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## April 2009

To fellow members of Salem Lutheran:

We are completing our first month of the interim period without a full-time Pastor. It will be a time we will need to keep all lines of communication open. If you have information about anyone being sick or hospitalized, be sure to call or E-mail the church and leave a message.

If pastoral contact is requested please contact me on my cell phone, (641) 344-3690. We have a few alternatives we can call on locally as well as having Pastor Darge come down from Des Moines. Pastor Darge is contracted to serve us two days per week through the month of May. He will come more often if needed but we may need to consider paying him more if this happens too often.

We want to thank Pastor Darge for teaching Adult Sunday School these last two Sunday's of March. Starting in April the adult class will be "The Power and Light Company", a study of Ephesians. Our class will be led by The Rev. Janna Tull Steed, a United Methodist minister. We will meet every Sunday but Easter between now and May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please keep the family of Salem Lutheran in your prayers as we try to do our best to keep everything moving along on an even keel during this time of searching for our new spiritual leader. Hopefully by the time you read this you have turned in your survey's. The Call Committee will be compiling the information and forwarding to the Synod office.

The next step will be waiting for names of potential pastors that match our needs to be sent from the Synod office. This always takes longer than we want it to. The last time we waited almost 16 months to get the first name. Even though it was worth the wait last time, I have suggested we expect a name or two by this fall.

Sincerely yours,

Chuck Taylor (Council President)

Salem Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
March 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Taylor with Chuck Eilers, Rayma Frank, Bert Henry, Jodi Hitz and Gary Kessler present, as well as Mike Linch, Dennis Nardy, John Schlaht and Margaret Kneedler.

M/S/C by Chuck Eilers and Gary Kessler to approve the February minutes.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Pastor's Report: no report.

**Treasurer's Report was given by Mike Linch.**

- a) M/S/C by Rayma Frank and Jodi Hitz to renew the ISSB CD, Frances Jungst Memorial, Camp Scholarship with accrued interest. As well as replacement money \$ 843.92 for a total of \$ 8,392.08. It is due March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- b) M/S/C by Bert Henry and Chuck Eilers as approved at the February meeting, the Worship & Music committee will use the Helen Schadde and Maxine Whan Memorial Fund to purchase wall points. The Harry Kinkade family will be contacting the office on ideas for use of his memorial fund.

**Old Business:**

- a) M/S/C by Dennis Nardy and Rayma Frank to proceed with the distribution of Eleanor Nelson tithe as suggested by Social Ministry Committee. To be disbursed with each receiving \$ 4,500: Ministerial Alliance, Rural Iowa Crisis Center and Lutheran Social Services; Food for Life, Aspire of Afton and Compassion Child will each receive \$ 500.00
- b) Mike Linch presented copies of the Constitution changes approved at the January 2009 Congregational meeting. This will now go the Synod for approval.

**New Business:**

- a) Chuck Taylor presented a copy of Pastor Nate's exit interview.
- b) Gary Kessler presented a report on the Call Committee's meeting with Pastor Dinette Johns held on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The congregation will be asked to fill out a survey, with copies in the narthex. Raquel Linch will speak to the congregation.
- c) Discussion was held on who will write a cover letter for each monthly newsletter. Pastor Darge will be asked if he would like to do this. Other suggestions are Call Committee updates and/or council members.
- d) M/S/C by Jodi Hitz and Chuck Eilers for Easter offering to be given to the Christian Education Committee to purchase new Bibles for the Sunday School rooms with any remainder to be used to purchase further teaching aids.

- e) M/S/C by Rayma Frank and Gary Kessler to resume Adult Sunday School with Pastor Darge and Rev. Janna Tull Steed teaching.
- f) M/S/C by Dennis Nardy and John Schlaht for Chuck Taylor to speak with Rev. Janna Tull Steed to provide emergency pastoral aid to our congregation and other services such as teaching Adult Sunday School.

Committee reports were presented:

- a) **Christian Education:** The last day of Sunday School will be May 10<sup>th</sup>. Vacation Bible School plans are made and it will start July 12<sup>th</sup> at the First Presbyterian Church.
- b) **Church Property:** Will be painting the trim on the outside of the church, when the weather warms up.
- c) **Worship & Music:** Holy Week services are planned. Communion Sunday's in April will be the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to have Children's sermons or puppets each Sunday. If anyone wishes to volunteer to provide a Children's sermon, contact Bert Henry.
- d) **Stewardship:** Giving has been on track, please continue.
- e) **Finance Committee:** no report
- f) **Social Ministry:** They have finalized the plans on the Eleanor Nelson Memorial distribution. They will meet again on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

M/S/C by Gary Kessler and Rayma Frank to adjourn the meeting.

The next council meeting will be the third week in April with the date and time to be announced after speaking with Pastor Darge. Opening devotions will be led by Dennis Nardy. The meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Thank you to the council member who took minutes in my absence. I don't know who you are, but I was able to follow them easily.

Respectfully submitted:  
Sherri Nissen, Council Secretary

*It is difficult to put our thoughts into words, but we do appreciate your prayers, kind and helpful words, food, flowers, memorials and visits at a time when these things mean so much. We thank God for such good friends as we have at Salem.*

*Paul Grumley family*



*Charles Groff, Ella Groff, Marge Hanson, Janice Peterson, and Willard Peterson.* We ask God to send his Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen these individuals.



*Pfc Emily Cruse, Pfc. Matthew Cruse, Major David Cruse, Sgt. Aaron Cunningham, Chief Msgt. David Groff, MGY Sgt. Mark Kinkade, Str. Airman Travis Mathis, SN Tony McNaught, SWCN Beth McNaught, SRA Zacary Sedlmayr, Col. Vic Wager III, Joseph Woodcock-*We ask God to lead our young men and women who are protecting our country and serving in the Middle East. Please keep our servicepersons and the families of our military in your prayers.

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

04/04 Barbara Kenyon  
04/06 Adrienne Miller  
04/07 Emily Miller  
04/10 Randy Cook  
04/11 Sara Bolinger  
04/17 Dennis Nardy

04/18 Alan Peterson  
04/19 Linda Huffman  
04/21 Donna Cunningham  
04/25 Donna Schroeder  
04/26 Jodi Hitz

## **APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

04/07 Alan & Lori Paup  
04/10 Alan Dorine Peterson  
04/11 John & Lois Rose  
04/19 Clinton & Dorothy McNaught



If anyone would like to donate a lily for Easter in memory of someone, let the office know, to make sure they are listed in the Easter bulletin.



### **Adult Sunday School**

"The Power and Light Company", a study of Ephesians, will be the Adult Sunday school topic for April and May.

The Rev. Janna Tull Steed, a United Methodist minister, will lead the class. We'll be looking at this biblical vision of the church for insight in our Christian living today. Each class corresponds with a chapter in this short, but jam-packed, New Testament letter attributed to the Apostle Paul. The class will meet on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Janna Tull Steed spent more than a decade in local church pastorates before turning to a specialized ministry bridging the worlds of worship, spirituality and the arts. In addition to her M. Div. degree from Yale University, in 1993, she received her Master of Sacred Theology degree from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

In addition to publishing articles in newspapers, magazines and on the Web, Janna wrote *Duke Ellington, A Spritual Biagraphy*, released by Crossroads in 1999. She is also jazz singer. Since 1995 she has lived in Creston, where she has settled in a house once owned by a Salem member, the late Eva Larson.

### **Communion Schedule for April & May**

Due to various scheduling considerations throughout April and May, communion will be celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

### **Pastor Aaseng book release**

Pastor Nate's second book of his trilogy is now available. Book three is in production and should be available soon. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for you to order the books. Those who have paid please make a check out to Nathan Aaseng for \$ 30.00 and leave it in the church office. I will be sending the order in on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Call Committee Update:**

Salem's Call Committee has been established with the goal of bringing a new pastor to Salem. The Call committee includes Raquel Linch, chairperson; Gary Kessler, council representative; Donovan Richardson, youth representative; Larry Otten, Lamona Bilderback, Helen Mosman, Alan Paup and Loyal Winborn. We will do our best to keep the congregation informed of the progress. Please be patient with the call process. The process can sometimes take up to 18 months. Right now we are working on our congregational profile. This profile is a big part of telling the Synod what we are looking for in a new pastor and what our community is like. We want to make sure it accurately depicts our congregation before we send it in. We have included a survey for you to fill out and return to the church. It is asking you the qualities you want in the next pastor. If you have any questions about the call process, please ask one of our committee members. Thank you for your patience.

Raquel Linch



### **Kid Squad, Sunday School, VBS and more:**

Kid Squad is not meeting during Lent. We will resume on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday School will not be held on Easter, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The last day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Vacation Bible School will be July 12-17, at First Presbyterian Church. This year's theme is Crocodile Dock. Imagine a swamp setting. It will be fun!! I'm looking for volunteers. I still need some station leaders and several crew leaders. We will have nursery available for helpers with children under four years old. Please call if you can help in any way. Also, if you have some great swamp decorations that you would be willing to loan us, we would really appreciate it. Crocodiles, fireflies, snakes, lanterns, all would be great. You can drop those off at the church or call Raquel at 782-5482 or email at [rlinch@mchsi.com](mailto:rlinch@mchsi.com).

New this year, online registration. You can go to our church website at [www.salemluth.net](http://www.salemluth.net) and click on the Vacation Bible School link. You'll be taken to our VBS website. Fill out the online form and your child will be ready to go.

Salem youth will be helping with the Easter breakfast this year. We will be serving breakfast between the two worship services. The menu will consist of French toast strips, egg casseroles, fruit, milk and orange juice. Donations will go toward camp scholarship fund. All youth will be needed to help serve. For questions contact Bert Henry or Raquel Linch.

### **Just a reminder for those going to Riverside Camp this summer:**

This is a notice for all families of children grades three through high school who might wish to send children to Bible camp next summer. The Salem Board of Education feels that in order for camp attendance to have its greatest impact, regular Sunday School attendance needs to be happening throughout the year. Beginning this coming summer, Salem is willing to help fund camp attendance through camp scholarships provided two requirements are met:

- 1) The student desiring to go to camp has a 75% Sunday school attendance record for the year. This is the equivalent of attending Sunday School three out of four Sundays every month.
- 2) The family of the student contributes or assists with all fundraisers for going to Bible Camp.

Students in the past who have attended Riverside Bible Camp in Story City have had a wonderful faith and fellowship experiences there, and have looked forward to going back year after year. If you want your child to have similar experiences in the future, please be involved in Christian education throughout the year, and have fun being a part of the fundraisers to make it all possible in the summer!!

Sunday School attendance has begun well this year. Whether or not you intend to send a child to camp this summer, please continue to place a high priority on your children's Christian education throughout this year. It WILL make a difference in their lives.

Salem Board of Education

## LETTERS FROM OUR CONFIRMANDS

Dear Church Council,

I am writing this to inform you on how I plan to stay involved in church after I get confirmed.

One way I plan to stay involved is to go to church as many Sundays as I am in town. I also plan to help with Sunday School, VBS, any youth program and anywhere else I can including acolyte, communion assistant and any committee I can.

If there is a need for me anywhere, I will be willing to help. If someone is not able to come and to do something then I will step in and help. No matter what the task, I will attempt to do it. I will be willing to help my church any way I can.

I will stay active and involved in our church. It will help me to get closer to God and my fellow members of the church. While I am still young, I plan to stay involved with the youth in the church.

Thank you for your time,  
Ryan Cook

Dear Board,

Hi, this is Travis Henry. I will come to church every Sunday. The outdoors means a lot to me and my plan is to help make it a better place. I will try to help when I can with anything the church needs. Just ask.

Sincerely,  
Travis Henry

Church Council,

I have made a promise, and these are some ways I plan to carry them out. I will be an active member of this church by attending services regularly. Doing all I can on my worship team. I have done in the past, nursery, acolyte, kitchen duties and greeter. I would also like to be a communion assistant and a usher in the future. Summer's past, I have helped with VBS and plan to continue to help. I have enjoyed helping out and I will continue my duties being a confirmed member of the faith.

Sincerely,  
Emily Schroeder

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
APRIL 2009 NEWSLETTER**

Miriam Circle will meet at the home of Linda Huffman, on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 pm. Bev Butler will lead the Bible study and Nancy Taylor will preside.

Rebekah Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall, on April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1:15 pm. Dorothy McNaught will be the hostess and Barbara Bjorn will be the Bible study leader. Rebekah circle will visit shut-ins during the month of April.

All women of the church are invited to a salad supper at the United Methodist church, on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 6:30 pm. Reservations are required, so contact the church at 782-2427 or Jerrie Henderson at 641-348-2357 by March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Salem quilters have sent a quilt for an auction in April, with proceeds going to Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Another quilt will be sent for another auction benefiting Riverside Camp, which Salem Sunday School students attend.

The Spring Cluster meeting will be held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at Salem Lutheran Church here in Creston. Coffee will be served at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. A speaker from the Storybook Project of Iowa will be our guest speaker. A salad luncheon will be served.

Salem's Spring Sale will be on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you find some articles you don't need or want, please save them for our sale. Articles may be brought to church any morning starting April 27<sup>th</sup> and all day Wednesday and Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Please mark articles if at all possible. Thanks. Rebekah Circle is in charge of the bake sale. Carolyn Biere and Joyce Anderson are in charge of the kitchen and serving food. Call Bev Butler if there are any questions. All help would be greatly appreciated on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 4:00, and all day on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The 21<sup>st</sup> WISWO convention will be June 27<sup>th</sup>, in Milford, Iowa.

Bev Butler  
Co-Chair, Salem Women of the ELCA