and letting God bring about the results. I can't always control the outcome. Now I know I don't have to. What a relief!" - Robert, Mobile AL

Understanding Grief and Loss

Sponsored by Hospice of North Iowa

This is a six week program for adults grieving a death. Space is limited and registration is required. FREE!

Call 1-800-297-4719 to register



Fall 2016 Schedule:

6 consecutive Fridays

October 7-November 11

10:00am–noon

HNI conference room

232 2nd St SE

Mason City

Salem Lutheran Church

401 South Lake Street

Lake Mills, IA 50450

Non-Profit Organization

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