



# Salem

United Methodist Church  
Forecaster

## Pastoral Transition

### Farewell, Pastor John

Our congregation doesn't have a lot of experience with pastoral transitions. Salem has only had three pastors in the last 30 years. Rev. Carroll Brown served for 7 years in the 1990s. Rev. Linda Bibb served 10 years. Now, Rev. John Louk is concluding his thirteenth year before moving to his new appointment, the Waukee United Methodist Church in the Des Moines metropolitan area.

Fifteen years ago the Waukee congregation purchased land for a new church facility. They completed three capital campaigns and officially voted last week to move forward on the planned building project, including selling their current facility. They intend to break ground in September. Their new location will be right in the middle of the fastest growing school district in the state.

Pastor John's last day at Salem will be Sunday, June 13. The Leadership Board is planning a reception after the service to give the congregation a chance to say goodbye before Pastor John, Joy, and their youngest daughter, Mara, move to Waukee. Their middle daughter, Ann, who is engaged to be married, will remain in Cedar Rapids. Their oldest daughter, Kaitlyn and her husband, Dana, and their baby, Juniper—Pastor John and Joy's first grandchild!—live in

Coralville. The last thirteen years have brought many blessings!

As previously announced, Rev. Matt German will begin his tenure as Salem's pastor on July 6, with the following Sunday, July 11, his first worship service with our congregation. Pastor Matt is concluding his time as Associate Pastor at Cedar Falls First UMC.

A congregation encounters an entire spectrum of experiences and emotions during a pastoral transition, including anxiety, memories, gratitude, grief, closure, laughter, uncertainty, hope, faith, love, and joy. All of this can be good and meaningful. It's part of the journey following Jesus. Through this time, remember: "One doesn't discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time" (André Gide, French novelist).



## In This Issue:

- Pastoral Transition
- Last Words
- June Worship —  
*Ordinary Time*
- Finance Update
- Spring Clean-up Day
- Mission Focus:  
UMCOR  
Hygiene Kits
- Leadership Board  
Report

## Last Words



John Louk, Pastor

accomplishment  
affirmation  
anticipation

“Now these are the last words of David... The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue” (2 Samuel 23:1-4). At the end, after all the good and bad in King David’s life, the first thing he proclaimed was that the Lord spoke through him.

As I come to the end of my time, serving as the pastor of Salem, I can say, with David, one of the great things about being a preacher is that the Spirit of the Lord condescends to speak through me. Of course, as we just witnessed at Pentecost last week, the Spirit speaks through you and this congregation, too. Merely by speaking, God makes things happen, and speaking through us, God has accomplished much!

**Accomplishment.** I arrived just a couple weeks after the Flood of 2008 that destroyed the downtown church building. But God spoke through us and made things happen. We cleaned up. We decided to move on from that location. We sojourned from church to church until we landed at our current location more than two years after the flood. We put a building committee together and raised money with capital campaigns. We built a beautiful new facility. We reached new people, receiving nearly 120 new members in five years. We worshiped each week, reading and proclaiming God’s Word, nurtured people on the journey of following Jesus, supported and served people in our city, conference, country, and world. See what God has done in our midst, merely by speaking through us!

**Affirmation.** After thirteen years, I’m now moving to serve another congregation at the beginning of their building project. Of course the Spirit isn’t abandoning Salem. You continue to be God’s people. King David says just as the Spirit speaks through him so the Spirit will continue to speak through his house. The Spirit continues to speak through you too, Salem. You will continue to be the Church, the body of Christ.

Stanley Hauerwas, a longtime professor at Duke University, was named “America’s

Best Theologian” by *Time* magazine. He says the Church is to be a community of character. One of his students, Rodney Clapp, summarized Hauerwas’ understanding of the church in an article: “Worshiping together and supporting one another in community, Christians are a sign to the world. Sustained by the miracle of the Holy Spirit, the church is a palpable presence proving, by its existence and unique character, that the way of the world is not the only way—and certainly not the true way—to live” (*Christianity Today*, September 5, 1986).

**Anticipation.** Moving forward, I am excited to see how God speaks through you. This has been a difficult year. The Church will not be the same as it was before the pandemic. That’s okay! That same thing was true with the flood. Indeed, much changed and Salem today is not the same as prior to the flood. Still, Salem not only recovered but burst forth a faithful, fruitful, and healthy congregation. God is speaking, and the Spirit of the Lord will do so much through you.

Near the end of the New Testament book, *Revelation*, there is a vision of a new heaven and new earth. God says, “See, I am making all things new” (21:5). God doesn’t make all new things but all things (that already exist) new. God is speaking through you to make you new and Salem new and the Cedar Rapids community new and the entire creation new.

Thank you for this thirteen year adventure. Thank you for your love and support and faithfulness. Thank you for trusting God to lead us to new places and do new things and be a witness. Thank you for allowing the Spirit to speak through you.

God be with you till we meet again. May “the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

John Louk

## June Worship — Ordinary Time

In June we enter into the season after Pentecost, which is simply called Ordinary Time. This season begins the day after Pentecost (May 24) and ends the day before the First Sunday of Advent (November 28), essentially half the year.

Worship continues to be offered online each week and now in-person every week. In-person worship will continue with one service in June at 10:30 AM (we previously thought we might move back to two services but will wait for Pastor Matt to arrive to make decisions). In light of the CDC's new relaxed mask guidance for fully vaccinated persons, the Leadership Board determined Salem's policy for moving forward:

"Masking inside the church building is now optional. We will maintain our other precautions and social distancing requirements." \*Please remember that just because the CDC has lifted the Covid Rules, there are persons in our faith community who have not been vaccinated such as: infants, youth, adults, and immune compromised people who are still at risk from contracting and/or spreading Covid-19. We strongly encourage these persons to continue wearing masks.

Online worship premieres live at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings on Facebook, YouTube, and our website. The links are [www.facebook.com/salem.cr](http://www.facebook.com/salem.cr), [www.salemchurch.life](http://www.salemchurch.life), and <http://youtube.com/channel/UCnWq4K2wc3F0nmk8h9y8Xjw>. The video continues to be available on demand anytime during the week.

Let us know if you have any questions, and if you need or prefer, we will provide you with a DVD of online worship or a paper copy of the sermon and prayers.

June 6 **Ordinary Time** (*in-person at 10:30 AM; online premiere at 9:30 AM*)  
Holy Communion during worship using prepackaged elements

June 13 **Pastor John's Final Sunday**  
(*in-person at 10:30 AM; online premiere at 9:30 AM*)

June 20 **Transition Sunday Between Pastors**  
(*in-person at 10:30 AM; online premiere at 9:30 AM*)

June 27 **Transition Sunday Between Pastors**  
(*in-person at 10:30 AM; online premiere at 9:30 AM*)

*As a reminder, the worship videos continue to be available online anytime after they premiere.*

**Come and Worship!**

**Sundays**

9:30 AM—Online

10:30 AM—In-person

**\*(In-person worship will continue with one service in June at 10:30 AM)**



## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 6 Mia Frame
- 7 Louis Busch
- 8 Kathy Wickham
- 8 Keeton Oltman
- 9 Donna Sanders
- 11 Morgan Studt
- 11 Emerson Bergmann
- 11 Addie Rand
- 11 Simon Vieira
- 13 Max Burrier
- 14 Shelly Johnson
- 14 Bill Lefebure
- 15 Paul Meyer
- 16 Delores McKenzie
- 17 Heidi Pankey
- 18 Hap Junge
- 21 Karen Beltramea
- 24 Charlie Thomas
- 25 Tim Schilling
- 27 Larry Janda
- 28 Linda Curson
- 29 Westley Ellis
- 30 Jim Carver



### Anniversaries:

- 1 Kyle & Dolores Cross
- 6 Frank & Pat Conrad
- 7 Richard & Heidi Pankey
- 9 Jim & Percy Caviness
- 9 Dave & Dorothy Higdon
- 13 Dave & Ginnie Clark
- 17 Harold & Patty Wischmeyer
- 20 John & Joy Louk
- 20 Bob & Grace Thompson
- 23 Dave & Cheryl Davis
- 29 Troy & Kelly Bergmann
- 29 Gary & Gayle Kennedy

## Congratulations, Graduates!



Congratulations to our 2021 graduates!

Clarissa Brownfield-Casey - Jefferson High School

Alyssa Cashen - Prairie High School

Casie Meyer - Kennedy High School

Ethan Tjaden - Washington High School

Wyatt Tjaden - Washington High School

Shallan Luckman - Kennedy High School

Elena Burrier - University of Northern Iowa and a Degree in English/Literature

Addie Rand - Luther College and a Bachelor of Arts in Nursing—RN

Khloe Mlynarczyk - University of Northern Iowa and a Master's Degree in Mathematics

Kyla Boas - Iowa State University and a DVM Dr. of Veterinary Medicine



## Finance Update

Salem Finance Update as of April 30, 2021	
<b>Operating Income (Annual Giving):</b>	
Offering Income	\$72,097
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Expenses to date	\$95,445
Net Amount of Income over/(under) Expenses	<b>\$(23,348)</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	
Offering Income	\$22,417
2021 Mortgage payments to date	28,415
Net Amount Income over/(under) Expenses	<b>\$(5,998)</b>
Building Fund Balance held in Reserve (5.1 months)	\$36,445

## Spring Clean-Up Day



We are having a Spring Clean-up Day on Saturday, June 19, from 9 AM till noon. The rain date is June 26. Inside and outside work needs done. We need your help! Call Kathy Wickham at (319) 573-9427 or email at [kathywickham3@gmail.com](mailto:kathywickham3@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for all your help.

## Thank You

Thank you to my Salem family for the cards, phone calls, text messages and your prayers I received following my surgery. Your love and support is greatly appreciated. Looking forward to seeing you all in church soon!

Chatty Lullmann



## Mission Focus: UMCOR Hygiene Kits

Joni Salazar

UMCOR Hygiene Kits help to care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis. They also help to sustain everyday life by providing basic necessities to people who lack ready access to essential supplies. These kits provide vital support for the work UMCOR does throughout the world. By donating kit supplies or financial gifts to purchase the supplies, you make a direct and tangible difference in sustaining people's lives. Our priority must be to get aid to the most vulnerable populations. Hygiene Kits help disaster victims reclaim their dignity and self-respect and are used as teaching tools with children. When people can maintain personal hygiene, their overall health improves. The Salem Mission Team have baggies ready for you to put the items into which are located in the Mission Room.

- 1 Hand Towel
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Comb (6 inch or longer)



- 1 Fingernail Clippers
- 1 Bar of Soap (No Ivory or Jergens)
- 1 Adult Toothbrush
- 10 Band-Aids
- \$1 for Toothpaste
- \$1 Shipping

If giving by text, code is HKITS. Questions? Contact Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or [kenwvol@crschools.us](mailto:kenwvol@crschools.us).

## Salem Servants



How are you serving beyond the walls of the church? This is a great way to make a difference in the world. Salem Servants are serving at Green Square Meals at the Ecumenical Community Center every first and fourth Thursday of the month, starting June 24, from 3:45 – 6:15 PM. Contact Linda Curson at [lcurson@me.com](mailto:lcurson@me.com) or (319) 651-8029 to help serve.

## Report of the Leadership Board

5-18-2021

The monthly Board meeting opened with prayer at 6:40 PM. Those attending were Amy Schilling, Donna Sanders, Jeremy Hague, Lowell Johnson, Linda Curson, Richard Pankey, Jan Johnson, and Pastor John.

### Loving, Learning, and Leading –

**Loving** – The Leadership board shared personal updates. Jeremy shared the Salem Softball Team won their first game!

**Learning** – Pastor John shared some information on what to expect with a Pastoral change. The church is the host for the first six months. This means we as a congregation need to welcome, guide, and assist the new pastor during this transitional phase. Once the new Pastor is acclimated we will move into the Start-up phase.

**Leading** –

**Stewardship** - Linda Curson shared that giving for April was \$20,241, a decrease from the last month. We are running a total **deficit of \$23,348** YTD. This is becoming a concern and we discussed ways to share this message with church members.

**SPRC** – We were able to use Memorial Funds to purchase a new computer for Pastor Matt.

Pastor Matt's moving day is June 29. We discussed providing him with a Welcome Basket, as well as offering assistance with his move. His first official day is July 6, and his first sermon will be July 11.

We are now part of the Pictured Rocks District (formerly East Central District) and Pastor Matt will be a Circuit Leader within the district. Each circuit will have a monthly meeting. Pastor Matt will have some additional duties for this role.

**CAT (Church Assessment Tool)** – LB is encouraging all to complete the CAT assessment tool. The results will be shared on June 15. Pastor Matt will be able to use the results to help guide the church forward.

Pastor John's last Sunday is June 13. We are planning to have a reception after the service to say "Good-bye" and possibly a lunch following the second service. Details to be finalized in an upcoming planning committee meeting.

**Trustees** - Derecho damage repair to the church has been completed except for removal of the west out building, they need drier weather to complete the demolition so as not to tear up the grounds.

We have hired a lawn mowing service to cover until our regular person is recovered. The lawn mower has been sent in for repair, waiting on parts to complete the job.

We are looking to move forward with a Spring-Cleaning Day. Will put together a list of 4-6 projects we would like to complete and set up day/time.

**Additional Discussion** – CDC and Annual Conference recommend fully green \*for fully vaccinated people,\* and yellow (caution) for unvaccinated individuals. After much discussion it was decided to follow CDC guidelines and lift mask mandate for fully vaccinated individuals with an asterisk: \*Please remember that just because the CDC has lifted the Covid Rules, there are persons in our faith community who have not been vaccinated such as: infants, youth, adults, and immune compromised people who are still at risk from contracting and/or spreading Covid-19. We strongly encourage these persons to continue wearing masks.

Additionally, we will continue social distancing requirements.

Small groups can now have food and if vaccinated can meet without masks.

We will look to implement Fellowship Time at some point in the future; however, we need to reach out to the previous leaders or identify new leaders to get this coordinated.

At this time, we will forgo having a Nursery, this will be reviewed each month.

We discussed about going back to two services in June, but have decided to continue with one service at 10:30 AM at least until Pastor Matt arrives to help make a decision for the future.

Meeting closed with prayer at 8:49 PM.





## June 2021 Forecaster

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**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"**

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## Salem's Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 AM	Online Worship	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/salem.cr">www.facebook.com/salem.cr</a> <a href="http://www.salemchurch.life">www.salemchurch.life</a> <a href="http://www.salemchurchcr.com">www.salemchurchcr.com</a>
10:30 AM	In-person Worship	Sanctuary

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

