

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

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Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

February 2018

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

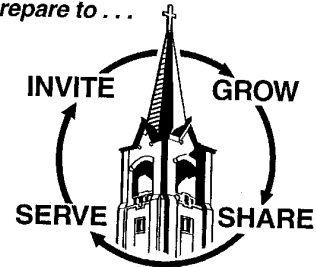
9:45 a.m. Faith Formation– Chapel

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

Saturday:

5:30 p.m. Casual Worship

Prepare to . . .



. . . for Christ's sake

Pastor Joel Guttormson

641.596.0535 ~ joelguttormson@gmail.com

Pastor Melinda McCluskey

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Helen Rice, Church Secretary

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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.

A Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson...

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

Maybe before we can talk about what it means to be a church member its helpful to ask, what is a church?

For many who consider themselves to be “lifelong members,” the church is your family. Nearly all members are somehow related by birth or marriage. This image of the church is intensely personal with little separation between family and church identity. One might be shunned, move away or may be led astray – like the prodigal son – but leaving or rejecting the church meant leaving or rejecting your family.

There is biblical precedent for seeing the church as family. Paul writes to the Ephesians, “Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ – this is the first commandment with a promise that it will be well with you and you may live long on the earth. And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction in the Lord” (Ephesians 6:1-4).

The challenge of the church as family model is how out of sync it has become with the understanding of what it means today to be “family.” Some traditional views of family can be exclusive, shunning others as the older son did in the parable of the prodigal son. Some new to the family church, those who have been shunned, or are considered the “black sheep” in the family, can struggle for years to be adopted into community defined as a “family church.” One can’t belong to the church if you’re not –or no longer – considered part the family.

Some churches have adopted the image of church as being part of the team. Proponents of this church metaphor would say Jesus modeled team ministry and the disciples followed his example. Effective team ministry occurs where there’s a sense of a common goal related to its sense of mission and purpose. Members are asked to stay in practice and fully participate in order to win. When all sorts of sports seem to be competing for our members allegiances, it’s tempting to adopt this analogy of the church as one of the winning teams in which to belong.

Salem Women of the ELCA

Altar Guild

Feb. 6th at 7pm

Altar Guild for February

Doris Tweed

Pat Thorson

Mission Quilters

Monday, Feb. 12th at 1:00pm

WELCA Meeting

No WELCA meeting in February

Communion Schedule

Sundays, Feb. 4th and 18th (8:30)

Sundays, Feb. 4th , 11th, 18th and 25th (10:30)

Saturdays, Feb. 3rd and 17th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, Feb. 28th

Birthdays: Grace Circle

Program: Martha Circle

February 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

Contemporary worship service at 10:30am in the sanctuary

Wednesdays: Beginning February 21st

Soup and Study in the fellowship hall from 6-7pm

Lenten service at 7:15 in the sanctuary

Understanding Grief & Loss

Sponsored by Hospice of North Iowa

*6 week program for adults grieving a death

*FREE but space is limited

*Registration required prior to 1st session

Spring 2018 schedule:

6 consecutive Monday Evenings ~ 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

March 26th – April 30th

Hospice of North Iowa

232 – 2nd Street SE - Mason City

Call 1-800-297-4719 or 641-428-6208 to pre-register

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2018 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 2018 is \$83.**

Available dates are:

March 25	June 10, 17	Oct. 7, 14, 21
April 1, 22, 29	July 8, 15, 29	Nov. 4, 11
May 6, 20	August 5, 19	Dec. 2, 23, 30
	Sept. 2, 16	

There is also biblical precedent for seeing the church as a team. Paul writes to the church in Corinth, “Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize?” Run in such a way that you may win it...do not run aimlessly, nor box as though beating the air; but punish your body and enslave it, so not to be disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). In Hebrews, Paul talks about being surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, who inspire us to “run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

There can be a captivating enthusiasm that we all play to win, but should some be disqualified who lack skill or ability? The challenge of the “team church” can be to define who’s on the roster, who gets benched, traded, or cut from the team. Too many remember being the one picked last to be on the team, there were those who were stuck on the sidelines. In the team metaphor there will always be winners and losers and maybe too much attention on the importance of competition and drive to excellence. How are all members enabled to be fully embraced into community defined as a “team church?”

One of the most helpful metaphors for the church can be found in a number of images, particularly found in the letters of Paul. Here the vision of the church is of, “one body with many members” not all have the same function, but each have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. So, we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another (Romans 12:3-8).

Regardless of our social status or abilities, we belong!

Embroiled in divisions over leadership, morality, doctrine, the roles of women, the uses and abuses of the Lord’s Supper, the use of a varieties of gifts including the speaking of tongues; despite all those controversies, Paul would write to the people of Corinth, we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we are all made to drink of one Spirit. The body does not consist of one member but of many. All members are indispensable, if one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now, already, you belong. As a result of your baptism, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. As a critical member of the Church, which is Christ’s body, when you are cut off, or cut yourself off, the body suffers (1 Corinthians 12).

In a culture that can seem so fragmented and increasingly more isolated from one another maybe it's time to recover the sense of the church as the body of Christ. "[And] speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:15-16).

As it used to be sung as children in Sunday School, "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together! The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.

Shalom

Pastor Joel

SALEM RECORDS January

Memorials

Dorothy Honsey: General Fund \$10

Morris Levorson: General Fund \$10, Altar Guild \$20

Leo Schmidhuber: Cemetery \$10, General Fund \$160

Funerals

Leo Schmidhuber

Baptisms

Jayce Kameron Roy

admit our own truth regarding which Jesus we prefer. Otherwise, all too often, Jesus ends up being trotted out and used to justify moral claims as if God were not a part of the picture.

A word about grammar may be useful here. The "I AM" statements in John are of two varieties: the absolute "I AM" statements in which there is no qualifier, and the "I AM" statements with a predicate nominative.¹ And yet the point of both is to hold both together. Each time Jesus says, "I AM," the entirety of the "I AM" statements stands behind this revelation. And every time Jesus says, "I AM the bread of life, I AM the light of the world," the fullness of the absolute "I AM" statements stands behind this claim. When we keep this in mind, we begin to see that if we try to separate God and the Word made flesh, we have likely missed the point of Christianity altogether.

Consider the following quotation, circulating on Pinterest boards and throughout social media: "I AM. Two of the most powerful words; for what you put after them shapes your reality." This Lenten series helps us imagine that what Jesus puts after "I AM" in the Gospel of John shapes our reality.

Is church still on? It is the time of year where we need to pay attention to the weather!

If we have an emergency schedule change, we will notify you through the following media:

KIOW Radio 107.3 FM (Forest City)

KIMT TV Channel 3

www.salemlakemills.com

Email— go to "Salem News" on the right hand side of the website and select "subscribe to email updates"



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

7:15 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

This year's Lenten journey will be a continuing meditation on the theme I AM, not us as church members, but as God the Great I AM. Our Midweek Lenten Worship was written by Dr. Karoline Lewis, Associate Professor of Preaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul; a foremost scholar of the Gospel of John. Lewis is the author of *John: Fortress Biblical Preaching Commentaries* (Fortress Press, 2014). A contributor to the weekly podcast series *Working Preacher*, she has this to say about this year's Lenten theme:

Working Preacher's Lenten Series this year focuses on the "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John for the sake of intentional reflection on and proclamation of God becoming flesh. Let me say that again -- God becoming flesh. The cross is many things; but first, it is the death of God. Let that sink in. The "I AM" statements are more than just a novelty of the Fourth Gospel -- they reveal, in all fullness (John 1:16), the identity of Jesus. "Obviously," you might be thinking.

But Lent is the season to remember one very important thing about what it means to be a Christian: **that when Jesus goes to the cross, there goes God.**

Jesus as this one-and- only God, this unique God (John 1:18) is the distinctive claim of Christianity. Yet in today's world what's said and believed about Jesus has the tendency to divide Jesus' humanity from Jesus' divinity. Our Christologies seem comfortable with choosing one or the other, depending on whom we need Jesus to be in a certain time or place -- or, for a certain purpose. The Gospel of John reminds us -- which, during Lent, is an especially important thing to remember -- that to believe in Jesus is to hold the **fullness of Jesus' humanity and Jesus' divinity together.**

"What difference does this make?," you might be asking. Well, when we collapse Jesus' humanity into Jesus' divinity, it gets harder to imagine the purpose and pathos of the cross. After all, if that was God nailed to a tree, to what extent was that true suffering? And when we minimize Jesus' divinity, it becomes easy to reduce Jesus to an above-average teacher, miracle worker, and advocate for the poor.

The challenge of Lent is to negotiate these simultaneous truths -- and how to

Update from the Council...

Salem Church Council January 8, 2018

President Scott Hagenson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present: Kathy Chose, Ashley Hoffman, Stephanie Steffens, Wayne VanVeldhuizen, Mike Swenson, Sondra Nelson, Deb Throne, Willie Skellenger, Linda Helgeson, Brad Evenson, Heidi Obermeyer, Pastor Melinda McCluskey and Pastor Joel Guttormson.

Devotions and Prayers led by Pastor Joel.

Secretary's Report: It was moved by Deb and seconded by Wayne to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as written.

All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported month end balance in checkbook of: \$19,180.00. Total income for Dec. was \$38,023.23 with expenses of \$30,966.74. Discussion was held regarding the 2018 proposed budget. Heating needs will need to be addressed.

Financial Secretary's Report: Deb reported Average weekly contributions of \$5,480. Average monthly contributions for 2017 of \$24,204. A motion was made by Wayne and seconded by Brad to approve reports as written.

Board of Worship and Music: Kathy reported that the board has developed at job description for a Contemporary Worship Coordinator. This has been a line item in the budget, no approval needed. The board will advertise to seek candidates, interview and make a recommendation to the council.

Board of Stewardship: Wayne reported that the board had not met. Upcoming merger with Worship and Music board will kick off the new year.

Board of Youth: Sondra reported that the board has met and has planned several events for the new year. Sunday Feb. 18 will be a family game day-watch for more information.

Board of Life and Growth: Willie reported the board is beginning the planning of events for 2018.

Board of Property and Management: No report given. Applications for custodial position are being accepted.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel presented a written report with pastoral acts during the month of December. Noting Christmas services, attendance, and times of worship. Safeguarding God's Children workshop is in planning stages. Joshua Group – Discernment Retreat is Jan. 13 from 8:30 to 3:30, all are invited to attend.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Melinda submitted a written report with pastoral acts during the month of December.

Communication Director's Report: Ashley reported that she will be using Facebook events to get information out to people for upcoming events. Reminders can be generated. Deadline for Newsletter is Jan. 23. Keep sending information for your groups events to her and she will update them. Everyone should feel free to take pictures of events also and she will post those also.

It was moved by Mike, seconded by Sondra to accept the above reports. All approved.

Old Business: Discussion regarding filling board terms was held. There are some open spots on boards. With the merger of the Board of Worship and Music and Stewardship, a new board description will be made for approval. Discernment retreat will be held on Saturday Jan. 13 in the fellowship hall. The Annual Meeting will be held on Jan. 28. One church service will be held at 9:30 with meal following. Pulled pork sandwiches are being donated by the Don & Ila Grothe family. Please bring a salad or dessert to pass.

New Business: Approval of the budget for 2018 – A motion was made by Willie and seconded by Kathy. All approved. Approval of the job description for the Contemporary Worship Coordinator- A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Brad. All approved.

Our next regular meeting will be held February 12, 2018 at 5:30pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Deb and seconded by Wayne. All approved.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Obermeyer

Faith Formation Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

18 Play and Pray at 9:35am; 4 year old-2nd grade sing at 10:30 service; First Communion Class for 5th Graders/Parents at 9:30am; FAMILY GAME DAY

25 First Communion Class for 5th Graders/Parents

MARCH

4 First Communion Class for 5th Graders/Parents

11 First Communion Class for 5th Graders/Parents

18 Play and Pray 9:35am; First Communion Class for 5th Graders/Parents

25 Palm Sunday, 4 year olds-2nd grade sing at 10:30 service;
First Communion Class for 5th Graders/Parents

29 Maundy Thursday; 5th Graders 1st Communion

APRIL

1 EASTER - Egg Hunt during Faith Formation

22 Play and Pray at 9:35am; 4 year olds -2nd grade SING at 10:30 service

MAY

13 Last Day of Faith Formation; Play and Pray at 9:35am; 4 year olds-2nd graders sing at 10:30 service

CONFIRMATION FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Wednesday, February 7th

Bowling – SuperBowl, Forest City
Cost will be \$7.00 (two games and shoes)

3:30 pm - Meet at Salem, Lake Mills

4:00 pm – Bowling



FUNDRAISER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL

FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY 18TH FEB

★ Walking Tacos ★
Lemonade Bars ★

starting
11:30 AM

★ BOARD GAMES ★
EVERYONE WELCOME

Free Will donation to support the High School students attending the Youth Gathering in Houston, TX this summer

LENTEN SOUP AND STUDY

6:00 - 7:00 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 21, 2018

This Lent, in addition to the soup and sandwiches offered by our confirmation youth, their families and sponsors, we are inviting participants to gather at their tables for a discussion of a helpful little book called, "I AM A CHURCH MEMBER" by the author Thom S. Rainer.

Thom is president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. A respected pastor and researcher, he has written more than twenty books and coauthored the No. 1 best seller Simple Church. In the acknowledgements he shares his prayer that, "this little tome will strengthen local congregations and that those who are members of these churches will see the incredible gift of belonging to the body of Christ."

Salem's Church Council and many of our leaders have read this book and have found it to be an informative and inspirational way to rethink what church membership means in the life of a congregation. We hope it becomes an integral part of our "New and Renewing Membership" initiative that was shared in last December's Outreach.

The book contains a brief introduction followed by six chapters each around ten pages in length. At each of our midweek Lenten meals we try discussing the topics in the book and answering some of the four or five questions at the end of each chapter. We currently have twenty-five books available and some of our council members and leaders may still have copies. If you would like a copy to preview they will be available in the Narthex beginning the first Sunday in February. You need not read the book to enjoy a good bowl of soup and a sandwich and our usual time of fellowship prior to our Midweek Lenten worship in the Sanctuary.

