

# SALEM CONNECTION

## January 2018



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### 2018 MEN'S RETREAT UPDATE

*from Gary Guida*

As I sit inside where a wood stove is keeping me fairly warm, I can't help thinking back to last summer and the great times that warm weather and soft water gave me. With temperatures forecast for temperatures in the minus column and snow, it comforts me to think about launching my boat into the beautiful Kabetogama Lake and enjoying 80 degree temps while spending time with fellow Christians next July. That trip to "Kab" has been a wonderful time each year to catch up with old friends and make new ones, all the while enjoying some amazing scenery, fantastic fishing, wonderful meals and provocative bible studies.

Now that we all have our 2018 calendars and are making summer plans, take time to flip the pages to July and pencil (only God writes in ink) in the dates for the 2018 men's retreat. July 16<sup>th</sup> will be the day we depart Salem for four enjoyable days at Kec's Cove resort on beautiful Kabetogama Lake. The friendly crew at Kec's will once again be providing us fine dining, comfortable cabins and a room for our evening discussions. Our retreat planners would like to have the same problem that we had in 2011 when we had more men signed up than Kec's had cabins/bed for. Some last minute situations arose and a few had to cancel which left us with the correct number of guys so I didn't end up sleeping on my boat 😊.

Reserve your space on this much anticipated annual event by getting your \$50.00 deposit into the church office now while you are in the summer event planning stage. There will be registration forms in the Narthex kiosk. I will also see if they can be downloaded and printed from the church website for those of you spending these cold days in a warmer climate.

These cold winter days are also a good time to put new line on those fishing reels. Most of the boat captains will probably be running 6 pound test which will provide you with enough strength for Kab's walleyes but present a BIG challenge if you hook into one of Kabetogama's monster sturgeon.

Until July then, stay warm and dream of keeper walleyes stretching your line. If you have questions you can give any of the past participants a call and they would be happy sharing their trip experience.





*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105*

Willow Creek Community Church, a mega-church in Chicago, recently did a self study on the effectiveness of its ministry and programs. The report revealed that most of what they had been doing at Willow Creek for many years, and what they had taught literally millions of others to do, was not necessarily producing solid disciples of Jesus. Numbers, yes. Disciples, no.

They found that success was not determined by the size of the crowd, but by the transformation of lives. What they found to be most essential to mature discipleship is... wait for it... regular reading and study of scripture.

Bill Hybels, pastor at Willow Creek said, "We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read their Bible between services, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own."

About 100 years ago, a missionary in China urged missionaries planting churches in Korea to focus on adult Bible study programs. One denomination did not adopt the missionary's Bible study plan and today has 1.5 million members. Not bad. The Presbyterian Church did adopt the plan. Today it has 7.5 million members! Choon Hyun Presbyterian Church, a 30,000 member congregation in Seoul, still reminds worshippers in every Sunday bulletin that they are expected to read 3 chapters of the Bible every weekday and 5 chapters on Sundays.

Sometimes we try so hard to develop new things that we miss the tried and true practices that have nourished people of faith for thousands of years.

Salem's 5 year plan calls all of us to engage in at least 2 "faith filled experiments" per year as we seek to learn effective new ways to "Welcome people to Jesus Christ, Equip people with a faith that works in their lives, and Send people out into the world in Jesus name."

A personal experiment I'd suggest for the new year is to try the Choon Hyun 3 chapters per day Bible reading plan. It only takes about 15 minutes a day, and you'll get through the whole Bible in a year! There are many Bible reading tools available. For example, [bibleinoneyear.org](http://bibleinoneyear.org) will send you Bible readings by email or text message every day.

In addition, you might find a partner and talk about the daily readings over coffee or on the phone or online. I find that working with a friend helps to keep me on track – whether it's daily exercise or reading and pondering God's Word.

In 2018, find a way to get into the Bible that works for you, and bring a friend with you! God bless your reading!

Pastor Mike

P.S. Be sure to read and pray about the role you might play in Salem's 5 Year Ministry Plan included in this newsletter. The plan was developed from the results of a retreat last February that about 40 Salem members attended. They prayed and read scripture and dreamed together about what God is calling Salem to do in the next 5 years. Thanks to all who attended, and to the "Dream Team" who condensed and focused the results into the 5 year plan.

### **Salem's Mission**

We exist to

**Welcome** people to Jesus Christ,  
**Equip** people with a faith that works in their lives, and  
**Send** people into the world in Jesus' name.

### **Salem's Guiding Principles**

1. Jesus is our Lord and Savior. (Philippians 2:5-10)
2. Every person is a beloved child of God. (Acts 10:34-36, 15:13-19)
3. We seek to grow as disciples of Jesus. (Acts 16:5)
4. The Spirit calls us to step out in faith. (Acts 10:9-16, 19-20, 28-29, 16:9-10))
5. We serve God by serving all without distinction. (Matthew 25:37-40)

### **Salem's 5 Year Action Plan**

In addition to maintaining ministries and programs that are working well, Salem members identified 4 areas of ministry they felt God calling us to concentrate on in the next 5 years. In response to our changing world Salem's council, teams, committees, and individuals are encouraged to engage in faith-filled experiments, to try at least 2 new ministry ideas per year from the list below or from their own ideas.

**Evangelism:** How do we "**Welcome people to Jesus?**" Some ideas include:

- Reach out to the neighborhood with faith
  - o Pray for the unchurched and events outside our walls during worship
  - o During worship, 2 times per year, train all Salem members to welcome and engage newcomers
  - o Create at least 2 outdoor public worship services per year.
  - o Sponsor events to which the entire community is invited such as open gym nights at the Auditorium, etc.
  - o Create "Rock the House" worship experiences
- Reach out to those who've fallen away
  - o Make contact with members who've been absent 4 consecutive weeks
- Reach out to the next generation
  - o Sponsor at least 4 inter-generational faith events per year
  - o Nurture mentor relationships in FINK, Sunday school, etc.
  - o Create an "Every Kid Goes To Camp" culture, and full camperships to make it possible
- Reach out to New Members
  - o Create and distribute welcome gifts to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time visitors
  - o Enlist and train "befrienders" who will journey with new members for 1 year
  - o Quickly incorporate new members into small groups, studies, and activities that fit their interests and abilities
- Study other churches to learn best practices

**Youth & Family Ministry** – How do we **Welcome** and **Equip** Youth in new and compelling ways. Some ideas include:

- Mountain bike ministry
  - Bike clinic & blessings
  - Intergenerational rides
  - Multiple church events
  - Extra bikes for the bikeless
- Mini Series that appeal to youth
- Create Youth friendly culture and worship
  - Empower and train youth to lead all parts of worship
  - Incorporate smart phones and social media into communications, study and worship
- Reach out to Young adults
  - Monthly Beer & Hymns or Wine & Word events at a local establishment
  - Coffee shop
  - Create online worship opportunities
  - Create a Salem App for smart phones
- Reach out to Families
  - Create a small group for Moms
  - Use the popularity of, and information from, VBS to draw families
  - Encourage and promote “Faith 5” family devotion time
  - Create a Pre-school
  - Experiment with new ways to equip busy families with a faith that works in their 24/7 lives

**Adult Faith Formation** – How do we **Equip people with a faith** that encourages personal and corporate growth and knowledge of Jesus? Some ideas include:

- Create a congregation wide small group series for Lent or another season
- Create 2 new confidential focused prayer groups
- Create monthly Adult Sunday School/Forums with guest speakers/presenters
- Enlist 4 Salem members per year to attend Lay School of Theology
- Promote/initiate/develop in-home Bible study/small groups

**Stewardship** – How do we **Equip people** with a generous faith and **Send people** to serve God with everything they have? Some ideas include:

- Offer an annual “Financial Peace University” style course
- Enlist Salem members to tell “Why I give” faith stories during offering time quarterly or monthly
- Teach about money without asking for any at least 2 times per year using the principles: 1) It all belongs to God, 2) I am a steward, 3) How I live with money is a faith issue
- Create a menu of ways to give that are convenient for 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians such as credit/debit card kiosks or online apps for electronic giving
- Develop planned gift education programs

## WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

- The Pastor and Council President will make decisions about any worship cancellations.
- If CI Schools cancel weekday activities due to weather, then Salem activities will also be cancelled.
- People in the congregation are encouraged to **call the church** to find out if **worship** has been cancelled.
- The main radio stations that will report cancellations are KKIN in Aitkin and WJJY in Brainerd.
- Each group (Circle, Bible Study Group, Committee, etc.) should discuss the process of deciding to cancel events and informing group members.

*Special thanks to all who donated poinsettias that were used to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Poinsettias were given by:*

- *Carla Barker, in memory of Kristina Blake*
- *Peggy Blistain, in memory of George & Joan Blistain*
- *Erik & Jill Christenson, in memory of Bonnie Christenson*
- *John & Wendy Christenson in memory of Wally Christenson and in honor/memory of all grandparents*
- *Robert & Kay Cooper, in memory of Kay's parents and Robert's mother, Mrs. Ida Funk*
- *Kris Davis, in memory of Harlan Hilk, Jack & Joanne Davis, Brenda Leino, Nicole Davis*
- *Terry & Judy Fields, in honor of their 3 grandsons serving in the Military*
- *Steve & Joan Haglund, in memory of Arnold & Dorothy Haglund and Durand & Charlotte Rotzel*
- *Don Hales & Debra Flam, in honor of Marilyn Flam and in memory of Jack & Gloria Hales and Gary Flam*
- *Randy & Lori Holmvg, in memory of Stan & LaVerne Holmvg and David & Audrey Hall*
- *Dale & Vi Klunness, in memory of family and friends*
- *Wayne & Joyce Kohnen, in memory of their parents*
- *Ron & Sandy Kretlow, in memory of their parents: Edner & Stella Borreson, Elvin & Rosella Kretlow*
- *Bev Kunz and family, in memory of Dick*
- *Richard & Eileen Leino, in memory of Carl, Fran, Betty and Brenda Leino and William & Evelyn Priebl*
- *Chuck Lubowitz & Karla Peterson, in memory of Tony & Dolores Lubowitz and Bob Peterson*
- *Gary & Carol Malek, in memory of their children, Shelly and Jesse*
- *Clark & Joyce Marshall, in memory of their parents and Joyce's brothers: Gerald and Robert Edwards*
- *Myrna Nelson, in memory of Jim Nelson*
- *Archie & Deanna Olson, in memory of Archie & Edith Olson, Marvin Larson and Laverne Larson Swanson*
- *Polly Pflepsen, in memory of Carol Setter*
- *Meriellen Pisarek, in memory of Harley J. Hermes and Irma Harem*
- *Elsa Ray and Carol Gerber, in memory of Martin & LaFern Linberg*
- *Elsa Ray and family, In memory of Doug Ray*
- *Helen Ryan, in memory of her son, Kevin Hurd*
- *Al & Barb Schiffler, in memory of Renee & John Siliznoff and Martha & Al Schiffler Sr.*
- *Al & Kathi Sharp, in honor of their parents, and in memory of Kevin and Mia*
- *Ken & Linda Stebbins, in honor of Julian Anderson and in memory of Robert & Arleen Gilbertson and Kenneth & Anne Stebbins*
- *Les & Shirley Taylor, in memory of their parents*
- *John & Margo Wojciak, in honor of daughters Shari and Mary, their husbands and their 5 grandsons; and in memory of their parents Jacob & Florence Wojciak and Gordon & Mary Johnson and Richard & Anna Butterfield, uncle and aunt.*
- *Steve & Arnita Zierke, in memory of their parents: Donald & Bettijane Zierke, Lawrence & Margaret Abear*
- *Rad & Tina Royer, in honor of their children: Erika, Matt and Mary and their grandchildren: Charlie and Caitlin*
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## USHERS

1/7	8:15	Ed & Sherri Godfrey, John & Margo Wojciak
	10:00	John & Marlys Orr, Ken Schultz, Glenn Suess
1/14	8:15	Randy Holmvig, Helen Ryan, Herb & Barb Schoon
	10:00	Ernie & Mary Erickson, Dean & Pat Sylvester
1/21	8:15	Rich & Lynn Leino, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson
	10:00	Jay, Sue, Jane, Joey Stromberg
1/28	8:15	Ron & Sandy Kretlow, Clark & Joyce Marshall

## READERS

Jan 7	8:15	Glenn Suess
	10:00	Myrna Nelson
Jan 14	8:15	Nancy Meyer
	10:00	Jim Mayne
Jan 21	8:15	Carol Malek
	10:00	Kim Coughlin
Jan 28	8:15	Nory Hunze
	10:00	Laura Guimont

## COMMUNION

Jan 7	8:15	Peggy Blistain, Glenn Suess, Jerry Pflapsen
	10:00	Nancy Meyer, Dean & Pat Sylvester
Jan 14	8:15	Ron Meyer, Jerry Pflapsen, Shelly Skeim
	10:00	Roger & Marlene Prill, Elsa Ray
Jan 21	8:15	Steve Haglund, Gary & Carol Malek
	10:00	Tim & Kim Coughlin, Nancy Johnson
Jan 28	8:15	Nory & Peggy Hunze
	10:00	John & Raye Cragun, Whitney Cragun

## COFFEE HOUR

Jan 7	Gary & Becky Guida, Beth Lavan
Jan 14	Nory & Peggy Hunze, Herb & Barb Schoon
Jan 21	Joel & Mary Huntley, Ken & Kathy Schultz
Jan 28	Ron & Sandy Kretlow, Glenn Suess & Ruth Helgesen

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Mason DeCent, George Pettersen
2	Keith Cole
3	Carla Barker, Noah Coughlin, Shelby Olson
4	Mary Jane Olson
5	Jo Blanich
8	Kristen Ficklin
9	Tom Reek
10	Mariah Bodle
11	Peggy Hunze
12	Gene Abelson
13	Donovan Olson
14	Greg Reed
15	Marlene Raadt, John Zender
16	Kay Cooper
17	Mark Carlson, Elle Chileen, Tom Lunacek
18	Jim Harker
19	Matthew Stangel
23	Chuck Lubowitz
24	Ed Godfrey, Marquise Knutson
25	Ron Meyer
29	Lenore McBroom
30	Mark Kewatt
31	Jake Frahm, Katie McGuire, Donna Turnquist

## JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1	Steve & Joan Haglund (1983)
2	Donovan & Darlene Olson (1965)
7	Greg & Diane Meyer (1984)
10	Tim & Cindy Foote (1976)
14	Jim & Kay Bendorf (1989)

### Sunday Worship Attendance

November 26	154
December 3	178
December 10	283
December 17	229

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday, 7:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Council President  
Ken Stebbins

Greetings and a Happy New Year to our wonderful Salem family. Sitting at my computer as I write this just a few days before Christmas, it is a beautiful sunny day and I my guess is that many are frantically making final preparations for being with family and friends for Christmas Day and New Years. May everyone experience safe travels and much enjoyment as they celebrate the birth of Jesus.

As the first order of business in my new role as your Church Council President, I want to thank once again Lynn Hansen, Paul Tesdahl and Cecil Schmidt for their past service on the council as president, treasurer and council member respectively. All of their work and commitment to the leadership that the council provides and is responsible for has been greatly appreciated.

In addition, I want to congratulate the newly elected members of the 2018 council, Mark Carlson, Terry Tichenor and John Wojciak. I look forward to serving with them on the council. Their willingness to serve Salem as council members is greatly appreciated.

I am looking forward to the New Year. It will undoubtedly bring new challenges as we wrestle with budget issues, work towards filling the vacant Coordinator of Children and Family Ministry position, monitor the progress of our Capital Appeal efforts, work towards growing our church membership, study how we may expand church programs, insure that Salem West and The Mustard Seed continue the remarkable success they have experienced, and in general keep Salem and all of its many social outreach efforts viable in the wider community. The volunteer efforts of this church family are a shining example of God's hand at work. I will write more about what is happening with your

church council in the months to come as we all settle into the activities of the New Year.

May everyone enjoy the excitement and joy of this glorious time of the year.

## EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have questions about any of the following, please feel free to call the Salem office. We will do our best to answer your questions or find someone who can. Please refer to the calendar printed in this issue for a complete schedule of events.*

**PIECEMAKERS** quilt group meets each Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, missions and people in need in our community.

NO Quilting at Heartwood until March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**IN STITCHES** meets on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. to knit or crochet prayer shawls or other items to be given in times of sickness or grief. Meeting times in the fellowship hall.

**DIAPER MINISTRY** will gather to cut diapers on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

**FINK (Faith Inkubators)** Confirmation for students in grades 7, 8 & 9, will meet : Wednesdays, Jan 3, 17 & 31—FINK Learning Event, 6:15-8pm

**MEALS ON WHEELS** – The next date Salem will serve is on Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. TWO volunteers have stepped up. More information and a sign-up sheet can be found on the kiosk in the narthex.

**KOFFEE KLATCH** at Heartwood, Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Come for devotions and fellowship with Pastor Mike and friends.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

† Wednesdays, 6:30 a.m. in the library

† Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. in the conference room

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – All men are welcome Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room.

**LESSONS FOR LIFE** Bible Study – Tuesdays at **6:00** resuming on January 9, 2018. Everyone is welcome!

**LEGO CLUB** – for children in grades K-6. Wednesdays, 5:15-6:00 p.m., will begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

## SCRIP ORDERS

No orders in January. Orders will resume in February.

## THANK YOU

*Thank you for the incredible generosity of the Salem Family to support the Christmas ministry in the Crow Wing County Jail and Central Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge. 296 children were blessed with Christmas Gifts. 312 men and volunteers attended the two parties where pizza was served. In addition almost \$2200 was raised through the offering and pancake breakfast for Teen Challenge on December 17<sup>th</sup>. God Bless your hearts for supporting ministry and blessing the men and their children.*

*Greg Meyer*

*Thank you to all the church and the Sunday School for remembering us at Christmas. I think this is the most beautiful poinsettia I've ever seen.*

*Love, Donna & Jerry Sanderson*

*Dear Salem Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your gift of \$1,286.22 to Lutheran Disaster Response in support of communities hard-hit by hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires. Your gifts to LDR help provide supplies needed immediately and support for long-term recovery. Through your generosity, you are sharing with neighbors near and far, revealing God's holy promises of peace and hope, shelter and safety, restoration and abundance.*

*In the light and life of Christ,  
Daniel Rift, Director ELCA World Hunger  
and Disaster Appeal*

*Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia. Whoever is the Secret Santa, please know we appreciate the gift. Merry Christmas.*

*With Love,  
John & Mary*

*Thanks to our Salem family for all your prayers for our son, Craig. He is at home and recovering very nicely. Every day is a better day. Again, thanks for all your thoughts and prayers.*

*Jerry & Shirley Huxford*

*To my Salem Friends,  
Thanks for the good book that was sent to me. I'm really enjoying the stories. Very uplifting! May God bless all of you with a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

*In Christ, Lenore McBroom*

*Thank you for your support. The look, feel and magic of Christmas in Crosby Memorial Park was created due to your generosity. The Cuyuna Lakes Chamber appreciates your support and partnership in providing an experience for all ages to acknowledge the importance of the hometown Christmas spirit.*

*Thank you, Salem friends, for the beautiful plant. It is so pretty and I'm enjoying it every day. Thank you again!*

*Arlene Stromberg*

*Members of Salem,  
The Cuyuna Range Lions would like to thank you so much for letting us use your kitchen to make cookies for our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are giving them out at Christmas in the Park as our way of giving back to the community and saying thank you for the support! Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated.*

*Cuyuna Range Lions*

*Thank you for your gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response this year. Together we're working for justice and peace in the U.S. and more than 60 countries around the world. May God bless you this Christmas and always. You are a blessing to others.*

*Rev Daniel Rift, ELCA*



*Salem Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for your donation to Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen. Your generous gift of money helps pay for 60-80 meals per day, served Monday through Saturday in our facility on Oak Street in Brainerd.*

*With Gratitude,*

*Glen Gustafson, Treasurer*

## LIBRARY NEWS

If your New Years Resolutions include reading more, we have the following books that have been added to our collection.

The audiobook, **AD 33**, by Ted Dekker is the story of Maviah, a slave girl, who met Yeshua (Jesus) at the end of his earthly life and how His message changed her life.

**In Search of Paul** by John Dominic Crossan and Jonathan L. Reed provides an opportunity to learn more about the life and theology of this famous New Testament writer.

**God's Story Is My Story** by Walter Wangerin Jr. features Essays on Hearing and Telling The Word. We can all use some help in carrying out the Great Commission to go and make disciples.

Admirers of Billy Graham will enjoy the pictorial history of Graham's lifelong mission, in **Billy Graham God's Ambassador** photographed by Russ Busby.

Books on health, emotional wellness, and aging will be on display on the desk after Epiphany.

Outreach Resources are on the top shelf to the left of the fireplace. They deal with sensitive issues such as grief, addiction, cancer, depression and incarceration. To respect privacy, these books do not require sign out. Take them to read and return them when you are finished so that others may use them.

Reading is a cozy activity for cold winter nights.

We wish you a blessed, happy, and healthy New Year.

The Library Team

## THE MUSTARD SEED

Deb Selk, Manager [mustardseed@salemdwd.org](mailto:mustardseed@salemdwd.org)

This year is winding down and I want to thank all of the volunteers that have helped us throughout the year. It has been a busy one. As the snowbirds have headed south we have added a few new volunteers which is great. We plan on changing a few areas in the store after the New Year. One is the Jewelry area and the other is the Fair Trade and Equal Exchange area. Now that we have added the slat board to the walls we have the fixings to use on it. The cause of the month for January will be the Honduras Mission.

Merry Christmas to you all and a Very Blessed New Year.



Kid's Own Worship will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 9:15 a.m. It's hard to believe the new year is almost here. I hope everyone had a joyful Christmas full of good food, family and laughter. We will be starting with Kids Own Worship again at 9:15 a.m. in the double classroom. We will be in the New Testament and learning about Jesus and his many stories. I hope to see all you kids there! I know Lucy, our silly pig, has missed seeing you too! Thank you for bringing your children on Sundays. It is so fun to hear their stories and share Jesus' love with them. God bless and see you in 2018!

Di Hein ☺



## FAITH FORMATION TEAM

As this New Year begins, the Faith Formation Team sends a big Thank You and much appreciation to all who are Prayer Buddies to the Kids in our congregation for this school year. You have taken on this special commitment of praying daily for one little life. And the facts are that one of the greatest ways to impact a child's life is... by praying for that child. It is amazing how many new insights will show up in your life, too, as you thoughtfully pray for another's life.

We would like to recommend a wonderful prayer guide which is in the Salem library, "While They Were Sleeping." You might want to check this little book out. It is suggested as a great prayer guide for Parents and also "Grandparents." So, we thought that this might be a good resource for Prayer Buddies, too. Grandparents are not with their grandchild daily, just as you aren't with your little buddy daily, but all those prayers are still guiding the faith formation in that little life. It might be a good guide to recommend to the parents, too and we feel it could help guide you in praying for building faith filled character traits in our children.

We also have copies of the handout that Connie Lou provided when you first became a Prayer Buddy, so if you would like these good refreshers of prayer ideas, such as "30-Day Praying for Your Children Challenge" by Bob Hostetler, which includes accompanying bible verses as references or "7 things to Pray for My Children," call Marlene Prill, 218-764-3383 and I will make copies and put them in your Salem mailbox. If you have any other questions or suggestions regarding this wonderful ministry, contact Marlene, a member of The Faith Formation Team.

With Connie Lou's recent retirement, the Faith Formation Team has been working together to keep the Children's programs running smoothly. We are grateful to the volunteers who give their time to help teach our children God's word and his love for every one of us. **Kids Own Worship** will return on January 7 from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. **Learning with Legos** will return on January 10 from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m.

New bulletin boards will be installed by the fellowship hall as an information center for Youth Children's Ministry and general church announcements.

Dee Dee Frahm



During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective "crèches" (French for "cribs"); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can't survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

# Bu\$iness

## Salem Lutheran Church Operating Fund

### Financial Results for Oct

	Adopted Annual Budget	Oct Actual 2017	Oct Prior Year 2016
Income	\$434,082	\$ 37,208	\$ 36,478
Expense	\$447,780	\$ 32,832	\$ 34,976
Net	(\$13,698)	\$ 4,376	\$ 1,502

### Financial Results for Nov

	Adopted Annual Budget	Nov Actual 2017	Nov Prior Year 2016
Income	\$434,082	\$ 28,422	\$ 37,720
Expense	\$447,780	\$ 36,976	\$ 39,102
Net	(\$13,698)	(\$ 8,554)	(\$ 1,382)

### Financial Results Jan – Nov (YTD)

	Adopted Annual Budget	YTD Actual 2017	YTD Prior Year 2016
Income	\$434,082	\$ 398,637	\$ 358,752
Expense	\$447,780	\$ 384,251	\$ 369,396
Net	(\$ 13,698)	\$ 14,386	(\$ 10,644)

## Overview of Mortgage & Building Fund

### Salem Lutheran Church

#### Nov 2017

#### Mortgage

Original Mortgage Amount	\$2,379,965.00
Principal Balance	\$1,613,454.75
Monthly Mortgage Payment (Principal & Interest)	\$ 10,844.00
Additional Principal Payment	\$ 4,564.00

#### Building Fund

Beginning Balance 10/01/17	\$ 248,986.23
<b>Income Oct &amp; Nov 2017</b>	
Gifts-Oct & Nov	\$ 35,745.66
Interest – Oct & Nov	\$ 141.17
Memorials/Honorarium	\$ 0.00
<b>Expense Oct &amp; Nov 2017</b>	
Mortgage Payment Oct & Nov	(\$21,688.00)
Additional Principal Oct & Nov	(\$ 9,128.00)
SummerFest Proceeds Oct	(\$11,664.80)
Capital Appeal Pymt #5	(\$ 5,000.00)
Capital Appeal Supplies	(\$ 202.70)
<b>Ending Balance 11/30/17</b>	\$ 237,189.56

The ending building balance of the Mortgage and Building Fund Report is what we have in savings accounts dedicated to the building fund. \$80,000 of this is in a special account which is set aside for any unexpected large building expense or need. Note that complete financials are available by contacting Sandy Beyer at the church office. Any questions can be directed to either Council Treasurer or Financial Manager Sandy Beyer.

## SALEM YOUTH NEWS

Dee Dee Frahm, Youth Director

[youth@salemdwd.org](mailto:youth@salemdwd.org)

Even though it seems early, we are already looking ahead to Lent. The Confirmation students will be looking for Lenten mentors. If you are interested in being a Mentor, please let Kris Schmidt or Dee Dee Frahm know. While we encourage the youth to ask an adult on their own, it is helpful to have a list of willing individuals.

The youth will again be hosting the Lenten Suppers, which will begin on February 14, 2018. More information and a sign up for those wishing to provide the meal will be announced in the February Connection and posted in the information center.

Thank you to all who came to Super One to have your groceries bagged and support the group of kids and adults who will be heading down to Houston in July. Also, thank you to those who came to the Thanksgiving Eve walking taco supper – sorry if you ended up with a vegetarian taco! I wasn't prepared for that many people to attend! A different kind of fundraising event is in the works for early January, details to be announced at that time.



## **SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **Council Meeting**

**November 16, 2017**

Council Mission Statement: "We exist, with God's help, to provide leadership for the Salem Lutheran church congregation.

Present: Lynn Hansen, Sherri Godfrey, Meriellen Pisarek, Cecil Schmidt, Kris Schmidt, Paul Tesdahl, Di Hein, Ken Stebbins, Randy Holmvig, Pastor Mike Briggs

Also present, Sandy Beyer

The meeting was called to order, by President Lynn Hansen.

Meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Mike.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- **MOTION:** to approve the minutes from council meeting, October 19, 2017. MSC
- **MOTION:** to approve the minutes from the special congregational meeting, October 29, 2017. MSC

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

-2018 Budget: Presentation, discussion and adjustment of 2018 budget as prepared by Finance Committee, Salem Outreach Committee, and Executive Committee. **MOTION:** to approve revised budget for presentation to the congregation.

- Thank you to outgoing council members Lynn Hansen, Paul Tesdahl and Cecil Schmidt for their work and commitment to Salem Lutheran Church.

**SOS:** -None

#### **Announcements:**

-Congregational meeting Sunday, November 19 to present budget.

-Congregational Annual Meeting Sunday, December 3, to vote on budget and election of new council and committee representatives.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Schmidt

# January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEARS DAY</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Piecemakers  <b>1:00 PM</b> In Stitches <b>5:30 PM</b> Worship & Music Team Mtg	<b>3</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>4:45 PM</b> Praise Team Rehearsal <b>5:45 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>6:15 PM</b> FINK Learning Event	<b>4</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> Kids Own Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Unlimited Learning Mtg  <b>7:15 PM</b> Salem Ringers Rehearsal	<b>9</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Piecemakers <b>1:00 PM</b> In Stitches <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Formation Team Mtg <b>6:00 PM</b> Lessons for Life	<b>10</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>9:00 AM</b> Diaper Ministry <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>4:45 PM</b> Praise Team Rehearsal <b>5:15 PM</b> Lego Club <b>5:45 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study  <b>6:00 PM</b> Executive Team Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> Kids Own Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship	<b>15</b>  <b>7:15 PM</b> Salem Ringers Rehearsal	<b>16</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Piecemakers  <b>1:00 PM</b> In Stitches <b>6:00 PM</b> Lessons for Life	<b>17</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>4:45 PM</b> Praise Team Rehearsal <b>5:15 PM</b> Lego Club <b>5:45 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>6:15 PM</b> FINK Learning Event	<b>18</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study  <b>6:00 PM</b> Council Meeting	<b>19</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> Kids Own Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship <b>11:15 AM</b> New Member Orientation	<b>22</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Outreach Committee Meeting <b>5:45 PM</b> Capital Appeal Team Mtg <b>7:15 PM</b> Salem Ringers Rehearsal	<b>23</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Piecemakers  <b>1:00 PM</b> In Stitches <b>6:00 PM</b> Lessons for Life	<b>24</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>4:45 PM</b> Praise Team Rehearsal <b>5:15 PM</b> Lego Club <b>5:45 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> NEW MEMBER RECEPTION <b>8:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> Kids Own Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship	<b>29</b>  <b>7:15 PM</b> Salem Ringers Rehearsal	<b>30</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Piecemakers  <b>1:00 PM</b> In Stitches <b>6:00 PM</b> Lessons for Life	<b>31</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>4:45 PM</b> Praise Team Rehearsal <b>5:15 PM</b> Lego Club <b>5:45 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>6:15 PM</b> FINK Learning Event			

## Making Changes by Pastor Mark Jeske

There is no better time than right now to make life changes. Don't argue with me. You know that various aspects of your life still aren't under control. This is the perfect time to reflect on the past and its imperfections and look ahead to new beginnings

It's important to remember that God accepts you unconditionally, as is. The mercy and forgiveness of Christ washes over you even though you don't deserve it. Grace is 100% God's doing. But having brought you to faith, implanting his Holy Spirit in you, and lighting your mind with the Word, God refuses to settle for your past lifestyle. What needs to change?

The new typically is a time when we make new commitments, plan to work out more, spend more time with the kids, eat healthier, and having quality time with older members of the family. All good. But let me suggest to you that the reverse can be as good or better: to make a list of the things you intend to *stop* doing. *"Now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self."* Colossians 3:8-10

If the people around you could get you to stop doing four things, what four would they be?

#### SALEM STAFF

Pastor – Mike Briggs  
Deacon – Greg Meyer  
Office Manager – Deborah Carlson  
Financial Manager – Sandra Beyer  
Facilities Coordinator – Glen Helm  
Organist/Pianist – Becky Klingelhofer  
Choir Director – Scott Ruffing  
Handbell Choir Director – Kevin Edstrom  
Kitchen Coordinator – Kathy Schultz  
Praise Team Directors – Becky Klingelhofer/Noreen Steinbrecher  
Salem Outreach Facilitator – Dee Dee Frahm  
Salem West Manager – Dennis Peterson  
Mustard Seed Manager – Deb Selk  
Mustard Seed Program Assistant – Sandy Archibald

#### VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Wedding Coordinators: Kim Coughlin, Sherri Godfrey  
Cradle Roll: Jessica Jones  
Control Booth & Website: Meriellen Pisarek  
Youth: Dee Dee Frahm

#### **Phone Numbers**

Salem Lutheran Church: 218.534.3309  
Salem WEST (giving ministry): 218.534.4962  
Mustard Seed: 218.534.2945

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

Mark Carlson	218.851.7236
Sherri Godfrey	218.534.3557
Diane Hein	218.678.2699
Randy Holmwig	218.527.0123
Meriellen Pisarek	218.839.3608
Kris Schmidt	218.772.0121
Ken Stebbins, president	218.764.2587
Terry Tichenor	781.223.0258
John Wojciak	218.546.5983

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Salem West	<a href="mailto:west@salemdwd.org">west@salemdwd.org</a>
The Mustard Seed	<a href="mailto:mustardseed@salemdwd.org">mustardseed@salemdwd.org</a>