



Salem Lutheran Church OUTREACH

May 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 Joel Guttormson

703.581.4672 ~ joelguttormson@gmail.com

Pastor Melinda McCluskey

563.581.9965 ~ melindamcmc@gmail.com

Helen Rice, Church Secretary

641.592.1771 ~ salem@wctatel.net

Ruth Sheldon, Organist

641.592.0184

Ashley Hoffman, Communications Director

641.590.3087 ~ SalemLMinfo@gmail.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 Joel Guttormson



“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope” (Jeremiah 28:11).

I was ordained in 2001 and served my first call at Hope Lutheran Church in Annandale, Virginia for three years. I served New Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Lovettsville, Virginia for twelve years, having spent the last year celebrating the congregations 250th Anniversary. In December of 2015, I shared at the Annual Congregational meeting, that I was filling out my mobility papers making myself available for a possible new call, not knowing what that might mean. This after a joyous anniversary celebration and a ministry that was at times challenging but exciting, it was time for all of us to discern what the future might hold. For me personally it became a time to reflect on what the second half of my pastoral ministry might be.

Now it's becoming a bit clearer as I settle into my new office and our new home, what God might have in store for us. Change can be strenuous and stressful while also filled with joy and blessing! That's what God had in store for Jeremiah and the people of Israel. For Nancy and I it has been all of that! After initial conversations with Bishop Steven Ullestad and Assistant to the Bishop Stephen Brackett; meeting the Staff and Call Committee of Salem, attending my first Council Meeting, being greeted by many helpful and giving members and now the youth soon to be confirmed (yes I have my second Confirmation in just a couple of hours) this has been such an affirmation of our move to a new call. We could not have orchestrated a better opportunity had we tried. So God has plans for a future filled with hopeful possibilities!

On May 15, 2015 I will be installed as your lead pastor and God willing, will serve the second half of my ministry at Salem. The Rev. Stephen Brackett will be here to preach and I will promise to be an example of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation. Nancy and I have witnessed that Spirit already active in those we have met, helped us find a house, offered hospitality and a warm welcome. So thank you for all you have already done in preparation for the work we are about to begin.

I will promise to preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church and carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I will commit to being diligent in the study of the holy scriptures and in the use of the means of grace. I will love, serve, and pray for you, God's people, nourished with the word and sacraments, leading by example, with faithful service and holy living. Centered in these commitments and acts of daily discipleship God promises a future filled with hope.

Allow me to share a bit about my family. We came to Lake Mills with our twelve-year-old black lab, Gracie. Nancy and I have been married for thirty-two years and have known each other for over forty. I moved across the street from her family when I was sixteen years old and our families became very close. We have two children Eric who is married to Andrea. They live in South Minneapolis and recently brought our first grandchild, Odin Joel into the family. Our second son Daniel stayed in Virginia, closer to his girlfriend Angie and her family, Angie is graduating from AMU and continuing her master's degree while Daniel works for the Metro DC Airport Authority and is pursuing a degree in emergency management.

I have four siblings and Nancy has five and I imagine you may have the opportunity to meet some them as they come to visit or hear their stories in the years to come. Nancy and I also look forward to hearing your stories as we share the ministry of Salem and discover what God is calling us to do as we give witness to his life giving Spirit and saving grace. God has plans for us and may we together discover what they are and share them!

Shalom Pastor Joel



Pastor Joel Guttormson will be installed Sunday, May 15.

Potluck at 11:00 a.m.
Bring salads and desserts.
Main course will be provided.

Installation

Message from Pastor Melinda McCluskey



*All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and let us sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam
And silver moon with softer gleam:
Oh, praise him! Oh, Praise him! Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia! (LBW 527)*

Stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The text of the above hymn is based on words by Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226, the patron saint of animals and the natural environment. He preached to people and beasts the duty of all creatures to praise God, which is a common theme in the Psalms. He also taught that it was the duty of humans to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves.

Based on Psalm 148 this hymn calls for all of creation to sing praise to God. In this season of Easter and as the earth awakes from its winter slumber, creation seems to be calling out praises to God. In this time of spring planting the church has had a tradition of honoring God for the gift of creation. This is a time for the church to come together to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of people. Rogation Days or Rogation Sunday is a time to celebrate God's gifts to us.

Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word, Rogation, has its roots in the Latin word "*rogare*" which means to ask or petition. Rogation Days were originally agricultural celebrations for many rural congregations. Today, Rogation Sunday is a celebration for both rural and urban congregations to emphasize the dependence of all people on the fruitfulness of the earth and human labor.

On May 8, Salem will be celebrating Rogation Sunday. You are invited to participate by bringing a jar (plastic peanut butter jars work great for this) of soil from your field or garden for a blessing. Other items you might like to bring: flower or vegetable seeds are planting in the garden or a sample

of seed being planted in the farm field; or maybe garden gloves and gardening cap.

Martin Luther in his large catechism says the following in the first article: “we affirm our baptismal creed when we acknowledge that God makes all creation help provide the comforts and necessities of life: sun, moon and the stars in the heavens, day and night, air, fire, water, the earth and all that it brings forth, birds and fish, beasts, grains and all kinds of produce.”

God has created all things. Let us come together and ask God’s blessing for the seed, soil and for those who labor in the fields on Rogation Sunday, May 8.

Oh, Praise God for all creation! Alleluia!

Pastor Melinda

I would like to thank you all for supporting me as the Communications Director at Salem for the past year. It has been a fulfilling experience on so many levels. I would also like to welcome Ashley Hoffman as she transitions into her new role at Salem. I look forward to volunteering in new areas as I continue on my faith journey.
Cheerfully in Christ, Janelle Gilbertson

As this program year comes to an end, the Board of Education would like to thank all of the teachers, substitutes, and helpers for Sunday School and Confirmation. Thank you for volunteering your time to share your faith with the youth in our congregation.



Update from the Council

Salem Church Council Meeting ~ April 11, 2016

President Scott Hagenson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present were Scott Hagenson, Brad Evenson, Mike Swenson, Yvonne Beenken, Roy Kvale, Wayne VanVeldhuizen, Stephanie Steffans, Brook Byars, Willie Skellenger, Steve Nelson, Janelle Gilbertson, and Pastor Joel Guttormson. It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Brad to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. All approved.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported a checking account balance of \$46,220.05. Income for March was \$25,363.41 and expenses were \$26,779.44.

Financial Secretary's Report: Deb submitted a written report. Giving is about as expected at \$5106 less than this time last year. It was moved by Roy and seconded by Wayne to accept the financial reports. All approved.

Board of Worship and Music: No report.

Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: No report.

Board of Education: Stephanie reported that Maundy Thursday service went well. The Board of Ed served at the potluck dinner for First Communion students. Sunday school attendance has been very unpredictable but numbers are down. VBS planning is underway. Salem is in charge of snacks this year and the congregation will be asked to donate to this. April 27 is Faith Statement Night. The Board of Ed will serve supper to the Confirmation students and their families. Confirmation is May 1. They are planning a special activity for Sunday school students on Mother's Day and this will be the last day of Sunday school.

Board of Youth: Brook reported that 105 people were served at a very successful Easter breakfast. Over \$500 was received in donations. They had many great volunteers and were very pleased with the turnout. Plans are being made for Graduation Sunday. Information regarding summer camps will be available in the upcoming Bulletins.

Board of Life and Growth: Willie reported that the Easter prayer vigil went well. She asked that the noisy offering for April be given to support Campus Ministries of the ELCA and made a motion to that affect. It was seconded by Steve and all approved.

They are planning a special welcome event for Pastor Joel and his wife on May 15.

Update from the Council (cont)

Board of Property and Management: Steve reported that the Silent Auction went well and about \$1400 was received. He made a motion to use these funds for the lounge/library remodel project. Mike seconded and all approved. He will check into a solution to the wasp problem in the sanctuary. The coffee maker in the Fellowship Hall needs to be fixed. A complete report on the expenses for the remodeling project will be available as soon as all the work is finished.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Melinda submitted a written report of her pastoral acts for March. Pastor Joel's installation service will be May 15. Pastor Steve Brackett from the Northeast Iowa Synod will be preaching that day. She continues to participate in First Call Theological Education. She is looking forward to working with Pastor Joel. She is planning some vacation days in late May.

Communications Director's Report: Janelle reported that the Facebook page remains very popular. She offered to help interview for her replacement. It was moved by Mike and seconded by Brad to accept the above reports. All approved.

Old Business: Deb, Wayne, and Stephanie are interviewing a candidate for the Communication Director's position on April 13. Wayne and Roy reported for the Membership Study Committee. Although the roll indicates a membership of 1400 names, they have counted about 277 households of about 366 members. This is only a preliminary number. They will continue to work on this list.

New Business: There were no visitors. Brad reported that he and Brook are trying to find adults and students to help with the sound/video systems. It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Willie to adjourn the meeting. All approved. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. The next regular Council meeting will be May 15.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvonne Beenken

SALEM RECORDS APRIL 2016
Memorials:

Glennes Nelson: Sunday School \$676
Ernest Langerud: Library Remodel \$560
Noreen Heimdal: Cemetery \$10
Ruth (Ness) Lerohl: Cemetery \$10
Danny Brackey: Sunday School \$25

Funerals:

Ernest Langerud & Alberta Heiny

Update from the Council (cont)

Following worship on May 22nd, the Board of Youth is holding a reception for the 2016 High School Graduates. Please keep these students, and their families, in your prayers as they graduate.

Alec Anderson

Ryan Dilly

Liah Naser

Max Bergo

Joshua Hanson

Nathan Porter

Dylan Cavett

Spencer Jensen

Jacob Rasmussen

Cassidy Cox

Sara Knudtson

Madison Shifflett

Jocelyn Dahle

Jaci Miller

Congratulations Graduates!

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.



The offices will be closed on Monday, May 30th.

May Volunteers

Sunday 9:00 Worship

- 1** Acolytes: Dalton Thorson, Anthony Ramaker, Jack Ramaker
Communion Servers: Rhonda & Doug Harmon
Reader: Connie Sabin
Ushers: John & Cathy Charlson
- 8** Acolytes: Riley Kirschbaum, Dylan Sanden
Reader: Dan Rice
Ushers: John & Cathy Charlson
- 15** Acolytes: Kayler Jensen, Caleb Swanson, Peyton Severson
Communion Servers: Pat Young, Rhonda Shreiver, Jan Belica
Reader: Cindy Haugsdal
Ushers: Bill & Linda Tweeten, Jacob Tweeten
- 22** Acolytes: Emma Hoffman, Danielle White
Reader: Tami Alphs
Ushers: Bill & Linda Tweeten, Jacob Tweeten
- 29** Acolytes: Carson Eaton, Madison Levine
Reader: Virginia Kingland
Ushers: Bill & Linda Tweeten, Jacob Tweeten

SALEM WOMEN of the ELCA

Altar Guild

Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.

Mission Quilters

Monday, May 9, 1:00 p.m.

WELCA Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Grace Circle

Program: Rhoda Circle

Altar Guild for May

Kathleen Nelson, Doris Tweed

Communion Schedule

Sundays, May 1st & 15th

Wednesdays, May 4th & 18th

Mills Harbour & LMCC

Wednesday, May 25th

Lake Mills Care Center

Birthday Gifts: Sarah Circle

Program: Martha Circle

Prayer Families

May 1

Bill/Linda Tweeten, Jacob Tweeten, James Tweeten, Dominy Twito, Keith Twito, Jennifer Ullestad, Marilyn Vandensch

May 8

Dustin/Danielle VanGundy Family, Wayne/Connie VanVeldhuizen, Ronald Velasquez, Dan Vermedahl, Matthew Vermedahl, James/JoAnn Villa, Larry/Emily Voldahl

May 15

Melissa Wacha Family, Steve/Kari Wagner, Diane Weinkauf Family, James Weisenborn Family, Brad/Kristin Wempen Family, Matthew/Erin Werner Family, Scott/Lori Westcott Family

May 22

Kristina Westendorf Family, Jessica Westrum, Daniel/Denise White Family, Hazel Willert, Jeffrey Willert, Tracy Willert, Trevor Willert

May 29

Wallace Winden, Bart/Medera Winter, Brian Winter, Donald/Joan Winter, Timothy Winter, Donald Wirt, Richard/Katherine Wirt



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:

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

Care Giver's Support Group

Tuesday, May 10 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.



Confirmation

Stir up in *each confirmand*, the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Confirmation Sunday is May 1st. These students are ready to affirm the baptismal vows as they become an adult in our congregation. Congratulations!

Confirmands:
Bennett Eaton
Andrew Fjelstad
Mason Fritz
Katelyn Groe
Megan Groe
Tyler Helgeson
Madison Holtan
Ryan Knudtson
Chance Levine
Hope Levine
Nathaniel Lorenson
Grace Okland
Jackson Rice
Elijah Stene



On April 10th, we celebrated the time Pastor Joel Dahlen spent with us during this transition time. Council and Pastor Melinda presented him with gifts.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8th.

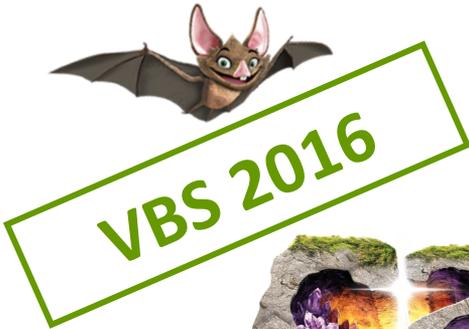
PreK – 2nd grade youth will be singing at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Please have your child in the chapel by 8:30 a.m. that morning for practice.



Above, the PreK-2nd grade sang in worship for Palm Sunday

Below, Kathy Chose & Kathy Nelson organized the "Creature Praise Choir"





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*Sponsored by ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH,
ST PATRICK CATHOLIC & SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH*

JUNE 8-9 & 13-14 FROM 9:00 – 11:30 AM

at WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN CHURCH

40029 210TH AVE, LAKE MILLS IA

Info: 641-567-3550

The VBS Closing Program will be at Salem Lutheran Church in Lake Mills on the evening of Tuesday, June 14th at 6:00 pm, followed by an Ice Cream Social!



2016 Salem Congregation

- LEAD PASTOR.....** Pastor Joel Guttormson
- ASSOCIATE PASTOR.....** Pastor Melinda McCluskey
- PRESIDENT.....** Scott Hagenson
- VICE PRESIDENT.....** Brad Evenson
- SECRETARY.....** Yvonne Beenken
- FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....** Deb Throne
- TREASURER.....** Mike Swenson

- COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR.....** Ashley Hoffman
- ORGANIST/PIANISTS.....** Ruth Sheldon, Chris Johnson,

- CUSTODIANS.....** Curtis & Linda Graham
- SECRETARY.....** Helen Rice



The council met in the newly renovated library, on the new chairs, at the new conference table and were joined by the newest leader in the church, Pastor Joel! It was a big night at Salem!

Volunteers do not necessarily have
the time; they just have the heart.
-Elizabeth Andrew

Boards

EDUCATION

Stephanie Steffens, Director
Laura Gardner
Ashley Hoffman
Heather Mannes
Crystal Sanden
Rebecca Shaw

STEWARDSHIP & SOCIAL MINISTRY

Wayne VanVeldhuizen, Co-Director
Roy Kvale, Co-Director
Keith Johnson
Jason Ramaker
Doug Richards

LIFE & GROWTH

Willie Skellenger, Director
Yvonne Back
Rhonda Harmon
Rhonda Schriever
Janet Swenson
Pat Young

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Bruce Adams, Director
Jan Belica
Cathy Charlson
Kathy Chose
Linda Helgeson
Nancy Knudtson

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT

Steve Nelson, Director
Dennis Friesenborg
Bruce Gregor
Dan Kirschbaum
Ron Langfald
Andy Stene

YOUTH

Brook Byars, Director
Kim Kirschbaum
Dawn Ramaker
Casey Shaw
Erich Stene
Jacob Tweeten

Youth Representatives: Sara Knudtson, Hallie Mannes, Anthony Naser, Anna Ramaker



Many Hands Make LIGHT Work

A Message from LSI

In Celebration of Graduation

May's graduation season is often a celebration of what it takes to accomplish something. We celebrate dreams, determination, hard work and support, and we celebrate the pride and joy of parents, grandparents, friends and other family members who help along the way.

We celebrate "graduations" at Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) all year round. We celebrate when a mom or dad has completed a parenting program. We celebrate when a child has completed all his goals in a skill-building program. We celebrate when an elder refugee attends a citizenship ceremony to take the oath of U.S. citizenship or when a refugee woman completes child care training. We celebrate when teenagers graduate from LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center and begin young adulthood, often with help from churches who have donated furniture or other supplies to help them set up their first apartment.

Graduation is a celebration of community. We don't get where we are in life on our own. We get there with support. With encouragement. With a mentor. With family.

You're the family standing alongside so many people served through LSI as they achieve life-changing milestones. 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.

Daring to Dream

Every day Taw Kaw Htoo pursues her dreams as a farmer, a child care provider and an English student. After fleeing violence and persecution in her native Burma, Taw Kaw Htoo lived in refugee camps in Thailand before being resettled to the U.S. She may have lost her home, but not her hope. With LSI's support, this strong, courageous woman is daring to dream.

Her day begins at dawn at LSI's Global Greens Farm where she farms a small plot, growing produce to sell to her community.

"I like farming because I grew vegetables back in my home country," she said.

After tending her crops, she moves on to her second business of the day: caring for children. LSI's child care business development program helps former refugees become state-licensed child care providers. Along with providing a small income, the program increases the availability of culturally appropriate child care for the refugee community, enabling more parents to enter the workforce.

"I didn't have any professional training on how to install a car seat or do CPR," said Taw Kaw Htoo. "LSI has helped with that. It's great that I am able to care for the children in my community."

Caring for children helps her pursue her third dream: learning English.

"My language is really important to me," she said. "I try to teach children my language every day, and they help me learn English. I really want to speak English. That's my biggest dream."

ANNUAL HELP STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

– SATURDAY, MAY 14 The Lake Mills U.S. Postal Service Letter carriers with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 44 will collect food items at homes in Lake Mills on Saturday, May 14th. City and rural postal patrons are invited to put a bag or box of non-perishable food items on their mailbox or front steps for pickup by the their letter carrier or the Boy Scouts on that day. All donations will be given to the LM Food Shelf. Please check that food items have not been previously opened or reached their expiration date. **YOU CAN HELP STAMP OUT HUNGER ON MAY 14TH**