



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

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2019 - 8:30 a.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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

What Child Is This

BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Second Week of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting the first candle.

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,
let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

ADVENT SONG**He Came Down**

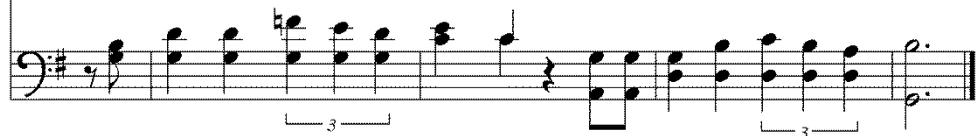
ELW #253 VERSE 1, 2



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.
Amen.

Let us come before the living God in confession.

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us.

Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, ☩ Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG**Blessed Be the God of Israel**

ELW #250

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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

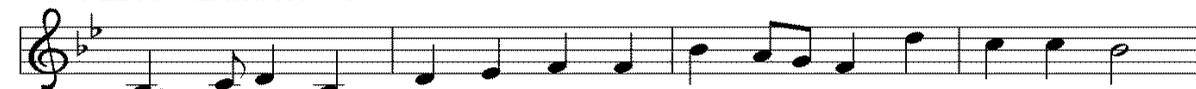
⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from

these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* **ELW #256**

CREED Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to the petitions: **hear our prayer.**

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.

Amen.

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding* **ELW #246**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Salem Lutheran Church Christmas Caroling
 Tuesday, December 17th
 Meet at the Salem Lounge at 5:30 p.m.
 Everyone is invited to carol.

Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson	Acolytes: Joa Gilbertson, Cody Cox
Assisting: Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey	Reader: Nora Pederson
Organist: Ruth Sheldon	Altar Guild for December: All Guild Members
Ushers: Dolly Gregor, Margaret Okland	



The Marine Corps Toys for Tots box is outside the church office!
 Unwrapped gifts may be placed in the box. Monetary donations are also appreciated. **Pickup up date is December 16.**



The radio broadcast this morning is given in honor of Faye Aamodt's 85th birthday, today, from the family.

Upcoming Faith Formation Events...

DECEMBER

- 8 Christmas Program at 10:30 service
- 15 Movie & Popcorn at 9:00 a.m.
- 22 No Faith Formation or Confirmation – Christmas Break
- 29 No Faith Formation or Confirmation – Christmas Break



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.

Church Dashboard for Contributions 12/03/2019
LAST SUNDAY, 12/01/19: \$4,435
Year-to-date as of 12/03/19: \$241,230
Last year as of 12/03/18: \$264,437
DIFFERENCE YEAR-TO-DATE: -\$23,207
Attendance: Those worshipping Nov. 30/Dec. 1: 122

2019 OPERATION CLOTHES FOR KIDS! Tenth Annual Operation Clothes for Kids
 Donations will be distributed throughout the Lake Mills School District to children ages birth to 18.
 Pick a Christmas Tag (with a child's needs/sizes on it) from one of the following tree locations: Salem Lutheran Church, Winnebago Lutheran Church, Word of Faith Dominion Church, Asbury United Methodist Church, Farmers Trust and Savings Bank, or Manufactures Bank and Trust.

Tags will be available for pick up starting Saturday, November 23th.
 Just in time for all those Black Friday deals! Purchase the items on the child's tag, wrap in one box, attach the original tag to the gift, and **deliver/return to one of the listed locations by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18.**

Feel free to join together in order to share the cost of a tag(s). Cash donations are accepted at the banks or send to the LMCS Nurse's Office, 102 S 4th Avenue E, Lake Mills, IA 50450

Good Gifts Barnyard Tree

This year Salem is again encouraged to purchase farm animals through ELCA Good Gifts. The tree in the main entry area (by the elevator) will be full of ornaments the First Sunday of Advent. To participate pick an ornament and take it home for your tree. Put your check (payable to Salem) for that amount in an envelope in the offering plate or the safe outside the office. Designate on the memo line of your check which animal you purchased. This is a good gift idea for hard-to-buy family members!





Angel Tree – A Little History

The Angel Tree was started in 2000 by the Miriam Circle members. If you have purchased an angel in the past you can also pick up an angel and either hang it on the Angel Memory Tree or take it home to enjoy on your own tree. All previously dedicated angels are recorded in the memory book. There is no charge to dedicate an angel.

To dedicate a new angel you can pick up an angel from the basket near the tree and hang it on the tree yourself anytime you wish. A book will be on the table where you can write the name of your loved one and note who is dedicating the angel.



**Faith Formation Christmas Program *A Capital Christmas*
Sunday, December 8th at the 10:30 a.m. service time
Goodies served in the fellowship hall following the program.**

Tapestry Singers Advent Concert

Join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 8th at 3:00 p.m.
All are Welcome!

Midweek Series for Advent

December 11, 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 28

5:30 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 29

One Service Only at 8:30 a.m.
Service of Lessons & Carols

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Play & Pray – Lounge; Faith Formation, Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation Christmas Program, *A Capital Christmas* – Sanctuary

3:00 p.m. Tapestry Advent/Christmas Program - Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

1:00 p.m. Mission Quilters – Fellowship Hall

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet Open – Room #7

2:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

5:30 p.m. Council - Library

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:30 a.m. Miriam Circle – Bonnie Steffens

10:00 a.m. Caregivers Support Group – Lounge

1:00 p.m. Staff – Fellowship Hall

5:30 p.m. Life & Growth Board - Library

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

5:00 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Advent Service - Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

5:30 p.m. Casual Communion Service – Chapel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Service - Sanctuary

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Movie & Popcorn

9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service – Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Feed My Starving Children Fundraiser – 5 Alarm Brewing Co.

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

The 8:30 a.m. worship service is heard on KIOW (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:

Jan. 5, 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

Salem Contact Information:

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