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

LABEL



Salem Lutheran Church **OUTREACH**

May 2015

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

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service – Sanctuary

Wednesdays:

6:15 p.m. Casual Worship Service– Chapel

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

Bill Georgia, Contemporary Worship Director

williamcgeorgia@gmail.com

Ruth Sheldon, Organist

641.927.4671

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.

Message from Pastor Peter Soli**A Place Called Reconciliation¹**

By Rev. Peter Soli

Mercy and truth have met each other: justice and peace have kissed. Psalm 85:10

As I read and watch the news from Baltimore and Ferguson, as the trials of the Boston marathon bombing and the Aurora Colorado movie theater shooting remind us of tragic, senseless killings, and even as Salem members look back at the damage done by past congregational conflict; I am reminded of our never ending need for reconciliation. The apostle Paul talks about how Christ has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Indeed this is a tall order but it is an order that brings with it great reward.

Jesus said that “the truth will set you free.” Salem Lutheran, the people of Aurora and Boston, and those in Ferguson and Baltimore are focused on unearthing the truth. Around all of these conflicts people choose sides and there are characters who in their eagerness for the truth brandish a bright light, aiming it into the shadows and pointing it at possible myths. But notice that characters on both sides of the issues arm themselves with what they see. Each point of view will claim that truth is on their side. We only need to tune into the news to watch particular versions of the truth paraded before others like winning arguments before a judge.

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan to a lawyer who had challenged him. At the end of the story he admonished the lawyer (and by extension all of his followers) to show mercy. Our Bible is filled with stories of forgiveness and mercy. In our society, and particularly in our churches, there are characters who, in their eagerness for mercy put forth a call for acceptance, compassion, and understanding. They tenderly remind us of our imperfections and weaknesses and in the face of what some claim as truth, implore the judge to act with leniency.

Jesus made enemies when he decried the injustices of his day. I have seen in churches where I have served those who insist upon justice. These people in their desire for justice make a pageant of penalties and policies designed to repair the damage done by the greed,

A Message from LSI (cont)

ecstatic.”

Brooke’s self-worth has skyrocketed, said Rochelle, an LSI service coordinator.

“You can just see when you talk to her that she feels better about herself. Before you could tell she wasn’t happy. Now she has a glow about her.”

Brooke also spent months working with LSI’s Brief Intensive Services staff to learn how to make better choices. She didn’t fail a single subject last year and even made A’s.

“LSI convinced us to have her re-tested, and she was diagnosed with Asperger’s and ADHD,” said Nicole. “Without LSI I think we would be in jeopardy of Brooke not graduating high school.” Brooke is starting to believe in herself for the first time. And that’s a dream come true.

LAKE MILLS FOOD SHELF

The Food Shelf is open every Monday from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. It is located in the lower level of the Civic Center. If you have any questions contact Pastor Bill Peters, 641.590.2737 or Pastor Doug Domokos, 641.590.3762.



Please remember: Milk, eggs and fresh meat are always in demand and cash donations are appreciated for frozen/refrigerated items.

Items that are in high demand:

Corn, Peas, Carrots, Green Beans, Tuna Helper, Paper Products, Pasta Noodles, Cereal – Hot and Cold, Flour, Sugar, Shampoo/Conditioner, Disposable Diapers: sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, Baby Wipes: Unscented

Cash donations are appreciated for items such as: milk, eggs, butter, hamburger, chicken, hot dogs, etc., which is purchased at David’s Foods.

A Message from LSI

May is National Foster Care Month

Do you know someone who is open-minded, patient, caring, a team player and has a great sense of humor? He or she could be a great foster parent! As a partner agency in Iowa KidsNet, LSI helps find, train, support and license Iowa's foster and adoptive families. Iowa has an urgent and ongoing need for foster families, as children continue to enter the foster care system and foster families leave, often for positive reasons such as adoption or retirement after years of service. Foster parenting could be one of the most rewarding things you ever do! To learn more, visit www.iowaKidsNet.com.

Thank you for your support of LSI and all we achieve together for Iowa children and families!

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

A Dream Team for Brooke

On a spring day in Muscatine, LSI brought together a dream team.

A pastor, principal, guidance counselor, teacher, grandmother and mom all gathered for one reason: to make sure a special teen girl knew just how much she mattered.

The girl was Brooke, a sweet, shy 16-year-old who had been struggling at school with poor decision-making and social issues.

"Since my daughter was in kindergarten, all I had ever heard were negative comments," said her mom Nicole. "No one else saw what I saw in Brooke until LSI came along."

LSI's Dream Team program brings together all the people who care about a teen. Brooke's team listened to her share her dreams to help animals or help the elderly, and then they responded with love, encouragement and ideas.

"They talked about her big heart and how they could help her reach her goals when she graduates," Nicole said. "Brooke was

Message from Pastor Peter Soli (cont)

wrongdoing, and inequality. Those seeking justice demand accountability and action and refuse to let things rest until satisfied.

Jesus also said, "Peace be with you." It only makes sense that in churches where I have served, there are characters who are eager for peace. They seek to hold the community together with the glue of safety, respect, and well-being. These proponents of peace set the stage for reconciliation and when reconciliation has been achieved they host the party. However, those who most value truth, mercy, and justice are uneasy with the peacemakers unless each is truly heard and valued.

Psalm 85 provides a guiding vision for our life together in community, be it our church community or the community of citizens. The verse is about reconciliation and the folly of our fighting. Neither mercy, truth, justice, nor peace can stand alone, each needs the others. How easy it is for us to lose sight of the fact that we need each other... especially at times of conflict and disagreement.

Truth needs mercy to contend with the fact that each of us is weak, imperfect, and in need of support. Mercy needs truth in order to slow down and remember the truth sets us free. Justice is needed in order that we have accountability and action but it is of little value without compassion and peace. Reconciliation comes when, as the psalmist declares: "Mercy and truth have met together; Justice and peace have kissed." This is where community grows and is nourished.

It is my hope and prayer that we might keep meeting and talking, keep making room for those calling for getting the truth out, those calling for mercy, and those demanding justice. Peace is needed at the beginning and is the prize when all can met together.

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<sup>1</sup> I wish to credit author and peacemaker John Paul Lederach who writes about Psalm 85 and these four characters in his book *"The Journey Toward Reconciliation."*

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**Message from Pastor Melinda McClusky**


***“God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on the trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.”*** Martin Luther

Spring is in the air. The April showers are bringing the May flowers. The bleakness of winter has been replaced with so many shades of green! It is as if all of creation is shouting out, “Alleluia! The Lord is risen!” We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as the earth comes out of its winter rest breaking out in so many colors. A hymn comes to mind this time of year as I think of the resurrection and the earth awakening. It is titled *Hymn of Promise* and was written by Natalie Sleeth.

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
 In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
 In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,  
 Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
 There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
 There’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
 From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
 Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
 In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
 In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,  
 In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
 Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

I first heard this hymn at the funeral of a relative. Her funeral was in March; winter was winding down and it was the Lenten season just prior to Easter. There was such hope expressed in

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**Bible Camp**
**5 Reasons Why Kids Should Go To Bible Camp**

1. Kids Will Encounter God. Church camp has a way of shaping faith. Kids meet God there and learn to live their faith. God speaks to us through: God’s creation, God’s Word, and through God’s people. Church camp is a perfect place for kids to experience God and make their faith their own.
2. Positive Role Models Church camps work hard to fill their staff with godly role models who are equipped to encourage and lead our kids. Kids can be known and loved for who they are. Church camp also gives kids the chance to build healthy Christian friendships. These friendships can be such a support throughout the year (and maybe even many years) as life unfolds.
3. It’s Super Fun! Camp is a new adventure to be experienced! Have you ever: played a large group game running through the woods, jumped off a platform in a high ropes course, been on the back of a horse, cooked a meal over a campfire, hiked a mountain, gone canoeing, laughed until your stomach hurt? These experiences are the things great memories are made of! When a kid conquers a new adventure at camp, they quickly store it away as a reminder of their courage!
4. A Chance to Unplug Our world is loud and busy. Between school, sports, cell phones, and homework, kids are spread so thin. Camp offers us a change to unplug, turn off cell phones, and breath deeply again. There is also the added joy of being in God’s awesome creation.
5. It’s Confidence Building Many kids are scared at the idea of going to camp, however, when they get through it and realize they did it, it is great to see what it does to their confidence. Being away from parents, making new friends, trying activities they never thought they would do—all help our kids gain confidence as they grow up. As a parent, I fill my bag full of tools to help me share my faith with my kids. Bible Camp is one of the amazing tools I use! I hope you will too! Go to [www.lomnetwork.org](http://www.lomnetwork.org) to find a Lutheran Bible Camp near you!

**Check out our website for more information about  
 Summer Bible Camps! [www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com)**

Upcoming Events! Mark your calendars!

## Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Thurs., June 11<sup>th</sup>

Join us on a trip to Everest  
"Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power"



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING

4:30 pm Sunday, May 3rd @ Winnebago

We have started making plans and we need to begin to fill them out and finalize. Think Summer. Think VBS! If you have any questions, please call Pastor Randy.

## PARISH FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Minnesota Twins vs. Chicago Cubs

Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

Game Time 1:10 pm

Bus will leave at 10:00 pm

Cost - \$70.00 (Bus and ticket)

Left – Field Box Seats

(lower level sect 126 seats under overhang – shade!)

Call the Parish Office 641-567-3550 to reserve your seat(s).

Sign-up & payment before May 18<sup>th</sup>

Fifty-five tickets/bus seats are reserved.

Sponsored by One In Christ Lutheran Parish & Salem Lutheran



## Message from Pastor Melinda McClusky (cont)

the words of this hymn. The words of this song have stayed with me over the years. As I searched the internet for more information on this song, I discovered that Natalie Sleeth wrote the song thinking some of same thoughts I had experienced as I heard this song for the first time.

When asked what was the inspiration for writing this hymn Natalie replied that she had been pondering the death of a friend (life, death and resurrection), pondering winter and spring (seeming opposites), and pondering a T. S. Eliot poem which had the phrase, 'In our end is our beginning.' These seemingly contradictory 'pairs' led to the thesis of the song and the hopeful message that out of one will come the other whenever God chooses to bring that about.

May you see the Gospel written in the flowers and all of God's creation this spring.

Pastor Melinda

## Pentecost

The day of Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> this year. On the day of Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Here are some ways to explore the themes of Pentecost.

### Balloons



Blow up red balloons, but don't tie them. Use sharpies to write gifts of the Holy Spirit that you see in this group of people. On cue, have everyone release them and enjoy the moment of mayhem as they fly all over. Reflect on gifts of the Holy Spirit.

### Kites

Head outdoors and fly a kite. Afterwards, brainstorm how the movement of the kites (and our attempt to control that movement) is like our experience of the Holy Spirit.



### Update from the Council

Salem Lutheran Church Council Minutes from April 13, 2015

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

Secretary's Report: Letters of appreciation for financial gifts were received from Lutheran Services in Iowa, Wartburg Theological Seminary, and Half the Sky.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported a checkbook balance of \$25,288.40. Expenses for March were \$32,982.67 and income was \$31,224.91. He and Pastor Soli presented information on the new accounting system. It is called Shepherd's Staff. Helen is also learning this new program and will work on the accounts payable portion with Mike. Deb will be responsible for the accounts receivable. It was moved by Steve and seconded by Keith to accept the treasurer's report. All approved.

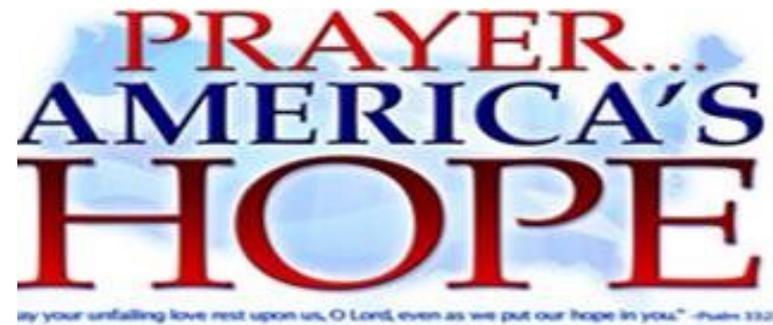
Financial Secretary's Report: There was no report.

Board of Worship and Music: Harris reported on plans for worship services for May. On May 3, 10, and 17, there will be one service at 9:30 and coffee fellowship will follow. Sunday School will be held at 9:00. On May 24 and 31, there will be two services at 8:30 and 10:30. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Janelle to go ahead with this schedule for May. All approved.

Board of Stewardship and social Ministry: No report.

Board of Education: Janelle reported that the Summer Food and Fun program will held again for Lake Mills students this summer. It will be served in Salem Fellowship Hall during June only and move to the Lake Mills school for July and August. Parents of three year old children are hopeful of starting a Christian preschool once again at Salem for the 2015-16 school year. They are asked to bring a detailed plan to the Council meeting in June. After brief discussion, it was decided that Confirmation students will wear robes for the worship service.

Board of Youth: Karla reported that the Easter Breakfast went well,



**National Day of Prayer Service** will be hosted by Lake Mills Area Ministerial Association in Lake Mills at Asbury Methodist. The first Thursday in May is set aside as a day for prayers for our Nation and our National, State and local leaders. We plan to meet for prayer and song on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Asbury Methodist in Lake Mills, beginning at 7:00 am and we plan on finishing so people can be on their way to work by 7:30 or 7:45. Our local Pastors will be leading us in prayer. For those who do not have to rush off to work, Asbury Methodist is hosting a fellowship with some coffee and bars.



### The new audio visual system is up and running!

We have started a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday. At this time most Sundays in 2015 are available for sponsorship. Call the office to reserve a date. [641.592.1771](tel:641.592.1771)

**Highlights for May**

These Students began their confirmation journey at the baptismal font in the Fellowship Hall. Join them on Sunday, May 3rd as they are confirmed. Please keep these students in your prayers.

**Anna Ramaker**

**Hallie Mannes**

**Kendall Kirschbaum**

**Faith Cox**

Congratulations to the following students on their High School graduation. Please keep these students, along with their families, in your prayers.

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Dakota Acheson
Ciera Askildson
Amelia Evenson
Brandan Fails
Jozi Flynn
Sierra Greenfield
Levi Henderson
Elizabeth Hill
Chanse Hollatz
Tanner Jensen
Tiffani Linqvist
Kylie Okland
Andrew Olsen
Hannah Playter
Patrick Scheib
Brady Schmidt
Sean Smalley
Jayde Thompson
Taylan Virchow

We are looking for a place to store the July Jubilee float.

If you would be willing to help, please call the office!

Thank you!

Update from the Council (cont)

serving 120 people. Most of the food was donated. A graduation reception will be held between services on the 24th. Summer activities are being planned.

Board of Life and Growth: No report.

Board of Property and Management: Steve reported that they are continuing to address problems with the elevator and digital sign. They have someone coming to check on the leaking in the educational unit roof. Some routine repairs will be made to the boiler this summer.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Soli reported on the Let's Talk Sessions. He was hoping for more participation from the congregation but still felt that they provided valuable information. He would like to present his findings to the congregation on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 PM. This information will also be used at the retreat scheduled for April 26. He also continues to correspond with the Synod office in hopes of setting up a meeting with the Bishop, or his representative, and the Congregation early in May. Mike moved to accept the reports with a second by Karla. All approved.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There were no visitors. Information sessions continue to be held regarding the purchase of a parsonage. The new audio/visual system is up and running. The live streaming of the Easter service was seen by forty-five people and the recorded service by forty-one. The Council would like to start a sponsorship program for the UStream service similar to the radio broadcasts. Scott moved to offer the sponsorship for \$40 per week with a second by Janelle. All approved. The Council, Staff, Call Committee, and Transition Team will attend a planning retreat on April 26 starting at 8:30 AM. It will be held at the meeting room in the Lake Mills Theater. Kermit Singelstad will provide pulpit supply at both services that day. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Karla to accept as new members Melinda McCluskey, James Weisenborn and Samaria Schmidt. All approved. A motion to adjourn was made by Keith and seconded by Mike. All approved. The next regular Council meeting will be on May 11. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Yvonne Beenken

Reminder: May 3, 10, 17

We will come together as a congregation with one Worship Service at 9:30!

Update from the Call Committee



Shown above: Pastor Stephen, Abby Holtan, Brad Evenson, Becky Helgeson, Cindy Haugsdal, Carlton Shaw and Sue Langurud. Missing: Bill Tweeten.

Pr. Stephen Brackett, Assistant to the Bishop, met with the council and call committee to officially launch the call process! To stay up-to-date with the call committee, watch for updates on our website. Please keep this committee in your prayers while they go through the call process.



Bill Georgia is moving on from Salem. We will be celebrating his time spent with us on Sunday, May 31st. Watch our website and facebook for more information!

SALEM RECORDS for APRIL:

BAPTISMS:
Gracie Roder

FUNERALS:
Alfreda Brua
Beryl Sand

MEMORIALS:
Given by the family of
Alfreda Brua

Ministry Opportunities

Care Giver's Support Group

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 12, 10:00 a.m. in Salem's 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.

We are looking for volunteers to help run the video equipment for the contemporary service. You will be trained! Please let us know if you are interested!



Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2013 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KLOW (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 2015 is \$83.

Dates available for 2015:
May 3, Oct 18, Nov 1, 29, Dec 6, 13, 27

Stephens Ministry

Unconditional: Not subject to any conditions or limitations.

It is hard to find anything that is unconditional. Everything seems to have strings attached to it. Yet God's love is unconditional – we don't have to earn it or achieve anything to receive it. At times, however we can feel quite removed from God's unconditional love. We can feel guilty, underserving, or downright "unlovable." At those times, Stephen Ministers can help. They are trained to listen and care in a nonjudgmental way, focusing on letting Christ's unconditional love flow through them and into the life of their care receiver. If you or someone you know has been struggling with guilt or feeling unlovable and would like to learn more about Stephen ministry, please contact, Pastor Randy at [641-590-0727](tel:641-590-0727). Stephen Ministry is a shared ministry between One in Christ, Our Savior's and Salem.

Ministry Opportunities**Prayer Families****May 3**

Tullio/Kathy Hofstad, Donald Holst, David Holst, Richard Holstad, Donal Holtan Family, Jason/Abby Holtan Family, Kelly Holtan, Alan Honsey

May 10

Beau Honsey Family, Harris/LeAnn Honsey, Mark/Patti Honsey, Doug Hugo, Kjerstin Hulke Family, Jessica Humburg, Harold/Karen Hurley, Jesse Huston

May 17

Phillip/Rhonda Huston, Stephani Huston, Arlene Ingebritson, Elaine Ingebritson, Hayden Iverson, Helene Iverson, Leah Iverson, Stephen/Kathryn Iverson

May 23

Joe Jamtgaard, Lois Jamtgaard Family, Michael Jamtgaard, Janice Janssen, Marcus Jensen Family, Alissa Jenson Family, Laura Jeppeson, Carol Johnson

May 30

Clarine Johnson, Jason Johnson, Jennifer Johnson Family, Karin Johnson Family, Keith Johnson Sr, Keith/Becky Johnson, Kurt Johnson, Leigh Johnson,



Please make sure we are good neighbors to the St.

James Catholic church. With worship at similar times, please make sure you are not parking in their parking lot. Thank you in advance!

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

Tuesday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

Mission Quilters

Monday, May 11, 1:00 p.m.

WELCA Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Deborah Circle

Program: Tabitha Circle

Altar Guild for April

Marilyn Hoffman

Kathy Nelson

Communion Schedule

Sundays, May 3 & 17

Wednesdays, May 6 & 20

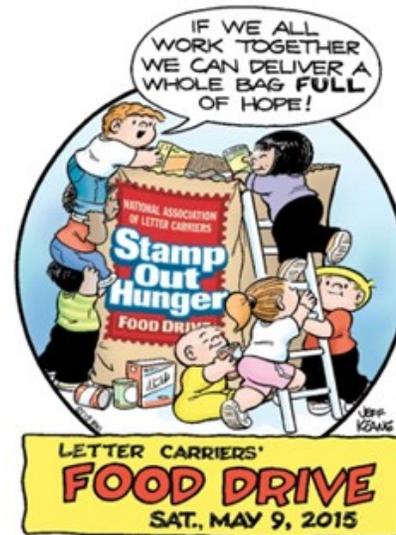
Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, May 27

Lake Mills Care Center

Birthday Gifts: Miriam Circle

Program: Rhoda Circle

Annual Food Drive is May 9th!

Every second Saturday in May letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America deliver much more than mail when they walk and drive along their postal routes. They also collect the goodness and compassion of their postal customers who participate in the Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive – the largest one-day food drive in the nation and probably the world.

Once again this year postal customers in Lake Mills will be given the opportunity to contribute food items to the LM Food Shelf. The Food Shelf serves over 30 households per week. Last year LM postal customers contributed over 400 pounds of food. All postal customers need do is to place a sack of non-perishable food items next to their mailbox before their letter carrier delivers mail on Saturday May 9th. The carrier will do all the rest. The food is taken back to a postal station, sorted, and then delivered to an area food bank or pantry. There it is available for area families.

Food items that are always needed are: Baked or Pork n' beans, vegetables, beef stew, chili, spam, tuna, hamburger helper, peaches, pears, pasta noodles, rice, peanut butter, cold cereal and paper products. Of course, we will accept all donations. However, please check that food items have not reached their expiration date.