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A CALL TO PRAYER

If you turn on the TV or the radio and listen to the news, it soon becomes abundantly apparent that today's world is tumbling out of control. The war, terrorism, drugs, human rights issues, the economy and the erosion of the family dynamic all serve as reminders that these are truly desperate times. Do we need any more reasons to draw closer to God and to stay in daily prayer?

As Christians we have that blessed assurance that our God still reigns in spite of the world's condition or circumstances. We are told in Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God." Prayers should be our first response rather than last resort.

Prayer is communication with God or more simply put, talking to our Father. Included in our prayers are words of praise, thanksgiving, and worship as well as our requests. Although some may argue that God already knows our minds and the desires of our hearts, it is important with God, as in all good relationships, to share everything with Him and keep the lines of communication open.

How often should you pray? 1st Thessalonians 5:116-17, puts it this way, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Other translations say to pray unceasingly. God never gets tired of hearing from us.

We all realize the importance of prayer and spending time in the presence of God the Father; but if you are like me, we let too many other things get in the way of our prayer life. Try to take a look at your daily schedule and evaluate what is truly important in your day, most likely you will have some spare time to pray.

All of this is my way of appealing to everyone in the church to continually pray for one another and for the needs of Salem Lutheran Church. Please include our need for a new full time Pastor, our interim Pastor, the Call Committee, the Church Council, continued growth and prosperity and everyone involved in the many ministries of the Church. Remember those in the service of our country, our sick and shut ins and any special needs.

I can not thank everyone enough for all of the countless things that they do and for their prayers to keep this church operating and operating well. It is only through your support that we can reach this community and the world of Jesus.

Thanks and God bless you,
Dennis Nardy--Council Vice President

Salem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
April 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Taylor with Rayma Frank, Bert Henry, Jodi Hitz and Gary Kessler in attendance. As well as Mike Linch, Dennis Nardy, Sherri Nissen, Flossie Roberts, LouAnn Snodgrass, Warren Woods and Margaret Kneedler.

Devotions were led by Dennis Nardy.

M/S/C by Warren Woods and Rayma Frank to approve the March minutes.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Pastor's Report: No report.

Treasurer's report was given by Mike Linch.

- a) There is a remaining balance of \$ 4,116.18 on the roof.
- b) \$ 1,000 was raised from the Easter breakfast for camp scholarships.
- c) \$ 416 has been raised so far for Christian Ed to order new classroom bibles.
- d) \$ 500 from the Eleanor Nelson memorial was sent to the Compassion Child.

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

Old Business:

- a) The Harry Kinkade family has requested the remaining \$ 620.64 in Memorial money to be used for special altar flowers as needed, until the fund is used.

New Business:

- a) During this time with an interim Pastor open communication will all committees and council was discussed. This is very important to help things run smoothly.
- b) Writing the monthly newsletter was discussed. Dennis Nardy will be writing the May letter.
- c) Call committee update; Synod has requested a salary range for a new pastor. Discussion of \$ 32,000 to \$ 40,000 range depending on experience and negotiable, as well as housing being negotiable plus insurance and retirement package.
- d) Salem received the remainder of Eleanor Nelson Estate of \$ 6,380.52. The Finance committee has recommended this be turned over to the Endowment Committee.
- e) Request has been made to look into making three tiered flower stands to display flowers for special holidays and funerals. Mike Linch will check with members about making them. Memorial money can be used to cover expenses.
- f) Request has been made to update the Confirmation pictures display. M/S/C Gary Kessler and Warren Woods to use up to \$ 150.00 from Replacement Fund to cover expenses.
- g) Request to rearrange the pictures in the Fellowship Hall. M/S/C by Flossie Roberts and Gary Kessler.

- h) Discussion about sound barriers for Fellowship Hall, tabled due to lack of information in regards to this matter.
- i) M/S/C by Flossie Roberts and Rayma Frank to loan tables and chairs for graduation receptions on May 9th, 17th and 24th.
- j) M/S/C LouAnn Snodgrass and Warren Woods to inform local funeral homes to add a \$ 50.00 custodial fee for the church when funerals are held in at Salem.
- k) M/S/C by LouAnn Snodgrass and Jodi Hitz to give a flat fee of \$ 100.00 to the Pepper's for the extra work during the funerals in the first quarter, and set a fee of \$50.00 in the future.
- l) M/S/C by LouAnn Snodgrass and Flossie Roberts to use the Special Fund money in in the Playground account to seal coat the playground.
- m) M/S/C by Chuck Taylor and Rayma Frank to offer a 3-month contract to Pastor Robert Solberg for Interim Pastor, to be re-negotiated in August. Pastor Solberg will serve two Sundays a month and each Wednesday, with recommendation for Rev. Janna Steed serving two Sundays; Pastor Solberg will serve on communion Sundays.
- n) M/S/C by Warren Woods and Bert Henry to use \$ 100.00 from Replacement Fund to purchase a new shredder for the office.,
- o) M/S/C by LouAnn Snodgrass and Rayma Frank to replace the Quickbook Accounting program with a newer version.
- p) M/S/C by LouAnn Snodgrass and Bert Henry to accept the \$ 112.00 Thrivent gift from the Abiltrup family to be used for offering envelopes.

Committee Reports:

- a) **Christian Education:** Requested to seal coat the playground. To date three youth will be attending camp. Easter offering will be used to purchase classroom bibles. Vacation Bible school will be at the Presbyterian church starting July 12th.
- b) **Church Property:** They will be making a list of items to be checked yearly for maintenance. The tree stumps will be removed and landscaping is being planned. Future plans are to look at the cost of new outside doors with push bar locks.
- c) **Social Ministry:** Will be serving Open Table on July 29th. Next meeting is on May 5th.
- d) **Worship & Music:** Joyful Noise will be performing on Sunday, April 26th. Mark Kinkade discussed the custodial fee that funeral homes assess to the families for funerals to be paid to the churches. Summer services were discussed with the continuation of Sunday worship service at 10:00 a.m. No weekly service will be held during the summer months.

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

The next council meeting will be Wednesday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m. Opening devotions will be led by Flossie Roberts. The meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted;
 Sherrie Nissen, Council Secretary

MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/02 Donna Swanson
05/05 Abbie Wuebbker
05/06 Mike Miller
05/07 Liz Kenyon
05/09 Tim Kenyon

05/15 Betty Wager
05/24 Janice Peterson
05/27 Helen Herzberg
05/30 Brenda Sedlmayr

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

05/01 Don & Eleanor Toycen
05/04 Troy & Donna Schroeder
05/06 Don & Helen Mosman
05/12 Gary & Carol Peterson
05/18 Bill & Sarah Bolinger
05/19 Arlan & Carolyn Biere
05/27 Jeremie & Heather Peterson
05/27 Mike & Lacey Richardson
05/30 Dick & Sue Bergstrom
05/31 Marc & Deb Roberg



Ray Lundquist, 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.

Thank you to April Worship Team Members. A special thank you to those who filled in who weren't on the team. We had 8 services in April and 4 of them were Communion. A very busy month. Thanks be to God for folks like you!!

Gary & Carolyn Kessler



Call Process Update

The Call Committee has turned in the Congregational profile to Synod. This congregation profile will give the Synod insight about our congregation. The next step is to wait for names of potential candidates. Please be patient with this process, as it can take many months. We will continue to be in contact with Synod about our needs. If you have questions about the call process, contact Call Committee chairperson Raquel Linch.

Bits and Pieces

Thank you to all of the kids and parents who helped with the Easter breakfast. The donations given will go to our Camp Scholarship Fund. Thanks Again!!

Kid Squad will end on Wednesday, May 6th. Sunday School will end the year on May 10th. See you at Vacation Bible School.

Mark Vacation Bible School on your calendar for July 12-17 at the First Presbyterian Church. You can register your children or grandchildren online this year. There is a link on Salem's website. We are looking for more volunteers. Please contact Raquel Linch at 782-5482 if you can help in any way. Thanks!!

The Creston Meals on Wheels has been delivering meals to the residents of Creston for our 30years. Members of Salem have been volunteering for all of those for more than 30 years on Monday's, six months out of the year. Unfortunately there have been some changes in the program. Effective May 1, 2009, the hospital will no longer prepare the noon meals. The Creston Senior Center will provide a noon meal for the residents of Creston. If anyone would like to volunteer to deliver the noon meal, you can call the Creston Senior Center at 782-2447, between the hours of 7:00 am to 11:00 am, Monday through Friday to

sign up. A special "Thank You" to everyone who was involved seeing that the meals were delivered.

SENIOR SALUTE

Zach Henry, son of Michelle Foland. Zach's high school activities included, choir for four years, individual speech 4 years, large group speech 3 years, stage manager for 2 years and cross country manager for 1 year. Outside of school he was president of Family Community Career Leaders of America one year and vice-president for one year. He enjoyed singing in the church choir and volunteered to help with Kid Squad for 2 years. His future plans include attending SWCC for 2 years and then transferring to UNI to major in theatre.

Amanda Nissen, daughter of Jerry and Sherri Nissen. Amanda's high school activities included speech, drama, vocal, musicals, softball and tennis. She has also been involved with 4-H, dance, church and working at Dairy Queen. Her future plans are to attend The Salon Professional Academy in Ames to study esthetics.

Aaron Michael Paup, son of Alan and Lori Paup. Aaron participated in FFA, football, and baseball all four years. He was a Mentor for freshman students for one year and participated in the automotive program at SWCC for two years and the SWCC Auto Club for two years. He is planning to attend Wyotech in Laramie, Wyoming this fall specializing as an automotive technician.

Daniel Riley participated in football, soccer, wrestling and cross country. Daniel also participated in FFA all four years and earned his FFA Iowa Degree. He also participated in high school musical, all school play and freshman/sophomore one act plays. Daniel is the son of Dave and Barb Riley.

Grant Wood will be attending Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois next year to pursue a degree in business and finance. Grant also plans to play basketball for Lake Forest. While attending high school Grant participated in soccer 1 year, baseball 2 years, football 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years and basketball four years. He was first team selection for the Hawkeye 10 Conference in basketball and a second team All-State selection for basketball his Junior and Senior year. Grant also participated in FFA through out High School and earned his Iowa Degree as a junior. Grant's parents are Stacy Wood and Russ Wood.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA MAY 2009

Miriam Circle will meet at the home of Carolyn Biere on May 28th, at 6:00 pm for a picnic supper. (Change of Date) Judy Woods will lead the Bible study and Linda Huffman will preside. Miriam circle will visit shut-ins during May.

Rebekah Circle will meet in the Fellowship hall on May 14th at 1:15 pm. Donna Swanson will be the hostess and Dorothy McNaught will lead the Bible study.

The circles do not meet during June, July and August.

We would like to thank the family of Ed Jungst for their donation of \$ 100.00 for serving the funeral luncheon.

Salem's Women's Annual Spring Sale is this Friday, May 1st. You may bring your items to church beginning on Monday, April 27th, in the morning and all day Wednesday and Thursday, April 29th & 30th. It will be helpful if the items are already priced. Volunteers are needed to help price the items and arranging the items for display. If you can help out give Bev Butler a call at 782-4050. They will be serving homemade pies and rolls; lunch will be served from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m. Some of the items for sale will be two tied quilts, perennial plants and a bake sale.

Dedication of 125 quilts was held on Sunday, April 19th. They were taken to G & H Shipping in Greenfield and from there transported to Lutheran World Relief in St. Paul, MN. In addition there were 35 baby quilts made by Lois Olsen and Lucille Lundy. They were given to Greater Regional Medical Center. There were also 16 others given to fire victims, Rural Iowa Crisis Center and auctions. Thank you to all who made this possible.

Claudia Peppers has rolled 80 pounds of bandages. She uses the sheets which are too thin for backs for our quilts. These will be given to Global Health Missions. Thanks you, Claudia!

Spring Cluster meeting was held on Saturday, April 18th, with 41 members and 5 guests present. The program was presented by Betty Trost on Project Storybook. This enables inmates at three of our prisons in Iowa to read story books and have them recorded and sent to family members. Cherish House of Milford made a presentation on their home for teen-age mothers. \$ 80.00 was donated to each of these causes and \$ 279.00 went to the Girls' School in Tanzania. These monies were all donations taken at our meeting. Thank you to all the ladies who helped in making the day enjoyable.

The 21st WISWO convention will be June 27, 2009, in Milford, Iowa.

Bev Butler
Co-Chair, Salem Women of ELCA

