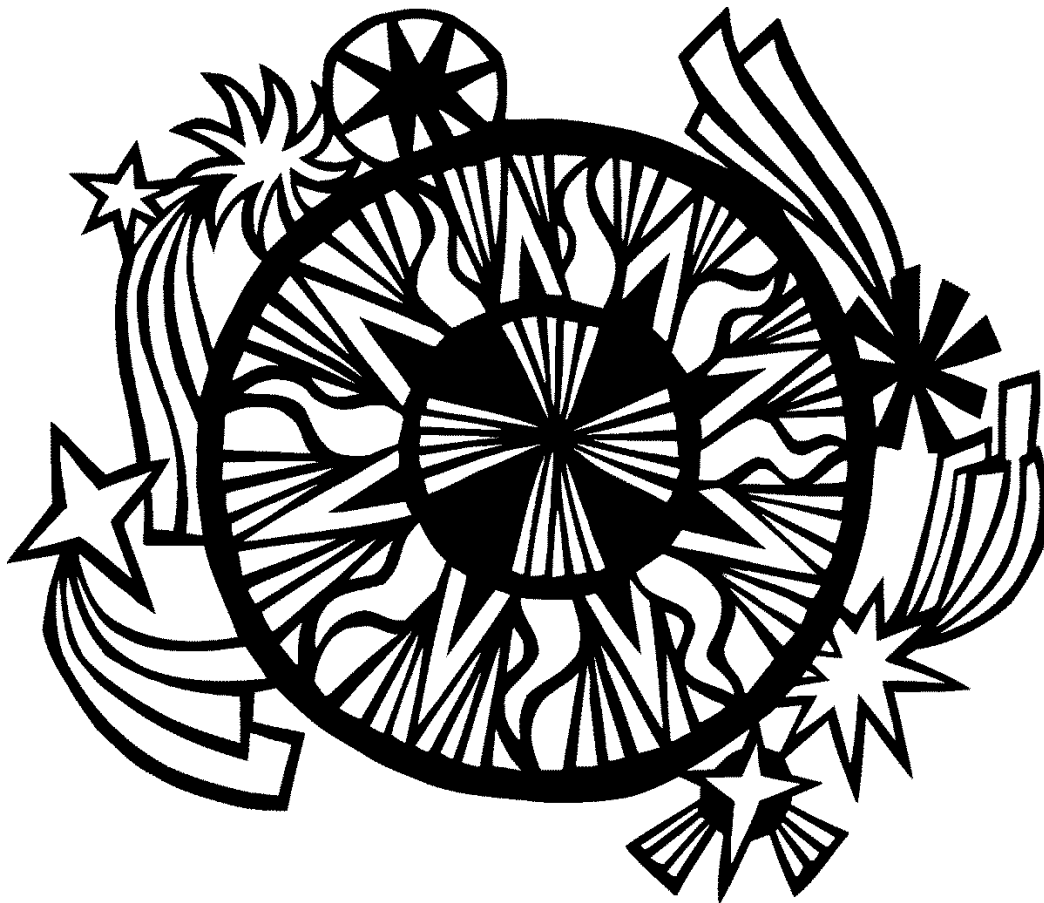




**Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450**

Welcome to the House of the Lord

**Second Sunday after Christmas
January 4, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.**



Salem's Mission and Vision

We are God forgiven and mission driven.

As God's people...we desire to be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a- forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS LITANY

Welcome the Light

In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy child was born.

Welcome the Light!

By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way.

Welcome the Light!

Shown by a courtyard fire, the open stable door.

Welcome the Light!

Warm breath of resting beasts, kindly sparkle in their eyes.

Welcome the Light!

In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

Welcome the Light!

There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us.

Welcome the Light!

Angels opened the doors of heaven, sang, "Glory to God in the heights!"

Welcome the Light!

Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, left their sheep and came to see.

Welcome the Light!

In the darkest winter night, God set a brilliant star.

Welcome the Light!

Magi from the East divined God's shining sign.

Welcome the Light!

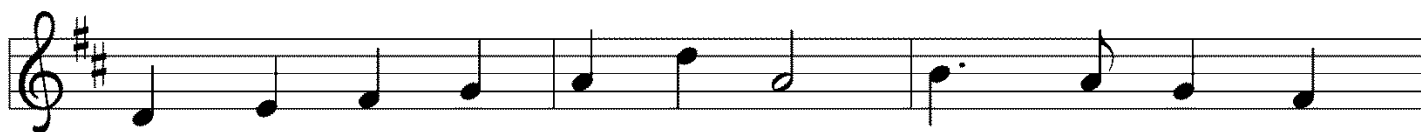
And on this Christmas night with joy, we greet the Child.

Welcome the Light!

GATHERING HYMN

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (verses 1-4)

ELW #301



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall

return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 147:12-20

The psalm will be spoken responsively beginning with the lector

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³**Who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

GOSPEL HYMN

O Word of God Incarnate

ELW #514



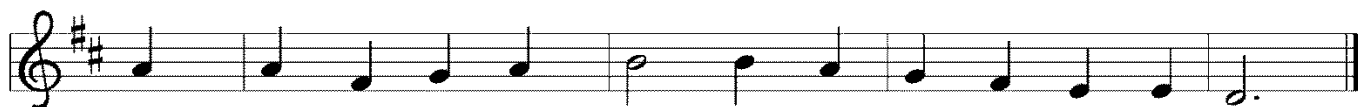
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - 'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

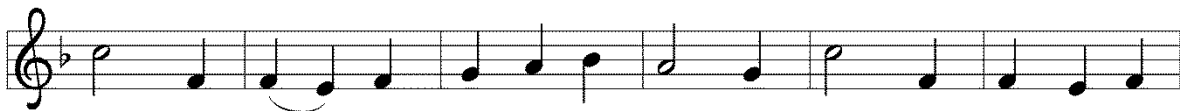
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Has Come

ELW #292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to the petitions: **your mercy is great.**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you make your presence known to the church in every land. Give to us a desire and will to support the diverse work of the church throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Generous Creator, in you all things came into being and without you not one thing exists. We praise you for the snow and rain that water the earth. Move us to care for the well-being of the work of your hands. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Savior of the nations, you gather in your care people of every age and ability, from lands near and far. Inspire the leaders of the nations to work for peace within their countries and in all the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving God, provide for your people who begin this new year in need. Grant shelter to those who are homeless, comfort to all who are lonely, and a strong sense of your presence to those who are sick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Word of truth, your good news of salvation is proclaimed among us. Bless all who proclaim your word in this community, especially teachers, pastors, deacons, musicians, and lectors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious One, your light shines in the darkness and it is not overcome. We thank you for the witnesses who have testified to your light. May their lives continue to inspire us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth

that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Love has come: God's love for all people.

Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✝ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Christ is born!

Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Christmas Litany — written by Jennifer Phillips, the Vicar of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Kingston, Rhode Island.

Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson

Pianist: Ruth Sheldon

The radio broadcast Sunday morning is given in honor of 30 years of friendship and 29 years of marriage by Melinda and Scot McCluskey.

Salem's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26th at 9:30 a.m.

The 2020 Annual Meeting Agenda and Ballot have been posted.

There will be one service at 8:30 a.m. and no Faith Formation January 26th.

Reserve your special date to sponsor a 2020 8:30 a.m. radio broadcast.

The 8:30 a.m. worship service is heard on KLOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City and on cable channel 2. Cost for 2020 is \$83. CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR DATE - 641.592.1771.

2020 BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

March 22, 29, April 26, May 3, 10, 24, June 14, 21,

July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 30, Sept. 6, 20, Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 27

2020 Senior High Youth Summer Trip to Outlaw Ranch – July 18-25th

This small-group adventure experience includes full-day or part-day adventures such as hiking or overnight backpacking, biking on the Mickelson Trail, lake and creek kayaking, caving, service projects, and the low ropes challenge course and trail ride. The week includes daily worship, Bible study, great food and awesome counselors.

**Registration & \$100 Deposit – January 19th. Overall cost approximately \$1000
Planning Meeting Wednesday, January 22nd at 8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.**

Upcoming Faith Formation Events...

JANUARY

- 5 Faith Formation Resumes
- 8 Confirmation Classes Resume
- 12 Play and Pray 9:35 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 9 Pray and Play 9:35 a.m.
4 year old-2nd grade sing at 10:30 service
Family BINGO Event 11:30 a.m.

MARCH

- 1 Ski Trip Mt Kato
- 8 Play & Pray 9:35 a.m.
5th Grade First Communion Class Begins
4 year old-2nd grade sing at 10:30 service
- 15 5th Grade First Communion Class
- 22 5th Grade First Communion Class
- 29 5th Grade First Communion Class

APRIL

- 5 Play and Pray 9:35 a.m.
5th Grade First Communion Class
4 year old-2nd grade sing at 10:30
- 9 Maundy Thursday – 5th Grade 1st
Communion
- 12 EASTER – Egg Hung at 9:45 a.m.

MAY

- 3 Confirmation Sunday
- 10 Last Day of Faith Formation
Play & Pray 9:35 a.m.

- 4 year old-2nd grade sing at 10:30
- 17 Graduation Sunday



Church Dashboard for Contributions 12/30/2019

LAST SUNDAY, 12/29/19: \$11,156

Year-to-date as of 12/30/19: \$279,612

Last year as of 12/30/18: \$321,428

DIFFERENCE YEAR-TO-DATE: -\$41,816

Attendance: Those worshipping December 28/29: 78

Salem's Clothes Closet is open Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Donations of new socks & underwear are always needed.

Please consider donating any new or gently used children's coats to the Clothes Closet.

Hats and mittens are also needed to keep our youngsters warm.

These items can be brought to the church office, or contact Rita Anderson.

'Thank You' from the Good Samaritan Committee.



THIS WEEK AT SALEM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Service - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Faith Formation; Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service – Sanctuary

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet Open – Room #7
- 2:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open
- 3:15 p.m. Cadette/Senior Scouts – Room #2

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Life & Growth Board – Library, Altar Guild – Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

- 2:15 p.m. Junior Scouts – Room #2
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation – Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

- 8:00 a.m. LifeServe Bloodmobile – Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Casual Worship Service – Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Faith Formation, Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service – Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Board - Library

Salem Contact Information:

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Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey: 563-581-9965

Ashley Hoffman, Communications:

Ruth Sheldon, Organist: 641.592.0184

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