



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

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018 - 8:30 a.m.



INTRODUCTION

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

***Larger print bulletins are available from the ushers.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Christmas Music

BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 27: 1, 13-14

The LORD is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;

Be strong, and let your heart take courage;

Wait for the LORD!

ADVENT SONG

Wait for the Lord

ELW #262

The Advent wreath will be lit during the Advent song.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

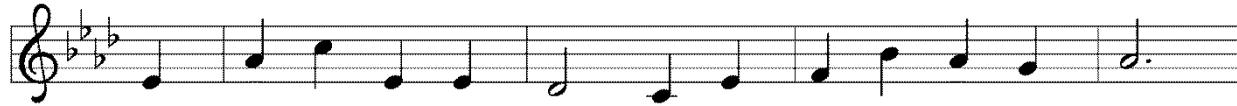
GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.



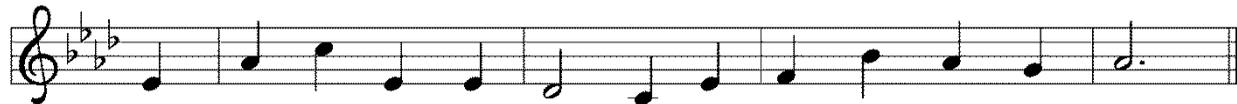
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

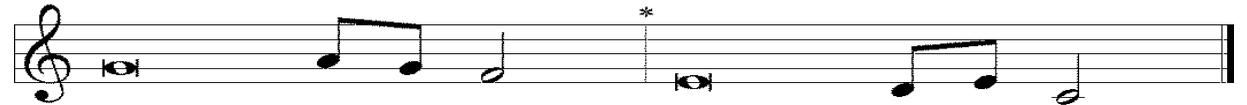
Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalms 12:2-6

Sung responsively beginning with the cantor



²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,
 for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my
 salvation.

³**With joy you | will draw water
 from the wells | of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;
 make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this
 name | is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;
 let this be known in | all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,
 for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

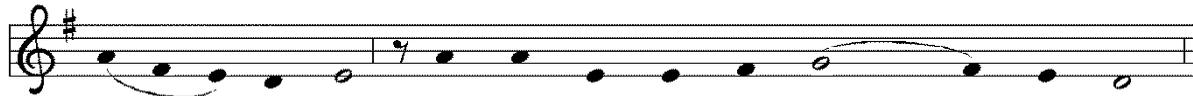
⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel****ELW #257***One verse is sung in each corresponding week of Advent*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

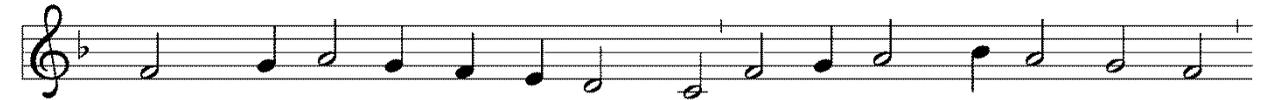
GOSPEL**Luke 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹Even 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." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be

the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.****SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY****Comfort, Comfort Now My People****ELW #256**

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro - claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.



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

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

For choirs, hymn writers, musicians, and off-key singing, we give you thanks, Holy One. Fill us with your song of joy. Open us to proclaim your glory in our singing, speaking, and silence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the hurting places in creation; for seas and lands ravaged by natural disasters; for communities and creatures displaced by floods and droughts. Grant peace through your presence and joy in your healing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For peace to ring out in our hearts and in our homes; for mercy and forgiveness to reign in every community; for war to cease and hunger to end. Give us this joy now, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and their families; for those in the military currently deployed during the holidays; for neighbors who have no access to medical care; for those who are ill and those who mourn. Fill them with your peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For foster families opening their homes; for grandparents raising grandchildren; for single parents struggling to make ends meet; for expectant parents who now grieve. Give strength and comfort, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for preachers and teachers who have guided us on the way. Bring us with them to rejoice eternally in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

What Feast of Love

ELW #487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and 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.

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.

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

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

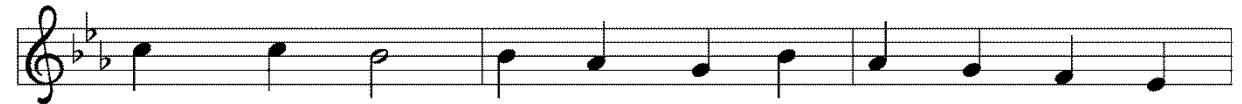
SENDING HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

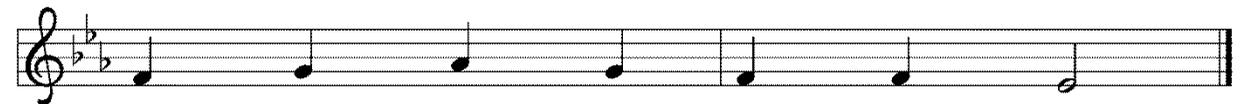
ELW #246



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!”
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv’n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

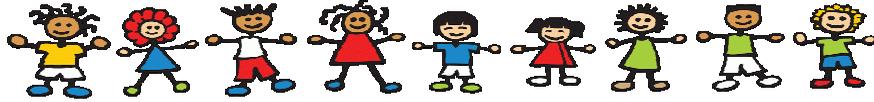
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Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson Assisting: Melinda McVey McCluskey Organist: Ruth Sheldon Ushers: Dolly Gregor & Margaret Okland Acolytes: Bryce Budach, Dottie Byars	Reader: Summer Sterrenberg Communion Servers: Jill Budach, Sondra Nelson Altar Guild for December 15-21: Doris Tweed, Jean Rondeau, Sharon Casey
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The radio broadcast this morning is given in loving memory of Eva Colby and Ardell & Phyllis Ausen from Doug & Candy Hanna.

The 8:30 a.m. worship service is broadcast weekly on KIOW-FM 107.3. Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2018 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City. The service can also be heard at 8:30 a.m. on cable channel 2.

Readings for next week: Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55



Salem's Clothes Closet is open Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Donations of new socks & underwear are needed. Thank you for your help.



Monday Mornings on Lake Street

There's a pot of coffee and goodies available on Monday mornings in the Lounge at Salem from 8 – 10:00 a.m.

Stop by and visit, have a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate and a goody, visit with friends. Bring a friend!

Call the office if you would like to provide goodies some Monday! Free-will donation.

NO MONDAY MORNING COFFEE DECEMBER 24.



Senior Choir practices Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room. All are welcome to attend. Contact Kathy Nelson with any questions.

The Creature Praise Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room. Youth Grades 3-7 are welcome to attend. Contact Kathy Nelson with any questions.

BABY FOOD JARS w/LIDS NEEDED For a 2019 VBS Project

We will be making snow globes during VBS in 2019. We need baby food jars. Please save any size (maybe not the tiny jars) and bring to Salem's Narthex (there will be a box ready to receive the jars). We will need over 100 jars. We won't be able to do this craft if we do not get enough jars, so please place them in the box in the narthex throughout the next 7 months. Thank you!



Salem WELCA Christmas Meeting
Wednesday, December 20 – 2:00 p.m.
Members of the Ruth Circle will hostess.
Members of the Miriam Circle's *Old Fashioned Christmas Program* will include Christmas stories, poems and favorite carols.
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Salem Faith Formation

- High School Youth Group will be meeting on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the youth room. All High School students welcome... bring a friend! Questions? Contact Abby Holtan.

December 16 – Faith Formation will be held from 9-10:30am. We will be showing movie "The Star".



The Gifts of Advent: A Midweek Series for Advent
This series highlights four aspects of Advent that become blessings and gifts in our lives:
Patience • Speech and Silence • Hope • Family.
December 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Faith Formation Offering
for the months of November and December will be collecting warm, waterproof, snow mittens and gloves of all sizes. These will stay local and be dispersed by Joan Krull to those in need. If you would like to donate, please hang them on the Christmas tree outside of the chapel.





Angel Tree – A Little History

The Angel Tree was started in 2000 by the Miriam Circle members. A longtime circle member had passed away and the Angel Tree was dedicated to her memory. People were able to purchase angels and the narthex tree was decorated with these angels each year. The names of all dedications were also recorded in a special book on display near the tree. Through the years over 500 angels have been dedicated.

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. You can pick up an angel in the church office 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.

Good Gifts Barnyard Tree

This year Salem is encouraged to purchase farm animals through ELCA Good Gifts. The tree in the main entry area (by the elevator) is full of ornaments. 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.

Salem Advent/Christmas Schedule

Mid-Week Advent Services - 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Wednesdays, December 19

Confirmation Youth will attend the Advent Service at 7:00 in the Chapel

Sunday Advent Services - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Sundays, December 16, 23

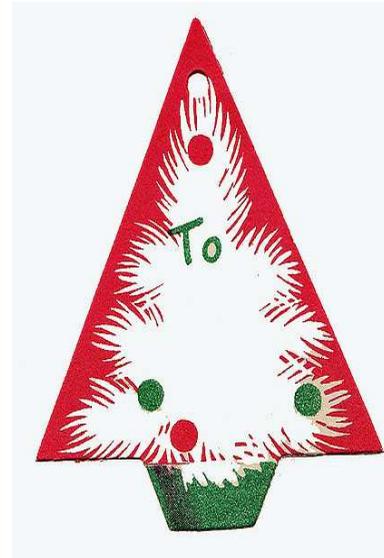
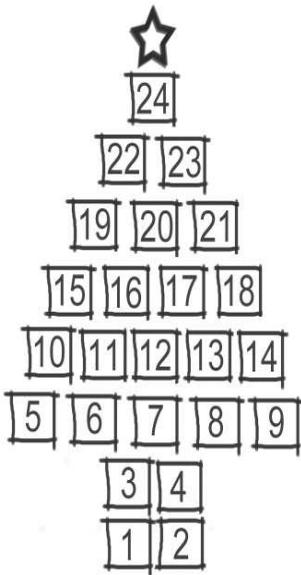
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - Dec. 24, 5:00 & 10:30 p.m.

First Sunday of Christmas - Saturday, December 29, 5:30 p.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 30, 8:30 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols. **One service today.**



Thank you for your donations to:

2018 OPERATION CLOTHES FOR KIDS!
Ninth Annual Operation Clothes for Kids
Donations are distributed throughout the Lake Mills Community School District.



Unwrapped gifts and monetary donations.

Faith Formation Offering of
Warm, waterproof mittens and gloves.

The Good Gifts Barnyard Project

Reserve your special date to sponsor a 2019 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 2019 is \$83. CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR DATE - 641.592.1771.

2019 BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

March 24, 31, April 21, 25, May 5, 12, June 9, 30, July 14, 21, 28, Aug. 18, Sept. 1, 15, Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 1, 22, 29

Church Dashboard for Contributions 12/12/2018

LAST SUNDAY, 12/09/18: \$8,554

Year-to-date as of 12/12/18: \$256,813 - Last year as of 12/12/17: \$263,575

DIFFERENCE YEAR-TO-DATE: -\$6765

Attendance: Those worshipping December 9/10: 318

Ongoing Financial Needs: Remember whether you are at worship or on vacation, Salem still needs to keep working. **We need \$6,500-\$7,000 per week** to do the Lord's work.

Any donations you would like credited for 2018 need to be received by December 31, 2018.





THIS WEEK AT SALEM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Service

9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. Faith Formation Movie *The Star* - Chapel

9:35 a.m. Praise Creature Choir– Choir Room; Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

2:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

3:15 p.m. Daisy Scouts – Room #2

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Operation Clothes for Kids Pickup - Chapel

6:00 p.m. Quilt Club – Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

5:30 p.m. Good Samaritan - Lounge

6:20 p.m. Senior Choir – Choir Room

7:00 p.m. Advent Service – Sanctuary; St. Patrick's Youth Group – Room #9

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

2:00 p.m. WELCA – Fellowship Hall

3:15 p.m. Brownie Scouts – Room #2

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

5:30 p.m. Casual Worship Service - Chapel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

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

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service - Sanctuary

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service - Sanctuary

Salem Contact Information:

Pastor Joel Guttormson: 641.596.0535

Email: joelguttormson@gmail.com

Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey: 563-581-9965

Email: melindamcmc@gmail.com

Ashley Hoffman, Communications:

Email: salemlminfo@gmail.com

Ruth Sheldon, Organist: 641.592.0184

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