

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

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LABEL



# Salem Lutheran Church

## OUTREACH

### March 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

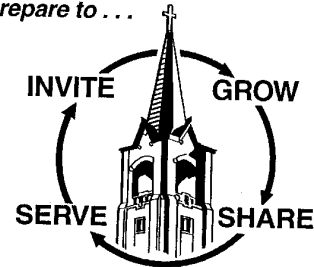
**9:45 a.m.** Faith Formation– Chapel

**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**

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**

641.590.3087 ~ SalemLMinfo@gmail.com

#### 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.

## *SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN*

**SUNDAY , MARCH 11, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**HOST - SALEM LUTHERAN (Sponsored by Northeast Iowa Synod)**

**PRESENTOR – Cindy Krause, Senior Pastor of Our Saviors, Osage Iowa**

All rostered leaders, staff members, lay leaders and those who work with youth will be required to attend.

In January of this year, Salem made the commitment to, “working with the Northeastern Iowa Synod S.A.F.E. Ministry Team (Synodical Advocate Focused on Education, Prevention and Healing of Sexual Abuse) to provide Salem and other members of Living Waters Conference with a day of training.

1. Do you love me? Unconditionally!
2. Will you hurt me?
3. Will what we do together have purpose and meaning?

Pastor Joel learned in a youth and family ministry class that the three questions quoted above were a starting point for conversations among our children and those who wish to work with them. When a vulnerable child looks for an organization to belong to, we have to be able to confidently answer those three questions.

Recently at a Lenten Soup & Study session on the topic of membership and what it means to be a church, the question, “What is a church?” was the topic of discussion. A thoughtful fifth-grade member replied, “A church is a place where I can go and feel safe.”

Our churches, culture and the stable institutions that shaped our children have changed greatly in the last few generations. Historically vibrant institutions, once the standard bearers of child development, have been weakened in part due to scandals and flagrant violations of the public trust. Amidst all the cultural changes of the past few generations, in almost every institution, some form of misconduct has occurred. In families, among

## *Salem Women of the ELCA*

### **Altar Guild**

Mar. 6th at 7pm

### **Altar Guild for March**

All Guild Members

### **Mission Quilters**

Monday, Mar. 12th at 1:00pm

### **WELCA Meeting**

Mar. 15th at 2pm

### **Communion Schedule**

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

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

Saturdays, Mar. 3rd and 17th

Thursday, Mar. 29th (7:15)

### **Mills Harbour & LMCC**

Wednesday, Mar. 28th

**Birthdays:** Sarah Circle

**Program:** Ruth Circle

## *March 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:**

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

Lenten service at 7:15 in the sanctuary

### **Thursday:**

Maundy Thursday, March 29th at 7:15pm

## PROJECT PROMISE

### Personal Care Kits

Kits Include:

- 1 light-weight, bath sized towel, dark color
- 2 or 3 bath-sized bars of soap equaling 8-9oz. In original wrapping
- 1 adult size toothbrush in original packaging
- 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clipper, remove packaging

Kit items will be collected during Lent.

You may place them in the basket in the narthex.

Kits will be given to Lutheran World Relief.

[buildkitsofcare.org](http://buildkitsofcare.org)

**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:**

<b>April 1, 22, 29</b>	<b>July 8, 15</b>	<b>Oct. 7, 14, 21</b>
<b>May 6, 20</b>	<b>August 5</b>	<b>Nov. 4, 11</b>
<b>June 10, 17</b>	<b>Sept, 2</b>	<b>Dec. 23, 30</b>

We also have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the 10:30am worship service. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday. Call the office to reserve a date in 2018.

friends, in our schools, churches, government, businesses, the entertainment industry, vulnerable children and adults have been victimized.

Safeguarding God's Children is an in-depth educational and training program for preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in everyday life and in ministry. Its a place where we can have the conversations, learn the skills that promote an environment that allows everyone to first know they are SAFE, and then belong, thrive and find that, what we do does indeed have purpose and meaning.

S.A.F.E. stands for Synodical Advocates Focused on Education. It's work among the churches of the Northeast Iowa Synod is to train and advocate for the Prevention and Healing of Sexual Abuse. The seven members of the committee under the direction of the Rev. Stephen Brackett, Assistant to the Bishop, work to accomplish the following five goals.

1. Safety for all God's people in congregations
2. Dignity of all who come to our congregations as God's children
3. Education for all God's children in raising awareness of the need for written policies and procedures
4. Promotion of healthy congregations
5. Focus on communication, prevention, response, advocacy, healing, reconciliation and being proactive

Following the training, Salem will develop a child protective policy to be adopted and implemented by the council. The congregation will be updated on the status of our progress and our compliance of the policy.

Thank you,

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey

Salem Youth & Faith-Formation Board

## *Update from the Council...*

### **Salem Church Council Meeting February 12, 2018**

President Brad Evenson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Members present: Willie Skellenger, Kathy Chose, Stephanie Steffens, Sondra Nelson, Linda Helgeson, Mike Swenson, Deb Throne, Delane Behr, Heidi Obermeyer, Pastor Melinda and Pastor Joel.

Devotions and prayers were led by Pastor Joel.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Sondra to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, noting a correction as follows; Board of Stewardship: Wayne reported that the board had not met. Upcoming merger with Board of Life & Growth will kick off the new year. All approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike reported month end balance in checkbook of \$22,043.47. Total income for Jan. was \$27,423.29 with expenses of \$25,548.80. A positive balance of \$1,874.49.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Deb reported average weekly contributions of \$5,675. Average monthly contributions of \$24,684. This shows an increase of 15.91% in giving.

A motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Willie to approve financial reports as written.

**Board of Worship and Music:** Reviewed Worship Director Job Description.

**Board of Life and Growth/Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Willie reported that the board will be working on the next meeting with the Joshua Group and laying plans for the new year. Upcoming events in development are expanding on Noisy Offering and Hymn sing.

**Board of Property and Management:** Delane reported that the board had met on 2/2. They have received a 2nd quote on liability and building coverage and it is being reviewed. An energy audit will be performed on Feb. 27th at 11am. A motion by Mike and seconded by Kathy for the board to accept bids for heating and cooling systems. All approved.

**Board of Youth:** Sondra reported on the upcoming Game Day on Feb 18th to support the youth that will be traveling to Houston, TX. VBS planning is

## *Thrivent Choice Dollars*

**We are excited to share, based on member recommendations, Salem Lutheran Church received \$3,379 in charitable outreach funding in 2017.**

Thrivent Financial members have until March 31st to direct any remaining **2017 Choice Dollars.**

After that date, 2017 Choice Dollars will expire.  
Please remember these Dollars can help our church.

You can visit [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) and scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on **Thrivent Choice** to help you understand how Thrivent Choice Dollars work.

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Looking for COMMUNITY SINGERS to perform a GOOD FRIDAY SONG SERVICE at Salem at 7:15pm.

Practices are 5:00pm on March 4, 11 and 25 in the fellowship hall.

Contact Kathy Nelson at 641-592-7744 or 641-590-6341

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## *Reminder*

Confirmation youth and their families will be serving soup and sandwiches on Wednesdays, from 6:00-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lenten services begin at 7:15pm. Participants are also invited to discuss "I AM A CHURCH MEMBER" at their tables. Books will be available. You will not need to participate in order to enjoy a bowl of soup and a sandwich!

*Save Local Lives*

**Lake Mills Community Blood Drive**

Tuesday, March 13th, 2018

1:00-6:00pm

Salem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

To make an appointment, contact Life Serve Blood Center  
at 1-800-2874903

Or visit [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org)

*Lake Mills Care Center March Activities*

Everyone is invited to attend all activities!

Thursday, March 1st, 3:30pm	Nords Music
Saturday, March 3rd, 6:00pm	Ralph Campbell Music
Monday, March 5th, 10:00am	Men on Monday Donuts and Coffee
Sunday, March 11th, 2:00pm	Jeff Buege Gospel Music
Friday, March 16th, 1:00pm	Singing Cowgirl Music
Saturday, March 17th, 2:00pm	Birthday Party with Kent Larson Music
Thursday, March 22nd	Living with Diabetes community class
Monday, March 26th, 9:30am	Dunnell Lenort Music

underway. The next planning meeting will be on 2/18 at 4pm. The annual bowling event for the confirmation students went well. Confirmation students will assist with ushering and serving the meals. 5th graders will have their first communion instruction on 2/18. The next planning meeting for the Houston trip will be 3/7.

**Lead Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joel presented a written report with pastoral acts for the month of January. Noting JOSHUA GROUP – The Executive Committee met to discuss the Progress Report and identified two strategic/mission initiatives to work on. 1. Communications audit and outreach improvement. 2. Stewardship renewal. I will be working to clarify our Mission Statement and Vision priorities of Salem in the coming month holding two days of Friday Forums on March 9 and March 23. One will be at 9:00 am at Main Street Pizza and one in the evening at 5:00 pm at Five Alarm Brewing Co. My hope is to have 10-15 people involved with the visioning process and a new vision and mission statement to use as our Affirmation of Faith in Worship following Easter Sunday. YOUTH ROOM – Conversations and plans for a youth room in the old south preschool room are in the works. The Tuesday following the council meeting I would like help moving the entertainment center in my office into the room. We have also found a pool table someone wishes to donate and at least two of the high top tables from the narthex will be moved to the youth room. We are also looking for eight high chairs (bar stool type) and a large sectional couch in good condition for the room. There are lots of ideas in the works as to how this room will be used for upcoming outreach and ministry.

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

**Communication Director's Report:** no report

A motion was made by Deb and seconded by Stephanie to accept the reports as presented. All approved.

**Old Business:** Discussion was held regarding the approval of the Worship Director Job Description. Approval was given to pursue an applicant and set up interviews.

**New Business:** Transfer of membership: Megan Fjelstad to Christ Lutheran Church, Louisville KY. It was moved by Sondra and seconded by Mike. All

approved.

Our next regular meeting will be held March 12, 2018.

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda and seconded by Mike. All approved.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Heidi Obermeyer

### SALEM RECORDS February

#### Memorials

Wava Valder: General Fund \$10

Morris Levorson: Alter Guild \$30

Pat Hanna: General Fund \$50

Leo Schmidhuber: Stained Glass Windows \$225,  
General Fund \$10

Manise Erickson: Undesignated \$135

#### Funerals

Eleanor Rygh

Manise "Pete" Erickson

#### Baptisms

Dean Eugene Pierce

#### Transfers

Megan Fjelstad



Hospice of North Iowa has added two additional Understanding Grief and Loss groups to the spring schedule!

### *Understanding Grief and 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**– Mason City 6:00-8:00pm

March 26– April 30

Hospice of North Iowa– 232 2nd St SE– Mason City

6 consecutive **Monday mornings**– Charles City 10:00am-12:00pm

April 9– May 14

Floyd Co. Public Health– 1003 Gilbert St– Charles City

6 consecutive **Tuesday mornings**– Mason City 10:00am-12:00pm

April 17– May 22

Hospice of North Iowa– 232 2nd St SE– Mason City

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

A leadership team could explore some of the writings of Pastor Mike Foss at St Mark in West Des Moines. Occasionally he provides regional and congregational workshops.

**5. Improve staff and leadership work clarity.** Salem would benefit from a Strength Finders Workshop (led by Kairos staff) with staff, key leaders & new members. Other congregations have found this helpful in understanding each other's gifts and best ways to get things done in a church. As well, a Leadership Systems Inventory (LSI) would help create focus and clarity organizationally.

**6. Explore an "adopt a school" style program.** Explore programs that help children & parents (after school program, parent class, single parent support, family game nights, etc.) where their need is greatest. The church is particularly well-positioned for a variety of contributions or programs.

Salem was able to welcome many new families when its preschool program existed. The state now freely provides the program. Salem needs to find new ways to establish relationships with the parents and children of the area.

It is great that Salem provides clothing and summer lunch to area children in need. But this is only a beginning. There are greater needs and opportunities. Salem is blessed with a great location—right across the street from area schools. Now is the time to leverage that asset.

Brokering a growing relationship with area schools would result in a well-spring of new connections and relationships, as Salem would emerge as an ever-growing leader in the Lake Mills Community.

Prayerfully offered,

Pastor Bob Driver-Bishop, Consultant

Pastor Tim Johnson, Consultant

## *24 Hour Prayer Vigil*

The night before Jesus was crucified, he went to the upper room and had the last supper with his disciples. Afterwards he went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He asked his disciples to watch and pray for an hour. Jesus went further into the garden and prayed, "Father, if it be possible—take this cup from me. But not my will but Thine be done". After an hour, he went back to his disciples and found them asleep. He woke them and again asked them to watch and pray for an hour. He went back to pray to his heavenly Father. When he returned an hour later to his disciples, they were still asleep.

To commemorate Jesus hour of trial in the Garden of Gethsemane, Salem Church will be holding a 24-hour prayer vigil in the chapel. It will take place from after the Maundy Thursday, March 29 service, until the Good Friday service begins on March 30. Please sign up for one hour time slots to "watch and pray with Jesus". Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.



**If you would like to donate an Easter Lily for our Easter Sunday services** in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please call (641-592-1771) or email ([salem@wctatel.net](mailto:salem@wctatel.net)) the office with information by Wednesday morning, March 28th. Lilies may be brought to the sanctuary on Friday or Saturday before Easter. Please put your name on the bottom if you wish to pick it up after the 10:30 worship service on Easter Sunday.

## Faith Formation Upcoming Events

### 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

*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:

Facebook: Find us at Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills

KIOW Radio 107.3 FM (Forest City)

KIMT TV Channel 3

[www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com)

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



heating & conditioning/insulation, some renovation of the south part of facilities) & establishing new outreach ministries (as they can be connected to this building renewal), new energy, excitement and focus can help members to engage with a sense of new impact and member growth. People like to make a difference!

The Kairos team can help coach next steps in these areas: both wholistic stewardship development as well as thoughtful preparatory steps toward a capital appeal should Salem determine to move forward. This would necessitate the formation of a key group of lay leaders who would drive this effort (in consultation with the Kairos consultant/team).

**3. Communications audit and outreach improvement.** There needs to be formation of a task force that endeavors to improve methods of communication for the congregation. This will include efforts to improve methods of communication within and beyond the congregation. Kairos can do a Communications Audit to assist with this. As a new Mission and Vision Statement (and accompanying priorities as might be articulated in Mission Initiatives) comes into focus, this makes communication easier as well, as the whole matter of advancing the mission and vision of Salem is what occupies planning, energy, resources, passion, etc., as the ministry is communicated. People get excited and involved!

Kairos can also help with visitor analysis:

- \* How others perceive the work and ministry of Salem Lutheran.
- \* How to be a more welcoming congregation;
- \* How to intentionally follow-up with visitors;
- \* How to integrate people into membership and find their places of contribution; and...
- \* How to increase all ministry focus on discipleship and growth.

**4. Explore a discipleship model.** There is a deep need and desire by many to have additional opportunities for spiritual growth and a discipleship focus. Expand educational opportunities (workshops, retreats, Sunday). Encourage faith journey development options. Create more opportunities for small groups (support, friendships, grief, faith topics, parenting, singles, etc.). Etc.



## *Joshua Group Progress Report*

After conducting an online congregational survey, extensive interviews with members, visiting with key leaders, engaging various community leaders, and providing the congregation with a vision/mission discernment workshop; it is our recommendation that Salem Lutheran proceed with the following initiatives:

**1. Clarify Mission Statement and Vision priorities of Salem.** Significant progress was made in this area during the congregational workshop in January, but that process has not concluded. Clarity of mission and vision enables a congregation to focus energies and resources and to have greater participation and confidence in its work together.

During the next few weeks the pastors and congregational leadership should work to finalize the mission and vision statement language as well as key priorities and then work to integrate them into life and direction of this church.

A good starting point would be to identify no more than two or three strategic or mission initiatives, along with intended/hoped-for outcomes. These can be used to generate enthusiasm, put member's passions and gifts to work, and help to create an overall sense of forward momentum.

**2. Stewardship renewal.** Salem has wrestled with the possibility of embarking on a major capital appeal. It is clear the congregation is not completely ready to proceed just yet. There needs to be greater clarity of the need and scope of such a project before it could have any measure of success. That said, as a focused mission/vision emerges, appeals are tremendous ways of creating enthusiasm, focus and the financial resources needed to realize the dream that God is stirring.

Salem would benefit from additional work on congregational stewardship. Salem, like so many other churches, has often adopted a theology of scarcity as compared to a theology of abundance and generosity. It has also been impacted by conflict and change in recent years. Nonetheless, Salem is emerging with attention to health and vitality, learning how to take positive steps forward.

By establishing a specific giving opportunity for facility improvements (new

## *Holy Week Schedule*

Sunday, March 25th— Sunday, April 1st

### **Sunday, March 25th**

8:30am Palm Sunday Traditional Worship— Sanctuary

9:30am Youth Praise Choir— Choir Room, Coffee and Fellowship— Fellowship Hall

9:45am Faith Formation— Chapel, 5th Grade First Communion Class

10:30am Palm Sunday Contemporary Worship— Sanctuary

5:00pm Community Singers— Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday, March 29th**

6:15pm 5th Grade First Communion Meal— Fellowship Hall

7:15pm Maundy Thursday/First Communion Service— Sanctuary

8:30pm— 12am Easter Vigil— Chapel

### **Friday, March 30th**

12:00am-7:15pm Easter Vigil— Chapel

7:15pm Good Friday Service— Sanctuary

### **Sunday, April 1st**

8:30am Traditional Easter Service— Sanctuary

9:00-11:00am Easter Breakfast

9:35am Easter Egg Hunt— Chapel

10:30am Contemporary Easter Service— Sanctuary

