



Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

January 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...

IS IT US OR THEM? WHO ARE WE?

At our special congregational meeting this past November I rose to a point of order, on a couple of occasions, to ask that we use the language of “we” and not “they.” Making this distinction is important. At a congregational meeting the members of Salem are empowered to become the highest authority on all important matters of our congregation and its future, guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission and vision statement, and our constitution and bylaws.

Too quickly a church can be divided by the language of “us” and “them.” In a congregational meeting there are no longer pastors, presidents, executive councils, leaders, committees, all are one church body. All have equal voice, vote and responsibility for the life and ministry of our members, the community, our congregational and global partners; our place in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. A caveat here is that pastors at Salem, constitutionally have voice, but no vote. Here the ELCA Model Constitution offers options for congregational polity that ranges from the pastor serving as congregational president to pastors having voice but no vote.

Paul's teaching in his letter to the church in Corinth affirms this unity and diversity, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12). Paul wrote letters to a number of churches, each with their own unique sets of challenges and strengths. We hear this call for unity again in the gospel of John; as Jesus prays for his disciples before his betrayal and arrest, trial and crucifixion, “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word that they [we] all may be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me...I in them and you in me, that they [we] may become completely one” (John 17:10-26).

The scriptural vision is clear, we were created to be in community with God and each other for the sake of the world. Even in Genesis we are told how the first couple were created individually and uniquely to live as one flesh. God said, “Let us make human-kind in our image, according to our likeness,” But sadly, that didn't last very long. It is a sneaky snake who tries to separate “us” into “they.” Perhaps it was inevitable that Satan would find ways to

separate our community into “us” and “them.” Soon Adam and Eve were asserting their autonomy and authority to make their own decisions. That only lead to divisions and separation from each other and God. She did it! It’s all her fault! Let’ blame the snake! (I’m all up for that) For the church in Corinth the divisions caused struggles among various factions, some turning to Paul, other to Apollos, Cephas and others and Paul asks, “Has Christ been divided?” (1 Corinthians 1:13).

So, who’s in and who’s out? I learned from a seminary professor that whenever we try to draw a circle, set an arbitrary boundary, around peoples and then discern who is “us” and who is “them,” you will quickly find that Jesus is choosing to be with them. Those who circle the wagons and say “God is with us” quickly learn that Jesus is more likely found to be with them. That’s Matthew’s gospel in a nutshell. Jesus has come to be with those pushed to the margins, excluded and disenfranchised.

Jesus has come to be our Emmanuel (which means God with us). We will be reminded of this again on the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, when we hear Jesus preach his sermon on the mount. It’s the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. It will be those who are reviled and persecuted and have all kinds of evil uttered against them for the sake of Jesus’ who will rejoice and be glad.

I would invite you to again look at the mission and vision statement we recently adopted at a congregational meeting this past year. It passed with 118 yes and vote 84 no votes. It’s still a new vision and mission it’s not fully embraced. We are not all in agreement, that’s natural. Our mission may be, as yet aspirational, something “we” may have to live into; but it recognizes at the outset there is no “us” and “them.” We are all forgiven and called to God’s mission, healing and reconciling work in the world.

OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: 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.

Belonging means: ..that we all belong! We all have a place! We all fit! “as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he

chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body” (1 Corinthians 12:18- 20).

Healing means: ...that we all have brokenness and are in need of wholeness. God’s Word, the Bread of Life, and so much more, helps us to take these important steps forward! “I [God] am going to bring it, recovery and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security” (Jeremiah 33:6).

Growing means: ...we are designed by God to change, to grow, to evolve. We are committed to that process for everyone who is open to it! “We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing” (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

Serving means:...that Jesus made clear that being a servant was central to being a disciple. Therefore, we see that everyone who is a follower is a servant, as well. “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 4:10).

Believing means: that faith and not works is central to our life. Simple, and yet profound trust in the promise of forgiveness and mercy, and the presence of the Spirit, guides us in all we do. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

Shalom
Pastor Joel

Salem’s Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 29th
at 9:30am.

The 2020 ballot has been posted.

On January 26th there will be one service at 8:30am and no Faith
Formation.

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 9, 2019 – 5:30 pm

President Brad Evenson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. 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 Joel opened with devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report: The November minutes were reviewed by council members.

A motion was made by Mike seconded by Stephanie to accept the minutes of the November Council meeting as written. All approved.

Minutes from the Executive Council meeting from December 3, 2019 were shared with the council. These minutes include the following information - Pastor Melinda has informed the council that her husband, Pastor Scot, has resigned from his call at Galilean Lutheran Church in Clear Lake, effective 12/31/2019. He has accepted a new call as an interim pastor in Story City, Iowa. They plan to continue to live in Clear Lake.

Communication and Correspondence: A donation of \$500 for Heating/AC fund was received in memory of James and Orva Gustafson by Janora Hodges, Virgean Reines, and Eileen Mestnik.

Treasurer's Report: Mike provided a written report.

Total income for November \$19,835.53

Expenditures \$26,372.15

Checking account balance \$8,431.60

Heating Project balance \$19,519.23

Pastor Guttormson announced that he will not request reimbursement for mileage this year (2019).

Financial Secretary's report: Sondra provided a written report

2019 YTD total offerings (12/1/2019) - \$248,266

2018 YTD total offerings (12/1/2018) - \$273,166

There is approximately \$900 that has been donated to be used for LGBTQ education.

Enduring Gift Fund gave \$2000 to the Good Samaritan Fund here at Salem.

A motion was made by Willie seconded by Delane 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.

Beginning conversations of combining Altar Guild and Music/Worship Boards together to share responsibilities to accommodate fulfilling all the aspects of worship given limited resources. Altar Guild president will be invited to upcoming meeting. They will review a roster of who is actively serving on Altar Guild and develop a training and succession plan.

Planning continues for Advent and Christmas Eve services. There will be Christmas Eve services at 5:00 and 10:30 pm. Lessons and Carols on December 28 at 5:30 pm and December 29 at 8:30 with no 10:30 service on December 29. Additional topics of discussion included music at the 10:30 service and Bulletin review. Wedding planner discussion was tabled.

Board of Life and Growth / Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Willie provided a verbal report.

Church decorating was completed on November 30, 2019. The board invites members to support the ELCA Good Gifts tree by choosing a tag to purchase farm animals to support church wide ministries. Noisy offering will be collected in January for the Good Samaritan fund here at Salem with collection on February 2, 2020. Rhonda Harmon, Rhonda Schriever, and Allison Rice along with Willie will be leaving this committee this year.

Board of Property and Management: Delane provided a verbal report.

Heating/AC project continues to progress. There are 2 roof leaks in the church that have been reported and the board will be looking at identifying these areas and report what needs to be done. Pastor Joel also has reported a

“drop” in the ceiling of the kitchen; the committee will take a look at this. Brad reported a plan to organize an in-service on the new Heating/AC system with Johnson Heating personnel. It is recommended that all staff attend, as well as council members.

Board of Youth: Marci provided a verbal report

Ice Skating event in November and Christmas program on December 8 were both a success. There will be a movie on December 15 in place of Faith Formation. 2020 future planning includes a Family Game Day and Ski trip. Pastor Joel reported that Board of Youth will be getting information regarding a High Adventure trip for kids that have completed grades 9-12. This is a joint trip with One in Christ.

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 November and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned.

Additional topics addressed in his report included: A colleague, Pastor Mark, has offered to speak at Salem about his work as a Police Chaplain; Feed My Starving Children fund-raiser scheduled at 5 Alarm Brewery this Sunday; Shared and recommended 2 books purchased at the Change (Almost) Everything Conference he recently attended <https://www.rozellaahwhite.com/team> and <https://brianmclaren.net> Pastor hopes to offer pastoral forums/ conversations about McLaren’s book; Discussion regarding Chapter 6 of the Corporate Board book, “Voice” and shared how this chapter applied to his experience serving on the board of Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer camp and retreat center; Shared information regarding meetings he has attended about Hope’s design to begin satellite churches in small towns across Iowa, Hope is partnering with the NE Iowa Synod to continue with an “Authorized Worshiping Community”, conversations continue; LMAMA November monthly report, Pastor Joel has agreed to shadow then take over Pastor Bill’s role with the Summer Feeding program in 2020.

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

Salem Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Happy New Year! 2020			
5 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship 9:35 am Faith Formation 10:30 am Contemporary Service	6 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Open 2:00 pm Food Shelf Open 3:15 pm Cadette/Sr. Scouts	7 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Altar Guild 5:30 pm Life & Growth Board	8 2:15 pm Ju 5:00 pm Co
12 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 7:00 pm Youth Board	13 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Open 1:00 pm Mission Quilters 2:00 pm Food Shelf Open 5:30 pm Council	14 10:00 am Care Givers Support Group 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 3:15 pm Daisy Scouts	15 5:00 pm Co
19 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship 9:35 am Faith Formation 10:30 am Contemporary Service	20 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Open 2:00 pm Food Shelf Open 3:15 pm Cadette/Sr. Scouts 6:00 pm Quilt Club	21 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	22 2:15 pm Ju 5:00 pm Co 8:00 pm 20 Su M
26 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Annual Meeting	27 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Open 1:00 pm Mission Quilters 2:00 pm Food Shelf Open	28 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 3:15 pm Daisy Scouts 5:30 pm Life & Growth Board	29 1:45 pm M m 2:30 pm LN 5:00 pm Co 5:45 pm Go

January 2020

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FICES CLOS Confirmation Class	2 9:30 am Grace Circle	3 3:15 pm Brownie Scouts	4 5:30 pm Worship
Senior Scout Confirmation Class	9	10	11 8:00 am Life Serve Bloodmobile 5:30 pm Worship
Confirmation Class	16 2:00 pm NO WELCA	17 3:15 pm Brownie Scouts	18 5:30 pm Worship
Senior Scout Confirmation Class 20 Sr. High Young Member Meeting	23	24	25 5:30 pm Worship
Hills Harbour Community CC Communi Confirmation Class and Samarit	30 5:45 pm Worship & Music	31 3:15 pm Brownie Scouts	

Communication Director: No Report.

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

Old Business:

A. Nominating Committee report – The committee met December 5 and began calling to fill open board positions. They are scheduled to meet again on December 11. A list of names of candidates to fill expected vacancies must be posted by this Friday, December 13, 2019. This list will also be included in the bulletin on Sunday, December 15, 2019.

New Business:

A. Visitor Comments/Questions – there were no comments/questions

B. Salem Annual Meeting – Delane moved that the Annual meeting be on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 9:30 am. This will follow the 8:30 service and there will be no Faith Formation or 10:30 service. Stephanie seconded the motion. All approved.

C. 2020 Salem Annual Meeting – Agenda will be developed by the Executive Council and must be posted on December 27, 2019.

D. Board/Council Reports for the annual report should be emailed to the church office by Monday, January 6, 2020.

Financial reports due as soon as completed.

E. New members/Transfers: Chris and Molly Flo, Rowan, Kellen, and Keaton to First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea, MN.

Motion to approve this transfer was made by Mike, seconded by Stephanie. All approved.

Motion to adjourn was made by Shannon seconded by Sondra. All Approved.

Our next regular meeting will be Monday, January 13, 2020 at 5:30 pm

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal

2020 Senior High Youth Summer Trip to Outlaw Ranch

July 18th to July 25th

This small group adventure experience includes full-day or part-day adventures such as hiking or overnight backpacking, biking on the Mickelson Trail, lake and creek kayaking, caving, service projects, and the low ropes challenge course and trail ride. The week includes daily worship, Bible study, great food and awesome counselors.

Examples include: hike a peak, kayak on a lake, bike on the Mickelson Trail, explore a cave, paddleboard on a lake, participate in a service project, and grow as a team on the challenging course.

Registration and \$100 deposit due January 19th

Overall cost will be approximately \$1,000

Planning Meeting on Wednesday, January 22nd at 8:00pm



Faith Formation Upcoming Events

January:

5th– Faith Formation starts back up

12th– Play and Pray 9:35am

26th– No Faith Formation– Annual Meeting

February:

9th– Play and Pray 9:35am

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

Family BINGO event 11:30am

March:

1st– Mt. Kato ski trip

8th– Play and Pray 9:35am

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

Summer:

June– VBS with One in Christ Parish

July– EWALU Day Camp at Salem

BINGO and Family Game Day

Please note date change

Sunday February 9th at 11:30am

Everyone welcome for lunch and games!

Salem Clothes Closet is open Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm.
Donations of new socks and underwear are needed.

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.

2019 Broadcast Dates Available:

March 22, 29 April 26 May 3, 10, 23

June 14 July 12, 19, 26 August 2, 9, 30

September 6, 20 October 11, 18, 25

November 1, 8, 15, 29 December 6, 13, 27

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

SALEM RECORDS-DECEMBER

Memorials:

Don Bergan– cemetery \$30

Helen Holstad – cemetery \$20

Paul Sorenson- cemetery \$250

Transfers: Chris and Molly Flo, Rowan, Kellen and Keaton

Funerals: Paul Sorenson

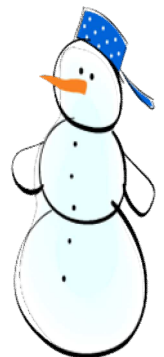
Is church still on? It is the time of the year when we need to pay attention to the weather! If we have an emergency schedule change, we will notify you through the following media:

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

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Altar Guild

January 7th at 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall

Altar Guild for January

All guild members

WELCA Meeting

WELCA will not meet in January
or February

Communion Schedule

Sundays, January 5th and 19th
(8:30)

Sundays, January 5th and 12th,
(10:30)

Saturdays, January 4th and 18th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

1:45pm Mills Harbour Communion

2:30pm Lake Mills Care Center
Communion

January Worship Schedule

Saturdays:

Casual worship at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall

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