



Salem Lutheran Church

OUTREACH

April 2016

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

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesdays:

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

Prepare to . . .



. . . for Christ's sake

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.

Message from Pastor Melinda McCluskey



**The Lord is risen!
The Lord has risen indeed!
Alleluia!**

The Easter Sunday worship was filled with excitement as the alleluias once again rang out in the sanctuary. What a wonderful worship service with the Creature Praise Choir, Senior Choir, Praise Singers and the Halleluiahs Chorus bringing the Easter story to us in song. Thank you to Pastor Joel Dahlen for preaching the Easter message. Thank you to all who helped with the worship service, organists, pianists, choir directors, choirs, singers, ushers, communion servers, acolytes, altar guild members, and audio video operators. How good it is to come together as people of faith to hear the good news and go out into the world proclaiming that the Lord is risen!

Easter and spring go together for me. Just as Jesus was thought dead and arose from the dead; the earth which has been brown and dormant comes back to life. This is the time of year I miss working in the Horticulture industry. It is insane getting the greenhouse ready for spring bedding plant sales yet there is so much anticipation involved in the process. Planting seeds and praying that those seeds that look like dust are really petunias. Anticipating the emergence of bulbs planted last fall and then smiling as the leaves poke through the soil and the blooms open in bright purples, yellows, and reds.

A song that comes to mind this time of year is Handt Hanson's Good Soil (Worship and Praise, 52):

*Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.*

*When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.*

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

We, as a congregation are now in a time of anticipation. We are looking forward to welcoming Pastor Joel and Nancy Guttormson to Salem Lutheran and the Lake Mills community. The atmosphere at Salem is inspiring and the excitement is contagious. Just like the greenhouse in the spring, there is a lot of work for us in the days ahead and the fruits of the Spirit will continue to burst forth in vivid colors.

May the Holy Spirit guide us in the ways of the Lord in this new and exciting time for Salem Lutheran. May our hearts be good soil and open to the seed of God's word. Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Melinda

Pastor Joel events in April! (watch for more info)

Thank you to **Pastor Joel Dahlen** for assisting us in this time of internment. Thank Pastor Joel during coffee fellowship on April 10th.

Welcome to **Pastor Joel Guttormson**. Pastor Joel has accepted his call to Salem and will be here in mid April!



On Sunday April 3 at 10:00 a.m. Jill Budach and Rhonda Harmon will provide training on the use of the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) that is located in the rear of the sanctuary.

- **What is an AED?**

It is a medical device that analyzes the heart's rhythm.

If necessary, it delivers an electrical shock, known as defibrillation, which helps the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

Update from the Council

Salem Church Council - March 14, 2016

President Scott Hagenson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present were Scott Hagenson, Brad Evenson, Mike Swenson, Deb Throne, Yvonne Beenken, Roy Kvale, Wayne VanVelhuizen, Stephanie Steffens, Brook Byars, Willie Skellenger, Andy Stene, Bruce Adams, Linda Helgeson, and Pastor Melinda. Pastor Melinda opened the meeting with devotions. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Wayne to accept the minutes of the previous two meetings. All approved.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported a checking account balance of \$50,920.89. Income for February was \$18,623.37 and expenses were \$23,364.23. We also have a money market account balance of \$79,500.86. He will notify each board of their budget for 2016.

Financial Secretary's Report: Deb reported that we have a total of 425 households that are issued giving envelopes. Total contributions for February were \$17,786.00 and for the year are \$38,516.00. It was moved by Roy and seconded by Brad to accept the financial reports. All approved.

Board of Worship and Music: Linda reported that May 1 is the deadline for planning Summer worship services and July 1 is the deadline for the Fall schedule. They would like to get feedback from the congregation concerning worship style and time. More information concerning this will be in the Bulletin. They are looking at the possibility of getting special music from people outside of the Salem congregation. They would like to install a white board calendar near the offices to use for planning worship service duties and responsibilities. They need Communion servers for Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Three new members have joined this board.

Board of Stewardship: No report.

Board of Education: Stephanie reported that Vacation Bible School will be held June 8,9,14, and 15. Salem has been asked to provide snacks. They plan to ask the Creature Choir to include students up to sixth grade if possible. A dinner will be served for First Communion families on Maundy Thursday. Faith Statement Night will be April 27 for Confirmation students. A meal will also be served to these students and their families. They are currently in the process of centrally locating their supplies which will leave the supply closet empty. They are looking ahead to options for next year's Sunday school program and expect to make detailed plan this

Update from the Council (cont)

summer. Sunday school teachers are always needed.

Board of Youth: Brook reported that they are planning the Easter breakfast. She also wants the congregation to know that scholarships are available for summer camps.

Board of Life and Growth: Willie reported that they are working on the service group lists. Open spots are still available for the Easter prayer vigil.

Board of Property and Management: Andy reported that work is progressing on the library/lounge project. At this point, the floor covering and some light fixtures remain to finish. They are also looking for a conference table for the library. They are considering moving the pews in the sanctuary a little further apart. They will be easier to enter and exit and vacuuming will be easier. They have had a second visit with Johnston Development Company. The old preschool rooms have been cleaned and reorganized. A silent auction is planned for April 9 for surplus items.

Communication Director's Report: No report.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Melinda submitted a written report for February. She has completed First Communion classes for 9 fifth grade students. Wednesday, April 27, will be Faith Statement Night for Confirmation students. She would like to have the seventh and eighth grade Confirmation students continue to meet for a few weeks after this to meet Pastor Joel and get to know him. It was moved by Willie and seconded by Deb to accept the above reports. All approved.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There were no visitors. It was moved by Stephanie and seconded by Mike to accept Janelle Gilbertson's resignation as Communication Director. All approved. It was moved by Deb and seconded by Roy to appoint Deb, Wayne and Stephanie to advertise and recommend someone for this opening. All approved. Deb will serve as chairman. It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Willie to begin taking payroll taxes out of the wages for the janitors at their request. All approved. It was moved by Brad and seconded by Wayne to close the old preschool account and transfer any monies to the capitol building fund. All approved. This is a bookkeeping procedure to simplify the ledger and does not change the checkbook balance. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Deb to accept the resignation of Al Skellenger from the Board of Worship and Music and

Update from the Council (cont)

from his responsibility with the sound system. All approved. It was moved by Roy and seconded by Deb to appoint Bruce Adams as chairman of the Board of Worship and Music and Kathy Chose and Cathy Charlson as new members. All approved. Scott appointed Brad and Brook to look for someone to run the sound and video systems. The Board of Stewardship will undertake a membership study to get a more accurate idea of the size of our congregation. At present the rolls reflect a membership of 1400. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Bruce to set Saturday, April 9 as the date of the silent auction and give the Board of Property and Management the responsibility to advertise it and to dispose of any items remaining. All approved. The Council Workshop planned for March 19 has been postponed. It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Willie to accept Jarod Osheim as a new member. All approved. Thank you notes will be sent by Scott and Yvonne this month. A motion to adjourn was made by Mike and seconded by Bruce. All approved. The next regular Council meeting will be April 11. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvonne Beenken

A thank you to our Youth and parents during this Lenten Season and Holy Week. You all did a fantastic job with the soup suppers, ushering and acolyting. Again ,thank you for your service.

SALEM RECORDS MARCH 2016

Memorials:
Roger Juveland:
General Fund \$85,
Cemetery \$20, Altar Guild \$5

Mylan Johnson:
Cemetery \$10, Good Samaritan
\$10, General Fund \$50

Funerals:
Diane Brackey
Glennes Nelson

Baptisms:
Calvin Clarence Nelson

New Member:
Jarod Osheim

April Volunteers

Sunday 9:00 Worship

- 3** Acolytes: Morgan Brainerd, Nicole Canny, Tyler Christian
Communion Servers: Brooke Byars, Heather Mannes
Reader: Harris Honsey
Ushers: Margaret Oakland Family
- 10** Acolytes: Brooke Bergo, Lindy Brekken
Reader: Carlton Shaw
Ushers: Margaret Oakland Family
- 17** Acolytes: Carson Eaton, Jadyng Hengesteg, Sam Hagenson
Communion Servers: Wayne & Judy Nyguard
Reader: Bruce Adams
Ushers: Ron & Phyllis Moen
- 24** Acolytes: Michelle Jones, Emma Hoffman
Reader: Roy Kvale
Ushers: Ron & Phyllis Moen

SALEM WOMEN of the ELCA

Altar Guild

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

Mission Quilters

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

WELCA Meeting

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

Hostess: Serving Committee

Program: Hannah Circle

Altar Guild for April

Sharon Johnson, Pat Young

Communion Schedule

Sundays, April 3rd & 17th

Wednesdays, April 6th & 20th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, April 27th

Lake Mills Care Center

Birthday Gifts: Rhoda Circle

Program: Grace Circle

Prayer Families

April 3

Judy/St Stanley Stover, Paul Sullivan, Jaden Swanson, Mary Swenson, Mike/Janet Swenson, Virginia Thomas, Betty Thompson, Bradlee Thompson, Courtney Thompson, Dennis Thompson

April 10

Doug/Jeanne Thompson, Grant Thompson Family, James/Kathy Thompson, Jayde Thompson, Joshua/Tiffany Thompson Family, Norma Thompson, Whitney Thompson, Lyle/Orlone Thomson, Neal Thomson, Arlin/Patricia Thorson

April 17

Craig Thorson, Darrin Thorson Family, Kim Thorson Family, Ronald Thorson, Todd/Jill Thorson Family, Brian/Debra Throne, Jeremi Throne Family, Dennis Trostheim, Harriet Trostheim, Darlene Trytten

April 24

Jamie Turnbull, Mitchell Turnbull, Gregory Turvold, Jack Turvold, Joel/Carol Twedt, Alissa Tweed Family, Barbara Tweed, Craig Tweed, James/Doris Tweed, Valerie Tweed



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.

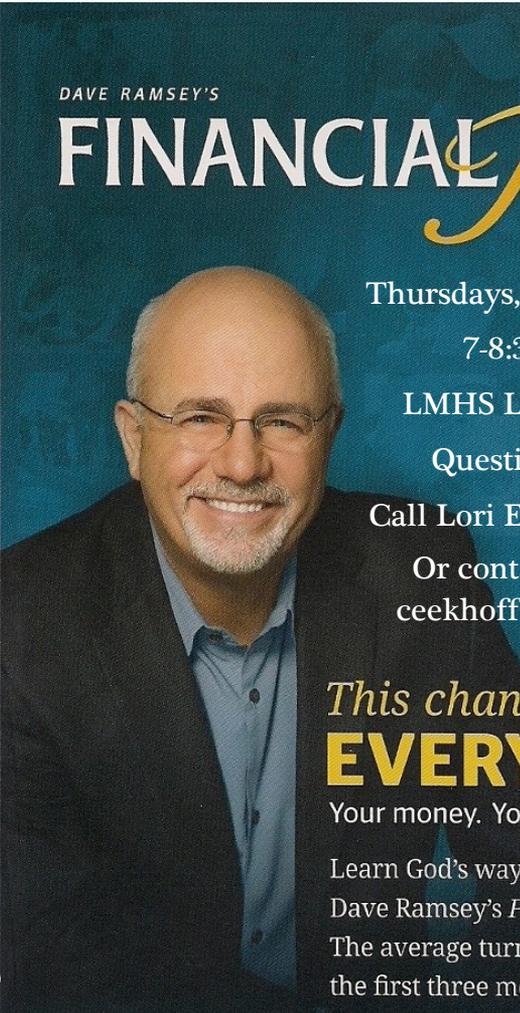
Available dates are:

June 5 July 10
August 7, 14 October 16, 23
November 6, 20 December 4, 11

Care Giver's Support Group

Tuesday, April 12 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.



DAVE RAMSEY'S
FINANCIAL *Peace*[®]
UNIVERSITY

Thursdays, March 31-June 2, 2016
7-8:30pm ~ Cost \$45
LMHS Library Media Center
Questions or to Register:
Call Lori Eekhoff at 641-590-2332
Or contact Chad Eekhoff at
ceekhoff@lake-mills.k12.ia.us

This changes
EVERYTHING!
Your money. Your story. Your life.

Learn God's ways of handling money with
Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University!*
The average turnaround is \$8,000 in just
the first three months!

Update on the Library and Lounge remodeling project. You are invited to take a look at the progress being made on the project. The carpet was laid and the picture from Pastor Peter and Sandy Soli has been hung above the fireplace. Our thanks to the following for supporting the renovations; the Salem Brotherhood, the Salem WELCA, Glennes Nelson Memorial, and the Enduring Gift Fund.

Easter at Salem





First Communion Milestone was held at Salem on Mandy Thursday. Pastor Melinda taught the students about Holy Communion and the Board of Education held a potluck for the families.



We had a full sanctuary on Easter Sunday at the 9:00am worship service with both the Senior Choir and Creature Praise Choir. Thank you to everyone who helped with worship and other events during Holy Week.



A Message from LSI

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, more than 7,400 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2014. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety and stability services and mental and behavioral health treatment.

LSI's early childhood programs prevent child abuse by giving parents support and resources to build a healthy, stable home environment for their children. In 2015, LSI made more than 15,000 home visits to parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers!

LSI's Family, Safety, Risk and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's residential programs at Beloit and Bremwood serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

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.

All About the Love

The heartbeat of Syntesha's home is made up of three little words: *I love you. I love you. I love you.*

"I tell my son all day, 'I love you,'" she said. "I didn't know what love meant until I had my baby. The definition of love has changed for me."

Syntesha grew up in a troubled, violent home. Her childhood involved fights. Skipping school. Living with one grandparent, then another.

"I wouldn't even call it a home," she said. "My mom and dad were in and out of jail growing up. They were young. I'm 21, and my mom is 35. I've been through anything you can name. Physical, emotional, sexual abuse. Homeless. Shelter. Evicted."

At 18, she was barely ready to take care of herself, let alone a child. So when she was seven months pregnant, she signed up for LSI's home visiting services. LSI helped this motivated young mom with potty training, budgeting and positive parenting tips and encouraged her college dreams.

"If you're a single mom, I think this is the absolutely best program," Syntesha said.

Now a full-time college student, Syntesha is working hard for her dreams while also preparing to welcome another child into her family. She hopes to help local youth who face the same struggles she once did.

"I want my son to know there are bigger and better things out there in the world."

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've experienced the death of a family member or friend. Whether the death occurred a few months ago or years ago, there is no time limit on grief. There is no charge to participate in this 6 week program. Space is limited and registration is required.

6 consecutive Monday mornings ~ Iowa Falls
April 4 – May 9, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m. – Noon
First United Methodist Church ~ 619 Main Street
OR

6 consecutive Tuesday evenings ~ Mason City
April 12 – May 17, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Hospice of North Iowa Conference Room ~ 232 2nd Street SE
OR

6 consecutive Friday mornings ~ Mason City
May 6 – June 10, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Hospice of North Iowa conference room ~ 232 2nd Street SE

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