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

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Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

January 2019

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 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.

A Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson...

**PASTORAL FORUMS FRIDAY JANUARY 11, AT 11:00 AM AND 5:30 PM AND
SUNDAY JANUARY 13 AT 9:30 BETWEEN WORSHIP SERVICES**

“Then the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring upon his people” (Exodus 32:14).

“Now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith” (Galatians 3:25).

“When the human being confronts Jesus, the human being must either die or kill Jesus” (Detrick Bonhoeffer).

Change is hard, exciting and transformational. Does God change his mind, and how will we know? Do we dare participate in such a conversation? How does God, revealed to us through Jesus’ life, death, resurrection and ascension change our understanding? How does the Living Word and life in the Body of Christ change our identity? What did Detrick Bonhoeffer, author of “The Cost of Discipleship” mean in this quote from his unfinished work “Ethics,” ... confronted by Jesus one must die or kill Jesus. From the perspective of Christian ethics, it’s understood as a willingness to be willing to die to self and embrace the mission and ministry of Jesus. To truly encounter Jesus, one must be willing to change.

I’m currently reading, “Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Unchartered Territory” by Tod Bolsinger, in preparation for a seminar I’m attending this month. In chapter one of his book Bolsinger writes: “The culture is changing, the world is changing rapidly, and churches are facing change on an unprecedented scale.” Neither my seminary, the three churches I have served, my family, my communities, our world has been allowed to remain static. Change seems unavoidable.

So how do we manage this change? We can start by adopting a common vision that invites, informs and reflects some core beliefs that we want: “To be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude.” Starting with a sense of belonging creates a sense of community, that allows for healing, not just for certain individuals but all who are involved in that gift and process. Communities, where all can experience that can sense of belonging and healing, can have an opportunity to experience growth in new and profound ways. This growing recognizes, *“that*

Salem Women of the ELCA

Altar Guild

Jan. 8th at 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall

Altar Guild for January

Candy Hanna
Medara Winter

WELCA Meeting

No WELCA meetings in
January and February

Communion Schedule

Sundays, Jan 6th and 20th (8:30)
Sundays, Jan. 6th, 13th, 20th and
27th (10:30)
Saturdays, Jan. 5th and 19th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, Jan. 26th

Birthdays: Sarah Circle

Program: Circle Members visit

January 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 service at 10:30 in the sanctuary

SALEM RECORDS- DECEMBER

Memorials:

Jacky Larison– General Fund \$50,
Building Heat/AC \$50, Cemetery \$10,
Memorial Bench \$120, Good Gifts goat \$50

Vern Hagen– Building Heat/AC \$20

*Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2019
8:30am worship service broadcast on KIOU 107.3
radio in Forest City.*

The service can also be heard at 8:30am on cable Channel 2.

Cost for 2019 is \$83.

Dates Available:

March 24, 31	June 9, 16, 30	Oct. 13, 20, 27
April 21, 28	July 21, 28	Nov. 10, 17
May 5, 12	Aug. 18	Dec. 1, 22, 29
	Sept. 1, 15	

Call the office to reserve your dates.

641-592-1771

we are all designed by God to change, to grow, to evolve.” It allows us to experience and witness that we are all truly, ***“God forgiven and Mission driven”*** and ***“we are committed to that process for everyone who is open to it!”*** (italicized and bolded statements from our proposed mission and statement).

Working with the Joshua Group and talk of a new constitution and bylaws, has led to some anxiety about how this change will affect Salem’s identity. Specifically, will a recognition that we are more aligned with the ELCA make us too liberal. Can we all experience belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing even if we have deeply held convictions that differ greatly. My eighteen years of pastoral leadership, prayer, study and participation in the church has convinced me it’s not only possible but necessary. I firmly believe it’s what confronted the first disciples and all who experienced Jesus in the first century when confronted by Jesus – the Living Word – and it hasn’t changed much to this day. In the words of Bonhoeffer we must die (surrender self) or kill Jesus.

In three forums this January there will be opportunities to hear from Pastor Joel, a pastoral perspective about this need for change and from Rhonda Harmon, a mother’s perspective of what living into our new Mission, Vision, Constitution and Bylaws might mean for her and her family and others who are part of the LGBTQ community. Does our faith in Jesus confront us to be less of a disciplinarian, and more a lover of our neighbors and those who are marginalized? Does Christ Jesus confront us to see all people as children of God through faith?

Following the forums there will be an opportunity to participate in a “Shy Lutheran Ballot” A copy of the ballot is included in this issue of the Outreach. Members of the council will collect and count the ballots after each of the forums and the results of that ballot will be shared at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27 at 11:00 AM. As the information on the ballot explains, this is an informational and not a legislative survey. It’s our hope this process allows us to make the best-informed decisions about our mission, ministry and future in an inclusive and fair way.

Shalom

Pastor Joel

SHY LUTHERAN BALLOT

A shy Lutheran ballot is an informational, not a legislative tool for discernment. Its primary goal is to gage the over-all disposition of Salem’s members on a specific topic. Sometimes when a critical decision must be made in the life of our congregation the same voices are heard. Some feel they have the need or right speak on behalf of others. Some have no ongoing personal, vested commitment to the life of the congregation, but feel their voice and vote should bear equal weight. Sometimes members who have a voice, vote and vested interest in the outcome feel unable to participate in the discernment process for a variety of reasons. This Shy Lutheran Ballot allows the greatest numbers of our active and contributing members to participate in the discernment process. It is a tool that can help the Church Council and pastors discern, if some more formal vote or action should be taken. We hope this process allows us to make the best-informed decisions about our mission, ministry and future in an inclusive and fair way. Our hope is that we all will prayerfully participate, and our discernment is truly guided by the Holy Spirit.

There has been a request by members of our congregation that we extend pastoral care to a same gender couple who desire to be married at Salem in the summer of 2019. Currently Salem, in its bylaws do not allow its pastors to extend pastoral care for this pastoral act. Please circle the number 1-5 corresponding to the statements that most reflect you current understanding.

1 2 3 4 5

1. Only marriages between a man and woman in a monogamous life-long committed relationships should be recognized in this church. The bible speaks clearly against same sex relationships. The church should not endorse or support anyone who lives in such a relationship, including those who actively support or advocates on behalf of those who do.

2. At this time we need to keep our current policy that: this congregation should not call a pastor or lay rostered leader who is or intends to be in a same-gender relationship. Marriages, civil unions, or blessings of persons in same gender relationships should not be performed in this church building or authorized by this congregation

January 2019, LSI Newsletter Article and Story

Raising our Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families struggling without access to mental healthcare. Human services providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees striving to build new lives.

These are all issues faced by Iowans. Join us to make sure they are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors.

The event will be held on Tuesday, February 19. Visit www.LSIowa.org/ advocacy next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you’ve attended before, join us again. We hope this year’s schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s director of philanthropy and church relations, Debrah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.



Salem’s Clothes Closet is open Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Donations of new socks & underwear are needed. Thank you for your help.

	<p>Monday Mornings on Lake Street</p> <p>There’s a pot of coffee and goodies available on Monday mornings in the Lounge at Salem from 8 – 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Stop by and visit, have a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate and a goody, visit with friends. Bring a friend!</p> <p>Call the office if you would like to provide goodies some Monday! Free-will donation.</p>
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Thank you for your cards, flowers, memorial gifts and kind words after the passing of our mother-in-law, Jacky Larison. The flowers sent to the church were beautiful and added so much to the service.

Truly Grateful,

Pastor Joel and Nancy

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”



Senior Choir practices Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the choir room.

All are welcome to attend.

The *Creature Praise Choir* practices at 9:30am on Sundays in the choir room. Youth in grades 3-7 are welcome to attend.

Please contact Kathy Nelson with any questions.

3. Because of the need for pastoral care, sometimes in a time sensitive manner, and with accommodation to special circumstances; approvals of the pastoral acts of baptisms, weddings and funerals will be at the discretion of the pastor(s). Under special circumstances weddings, baptisms and funerals may be celebrated after consultation with the council, synod, colleagues and others who can offer guidance.

4. This congregation recognizes that we are not of the same mind in matters of human sexuality. We live in a time of great change in our church and culture actively seeking God’s grace and will for us and all others. We accept a diversity of opinions on a host of religious, political and social issues. Despite the challenges we continue to extend Christian fellowship to all including when deemed appropriate, pastoral care, pastoral acts and pastoral accountability.

5. This congregation should become a “Reconciling in Christ Community” which means we will “embody, inspire, and support the acceptance and full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, their families, friends and allies, within the Lutheran communion and its ecumenical and global partners” (www.reconcilingworks.org).

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday Dec. 10, 2018 – 5:30pm

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

Devotions and Prayers were led by Pastor Joel with readings from the Advent with emphasis on hope.

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

Communication and Correspondence: A thank you note was received from Ruth Sheldon that was shared.

Treasurer's Report: Mike provided a written report noting total income for the month \$30,041.00. Expenditures \$26,779.79. Checking account balance is \$33,128.47.

Financial Secretary's Report: Deb provided a written report noting 2018 average weekly contributions of \$5,485. Total 2018 contributions to date are \$263,295 which is up \$11,915 from 2017. In addition, the building upgrade checking account is \$17,938.23.

A motion was made by Kathy, seconded by Steph to accept the financial reports as written. All approved.

Visitors Comments/Questions: Harris Honsey and Wayne Van Veldhuizen addressed the council about applying for a grant from Diamond Jo Casino to help fund the heating system upgrade project. Harris and Wayne will request \$60,000 of which the application is due anytime between January 1-15, 2019. Criteria for this application is as follows: 1) letter from Salem Council president formally submitting the application; 2) Salem needs to have a 501C in place; 3) two bids for the project need to be submitted with the application; 4) annual budget statement needs to be included; and 5) 25% of funds must already be collected (not pledged) for the project.

Virginia Kingland requested that the council consider delaying the changing of Salem's Constitution and By-laws that addresses pastoral care to the LGBTQ community. She feels that Salem has other items that have higher priority than this issue. It was noted that by-laws can be changed at any time during the year with a 60-day notice to the congregation. There will be forums hosted by Pastor Joel to enhance this conversation on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 11:00am and 5:30pm; and again on Sunday, January 13, 2019 between services.

Board of Worship and Music: Nancy Guttormson will be joining the board beginning February 2019. Bruce Adams said he will help as long as needed. The board appreciates the help.

Board of Life and Growth/Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Decorations will be dismantled on Saturday, January 5 at 9am. Anyone interested in helping is welcome. The Good Gifts program is in full swing. The Youth will donate their first quarter Noisy Offering collection to camps for our youth program at Salem. A presentation of Salem's history will be presented by

Thank you for your donations to:

2018 Operation Clothes for Kids



Unwrapped gifts and monetary donations

Faith Formation offering of warm, waterproof mittens and gloves

The Good Gifts Barnyard Project

Thank you so much for your help in making the 2018 Clothes for Kids drive such a success! We were able to provide for 102 children in our community this year, which wouldn't have been possible without your participation in hosting our Giving Tree. We feel so blessed and proud to be part of such a giving community that allows us to make such a positive impact on so many kids each Christmas season. Please be sure to pass along our sincere thanks to your entire congregation at Salem. Their support of this project each year is greatly appreciated.

Samantha Petersburg, Tina Henely, Casey Singelstad,
Krishna Hanson and Nicole Nelson

SALEM Cornerstone - 1919

What was happening 100 years ago?

- * Woodrow Wilson was President
- * Western world was celebrating the end of World War I
- * Ford Model T's was cruising the roadways
- * Salem Lutheran was laying the sanctuary cornerstone

The cornerstone was placed so that construction of Salem sanctuary may begin. 1919 congregational members embarked on this aggressive endeavor with unwavering faith in God, a long term vision for the future and ironclad commitment. Bountiful generosity by pioneer members allowed for completion of the project in just two short years in 1921.

Taken from the book "Moe Farm Memories" by my uncle, Leroy Moe

In biblical times when some wanted to leave a mark on history they would build an altar in that spot to commemorate the place or occasion. Mother and dad left a monument in Lake Mills in that they helped to organize and build the fine cathedral type Salem Church. Dad and about five other men each mortgaged their farm or business for one thousand dollars and started the building fund. The church was built and is one of the finest churches in this area yet today. By Doris Tweed, LeRoy Moe's niece

What: "Mosquitoes and Miracles" – a time to recall the accomplishment achieved. A casual conversation of listening and sharing (if so desired) regarding this remarkable time in Salem history.

Storyteller Virginia Thomas highlights 1919 sanctuary features.

All stories welcome! Please add your stories to the fun.

When: Sunday, January 6, 2019, 2pm

Where: Salem Sanctuary

ALL INVITED. Refreshments served.

Virginia Thomas on January 6 at 2:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Board of Property and Management: No report.

Board of Youth: The self-defense classes were well attended. The schedule of events has been sent to all families with students in Faith Formation for the rest of this school year. The annual Mt. Kato trip has been scheduled for February 24, 2019.

Lead Pastor's Report: Written report was reviewed.

Assoc. Pastor's Report: Written report was reviewed.

Communication Director Report: No report.

A motion was made by Mike to accept all board reports, seconded by Sondra. All approved.

Old Business: None.

New Business: In the past the LMCPD has had an agreement with Salem that if they had to evacuate the daycare they could go to Salem. The LMCPD would like Salem's approval to continue this agreement. A motion was made by Willie to accept this agreement continuation, seconded by Steph. All approved.

Discussion was had on Board Members. Most boards have members' terms expiring and we are looking to fill those spots. Each Board is to have new Board Members to council ASAP so they can get on the ballot. If anyone is willing or interested in being on a board we would love to have them!

Mike has asked all boards to submit any foreseeable/extraordinary expenditures for 2019 to him by the end of December. These items will be considered when preparing the 2019 budget for Salem.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. A motion to adjourn was made by Sondra, seconded by Willie. All approved.

Next regular meeting: January 14, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Throne

