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Lake Mills, IA 50450



# Salem Lutheran Church

## OUTREACH

### December 2015

LABEL

**We invite you to join us for our weekly Worship Services:**

**Sundays:**

**8:30 a.m.** Traditional Worship Service

**9:30 a.m.** Coffee Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School

**10:30 a.m.** Contemporary Worship Service

**Wednesdays:**

**6:00 p.m.** Casual Worship Service— Chapel

**Come say farewell to  
Pastor Soli THIS Sunday  
following worship ~  
luncheon at 11:30am!**

*Prepare to . . .*



*. . . for Christ's sake*

**Pastor Peter Soli**

507.369.6303 ~ Peter.Soli@DialogWorks.org

**Pastor Melinda McCluskey**

563.581.9965 ~ melindamcmc@gmail.com

**Pastor Joel Dahlen**

641.420.5604 ~ pastorjoeld@gmail.com

**Helen Rice, Church Secretary**

641.592.1771 ~ salem@wctatel.net

**Ruth Sheldon, Organist**

641.592.0184

**Janelle Gilbertson, Communications Director**

janelle.gilbertson@yahoo.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.

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

### Message from Pastor Melinda McCluskey



In October, Reformation Sunday was the culmination of a year of working hard together to heal and learn from our past. On Reformation Sunday I could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit at work among God's people. So many activities took place that day; Salem was doing the work of the Church. Through baptism we welcomed a new member into God's family. We lived up to our promise as a congregation

to put the scripture into the hands of our young people as the third graders received their Bibles. Our worship space was full and the children sang praises to God. The afternoon was filled with sweet deserts and beautiful music. It was a time of celebrating and thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit into our midst. God is at work at Salem Lutheran.

It is hard to believe that it was only a year ago that you voted to call me as your part-time associate pastor. The year has been filled with learning names and family connections. We have greeted our newest brothers and sisters in baptism and bid farewell to God's faithful servants this past year. I thank God for each one of you and the talents you bring to Salem.

As this calendar year comes to a close, we will be saying farewell to Pastor Soli who has led us through discussions of our past, present and future. Salem is in a good place. We have taken an honest look at ourselves and are ready to call a new lead pastor. Now is the time to be patient even as we wait expectantly to know what is next. We know we cannot rush the work of the Holy Spirit.

This is also the character of Advent. The readings of Advent point us to signs of God coming, whether we are ready or not. Our hopes and expectations for the future are held in God's promises. Our prayer at this time is to allow the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of the pastor who will best shepherd Salem in continuing to do God's mission in our community and the world.

Blessings during this season of Advent,

Pastor Melinda

### A Message from LSI (cont)

Monique was struggling to provide for herself without a high school diploma, adequate transportation or family support.

"She was kicked out of her house and has been on her own since she was a teen," said Linda, an LSI supervisor. "She was forced to grow up really fast. She had to sink or swim, and she chose to swim."

With support from LSI, Monique earned her GED and went immediately into CNA (certified nursing assistant) classes. Today, Monique needs less support than she once did, but LSI is still there to provide a listening ear and guidance. Her family is now happy, healthy and thriving with optimism for the future.

"Our futures look very bright. My new goals are to go back to school, work on buying a house, and get my kids into a really good school. Because of LSI, my family will succeed in life."

### Angel Tree – A Little History



The Angel Tree was started in 2000 by the Miriam Circle members. A longtime circle member had passed away and the Angel Tree was dedicated to her memory. People were able to purchase angels and the narthex tree was decorated with these angels each year. The names of all dedications were also recorded in a special book on display near the tree. Through the years over 500 angels have been dedicated.

There is no charge to dedicate an angel. You can pick up an angel in the church office and hang it on the tree yourself anytime you wish. A book will be on the table where you can write the name of your loved one and note who is dedicating the angel.

If you have purchased an angel in the past you can also pick up an angel and either hang it on the Angel Memory Tree or take it home to enjoy on your own tree.

All previously dedicated angels are recorded in the memory book.

## A Message from LSI

### Merry Christmas from LSI

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” – John 1:5*

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks for you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know adults with disabilities who have no caring family presence in their lives. We know families in Des Moines who spent twenty years living in refugee camps and are finally regaining some hope for the future. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system and fear they will never belong to anyone or have a family to love them.

LSI's work is Christmas work, shining love, compassion and light in places of darkness, despair, abuse, neglect, addiction and crisis. We could not do this important work without you, and we are so grateful.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

*LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Monique Finds A Place for Hope

On a rainy morning, the radiant laughter and smiles of two young sisters fill the room.

“My daughters are very energetic,” said their mom Monique, with a tired smile.

Monique began partnering with LSI's HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) when her oldest daughter was just a couple months old.

“I was a first time mom and young. I was so scared I would be the worst mom possible,” Monique said.

When parents enroll in HOPES, they are connected with a family support worker who visits them in their home to offer parenting support, track child development and help families achieve their goals.

“The people at HOPES are my family. I couldn't tell you where I'd be without them,” Monique said.

## Message from Pastor Peter Soli



*No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

### A Fond Farewell – Pr. Peter Soli

As I write my last pastor's article I am reminded that the church does not belong to any one of us. God has a mission and God's mission has a church. Salem Lutheran belongs to God and we are trusted with it to do God's work in the world. At times like these, it is easy for us to get carried away with either being self-congratulating for those things that look good or to get stuck on those things that might be amiss. Let us acknowledge that our work together is and has been as servants in God's church. All the good things we celebrate are given by the grace of God and we give God the glory. Where we are lacking, let us be patient and keep on running the race - trusting God to provide

There have been so many changes in and around the church that these are difficult times to be the church. It can feel like the church is a boat on the sea but the boat is in the middle of a dense fog. Because of the fog, we simply cannot see the shore. These times require us to navigate using a compass. First we find true North.

We will find shore and make it to the other side when the church finds true North which is God in Christ Jesus, using the Holy Spirit as our compass. In times like these we live out the hymn, “We Walk by Faith” (#635) *We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near. O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke; “My peace be with you here.”*

While we can quite see shore yet we are headed in the right direction. During our time together we have gotten our bearings and have gained a sense of the Spirit's leading. This has been the result of prayer, patience, and of hard work. I give thanks for the leadership and dedication of Transition Team members, the council, and the Call Committee who have faithfully met together to pray, work through issues, make difficult decisions, and chart a course for the future. While their work is not complete, I am confident in their ability to finish what they have started.

I give thanks to have been shared ministry with Pr. Melinda. Her kind,

prayerful, and thoughtful leadership will serve Salem well through the continued transition and hopefully into the next chapters of Salem's life. I give thanks for the steady, competent, and compassionate work of Helen Rice and consider her part of the ministry team at Salem. I won't try to list the many others who have played important roles and continue to bless the congregation as they share their time and talents. I do want to name Harris Honsey, who told me he longed to see smiles on people's faces when they left worship. He has blessed me and the congregation with his "we can do it" spirit of joy in serving.

As I look forward to my new position at Our Savior's I will look back on my year and a half at Salem with fondness, satisfaction, and gratitude. Thank you for your support for me as your pastor, for me personally, and the opportunity to serve the Lord here at Salem. May God bless you this Christmas season and many more to come.

Pr. Peter Soli

Join the Church Council to say farewell to Pastor Soli on December 6th. We will have a luncheon following 10:30am worship in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you Pastor Soli for your service at Salem Lutheran Church!

**Encouraging one another** – It is the season for giving and celebrating the gift of love. Some of us have lots of family coming home to celebrate Christmas or perhaps we are traveling to see family for Christmas. For some of our brothers and sisters in Christ, who might have lost a loved one since the last Christmas, it may be a time of renewed sorrow and sadness for the loved one is not present to celebrate our Lord's birth. Let us encourage one another with the love of our Lord and the good news of God's love that disperses the darkness, even the darkness of our sorrow. If you know of someone with whom a Stephen Minister could walk alongside and encourage during this season or any part of the year, contact Pastor Randy at 641-590-0727 and he will see if a Stephen Minister is available. Stephen Ministry is a shared ministry between, One in Christ, Our Savior's and Salem.



**You are welcome to place mittens, caps and scarves on the Mitten Tree by the pulpit** prior to services in December or at any time during the week. Gifts will be distributed locally and in the surrounding area.

*Tapestry Singers Advent Concert*

*Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m.*

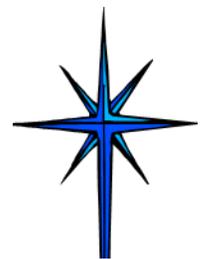
*The concert is held in the sanctuary.*

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*



**The Marine Corps Toys for Tots Collection Box will be outside the church office. Unwrapped gifts may be placed in the box. Monetary donations are also appreciated.**

**Hospice of North Iowa Tree Lighting Service** will be held in Salem's Chapel on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** With your gift to Hospice, a light will be placed on the Tree of Life. Every light on the Tree of Life celebrates and honors our loved one and friends in a very special way. A light in memory of a loved one who has died is a reminder that, despite the wintry effect death can bring, life can still be celebrated. Names of those you wish to remember and honor will be listed at the service. Your contribution will help extend hospice care to others, so they can live the last months of their lives with dignity, often in the comfort of their own homes.





## Operation Clothes for Kids!

• **Sixth annual Operation Clothes for Kids, a community project to compliment Toys for Tots.**

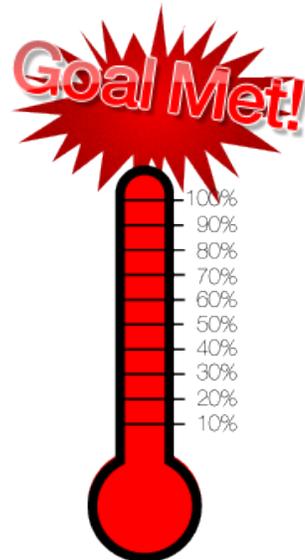
- **Pick a Christmas Tag (with a child's needs/ sizes on it) from one of the following trees: Salem Lutheran Church Chapel, Winnebago Lutheran Church, Citizens' Community Credit Union, Farmers Trust and Savings Bank or Manufactures Bank and Trust.**
- **Purchase the all items on the child's tag and wrap in one box and deliver to the listed drop sites by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to *team up and share costs*.**
- **Donations will be distributed to families throughout the LMCS District.**
- **Tags will be available for pick up starting Friday, November 20<sup>st</sup>!**

### Starting Strong Campaign

As the congregation prepares to call and welcome a new pastor, we set a goal of raising \$32,000 in addition to regular giving. This money is needed to restore the financial health of the congregation. After the four months, we didn't only meet our goal, we passed our goal! Total raised was...

**\$32,045.00!**

*Thank you to all who helped reach our goal whether it was donating or collecting!*



### Update from the Council

Salem Lutheran Church November 9,2015

President Harris Honsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present were Harris Honsey, Scott Hagenson, Mike Swenson, Deb Throne, Yvonne Beenken, Allison Rice, Steve Nelson, Keith Johnson, Wayne VanVeldhuizen, Karla Eaton, Al Skellenger, Tami Alphs, Janelle Gilbertson, and Pastor Soli. Pastor Soli opened the meeting with devotions. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Wayne to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. All approved.

**Secretary's Report:** A thank you note was received from Ruth Sheldon.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike reported a checkbook balance at the end of October of \$35,359.88. Total income for the month was \$25,064.15 and expenses were \$25,021.87. He reminded the board chairmen to work on and submit their budgets for 2016. It was moved by Keith and seconded by Al to accept this report. All approved.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Deb reported on a successful Starting Strong Appeal. Our goal was \$32,000 and the total given was \$32,045.00. She also submitted a report for the Keep Your Fork event. The expenses for that were \$657.32 and income was \$2042.00. Ten percent will be donated to the Food Bank. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Steve to accept this report. All approved.

**Lead Pastor's Report:** It was moved by Deb and seconded by Keith to receive Pastor Soli's letter of resignation dated October 29. All approved. Pastor Soli presented a schedule of pastoral coverage for December. A letter of agreement with Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Austin outlined how we will work together during his transition from Salem to Our Savior's. The cost of his ministry will be split between the two congregations on a 60/40 basis. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Mike to authorize Harris to sign this agreement. All approved. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Tami to change Pastor Melinda's employment to full time starting on December 1 until a new lead pastor is hired. All approved. She will teach the confirmation program during this time. Harris will contact Pastor Joseph Dahlen from Mason City to serve Salem as a supply pastor by preaching 2 Sundays and 2 Wednesdays in January and February. He would also help with

### Update from the Council (cont)

other pastoral issues as they arise. New Member Sunday will be November 15. There is a welcome event for these members on November 12 and Council members are encouraged to attend.

**Associate Pastor's Report:** Pastor Melinda submitted a written report of her pastoral acts during October. She attended the Fall Theological Conference and also began First Call Theological Education during the month. It was moved by Janelle and seconded by Al to accept the pastors' reports. All approved.

**Board of Worship and Music:** Al reported that they are once again looking for a musician for the second service.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Wayne and Keith reported on a very successful Keep Your Fork event. Some financial support for the expenses were paid by their board members. Stewardship Sunday will be November 22. There will be one service that day followed by a brunch. The congregation will be asked to bring canned goods for the Food Bank, coins for the Good Samaritan Fund, and their pledge cards. They will be sending out a mailing concerning this.

**Board of Education:** Janelle and Allison reported that the Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 13. There will be one service that day at 9:30 followed by a birthday party for Jesus.

**Board of Youth:** Karla reported that they are planning an event for children of the congregation on November 22, Stewardship Sunday. It will include crafts, treats, and stories for preschool through elementary students.

**Board of Life and Growth:** Tami reported that the Hanging of the Greens will be November 28. They will also plan a farewell reception for Pastor Soli.

**Board of Property and Management:** Lake Mills Pump Service has been hired to remove snow this winter. Orkin has been contacted regarding a wasp problem in the sanctuary.

**Communications Director:** Janelle reported that the new electronic sign should arrive this week. The Facebook page has received 5000 views this month. It was moved by Steve and seconded by Keith to approve these reports. All approved.



We collected 245+ cans and boxes on Stewardship Sunday, November 22nd.



**Confirmation students from Salem and One-In-Christ Lutheran Parish collected food on November 25th. Check out our website for additional pictures from the event. Thank you for all your donations!**



**Ministry Opportunities**

**Old Business:** There was no new old business.

**New Business :** There were no visitors. The Annual Meeting will January 24. There will be one service that day, followed by a meal and the meeting. The agenda will be posted. Scott is working on the ballot. Performance reviews will be conducted for the church secretary, organist, and janitors. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Mike to provide a 3% pay raise for these positions for the coming year. All approved. It was moved by Tami and seconded by Karla to accept as new members Randy and Joni Anderson, Halie and Kaitlyn; Jacob and Jaci Koeppen, Alex Beaty, Abby Beaty, and Bill and Carolyn (Jeannie) Rondeau. All approved. A motion to adjourn was made by Mike and seconded by Allison. All approved. The next regular Council meeting will be December 7. We closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Yvonne Beenken

**Care Giver’s Support Group**

**Tuesday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge**

This meeting is open to anyone who is caring for a person with any type of chronic illness. There is no fee — you do not have to sign up to come, you are not obligated to anyone. For more information call Rachel at 641.530.5577.

**SALEM RECORDS**

**November:**

**Memorials:**

Beverly Smithe  
\$30 Cemetery  
\$25 Good Samaritan

Jerome Sheldon  
\$20 Education

Anita Grunhuud  
General Fund \$10

**Baptisms:**

Reece Bradley Helgeson

**Funerals:**

Ardell Brua

**New Members:**

Randy & Joni Anderson,  
Halie & Kaitlyn  
Jacob & Jaci Koeppen,  
Alex Beaty & Abby Beaty  
Bill & Jean Rondeau  
Emily Helgeson

**Prayer Families**

**December 6**

Samantha Rasmussen, Karen Rasmussen, Devan Register, Gary Register, Shane/Jean Reinlasoder, Holly Reuter Family, Jacob Reynoldson, Daniel/Allison Rice Family, Gregory/Julie Rice, Larry/Helen Rice

**December 13**

Nick Rice, Phillip/Christina Rice Family, Richard Rice, Susan Rice, Tyler Rice, Derek Richards, Douglas Richards Jr, Douglas Sr/Vivian Richards, Kristi Richards, Konner Rikala

**December 20**

Jonah Ringham, Terry Ringham, Zachary Ringham, Norman/Marvis Risius, Adam/Megan Ritter Family, Andrea Rodberg, Scott Rodberg, Terry/Karen Rodberg, Chalsea Roder, Sarah Roelfs Family

**December 27**

Anna Rogers, Tryggve Rogers, Charles Rognes, Cody Rognes, Dennis/LuAnne Rognes, Kjersti Rognes, Oswald/Muriel Rognes, Bruce Rogness, Arlo/Margaret Rogstad, Brad Rogstad

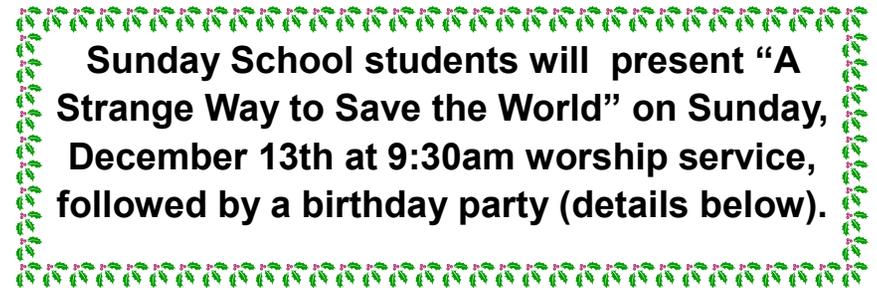


**Donate a Candle for Christmas**



At our candlelit Christmas Eve worship, we will be placing white candles on and in front of the altar to create an image of God as the “Light to the world.” Please consider donating white candles and holders for this display. You will need to drop them off at the church by Wednesday, December 23rd. Please set them on the tables in the narthex. You will be able to reclaim your candles the first Sunday in January. Thanks for your help.

Sunday School Christmas Program



**Sunday School and Christmas Program Practice Schedule**

- Wednesday, December 2nd @ 4:00pm: Character Practice
- Sunday, December 6th @ 9:30am: Sunday School Christmas Story
- Wednesday, December 9th @ 4:00pm: Character Practice
- Saturday, December 12th @ 9:00am: Program Practice for all students
- Sunday, December 13th @ 9:00am Sunday School



**December Volunteers****Sunday 10:30 Worship**

- 6** Acolytes: Tyler Christian, Carson Eaton  
Communion Servers: Yvonne Beenken, Deb Throne  
Ushers: Jerry & Marilyn Hoffman
- 13** One Service this Sunday! See 8:30 schedule
- 20** Acolytes: Caleb Swanson, Peyton Severson  
Communion Servers: Allison Rice, Abby Holtan, Heather Mannes  
Ushers: Ron & Ardis Langfald
- 27** Acolytes: Kayler Jensen, Summer Lauen  
Ushers: Ron & Ardis Langfald

Christmas Eve Worship Service December 24th

**5:00 pm**

Acolytes:  
Communion Servers:  
Ushers: Dave, Al & Rolly

**10:00 pm**

Acolytes:  
Communion Servers:  
Reader:  
Ushers:



**Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2016 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City.** The service can also be heard at 8:30 a.m. on cable channel 2. **Call the office to reserve your dates.**

**Cost for 2016 is \$83.**

**Available dates are: Jan. 3, 10, 17 Feb. 28, March 6, 20, 27, April 3, 24, May 1, 8, June 5, 12, July 10, 17, 31 Aug. 7, 14, 21, Sept. 4, Oct. 9, 16, 23, Nov. 6, 20, Dec. 4, 11, 25**

**December Volunteers****Sunday 8:30 Worship**

- 6** Acolytes: Jacy Hengesteg, Morgan Brainerd  
Communion Servers: Scott Hagenson, Mike Swenson  
Ushers: Randy & Christy Grothe
- 13** Acolytes: Brooke Bergo, Michelle Jones  
Ushers: Randy & Christy Grothe
- 20** Acolytes: Kit Byars, Madison Levine  
Communion Servers: Rebecca Shaw, Crystal Sanden  
Ushers: Ron & Phyllis Moen
- 27** Acolytes: Dylan Sanden, Olivia Schoonover  
Ushers: Ron & Phyllis Moen

**SALEM WOMEN of the ELCA****Altar Guild for December**

Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.

**Mission Quilters**

Monday, December 14, 1:00 p.m.

**WELCA Meeting**

Thursday, December 17, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Elizabeth

Program: Rhoda

**Altar Guild for December**

All Members

**Communion Schedule**

Sundays, December 6 & 20

Wednesdays, December 9 & 23

**Mills Harbour & LMCC**

Wednesday, December 30

**Lake Mills Care Center**

Birthday Gifts: Miriam

Program: None