

# Salem

United Methodist Church

## Forecaster

### Louis Busch Retires After 20 Years

We are grateful for his outstanding service!



Louis Busch has served as Salem's Building Superintendent for twenty years. After caring for several of our church buildings and properties, helping us through the flood and into our new facility, and serving the Lord and our congregation faithfully, he is now retiring from this staff position.

Louis strongly believes Salem's facilities represent God's house and, as such, should be treated and cared for with honor and respect. He considered it his responsibility to serve as a protector of God's house.

Through the years, Louis used his experience, gifts, and wisdom to make sure God's house was the best it could be. He cleaned, maintained, repaired, and restored. He worked with groups within and outside the church when they used our space, setting up and tearing down. He secured the building and handled calls during the night when an alarm would go off.

Louis has one project left that he would like to complete. He's still working on a mechanism to ring the bell safely at the touch of a button. We are looking forward to ringing our bell each Sunday morning as we gather for worship.

We are grateful for Louis' outstanding service. On Sunday, January 22, we said "thank you" during worship and presented him with a gift—a clock engraved with words acknowledging his twenty years of service to Salem.

The members of the congregation have an opportunity to say "thank you," as well. The Leadership Board invites everyone to shower Louis with cards of appreciation and, if you wish, a gift of money. You can send a card directly to his home (1643 20th Street NW, Cedar Rapids IA 52405) or bring it to the church office and we'll deliver.

We are grateful for Louis and all that he has contributed to Salem through his careful attention to our church properties over the last twenty years. We're also very pleased to announce that Kory Thomas has been hired as the new Building Superintendent, with Louis' stamp of approval!



Photo credit: Richard Pankey

#### In This Issue:

- Louis Busch Retires After 20 Years
- State of the Church 2017
- Worship Series—Following Jesus
- Calendar
- GriefShare
- Outreach: Valentine Bags for Children in Area Hospitals
- Mission: JFON
- In Gratitude
- Adora S. Jones Ministerial Trust Scholarships
- Leadership Board Report

## State of the Church 2017



John Louk, Pastor

Each year, in assessing the state of Salem, we take a look at some benchmark statistics. Our membership now includes 254 professing adults. We also have 40 baptized infants and children— so 294 total. That’s an increase of 21 members.

This past year 7 members died and 2 withdrew their membership. We received 28 new members. That means we have received 109 new members since arriving at our current location a little over six years ago!



Our weekly worship attendance averaged 210 this past year, a very slight increase from 209 the previous year. This is an area that needs some attention and intention. Gathering weekly for worship is a central action for followers of Jesus. 254 professing members have vowed to be present. Of those, some will be sick or out of town, but we also have 40 baptized children. Their parents vowed to raise them in the church. We also have a significant number of active non-members who regularly worship, and guests join us frequently, too. We could potentially have 300-350 any given week. Therefore, it’s not that remarkable to suggest our average weekly worship attendance should be 250, at least. A vital practice for us is gathering each week to worship our God and to be formed as God’s people in the way of Jesus.

*“A vital practice for us is gathering each week to worship our God and to be formed as God’s people in the way of Jesus.”*

Baptisms and professions of faith are also key indicators, showing us how many new Christians we are reaching. Last year we celebrated 2 baptisms (1 infant and 1 youth). Of our 28 new members, 8 were by profession of faith (4 of those were Confirmations).



So how did we engage our people? In our discipleship pathway, 38 people participated in Connecting Point and 24 of those attended at least one follow up Connect session.

We recorded 20 youth on Wednesday evenings, 17 children in Sunday school, 39 children in VBS, and 130 adults in special Lent small groups, Sunday school, and regular small groups. Therefore, we have engaged 206 children, youth, and adults in learning, growing, and practicing following Jesus.



Financially, our giving continues to increase, including the use of electronic giving through our website. We received \$280,000 from giving income while our expenses were \$253,000, ending the year with a surplus of \$27,000! This is fantastic! By comparison, giving the previous year was \$253,000 and we ended \$1,600 ahead.

We ended our first three-year capital campaign, Salem Rising, receiving \$419,000. Incredibly, this is \$14,000 more than was pledged originally!

(Continued on page 9)

**How are we doing at making disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world?**



## Worship Series — *Following Jesus*

In February we continue the worship series on discipleship, *Following Jesus*. After first looking at the call to discipleship, we have now turned our attention to Jesus' teaching for followers in the Sermon on the Mount. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, said the teaching of Jesus found within the Sermon on the Mount is the "sum of all true religion." This is ordinary time on the Christian calendar, so the liturgical color is green, for growth. Come and worship!

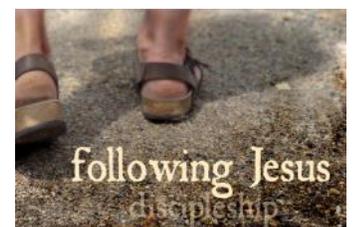
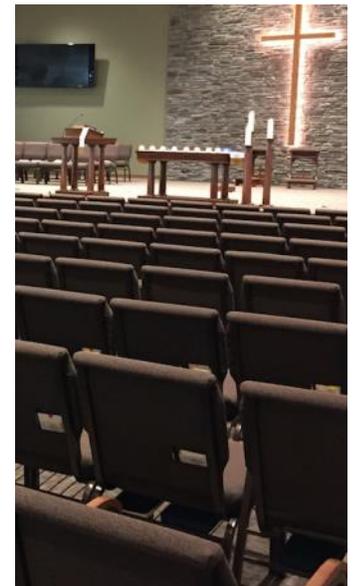
- |        |  |   |
|--------|--|---|
| Feb 5  | Following Jesus                          |   |
|        | Isaiah 58:1-12                           | False and True Worship                    |
|        | Psalms 112:1-10                          | Blessings of the Righteous                |
|        | I Corinthians 2:1-16                     | The Wisdom of God                         |
|        | Matthew 5:13-20                          | Salt and Light, Law and Prophets          |
|        | Holy Communion                           |   |
| Feb 12 | Following Jesus                          |   |
|        | Deuteronomy 30:15-20                     | Exhortation to Choose Life                |
|        | Psalms 119:1-8                           | The Glories of God's Law                  |
|        | I Corinthians 3:1-9                      | We Are God's Servants, Working Together   |
|        | Matthew 5:21-37                          | Anger, Adultery, Divorce, Oaths           |
| Feb 19 | Following Jesus                          |   |
|        | Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18                   | Ritual and Moral Holiness                 |
|        | Psalms 119:33-40                         | Teach Me Your Way, O Lord                 |
|        | I Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23                    | You Are God's Temple                      |
|        | Matthew 5:38-48                          | Retaliation and Love for Enemies          |
|        | Holy Communion                           |   |
| Feb 26 | Following Jesus (Transfiguration Sunday) |   |
|        | Exodus 24:12-18                          | Moses On the Mountain with God            |
|        | Psalms 99                                | The Lord Is King, Let the Peoples Tremble |
|        | 2 Peter 1:16-21                          | Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory            |
|        | Matthew 17:1-9                           | The Transfiguration of Jesus              |

**Come and Worship!**

**Sundays**

*9 AM—Contemporary*

*11 AM—Traditional*



# February 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 1 PM Mission Team	3 5 PM District Lay Servant Training	4 8 AM UM Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM District Lay Servant Training
5 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9 AM Lectionary Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Worship	6	7 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Prayer Room 6:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	8 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 5 PM Ministry Teams Leaders Meeting 6 PM Salem Son Walkers Emmaus Reunion Group 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 9:30 AM UMW Sarah Circle 5:55 PM UMW Rachel Circle	10	11
12 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9 AM Lectionary Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Worship 12:30 PM Women's Care Group	13	14 6:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	15 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 12 PM Golden Links 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 5 PM UMM Soup Supper	27	18
19 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9 AM Lectionary Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Worship	20 <u>January Forecaster articles due to church office</u>	21 9:30 AM Prayer Room 5:15 PM Leadership Board 6:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	22 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6 PM Salem Son Walkers Emmaus Reunion Group 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30 PM Baby Boomers	24	25
26 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9 AM Lectionary Class 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 Connecting Point 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Worship 2 PM Pine Ridge North Condo Assoc. Mtg	27 5 PM GriefShare	28 12:30 PM Cards & Fellowship 6:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study				<b>Salem Office hours:</b> Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed holidays)

## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 2 Marge Ebinger
- 2 Marcia Humphrey
- 2 David Davis
- 2 Meg Dunnwald
- 3 Deb Black
- 7 Mike Lauderdale
- 8 Khloe Mlynarczyk
- 8 Roberta Sweet
- 9 Judy Thomas
- 9 John Louk
- 10 Kellie Lauderdale
- 10 Rick Lindo
- 12 Felix Ellis
- 13 Vansky Berice
- 14 Kyler Soukup
- 16 Tim Nolan
- 20 Melissa Jacobus



- 21 Pam Moore
- 25 Jane Knapp
- 25 Debra Fritz
- 26 Ryan Rand
- 27 Evelyn Prasil
- 28 Lester Mikulecky

### Anniversaries:

- 14 James & JoEllen Jacobus
- 14 Shari & Dan Kendall
- 15 Bob & Josie Lanz

## GriefShare Support Ministry

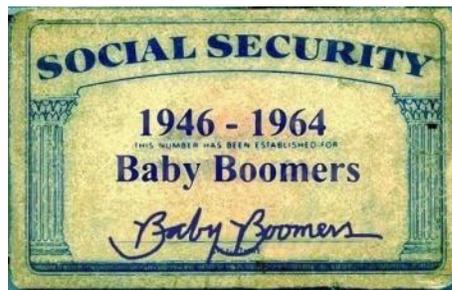


GriefShare is a positive, uplifting, caring group in which you can learn to deal with the emotions and

challenges that come when a loved one dies. Anyone who has experienced the death of a family member or friend is invited to attend our GriefShare series. The sessions will start Monday, February 27th. They will be held in our Lower Level Room 5 from 5-7 PM. For additional information and to register, please contact Deb Black, 319-350-8843, or [d.black@salemchurchcr.com](mailto:d.black@salemchurchcr.com).

## Are You a Baby Boomer?

Were you born between the years of 1946 and 1964? Would you like to meet other Baby Boomers from your Salem family? Let's get together and organize a social/ministry group comprised of Baby Boomers. Come join us for a Kick-Off Pot Luck Dinner on Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Beverage and table service will be provided. Bring a dish to share and your ideas for what you would like this group to look like – ministries, social events, etc.



Questions, please contact Linda Curson at [lcursion@me.com](mailto:lcursion@me.com) or (319) 651-8029; or Donna Borntreger at [donnaborntreger@gmail.com](mailto:donnaborntreger@gmail.com) or (319) 213-1077.

## United Methodist Women Nan Livingston, President



**Sarah Circle** will meet February 9 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Program by Dorothy Higdon, a pledge service that will help us understand some of what our pledge dollars

do around the world, "A Community United by Giving." Joan Erbe is hostess. Hope to see everyone as we begin a new year!

**Rachel Circle** will meet February 9 at 5:55 PM in Fellowship Hall.

## United Methodist Men

Mark Minger

United Methodist Men's breakfast is Saturday, February 4 at 8 AM in Fellowship Hall. The program on Genealogy will be presented by Duane Fenstermann of Decorah. RSVP to Jeff Cook at 319-393-9180.



## Women's Care Group



Women's Care Group meets monthly to encourage and care for one another, and to extend that care beyond the walls of Salem.

Please plan to join us Sunday, February 12 at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. We will have a potluck meal, fellowship, and uplifting encouragement.

## Outreach—Valentine Bags for Children in Area Hospitals

Join the Outreach Team in sharing Valentine Day wishes with children in area hospitals. Show your love by placing cards or individually wrapped treats in the bags located in Fellowship Hall by February 10. For additional information, please contact Debbie Klatt at [debbienkc@yahoo.com](mailto:debbienkc@yahoo.com) or 816-668-6101.



## February Mission Focus: JFON

Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) is a mission/ministry that welcomes immigrants by providing affordable, high quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants; engaging in advocacy for immigrant rights; offering education to communities of faith and the public.

Together and individually, our support makes a difference as the program depends on generous financial support. The program is one of the Iowa United Methodist Church's Advance Specials #375. Attorneys are paid a missionary salary plus expenses. Cedar Rapids is one location in Iowa where immigrants come to see attorneys. Other locations are Columbus Junction, Ottumwa, Des Moines, & Storm Lake.



For stories of some of the lives JFON has impacted, please visit [www.iowajfon.com](http://www.iowajfon.com).

You can also contact Dorothy or Dave Higdon at (319)294-1161 or [d.higdon39@gmail.com](mailto:d.higdon39@gmail.com).

## Mission Thank You

We can serve the Lord by serving others! Last November, we gave 144 blessing bags to Willis Dady, Mission of Hope, and Madge Phillips Shelter. In December 2016 we collected 95 children's books and over \$700 for Change A Child's Story. We will buy additional books with the money given

and deliver them to our neighborhood school, Van Buren Elementary. In 2016 Salem delivered almost 800 pounds of food to the Linn County Food Bank. Thank you for supporting missions at Salem. This support can come by way of prayer, finances, or time and labor to help others in our community.

## All Golden-Agers Welcome!



PLEASE NOTE—CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME for Golden Links beginning in February. We have changed the time and date—12:00 noon on

February 15, the third Wednesday from now on. Same place, Pizza Ranch at 2450 Westdale Drive SW. We just sent Valentines to the VA Hospital in Iowa City for the veterans to enjoy. Please join us!

Call Jeff Cook (393-9180), Judy Thomas (390-6574) or Dick Talbott (247-9919) for information.

## In Gratitude

A huge thanks to all of you who made contributions to the mitten tree this year. There were 27 scarves, 173 hats, 191 pairs of gloves and mittens, 24 sets of hats plus mittens, and 42 baby/toddler items for a total of 481 that were distributed to 8 grade schools, 3 middle schools and the Madge Phillips Center.

This project was originally started 40-50 years ago by the Mariners Sunday School class and Taylor School was the recipient of the proceeds of 50-75 pairs of mittens and gloves. It has been an ongoing project every year since it started and now most of the west side schools benefit from the project which now includes hats and scarves as well as the gloves and mittens.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Submitted by Kathy Wickham on behalf United Methodist Women who now spearhead the project.

---

We want to thank our Salem Church family for your caring emails, phone calls, cards and most of all your prayers during my recent surgery. Thank you, Pastor John, for your phone calls and special prayers. You all helped us get through this journey.

Mike Beaton, Carole and Kristine



Thank you for your generous hearts that warm our Hoover Little Hawks' heads, hands, and hearts! We truly appreciate the hats and gloves/mittens you provided for our students! With our diverse population, it's amazing the needs we see every day. You are angels!! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Hoover Elementary School

---

Dear Salem Church,

This is Connie Russell—daughter of Don & Kay Feldmann. This is much overdue! Here is a small donation to the church for being able to use the wonderful facility for a baby shower for my daughter. We had a wonderful time together with family and friends! I so appreciate you opening the doors for us. It meant a lot. Deb Black was wonderful in helping us out that day as well. Again, I thank you as well as my daughter.

With God's Love,  
Connie Russell

## State of the Church 2017 (continued from page 2)

Financial consultants say churches rarely receive the full amount pledged and never receive more. Salem, you are exceptional! Pledging in the fall for our new debt reduction campaign, Generation to Generation, is keeping us on track to meet our responsibilities.

Regarding apportionments, we paid 50% of Conference Missions and Ministries as well as 100% of General Church apportionments (about \$25,000). Our goal is to increase again to 60% in 2017. We are working our way back to paying our apportionments in full, supporting the ministry and mission of The United Methodist Church locally and throughout the world.



We make a difference in the world, supporting mission locally and globally. Locally, we support jail ministry (chaplaincy), Green Square Meals (feeding the hungry), the Ecumenical Center (care and services), Helping Hands (for emergency needs), the food bank (feeding the hungry), Change a Child's Story (giving books to local school children and reading with them), and shelters (Willis Dady, Mission of Hope, Madge Phillips) with both money and our "blessing bags" (hygiene needs). We also gave 481 scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens to 8 grade schools, 3 middle schools, and the Madge Phillips Center.

In Iowa we support Justice for Our Neighbors (free legal services for low income immigrants), Women at the Well (a church in the women's prison), and the Builder's Call (helping other

congregations with a building project – Salem received this too).

Globally, we help transform the world by supporting African missionaries Larry and Jane Kies, our own Momodu Kamara and Books without Borders (books sent to Sierra Leone), UMCOR health and school kits, Personal Energy Transportation (PET) carts, the Crop Walk (feeding hungry), Heifer International (livestock for farmers and families), and Church World Service (blankets for shelter).

Besides our apportionment giving (\$25,000), our mission giving is over \$12,000, plus 758 pounds of food, plus tons of books, plus time reading, plus 144 blessing bags, plus 160 school and health kits, plus 3 PET carts! Way to go, Salem!



We also intentionally reached out to the people of our neighborhoods and city. We connected with hundreds and hundreds of people at our Easter Egg Hunt, the Cleaning Up Cancer Carnival, and our Trunk or Treat. We also reached out through our Valentine's Project (special treats for kids in the hospital), Vacation Bible School, Veteran's Project (blessing bags for local veterans), Project Linus (hand-made blankets for ill children), and Cocoa and Carols (caroling for neighbors and homebound). All of this is excellent. As we move forward, however, it is essential we determine and implement how best to reach out and engage the unchurched world around us.

(Continued on page 10)

## State of the Church 2017 (continued from page 9)

After being in our new facility for a year, we completed four more big projects: the new kitchen renovation, housing the bell from downtown, interior decorating, and tuning the audio system in the sanctuary.

We had some big staff changes. Bill Heald (Traditional Music Director) and Louis Busch (Building Superintendent) each retired after serving on staff for twenty years. We had a great traditional music transition with Linda Curson taking over as our new choir director

and Julia Titus as our new organist. We also hired a new Administrative Assistant, Julie Lefebure, who did a phenomenal job this past year.

Obviously, 2016 was another fruitful year for us. I'm grateful to be able to present a State of the Church report filled with Good News. Thank you for being a part of Salem!

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk

## Adora S. Jones Ministerial Trust Scholarships

The Adora S. Jones Ministerial Trust was established by a lovely lady, who was a school teacher and a longtime member of Salem Church. It was Adora's wish to use the income from the trust to provide scholarships to seminary students from the State of Iowa who desire to preach the gospel. Salem members Bob Thompson, Tim King and Nancy Rawson are the selection administrators for these scholarships.

This year eight students were selected to receive awards. They are Elizabeth Bell, Luann Bengé, Rebecca Cali, Laurel Fraser, Wendy Musgrave, Keith Pitts, Melinda Stonebraker, and Brian Williams. They are studying at various seminaries such as Garrett-Evangelical Theological, Asbury Theological, Wesley Theological, Iliff School of Theology, University of Dubuque Theological, and Duke Divinity School. A total of \$10,496 was awarded this year by the Trust.

Over the past 18 years, 211 scholarships have been awarded with a total of \$281,736 distributed.

The response has been heartwarming including the following excerpts from their thank-you letters:



ADORA JONES

"Thank you so much for this blessing. It is a big answer to prayer..."

"I am very grateful and will work hard to make it a good investment."

"I plan to use some of this funding to help me make a pilgrimage to Israel with my seminary this May."

"Your gift lives on as those leaders continue to impact lives in the congregations they serve as a result of their education."

"I am honored to be selected and to live into Adora Jones's legacy in pursuit of the gospel."

## Report of the Leadership Board

Following the subcommittee meetings at 5:15 PM, the full board met at 5:44 PM. LB Chair Nancy Rawson led the meeting. She opened with scripture readings from Jeremiah 29:11-14 and Esther 4:14 and followed with prayer.

**Treasurer's Report** – Linda Curson reported on the income and expenses for 2016. Giving was very generous while expenses were very close to expectations; so the church ended the year with over \$27,000 of net income. Actual expenses will form the basis of the 2017 budget. Donations to the capital campaign in 2016 also exceeded pledges. Further analysis on the capital campaign will be made and discussed at the February meeting.

**Leadership Board Development/Training** – Rev. Louk led a session on leadership development during which he defined leadership, explained Salem's structure, and clarified the roles of the LB subcommittees and the expectations of the members of the LB. He also reviewed the LB goals for 2017 and challenged members to be prepared to answer the question, "Why Jesus?"

**State of the Church** – Rev. Louk discussed some of the data that is being collected to include in his State of the Church 2017 article in the February Forecaster. This data includes average worship attendance in 2016, membership numbers, the financial state of the church, and Salem's generous giving to missions.

**Trustees** – Work on the construction of a storage area in Fellowship Hall for tables and chairs has been delayed but will begin once the contractor is healthy enough to work. •Another meeting is scheduled for January 30 with neighbors who have lots backing up to the church's property to discuss water run-off issues. A city representative will also attend. •A planned maintenance agreement from LADCO covering the air conditioning, heating, and air filtration systems at Salem was presented. This agreement would cover two annual (spring and fall) inspections of the systems. The Trustees will seek a comparison bid from another company and the Board will revisit this proposal next month. •An energy audit of our facility is under consideration. •A lock-up schedule has been created for the first four months of the year. •A letter has been

## Meeting Notes 1-17-17

received stating that a backflow prevention test is needed. This will be investigated. •A power outage on January 14 has once again affected speakers in the sanctuary. R&D will review the situation and advise us of what we need to do so this doesn't keep happening.

**Stewardship** – Written procedures for handling money received by the church are nearing completion. The 2017 budget will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

**SPRC** – Annual staff evaluations will be conducted. Kory Thomas has been hired as the new Building Superintendent. He will also cover the custodian duties for the time being. A way to honor Louis Busch for his twenty years of service as Building Superintendent was discussed.

**Other Items** – LB members are encouraged to attend the East Central District Leadership Training Event, Healthy Congregations, Hopeful Future, at Salem on January 29. Participants will have the opportunity to attend two workshops of their choice and a corporate worship time. Several webinars focusing on leadership development are also available from the United Methodist Church.

**Closing** – Nancy Rawson closed with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.





## February 2017 Forecaster

3715 33rd Avenue SW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

319-362-6178  
office@salemchurchcr.com  
www.salemchurchcr.com  
www.facebook.com/salem.cr

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Salem's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.  
"connecting people, building community, transforming lives through Jesus"**

---

### Salem's Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship	Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Lectionary Class	Lower Level Room 6
10:00 AM	Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall
10:10 AM	Sunday School	Lower Level
11:00 AM	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary

*Nursery for infants through 4-year-olds is available on the Lower Level during worship services and Sunday School.*



Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM  
(closed standard holidays)