



Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

August 2019

Salem's Mission and Vision

We are God forgiven and mission driven.

As God's people...we desire to be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

We invite you to join us for our weekly Worship Services

Sunday:

8:30am Traditional Worship Service

9:30am Coffee and Fellowship– Fellowship Hall

10:30am Contemporary Service

Saturday:

5:30pm Casual Worship

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
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A Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson...

O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you (Psalm 84:12 NRSV).

Those who trust in the Lord shall find new strength (Isaiah 40:31 NLT).

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13 NIV).

“Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your god.” (Martin Luther).

The bible – and Luther - has a lot to say about trust. Think about every explanation in Luther's Small Catechism of the Ten Commandments, “We are to fear, love and trust God above all things.” Even our currency reminds us, “In God we trust.” Yet, most of us would likely agree that those with the most money aren't necessarily the ones to be most trusted. Although trust and money can go hand in hand, gaining trust is more relational than transactional. It begins with fostering a culture of trust.

I continue to review Mike Foss' “Power Surge” and find what he says about trust is good food for thought, “Money is not the currency that funds the church. Trust is. No matter how big or small the church, when trust is broken, conflict and separation occur. When trust is present, people grow, the church grows, the work of God gets done “p.164.

Most of what I learned about trust and money I learned from my parents. My parents would have celebrated their fiftieth anniversary had he not died just days before their anniversary. It was at times a troubled but in the end a very loving and trusting relationship. My dad was an accountant for twenty-five years at a Community College and for a time the Ottertail County Treasurer. He served as the treasurer of his church on two separate occasions, as I remember. He served on the board of a Bible Camp and worked on a major capital campaign. He was particularly proud of that. We talked about that accomplishment and it's what led both my brother and I to serve on Camp Boards as well.

When he retired, he wanted to find a place to volunteer his time and chose the farmers coop in his community. He told them he would do anything but work on their finances; soon after he was asked to audit their books. The

same thing happened when he joined a new church. He was asked to help with some policies and procedures for a new pastor and group of leaders, after some trust issues had arose. He was a trusted money manager and his relationship to these organizations continued to call him to his vocational gift of good stewardship and his ability to build trust.

Growing up, dad taught me how to sell tickets at the college basketball games and keep track of the money when I was still in my early teens. He taught me that he would never cash personal checks at the college bookstore, always keeping personal and professional monies separate. He taught me that one never takes money from a till, fold it and put it in your pocket. Always stand at the till, count the money, put it in an envelope and write down the amount, seal the envelope and deposit it. He would share these bits of financial accountability as I sat in his office at the Community College after I enrolled as a student.

As the county treasurer I remember people, particularly young people would come to the house collect their bounty money for gophers. He kept a freezer bag of gopher feet in our freezer so the gopher bounty funds could be reconciled with the monies he dispersed. And my mother always complained about the gopher feet in the freezer. I used to think it was all a bunch of silly habits, until I discovered it was all practices for building trust. Over the years my dad had developed a wealth of trust handling other people's money.

My dad also, over the years, taught me how to trust his church. He didn't always agree with what the church was doing, the decisions being made, but he never voiced his distrust in the congregation or the church as a whole. I remember at the time of the ELCA merger hearing conversations about moving the churchwide offices out of Minneapolis and to Chicago and what a big deal that was for many in his community. My dad never understood why people couldn't trust that decision.

I remember discussions around the dining table about the ordination of women. Dad was not warming up to the idea, "I can't imagine how hearing a woman preaching from the pulpit every week could be a good thing." My mom's response was, "O LeRoy, can you imagine any church somewhere that might want a woman pastor?" My dad responded with a bit of resignation, "I suppose." Before he died, he did experience the pastoral gifts of a woman in the pulpit. As the Midwest began to be fractured by the Call to Common Mission

(CCM) debates, our family conversations were at times lively, but faithful and never do I ever remember my parents, changing their level of commitment to the church just because there were ongoing conversations about pulpit and altar fellowship among Protestants of other denominations. I remember the conversations about the first sexuality statements back in the early 1990's as well.

It was not the unanimity of perspectives that ruled our house but a trust that two strong willed people – my parents - could live together, have reasoned faithful conversations and raise a family that learned to live with the ambiguity and diversity of opinion. My parents rarely reached a decision by one overruling the other. As we got older, we were able to add our voices as a consensus was made, or not for that matter. I learned diversity was something to value and not be threatened by. I remember when one of the churches from the three-point parish my folks belonged pulled out of the merger, how disappointed my dad was as a church treasurer. He wondered why three Lutheran churches in one small community could not see the benefit of working together sharing resources and doing mission.

What I learned from my parents is the art of living, loving and serving in the midst of ambiguity and diversity of thought. It has served me and my family well. It has shaped me to be the pastor I am today. In the end it really does rely on trust, a currency that allows all people to grow, the church to grow in the midst of change. Patience, openness, mutual respect, commitment, trust; It's how God's work gets done.

Salem's Corner Stone

July 27, 1919 is the date of the laying of Salem's sanctuary corner stone.

Remember our church and congregation in prayer on this important milestone in our history. A Heritage Service and "Church Cookbook Pot-Luck" will be held on September 8, 2019 following the 10:30am service to celebrate together.

A Message from Pastor Melinda McCluskey...

Question: Who are the prophets of the Old Testament what are these prophets stories that every student of the Bible should know?

Prophets: Isaiah to Malachi.

1. Isaiah 2:1-5- The Lord's Welcoming House- The Future of the House of God
2. Isaiah 42:1-9- God's servant Is Here- The Servant, a Light to the Nations
3. Isaiah 55:1-9- God's Way is Best- An Invitation to Abundant Life
4. Isaiah 58:1-12- The Right Kind of Fast- False and True Worship
5. Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11- A Promise of Hope- The Good News of Deliverance
6. Jeremiah 1:4-10- Called From the Start- Jerimiah's Call and Commission
7. Jeremiah 17:5:10- A Tree Near Water- Judah's Sin and Punishment
8. Jeremiah 31:7:14- Far From Home- The Joyful Return of the Exiles
9. Danial 6- God Protects Daniel- Daniel and the Lion's Den
10. Jonah 3:1-5, 10- Second Chances- Conversion of Nineveh
11. Zephaniah 3:14-20- A New Start- A Song of Joy
12. Malachi 3:1-4- Prepare the Way- The Coming Messenget

Salem Lutheran Church OUTREACH Publication Change

Effective August 2019, the Salem Lutheran Church OUTREACH publication will no longer be delivered by mail. A PDF of this document will be available on the Salem website, and a limited number of copies will be available in the Narthex and outside the Chapel each month. Salem will email the OUTREACH to you monthly if you would like. Please confirm your email address with the church office if this is your preference. If you already receive the OUTREACH by email, you will continue to do so. Salem will continue to provide copies to Mills Harbor, the Lake Mills Care Center, and to shut-in's monthly.



The **Salem Outdoor Summer Service** is held on the south lawn at 10:30 on Sunday mornings. The outdoor service continues through September 1st. Worshippers are welcome to dress casually for the outdoor service. Folding chairs will be provided, but you may also bring your own lawn chairs or blankets if you so desire. In the event of inclement weather, this service is still offered, but will be moved indoors to the main sanctuary.

The Saturday evening service at 5:30pm is held in the air-conditioned Chapel

Blessing of the Backpacks will be held on Sunday, August 18th at the 10:30am service. Students of all ages are welcome to come to church with your backpack to receive blessings as we start a new school year!



A promotional poster for 'Fuel Up for Summer Fun' with a yellow background. At the top left, the text 'FUEL UP FOR SUMMER FUN' is in large blue letters, with 'Eat Smart. Play Hard.' in a green banner below it. To the right, a girl in a white and blue soccer uniform is kicking a soccer ball. Below the main text, it says 'Join us for a FREE lunch!' in large blue letters. Two bullet points follow: 'Open to all children and teens 1-18' and 'No registration or identification is required'. To the right of these points, a boy in a blue tank top is jumping with a basketball. Below the bullet points, the word 'Lunch' is underlined. The text continues: '11:00 am—Noon', 'Monday—Friday thru August 22nd', 'No meal on July 4th', and 'At Salem Lutheran Church'. At the bottom, a girl in a green shirt is playing tennis. Below the tennis player is a row of food items: grapes, an apple, a pear, a slice of orange, a strawberry, a carton of milk, a slice of cheese, a container of yogurt, a loaf of bread, a hot dog, a tomato, and a carrot. A small line of text reads 'This institution is an equal opportunity provider.' At the very bottom, a copyright notice states '© 2011 National Dairy Council®. Fuel Up is a trademark of National Dairy Council.'

Salem's Clothes Closet is open on Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm.

Time to get ready for the new school year! Donations of socks and underwear are needed. Thank you for your help!

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday July 8, 2019 – 5:30 pm

President Brad Evenson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Members present: Marcie Adeogun, Delane Behr, Shannon Bruhns, Brad Evenson, Sondra Nelson, Willie Skellenger, Mike Swenson, Pastor Melinda McCluskey, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal. Absent: Stephanie Steffens, Ashley Hoffman. Guests: Harris Honsey, Wayne Van Veldhuizen.

Devotions and Prayers: Pastor Joel led devotion/discussion from I Corinthians and the first chapter of the Book, “The Corporate Person”. He challenged the board to consider how we will put our new mission/vision statement into action over the next 4-5 years.

Devotion was followed by prayer.

Secretary’s Report: A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Shannon to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as written. All approved.

Communication and Correspondence: none

Treasurer’s Report: Mike provided a written report. Total income for the month \$26,307.38. Expenditures \$24,041.49.

Checking account balance \$35,741.18. Heating Project balance \$87,755.23 (recalling that \$11,000 has been paid)

Financial Secretary’s Report: Sondra provided a written report. Stewardship committee is scheduled to meet July 10, 2019 to begin planning.

Enduring Gift Fund Committee Report: Harris and Wayne presented the following proposal to the council: If the council provided the Enduring Gift Fund (EGF) committee a written request for \$100,000 to cover the remaining cost of the Heating/AC project and use any extra for tuck pointing, the EGF committee feels that they will be able to make arrangements through legal/financial advisory to get this amount out of the principal fund (\$420,884.26). This action will require a change in the bylaws pertaining to the EGF and thus a congregational meeting/vote. Lengthy discussion followed. Concerns included not including Pastor Joel, Council President/Vice President in early discussion regarding this proposal as they are listed as advisory members of the committee; concern that this would set a precedent for withdrawing from

the principal. Benefits would be the ability to focus on raising general funds through our upcoming stewardship drive without the burden of the remaining Heating/AC project; remaining funds could be used to update tuckpointing of the church building; raise awareness of the EGF.

The council will discuss under New Business.

A motion was made by Cindy, seconded by Willie to accept the treasurer and financial secretary reports as written. All approved.

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music: Shannon provided a written/verbal report. Updates on summer services and plans for Fall 2019 were reviewed. The board is focusing on ushering and scheduling acolytes for confirmation students and families.

Board of Life and Growth / Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Willie provided a written/verbal report. The Baptismal Mobile project has been completed and is in the Narthex, 2,478 people have been baptized at Salem in the last 100 years! I do, I do Wedding dress event is this Thursday. The board is planning to focus on Mission in September with special events each Sunday, including Heritage Sunday on 9/8/2019 with a Church Cookbook Potluck.

Board of Property and Management: Delane provided a verbal report. Installation of the new Heating/AC system is underway. The final bid came in at approximately \$172,000. The board is recommending that we consider cementing the grass between the sidewalk and 4th Ave E – council asked Delane to bring a bid to the council for consideration.

Board of Youth: Marcie and Jennifer provided a written/verbal report. Day Camp is scheduled for the week of 7/15/2019. Plans for the Fall youth and faith formation are underway.

Pastor Reports – Complete Pastor reports are available for review in the church office

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel shared a written/verbal report. Written report included Pastoral acts for June; reflections on stewardship at Salem; personal unconditional support of Salem; Cancellation of Dave Anderson worship/concert considered in August due to lack of volunteer to provide leadership in promoting the event; July Jubilee Day Camp schedule. Within his report

Pastor reminded council of his call to Salem, "Salem is seeking a lead pastor; we are a congregation that regularly pays synod benevolence, supports a full time secretary/pastoral assistant, a two-thirds time associate pastor, an organist, an accompanist for Saturday, Advent and Lenten services, a contemporary Music Director and a custodian – the congregation I am now serving looks drastically different in 3 years. Leaders and council have had conversations about cutting all these staff positions including my own."

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Melinda submitted a written/verbal report. Written report included Pastoral acts for June. She continues to work on preparations for Fall Confirmation.

Communication Director: No report.

A motion was made by Shannon, seconded by Mike to accept all board/Pastor reports as presented. All approved.

Old Business:

Stewardship Progress – the committee (Sondra Nelson, Mike Swenson, Keith Johnson, Harris Honsey, Wayne Van Veldhuizen, Pastor Joel) will meet on July 10. Sondra has contacted Mark Anderson from NEI Synod for strategy and support.

Synod Benevolence - \$0 of \$13,999.98 budgeted in the approved 2019 budget has been given. The multiple programs that are supported by the synod were discussed, as well as the need to educate the congregation about the work of the NEI Synod.

New Business:

Helen's Vacation/office coverage was discussed and is still being addressed.

Good Samaritan Committee – Status of this committee was discussed. Members include Shannon Bruhns, Doug Harmon, Rachel Olson, Rita Anderson, Pastor Melinda, Pastor Joel. Shannon will call a meeting of this group to determine status and future plans.

Enduring Gift Fund Committee offer was discussed. Mike moved that the council make a written request for \$100,000 from the committee to support the completion of the Heating/AC project and remaining funds for tuckpointing of the church building. Delane seconded the motion. A vote with

raised hands passed with 7 for and 1 against, motion passed. Cindy and Mike will draft a written request to the committee.

Transfer: Norm and Marvis Risius to Emmons Lutheran Church. Pastor Melinda will contact them for an exit interview if they are willing. A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Shannon to approve the transfer. All approved.

Motion to adjourn made by Delane, seconded by Sondra. All Approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next regular meeting will be Monday, August 12, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal



Please keep this group in your prayers as they are in Savannah, Georgia for ten days. They are attending a Group Workcamp repairing homes of those effected by natural disasters. God's work, many hands!

SALEM RECORDS— JULY

Memorials:

Russell Myli— building \$25, heat/air \$2345, general fund \$10, cemetery \$10

Earl Juveland— heat/air \$20

Muriel Rognes - heat/air \$690, Mission Quilters \$20

Funerals:

Russell Myli

Earl Juveland

Muriel Rognes

Back to School! Time for Lutheran World Relief Kits!

Include the following in each kit:

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2 ", no loose-leaf paper

One 30 centimeter ruler, or ruler with inches and centimeters

One pencil sharpener

One blunt scissors

One eraser

Five unsharpened #2 pencils, secured with a rubber band

Five ball point pens (no gel ink), secured with a rubber band

One box of 16 or 24 crayons

Shopping lists and backpacks are available in the narthex

Completed kits may be returned to the narthex

Salem Women of the ELCA

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 33

Altar Guild

August 6th at 7pm
Fellowship Hall

Altar Guild for August

Shelley Hagenson
Pat Young
Sharon Johnson

WELCA Meeting

No WELCA meetings in
August

Communion Schedule

Sundays, August 4th and 18th
(8:30)

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

Saturdays, August 3rd and 17th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, August 28th

Birthdays: Miriam Circle

Program: Ruth Circle

August Worship Schedule

Saturdays:

Casual worship at 5:30 pm in the air-conditioned lounge

Sundays:

Traditional service at 8:30am in the newly air-conditioned sanctuary

Coffee fellowship at 9:30am in the fellowship hall

Contemporary outdoor service at 10:30 on the south lawn

LABEL

Salem Lutheran Church

401 South Lake Street

Lake Mills, IA 50450

Address Service Requested