



Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

September 2017

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

Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

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

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

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.

A Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson...

I have been spending most of the day with making lesson plans for the first six weeks of Confirmation Class which will be starting on September 13th. We have a number of activities planned for youth and faith formation in the coming year. I met with Kathy Nelson yesterday about the Creature Choir and Senior Choir starting up in the coming month as well. Jennifer Sauer has been preparing the last few days for Rally Sunday. Willie Skellenger has met with the pastor's and leadership of the One in Christ Parish about some exciting activities celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation to include possibly at big combined Reformation Worship service and fellowship meal in October/November.

Mike Swenson is helping to set up a meeting with our Lutheran Planned Giving Services Director. This a free, ongoing consulting service of the ELCA, that offers resources and advice to Lutheran nonprofits such as schools, bible camps, churches, seminaries and universities, enabling advice for both givers and benefactors as people do estate planning. Stewardship is beginning a review of our membership roster, thinking about how to welcome new members and re-engage members who we have not seen in a while. They will also sponsor a noisy offering on Rally Sunday to raise monies for our Lake Mills Ambulance Service. The Good Samaritan Ministry met last night to review requests for assistance and is working on some best practices and procedures to assure good stewardship and accountability of the funds we distribute.

Melinda and I have been meeting with three couples preparing for marriage and a family for baptisms and a host of other visits as well. We have two households that have inquired about membership. Effective ministry is happening everywhere, all the time and for that we can be thankful! There is even more going on than I have shared and that's because we have an increased amount of enthusiasm for our future and more can and is being done around here than I can keep track of and thank God for that!

I just got back from a two-day staffing seminar at Luther Seminary's Center for Lifelong Learning. It was an exceptional class offering twelve hours of lectures, small group discussion, role playing and personal reflection about set personal leadership goals, encourage and equip individual goals for each of our staff as well as group staff goals, that all align with the congregation and council's vision mission and long-range goals. I learned a lot of practical advice that now I

need to figure out with councils help how to put all that into practice. My hope and prayer is that our work with Kairos and the Joshua Group will have a role in that process in the coming year.

While attending the seminar this past week I could stay with my son, his wife and our grandson, who is now eighteen months old. It dawned on me that he was born about six weeks before my first interview here at Salem. His rapidly changing growth is in sync with my time here at Salem. He is now talking, moving about and growing up fast. So much is happening, so incredibly fast, and with all the changes how do we stay grounded and yet learn to be flexible and adapt to our always changing surroundings? Children seem to do it almost instinctively and yet there are faithful people who accompany them. I wonder if we don't on occasion need that accompaniment as well.

As an aside; I had a break for lunch on Monday and as I stood in line in the seminary's cafeteria, in front of me was the whole faculty from Wartburg Seminary. At first, I was confused as to which seminary I was at! Why was the whole faculty of Wartburg at Luther? Greeting some of my old professors, I learned they were all at Luther for a staff retreat and their speakers were from Hamline University and Luther Seminary. They needed some outside help and decided to all come to Luther to discuss and reflect on the new direction they will be taking as they raise up and train pastors for the future church.

This will be a huge paradigm shift for my alma mater, that for over a hundred and fifty years has prided itself for being known as the strongest community based seminary of the eight ELCA seminaries. This quote is taken from their website: "Wartburg is a distinctive worship-centered community where students gather to live, learn, and worship together, centered in Christ. Formation and learning in community prepares graduates to be sent out to serve the church." They are now being challenged by decreased enrolment and learning how to retain that strong sense of community while becoming more adept at media and online learning is now a part of their future planning and they know they need outside help to do this new thing well.

Wartburg's current president was an exceptional classmate one year ahead of me in seminary. As she was newly elected and called to lead Wartburg Seminary into the future. She has stated, "We know that the Holy Spirit is calling us to change, to broaden our leadership, to reduce our debt, to increase our

capacity and diversity of our leaders.” (President Louise N. Johnson).

As was called to serve New Jerusalem 18 months ago my first articles lifted up the verse that has guided me through the discernment to this current call, “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 29:11). My first few contributions to the newsletter shared my thoughts about this verse as I shared stories about how boats have been part of my story and an early image of the church. Those articles are posted on our website.

In about an hour our President Scott Hagenson will be meeting with me to share his contribution to the monthly newsletter, sharing his thoughts about our plans to work with the Rev. Dr. Bob Driver-Bishop of Kairos and Associates. We know our culture is in the midst of change and the Church is as well. But the Holy Spirit continues to inspire and equip us in new and creative ways. The Lord still has plans for us and we do have a future filled with hope. This promise is what energizes me to come to work, and to worship, and tithe, attend lots of meetings. It gets me behind my computer to write sermons and make lesson plans and draft letters and write emails. It causes me to read a lot, and pray a lot, and take classes, have conversations with many of you, and mostly give thanks for a staff and council and congregation, that might be a bit tentative to take this next step into the future, but has continued to be responsive to the journey we have taken together thus far. So thank you and I encourage you all to enter into this process of discernment as we live into this future the Lord has in store for us together.

Shalom

Pastor Joel

A Message from President, Scott Hagenson...

Members of Salem,

As we enter into the fall season, I want to take this time to inform and reflect on the happenings at Salem and what the church council has been addressing. It has been a busy summer at Salem with the noon lunch program five days a week for the youth in our community, quilting, many committee meetings, as well as the regular monthly council meetings. During this time our staff has been busy with a week-long day camp, book club, and even Pas-

tor Joel spending five days at bible camp with our confirmation-age students. Our staff has also provided many hours providing ministerial care for many in our congregation, as well as some community members and a few visitors to our community in need of assistance and sought out Salem as a place to get help.

One of the many highlights of summer worship was the return of the Sunday 10:30 a.m. outdoor worship service under the tree. The attendance at all three weekend services has been typical of summer worship attendance (down some from the normal attendance of the school months during the rest of the year). With attendance being down, we did have to dip into our savings account for \$20,000 to help cover normal expenses. The previous two years, council asked for special giving to help cover expenses, but this year council decided to take from savings to fill the void. I am happy to report the giving is not down, but is on pace with the last two years and even slightly up; we just did not have special giving requests to cover expenses. We hope that as fall starts and attendance returns, so will the giving. Thank you to those that have continued to give offerings this summer, and thank you in advance to those that will remember Salem in the coming months with your financial gifts as the year proceeds.

When I was elected to the council 3½ years ago, we entered into some major fact-finding and planning for Salem with Interim Pastor Scott Duffus. Three major priorities were established then; (1) begin healing for Salem members and establishing trust between council and congregation members, (2) calling a new lead pastor to lead Salem into the future to include change both internally and externally, and (3) find a solution for our current building's heating/cooling inefficiency and how we could use the building's space in a more purposeful way for Salem in the next 50 plus years. I believe we have come a long way as a church in these past 3½ years. Council has worked to be very transparent with the congregation, and in turn, many members have stepped up and are taking steps to be part of the Salem family again. While I know that some may still be questioning the past, many have moved on and are trying to accept and be part of the changes that have taken place. One thing I want to remind everyone is that many of the issues that challenge Salem challenge many churches in this nation.

Salem was blessed in early 2016 with the calling of Pastor Joel Guttormson as

our lead pastor! Pastor Joel has brought a fresh view with him and has worked hard to maintain our traditions and customs at Salem. In addition, Pastor Joel has worked very hard to get to know our congregation members and be part of our community with his wife Nancy! This past year, the council asked Pastor Joel to spend more time trying to be involved with and get more involvement from the younger families in our congregation. He has done this in many ways: a week long day camp for children at Salem; attending a week of bible camp with confirmation students; and working actively with the Board of Education and Youth in changing the Sunday school program that is now called Faith Formation. These changes have been met with some challenges. Pastor Joel has worked with parents and the board to make faith formation something that will grow and provide a new style of ministry for our youth and their families! It is Council's hope that more young families will participate and be an active part of Salem's future.

The third priority is our current building. Two years ago council members started talking about options that could be done to improve building efficiencies, both in delivering our mission and making usable space that would be cost effective for many decades to come. At the January 2017 Salem annual meeting, Steve Nelson, chairman of Property and Management, presented four options to the congregation: (1) remove the entire educational unit and offices and build a new structure; (2) remodel and renovate existing educational unit and offices; (3) build a stand-alone building east of the sanctuary (where playground currently is) and remove the educational unit; and (4) do nothing and just fix as needed.

The congregation instructed Council to appoint an exploratory committee and report back which option seemed most beneficial for Salem's needs going forward. The committee was established and after a few meetings with a church building consultant, they reported back to council that Option 1 was, in their opinion, the best choice based on usable space and costs in both building and going forward with maintenance for years to come.

The council then appointed an exploratory financial committee to explore options for Salem to finance a change in our building. After the first meeting of this group, it was decided that council should meet with Bob Driver-Bishop of Kairos and Associates. After two meetings with Bob and each council member having a chance to discuss what Bob's group could offer Salem, the council

voted at the August council meeting to enter into an 18-month agreement with Bob and the Joshua Group (a sub-group of Kairos) to help Salem's leaders and congregation make an educated decision about our future mission and what a plan may include for our future building needs. The cost of the 18-month contract is \$25,000.00.

The money to pay for this contract will come from the estate of Phyllis Schatt. Phyllis gave Salem \$47,000.00 to be used as directed by council, but did want the money spent and not put into savings. The Salem council discussed at great length about spending the \$25,000.00 for the outside help. It was decided that we need a third party to help us with Salem's future by evaluating our mission and what facilities are needed to provide this mission most effectively. Bob's group has vast experience helping churches both large and small across the United States with planning their futures. This group will come to Salem and hold meetings to listen to our member concerns, as well as dreams. They will work with staff, leadership, and various other committees in setting the direction for Salem for many years to come.

It is the hope of the council that at our 2018 annual meeting, we will be able to share with the congregation many of Bob's team findings and ideas for our future. The team's work does not stop then, but continues to help staff and leadership move forward with many ideas, programs, and the growing of Salem internally as well as externally! I understand there may be concerns of spending the money and hiring this company, but your council wants to keep Salem moving forward in this ever-changing world of the church. The council will have an understanding of what the Joshua Group will do for us and how they will go about their job. We feel this guidance is needed to help staff and leadership in making and implementing decisions for our future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or any other council member. We want, and need, input from the congregation. I would ask that everyone keep Salem in your prayers as we all keep moving forward in a positive direction!!!!

Scott Hagensen, President Salem Council

Update from the Council...

President Scott Hagenson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Members present: Pastor Joel, Steve Nelson, Wayne VanVedhuizen, Ashley Hoffman, Kathy Chose, Mike Swenson, Brad Evenson, Willie Skellenger, Stephanie Steffens and Linda Helgeson. In his devotions Pastor Joel talked about treasuring church membership as a gift.

Secretary's Report: Mike made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Deb, approved by all.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported month end balance of: \$27,343.33. Total income for June: \$20,687.91 with expenses of: \$29,053.04. He noted that a bill for the elevator was an unusual expense for the month. He further noted that giving is still down due to the summer months. Benevolent giving was discussed. An emergency help policy needs to be discussed and drawn up.

Financial Secretary Report: Steve made the motion to accept both the treasurer and financial reports. Seconded by Brad and approved by all.

Board of Worship and Music: The outside services will continue through Rally Sunday on Sept. 10. They are looking for a person to be in charge of the music for 2nd service this fall. They thanked Yvonne Back for playing for the outside services this summer. They are also trying to organize more than one praise team and working on usher schedules.

Board of Stewardship: Roy Kvale had to resign for health reasons and they decided to wait to fill his position in case the board combines with the Life and Growth Board. They will be having a Noisy Offering on Sept. 10 to benefit the LM Ambulance Service. They are working on the membership list for the congregation to try and make it more accurate. They are looking at a "Friend of Salem" category for people that we no longer have contact information. This will be put on the agenda and discussed next month.

Board of Youth: Asked about how much time was left on the terms of their board members. They could use some more help. August 20 they are planning the "Blessing of the backpacks". Sept. 10 will be Rally Sunday for Sunday School. Need volunteers to help run the games planned. This fall they will be having the 2nd grade and young children sing in church once a month. Three year olds will get a Whirl Bible on Rally Sunday. Faith Formation will start Sept. 17. Would like to plan some high school events for this fall along with 5th Quarter events for Middle School. It was also mentioned that Pastor Joel just came back from a week at

camp with some of our youth.

Board of Life and Growth: The board is planning a month long series of events in October, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Church. They are looking into some joint plans with the One in Christ Parish, to have a combined worship service and catered dinner to celebrate the Reformation. Other Sunday afternoon events for “The Month of Martin” will be announced as plans are made.

Board of Property and Management: The boiler passed inspection. A few windows are still in need of repairs. The cemetery board has some new members and had a meeting.

Lead Pastor’s Report: Pastor Joel submitted his written report and highlighted his week at Church Camp.

Associate Pastor’s Report: Pastor Melinda submitted a written report.

Wayne made the motion and Brad seconded to accept all the board’s reports. All approved.

New Business: The gift of \$47,000 from the estate of Phyllis Schat was accepted. It is to be used for the good of Salem. Mike made the motion to accept it and Steve seconded. Approved by all. It was further decided to use some of the money to get 3 new microphones – two hand held and a new headset for Pastor Melinda. They will cost about \$600 each. \$200 will also be spent to upgrade the worship computer program. Mike made the motion to allot up to \$2000 for all of these. Kathy seconded and the motion carried. The meeting with Bob Driver-Bishop was discussed. It was stressed that we are looking at the Joshua Project which is to discover Salem’s mission and vision for the future. \$25,000 fee is a consultation fee to cover 18 months of service and that he and his staff could be considered to be like another Pastor on staff. Steve made the motion that we enter into a contract with Bob Driver-Bishop for the Joshua Project. Stephanie seconded. Motion carried. Money from Phyllis Schat will be used. Putting a door between two rooms for the Community Clothes Closet was discussed but decided it wasn’t needed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brad and seconded by Wayne. All approved.

The next regular council meeting will be September 11, 2017. We closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, acting secretary, Willie Skellenger

It's 10:30 Sunday Morning and it is time for



WORSHIP SERVICES UNDER THE TREE

From June to September for many years Salem members and guests have gathered on the south side of the church property to enjoy the outdoors and the contemporary service. They are gathered in this place to enjoy the shade and beauty of an old American elm tree that just keeps getting more beautiful as the years pass. If it could talk, 'the tree' would have many stories to tell. Yes, it's much older than the church building that was built in 1919 and the education/chapel/office building that was erected in 1958.

In order to get the facts on the great tree I sat down with our Salem member expert on trees, 92 year-old Wayne Miller. Wayne points out that the elm could be between 120 and 140 years old. Wayne stated, "When our family moved to Lake Mills 62 years ago The Tree was large and already a great part of the church property. It actually shaded the lawn of the former parsonage which was moved off the property to make room for the 1658 addition. The former parsonage has stood since that time three blocks east of the church at the Northeast corner of Harrison and South Fourth Ave. East."

The American elm is not the largest tree in the community but must be placed in the "most beautiful" category. Its canopy stretches 112 feet. Its height is not that special at about 55 to 60 feet and the trunk measures 12 feet around. Its shape (canopy) is what makes it so special. How did this happen?

According to Miller, in the earlier life of the tree folks who knew what they were doing pruned it correctly.

When Miller, who just plain loves trees, took over the pruning and trimming in the '60's, he and his helpers, Jim Tweed, Vern Hagen and Dennis Madson, were determined to preserve the beauty of the tree. Miller, an Iowa State University graduate in forestry, worked in the wholesale lumber business for 35 years.

Consider how many storms have passed through in the past 120 years and yet
The Elm stands healthy and tall.

It was part of one close call some 35 years ago. Just as the ushers were lighting the candles at a wedding service the city storm warning siren blasted. A tornado passed over taking the tops off trees just two blocks east of the church but there was no damage to the old elm.

The Elm even survived the Dutch elm disease siege of the sixties. That event killed most of the elm trees in Iowa. Miller stated, "I truly believe that trees are a special gift from God and we all must share the responsibility of taking care of them. I hope someone will step up and give this special elm the care it will need in the future years."

Written by Harris Honsey



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, sign up to be notified by either phone or email. 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 kept confidential among the Prayer Chain Ministry. **Call Helen at the office at 641-592-1771 with requests.**

SALEM RECORDS August 2017

Memorials:

Cleone "Toni" Knudtson: cemetery \$70, worship and music \$25, organ fund \$30, kitchen fund \$25, library \$100, general fund \$30

Darlene Hanna: general fund \$120

Funerals:

Cleone "Toni" Knudtson

Wedding:

Molly McDonald and Michael Henderson

Reminder: The hospital does not let the church know of hospitalizations. Please let the church office know if your loved one has been hospitalized.

You Are Invited

Who: preschool thru 6th graders and their parents

What: Faith Formation registration, games, crafts and snacks

When: Sunday, September 10th

9:15am– 10:15am

Where: on the playground on the east side of the church

In case of inclement weather, we will be meeting in the chapel

Hosted by the Board of Youth

If you would be willing to help with Rally Sunday, or Faith Formation, please contact the church office or Jennifer Sauer at
641-903-1847



FAITH FORMATION

Spotlight on the Council... Heidi Obermeyer

Heidi Obermeyer, current secretary at Salem, has been a member at Salem since 1999. Prior to joining Salem, Heidi was a member at Bricelyn Lutheran Church, in Bricelyn, MN. Heidi has been active at Salem over the years including Sunday School teacher, reader, confirmation mentor, SonShine Preschool board, and now secretary. Heidi is looking forward to Salem continuing to move in a positive way towards the best needs of all it's members and the community we are in.

Heidi lives in Lake Mills and is employed at WCTA. Her son Tanner is a Junior at BVU in Storm Lake majoring in English with a Digital Media minor. Spencer is a sophomore at Iowa State, currently finishing basic training at Fort Benning, ROTC and studying environmental sciences. Kayler is a freshman at LMHS and is active in marching and concert band. Heidi loves spending time with her family and outdoor activities.



LSI Monthly Article

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.

One way LSI is empowering Iowans with disabilities is through our Respite Care program. We offer respite care for both children and adults, providing caregivers with a well-deserved break. Through respite, an individual is able to get out into his or her community and build a strong bond with a respite care provider. It's another way LSI is empowering the people we serve toward a more independent lifestyle.

We thank you for your faithful support of LSI – you create so many new life-changing possibilities for children, families and adults! If you would like to learn more about how you can support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org.

It takes a village

Jessica felt overwhelmed. She spent most of her time caregiving for her daughters, Angelique and Ariana, and she knew she needed a break. She turned to LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. Through LSI, Jessica and her family could receive respite care for the girls, which gave her some time to take a break and catch her breath. Angelique and Ariana now receive respite care from their providers, Kaitlyn and Megan. Once a month, Kaitlyn and Megan play games with the girls and get them out in their community, giving Jessica time to take care of herself.

Since last fall, Jessica has seen her daughters become more confident and independent as they've built a strong bond with their LSI caregivers. She is feeling more relaxed and in control of her parenting, and she is happy to see Angelique and Ariana find great role models in Kaitlyn and Megan.

"It was a big decision to open up and feel comfortable with respite care for the girls, but Kaitlyn and Megan have done wonderful things for them," Jessica says. "We're so appreciative for LSI's respite care, and having that resource is just wonderful."

September Volunteers

8:30 Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

- 3rd** Ushers: Larry and Helen Rice
Communion: Sue Myli and Connie Sabin
Reader: Margaret Okland
- 10th** Ushers: Larry and Helen Rice
Reader: Carlton Shaw
- 17th** Ushers: Jeff and Erin Pedersen family
Communion: Wayne and Judy Nyguard
Reader: Ryan Knudtson
- 24th** Ushers: Jeff and Erin Pedersen family
Reader: Elijah Stene

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2017 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 2017 is \$83.

Available dates are:
October 29

Salem Women of the ELCA

Altar Guild

Tuesday, Sept. 5th at 7:00 pm

Altar Guild for September

Shelly Hagenson, Sharon
Johnson, Pat Young

Mission Quilters

Monday, Sept. 11th at 1:00pm

WELCA Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 21st at 11:30 am

WELCA guest day

Hostess: serving committee

Program: officers

Communion Schedule

Sundays, Sept. 3rd and 17th (8:30)

Sundays, Sept. 3rd, 10th, 17th and
24th (10:30)

Saturdays, Sept. 2nd and 16th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, Sept. 30th

Birthdays: Miriam Circle

Program: Grace Circle

Summer Worship Schedule

Saturdays:

Casual worship at 5:30 pm in the lounge

Sundays:

Traditional service at 8:30am in the sanctuary

Coffee fellowship at 9:30am in the fellowship hall

Outdoor worship service at 10:30am on the south lawn

Contemporary worship begins September 17th at 10:30am in the
sanctuary

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

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