

✠ SALEM CONNECTION ✠

March 2019

Salem Lutheran Church 21276 Archibald Road PO Box 100 Deerwood MN 56444

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Our culture has trouble with Ash Wednesday and Lent. We do a pretty good job with the feasting right before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is celebrated by people all over the country, not just in New Orleans. Many churches serve “Shrove Tuesday Dinners,” inviting people to enjoy stacks of pancakes and waffles before the disciplines of Lent begin. We love our feast days! But what are we to do with Ash Wednesday followed by 40 days of Lenten reflection? A few years ago I saw a restaurant sign that summed up our culture’s ambivalence about the season: “Ash Wednesday Seafood Buffet: All You Can Eat!”

The paradox of Ash Wednesday, and of Lent, is that we take on particular disciplines of fasting, prayer, and service in order to repent and conform ourselves more closely to the life and death of Christ, all the while recognizing that Christ has already come to us before we sought him. It’s one of the paradoxes of the baptized life. We have been joined to Christ once, and we spend the rest of our lives trying to live into that union.

Turning to Christ means turning also to our neighbors who suffer, whether they live across the street or across the border. According to Isaiah, fasting and prayer that brings us to act on behalf of our neighbor is the fast that is acceptable to God. He wrote:

“I (the Lord) will tell you what kind of special day I want: Free the people you have put in prison unfairly and undo their chains. Free the workers to whom you are unfair and stop their hard labor. Share your food with the hungry and bring poor, homeless people into your homes... Then you will call out, and the Lord will answer. You will cry out and the Lord will say, ‘Here I am’”

- Isaiah 58:6-7a, 9

This Lent, as always, there will be many opportunities for worship, prayer, and service. The Crosby area churches are sponsoring community worship at noon on Wednesdays during Lent focusing on Jesus’ “I Am...” statements. Worship will be followed by lunch. Each congregation will serve as host one Wednesday in Lent. (The schedule is printed inside this newsletter). Free will donations will go to the Ministerial Fund, used to provide food, gas, and lodging to folks in our community.

The pastors of the Aitkin area Lutheran churches will travel from congregation to congregation for Wed. evening worship services again this year. Each week Salem worshippers will meet a follower of Jesus, a “saint,” who served God and neighbor in their place and time. Offerings will support VLM Camping Ministries and Midwives for Haiti.

Pastor Mike

God's blessings to you as we journey through Lent to our Lord's cross and resurrection!

1st COMMUNION CLASSES for 4th-8th grade students (who have not yet attended) and their parents will begin Sunday, March 10th at 10:30 a.m. in the Education Wing. The goal of the 4 week course is for students to receive their 1st Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 18th. Please keep the students in your prayers as they take this important step in their faith journeys.

WORSHIP & LUNCH WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS DURING LENT! Wednesday community worship services will be at Noon, followed by a soup & sandwich lunch. Free will donations will support the Ministerial Fund, used to provide gas, food, and lodging for local folks. The Lenten mid-day community worship schedule is:

Wed. March. 13 th	Noon	Cascade United Methodist, Deerwood
Wed. March 20 th	Noon	Immanuel Lutheran, Crosby
Wed. March 27 th	Noon	St. Joseph's Roman Catholic, Crosby
Wed. April 3 rd	Noon	Lifespring Church at Heartwood, Crosby
Wed. April 10 th	Noon	Salem Lutheran, Deerwood

All are invited! Come and worship together. Come and eat together.

LENT EVENING WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Midweek evening worship will be at Salem every Wed. in Lent. Supper will be served each Wed. from 5:30-6:30. Worship offerings will support VLM Camping Ministries and Midwives for Haiti. Come re-experience the story of our Lord's cross and resurrection through the lives of men and women who followed him.

Wed. Mar. 6 th	5-6:30	Supper
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
Wed. Mar. 13 th	5-6:30	Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship with Jan Hus
Wed. Mar. 20 th	5-6:30	Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship with Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Wed. Mar. 27 th	5-6:30	Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship with Toyohiko Kagawa
Wed. April 3 rd	5-6:30	Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship with Sister Elizabeth Fedde
Wed. April 10 th	5-6:30	Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship with Oscar Romero

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sun. April 14 th	9:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship Procession with palms
Thurs. April 18 th	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship 1st Communion
Friday April 19 th	7:00 pm	Good Friday Worship
Sun. April 21 st	8:15 am	Easter Worship
	10:00 am	Easter Worship



USHERS

- 3/3 Renee Gilmer, Ken Schultz, Glenn Suess
- 3/10 Randy Holmwig, Herb & Barb Schoon, Helen Ryan
- 3/17 Nory & Peggy Hunze, Chuck Lubowitz, Karla Peterson
- 3/24 Clark & Joyce Marshall, Ron & Sandy Kretlow
- 3/31 Dean & Pat Sylvester, Ernie & Mary Erickson

READERS

- 3/3 Gary Guida
- 3/10 Glenn Suess
- 3/17 Nancy Meyer
- 3/24 Laura Guimont
- 3/31 Peggy Blistain

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 3/3 Gary & Becky Guida, Debbie MacKay
- 3/10 Laura Guimont, John & Margo Wojciak
- 3/17 Nancy Johnson, Ron & Nancy Meyer
- 3/24 Kris Schmidt, Herb & Barb Schoon
- 3/31 Peggy Blistain, Kyle Skeim, Shelly Skeim

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January 27	98
February 3	124
February 10	139
February 17	120

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Alice Neibergs
- 3 Craig Henningson
- 4 Annette Olson
- 6 Les Chileen, Brett Midthun, Tammy Martin
- 7 Mary Lobitz, Louie Smilich, Emberly Voller
- 9 Shirley Harker
- 10 Sue Stromberg
- 12 Randy Holmwig, Rad Royer, Les Taylor
- 13 Gene Cordie, John Frahm
- 15 Renee Gilmer, Ken Stebbins
- 16 Rod Ogard, Al Schiffler
- 18 Jim Bendorf, Natalie Gavin, Marlene Prill, LeRoy Ryan, Lisa Slepica

- 20 Cory Brix
- 21 Eric Christenson, Lynette Dahlquist, Barb Schiffler
- 22 Emmet Deseth
- 25 Abe Deseth
- 29 Scott Bundy
- 30 Dick Bordwell, Dick Hicks
- 31 Sandy Grivna, Pam Magnuson, Nancy Pelant

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Wayne & Joyce Kohnen (1962)
- 4 Mark & Debbi Carlson (1977)
- 20 Clark & Joyce Marshall (1971)
- 30 Maurice & Lisa Slepica (2002)

DIAPER MINISTRY – Meeting to cut tshirts on Wednesday, March 13th at 9am.

SARAH CIRCLE – March 14th, 9:30 a.m.

KOFFEE KLATCH at Heartwood, Friday, March 8th at 11:00 a.m. Come for devotions and fellowship with Pastor Mike and friends.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDIES

† 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 –

TEAM/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Worship & Music** – Tues, March 5, 5:30 p.m.
- Faith Formation** – Tues, March 12, 6pm
- Executive** – Thursday, March 14, 5pm
- Library** – Tuesday, March 19, 3:00 p.m.
- Outreach Gov Board** – Wed March 20, 1pm
- Council** – Thursday, March 21, 6:00 p.m.
- Welcome** – Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 p.m.

We extend a very warm welcome to Tammy Martin, Salem’s new Office Manager! Tammy began her work here on February 11 and will be “flying solo” by March 4th.

A NOTE FROM THE NEW OFFICE MANAGER

My name is Tammy Martin and I live in Riverton. I have 2 wonderful sons and 5 beautiful grandchildren that live in the Hastings, MN area. My career has always been in administrative support of some kind, including Office Manager and Counselor at Lakes Area Pregnancy Support Center in Brainerd.

I want to extend a special “Thank you” to Debbi Carlson for the time and energy she has put into training me to be the Office Manager here at Salem. I am very blessed and excited to be here and look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

God bless!

Tammy



Dear Members and Friends of Salem Lutheran Church,

It is an impossibility to mention all that I am thankful for as I prepare to leave my job here at Salem. I am most thankful to our Lord for the people of Salem and their dedicated service to others in His name. There are so many individuals during my work here that are close to my heart—I think of my close friend and mentor, Mavis Jordan. She taught me so much about my work and so much more about life. Mavis was an extraordinary person. I have worked with/for six pastors in my years here, and each one brought their own gifts to the life of this congregation. Most recently, Pastor Mike, of course—thank you, Pastor Mike, for your kindness and trust in me to carry out the work that needs to be done. My sincere thanks to Di Hein for her gifts of leadership and listening; to my dear friend, Meriellen Pisarek, for always seeking God’s heart; Special thanks to Shirley Taylor, who for all of the 24 years I’ve been in the office, said “yes” to my requests for help; To Sandy Beyer and Glen Helm—it was a pleasure to work with you two—we worked well together, accomplished a lot and had a lot

of laughs along the way. You are the best kind of people...

Mark, I thank you for your ever-present strength and ability to see the glass half full; to Missy, Kim, and Heidi, for your loving and uplifting words of understanding and encouragement. You are all God’s most precious gifts in my life.

I leave the Salem office in the capable hands of Tammy Martin. Thank you to all of those who have stopped by to welcome Tammy. She will fit in nicely here with her many gifts and experience.

A big part of my life has been spent in the Salem office and I am so grateful. Thank you for the opportunity I was given to enrich my life through the work of this church. The words of Psalm 121 come to mind...

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”

I pray that God will continue to bless Salem’s ministry.

In Christ,

Debbi Carlson



Dear Salem Friends,

Thank you very much for the beautiful carnations for Valentines Day. I’m sure I will enjoy them for many days to come.

Cleone McGillivray

Dear Salem Lutheran Outreach and Salem Kids Club, I want to thank you for the lovely Valentine flowers and the darling Valentine card. What a lovely, thoughtful gift. Thank you so much

Betty Lavan

The delivery man was cute, but the flowers much prettier! And, the card from our kiddos so sweet. Thanks, Salem. Love ya!

John & Elaine Greene

Thank you for the continued prayers and the surprise birthday last week. I FINALLY received my cardiac MRI results. The bad news is there is still no answer as to why or what caused my heart failure. The good news is there is no underlying disease to worry about, there is no blockage anywhere, the medications are definitely working, and my ejection fraction (which was 12% on December 21) has almost tripled to 34%! My next appointment is for a follow up ECHO at the end of March.

Dee Dee Frahm

Bu\$iness

Salem Lutheran Church Operating Fund

Financial Results for Jan

	Adopted Annual Budget	Jan Actual 2019	Jan Prior Year 2018
Income	\$440,236	\$ 23,561	\$ 40,869
Expense	\$444,127	\$ 27,311	\$ 33,649
Net	(\$ 3,891)	(\$ 3,750)	\$ 7,220

Overview of Mortgage & Building Fund

Salem Lutheran Church

January 2019

Mortgage

Original Mortgage Amount	\$2,379,965.00
Principal Balance	\$1,474,565.76
Monthly Mortgage Payment (Principal & Interest)	\$ 10,844.00
Additional Principal Payment	\$ 4,564.00

Building Fund

Beginning Balance 01/01/19	\$245,330.09
Income Jan 2018	
Gifts	\$7,326.87
Interest	\$73.51
Choice Dollars	\$0.00
Expense Jan 2018	
Mortgage Payment	(\$10,844.00)
Additional Principal	(\$ 4,564.00)
Ending Balance 01/31/19	\$227,420.67

(The ending building balance is what we have in savings accounts dedicated to the building fund. \$80,800 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 Chanda DeVilliers at the church office. Any questions can be directed to either Council Treasurer Terry Tichenor or Financial Manager Chanda DeVilliers

LIBRARY NEWS

March 6 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Some Christians observe Lent by giving up a particular food or certain festivities to remind them of Jesus' fasting in the desert for 40 days prior to Easter.

Another option would be adding something or doing something a little extra to better yourself and deepen your faith. Some ideas for additions would be volunteering, donating money to a favorite cause, writing letters to friends and family, daily prayer or devotional reading from the Bible, or a random act of kindness.

However you decide to observe Lent, the Salem Library has books of prayers, Lenten devotions, and other resources to add meaning to the season of Lent.

Our next Library Team meeting will be March 26 at 3:00. We would welcome new members.

Reminder to all THRIVENT MEMBERS: March 31st is the deadline to direct your Choice Dollars. If not done by then they will be lost to you. Salem benefits greatly by receiving these funds. It is simple to do. Call Thrivent Financial 800 847 4836 and say CHOICE DOLLARS .

CARE AND SHARE UNITS

“We exist to Welcome In Jesus’ name.”

UPDATES, etc, from Marlene Prill and Sandra Kretlow... We extend, “A **BIG BIG THANK YOU**” to Kathy Schultz, as she leaves her position of Care & Share Leader [April] and for all her awesome work with Care & Share.

We extend, “A **BIG WELCOME**” to Pam Magnuson who has graciously taken on the April Leader role. If your name is listed in the Care & Share Booklet under Unit #4, and you feel you could serve coffee, or make goodies for any of the Sundays in April, it would be nice, if you could give Pam a call to welcome her aboard and volunteer for one of those Sunday.

Group e-mailing the Care & Share Unit members worked great says Sandy Kretlow, who received lots of e-mail responses and call backs, from members of her Unit volunteering to serve in January. It worked wonderfully and she feels e-mails might be a good way to ask, involve and reach more members.

Lastly, we send, “MANY, MANY THANK YOUS” to YOU the Salem members who step up to take your turn when called to help at Coffee Fellowship, Salem Events and Funerals! Check to see which Care & Share Unit you are a part of and be ready to serve fellow members and guests in this way!! CARE & SHARE UNITS Booklets are available in the Church Office.

DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

Don Hales outreach@salemdwd.org

Salem WEST is in desperate need of furniture, especially living room sofas chairs and kitchen tables and chairs. If you or if you or you know of anyone who could help our families out please give Salem WEST a call @ 534-4962.

Mustard Seed: We just completed the “Chocolate Extravaganza” and what a extravagant event it was. The proceeds totaled over \$1,600.00 of which 100 percent will go to our Honduras mission account.

Thanks to all who helped make this such a great event. Special thanks to Barb Schiffler and Noreen Steinbrecher.

Honduras: as you heard last Sunday we had another wonderful mission trip. Now as we look forward to how we can better serve the people of Honduras and do what Jesus commanded us to do(to love one another). I am asking for volunteers to serve on a steering committee to address the issues that we face. We will meet the middle of April. If you are interested in helping please email me at baylakepapa@gmail.com. Remember if you wish to join us on our summer trip I need to know by April 1st.

I would also like to thank our delivery guys who go above and beyond to make sure that the families in need receive the items they so desperately need, even when its-40 degrees.

God’s Peace!

Don

THE MUSTARD SEED

Deb Selk, Manager mustardseed@salemdwd.org

Happenings at the Mustard Seed

The sales have dropped somewhat since the New Year, but that’s expected with the snow and cold. We have managed to keep ahead of last year.

We are planning the annual Spring Fling/Mother’s Day Apron Extravaganza along with a Bake Sale in later April early May. We will also be planning a Spring Volunteer Supper in May.

I have filled the Cause of the Month spots for the year. It really helps with the new system to input and change out each month. We have been so short on help this year that we will have to put the word out for volunteers. As the sales keep increasing we need more help.

Blessings, Deb

FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

Whitney Cragun

The new year has apparently gotten the best of me already--I have been so busy, I completely forgot about writing my article last month! Thankfully Debbi, and Tammy now too, are extremely patient with me, as are all of you! The New Year is well under way, as is Kids Club, Sunday School, Confirmation, and even some fun events in the works for our High School Youth! Watch the e-news and bulletin for announcements about upcoming happenings in the Faith Formation world. As many of you know, I will be done in my position very soon, the end of March to be exact. I am hopeful the right person will come along to lead Faith Formation at Salem, so that we can continue to grow in our Children's, Youth, and Family ministry, but it is not for me or any of us to know the timing that God is working on. One thing is for certain though--this *Church*, this *Body of Christ*, needs YOU to keep our programs running and continue to fulfill the mission Christ set before us:



Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by

baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 The Message (MSG)

I love how in the Message translation of that passage, Jesus reminds us that he will be with us day after day after day as we set out to do this seemingly impossible task. We are never alone in it, as God is the one working through us.

To be specific about the upcoming needs at Salem, the Faith Formation team and I are looking for Sunday School teachers, Kids Club volunteers, Confirmation/Youth chaperones for events, and volunteers for our summer programs like Day Camp, VBS, and Lunch Bunch. Pray about each of these programs! Ask God where he might be leading you to serve! Nervous? That's Ok! We have incredible volunteers that have been doing this for years who can teach you and guide you along the way. We are also looking for people to serve on the Faith Formation Team. If you have questions about what all it entails, feel free to reach out to myself, Pastor Mike, Di Hein, Lynn Hanson, Marlene Prill, Kris Schmidt, Raye Cragun, or Dee Dee Frahm.

Some of you may remember, one of my New Year's resolutions for 2019 is to read more, 1 book a month *at least* to be specific, and I'm happy to say I finished my first book of the year just last night! So that puts me a bit behind schedule.. but hey- you have to celebrate accomplishments, however small! My encouragement & challenge to you for February is to think back on the resolution/s you made last month, and see if just maybe there are small gifts that God planned on using that resolution to give to you. I didn't realize it when I made my resolution, but reading is something that truly brings me joy! It relaxes me, makes me sleep better, and a whole bunch of other positive things as well! I simply felt like I "should" be reading more books when I made that

decision in January, but the evening ritual of reading has been so much more than that--truly a gift, no matter how many books I check off my list this year!

Maybe your resolution to drink less soda came about simply because you know water is better for you, but maybe you've also found that you *feel better* when you drink and eat better, or even have more energy! Maybe that wasn't a surprise to you, but maybe you've truly enjoyed spending more creative time in the kitchen coming up with new healthy recipes. Check back in on your resolutions this month, and you just might find you have accomplishments or celebrations you didn't know were there. Thank God for them! Even the small things.

I keep telling myself that about Kids Club too. It is sometimes hard to trust that all the time and energy we put into running programs here is doing good, and ultimately, showing them Christ's Love. I question myself-- is this really what the Great Commission looks like? Many of us have these questions. Then there are moments, like this past week when the Kids were busy working on their various sewing projects. I paused to take in the scene and felt the Holy Spirit's presence in the room. Our normally rambunctious boys were sitting quietly at the *sewing machines* for goodness sake, and focusing intently on their material and thread! Our wonderful and dedicated volunteers were patiently instructing them, and encouraging them as they stumbled through sewing on their first buttons and learning how to stitch and mend and create things! It was such a special moment, the kind I'll always remember, in fact. Those kinds of moments make the Great Commission feel not so huge after all.



Happy March and God Bless,
Whitney Cragun, Faith Formation Coordinator

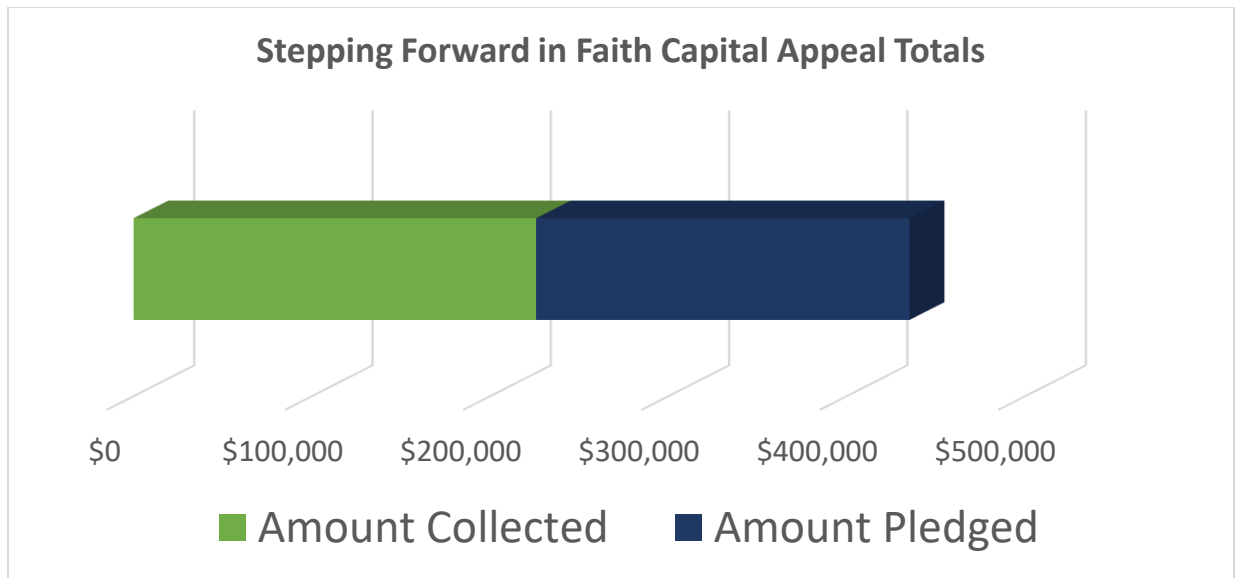
Capital Appeal Update



In August 2017, Salem Lutheran Church conducted a Capital Appeal to reduce our building mortgage which began in December 2017. The effort was a great success with many throughout our congregation making financial commitments as well as giving of their time through volunteering.

Below are the updated numbers for our campaign as of this publication:

Total Amount Pledged: \$435,361
Total Amount Received: \$225,799



We plan to update the congregation throughout the three year pledge process which will end in November 2020. The Capital Appeal Team would like to encourage everyone to keep up to date on your pledges. If you have not yet contributed, please know that additional funding is still needed to eliminate our mortgage.

Volunteers Needed

If you would be interested in joining the Capital Appeal Team please contact Paul Tesdahl, Chair of the Capital Appeal Team or Ken Stebbins, President of Church Council.

Thank you for your help and interest in the Stepping Forward in Faith Campaign!

Outreach Governing Board Meeting January 9, 2019

Outreach Governing Board Meeting January 9, 2019

Present were Noreen Steinbrecher, Kim Coughlin, Bev Kunz, Don Hales, Joyce Kohnen, Terry Tichenor, Sandy Kretlow and Pastor Mike.

MSC: Motion, Seconded, Carried

Pastor Mike opened with prayer.

Motion was made for Sandy Beyer to advance Don Hales the sum of \$1000.00 for unseen expenses or emergency funds for the trip to Honduras. Any unused amount shall be redeposited upon returned, this money will come from the Honduras account. MSC

Motion to have the Financial Manager issue a check for \$2000.00 to Tandem Prosthetics for the cost of the parts needed to fix Denny's legs. (Don and Debra gave a check for the \$2000.00 to be deposited, she will mail the check.) MSC

Minutes from December 10, 2018. MSC

No Financials were available at this time.

Meetings for Social Outreach will be changed to the third Wednesday of each month. Next meeting is February 20, 2019 at 1 pm.

Mustard Report:

Mustard Seed has had an excellent year. We have nearly grossed \$250,000.00. Clothing and accessories did \$50,000.00.

Salem West:

We are discussing how to organize the warehouse with shelving. Don Hales has been meeting with the volunteers at Mustard Seed. We need to continue cross training between Mustard Seed and Salem West.

Pancake Breakfast will be January 20, 2019 for Teen Challenge. Sponsored by Social Outreach.

There will be 12 people going to Honduras on January 13, 2019 for 10 days.

We will be bringing 286 pairs of shoes to Honduras.

Pastor Mike closed with prayer.

Submitted by Sandy Kretlow, Secretary

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2019

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

The regular meeting of the Salem Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 5:55 p.m. on January 17, 2019.

Present: Pastor Mike, Ken Stebbins, John Wojciak, Mark Carlson, Meriellen Pisarek, Di Hein, Jake Frahm, Joel Huntley, and Jeff Mitchell. Absent: Terry Tichenor

Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Mike.

Congregational Input: None.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion to approve the minutes from the Council meeting on December 19, 2018 was seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Council reviewed the Treasurer's Report for December, 2018. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was seconded. Motion carried.
- Capital Appeal committee meets next on Monday, January 21, 2018.
- Discussion was held regarding moving line items 2610 Deacon Continuing Ed 2nd Year and 2615 Deacon Continuing Ed Prev Year to a new line item called 2605 Support Staff Continuing Ed. to provide funds for staff to obtain continuing education. Motion to remove line items 2610 and 2615 and make a new one called 2605 for support staff continuing ed. was seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- It has been a month of staff transitions as well as holiday celebrations. Chanda DeVilliers started work as Salem's financial manager on December 19th and will soon be done training with Sandy Beyer. She's doing very well, and even says she's enjoying the work! Both Whitney Cragun and Debbi Carlson have submitted their resignations effective in March. The Faith Formation and Executive Teams have been busy re-writing job descriptions, and will post the job openings very soon. Glen Helm injured his shoulder shoveling snow after the Christmas week storm and will be out rehabbing for at least another week. Each change and the preparations made for a new employee makes me realize how well we've been served these last years. Be sure to thank them and wish them well in the future. They will be missed!

Faith Formation Coordinator's Report:

- Kid's Club starts back up on January 30th. They have 20 plus kids registered for this half of the school year! We need volunteers to help.
- Sunday School. The numbers have been low over the past 3 weeks. I believe starting a new curriculum will help boost interest and enthusiasm.
- Lenten Meals: We would like to have confirmation kids be involved in the Wednesday meals again.
- Camp Sunday: Working on a date and the possibility of a VLM staff member here this year to speak.
- VBS/VLM Day Camp: Faith Formation Team is discussing a Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Day Camp team to come host a week-long camp this summer.

Committee Reports:

- Facilities:
 - Facilities team is filling in for Glen while he is out with disability.
 - Working on getting an estimate for surface repair, sealing, coating and striping of the parking lot.
 - Dumpster fence has not yet been repaired. Facilities is checking on the status of the repair.
 - Spring cleaning will be Saturday, May 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Unfinished Business:

- Discussion was held regarding the American Funds. The donor has given these funds for church use. Council discussed ideas for its use. This item was tabled until a Council member can discuss with the donor Council's suggested use of the funds.
- Possible ideas for the Council retreat were discussed. Pastor Mike will look into Camp Hiawatha or the possibility of someone coming from the Synod for a planning and visioning day.
- Revised Guidelines Between the Council and Social Outreach Governing Board were distributed. Council will take some time to review these changes and will discuss at the next Council meeting.
- Still looking into the security system for the church.

New Business:

- Designation of Lenten offering. After ample discussion....Motion to give Lenten offering 50% to the Midwives for Haiti through Lisa Slepica and 50% to Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry was seconded. Motion carried.
- Job Postings:
 - Office Manager: Suggested changes to the Office Manager job description were reviewed. This position will be posted as a 32 hour a week position.
 - Faith Formation Coordinator: Council received suggested changes to the job description from the Faith Formation Committee. This position will be posted.
- Silent Auction/Summerfest taskforce: Don Hales suggested the possibility of creating a taskforce team to handle the silent auction at Summerfest this year. This item was tabled pending discussion with those involved in the silent auction last year.
- Employment Policy needs to be reviewed and updated. A couple of the Council members have agreed to take on this project.
- Discussion was held regarding whether emails to all members of the church should be sent through the church office. One of the items of concern were confidentiality of Church member's email addresses. Council agreed that they should be sent from the church office.
- There was discussed a concern that some of our accounts at the Bank may exceed the amount that FDIC insures (\$250,000.00 per account). It was suggested that we should discuss this matter with Deerwood Bank and find out if they have some mechanism by which the Bank notifies us when we are getting close to that amount in any of our accounts. It was agreed that the Council Treasurer should discuss this matter with the Bank.

Suggestions, Observations, and Solutions: None

Announcements: Next council meeting – February 21, 2019

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Meriellen Pisarek, Secretary

MARCH 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	2
3 9:00 AM Worship	4 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	5 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 5:30 PM Worship & Music Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM The Case for Christ Movie in the sanctuary	6 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:15-5PM Kids Club 5:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Worship	7 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Ladies' Nifty Nineties Meeting at Heartwood 6:30 PM Quilting at Heartwood	8 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Koffee Klatch at Heartwood	
10 9:00 AM Worship	11 9:00 AM Unlimited Learning Mtg. 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	12 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 6:00 PM Faith Formation Team Mtg.	13 9:00 AM Diaper Ministry 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:15-5PM Kids Club 5:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Worship	14 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Sarah Circle Meeting 5:00 PM Executive Team Meeting	15 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	16
17 9:00 AM Worship	18 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	19 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 3:00 PM Library Team Meeting	20 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:15-5PM Kids Club 5:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Worship	21 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Council Meeting	22 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	23
24 9:00 AM Worship 1:30 PM Salem Hosts Care Center Worship	25 7:15 PM Salem Ringers Rehearsal	26 9:00 AM Piecemakers 1:00 PM In Stitches 6:00 PM Welcome Team Meeting	27 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:15-5PM Kids Club 5:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Worship	28 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 11:05 AM Salem Serves Meals on Wheels	29 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	30
31 9:00 AM Worship						

When this calendar was printed, the plans were to have Sunday Worship at 9am. This is subject to change.

SALEM STAFF

Pastor – Michael R. Briggs
Office Manager – Tammy Martin
Financial Manager – Chanda DeVilliers
Facilities Coordinator – Glen Helm
Faith Formation Coordinator – Whitney Cragun
Organist/Pianist – Becky Klingelhofer
Choir Director – Scott Ruffing
Handbell Choir Director – Kevin Edstrom
Praise Team Directors – Becky Klingelhofer/Noreen Steinbrecher
Director of Outreach – Don Hales
Salem Outreach Facilitator – Dee Dee Frahm
Salem West Manager – Dennis Peterson
Salem West Delivery Leader – Steve Weishalla
Mustard Seed Manager – Deb Selk
Mustard Seed Assistant Manager – Julie Fritz
Mustard Seed Assistant – Joey Serfling

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Wedding Coordinators: Kim Coughlin, Sherri Godfrey
Cradle Roll: Jessica Jones
Altar Care: Barb Schiffler
Control Booth & Website: Meriellen Pisarek
Kitchen Coordinators: Sherri Godfrey, Kathi Sharp

Phone Numbers

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

Mark Carlson, VP	218.851.7236
Jake Frahm	218.772.0202
Diane Hein, President	218.678.2699
Joel Huntley	218.892.0360
Jeff Mitchell	651.260.8140
Meriellen Pisarek, Secretary	218.839.3608
Ken Stebbins	218.764.2587
Terry Tichenor, Treasurer	781.223.0258
John Wojciak	218.546.5983

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