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# Salem Lutheran Church

## OUTREACH

January 2016

LABEL

**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.

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

**Message from Pastor Melinda McCluskey**

Happy New Year! This year is beginning with a number of changes at Salem. Change is not easy and as humans we don't like our routines disrupted. Worship and Sunday School times on Sunday morning are changing; one worship service at 9 a.m. with Sunday School and Fellowship at 10 a.m. The Worship and Music Board along with the Church council has been working to find someone to coordinate and lead the 10:30 worship service. Our hope is that in the coming months someone will be found to lead the music for Salem.

Worship is central to the spiritual life of the church. Worship is more than just coming to church. Worship is defined as: the corporate expression of the church's love for God.

Mark Allen Powell in his book "Loving Jesus" tells a story about Sunday morning. As a young pastor Powell visited a number of "inactive members" of a church he served. He sums up these visits: "...everyone was saying in some way, shape, or form, 'I quit coming to church because I wasn't getting out of it what I thought I should get out of it'". A little later Powell asks, "Where do we get the idea that what happens in church is about *us*? It is the Lord's day. We go to worship the Lord".

Our worship styles and times are changing, hopefully temporarily. In the time of transition let us all come together to share our love for God by worshipping together at 9 a.m.

Please continue to pray for the call committee and those pastors seeking a call. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring the right pastor to continue leading Salem in the path that God has set for us. See you on Sunday morning.

Blessings,

Pastor Melinda

with fundraisers for neonatal maternal health and food drives for local pantries.

When Lisa was in middle school and high school, LSI helped her work on goals such as cooking, taking care of herself and becoming active in the community. Today, she lives with roommates in her own apartment, supported by LSI.

She is also an advocate, attending LSI's Lutheran Day on the Hill to speak with legislators.

"I'm proud to be out in the community and show them I can do this," Lisa said. "I can be an advocate so that no one puts down anyone with special needs. I appreciate that I can be independent."



Dear Salem Members,

I want to thank you for the many ways you have been a blessing to me and to Sandy over the last year and a half. Your willingness to trust in the interim process made my work much easier than it would have been. Your support of your leadership, the financial health of the congregation, and your prayers have sustained ministry through this period of time. Your kindness and friendship made me look forward to going to Lake Mills. I can say without hesitation that God has blessed me and our ministry together.

I also want to thank those who sent cards and have offered well wishes. I want to wish you all well as you move forward towards calling a new pastor. As I say this, I know that this process may take longer than hoped. I encourage you to keep faith in the process, support for your leaders, and trust that God goes with you and ahead of you, just as he has been with us all through our time together.

Blessings to you in 2016.

Pr. Peter Soli

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## A Message from LSI

### Giving Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families living in poverty. Iowa children who go hungry. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 17. Visit [www.LSLOWA.org/advocacy](http://www.LSLOWA.org/advocacy) beginning January 6 for event details, online registration and an online toolkit for your congregation, including how to participate in this year's congregational letter-writing campaign.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators.

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

### Lisa's Gifts of Generosity and Advocacy

Lisa has the gift of generosity. And that makes her mom proud.

"She is quite a giver with her time," said her mom Carolyn. "I love that she is generous, and people say she knows half the county."

Lisa is an adult living in Ames, and she partners with Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) daily supported community living services for people with disabilities. Because of that support, Lisa can participate in her community, and she loves giving back to others!

She volunteers at Reiman Gardens, she participates in ACE (Advocacy, Connections, Empowerment) through Mainstream Living and she is the President of the Cyclone County Aktion Club, a service organization created by the Kiwanis for persons with special needs. She's helped

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## Update from the Council

Council Meeting -December 7, 2015

Vice President Scott Hagenson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Members present were Scott Hagenson, Mike Swenson, Steve Nelson, Alan Skellenger, Karla Eaton, Wayne VanVeldhuizen, Janelle Gilbertson, Pastor McCluskey, Pastor Soli and visitor Cindy Haugsdal representing the call committee. Pastor Melinda McCluskey opened with a prayer.

Cindy reported the call committee has interviewed two pastors and have spoken with a third. They are looking to set the second interviews. Thanksgiving and Christmas has delayed the process due to scheduling conflicts.

Pastor Peter Soli lead us in a devotional.

**Secretary's Report:** It was moved by Mike and seconded by Wayne to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. All approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike reported a checkbook balance at the end of November of \$37,025.77. Total income for the month was \$29,180.17 and expenses were \$28,697.29. The motion was made by Mike to purchase a payroll program for Helen and seconded by Al. All approved. The executive board will meet with each employee to discuss performance reviews and will included discussion about compensation. It was moved by Steve and seconded by Al to approve this report. All approved.

**Financial Report:** No report.

**Board of Worship & Music:** Al reported the board was unable to find a musician for the second service.

**Board of Stewardship:** Wayne reported Stewardship Sunday brunch went well. They do not have a final report of pledges. The stewardship campaign went well with the various temple talks.

**Update from the Council (cont)**

**Board of Education:** Janelle reported the Christmas Program is coming along well. There will be one service followed by a birthday party for Jesus. Sunday school will resume January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Board of Youth:** Karla reported their Thankful Kids event went well on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> quarter events for the High School will continue following home basketball games and will be held at Mills Theater. The board continues to look for additional members.

**Board of Life & Growth:** No report.

**Board of Property & Management:** Steve reported the library updating is underway. Cabinets have been removed from the east wall and they are looking into closing the windows on the north wall.

**Lead Pastor Report:** Pastor Soli reported there were 29 new members formally welcomed on November 15<sup>th</sup>. An exit interview with the council has been scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 with the council. He thanked Salem for the reception.

**Associate Pastor Report:** Pastor McCluskey reported with Pastor Soli's resignation, her largest concern has been second service. Harris, Wayne, and Pastor Melinda met with Pastor Dahlen to assist Salem in the transition period.

**Communication Director's Report:** Janelle reported that the sign has recently had issues with the hardware and is covered under warranty. It will be re-installed this week to be centered on the sign. It was moved by Wayne and approved by Mike to approve these reports. All Approved.

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

**New Business:** There were no visitors. Scott presented the annual meeting agenda for January 24<sup>th</sup>. The proposed schedule would be worship at 9:00 followed by brunch and the meeting. The motion was made by Al and seconded by Karla to approve the date and time. All

Donations of new and gently used clothing, along with financial donations, have helped the clothes closet grow into a program that served 30 families this year. A special back-to-school shopping day distributed bags of clothing to students in coordination with a free summer lunch program.

A core committee of six members from Salem coordinates the Good Samaritan Ministry, which receives donations from throughout the community. Committee



Rita Anderson coordinates the clothes closet at Salem, Lake Mills, as part of the congregation's Good Samaritan Ministry.

members pay attention to leads about anyone who may need some type of help and follow up on referrals from pastors or the school nurse. Area congregations that belong to the local ministerial association have also contributed to the ministry, and pastors bring suggestions of families in and outside of the community who may need a helping hand.

All referrals and the names of families served through the ministry are confidential. Some families who were offered help have declined assistance, saying they would rather have the money help someone else.

Berger says that the families who have received help have been very grateful, and the committee receives numerous thank you notes from them. One family followed up and asked to have their children baptized.

"Word is slowly spreading that this opportunity for assistance is there, and the congregation continues to bless us with generous giving." Berger said.

Using the mission statement, "Following the example of the Good Samaritan, we exist to respond to those in need with the compassion of Jesus Christ," the group continues to reach out with the love of Jesus.

**Article published in the Synod Newsletter****Good Samaritan Ministry**

In January of 2012, a group of members from Salem, Lake Mills, learned from a young Sunday school student about a family that was facing extra expenses due to a health issue, so they decided to do something to help. The group asked for donations from the congregation, and the response was immediate and overwhelming. That show of support led the group to form the Good Samaritan Ministry, modeled after Jesus' parable to reach out and help a neighbor.

"We try to take care of people in any way we can to ease the burdens they are experiencing," said Sheila Berger, who serves on the Good Samaritan committee.

The ministry has provided gas cards for families traveling to the Mayo Clinic for doctor appointments. Funds were used to pay the utility bill for a local resident who was injured and had difficulty making ends meet. Another family received assistance to keep the house warm when the price of LP gas had risen. Other families received grocery coupons to help with their basic needs.

"We don't pass any judgment," Berger said. "We just look at our resources and see how best to help those in need."

The ministry has served some 50 families this year, including those who recently received winter coats and clothing through the ministry's clothes closet. The school nurse from the Lake Mills Community School District had been making

sure that students who needed assistance had clothes for school and the winter season, but the school did not have room to store the clothing. The Good Samaritan Ministry stepped up to open a clothes closet in a former Sunday school room at Salem, which is located across the street from the school.

approved. The ballot still has openings on the Boards of Worship & Music, Youth and Life & Growth. The Vice President position is also open. Mike is working to compile the budget. Currently, after Pastor Soli leaves at the end of December, we do not have a musician for the second service. After much discussion, the motion was made by Al and seconded by Wayne to have one worship service at 9:00am starting January 3<sup>rd</sup> and continuing through May. This is just a temporary change as we continue to look for a musician. Steve made the motion to disburse the 2015 dedicated funds and was seconded by Karla. All Approved. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Wayne to approve the transfer of Darcy (Kvale) Hauser, Brooke & Ethan to First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea; Reinstate Miranda Gulick, and Remove

Michael Tune from membership. All approved. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Al to approve Harris to sign a letter of agreement with Pastor Dahlen. A motion to adjourn was made by Al and seconded by Mike. All approved. The next regular Council meeting will be January 11. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janelle Gilbertson

**SALEM RECORDS****December:****Memorials:**

Ardell Brua  
\$210 General Fund  
Helen Groe  
\$25 Building Fund

**Funerals:**

Helen Groe  
Roger Juveland

**Transfer:**

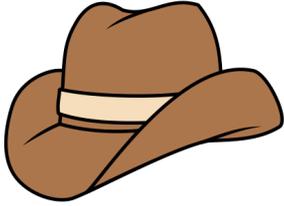
Darcy (Kvale) Hauser, Brooke & Ethan

**Reinstate Membership:**

Miranda Gulick

**Remove from Membership:**

Michael Thune

**The New Guy (Who wears a Cowboy hat and boots)**

Who's that new pastor? You know, the old, bald guy with the strange sense of humor that dresses like a cowboy. Well that's me. Below you will find a profile of who I am and what I am about.

NAME – Joel Dahlen.

BORN – Fergus Falls, Minnesota in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

BAPTISM – Aastad Lutheran Church, rural Fergus Falls on September 1, 1946.

RAISED – On a family farm, still in the family, 12 miles south of Fergus Falls.

SIBLINGS – 2 older brothers, James (born 5 years before me on our shared birth date) and Doug, the retired farmer who doesn't understand the word "retired".

CONFIRMATION BIBLE VERSE – Mt. 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup>*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

SCHOOLING – Grades 1-8, District #119 (A one-room rural school house. Yup, really, *Little House on the Prairie* style), Fergus Falls High School (graduating in 1964), Fergus Falls Jr. College (AA degree in Wildlife Management), The Lutheran Bible Institute, Golden Valley, Minnesota (AA degree in Bible Studies {This is where I met my wife, Renee!}), Meteorological Research Equipment Repair, Rantoul, Illinois (US Air Force Tech School), University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah (Bachelor's Degree in Meteorology under an Air Force Education and Commissioning program), Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota (Masters of Divinity), Doctorate of Ministry, Luther Seminary (I did not complete this program).

If you aren't bored by now, you should be.

MARRIED – To Renee, the joy of my life, for 47 ½ years!

CHILDREN and GRANDCHILDREN – 7 children (3 daughters and 4 sons-2 birth children and 5 multi-racial adopted children; eleven grandchildren).

MILITARY SERVICE – 7 ¾ years in the US Air Force (4 years enlisted and 3 ¾ years officer).

## Annual Meeting Agenda Sunday, January 24 @11:15am in the Fellowship Hall

The Salem Council at its December meeting approved the following agenda for the annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 24, 2016 at 11:15am in the Fellowship Hall.

### I. Devotion

II. Reports	Secretary's Report	Yvonne Beenken
	Treasurer's Report	Mike Swenson
	Pastor's Report	Pastor McCluskey
	President's Report	Harris Honsey

### III. Business Items

1. Election of Council and Boards
2. Adoption of 2015 Budget
3. Report of Call Committee
4. Any other new business

### IV. Benediction

Pastor McCluskey

To quote from our bylaws, ARTICLE 3, Section E:

"The agenda for the annual meeting shall be prepared by the Church council. Ten members may petition the President to propose an agenda item. The agenda shall be posted 30 days prior to the meeting and closed 10 days prior to the meeting."

### A Few Pictures from the Sunday School Christmas Program



STATIONED – Lackland AF Base, San Antonio, Texas (basic training); Chanute AF Base, Rantoul, IL (tech school); University of Utah, Salt Lake City; Lackland AF Base San Antonio, Texas (officer’s training); Duluth Air Force Base, Duluth, MN; Clark Air Base, Philippine Islands.

ORDAINED – At Aastad Lutheran Church on June 15, 1980.

CHURCHES SERVED – Malta Lutheran Parish, Malta, Montana-Internship (4 ½ point parish) 1979-1980; Medicine Lake Lutheran Parish, Medicine Lake, Montana (3 point parish) 1980-1983; St. John Lutheran Church, Zimmerman, Minnesota 1983-1990; Donnelly Lutheran Parish, Donnelly, Minnesota (2 point parish) 1990-1996; Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Mason City 1996-2006; Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hampton, Iowa 2006-2009; DISABILITY (due to Lyme Disease)2009-2012; St. INTERIM – Peter Lutheran Church, Rockwell, 19 months; Cross Roads Lutheran Parish (4 point interim with churches in Mitchell, Nora Springs and 2 rural Osage congregations) 14 months; St. James Lutheran Church, Mason City (Staff support for 5 months), Faith Lutheran, Miller (1 year).

HEALED – On January 24, 2012 I was miraculous completely healed of Lyme Disease...overnight!

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE – Nehemiah 8:10b ...*for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

Here’s the fun part: My daughter and son-in-law were disciplining their 6 year old son who was not completing his chores. As my daughter said, she was giving her son the “what for”, but he did not seem to be listening. So she asked him, “Are you Listening?” My grandson’s response made me chuckle all day long. His reply, “I am listening, but I’m not enjoying it.” Laugh, smile, carry God’s love and joy every way that you are able!

My job at Salem is to support Pastor Melinda and Salem mainly through preaching, but there may also be other tasks that I will be called upon to do. My prayer is that the joy of the Lord may show through the tasks that I do...and share the love of Christ. May the joy of the Lord be reflected in all of our ministry together as we live out who we are as followers of Jesus.

Ole to Sven: “Ya, Vell, do ve really need to know dat much about dis guy who is comin’ to Salem?”



In Christ,  
Pastor Joel Dahlen

### Letter from Council Vice President

Members of Salem Lutheran Church,

At the December council meeting, the council voted to have one service on Sundays from January 3 until the end of May. As many of you may remember, in August the council voted to keep two Sunday services, even though it was recommended by the Board of Worship at that time to go to one service at the start of September. At the time it was the Board of Worship's thought that with no option of someone to coordinate and play music at the 10:30 service, that one service was necessary as a way to provide a quality service. It was at that time that Pastor Soli agreed to take over the music for the second service so Salem could continue to have two services on Sunday. This worked well and got Salem through four more months. Now with Pastor Soli's departure, Salem again finds itself without a music director for the 10:30 service.

Since the August council meeting, Board of Worship and some council members have attempted to find an individual to assume the duties of music director for the 10:30 service. While a few individuals had a desire to help, there was no one that could give Salem a commitment, even a short term one, to lead music for the 10:30 service. I think most would agree that without music at a worship service, it just would not be individually meaningful and not what Salem members want or have come to expect at the 10:30 service. Thus, it led to a council vote to hold one Sunday service and utilize our members that have a talent in music at one combined service.

The 9:00 am Sunday service time was determined to be the best time to hold the single service for several reasons. The 8:30 am radio broadcast is a very important piece of ministry for both Salem members and non-members that tune in. Even though our service will begin at 9:00 am, the broadcast will still be broadcasted at its normal 8:30 am time slot with church announcements and music. At 9:00 am, Salem will go live with the readings and sermon. At



### Prayer Families

#### January 3

Dennis/Darla Rogstad, Jeremy/Stacie Rogstad Family, Robert/Karla Rogstad Family, Roger/Linda Rogstad, Adeline Rolands, Linda Rolands, Mark Rolands, Michael Rolands

#### January 10

Sabrina Roll, Derek Rosen, Lynn/Kathleen Rosen, Michael Rosen, Rhonda Rosen, Carmen Rusley, Darin/Jodi Ruud, Renae Ryerson

#### January 17

David Rygh, Eleanor Rygh, James Jr/Deb Rygh, Michael Rygh, John/Connie Sabin, Beryl Sand, Crystal Sanden Family, Lynn Sanden

#### January 24

Robert/Rose Sanden, Sterling/Bonnie Sanden, Adam/Jennifer Sauer Family, Phyllis Schat, Christopher Schauer Family, Morgan Scheib, Muriel Schiltz, Matthew/Sheri Schmidt Family

#### January 31

Mikkel Schmidt Family, Darren Schmidhuber, Leo Schmidhuber, Jeffrey Schoonover Family, Stephanie Schoonover Family, Cory Schriever, Dan/Rhonda Schriever, Ryan/Jamie Schriever Family



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:

<b>January 3, 17</b>	<b>February 28</b>
<b>March 6, 20, 27</b>	<b>May 1, 8</b>
<b>June 5, 12</b>	<b>July 10, 17, 31</b>
<b>August 7, 14, 21</b>	<b>September 4</b>
<b>October 9, 16, 23</b>	<b>November 6, 20</b>
<b>December 4, 11, 25</b>	

### Care Giver's Support Group

**Tuesday, January 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.

**January Volunteers****Sunday 9:00 Worship**

- 3** Acolytes: Bennett Eaton, Kaitlyn Anderson, Brooke Bergo  
Communion Servers: Tami Alphs, Janet Swenson,  
Rebecca Shaw, Yvonne Back
- 10** Acolytes: Andrew Fjelstad, Nicole Canny, Lindy Brekken
- 17** Acolytes: Mason Fritz, Tyler Christian, Kit Byars  
Communion Servers: Willie Skellenger, Steve Nelson,  
Rhonda Schriever, Pat Young
- 24** Acolytes: Kate Groe, Carson Eaton, Jadyng Hengesteg
- 31** Acolytes: Megan Groe, Sam Hagenson, Megan Knudtson

**January Ushers:**

Keith & Becky Johnson, Steve & Kathy Nelson, Delane & Darlene Behr

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

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

**Mission Quilters**

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

**WELCA Meeting**

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

Hostess: Hannah Circle

Program: Officers

**Altar Guild for January**

Candy Hanna & Medara Winter

**Communion Schedule**

Sundays, January 3 & 17

Wednesdays, January 6 & 20

**Mills Harbour & LMCC**

Wednesday, January 27

**Lake Mills Care Center**

Birthday Gifts: Miriam Circle

Program: Sarah Circle

9:30 am, the radio broadcast will end and Salem will continue with the second half of the service. This format will continue to give listeners the Sunday service, only in a little different order than those attending church.

A second factor was that Ruth Sheldon, our organist, has other commitments to play at other parishes. She can be at Salem until 10:00 am. The hope is that with Ruth at the organ and individuals providing special music, this will provide a great service for all to enjoy.

The final factor was to provide a consistent time for families and Sunday school teachers to plan and attend Sunday school for the months of January through May. The Board of Education has a great Sunday school attendance of more than 70 children each Sunday. I think all would agree, these children are one of Salem's biggest assets, and we want them to continue to be there each Sunday!

Please understand the Salem council knows there are many pros and cons to having one Sunday service. In conjunction with the Board of Worship, we will continue to resolve this issue in 2016. The hope of the council and all Salem members is that in the coming months, the call committee will bring forth a name to be voted on to be our new lead pastor at Salem. Remember one thing, Salem is in a good place! We have a good associate pastor and good people in place to cover all the needs of our congregation. Salem's bills are paid each month. We have a council that is working hard to keep you, the members, informed of all things "Salem," both good and not so good. It is the intent of the council to keep Salem strong. Going to one service for the next five months is just another step to getting through this time of transition. Please keep Salem in your prayers, and Salem will continue to be there for you the member!!

On behalf of the church council, thank you for your patience and understanding.

Scott Hagenson

Vice President Salem Church Council