

Pastor Nathan Aaseng
602 West Townline Road
Creston, IA 50801
Ph: 641-782-2920

Fax: 641-782-2920

email salem@salemluth.net

website www.salemluth.net

March 2009

As I write this on Wednesday, I haven't had much sleep since Sunday. There's just too much going on in my head and my heart for them to quiet down.

Linda and I have so much for which to thank you. Thank you for all the cards and generous expressions of appreciation. Thank you for the quilt--it is not only an incredible work of art, but is filled with such memories and meaning.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers. Thank you for the amazing mission statement poster. Thank you for the dinner.

Thank you, Jane and Lori, for sharing with us, in a special way, your God-given musical talents. Thank you, Dennis, for your comic relief in an emcee performance that was beyond professional. Thank you, everyone who stepped up to the microphone and shared something of yourselves with us.

Thank you to everyone who came to the celebration and to those who wanted to but could not. Thank you to everyone who bought a book, even though it isn't the kind of book many of you would ever read if I hadn't written it. And thank you, all of you, for the time we spent together sharing a ministry—it was beyond anything I could have imagined.

As I experienced the whole day, from the confirmation service to the program, I was reminded again of how much has been done at Salem in the past few years, and how little of it I have done.

The blended service could not have worked without a team of musicians that can cover every style of music from Bach to Hakuna Matata, and do it with skill and grace. Salem's puppet ministry is what it is because Duane Schmidt built a fabulous puppet theater, Bert Henry has a gift of writing scripts that get at the heart of the message in a fun way, and young people are willing and eager to participate. The sound system is an asset and not a liability because a group of guys took it upon themselves to build a sound control stage. We have greatly improved technological ability because Warren Woods made it happen.

I did not often say much at council meetings because they were ably led by Chuck Taylor and Warren Woods. I didn't even attend most finance meetings because Mike Linch tends to those matters so reliably. As far as I could tell, the committees functioned as well without me as with me. I had very little to do with the tremendously successful vacation Bible school program because Raquel Linch and others handled it so well. The growth we have experienced as a congregation happened because members

of Salem, particularly Flossie Roberts, invited others in and welcomed them enthusiastically.

I know I am leaving many people out and I apologize, but you get the idea. It makes me wonder what I have been doing to earn a paycheck, much less any accolades.

But it also gives me hope that I have learned a few lessons from my internship mentor, Will Mowchan. He showed me that true leadership is not micromanaging the process but rather empowering people to be all that they can be. To say, "How can I help you accomplish what you want to accomplish?" rather than saying, "Here's how I'm going to run this show."

It also gives me hope that I learned from the wise old pastor who said that there is only one secret to being a successful pastor, "Love your congregation." It's easy to do when a congregation shows such love to Linda and me. It's not easy for an emotionally constipated Norwegian Lutheran to say, but I love all of you. I know that if you continue to love your pastors, their ministry and yours will be effective and joyful.

Pastor Nat

Salem Church Council Minutes
February 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Taylor with all council members present, except Flossie Roberts. Pastor Nate and Margaret Kneeder also attended.
Devotions led by Pastor Nate.

M/S/C by John Schlaht and Jodi Hitz to approve the January minutes with the correction on Pastor's report, item B. Confirmation will be on February 22nd. This will be Pastor's last Sunday Worship service.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Pastor's Report

- a) Confirmation will be on Sunday, February 22nd, this will be Pastor's last Sunday service; Ash Wednesday, February 25th will be his last service.
- b) Pastor stated his time at Salem has be very positive and as a congregation we have grown and been accepting of his suggestions.

Treasurer's Report was given by Mike Linch.

- a) All bills are current/up to date
- b) Roof: Total loan is \$ 12,718.84. We are waiting on a rebate from Alliant Energy; once this has been received an update on the amount will be given.

M/S/C by Warren Woods and Gary Kessler to approve the treasurer's report.

Old Business: nothing to report

New Business:

- a) Discussion was held about changing from the Western Iowa Synod in Storm Lake to the South East Iowa Synod in Iowa City, with meeting being held in Des Moines. This will be discussed at a later date due to our search for a new pastor; changing could delay the process.
- b) Vacancy; Pastor Ron Darge will serve for three months beginning on March 1st. Retired Pastor Keith Lingwell will be contacted when he returns from Texas.
- c) M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and Warren Woods to accept the following people to serve on the Call Committee: Raquel Linch, Helen Mosman, Lamona Bilderback, Gary Kessler, Alan Paup, Loyal Winborn, Donovan Richardson and Larry Otten.
- d) Warren and Judy Woods volunteered to attend Western Iowa Synod convention May 1, 2 and 3rd in Sioux City.
- e) M/S/C by Gary Kessler and Chuck Eilers to use Memorial money from Maxine Whan and Helen Schadde for a new wall point, organized by Elaine Fargo and Claudia Peppers.
- f) Kelly's Flowers requested a church key for funeral and other flower deliveriee. Council denied this request.

Committee reports were presented:

Christian Education: Joni Cook and Sandi Sickels took eight youth to Youth Quake in Des Moines, January 16-18. Everyone enjoyed the weekend, but are requesting this become an activity attended every other year. The Youth sponsors would still plan a yearly activity for the youth. There will be three youth confirmed on Sunday, February 22nd, with the committee hosting a reception. All confirmation classes will then be complete for the current Sunday School year. The Adult Akaloo program is being ordered. There are three to five possible campers for this summer.

Church Property: Linoleum and shelving has been placed in the quilter's closet. The basement door may need to be repaired or replaced this spring. Removal of trees and painting will be take place this spring.

Worship and Music: Would like to change the time when offering envelopes are laid out to keep the Narthex less cluttered during Advent season. They have been planning Pastor's program.

Stewardship: Giving has been on track.

Finance Committee: See report.

Social Ministry: They organized the potluck after the annual meeting, and will be hosting Pastor's farewell. Plans are underway to finalize decisions on the Eleanor Nelson's gift.

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

Council will meet on Tuesday, March 10th from 6:00-7:00pm with the Synod representative; the Call Committee will meet with the Synod representative following at 7:00 pm.

The next council meeting will be March 12th at 6:30 pm. Opening devotions will be led by Chuck Eilers. The meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Sherri Nissen, Council Secretary

Salem Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes February 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Taylor after determining there was a quorum. Pastor Nate led the opening prayer.

M/S/C by Jack Keuter and Arlan Biere to approve the annual meeting agenda. Motion carried.

M/S/C by Helen Mosman and Judy Woods to approve the 2008 annual meeting minutes. Motion carried.

M/S/C by Arlan Biere and Dennis Nardy to approve the September 14, 2008 Special meeting minutes. Motion carried.

There was no discussion in reviewing the annual report.

President Chuck Taylor introduced the current council members. He also introduced nominees for new terms beginning in June 2009. Nominees are: Dennis Nardy, Chris Lane, Mike Richardson and Todd Stofferahn.

M/S/C by Arlan Biere and Judy Woods to cease nomination for new council members.

M/S/C by Mike Linch and Warren Woods to accept nomination of new council members and by proclamation nominees accepted without votes.

Mike Linch, Treasurer, presented the budget. The 2008 year ended with \$ 220.00 left in the general fund with all bills paid.

Roof Update: Total \$ 59,750, Starting loan \$ 15,847.39, less \$ 3,128.55 from Special Offerings and Insurance, leaving the loan currently totaling \$ 12,718.84. There is \$ 460.00 to put toward the loan and the potential of \$ 4,800 - \$ 5,600 rebate check to also put toward the loan.

M/S/C by Lynne Schlaht and Kerry Grumley to accept the 2008 budget report.

Mike Linch, Treasurer, presented the 2009 proposed budget.

Questions/Concerns pertaining to the budget from Dorothy McNaught: Concerns regarding: \$ 50.00 in Evangelism and \$ 550.00 in Misc. categories were discussed. Amounts in the categories will be reversed and the current flyer given for Evangelism will need to be updated before passing out to potential members.

The above concerns were answered or clarified by Mike Linch and President, Chuck Taylor.

M/S/C by Warren Woods and Don Mosman to accept the proposed 2009 budget.

New Business:

Change in By-Laws: as presented in the November 19, 2008 letter sent to members

Article XVIII, Section 7, Item C: Eliminate the Committee of Evangelism

M/S/C by Sherri Nissen and Rodney Mahn

Article X, Section 3, Notice of all meetings of this congregation—Currently we are required to use only regular mail. We would like to add E-Mail.

Discussion held in regards to the reliability of E-mail.

M/S/C by Raquel Linch and Sherri Nissen

Request for Call Committee: President Chuck Taylor reports three to four people have responded.

M/S/C by Don Mosman and Rodney Mahn to adjourn the meeting.

Pastor Nate led the benediction.

Respectfully submitted by Sherri Nissen, Council Secretary

WOMEN OF THE ELCA MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER

Miriam Circle will meet at Salem on March 5th at 7:00 pm with Nancy Taylor as hostess. Lamona Bilderback will lead the Bible study.

Rebekah Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall on March 12th at 1:15 pm. Eleanor Toycey will be the hostess and Flossie Roberts will lead the Bible study.

We would like to thank the family of Shirley Loos for their donation to Salem Women for serving her funeral luncheon.

Salem will host the Cluster 13 Spring meeting on Saturday, April 18th.

Salem's Spring Sale will be on Friday, May 1st from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you find articles you don't need or want, please save them for our sale. We will also have a Bake sale and serve cinnamon rolls and lunch.

Kitchen cleaning party on Saturday, March 7th beginning at 9:00 am, Many hands make light work.

There will be a Women's meeting on Sunday, March 8th, immediately following the worship service in the Sanctuary. All women are invited to attend.

Bev Butler

Co-Chair, Salem Women of the ELCA



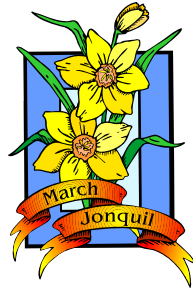
Carolyn Kessler, Ella Groff, Marge Hanson, Janice Peterson and Willard Peterson. We ask God to send his Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen these individuals.



*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.

2008 ECUMENICAL SERVICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>
March 1 st	Cromwell Congregational UCC	Rev. Jim Gubser
March 8 th	First United Methodist	Rev. Paul Richardson
March 15 th	First Christian Church	Rev. Jan Willian
March 22 nd	First Presbyterian Church	Rev. Dan Moore
March 29 th	Creston United Church Christ	Rev. Jim Morris
April 5 th	Crest Baptist Church	Rev. Scott Vandenheuvel
April 10 th -Good Friday	Afton Assembly of God	Rev. Jim McCutchan



BIRTHDAYS

03/01 Marilyn Engelson	03/16 Greg Cook	03/23 Peggy Cass
03/03 Ryan Cook	Suzanne Stofferahn	03/25 Nicholas Henry
03/06 Lori Paup	03/19 Gail Peterson	03/28 Lois Rose
03/09 Dave Abildtrup	03/20 Zach Henry	03/29 Roland Peterson
03/10 Raymond Courtney	Janet Nesbit	Eleanor Toycen
03/12 Steven Shaffer	03/21 Jerry Nissen	
03/14 Linda Mahn	Donovan Richardson	

ANNIVERSARY

03/25 Mike & Raquel Linch

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY 7:30 - 12:30
WEDNESDAY 7:30 - 12:30
THURSDAY 7:30 - 12:30
FRIDAY 7:30 - 12:30



Congratulations to this year's confirmands: Ryan Cook, Travis Henry and Emily Schroeder.

Kid Squad will not be held during Lent.

Online VBS information and Registration:
groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/Salem1stPres09

There will be know Adult Education during the month of March.

Pastor Darge will be in the office on Wednesday's. If you would like pastoral visit let the church office know and it can be arranged. Also if anybody has been in the hospital or a prayer requested included in the Sunday bulletin, let the church office know. Thank you.

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness during our long term of illness and surgeries. Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, visits, food and especially your prayers. Thanks to Pastor Nate and Linda for the visits and communiun.

Gary & Carolyn Kessler