



Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

September 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

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

Wednesdays:

6:00 p.m. Casual Worship Service— Fellowship Hall

Prepare to . . .



. . . for Christ's sake

Pastor Peter Soli

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Pastor Melinda McCluskey

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Janelle Gilbertson, Communications Director

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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**Rules, Rules, Rules!**

By Pr. Peter Soli

I grew up with lots of rules and I didn't like them. My parents had rules about almost everything: how I dressed, my behavior and language, doing my chores before playing, and on and on. It seemed that everything I said or did was subject to some sort of rule and when I broke a rule there was a penalty. I was told that I was a Soli and therefore I would act like a Soli, and I'd follow the family rules. Today, as an adult, I have greater appreciation for rules than I had when I was growing up. Having rules, good rules, is essential to the health and well being of family and community.

For Christians, there is no better set of rules than the Ten Commandments. God gave a nation of former slaves these commandments thousands of years ago as they were wandering through the wilderness. What good are these dusty old rules today? Is religion simply a set of rules to ruin our fun?



We will be tackling this question and more this fall as we gather for worship. Beginning on Rally Sunday, September 13 and finishing on Sunday, October 18 we will immerse ourselves in a worship series exploring the Ten Commandments.

A Message from LSI (cont)

Over the years, Jamalia has built a great daily routine. Her calendar is packed with activities ranging from Special Olympics to horseback riding to exercising on her bike.

"On days when I'm not here, I'm always thinking about what Jamalia and her roommate are doing," said Haley, an LSI staff who has known Jamalia for a long time. "I enjoy being here. It's rewarding to see someone grow and learn and succeed."

Jamalia speaks with few words, and those who know her well say she uses something else instead to express herself: her wonderful smile.

And for LSI, celebrating life with Jamalia is definitely something to smile about!

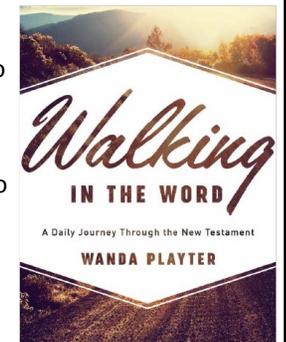
Salem Member Publishes Book

Salem member Wanda Playter recently released her first book, titled "Walking in the Word, A Daily Journey Through the New Testament".

Wanda will be doing a book signing and speaking at Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills on Sunday, September 20th following the 8:30 worship service during coffee time.

Walking in the Word is an easy to read daily devotional that will take you on a journey through the New Testament in a year, with room for you to add your personal thoughts, prayers and dreams. Growing up is tough. During this time in your life, you're finding your identity and deepening your faith. There are so many difficult choices to make that will change the course of your life forever. "Walking in the Word" visits many of those situations with advice on how to move through them.

For more information on Wanda and her book, visit WandaPlayter.com.



A Message from LSI

September 13 – 19 is Direct Support Professionals Week

This month Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) celebrates Direct Support Professionals Week during Sept. 13 – 19. This national awareness week recognizes the dedication of direct support professionals and their important role in caring for people in our communities.

At LSI, direct support professionals partner with children and adults with intellectual disabilities to help them pursue meaningful, personal lives through their personal goals. They also provide care for children and youth at our Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers.

This could mean helping an adult with autism live on her own or helping a child who was abused begin to heal. We thank you for your faithful support of LSI – you create so many new possibilities for children, families and adults!

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.

Celebrating Life with Jamalia

Jamalia is excited for the weekend. She’s been saving her money for a special event: a Friday night at the movies, complete with popcorn.

Her LSI staff is excited, too—because that’s who they are. They cheer people on in all parts of their lives, celebrating every accomplishment and every opportunity for joy.

Jamalia is 29, and she has autism. She and her roommate, with help from LSI’s services for people with disabilities, have lived together for more than ten years. Their apartment is a cozy place with a bright yellow kitchen table, an exercise bike, puzzles and favorite movies.

LSI’s 24-7 supported community living services help Jamalia with her goals, make sure she is safe and ensure she never has to be alone.

Message from Pastor Peter Soli (cont)

September 13 – Gods and Idols

September 20 – Respect for God’s Name and the Sabbath

September 27 – Honoring Parents

October 4 – Killing and Stealing

October 11 – Adultery

October 18 – False Witness and Coveting

Together we will engage our hearts and minds with the good and gracious will of God through this challenging and intriguing six-week series.

Pastor Soli – Music Leader

Sunday Worship Schedule

By Pr. Peter Soli

As you and probably most people know by now, there will be no change in the Sunday morning worship schedule. The proposal to move to one service was set aside by moving to a temporary option. I have agreed to provide musical leadership for the 10:30 service. I will be compensated for this added responsibility with one Sunday off for each month of service. I resisted agreeing to this arrangement because it is temporary and less than ideal. However, feedback encouraged Council leaders and me to take this action.

I will do my best to keep the 10:30 more contemporary than traditional but know that I will be unable to replicate the Bill Georgia experience. I would enjoy bringing additional singers and other musicians into this worship. Practice times will work around people’s schedules.

We will continue to look for long-term musical leadership for this service. A person with piano or keyboard skills and a love of contemporary worship would make a good fit. When the time comes for me to leave Salem and if we have been unsuccessful in securing this leader, the congregation will likely face the possibility of changing to a single Sunday morning worship service.

Message from Pastor Melinda McCluskey



Prayers and Hospital Visits

Cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you. *1 Peter 5:7*

We want to pray for you! If you find yourself in the hospital or planning for surgery we would like to pray for you. Churches and pastors are no longer able to call hospitals to find out if our members in the hospital.

There are several ways that the church can pray for you: the church prayer chain and the Sunday prayers. Names are only placed on these prayer lists by permission.

A prayer for healing and wholeness:

God of compassion, your Son Jesus Christ, the great physician, made the broken whole and healed the sick. Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts, and restore to us wholeness of life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Reflections from a mom and pastor

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith?

At my daughter’s baptism I said “I do” to the following: to live with her among God’s faithful people, to bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hand the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer.

After we brought Anna home from China, I began praying with her every night. “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. God bless Grandma, Nana, Papa, aunts, uncles, and cousins, Mama, Daddy and God Bless Anna! ”Through the years we’ve added Powder and Sally, our cats and with much sadness removed Grandma from the list. We said those words every night until she started to say the prayer with me and eventually informed me she could “do it by myself”. We prayed before meals as a family and often times praying “Come Lord Jesus” five or six times during the meal! Guests and gifts at our table were well blessed.

Rally Sunday- September 13th



Register online today!
www.salemlakemills.com

The Board of Education has been busy planning the upcoming program year at Salem. We will use the *Whirl* Curriculum again for Grades 6 and under. 7th & 8th Grade will continue on their confirmation journey together. There will also be an adult learning opportunity (see below) that we are very excited about! See you all on September 13th!

Is this your First year of Sunday School? We will have a special blessing for you at our 10:30 Worship Service!

Adult Learning Opportunity

GIFT – Growing in Faith Together is an adult Bible Study adult (high school and older). It begins Sunday, September 20 at 9:30am.

Ever wonder how the Bible became the book we know today? Why the four Gospels tell different stories of Jesus? Animate: Bible is a seven session study that covers the basics of biblical scholarship. In each session we will watch a video featuring a lead voice from Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and journaling, followed by sharing ideas with the group. Topics include:

- Canon: Mining for the Word
- History: Parchment to Pixel
- Testaments: One Story, Two Parts
- Gospels: Unexpected Good News
- Genre: Rhythm of the Text
- Interpretation: Scripture Reads Us
- Grace: Love is the Bottom Line

- Who goes Where?
- 3 year-olds—2nd Grade
- ⇒ West Hallway
- 3rd Grade—8th Grade
- ⇒ East Hallway
- 9th-Adult
- ⇒ Lounge

If you have questions, contact Pastor Melinda.

God's Work, Our Hands – A Lutheran Service Project

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Sunday, September 13

Members of Lake Mills' area ELCA Lutheran Churches are teaming up the afternoon of Sunday, September 13 for what is called God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Lutherans across the United States are taking on projects that serve the community.

This summer the Salem Lutheran fellowship hall has been the dining room for over 5,120 meals prepared and served to children in Lake Mills. Now with school starting the summer feeding program has come to an end. It's time to give the room a thorough cleaning. This will be one of the God's Work, Our Hands projects.

The second project is building a fire pit to be used by youth for its 5th Quarter events. Following home football games Lutherans are inviting youth to gather around a fire for food, fellowship, and fun. The Junior High events are held at Salem Lutheran just off the east side of the building. Senior High events are held at Winnebago Lutheran. The project is to build a fire pit at Salem's church.

Members of Salem Lutheran and the One In Christ Parish will meet at 2:00 at Salem on Sunday, September 13 to clean and build. Wear work clothes and bring gloves if you plan to help with the fire pit. Snacks and a beverage will be provided for volunteers.

Tag along event...This same Sunday members of Salem will be tackling clean up of the courtyard. The plastic play equipment will be removed, sold or hauled away and the stones cleaned up and raked.

Message from Pastor Melinda McClusky

The first Bible we read with Anna was the Rhyming Bible. One or two stories were not enough. Many nights we had to read the whole thing, or at least all the New Testament or Old Testament.

When I was on my seminary internship, I was blessed to have a member of the congregation watch my daughter on Sunday mornings. Mrs. D made sure Anna sat quietly, or as quietly as a four-year-old can sit, and made sure Anna participated in the service. One day Anna asked me if we could pray, and started praying the Lord's Prayer. I was surprised that she knew it and asked who had taught her to pray that prayer. Her answer, "You did mama at church". I did? Wow, she did listen in church!

I miss worshiping with my daughter in church. She has taught me so much during the past few years as I have tried to live up to my promise to help her grow up in the Christian faith. The last few nights we have started a new night time ritual. We are reading the Gospel of Mark, one chapter a night, stopping to make sure that she understands some of the words/terms not used very often today. Words like withered hand, blasphemy, and paralytic are easy to look up when you are reading the Bible on a Kindle!

As a mom it is important to me to make sure my daughter is raised among God's faithful people. I trust the Church through its faithful members, Sunday school program, and worship to help me nurture her faith when I cannot be with her in worship.

Each time we celebrate baptism in Sunday worship, I am reminded of the promises I made as a mother and as a member of the Church. How are you helping to nurture the faith of those who we as a congregation have promised to help grow in the Christian faith?

Blessings, Pastor Melinda

P.S. Yesterday as a family we attended "meet the teacher" with Anna. Her teacher was telling Anna about expectations for the coming year and pointed out that she would need to read 20 to 30 minutes each evening. Anna told her teacher that we were reading a chapter of the Bible together every night; her teacher agreed that would count toward her minutes.

Update from the Council

Council Minutes August 10

President Harris Honsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present were

Harris Honsey, Scott Hagenson, Mike Swenson, Yvonne Beenken, Wayne VanVelheuzen, Janelle Gilbertson, Karla Eaton, Tami Alphs, Pastor Soli, and Pastor Melinda. Also present were Cindy Haugsdal, representing the Call Committee, and Delane Behr. Pastor Melinda 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: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported the end of month checking account balance at \$22,820.18. Total expenses for July were \$23,928.29 and income was \$36,478.10. Our deficit at this point is \$33,065.76. It was moved by Tami and seconded by Janelle to accept this report. All approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: No report.

Call Committee Report: Cindy Haugsdal reported that the call process continues with no candidates at this point. Two names considered previously are now unavailable. The Synod is conducting interviews with candidates and remains in contact with the Call Committee.

Board of Worship and Music: There was no formal report from this board but there was an extensive discussion regarding changes to the Sunday schedule. Written comments from the congregation were read. As no musician has been found for the 10:30 service, the Board recommends implementing Option 1 on the Worship Survey. Option 1 includes one service on Sunday morning at 9:00, Children's Church, and Sunday School at 10:00. Harris and Pastor Soli presented a possible Option 4. This would leave Sunday services in place as usual and Pastor Soli would be responsible for contemporary music at the 10:30 service. At present, this is not his responsibility. He would be compensated for this additional work by having one Sunday off per month. No additional financial compensation would be made. This would be a month to month arrangement and would end when a new pastor has been found. This new option was also discussed at length. There is

Ministry Opportunities

Care Giver's Support Group

Tuesday, September 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.

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 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 2015 is \$83.



On August 23rd, as another school year began, Pastor Soli gathered the congregation around the student as we blessed them.

Ministry Opportunities**Prayer Families****September 6**

Glen/Sandra Moretz, Michael Moretz, Lee Morgan, Marian Morgan, Merlin Morgan, Alexander Mosby, Jeff Mosby, Nicholas Mosby, Nicole Mosby, Christina Movick

September 13

Randy Movick, Kelly Myers Family, Brian Myli, Russell/Suzanne Myli, Justin/Candida Naser Family, Katy Naumann, Andrew Nelson, Camdon Nelson, Charles Nelson, Derek Nelson

September 20

Donna Nelson, Fred/Beth Nelson, Gary Nelson, Glennes.Trena Nelson, Kevin/Kathy Nelson, Lisa Nelson, Mike Nelson, Robert Nelson, Rudolph/Arlene Nelson, Steven/Kathleen Nelson

September 27

Taylor Nelson, Paul/Sharon Nelson, Eleanor Ness, Barbara Nickson, Brett Nickson, Toni Nicol, James Nielsen, John/Rhonda Nielson, Marie Nielsen, Diane Nordskog



Next Blood Drive at Salem is scheduled for September 8.

1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Mission Quilters

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

WELCA Guest Day

Thursday, September 17, 11:30 a.m.

Hostess: Serving Committee

Program: Elizabeth Circle

Altar Guild for July

Joan Kloster

JoAnn Villa

Communion Schedule

Sundays, September 6 & 20

Wednesdays, September 9 & 23

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, September 23

Lake Mills Care Center

Birthday Gifts: Elizabeth Circle

Program: Hannah Circle

Update from the Council (cont)

concern that this option is only a temporary solution and will have to be revisited in the near future. Also, the Council wants to respect and appreciate the work of the Board of Worship and Music in this matter. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Tami to approve Option 1. A roll call vote was asked for and the motion failed by a vote of 3 in favor and 4 opposed. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Karla to approve Option 4. A roll call vote was called for and all approved.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: They have not met. Wayne reported that they will update the congregation on the Starting Strong Appeal on August 23.

Board of Education: They have not met. Janelle reported that they were waiting for a decision on the Sunday schedule. Sunday School registration packets will be sent out this week.

Board of Youth: Karla reported that they have not met. Fifth quarter campfires will be held again this Fall after the home football games. Middle school events will be held at Salem and the first one will be August 28.

Board of Life and Growth: Tami reported that they are continuing to organize service groups to help out on a monthly basis.

Board of Property and Management: No report.

Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Soli is preparing for a large class of Confirmation students. He expects fifteen 8th grade students and possibly twenty 7th grade students. He will need additional help to have a successful program. He would like to schedule a new member Sunday sometime in November. He reported that the insurance company settlement on the electronic sign will be \$9200 for damage that occurred during an electrical storm. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Mike to authorize Ron Langfald from the Board of Property and Management to make a purchasing decision regarding a new sign. All approved. Pastor Soli has completed his Continuing Education. He will be gone on vacation late in July and for a week in September. He and Pastor Melinda will also be attending the Fall Theological Conference in November. He notes that the search for a new pastor will take longer than expected and will proceed with that in mind. He urges the Council and congregation to be patient and let the process work.

Update from the Council (cont)

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Melinda submitted a list of her completed pastoral acts for July. The highlight of the month for her was planning for and conducting a baptism. She attends monthly meetings of the Boards of Worship and Music and Life and Growth and the Altar Guild. She has done some of her Continuing Ed requirements but the First Call Education has yet to be scheduled.

Communication Director's Report: Janelle reported that she has completed the August newsletter and facebook posts including photos. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Scott to accept the above reports. All approved.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Jon Helgeson has submitted his resignation from the Enduring Gift Fund Board. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Janelle to accept his resignation and approve the appointment of David Anderson to fill this vacancy. All approved.

The landscape project to the front of the church has been completed. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Janelle to grant the transfers of Brent Tweet to First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea and Ryan Villa to Billings, MT. All approved. A motion to adjourn was made by Mike and seconded by Scott. The next regular Council meeting will be September 14. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvonne Beenken

SALEM RECORDS for August:

Memorials:

Dorothy Christianson
General Fund \$35
Mission Quilters \$10

Kermit Grunhovd
Bell Tower \$10

Muriel Schiltz
WELCA \$5, General Fund \$110,
Cemetery \$20

Funerals:

Kermit Grunhovd, Muriel Schiltz,
Clarine Johnson

Baptisms:

Cooper Daniel Helgeson

Weddings:

Rebecca Durgin & Ryan Story

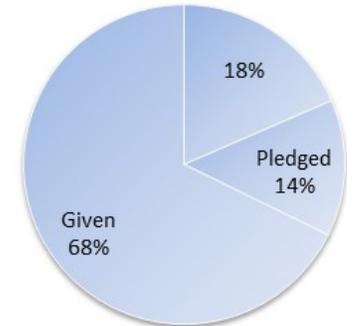
Transfers:

Brent Tweed

Starting Strong

Goal \$32,000

As of August 23rd, the amount pledged was \$26,085 and the amount given was \$21,675.



Message from our Treasurer:

As of August 21, our checking account balance is \$22,777.26. We also have \$79,655.19 in our reserve fund. We have no money borrowed. We have all our current bills paid to date. The church council appreciates everyone's help in maintaining our financial position. Thanks, Mike Swenson

Mission Quilters Quilt Sunday, September 20

Quilts that the group has assembled will be on display in the sanctuary and chapel.

For more info contact Sue Langerud - 568.3620

**WELCA Guest Day
September 17 – 11:30 a.m.**

Lunch followed by the Elizabeth Circle's program *Singing for the Love of It* by the 3 CD's: Linda Hill – Kiester, Julie Quamme – Rake, Audrey Kiihn - Bricelyn

Everyone welcome to attend

Message from Hospice of North Iowa
A partner with Mercy Health Network-North Iowa



Understanding Grief and Loss

Support Group

Sponsored by Hospice of North Iowa

Understanding Grief and Loss is an adult support group providing grief education and support to individuals who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. There is no charge to participate in this 6-week program. Space is limited and registration is required. The next scheduled groups are listed below.

6 sessions Monday evenings ~ **Hampton**
 September 14 – October 19, 2015
 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 First Christian Church
 605 4th St NE, Hampton
 ~or~

6 sessions Friday mornings ~ **Mason City**
 September 25 – October 30, 2015
 10:00 p.m. - 12:00 noon
 Hospice of North Iowa conference room
 232 2nd St SE, Mason City
 ~or~

6 sessions Thursday evenings ~ **Mason City**
 October 8 – November 12, 2015
 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Mercy West Campus, Conference Room #2
 (lower level, enter building under south canopy)
 910 N Eisenhower Ave, Mason City

To register please call **Hospice of North Iowa** at **1-800-297-4719** or **641-428-6208**.

Update from the Call Committee



Romans 12:12
 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

We are here!

Cindy Haugsdal, Call Committee Chairperson, announced in worship on August 23rd that they have their first interview scheduled! They are very excited to move on with this process. Please continue to keep them in your prayers!