



Salem Lutheran Church

401 SOUTH LAKE STREET LAKE MILLS, IA 50450

Phone (641)-592-1771

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OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: 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.

WEEKLY ANOUNCEMENTS – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT–

DECEMBER 13th - DECEMBER 20th

THIS WEEKS TEXTS-- – Third Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

PSALM: 126

SECOND READING: Thessalonians 5:16-24

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 9-28



John the Baptist, in his own way, calls for rejoicing by his acknowledgment that he is *not* what we are waiting for. John, like us, has a mission to bear witness, but when he says "I am not," we hear a clear contrast to all the ways Jesus will identify himself with the Father: "I am the bread of life." "I am the resurrection." "I am the good shepherd." All these things Jesus will be for God's people, but John's job is simply to bear witness to the light.

How do we bear witness, while still waiting? Or can joy in the midst of waiting be that very witness? In Advent we are not called to act as though we do not know how this story ends, as though Jesus' birth and life, death and resurrection, are still before us. But we *do* know that sense of longing for God's salvation to be fulfilled, and the temptation to imagine that we have to save ourselves, instead of waiting for God's purposes to be worked out in God's time. John reminds us that there can be joy in taking our proper place, pointing to Jesus without needing to *be* Jesus.

Give Witness and Rejoice

The third Sunday of Advent—also known as *Gaudete (rejoice)*—is one in which the church has rejoiced as the advent of the Messiah draws nearer. Whether or not you mark this Sunday with a pink candle on the wreath, the texts for the day echo this rejoicing, this "we're almost there" excitement, in a multitude of ways. Isaiah couples images of a people restored with images of weddings and springtime and oak trees. The psalmist offers up images of a harvest festival, and Paul urges us to rejoice "always."

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

During this time of social distancing, there are several ways to continue your giving.

- **By mail.**
- **You can sign up for a weekly or monthly ACH withdrawal (Simply Giving), or PayPal. For ACH, call the office and I can get you a form to complete.**
- **By PayPal - go to our website (www.salemlakemills.com) home page, scroll to the bottom left and there is a Donate button. Click on it and will take you to a PayPal or credit card donation page.**

Call the office with any questions.(641.592.1771)

We as a church still have financial obligations to meet at this time.

I pray that all stay calm & healthy.

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY – WEEKLY GIVING

LAST SUNDAY: 12/6/20	\$ 4,594
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 12/7/20	\$ 205,615
LAST YEAR: as of 12/7/19	\$ 242,045
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -36,430



WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY- Clothes Closet (Open by appointment)
(Call Rita Anderson 641-592-5085)

WEDNESDAY- 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Zoom Confirmation

NEXT SUNDAY- 8:30 a.m. services

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS –Fourth Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

PSALM: 89:1-4, 19-26

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38



Please contact Salem Lutheran Church with your Christmas Eve communion kit order. Please specify wine or grape juice, regular or gluten free wafer and number of fruit snack blessings for children.



Also, please specify number of LED candles or glow sticks to be added to have at home when singing along with "Silent Night" during worship which will be available by accessing the link on the Salem website beginning Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm.

Time and place for pick-up will be announced and delivery will also be available.

A rebroadcast of the service can be heard on KIOW Sunday, 12/27 at 8:30 am.

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

2021 BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

Jan. 3, March 7, April 18, April 23,
May 2, May 9, May 23, June 13