

SALEM CONNECTION

November 2017



Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444
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500 years ago, on Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Castle Church door, beginning the Reformation. We celebrated that world changing event at 1st Lutheran in Aitkin last month with a 40+ voice, 9 congregation, mass choir directed by Scott Ruffing (WOW!), Dr. Rolf Jacobson, a professor at Luther Seminary, and more clergy than you could shake a stick at.

Dr. Rolf has a knack for making the difficult simple and the boring funny. He talked about young Luther, tortured by the righteousness of God he understood as an impossible standard he had to meet. When Luther heard the good news that God freely justifies the ungodly, it changed everything for Luther and the world. Dr. Rolf wrote about this transformation in his tongue-in-cheek book "Crazy Talk; a Not So-Stuffey Dictionary of Theological Terms," under the heading:

Happy Exchange: Unlike your spouse, who says, "Everything that is yours is mine, and everything that is mine is mine," God says, "Everything that is mine is yours, and everything that is yours is mine."

Does the phrase \$100,000 sound good? Maybe at first, but not when you know that this is how much the Boston Red Sox received when they sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees. Most baseball aficionados (a fancy term for "nerds") consider this the worst (or best) swap in the history of baseball.

The swap that God made when Jesus died for us appears to be another lopsided trade. When God became human in Jesus Christ, God agreed to "bear the sins of many" (Hebrews 9:28). Christ makes a swap. He takes our imperfection, sin, guilt death, and general suckiness. We get Christ's perfection, righteousness, innocence, and eternal life. Such a deal! It's no wonder that Luther called this the frohliche Wechsel (if you say that out loud in an airport security line, you may get searched) – the "joyful exchange." What a deal!

This happens when we are "clothed with Christ" in baptism. Through faith, we gain all of Christ's benefits. At the same time, he takes our heaviest burdens upon himself. But don't think Jesus comes out on the short end of the stick. He gladly makes this trade with us because (a) he loves us and (b) he gets to keep us forever. Again, what a deal."¹

As we celebrate 500 years of reformation, I commend Dr. Rolf's book to you. It has definitions of grace, justification, faith, free will, law, good works and over 100 other theological terms that normally make your eyes glaze over with boredom. But he and his team breathe life into them with stories, insight and humor. "The entries are short enough to read during the time it takes for a traffic light to go from red back to green" (not recommended), and they'll always make you laugh out loud, think a little, and praise God a lot. Who knew reading a dictionary could be so much fun?

God's blessings as we reflect on all that our Lord has freely done, and will do, for us!

- Pastor Mike

¹ Jacobson, Rolf A., *Crazy Talk: A Not So-Stuffey Dictionary of Theological Terms*, (Augsburg Books, an imprint of Augsburg Fortress, ©2008). P. 80.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

- The Pastor and Council President will make decisions about any worship cancellations.
- An announcement will be placed in the Salem Connection regarding where to check for cancellations due to inclement weather.
- 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 WJYJ in Brainerd.
- Each group (Circle, Bible Study Group, Committee, etc) should discuss the process of deciding to cancel events and informing group members.



EMAILS, SUNDAY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS & MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Each week, we receive a number of requests to send out email announcements and reminders. It is a great way to stay in touch with a lot of folks simultaneously! In an effort to more efficient, we are asking that, whenever possible, the following deadlines are met:

- **Wednesdays at Noon:** For both Emails and Bulletin Announcements. The Email announcements will be sent out once each week, either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning.
- **The 20th of each month:** For the Salem Connection. For instance: October 20th is the date all articles and announcements are due for the November issue of the Salem Connection.
- **All “thank you” messages** will be included in the Salem Connection.
- **Prayer Requests** are welcome *anytime* throughout the week! Prayer requests received via the Sunday response inserts will be sent out on Monday, or the first work day of each week.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Wayne Brezina, Nathan Pelant, Phil Turnquist
- 5 Herb Schoon, Becki Zender
- 6 Elaine Greene
- 8 Lois Hicks
- 10 Joel Hartman, Laurie Venter
- 12 JoAn Swanson
- 13 Ryley Bartels, Char Hausker, Shirley Ross
- 14 Helen Ryan
- 15 Tammy Kimball
- 18 Ralph Carlson, Jerry Pflapsen
- 20 Jakob McGuire
- 22 Noreen Steinbrecher
- 22 Tyler Wynn
- 24 Archie Olson, Kyle Skeim
- 26 Bob Swanson
- 27 Arlys Wanstrom
- 28 Ben Anderson, Myrt Bollenbacher
- 30 Shirley Goodwin, Clarice Lueck

USHERS

- 11/5 8:15 Ed & Sherri Godfrey, John & Margo Wojciak
- 10:00 John & Marlys Orr, Elsa Ray, Ken Schultz
- 11/12 8:15 Randy Holmvig, Ron & Nancy Meyer, Helen Ryan
- 10:00 Ernie & Mary Erickson, Dean & Pat Sylvester
- 11/19 8:15 Rich & Lynn Leino, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson
- 10:00 Lisa Slepica, Jay & Sue Stromberg
- 11/26 8:15 Ron & Sandy Kretlow, Clark & Joyce Marshall
- 10:00 Pat & Laura Guimont, Roger & Marlene Prill

READERS

- Nov 5 8:15 Nory Hunze
- 10:00 Mary Erickson
- Nov 12 8:15 Polly Pflapsen
- 10:00 Laura Guimont
- Nov 19 8:15 Ken Stebbins
- 10:00 Nancy Meyer
- Nov 26 8:15 Gary Guida
- 10:00 Glenn Sues

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 Dick & Garnette Bordwell (1977)
- 19 John & Margo Wojciak (1966)
- 20 Cory & Jacqueline Brix (2008)
- 23 Gary & Carol Malek (1979)
- 24 Greg & Shelly Skeim (1984)
- 27 Ken & Kathy Schultz (1999)
- 28 Tony & Tammy Kimball (1987)

COMMUNION

- 11/5 8:15 Nory & Peggy Hunze, Jan Danger
- 10:00 Mary Erickson, Roger & Marlene Prill
- 11/12 8:15 Jerry & Polly Pflapsen, Di Hein
- 10:00 Laura Guimont, Al & Barb Schiffler
- 11/19 8:15 Cathy Aykens, Debbie MacKay, Ken Stebbins
- 10:00 Ron & Nancy Meyer, Lisa Slepica
- 11/26 8:15 Mark Carlson, Gary & Becky Guida
- 10:00 Kris Schmidt, Glenn Sues,

Sunday Worship Attendance

September 24	179
October 1	161
October 8	147
October 15	172
October 22	183

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

COFFEE HOUR

- 11/5 Nory & Peggy Hunze, Greg & Diane Meyer
- 11/12 John & Margo Wojciak
- 11/19 Randy & Lori Holmvig, Meg McGuire
- 11/26 Rad & Tina Royer

Council President
Lynn Hansen

This year the Council study has focused on stewardship - the management of all that God has given us. We have been reminded that stewardship is so much more than money and budget. It includes resources of the earth (water, energy, air, etc.), the use of our time, talents and skills, the nurturing of relationships (especially our relationship with God), how we take care of our bodies and stay healthy. An aspect of stewardship that we considered is saying thank you.

We have so much to be thankful for at Salem this year. We have such awesome volunteers who do so much for our church, our children, our community, and in other places in the world. Diligent prayer warriors pray daily for the children of our congregation and for those on prayer chains. The generosity of our members and friends keep our church functioning and staff programs, provide educational opportunities, support outreach, and fund missions. Pastor Mike and Deacon Greg provide leadership and have "servant hearts". Our staff members are competent and dedicated. From the devastation of the Ash Wednesday fire at Salem West we have moved on to a larger facility that has resulted in more donations and more people being served.

We have had a beautiful fall with colorful leaves and warm, sunny days. The stars in the night skies have been spectacular.

We want to thank Connie Lou for her years of service to the children and their families at Salem and in the community. Please plan to join us in saying THANK YOU on Sunday, November 12 between services.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.
Lynn Hansen

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.

IN STITCHES meets to knit or crochet prayer shawls or other items to be given in times of sickness or grief. Meeting times are Tuesdays at 1pm in the seating area near the fireplace.

DIAPER MINISTRY will be NOT be held in November. We will gather to cut t-shirts to be made into diapers again on Wednesday, Dec 13 at 9:00 a.m.

CARE CENTER WORSHIP – Area churches are part of a rotation to host weekly worship services at the Care Center in Crosby. Salem's turn to host is on Sunday, November 5, 1:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to help and worship with the residents should come to the Care Center at 1:15 p.m.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK



Wednesday, November 8th, serving begins at 11:30 a.m. Turkey, stuffing, potatoes & gravy will be provided— please bring a dish to share.

FINK (Faith Inkubators) Confirmation for students in grades 7, 8 & 9, has the following on the November Calendar: Wednesday, November 1 & 15 FINK Learning Events at 6:15 p.m.; Leading VETERANS DAY Worship on November 8th; Jr. High Youth Gathering at Cragun's Resort November 17-18, and Wednesday, Nov 29, FINK Guide Huddle at 7pm.

MEALS ON WHEELS – Salem will serve on Thursday, November 9th at 11:15 a.m. TWO people are needed. More information and a sign-up sheet can be found on the kiosk in the narthex.

ALL WOMEN are welcome to the monthly meeting of the newly combined **SALEM WOMEN'S CIRCLE** on Thursday, November 9th at 9:30 a.m.

KOFFEE KLATCH at Heartwood, Friday, November 10th at 11:00 a.m. Come for devotions and fellowship with Pastor Mike and friends.

GREAT RIVER STRINGS will present a concert at Salem on November 11th at 7pm.

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** p.m. in the education unit. Everyone is welcome!

MUSIC REHEARSALS

- † Cantata – Mondays, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- † Salem Ringers – Mondays, 7:15 p.m.
- † Praise Team – Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.
- † Choir – Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.

LEGO CLUB – for children in grades K-6. Wednesdays, 5:15-6:00 p.m., November 1, 8, & 15. After those dates there will be a break during Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. Lego Club will resume meeting January 3, 2018.

3 BUCK SUPPER – Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m. Worship begins at 6:30, so please get your food between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m.

TGIW (Thank God It's Wednesday) Worship – 6:30—7:15 p.m. November 1 and 8. **There will be a special VETERAN'S DAY emphasis at TGIW Worship on November 8th.**

3 BUCK SUPPER/TGIW Worship will take a break during Advent & Christmas. Watch future Salem Connections for the dates when this will resume.

BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING for the congregation: Sunday, November 19, 2017, 9:15 a.m. This is time for questions regarding the 2018 budget that will be voted on at the **ANNUAL MEETING**, Sunday, December 3, 11:00 a.m.

Salem, Cascade United Methodist, and St. Joseph's Catholic Churches will have a joint **THANKSGIVING WORSHIP** service at Salem on **Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** Cascade and Salem Choirs will be singing together that evening and coffee & treats will be served following worship in the fellowship hall.



Deck the Halls!

Decorating for Advent/Christmas will happen on Tuesday, November 28th from 4:30—7:00 p.m. **ALL AGES** are welcome to come and help decorate the church! We will prepare for our Savior's birthday together. Pizza will be served.

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Thursday, November 2

1:00 p.m. Outreach Committee

5:45 p.m. Finance Team

Tuesday, November 7

5:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee

5:45 p.m. Finance Committee

6:00 p.m. Faith Formation Team

Thursday, November 9

9:30 a.m. Women's Circle

6:00 p.m. Executive Team

Tuesday, November 14

3:00 p.m. Library Team

5:30 p.m. Welcome Team

Thursday, November 16

6:00 p.m. Council Meeting (Budget only)

Sunday, November 19

9:15 a.m. Budget Information Meeting
for congregation in the sanctuary

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to all those who patched and painted areas in the church: Cathy Aykens, Ernie Erickson, Glen Helm, Dick Hicks, Lois Hicks (paint purchasing), Roger Prill, Gary & Carol Malek, Jena Reed, Shelly Skeim. The Salem Facilities Team is grateful for all that has been accomplished!

We want to thank everyone that offered their prayers, their cards, and good wishes prior to and following my surgery to remove a diseased kidney. The procedure was very successful and I'm recovering at home. God bless all!

Jim & Shirley Harker

Thank you for all the support you have given us during the death of Kris Blake and the Memorial Service in early September. The prayers, cards, nursery care, luncheon, remembrances, the prayer shawl and hugs. This is a tough time, especially for Travis and Casey. Thank you, Pastor Mike, for the Healing Service—there have been so many compliments. Bipolar is an illness. It can affect any one of us. Kris has her Peace and we are finding our new norm. Life goes on. Will miss you, Kris.

The Barker (Carla) and Blake Families

LIBRARY NEWS

There is still time to check out materials about Martin Luther and the Reformation from the display on the desk. It will be there until mid-November.

Thanksgiving is a time when families gather. If your family is looking for movies or games to enjoy together, visit the Salem Library. Games are in the cabinet to the right of the fireplace beside the desk. There are cloth bags so pieces don't get lost in transit. Movies are near the windows and on the shelves. If travel by car is in your plans, audiobooks and music CDs are also available for check out.

The Salem Library Team is thankful for the donations of books, games, movies, and music that are available for the enjoyment of so many. The next meeting is November 21 at 3 PM

THE MUSTARD SEED

Deb Selk, Manager mustardseed@salemwd.org

A huge Thank You to all of you that attended the Volunteer Supper. I believe we had around 98 people there. It was a great evening of fellowship.

The cause of the month for October is Aitkin County Law Enforcement Benevolent Association. This is enforcement groups that have come together to honor all fallen officers. Officers of any department that have lost their lives in the line of duty. **TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE TO KEEP US SAFE.**

Mark your calendars for the Taste of Christmas to be held on Friday Nov. 17th and Saturday Nov. 18th. Calls will go out the beginning of November for Bake Sale Goodies needed for the Bake Sale. We will be closed on Thursday the 16th of Nov. that week as we need that extra day to set up.

I would like to Thank one of our Dedicated Volunteers for her years of providing the Mustard Seed with Beautiful Embroidered Dish Towels. Carla Barker is retiring her needle. We will miss having your towels at the Seed. Thank You Carla.

Blessings, Deb

SALEM YOUTH

Dee Dee Frahm, Volunteer Youth Director
youth@salemdwd.org

November is shaping up to be a busy month for Salem's youth! A lock-in is being planned for Nov 10-11. Pastor Mike and I will be taking 8 youth to the Middle School Gathering at Cragun's on Nov 18-19. Fundraising ideas are taking shape to support youth activities and all gathering participants. I hope to have more information on VLM activities ready for December's Connection - I hear there's an EARLY Early Bird discount for campers this coming summer.

Coordinator of Children's Ministries

Connie Lou Swanson
connielou@salemdwd.org

TRUNKS FOR TREATS: A BIG thank you to ALL who helped make this possible for another year!

LEGO CLUB continues through November 15th then *taking break until* January 3rd. Many thanks to Karla Peterson, Carol Malek, Jill Erickson, Nancy Johnson for helping! Did you get a chance to check out the Lego builds on display in October? Our lesson was on Noah's Ark and the kids teamed up and built arks.

PRAYER BUDDIES have been matched and envelopes are ready and waiting for those who have signed up to pray! There is also a list of prayer suggestions available.

At the time of writing this (October 20th) 7-8 people are needed to pray for one child each day during the school year. An occasional card is also suggested. No gifts, please. If you would like to be a blessing to a child and have a very real impact on his/her life, please talk to Connie Lou before November 15th.

KIDS OWN WORSHIP continues on Sunday mornings, 9:15-9:55 a.m., for ages 3—Grade 6 in the double classroom. ***Kids and families are encouraged to attend Connie Lou's farewell on November 12th, in the fellowship hall. Coffee & cake will be served.*** Registration forms are in the narthex. Thanks to Di Hein for her leadership!

If you are interested in helping to continue any of these Children's Ministries, speak to Pastor Mike.

The World Race News from Whitney Cragun

Hello my wonderful Salem family! It is so strange to be writing to you all for possibly the last time on this wild and crazy journey. Today marks 5 weeks until I board a plane back to America, and as I've begun to process these past 10 months I'm growing more and more excited for the opportunity to share all the stories and lessons God has taught me. A HUGE Thank You to anyone and everyone who shopped at the Mustard Seed in September to support me as the Cause of the Month!! Ya'll are awesome and continue to blow me away. Here's a little bit about what I've been up to since the last time you heard from me!

My team and I finished up our month in Kyrgyzstan at Issyk-Kul lake with 80 wild kids, for the craziest week of camp I've ever experienced! Games, songs, dancing, swimming, hugs, and all of the wonderful things that I love about camp. Most of the kids were from Muslim families, and had never experienced anything like it before. We sent the kids off, headed back to Bishkek, and joined up with the rest of our squad to make our way to Romania.

Getting to Europe was a bit of culture shock after being in Asia for 8 months. It only took a few days before we were missing rice, spicy food, and feeling like celebrities everywhere we went. But seeing our parents was AMAZING. I cried like a baby when my mom and dad got off the bus in Draganesti where we spent a week hanging out and doing ministry together. We got to do street evangelism with our hosts at Hope Church, hand out Bibles, pray over the city, and worship/fellowship with my team and their parents. What a blessing it was to be rejuvenated by some of my dad's dry humor and my favorite hugs (my mom's)! Ask my parents for more stories!

At the beginning of September our squad split up into 3 teams for our month 9 of ministry. We had one team go to Lesvos, Greece to work at a refugee camp there, one team in Jordan working with

various ministries, and my team was feeling called to a month with no plan! Yes, you heard that right, we embarked on what we call and ATL (ask the Lord) month. Our vision was to travel from Bucharest, Romania all the way to Mijas, Spain in just over a month and trust God to show us the way and put people in our path to minister to! We stared each day in prayer, asking God to show us who/what/where. I have incredible stories about God's provision, guidance, and protection. We started out staying with a friend of mine from camp who lives in Romania, and ended in Spain staying with friends we met in Mongolia, and people took us in everywhere in-between. We spent time in Hungary, Italy, France, and Spain! God blew my mind each and every day of the month. We set out to bless people and were blessed beyond belief ourselves.

After a joint debrief with this year's August Expedition squad in southern Spain, we headed back up north to start our time walking the Camino de Santiago! Google it! As of today (day 14 of walking) we've put in about 175 miles. It has been an incredible time of meeting people, praying for people, sharing stories, and just carrying the Father's love with us everywhere we go. We have 5 more days until we reach Santiago, the end of the pilgrimage, and prayers for continued health and wellness as we push our minds and bodies would mean so much. Also, pray for healing of my nasty toe blisters!

By the end of next week, we'll be heading to Morocco for our FINAL month of our trip. We'll be serving alongside a team of long term missionaries there. Pray that God will go ahead of us and prepare the path and the hearts of the young people we will encounter.

I'm still on my way to fully-funded status, I have about \$2,700 left to raise!! Head to my site whitneycragun.theworldrace.org or talk to my parents about how you can continue to support me financially. Blessings to all!

Bu\$iness

Salem Lutheran Church Operating Fund

Financial Results for September

	Adopted Annual Budget	Sep Actual 2017	Sep Prior Year 2016
Income	\$434,082	\$ 31,335	\$ 30,875
Expense	\$447,780	\$ 32,882	\$ 32,147
Net	(\$13,698)	(\$ 1,547)	(\$ 1,272)

Financial Results Jan – Aug (YTD)

	Adopted Annual Budget	YTD Actual 2017	YTD Prior Year 2016
Income	\$434,082	\$ 333,008	\$ 284,554
Expense	\$447,780	\$ 314,444	\$ 295,317
Net	(\$ 13,698)	\$ 18,564	(\$ 10,763)

Overview of Mortgage & Building Fund

Salem Lutheran Church

September 2017

Mortgage

Original Mortgage Amount	\$2,379,965.00
Principal Balance	\$1,645,357.92
Monthly Mortgage Payment (Principal & Interest)	\$ 10,844.00
Additional Principal Payment	\$ 4,564.00

Building Fund

Beginning Balance 09/01/17	\$ 237,340.62
Income Sep 2017	
Gifts	\$ 20,171.33
Interest	\$ 70.58
Memorials/Honorarium	\$ 10.00
Summerfest	\$11,664.80
Choice Dollars	\$327.50
Expense Sep 2017	
Mortgage Payment	(\$10,844.00)
Additional Principal	(\$ 4,564.00)
Capital Appeal Pymt #4	(\$5,000.00)
Capital Appeal Supplies	(\$190.60)
Ending Balance 09/30/17	\$ 248,986.23

(The ending building balance 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 Paul Tesdahl or Financial Manager Sandy Beyer.

Capital Campaign Commitment Update

As of the middle of October we have received 70% response back from Salem members with a 3 year pledge total of just under \$438,000 towards the



Capital Campaign Commitment we did this fall. If you have not turned in a pledge and would like to, stop by the Finance Manager's office

and Sandy can provide you with a pledge card.

Most of all take time to celebrate and give prayers of thanks for the success of the campaign, and continue to hold Salem up in prayers to fulfill what God has planned for Salem in reaching out to others, our community and beyond.

SALEM PIECEMAKERS

We have been blessed to distribute quilts this past month to the Red Cross and to a Native American Reservation (Cheyenne) near Promise, S.D. A friend of Mary Erickson's from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, in the midway area of St Paul, had mentioned to Mary about a woman who was "freezing" in her home last year. She received our quilts and was moved to tears, not able to believe that "a stranger" would give these away.

Quilts will be on display on Thanksgiving Eve (Nov 22) and also on November 26, when they are blessed for distribution.

SPECIAL THANKS to Jeannette Saabye's family for the monetary gift to Salem's Piecemakers.

IN STITCHES

We received a beautiful thank you note from a person who received a prayer shawl from a Salem member. "I so appreciate the comfort the shawl brings to me when I am feeling down."

ANYONE who is interested in helping put together quilts (9am on Tuesdays) or knitting/crocheting Prayer Shawls (1pm on Tuesdays), you are more than welcome!

"WALKING TACOS" will be served prior to worship on Thanksgiving Eve, November 22nd, 5:45—6:45 p.m. This is a fundraiser by Salem Youth attending the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston. Please plan to come and support

Additional Thank You: The Salem Festival of the Heart Team is so thankful to GOD for the opportunity He set before us to offer a very special dinner and concert to the women of this community. Our wonderful men volunteers served 182 women an elegant dinner on October 28th and well over half of the guests were not members of Salem. Thank you to all the women who attended; all of the creative tables hostesses; the men who gave of their time to help in the kitchen and serve the dinner; all those who helped set up; to Glen Helm for his outstanding work and willingness to help the team wherever he could. It was an extraordinary event and it was a privilege to be involved in it. We are sadly saying goodbye to Carole Nystrom, who has faithfully served on this team since its beginning in 2013. Godspeed, Ken & Carole—you will deeply missed.

*The 2017 Festival of the Heart Team:
Dee Dee Frahm, Carole Nystrom, Meriellen
Pisarek, Kathi Sharp, Debbi Carlson*

**Salem Outreach Committee Meeting
October 5, 2017**

Present were Joyce Kohnen, Noreen Steinbrecher, Don Hales, Sandy Kretlow, Greg Meyer, Pastor Mike, Deb Selk, absent was Bev Kunz.

MSC Motion, Seconded, Carried

Greg opened with devotions.

Secretary's minutes from September was approved. MSC

Financials: No reports from Sandy B. as our meeting is a week earlier. **Motion** was made to combine into a dedicated account the Fire Fund balance of \$26,623.48 and Insurance Balance \$28,287.33 total of \$54,910.81 into one account called Fire Fund . MSC

Mustard Seed:

Don Hales has been working with a builder to add a 24 by 90 addition onto the Mustard Seed, this addition will be on the Legion side. We are still waiting on the bid.

A **motion** was made to raise the rent of the Beauty Shop from \$400.00 to \$500.00, which includes gas and water/sewer. MSC

Old Business:

Reviewed the job description for an additional part-time employee at SW. It was posted at church, MS, and SW thru next Wednesday. Deb, Paul Tesdahl and Greg will do the interviewing.

Volunteer Appreciation is October 9 at 5:00 pm.

We have made a donation list of items we cannot accept. Our dumpster bill has reach nearly \$4000.00, this expense is detrimental to our program.

Deb Selk excused herself.

Budget: We are working on a wage increase for SW and MS employees, also looking into help for Sandy Beyer's job. Paul and Executive committee could look at possibly farming this out to help her.

Deacon Greg's job description was clarified from Renae's meeting . We should follow the Mission Statement. "Welcoming, Equipping, Sending in Jesus' name." Greg can go on any mission trip from Salem at any time.

Insurance for credit card processing. Greg is trying to obtain grants for updating the software to accept a chip reader at MS.

Motion was made for the distribution of monies from the loss of wages (insurance) account from fire to ~~Glenn~~ Glenn, Dennis, DeeDee and Sandy B.. MSC

Motion was made to discontinue taking 20% from Outreach for Greg salary because the operating budget is now in the black and because SOC Summerfest funds was reduced from 50% to 33%. MSC

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,
Sandy Kretlow, Secretary

Please note: The following Council Meeting Minutes were approved at the October 19, 2017 meeting. The unapproved October Council Minutes are posted on Salem's website.

**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting
September 21, 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 Holmwig, Pastor Mike Briggs

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

Meeting was opened with a devotion from *Embracing Stewardship*, chapter 9.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MOTION: to approve the minutes from council meeting, August 17, 2017. MSC

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Expenses exceeded giving for August. Operating budget balance is at \$20,110.74

-Accounting revisions to July report was accepted.

MOTION: to approve treasurer's report. MSC

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Visited food distribution program (Ruby's Pantry) in Brainerd. This is a large operation. Recommends that we work with existing program in Brainerd instead of starting up independently in this area.

-FINK has started.

-Higher Call concert and worship service on September 30 (concert) and October 1 (worship). A free will offering will be taken to cover expenses. We will need to cover housing, 3 rooms or homes.

-Reformation celebration is October 14, 2:00 at 1st Lutheran Church in Aitkin

STAFF REPORTS

-Accepted from Greg and Connie Lou.

SALEM WEST UPDATE

-Final insurance payments on Salem West fire are complete.

SUMMERFEST

-Raised \$39,994.40 after expenses, to be split $\frac{1}{3}$ to Salem Outreach, $\frac{1}{3}$ to building fund, $\frac{1}{6}$ to operating reserve, and $\frac{1}{6}$ to building maintenance reserve.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-Facilities- Discussed exterior lighting. **MOTION:** to authorize the facilities committee to move forward with the LED conversion of the exterior building lighting and solicit contributions from the congregation. MSC.

- Faith Formation- Review and organization of existing supplies and materials to prepare for budget planning. There will be an appreciation celebration for Connie Lou Swanson between services on Nov 12.

-Salem Outreach- Discussion and **MOTION:** to authorize Salem Outreach Committee to distribute the insurance settlement for lost wages from the Salem West Fire. MSC.

-Capital Appeal- Volunteers delivered pledge cards Sunday, August 20 and picked them up on Sunday, August 27. 136 of 213 pledge cards were returned (63.85%). A total of \$405,269.00 was pledged. The goal was \$554,000.00. Campaign will end September 30.

-Technology- working on the share faith app.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Reformation Celebration: October 14, 2:00 at 1st Lutheran in Aitkin.

- Food distribution program: See Pastor's report

-Wish list: Additional suggestion to place a cross on the outside of the building, facing the parking lot.

-Nomination committee is gathering nominees.

-Director of Outreach Description- tabled, Need most recent job description

-Thank you card/letter for Jeff Schmidt completed.

-Website app update: Technology committee is working on share faith app..

NEW BUSINESS:

-Portico Selection for 2018- (health benefit plan for rostered employees) Discussed. **MOTION:** To continue with Gold Plus from Portico for 2018. MSC. **MOTION:** To increase compensation for Deacon Greg to cover the increase in his health care premium through his wife's policy for 2018. MSC.

-2018 Budget Planning Timeline

October 8: Stewardship sermon. Estimate of giving cards dispersed this week.

October 22: Consecration Sunday, return giving cards.

November 2 or 9: Finance committee meets to formulate budget

November 16: Council meeting to review 2018 budget

November 19: Informational meeting for congregation

December 3: Congregational meeting to vote on budget

-Weather cancellation policy- No changes, can also post on faith app once set up.

-Music staff evaluations- Pastor Mike and Di Hein will complete.

-Insurance review October- Will look at existing property coverages at October council meeting.

-Outdoor flag condition- Will ask Glen to monitor this regularly as part of his facility duties.

-Go fund me request- Requests for donations for personal use, such as go fund me accounts, can be posted on an 8"x11" poster and placed on the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall.

SOS:

-None

Announcements:

- Sweden's Trio con Brio concert at Salem on June 17, 2018

- Great River Strings concert at Salem Nov 11

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Schmidt

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 5:15 PM Lego Club 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM 3 Buck Supper/FINK Learning Event 6:30 PM TGIW Worship	2 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Outreach Committee Meeting 5:45 PM Finance Team Meeting	3 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	
5 7:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:15 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Kids Own Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 1:30 PM Salem Hosts Care Center Worship	6 5:30—7:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	7 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 5:30 PM Worship & Music Team Mtg 6:00 PM Faith Formation Team Mtg 6:00 PM Lessons for Life	8 6:30 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM THANKSGIVING POTLUCK 5:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 5:15 PM Lego Club 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM 3 Buck Supper 6:30 PM Veterans Day Service	9 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Women's Circle 11:15 AM Salem Serves Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Executive Team Meeting	10 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	11 7:00 PM Great River Strings Concert in Sanctuary
12 8:15 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Coffee/Farewell for Connie Lou Swanson (No Kids Own Worship) 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship	13 9:00 AM Unlimited Learning Mtg 5:30—7:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	14 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 3:00 PM Library Team Meeting 5:30 PM Welcome Team Meeting 6:00 PM Lessons for Life	15 6:30 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 5:15 PM Lego Club 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Council Meeting	17 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	18
19 8:15 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Budget Information Mtg for Congregation (No Kids Own Worship) 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship	20 5:30—7:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	21 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 6:00 PM Lessons for Life	22 6:30 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:45-6:45 PM Walking Taco Supper (by Salem Youth) 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Worship		24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 8:15 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Kids Own Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship	27 5:30—7:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	28 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 4:30-7:00 PM DECK THE HALLS 6:00 PM Lessons for Life	29 6:30 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 5:15 PM Lego Club 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study		



SALEM STAFF

Pastor – Mike Briggs
Deacon – Greg Meyer
Office Manager – Deborah Carlson
Financial Manager – Sandra Beyer
Coordinator of Children's Ministry – Connie Lou Swanson
Facilities Coordinator – Glen Helm
Organist/Pianist – Becky Klingelhofer
Choir Director – Scott Ruffing
Handbell Choir Director – Kevin Edstrom
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
Kitchen Coordinator – Kathy Schultz

MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Wedding Coordinators – Kim Coughlin, Sherri Godfrey
Cradle Roll – Jessica Jones
Control Booth Coordinator – Meriellen Pisarek
Salem Lutheran Church Website – Meriellen Pisarek
Volunteer Youth Director – Dee Dee Frahm (youth@salemdwd.org)

Phone Numbers

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

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Randy Holmwig 218.527.0123
Meriellen Pisarek 218.839.3608
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