



Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

July 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
SalemLMinfo@gmail.com

A Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson...

IN THINKING ABOUT THE CHURCH

In a recent visit to Lois Aspland; she gave me a copy of something she had written about her church a while back. Lois said she went through the third grade in Lake Mills, was confirmed at Salem in 1959 and worked for eleven years as a custodian. She recently started attending again and had asked for a bible. In taking a new bible to her, I asked if she would allow me to share her thoughts about the church. I found them to be very profound and wanted to share them with you.

Lois writes: I must think about the church. I must ask myself, how much do we need the church? When Peter said, "thou art the Christ...[and Jesus replied]... upon this rock I will build my church" What kind of church did he mean? There were synagogues in those days, and the temple. He preached and taught in them, but most of his ministry was on the hillside and by the sea and on the streets. Fishermen put down their nets and listened.

There are plenty of people who do love and rejoice in the church, in going to this building, serving there, worshipping there. What we all need is Jesus Christ in our lives, he is the answer. Today the church stands better equipped than ever to heal troubled unions, offers more opportunities than ever for joyous growth through Christ and the company of his people. Once I hear the bell clanging and walk in the door, the familiar miracle happens. I came! And joy always fills me as a service of blessing.

The church stands for it and tries, it keeps trying for good, to draw people together for good. To baptize them and marry them and bury them and comfort them and advise them. I can read the Psalms. I can study the lovely windows or the altar and the gold cross says something deeply moving in my heart. The delicate flicker of the candles. All combine to give me a profound feeling of the presence of God. And afterward the fellowship and if possible serve God.

Lois speaks well of the church, and why we all must think about the church. Maybe we all should be asking, how much do we need the church? Is it the building? Is it the mission and mission out in the world? The "hillside, beside the sea, on the streets?" Where is the church most reflected in "all our need for Jesus Christ in our lives?" Something to think about.

IN THINKING ABOUT THE CHURCH - If you care to share your thoughts please feel free to share them with Pastor Joel for possible future Outreach editions.

WE DON'T HAVE TO SERVE TO BE CHRISTIANS, BUT WE DO HAVE TO BE GENEROUS TO BE CHRISTIANS. This account comes from a past director of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. She was doing site visits to some of the places in Africa which had been helped through the Hunger Appeal. In many of the villages, people were giving her gifts of appreciation for assistance they had received through the Hunger Appeal. She graciously accepted these gifts, honoring the African cultures of hospitality.

In one village a 15 year-old boy gave her a chicken. A chicken is an awkward gift but she received it and asked her sponsoring hosts what she was supposed to do with it. They suggested that she take it to the next village and give it to someone there. She was curious about the boy and asked the village elders about him. They told her that he had two younger brothers; that her father had died of AIDS and her mother had recently died of malaria. They were staying with their grandmother who also had malaria. This boy was, in reality, the head of the household. The director asked how many chickens the family had. An elder responded, "Well, they had two, and now they have one." The director said she could not accept this chicken.

Her whole life was dedicated to reducing hunger and making people less food insecure. By accepting this chicken, she was putting this family in greater jeopardy. The elders replied that she must accept the chicken. She thought that it was simply a matter of the demands of their culture and insisted that the survival of this family overrode any cultural expectations. They talked past each other for a while until one of the elders finally said, "They don't have to survive to be Christians, but they do have to be generous to be Christians." The director was struck by the truth of the statement. She understood that these people would not say that lightly – they dealt with the reality of death far more frequently than we do in the Northern Hemisphere. It was a statement of the theology of the Cross that was powerful and true. She did not return the chicken, but has told this story many times to help people understand the importance of generosity.

A Message from Pastor Melinda McCluskey...

GOD'S GOOD GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN: STEWARDSHIP AND CARE OF THE BODY by Susan Martins Miller

This article was featured in the Spring 2019 I Prevention and Wholehearted Living print issue.

"In the beginning when God created," Genesis begins. The earth was formless, dark, nothingness, and God set to work.

"Then God said."

"So God made."

"And God saw."

"And God called."

"And there was."

"And it was so."

"And it was good."

Throughout the first chapter of Genesis, the very beginning of the story of God's love for us, this is the rhythm of the action of a creative God bringing forth beauty and abundance from nothingness. Day and night, waters and sky, vegetation bearing fruit, great lights of the sky, swarms of multiplying living creatures of every kind. And then, in the midst of this ingenious bounty from the imagination of God came the idea of us: "So God created humankind in his image ... God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food ... and indeed, it was very good'" (Genesis 1:27–31).

Genesis 2 describes a lush garden as the place God prepared for humans, the place where God formed the first person out of dust and gave him a body and then breathed into his nostrils. He gave him spirit, making him a living being who was both body and spirit (Genesis 2:7), in the place that surrounded the first pair with what they needed to live healthy lives connected to God.

These pictures tell us that God took great care and delight in creation, both of the world and of us. In appointing people as stewards of creation, God invites us into that care and delight in the way we experience the world and our place in it. This includes our care and delight for our own health in body and spirit.

The Gift of Bodily Existence

Honoring God with our bodies expresses gratitude for the wonder of creation expressed in our bodily experience. Care of our health—body and spirit—is vital to living in communion with God. While we all have aspects of health that may be beyond our control, such as genes, exposure to damaging substances, or injury, many aspects are within our control to do our best to maintain our bodies in acknowledgement of bearing the image of God as whole persons God delights in.

Garden imagery, and the specific mention in Genesis of “every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food” and “I have given every green plant for food” (Genesis 1:29–30), brings foremost to mind the question of what we put into our bodies and the ways we sustain or sabotage health through food choices. But many other ways that we relate to our bodies matter as well. Do we receive the gift of our bodily existence with gratitude that leads to wonderment of exercise? To practice sexual health in ways that connect spirit and body? To stop talking about being tired all the time and make intentional changes to get enough rest? To integrate work with whole-life health so we can genuinely delight in life?

To positively manage how we behave and treat others when we’re anxious or angry? All of these and more are bodily experiences to be stewarded so that we honor God, support wellness, and prevent disease as we receive the gift of our bodily existence. Even Jesus withdrew periodically for quiet rest and spiritual refreshment. He stepped away from the crowds and even sent his closest circle of friends on ahead at times so he could have solitary time (John 6:16). He spent time in prayer to feed his spirit (Luke 5:16). He walked to Bethany, where his good friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived and he knew he would be welcome for a meal (Luke 10:38). He needed sleep like anyone else (Mark 4:38).

The Life of Grace-filled Health

Genesis begins with perfection, but in the third chapter rebellion and brokenness enters the story. From there the Bible is about putting perfection back together. By the time the Bible ends, with the close of the book of Revelation, we see the fullness of redemption. Yet we are caught in the time of imperfection, longing for wholeness.

In the apostle Paul’s letter to the Christians who lived in Galatia, we read the familiar words of the fruit of the Spirit. First comes a list of behaviors that are “works of the flesh,” and it’s easy to see the ill-health in them. They are rooted in self-centeredness and ambition, dissension and disregard for consequence. Against this backdrop we read of the “fruit of the Spirit”: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control’ (Galatians 5:22–23). This is God’s work in us. When we open ourselves to the gift of care and delight of creation, we also open ourselves to the gift of the fruit of the Spirit—including self-control.

As we consider how self-control applies to behaviors and choices affecting our health, our minds go quickly to behaviors we wish we would stop doing. We want to control the impulse to indulge the undesirable behaviors we know are not good for our waistlines, blood pressure, blood sugar, or cholesterol. We do not as easily think of self-control in positive terms of pursuing choices of care and stewardship of the body that share in God’s delight of creation.

We are conditioned to think of self-control as refraining from bad habits that harm us. And yes, bad habits do harm our health and we are not at our best in honoring the image of God when we mindlessly engage in them despite knowing the risks and consequences. But it is possible to flip our fundamental understanding of self-control to a fuller understanding of positive behaviors set in contrast to the “works of the flesh” and which come to us by God’s grace, not by the virtue of sheer human will power.

As we embrace the stewardship of the body as a spiritual practice meant to enrich our communion with God, we seek the same delight in caring for ourselves as God has in loving us. Out of this framework we daily receive afresh the fruit of the Spirit, given by God, that allows us to regard ourselves as the beloved image-bearers who rejoice in our body and spirit experience of God’s creation.

We honor God when we are stewards of our bodies for our health. These everyday choices, made by help of the Spirit of God, lead us to experience the redemptive nature of the kingdom of God, putting right what went wrong in the choices of Genesis 3, embracing the grace that comes to us in Christ, and living the story God means for us to live in a foretaste of the fulfillment of redemption.

Question: What other Bible stories in the Old Testament should every student know?

From the Pentateuch: Genesis to Deuteronomy.

1. Exodus 2:1-10 A Safe Place for Moses- Birth and Youth of Moses
2. Exodus 3:1-5 A Message for Moses- Moses at the Burning Bush
3. Exodus 7:14-12:32 Pharaoh Says, "No!"- The Plagues and the First Passover
4. Exodus 14:1-30 Escape through the Sea- Crossing the Red Sea
5. Exodus 16: 1-35 Good Gifts from God- Bread from Heaven
6. Exodus 20:1-17 God's Rules- The Ten Commandments
7. Exodus 24:12-18 Meeting God on the Mountaintop- On the Mountain with God
8. Numbers 21:4-9 Snakes in the Wilderness- The Bronze Serpent
9. Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Choose Life with God- Exhortation to Choose Life with God

From the Historical books: Joshua to Esther.

1. Joshua 6: 1-20 Walls Fall Down- Jericho Taken and Destroyed
2. Judges 4:1-5:31 Deborah Does God's Work- Deborah and Barak
3. Ruth 1 Ruth Stays Naomi and Her Moabite- Daughters-In-Laws
4. 1 Samuel 3:1-20 Who's Calling Samuel- Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity
5. 1 Samuel 16:1-13 God Chooses a New King- David Anointed As King
6. 1 Samuel 17:1-49 David and Goliath- David and Goliath

7. 1 Kings 6 Building God's House- Solomon Builds the Temple
8. 2 Kings 2:1-12 Elijah and Elisha- Elijah Ascends to Heaven
9. Esther 2:5-18; 3:1-6; 8:1-17 Brave Queen Esther- Esther Becomes Queen; Haman Undertakes to Destroy the Jews; Esther Saves the Jews

From the Writings: Job to Song of Solomon.

1. Psalm 23 A Shepherds Song- The Divine Shepherd



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

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.

Monday Mornings on Lake Street

We are going to discontinue Monday Morning Coffee in the lounge.

It was started when there was no longer a place to have coffee on Monday mornings.

Last year, 100% of the free will donations were used to purchase Christmas gifts for 4 children whose tags were on the Clothes for Kids tree at Salem.

On Mondays and Tuesdays, Ruth Willier serves breakfast sandwiches and coffee at the Senior Center. Wednesdays—Fridays she serves rolls and coffee. Hours are 7:30—9:30am.

There will be no Saturday service on July 13th– July Jubilee weekend!

Saturday evening services will be held in the air-conditioned lounge beginning June 29th.

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 10, 2019 – 5:30 pm

President Brad Evenson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Brad Evenson, Sondra Nelson, Willie Skellenger, Stephanie Steffens, Mike Swenson, Pastor Melinda McCluskey, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal

New council member representing Board of Youth – Marci Adeogun

Absent: Delane Behr, Ashley Hoffman

Devotions and Prayers: Pastor Joel provided devotions/prayer based on the first chapter of the book “The Corporate Person” and discussion followed.

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

Communication and Correspondence: Thank you with donation to Salem Church for \$100 from the Joyce Kilen family; Thank you from Life Serve Iowa Blood center; Request from July Jubilee sponsorship opportunities (Salem contributed \$150 previously); Flyer re: Joice Public Library fundraiser (Salem will include fundraiser information in bulletins and on Salem Facebook page); Winn-Worth Betco advertisement opportunity (Salem declined).

Treasurer’s Report: Mike provided a written report

Total income for the month \$20,852.81 (\$8,431.03)

Expenditures \$29,283.84

Checking account balance \$33,534.85

Heating Project balance \$98,235.23 \$11,000 has been paid to Johnson Heating/Plumbing to begin the project. We are still \$50,000 short of funds.

Financial Secretary’s Report: Sondra provided a written and verbal report 2019 average weekly contributions \$4,443.00. May total general offering was \$17,430.00. Sondra will be attending a session on Stewardship with Mark Anderson (Asst. to the Bishop) at the Synod Assembly this weekend and continues to work on confirming members to be a part of the stewardship committee and develop a campaign strategy.

A motion was made by Willie, seconded by Shannon 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. Reminder to members that in case of inclement weather, the 10:30am outdoor service will be held in the Sanctuary; Pastors will be away June 15-16 at the Synod Assembly, Pastor Judith Wozniak will cover all 3 services and be paid Synod guidelines; There will not be a 5:30 service on Saturday, 7/13/2019 (July Jubilee weekend); We are discussing ways to encourage and recruit volunteers to help with ushering and communion serving. Finding volunteers for 3 services is becoming difficult and has caused this committee to question continuing all 3 services.

Board of Life and Growth / Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Willie provided a verbal report. Wedding Fashion Show will be Thursday evening, 7/11/2019, 200 tickets will be available. The committee continues to prepare the Baptism Mobile that will be on display in the Narthex.

Board of Property and Management: No report

Board of Youth: Marcie provided a written/verbal report. Work has already begun on the schedule for Faith Formation next fall. High School continues fundraising for Savannah, GA mission trip; VBS this week at Winnebago; Day Camp at Salem July 15-19; Salem responsible for serving summer lunch program on Tuesdays, 10:50-12:10; named Marci will co-chair with Jennifer and attend council meetings. New members of the Youth Board are Megan Ritter and Jill Flugum.

Pastor Reports

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel shared a written/verbal report. Written report includes pastoral acts for May; review of his attendance at the Festival of Homiletics conference; Correspondence from ELCA, Mark Anderson, (assistant to the Bishop) to assist Salem in learning more about Biblical stewardship and strategies to invite members to know the joy of generosity; Synod benevolence budgeted vs \$0 given thus far this year, Pastor Joel asks, "what is Salem's plan for Synod benevolence?"; Confirmation planning for next fall; information regarding a possible evening worship and concert in August by

Dave Anderson of Fellowship ministries <http://www.thefellowship.com/tf/>

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Melinda submitted a written/verbal report. Written report includes pastoral acts for May; Pastor Melinda reported that she has submitted her mobility papers as she feels her position at Salem may be in jeopardy by the end of the year due to financial shortfalls in giving. She is also beginning to organize plans/curriculum for teaching members regarding bible classes and Confirmation work that is part of her role here at Salem.

Communication Director: No report

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

Old Business: Salem OUTREACH Newsletter – Mike moved that we end the mailing of the Salem OUTREACH Newsletter, effective August 2019. The OUTREACH will be available to members by 1) Email, 2) Salem Website, 3) Limited printed copies will be in the Narthex, outside the chapel and delivered to shut-ins, 4) printed copies will continue to be delivered to Mills Harbor and the LM Care Center. This change will be communicated in church bulletins weekly until it takes effect and on the Salem Website and Face Book page. Stephanie seconded the motion. All approved.

New Business: New Co-chair and members on Youth board. (See Youth board report). AC/Heating Project \$50,000 short of funds (See Treasurer's report). Stewardship Progress – Needs to be a priority (see Treasurer/Financial Sec/Lead Pastor/Associate Pastor reports).

Transfer: Stacy Anderson to Our Savior's Church in Leland, IA

A motion was made by Stephanie, seconded by Shannon to approve the transfer. All approved.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike, seconded by Shannon. All Approved. The meeting was adjourned at

Our next regular meeting will be Monday, July 8, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

Tickets on Sale for “I Do, I Do Wedding Dress Style Show

Tickets are now on sale for the “I Do, I Do Wedding Dress Style Show that will be held Thursday, July 11th at 7pm at Salem Lutheran Church during the Lake Mills Sesquicentennial Celebration.



The style show will feature wedding dresses through the decades, followed by an old fashioned wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at Salem Lutheran Church, MBT Bank, Farmers Trust and Savings Bank, and Citizens Community Credit Union.

If anyone is unable to purchase tickets locally, call Salem Lutheran Church at 641-592-1771 to reserve your tickets. Checks may then be mailed to: Salem Lutheran Church, 401 S Lake, Lake Mills, IA 50450. Tickets will be available at a will call desk that evening.

Profits from the event will go to local non-profit organizations.

For more information, call Kathy Chose at 641-592-1222

The Board of Worship and Music would like to extend a heartfelt “THANK YOU!” to those that presently help usher or serve communion during our worship services.

At this time, we are in need of additional volunteers.

If interested in serving in this way, please contact Shannon Bruhns, Janet Swenson, or Nancy Guttormson.

FUEL UP™
FOR SUMMER FUN
Eat Smart. Play Hard.™

Join us for a FREE lunch!

- **Open to all children and teens 1–18**
- **No registration or identification is required**

Lunch
 11:00 am—Noon
 Monday—Friday thru August 22nd
 No meal on July 4th
 At Salem Lutheran Church

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

© 2011 National Dairy Council®. Fuel Up is a trademark of National Dairy Council.

July 2019, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

LSI’s Host Homes Program

Each year, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) empowers hundreds of Iowans with disabilities. There is no greater joy for us than seeing an individual develop greater independence, find their confidence, and thrive in their community. And through our innovative Host Homes program, LSI has found a new way to lift up our Iowa neighbors.

Through the program, adults with disabilities or “mentees” move from a supported community living setting – like a 24-hour, fully staffed home with roommates – into a private family home with a Host Homes “mentor”. LSI collaborates with the individuals we serve and the contracted mentors to ensure each match is the perfect fit and to create a shared living opportunity that is beneficial to mentors and mentees.

LSI is seeking compassionate and dedicated caregivers to join us in the mission. If you have room in your heart and in your home, being a Host Homes mentor might be for you! Visit LSIowa.org/HostHomes to learn more. If you are interested in supporting crucial programming like LSI’s Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Lake Mills Community Blood Drive
 Tuesday, July 9th
 1:00-6:00pm
 Salem Fellowship Hall
 Schedule your lifesaving appointment online at
www.lifeservebloodcenter.org
 or by calling 800-287-4903

SALEM RECORDS– June

Memorials:

Joyce Kilen- \$35 general fund, \$20 cemetery
 Ozzie Rognes- \$10 general fund
 Russell Myli- \$45 building heat/ac, \$50 general fund

Funeral:

Russell Myli

Transfer:

Stacy Anderson

Baptism:

Clayton Brian Helgeson

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2019 8:30am worship service broadcast on KIOW 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:

October 27

Call the office to reserve your dates.

641-592-1771

Salem Women of the ELCA

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

Altar Guild

July 2nd at 7pm
Fellowship Hall

Altar Guild for July

Joan Kloster
Janet Swenson

WELCA Meeting

No WELCA meetings in
July or August

Communion Schedule

Sundays, July 7th and 21st (8:30)
Sundays, July 7th, 9th, 14th, 21st
and 28th(10:30)

Saturdays, July 6th and 20th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, July 31st

Birthdays: Martha Circle

Program: Grace Circle

July 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 outdoor service at 10:30 on the south lawn

There will be no Saturday service on July 13th– July Jubilee weekend

LABEL

Salem Lutheran Church

401 South Lake Street

Lake Mills, IA 50450

Address Service Requested