



# Salem Lutheran Church

## OUTREACH

### September 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**

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**Helen Rice, Church Secretary**

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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).

“When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and not small tempest raged, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned” (Acts 27:20).

In the book of Acts, the Apostle Paul describes a harrowing journey that just didn’t go according to plan. They encountered a storm, a shipwreck, a near death experience; that all led to an unexpected act of hospitality, opportunity for healing and evangelism (Acts 27:13-28:10).

This is the last of four articles written with nautical themes. They have included one of my favorite verses from Jeremiah and the subtitle “Let’s Get On Board.” In the story from Acts, we have a group who at one point tries to abandon ship, throw some overboard. I wonder who would have boarded the ship had they known how difficult the journey was going to be? Reading the story, one begins to recognize the fear and confusion; some want to abandon ship and even throw others overboard. It echoes the story of Jonah in some ways, or the fears of the disciples during the storm on Galilee. Often when storms rage God’s plans for our welfare and not harm and a future with hope, can only be seen in hindsight.

Paul offers encouragement in the face of the storm, “Do not be afraid...God has granted safety to all who are sailing with you...keep up your courage...for I have faith in God.” On the fourteenth day of the storm Paul, “took bread; and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat” clearly echoing Eucharistic themes. The metaphor of ships as vessels, where the communities of

faith are gathered to weather the storms of life, are to be found in scripture, song and the faithful breaking bread together. A worshiping community, like passengers on a ship, inevitably encounter times of turbulence, through prayers, mutual encouragement, and the breaking bread; together sharing our faith in God, we weather life's storms.

Always one to collect more ship metaphors, as I was studying Proverbs this week and I came across this; “Proverbs 1:2-7 sets forth the purpose of the entire book. Here is instruction for the young, but also for senior citizens (verses 4-5), teaching the art of “steersmanship” (1:5, NRSV “skill”). Proverbs aims to provide instruction on how to navigate the ship of life through the sea of the world with its delights and dangers.” (Workingpreacher.org – James Limburg).

We are all in this together, young and old alike. We are all in the same boat. With the boat as metaphor for the church we are called, to get on board. All hands on deck. It’s full steam ahead. It might not be all smooth sailing, but Jesus calls us to worship and serve, and God has promised a future filled with hope.

“You have come down to the lake shore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only asking for me to follow. Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes; kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name...On the sand I have abandoned my small boat; now with you I will seek other seas” (ELW #817).

Shalom

Pastor Joel

## **Update from the Council**

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

**Secretary's Report:** No correspondence was received.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike reported a checking account balance at the end of July of \$31,101.86. Total income for the month was \$23,168.01 and expenses were \$23,391.41.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Deb reported that giving for the month of July was \$22,951. The difference year-to- date is down \$15,421. This is attributed to July 2015 including the "Starting Strong" amount collected for that month. So this is not an equal comparison from year-to- year. Since August 2016 will be the first month for the "Staying Strong" campaign, Deb will keep the council apprised of the collection periodically throughout the campaign period via email. It was moved by Willie and seconded by Roy to accept the financial reports. All approved.

**Board of Worship and Music:** Bruce reported that beginning August 21 the 9:00 AM worship time will change back to 8:30 AM with the radio broadcast being live. Beginning September 10, the Wednesday service will be moved to Saturday. The Altar Guild approached the board to change the delivery of communion wine to the pouring chalice method. This would require the Altar Guild purchasing two chalices. The cost of these chalices can be as high as \$1500 each, but it was requested to spend \$561 per chalice made of silver. Wayne motioned for the Altar Guild to go ahead and purchase two silver chalices for \$561 each and move to the pouring chalice method of communion. Willie seconded the motion. All approved.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Wayne and Roy reported that they are looking ahead to the annual stewardship drive. They would like to hold only one Temple Talk instead of multiple ones. They also mentioned

the board is looking at the “Social Ministry” side of their duties. This will be discussed further. They will also be visiting with the Board of Life and Growth to discuss whether it makes sense to combine these two boards together.

**Board of Education:** Stephanie reported that the board met with the Board of Worship and Music about transforming Sunday School into Faith-Formation. This would entail themed Sundays that allows all members of Salem to work together in learning each theme throughout the year. It has been referred to as a “cross-generational” learning experience. Beginning September 11, 8:30 service would recommence followed by 9:45 Faith Formation and concluding with 10:30 Cross-Generational service. Pastor Joel motioned to begin this new style of learning and worship and seconded by Bruce with a VBS redo. All approved.

**Board of Youth:** No report.

**Board of Life and Growth:** Willie reported that they are in the process of organizing individuals to provide transportation to Salem members who are unable to drive themselves to church. She also mentioned that the board would like to reinstate “Prayer Pals” and start with the confirmation students.

**Board of Property and Management:** Scott reported on behalf of Steve. The insurance policy was reviewed and they cyber insurance was deleted from the policy as Salem does not use ‘the cloud.’ The board also expressed their trust in Brad Evenson’s opinion on what is needed for the sound system.

**Lead Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Joel reported that he has been in communication with Pastors Randy and Bill regarding 5 th quarters this fall. Middle school will be held at Salem and high school will be held at Pastor Bill’s residence. Confirmation will begin with parent orientation September 7. The Middle School Lock-in at UNI will be an opportunity for participation in October. In November, we have the opportunity to participate in the Conference Mobile Pack during Nov. 10-12.

**Associate Pastor’s Report:** Written report submitted.

### **Update from the Council continued**

**Communication Director's Report:** The digital sign still continues to have issues. Ashley will continue trying to resolve the issues with the sign company. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Bruce to accept the above reports. All approved.

**Old Business:** Scott requested that Council review Constitution Article 14 that outlines the Staff Management Committee. Council will determine at a future monthly meeting to decide if it should be removed from the bylaws and presented to the congregation at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Terry Seedorf has agreed to be the grant writer for Salem. Wayne moved to accept her as Salem's grant writer with a second by Mike. All approved.

**New Business:** The Executive Committee met and conferred regarding the Associate Pastor position. Roy moved to issue the Associate Pastor position to Melinda McCluskey. She will be on a 2/3 part-time position and to be brought before the congregation for a final vote. Mike seconded the motion. All approved. In addition, the compensation package will follow Synod guidelines. Pastor Melinda will continue as her position has been, so nothing essentially will change with the Associate Pastor position. Bruce motioned to accept the compensation package as outlined by Synod guidelines and seconded by Brad. All approved. Deb motioned to call Melinda McCluskey as Salem's Associate Pastor on October 2, 2016 following the 8:30 worship service. Wayne seconded with Council approval. The Board of Education and Board of Youth are going to begin talks about combining these two boards and report back to Council on or before the November meeting. Custodial fees will change from \$30 for weddings and from \$50 for receptions to \$100 for each. These fees will be paid directly to the custodial staff and not to Salem. It was moved by Roy and seconded by Wayne to make these fee changes. All approved. It was moved by Mike to remove from membership Brian Myli and Jon Sterrenberg. In addition, Salem is to transfer Susan Ashley to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Austin, MN. Bruce seconded the motion. All approved. A motion to adjourn was made by Mike and seconded by Wayne. All approved. The next regular council meeting will be September 12. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Throne

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## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 2, 2016

The purpose of this meeting is to vote for the call of Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey as Associate Pastor (2/3 time) at Salem Lutheran Church.

### AGENDA

Call to Order

Confirmation of a Quorum

Vote to extend a call to Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey as Associate Pastor at Salem Lutheran Church

Vote on the compensation package for the associate pastor position

Adjournment

### **SALEM RECORDS AUGUST 2016**

**Memorials:** Orian and Elaine Aamodt: \$2286 for new coffee maker

Sterling Sanden: Library Remodel \$20, Good Samaritan \$10, Clothes Closet \$35, Sunday School  
\$25

Joseph Kuriger: Cemetery \$40

Ernie Langerud: Cemetery \$5

Harlan Evenson: Cemetery \$5

**Funerals:** Harold "Harry" Groe, Lovenea Groe

**Baptisms:** Hazel Kay Myers

**Statistical Adjustment:** Brian Myli, Jon Sterrenberg

## **September Prayer Families**

**September 4** Khrystyne Bendickson, Steven Bendickson, Justin and Brittany Benjegerdes Family, Allan Benson, Craig Benson, Dana Benson

**September 11** Callie Bergan, David and Shelly Bergan, Katie Bergan, Robert and Sheila Berger Family, Janet Bergo, Jamie Bergo

**September 18** Jim Bergo, Krista Bergo Family, Stacy Bergo Family, Timothy Bergo, Carolyn Bethke, Allison Bezanson

**September 25** Patricia Bitker, Mark and Melissa Bjorkland, Katherine Blomgren, Kathy Borgmeyer Family, Arlys Brackey, Claire and Phyllis Brackey

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:**

**December 4**

## September Volunteers

### Sunday 9:00 Worship

- 4** Communion Servers: Connie Sabin, Sharon Johnson  
Reader: Pam Brackey  
Ushers: Jim and Doris Tweed
- 11** Reader: Harris Honsey  
Ushers: Board of Worship and Music
- 18** Communion Servers: Board of Worship and Music  
Reader: Ryan Knudtson  
Ushers: Board of Worship and Music
- 25** Reader: Casey Shaw

## SALEM WOMEN of the ELCA

### Altar Guild

Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7:00 pm

### Mission Quilters

Monday, Sept. 12 at 1:00pm

### WELCA Guest Day

Thursday, Sept. 15 at 11:30am

Hostess: Serving Committee

Program: Officers

### Altar Guild for August

Joan Kloster, Phyllis Moen

### Communion Schedule

Sundays, Sept. 4, 18

Saturday, Sept. 17

### Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, Sept. 28

### Lake Mills Care Center

Birthdays: Miriam Circle

Program: Rhoda Circle





## **WHAT HAPPENED TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE SECOND SERVICE AND WHATS THIS TALK ABOUT FAITH FORMATION?**

There is a lot of buzz about what is happening with Sunday School and the second worship service at Salem this fall. We learned at our last meeting someone received a text from a concerned member that the pastors are saying we will no longer have Sunday School. Let us assure you, Pastor Melinda and Pastor Joel spent a full day in retreat away from any other distractions to focus on the future of youth and family ministry this month, accessing our resources, sharing our stories and getting to know our strengths and challenges as we look to our future. There have been a lot of meetings, emails, texts, Facebook posts and conversations about our future and that only reminds us how important this is to so many. So let us share a bit more about what's happening.

Pastor Joel spent time with Pastor Randy Baldwin to talk about how we will "Co-lab-orate" (that's the name of the new confirmation program we will be using) jointly with the One In Christ Parish, this fall. After our last weekly staff meeting Pastor Melinda prepared a mailing to our sixth, seventh and eighth grade students informing them of upcoming classes, acolyte training, and activities we can all take part in. In the office Helen is inputting all the dates of our upcoming events and activities on the monthly calendar and coordinating with Ashley Hoffman who is communicating to all on Facebook, our website and – only sometimes helpful – electronic sign.

With the help of the Chair of Property & Management, Steve Nelson, our superb custodial staff, Linda & Curtis Graham and Lyle & Orloue Thompson, the chapel is being prepared for our new/old Saturday Worship beginning September 10, 2016 at 5:30 PM, and together with Bruce Adams, Board Chair of Worship and Stephanie Steffens, Board Chair of Education, a new combined worship and learning opportunity will be offered on Sundays beginning Rally Sunday. Linda and Curtis are also coordinating the cleaning, painting, removal and storage of unused stuff preparing classrooms for Rally Sunday.

The first five weeks will be an offering of Summer VBS ReDo "Cave Quest." Beginning September 11, we will gather at 9:45 in the Chapel before breaking out into stations where we will learn how, Jesus gives us Hope,

Courage, Direction, Love and Power. Pastor Joel spent an afternoon building stalagmites with building debris from his basement. Some of us have already experienced this VBS program in our weeklong participation in the program at Winnebago this summer. The Board of Youth and Board of Education has been meeting jointly to see how we will – together – pass on our faith and what we know to be true about our loving God to the next generation. If the first five weeks go well, we will use this model for the coming year. We all can be grateful for all the hard work, prayer and coordination this is all taking. If it doesn't work it won't be because we didn't try!

Our last combined meeting was exciting and hopeful as we worked together to try this “new thing.” It requires the Boards of Worship and Youth, in fact the staff and all our leadership working together. The Board of Youth and the Board of Education is looking to merging its leadership, setting new goals simplifying its mission to utilize all the resources we have available to enrich and equip youth and families to live faithfully in these changing times. It will require us to be faithful, prayerful, listening to God and each other as we move forward.

We are discovering what we have always done is no longer working. If it was working there would be no need to change it. It's what growing numbers of churches are coming to understand. In some circles, this “new thing” is being called “faith formation” and it happens not just in one hour in Sunday School classrooms, on occasion, with only a very small segment of our members. It happens in all our homes and on mission trips, on retreats and in the variety of worship, learning, serving and fellowship activities. We model in Church what we hope to practice in homes the rest of the week.

What we do in worship and education, fellowship and service, will not be the answer to all of life's questions or the key to solving all of life's challenges. The hope is, that all we do together at Salem provides us with a rich resource for living out our faith everywhere, all the time, in every circumstance. A wise leader of youth and family ministries at the synodical level, who was also an active member in her own congregation and a mother of grown children and grandmother as well, once gave some wise advice, “Our job is not to be successful. Our job is to be faithful. If we are not faithful; will we ever be successful?” If we were to go way back....before programs and

Faith Formation continued...

committees, curriculums, Sunday School Superintendents, teachers, consultants and paid professionals...there was one common vision that Moses received from God and shared with God's people. It's called the Shema (Hebrew for the word "Hear" or listen). If you know the tradition in some Jewish homes, these six verses are stuck in a little box called a "mezuzah" and affixed to the door." 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. 6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. 7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, 9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:4-10).

It's the simple and yet challenging thing we are called to be and do as a community of faith. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, he recited this passage of scripture and then added, "love your neighbor as well." For centuries loving God and neighbor and always reflecting that love to one's children, everywhere from sunup to sundown, was the way faith was formed. It's pretty simple and yet very challenging! So what we are doing is not new, just difficult, and it was actually introduced to Salem on a Rally Sunday back in 2012 where the theme was "Introduction/Education@Worship," led with the help of David Anderson, from Vibrant Faith Ministries. So this is not new...just challenging....and you can learn more about it at on the websites of two organizations that have been working in this changing field of Faith Formation for a long time [www.vibrantfaith.org](http://www.vibrantfaith.org) and [www.faith5.org](http://www.faith5.org). We invite you to join in any of the conversations we are having and will be having in the coming months. The best way to learn what is happening is to become involved.

*"Faith Formation is more than a subject to be taught- it is an invitation to a way of life."*

## Middle School Lock-In

October 14-15

UNI Wellness Center, Cedar Falls, IA

## Loving Our Neighbors

Mark your calendars for October 14-15 to attend the annual lock-in for Middle School and Junior High from the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The event includes worship, recreation, food, and lots of fun and fellowship!



This year's focus is on loving your neighbor and how we serve those around us. Bring a non-perishable food item to support the UNI student food pantry! Register by September 30th.

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## SEPTEMBER CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

September 7th: 7/8th Parent Meeting at 6:00-7:30pm

September 15th: 8th grade Acolyte Training at 2:15pm

7/8th grade Confirmation and Meal 4:00-5:30pm

September 21st: 6/7th grade Acolyte Training at 2:15pm

7/8th grade Confirmation and Meal 4:00-5:30pm

September 28th: 7/8th grade Confirmation and Meal 4:00-5:30pm

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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!

## Stephen Ministry Announcement

When was the last time someone really listened to you? We're talking about that undistracted, full attention kind of listening. That's one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others. We need more Stephen Ministers to care for those who are making that long journey through the valley of a life crisis. Will you consider serving your Lord and your neighbor in this way. If so, please contact Pastor Randy at 641-590-0727 and when we have enough to start a new class, we will. Stephen Ministry is a shared ministry between One in Christ, Our Savior's and Salem.

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## Hospice of North Iowa Volunteer Training

Hospice of North Iowa will hold Volunteer Training for new volunteers in September at the TSB Bank (101 Hwy 69N) in Forest City. The training will be held from 9:30am to 4:00pm on two Saturdays, September 10th and 17th and Mondays, September 19th from 9:30-noon. The class is free of charge and open to the public. Those completing the class will be eligible to apply to serve as a hospice volunteer, however participants are under no obligation. Men and women are especially needed in smaller communities. Pre-registration is required by calling Steph at 641-428-6236 or 1-800-297-4719.

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## Care Giver's Support Group

### Tuesday, September 13th 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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## Custodial Fees

At the August 8th council meeting, custodial fees were updated.

Custodial fees will change from \$30 for weddings and from \$50 for receptions to \$100 for each. These fees will be paid directly to the custodial staff, not to Salem.

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## 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!

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## Fellowship Event

Sunday, September 18th

Showtime 2:00pm

Cost is \$63 per person and will include bus, sack lunch, ticket and buffet dinner on the way home.

Bus leaves from Silver Lake Lutheran Church

Call Kathy at 641-590-1180

Or email [kathykreuscher@gmail.com](mailto:kathykreuscher@gmail.com)

## A Message from LSI

### **Direct Support Professionals Week**

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is often both a demanding and meaningful role. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which these professionals help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives.

At LSI, direct support professionals partner with children and adults with intellectual disabilities to help them pursue personal goals, and they also provide care for children and youth at our Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers.

This could mean helping an adult with autism live on her own or helping a child who was abused begin to heal. We thank you for your faithful support of LSI – you create so many new possibilities for children, families and adults!

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](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

### **Modern Family**

From the outside, the single-story house in Muscatine is similar to others on the street. But this house is different.

There is a state-of-the-art lift system that runs on the ceiling, with stops in every room, bathroom, and bed in the house. There are extra-wide doorways, an accessible whirlpool bath, and a kitchen island designed for wheelchair access.

And there are a few extra people. LSI staff provide 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-per-week assistance to the five residents, who have a range of physical and intellectual disabilities. But here, assistance doesn't look the way you'd think.

"The goal of Harmony House was to create as much independence as possible for each resident. The house is designed for it", says Cathy Hahn, mother of resident Jeffrey, and one of the community partners who advocated and fundraised for the 2008 construction of the house, which is owned by the Muscatine Welfare Association. These are adults, and we wanted a place where they'd be treated like adults."

Staff interact with the residents as equals. To the extent they are able, residents control their schedules, deciding when and what they will eat and how to spend their free time.

"I've been in three group homes," says resident Christopher. "They were crowded and I couldn't do individualized stuff. I had to eat at certain times, and I didn't go many places. When I first got here, I thought, 'Wow. I like this.'"

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### Living Waters Conference in partnership with Feed My Starving Children

Is hosting a mobile pack event this fall. We invite you to participate by fundraising, praying for the event, and participating in packing food that will bring hope to those in need.

November 10, 11 and 12 at the Cedar River Events Center located at the Mitchell County Fairgrounds, in Osage.

The church community is asked to help raise the funds to make this happen. At just 22 cents per meal, \$80 will feed a child for a year. \$50 buys an entire box of meals. \$1.55 feed a child for a week.

For more information contact:

Julie Kretzschmar, event coordinator

641-326-1215 or [stpetermpack@gmail.com](mailto:stpetermpack@gmail.com)

\*These meals have reached 70 countries around the world!

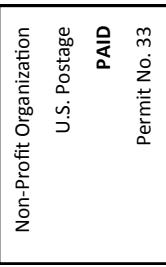
\*Volunteers hand pack the meals!

\*More than 50% of volunteers are under 18!

**Salem Lutheran Church**

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Lake Mills, IA 50450



LABEL