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February 2009

It is a cliché but is nonetheless true:

Those who fail to plan, plan to fail.

That is the principle behind the long-range vision committee that began their work in January. We introduced the idea of this committee some months ago, now we can be a bit more specific. The committee is charged with two responsibilities, one of which involves hard-nosed practicality, the other out-of-the-box dreaming.

1. What does Salem Lutheran church *need* to do to ensure that it is an effective congregation in the year 2025?
2. What are some possibilities for this congregation to consider that would make it an even more effective congregation in 2025?

By effective, we mean how well are we carrying out our mission statement:
Salem Lutheran Church is formed in the waters of Christian baptism to be a fountain of life to all who gather here, overflowing into a river of compassion for the world.

In exploring a vision for the future, the committee will be looking at both physical and program components of the congregation. The physical includes:

- Sanctuary
- Fellowship Hall
- Other Rooms (Sunday school, kitchen, library, storage)
- Outside (landscape, parking, playground)
- Technology
- Possible additions

The program component includes:

- Worship & Music
- Staff
- Sunday School and Youth
- Stewardship, Finances, Foundation
- Community Outreach

I ask that each member of the congregation do three things regarding this committee:

- 1) pray for the members and for their work
- 2) offer input as requested
- 3) be open to the guidance of the spirit and to the possibilities offered by this committee.

Salem has an exciting future, and the possibilities are numerous for this congregation to be an active and life-changing outpost of the reign of God on earth for many years to come. Let's plan on it!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Nate". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line that extends to the right.

Adult Education for February—Timothy

Because we are accelerating the Confirmation curriculum so that we can confirm this year's 8th graders before a new pastor arrives, we will have to adjust the Adult Ed schedule. I will be meeting with the confirmation class during the education hour on February 1st, so there will be no Adult Ed that day.

Instead, we will begin a 2-week study of the book of Paul's letters to Timothy on February 8th, at the usual 9:00 am time. Timothy will give us a good look at what a Christian mentor relationship is like.

Salem Church Council Minutes
January 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Taylor with all council members present, as well as Pastor Nate and Margaret Kneeder.

Devotions were led by Gary Kessler.

M/S/C by Flossie Roberts and Bert Henry to approve the December minutes.

M/S/C by Warren Woods and Chuck Eilers to approve the special December 28th meeting.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Pastor's Report

- a) Pastor reported on his call to EuClaire, Wisconsin. Council wishes him and Linda well. They will be missed greatly.
- b) Confirmation will be February 22nd, this will be Pastor's last Sunday worship service. Ash Wednesday, February 25th, will be his last service.
- c) Seven new members will join the church on Sunday, January 18th.

Treasurer's Report was given by Mike Linch.

- a) All bills have been paid for 2008; we start 2009 with a positive balance.
- b) Roof funds are going well, an update will be posted.

M/S/C by Chuck Eilers and LouAnn Snodgrass to approve the treasurer's report.

Old Business: nothing to report.

New Business:

- a) M/S/C by LouAnn Snodgrass and Gary Kessler to approve the proposed budget #2 from the finance committee.
M/S/C by Bert Henry and LouAnn Snodgrass to give Pastor a \$ 500.00 gift.
- b) M/S/C by Warren Woods and Rayma Frank to amend the \$500.00 gift to \$ 550.00 from the miscellaneous expense, changing the total category to \$ 750.00.
- c) M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and John Schlaht to recommend Chris Lane, Mike Richards, Dennis Nardy and Todd Stofferan to be on the ballot for new council members. Also to approve the February 8th Annual Congregational meeting agenda.
- d) M/S/C by Bert Henry and Gary Kessler for property committee to remove the trees on the south side of the church.
- e) M/S/C by Warren Woods and Rayma Frank to allow Council President to interview and recommend an interim Pastor to the executive committee. At the present time, a name has been received, with a possible start date of March 1st.

- f) M/S/C by Warren Woods and Chuck Eilers to have a 11:00 reception for the confirmands on February 22nd and a noon potluck for Pastor the same day, with his farewell to begin at 1:00.

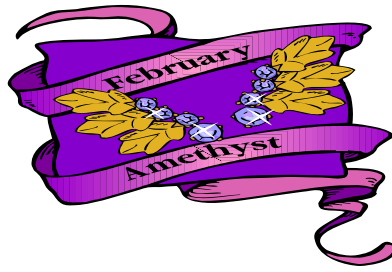
Committee reports were presented:

- a) **Christian Education:** met on January 6th, many positive comments were heard about the Christmas program. The soup supper raised \$ 339.00 for camp scholarships. Joni Cook and Sandi Sickels will be taking eight youth to YouthQuake in Des Moines, January 16-18, 2009. Plans are being made for early camp registration by February 15th. All youth activities are back in full swing from the Christmas break. The next meeting will be February 3rd.
- b) **Evangelism:** Seven new members will be joining on Sunday, January 18th.
- c) **Church Property:** has not met.
- d) **Worship and Music:** will meet on January 20th.
- e) **Stewardship:** will meet again in the fall.
- f) **Finance Committee:** presented the proposed budget, will meet again to finalize.
- g) **Social Ministry:** three families, with eleven individuals were sponsored at Christmas. They will help with the potluck after the annual meeting, as well as Pastor's farewell. Plans are underway to finalize decisions on the Eleanor Nelson's gift. Their next meeting is February 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

M/S/C by Rayma Frank and Bert Henry to adjourn the meeting.

The next council meeting will be February 12th at 6:30 p.m. Opening devotions will be led by Pastor Nate. The meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Sherri Nissen, Council Secretary



Birthdays

02/01	Ed Jungst	02/10	Vi Johnson	02/20	Alexander Peterson
02/03	Denise Roberg	02/11	Wyatt Hitz	02/25	Kenton Groth
02/04	Don Butler	02/12	Vincent Soda		Judy Pringle
	Phyllis Keuter	02/14	Michael Buck	02/26	Barb Abildtrup
02/05	Kirk Levine	02/17	Michael Richardson	02/27	David Riley
	Rosalie Wilson		Charles Western	02/28	Jane Johnston
02/09	Alec Paup	02/19	Roxanna Peterson		Raquel Linch
	Gary Peterson	02/20	Carol Peterson		Claudia Peppers

Anniversaries

02/04 Charles & Jean Western
02/16 Darrell & Rosalie Wilson
02/24 Chuck & Nancy Taylor
02/27 Cliff & Lois Olsen



Carolyn Kessler, Flossie Roberts, Shirley Loos, Ella Groff, Marge Hansen, Janice Peterson and Willard Peterson. We ask God to send his Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen these individuals.



Pfc Emily Cruise, 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.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

December 2008

Contributions	\$ 13,187.15
Expenses	<u>11,969.97</u>
Net Income	1,217.17

Because God said, "Bring the whole tithe. Test me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

February 8, 2009

Following the Worship Service

Thrivent providing meat and rolls

Congregation is ask to bring two covered dishes and table service

In recognition of Pastor Nate's service to Salem...

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

These were words that the Salem Lutheran congregation took to heart five years ago when we began the process of calling a new pastor. We trusted that God would consider our needs and provide the right person for us—and our prayers were answered in great abundance!

We have been truly blessed to have Pastor Nate, Linda and their family in our midst for the past four years. With pastor's insight and guidance, we have grown as a church family in ways that we never would have imagined. And now as he makes preparations to leave our congregation and return to his roots in Wisconsin, we can face the future with new confidence in ourselves and in the ongoing mission of Salem.

As we embark on the next stage of our journey, we know that the verse above, from Jeremiah, will have a new meaning for all of us. May the blessing therein go with the Aaseng's to their new home.

February 22nd will mark two special occasions in our church. Three young members will profess their faith through Confirmation, and our congregation will honor Pastor for his service to our church and community. The schedule for the day will go as follows:

10:00—Worship with Confirmation and Communion

11:00—Refreshments in honor of the confirmands

12:00—Potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall

1:00—Farewell recognition for Pastor Nate and Linda

The Aaseng's have requested that no gifts be shared with them. However, cards, warm sentiments and well wishes will be in order.

There are times when words simply cannot express the feelings that we have in our hearts. On those occasions, we turn to God's word to convey our thoughts. With eyes filled with tears and hearts filled with gratitude, we share this benediction with our beloved Pastor...

“Go in peace; serve the Lord. Thanks be to God” for the time that He has allowed you to spend with us.



On Sunday, January 18th we welcome the following members to Salem:
Lamona Bilderback, JoAnne Hardick, Jody Nedly-Newcomb, Mike
Richardson, Judy Wachter, and Phil & Alma Swanson.

We welcome Caden Lee Sheffield to our family here at Salem through the
Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, January 25th. Caden is the son of
Blair Baker and Logan Sheffield, grandson of Chuck and Dawn Logston and
Great grandson of Rayma and Tim Frank.

Attention Riverside Campers—The early bird deadline to sign up for
Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp in Story City is February 15th. Campers are
asked to pay the \$120 non-refundable deposit with help paying the remaining
balance from our campership fund. If you have any questions please talk
Joni Cook or Raquel Linch.

One: LordBodyHope. That was our theme for our recent Youth Encounter
Quake in Des Moines on January 16-18. Our reference in the Bible was from
Ephesians 4:4-6. Our week-end was again packed with music from the bands
Captive Free and the Josiah Smith Band plus the break-out Treks with
different topics for the day. We were also led by a very good and
motivational speaker "Packer" Dave Gunnlaugsson, a youth pastor, who shared
personal stories of his life and travels. As usual, we enjoyed a dip in the
motel pool and gliding around Brenton Skating Plaza (even though it was bit
colder than last year). We are happy to report that we came home with the
same eight youth we left with, so that is a plus. Those attending the Quake
are 8th graders Ryan Cook and Travis Henry; 7th graders Hunter Sickels,
Skylar Cook, Jesse Rathe, Regan Wolverton and Ryan Vasquez and 6th
graders Kaleb Cook along with post-graduates Sandi Sickels and Joni Cook.

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA
FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER**

Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Linda Aaseng. Pastor Nate will lead the Bible study and Bev Butler will be the facilitator. (Note this is a change of date.)

Rebekah circle will meet Thursday, February 12th, at 1:15 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Nate will lead the Bible study and Vi Johnson will be the hostess.

Our circle meetings are open to all women and hope you will join us.

Early in 2008 Thanks Boxes were placed in all mail boxes so everyone could participate in Giving Thanks for all our many blessings. \$ 353.00 was collected in 2008. These boxes will be placed in all mailboxes again this year with the proceeds donated to Global Health Missions.

The Spring Sale will be Friday, May 1st, from 8:00 to 5:00. There will be a Bake Sale, rolls for morning coffee and a luncheon served. Save any good items you may find will doing your spring cleaning.

Bev Butler
Co-President

FEBRUARY WORSHIP DUTIES

February 1, 2009

Greeters: Sue Bergstrom and John Schlaht
Ushers: David Ekblad, Bill Kunert, John & Lynne Schlaht
Reader: Lynne Schlaht Acolyte: Ryan Cook
Communion Assistants: Bill Kunert and Zach Henry
Coffee & Cookies: Peppers', Schlahts' and Sue Bergstrom
Nursery: Christina Flores

February 8, 2009

Greeters: Diana Jagers and Sue Bergstrom
Ushers: Larry & Claudia Peppers, Gabe Flores, David Ekblad
Reader: Lynne Schlaht Acolyte: Travis Henry
Nursery: Christina Flores

February 15, 2009

Greeters: Diana Jagers and Sue Bergstrom
Ushers: Bill Kunert, Gabe Flores, David Ekblad, John Schlaht
Reader: Lynne Schlaht Acolyte: Regan Wolverson
Coffee & Cookies: Frances Robert, Lynne Schlaht, Diana Jagers, Christina Flores
Nursery: Christina Flores

February 22, 2009

Greeters: Helen and Ben Herzberg
Ushers: Helen & Ben Herzberg, Larry & Claudia Peppers
Reader: Lynne Schlaht Acolyte: Ryan Vasquez
Communion Assistant: John Schlaht

Wednesday Ash, February 25, 2009

Greeters: Ben & Helen Herzberg
Ushers: Helen & Ben Herzberg, John Schlaht
Communion Assistant: John Schlaht