



Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

February 2020

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
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Pastor Melinda McCluskey
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A Message from Pastor Joel Guttormson...

THE MISSION OF THE TWELVE – Staying until you leave the place.

“ 1 Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. 3 He said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money — not even an extra tunic. 4 Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. 5 Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” 6 They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.” (Luke 9:1-6).

Twenty years ago, as we completed seminary training and transitioned to our first calls, Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean and Professor of Contextual Education, led my class through the process of leaving that place and accepting our first call. He began each class with the reading of the sending of the disciples out into the mission field. Following the gospel reading he would raise a question for us to discuss that had to do with moving (how much stuff we should bring.) Financing and compensation (how to negotiate financial matters and live within our means) How long your first call will last and how to discern when it's time to leave. The average first call was 18 months to 3 years; although I have two classmates who are still in their first call after 20 years.

For a few weeks Dr. Nesson began class with this reading from Luke 9. One day Dr. Nesson after reading verse four, “Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there,” he stopped, then chuckled a bit and asked, “What kind of advice it that? To stay until you leave! What other options are there?” That began a very thought-provoking conversation that I have wrestled with for my nearly twenty years of ministry, serving now in my third call. What can we do, besides “staying until you leave a place?”

Lately I've been wondering if this is one the most important conversations, we as a church need to have in this time of declining church attendance; and not just for rostered leaders of the church but for every lay person as well. After twenty years of ordination a minority of my forty-five classmates still serve in parish ministry. As members of the church, Christ's body how do we

discern how long to stay and when to leave? At my fifteen-year class reunion, of the fifteen who attended, only three still served in a parish setting.

Anecdotally, I have seen in my own extended family, and among many of my peers as well, leave the church. The latest Pew Research reports that 54% of Americans now say they attend religious services a few times a year or less. These folks are sometimes called the nones and dones, those who have never entered the church and its ministry and those who are done with organized religion.

Currently, it's the fastest growing demographic according to the census and among polling results. I've seen those of us still active in the church trying a few things to entice these people back, a kind of carrot and stick approach. For a while the evangelism strategy was to make the building a welcoming place. Not all bad, but after a few decades of trying better signage, offering visitor gift bags, having greeters at the door, guest books and pew pads to sign; few of these incentives have produced dramatic results. This approach has been often referred to as "consumer evangelism." Give those who are "church shopping" what they want. It's all about marketing and producing the best product.

If a person should happen to come back, what's the next step? All too often it's to ask them to serve on a committee, give them offering envelopes letting them know how much we need their money. First entertain them, give them what they want and then let them know how much we need them to do the ministry we have become too old, or small, burned out, or tired, to sustain. The last thing we should be trying to convince new or returning members, is that we need them more than they need us!

Another disincentive is to evaluate if they're of sound doctrine and moral character, have the right politics and social views as the rest of us. Having to pass some sort of litmus test to feel welcome, is to not really be welcoming at all. It's not welcoming to hear how this new generation or these new people to the community are not what we're looking for. When we say, "We are God forgiven and mission driven," we aspire to let all know 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." The church Paul so diligently worked towards was one where "there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for all are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Read through either the Old or New Testaments and come up with a list

of those who "had the right stuff" to be the people of God!

So, what does it mean to belong and stay until you leave the place? It's our calling to leave this place! We are called to go out and gather all to the wonderful promise of a vibrant community where "belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all" and that changes lives and communities. I wonder if we miss the point of Jesus' commissioning of the twelve disciples when we gloss over the fact that, "he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal." The early church was always changing, moving, growing and going someplace new.

We leave to serve, witness and invite others to see what God is doing here at Salem or leave to share this good news in someplace new! We are called week in and week out to leave this place of sanctuary and go out to those places where the gospel of Christ might be rejected, where our message might not be welcome. The rest of Luke, chapter nine, tells of ministry successes (9:10-17) and rejections (9:51-56), mountain top visions of grandeur (9:28-36) and predictions of great persecutions (9:21-25;44-45), clarity about the Messiah of God(9:18-20) and great misunderstandings (9:46-48).

After all this, we are told in Luke 10:1-12, that Jesus then appointed seventy others and sent them out to every town and place where he himself intended to go. We are always called to leave this place, to share the good news of the coming kingdom of God. You will see in Luke chapter ten the seventy are called in much the same way as the twelve were in the previous chapter. God's people come and to and this continues in Luke's companion to this gospel, the book of Acts. The church has always been a place where faithful followers, stay – fully engaged – until they for what ever reason are called to leave this place.

The church was strengthened by all these comings and goings. The early church grew despite setbacks, disappointments and misunderstandings, because Jesus convinced them it was his mission to continually call, equip and send them out. Whether is the first twelve disciples, the commissioning of the seventy, or the church of today, Jesus calls us together, equips and empowers us, and sends us out. I truly believe if we were to make this our singular focus, to gather together and sent be out to share Christs love in word and deed, we our community and our world would be a better place.

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday January 13, 2020 – 5:30 pm

President Brad Evenson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Members present: Marci Adeogun, Delane Behr, Shannon Bruhns, Brad Evenson, Sondra Nelson, Willie Skellenger, Stephanie Steffens, Mike Swenson, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Pastor Melinda McCluskey, Ashley Hoffman

Devotions and Prayers: Pastor Guttormson opened with devotions and prayers.

Secretary's Report: The December minutes were included with the agenda and reviewed by council members. 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 received from Mary Sorenson and family for use of Salem for the funeral mass for Paul; Thank you from Mercy One North IA Hospice for Salem being the site for the Tree of Life service. Requests from LM After-Prom Committee for donation and from LMCS Yearbook Staff for advertising support – Marci will take these two requests to Board of Youth for consideration to support through Youth Board funds.

Treasurer's Report: Mike provided a written and verbal report

Total income for December \$47,269.78

Expenditures for December \$25,474.95

Checking account balance \$32,658.93

Heating Project balance \$22,750.17

Salem has received the following bills from Johnson Heating - \$69,247.00 and \$1,217.00 and a bill from Groe Electric \$6,436.00. The work has not yet been completed and payment is pending completion and decisions/vote at the Annual meeting.

Discussion was held on sending funds to the Synod this month. Mike moved

that we wait until the end of the month to decide on amount of benevolence to the Synod, Stephanie seconded the motion. Those in favor were Brad, Stephanie, Mike, Shannon, Delane, Marci and Willie, Cindy voted against. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary's report: Sondra provided a written report.

2020 YTD total offerings (1/13/2020) \$9,269

2019 YTD total offerings (1/13/2019) \$8,185

Sondra provided a Fund Summary of designated giving for 2019 and 2018 for comparison. This report is something that the council would like to review quarterly and Sondra will report again in April at the Council meeting.

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

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music: Shannon provided a written/verbal report. Pat Thorson from Altar Guild attended the January meeting and there are continued efforts to share and cover responsibilities. Succession planning for second service music has progressed and continues. Pastor Joel and Pastor Melinda are now sending draft liturgies by email to be proofread.

Board of Life and Growth / Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Willie provided a verbal report. The committee took down Christmas decorations and packed with labeling to make decorating easier next year. They also prepared canisters for February noisy offering – Good Samaritan Fund.

Board of Property and Management: Delane had no report. There was discussion regarding status and completion of the Heating/AC project.

Board of Youth: Marci provided a verbal report

The HS Summer Adventure Trip registration is due January 19. Thus far, there are no Salem members signed up to attend. There are 2 members in contemplation. February 9 will be family game day and Bingo with a meal. A ski trip is scheduled for March 1 at Mt. Kato; registration, money and waiver due February 16.

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

Lead Pastor’s Report: Pastor Joel shared a written/verbal report which included Pastoral acts in December and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics noted in his report include: Chapter 7 of the Corporate person, “Health” recommended for all outgoing and incoming council members with discussion/reflection at February Council meeting; LMAMA report; Living Waters Annual Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020 in Manly, IA; 10:30 Contemporary Worship Update; Young Adult Service activities; Salem Digital Outreach impact from our radio broadcast and live streaming; 2020 NE Iowa Synod Assembly is set for June 12-14 at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, which will include the election of a bishop.

Associate Pastor’s Report: Pastor Melinda submitted a written report which included Pastoral acts in December and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned.

Communication Director: No report

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

Old Business:


A. 2020 Annual meeting – Sondra has ordered the rolls and will prepare the coffee for the Annual meeting. All council members are asked to help in the kitchen. The Agenda was reviewed and responsibility of each item will be defined and sent out to all council members. Mike will talk to Harris to be prepared to present a report on Enduring Gift Fund.

New Business:

A. Visitor Comments/Questions - none

B. Nominating Committee – Ballot Approval. Stephanie read the list of nominees for boards on the ballot for 2020 to be voted on at the Annual meeting – Willie moved that all nominees be approved, Sondra seconded. All approved, the motion passed. The nominating committee will be asked to notify all nominees that nominations were approved by council and they are asked to attend the annual meeting where they will be voted in and

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes
<h2>Salem Lutheran Church</h2> <h3>February 2020</h3>			
2 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship 9:35 am Faith Formation 10:30 am Contemporary Service 11:30 am 1st Annual Welcome & Farewell Brunch	3 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Open 2:00 pm Food Shelf Open 3:15 pm Cadette/Sr Scouts	4 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Altar Guild	5 2:15 pm Junior 5:00 pm Confir
9 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship 9:30 am Play & Pray 9:35 am Faith Formation 10:30 am Contemporary Service - 4 year old-2nd grade sing 11:30 am Family Bingo Event	10 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Open 1:00 pm Mission Quilters 2:00 pm Food Shelf Open 5:30 pm Council	11 10:00 am Care Givers Support Group 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 3:15pm Daisy Scouts	12 5:00 pm Confir
16 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship 9:35 am Faith Formation 10:30 am Contemporary Service	17 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Open 2:00 pm Food Shelf Open 3:15 pm Cadette/Sr Scouts 6:00 pm Quilt Club	18 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Life & Growth Board	19 2:15 pm Junior 5:00 pm Confir
23 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Blue Sheet Discussion 9:35 am Faith Formation 10:30 am Contemporary Service 4:00 pm VBS Planning @ Winnebago	24 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Open 1:00 pm Mission Quilters 2:00 pm Food Shelf Open	25 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 3:15 pm Daisy Scouts	26 ASH WED 1:45 pm Mills munic 2:30 pm LMCC 5:00 pm NO C Class 6:15 pm Good 7:00 pm Ash V Servic

sday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 pm Worship
Scot mation Class	6 9:30 am Grace Circle 9:30 am Sarah Circle 2:00 pm Martha Circle	7	8 5:30 pm Worship
mation Class	13 9:30 am Fine Arts Guild	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY 3:15 pm Brownie Scouts 	15 5:30 pm Worship
Scot mation Class	20 NO WELCA	21	22 5:30 pm Worship
NESD. arbour Co Communi nfirmation Samarit ednesd	27 5:45 pm Worship & Music	28 3:15 pm Brownie Scouts	29 5:30 pm Worship

installation will occur.

C. Discussion regarding requesting funds from the Enduring Gift Fund to pay off Heating/AC project.

Mike raised the consideration should the vote for a loan not pass. It was decided that no decisions will be made until after the annual meeting.

D. New member/Transfers: Roxanne Pals. Mike moved that Roxanne be accepted as a new member of Salem, Shannon seconded the motion. All approved, motion passed. No transfers were requested.

Motion to adjourn was made by Willie, seconded by Shannon. All Approved, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Our next regular meeting will be Monday, February 10, 2020.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Haugsdal

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Debrah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

Thank You from the Clothes for Kids Committee



Thank you so much for your help in making the 2019 Clothes for Kids drive such a success! We distributed 191 gifts to 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 a part of such a giving community that allows us to make such a positive impact on so many kids during the Christmas season.

Clothes for Kids Committee:

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

Family Game Day

Sunday, February 9th at 11:30am-1:30pm

Come join us for Family Game Day...BINGO edition!

We will provide a meal and BINGO fun for the whole family.

Faith Formation Upcoming Events

February:

9th– Play and Pray 9:35am

4 year old-2nd grade sing at 10:30 service

Family BINGO event 11:30am

March:

1st– Play and Pray 9:35am

Mt. Kato ski trip

8th– First Communion class for 5th graders and parents

4 year olds-2nd grade sing at 10:30 service

15th– First Communion class for 5th graders and parents

22nd– First Communion class for 5th graders and parents

29th– First Communion class for 5th graders and parents

April:

5th– Play and Pray 9:35am

4 year olds-2nd grade sing at 10:30 service

First Communion class for 5th graders and parents

9th– Manudy Thursday– 5th graders First Communion

12th– Easter– Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45am

May:

3rd– Confirmation Sunday

10th– Last day of Faith Formation

Play and Pray 9:35am

4 year olds-2nd grade sing at 10:30 service

17th– Graduation Sunday

Skiing, Snowboarding and Tubing Event

Join us at Mt. Kato on March 1st for some winter fun!

Registration, waiver, and payment are due to the church office by Sunday, February 16th.

Detailed information and registration will be on the bulletin board across from the pastor's office.

Hope you and your friends and family can join in on the fun!

Pray and Pray

February 9th at 9:35 in the Lounge

Pray and Play is for babies thru 3 years old and their parents/guardians/caretakers. This group meets monthly in the lounge. Come join in on the fun and fellowship!

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

Donations of new socks and underwear are needed.

Cold weather is now upon us.

Please consider donating any new or gently used coats to the Clothes Closet. Hats and mittens are also needed to keep our youngsters warm. These items can be brought to the church office or contact Rita Anderson.

Thank You from the Good Samaritan Committee!

Reserve your special date to sponsor a 2020 8:30am radio broadcast.

The 8:30am worship service is heard on KIOW 107.3 radio in Forest City and on cable Channel 2. Cost for 2019 is \$83.

2020 Broadcast Dates Available:

March 29

May 3, 10, 24

June 21

July 12, 19, 26

August 2, 9, 30

September 6, 20

October 11, 18, 25

November 1, 8, 15, 22

December 6, 13, 27

Call the office to reserve your date. 641-592-1771

SALEM RECORDS-JANUARY
Transfers: Roxanne Pals
Funerals: Harlan Charlson
Baptism: Avaleigh Kristine Wacek
MEMORIALS
Harlan Charlson - Cemetery \$30, Heat/AC \$25

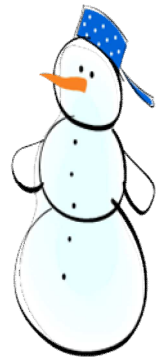
Is church still on? It is the time of the year when we need to pay attention to the weather! If we have an emergency schedule change, we will notify you through the following media:

KIOW Radio 107.3 (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"



Salem Women of the ELCA

Non-Profit Organization
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Altar Guild

February 4th at 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall

Altar Guild for February

Shelley Hagenson
Sharon Johnson

WELCA Meeting

WELCA will not meet in
February

Communion Schedule

Sundays, February 2nd and 16th
(8:30)

Sundays, February 2nd, 9th, 16th
and 23rd, (10:30)

Saturdays, February 1st and 15th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

February 26th

1:45pm Mills Harbour Communion

2:30pm Lake Mills Care Center

Communion

Birthdays/Visits: Grace 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 service at 10:30 in the sanctuary

Salem Lutheran Church

401 South Lake Street

Lake Mills, IA 50450

Address Service Requested

LABEL