

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 18 – December 26

Being Recognized, Encountering Christ

Often called the visitation, the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is full of joy, recognition, gratitude, and blessing. Luke immediately follows the annunciation with Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth, who gives this unmarried pregnant girl not only a safe haven but also the first glimpse of what it means to be the mother of the Savior. The encounter is full of mystery and grace: the mystery of new life forming but still invisible, and the grace of recognizing each other as the Spirit-filled mothers they are becoming.

The story is also full of theological gravity: as the women encounter each other, so do Jesus and John the Baptist. Yet the theological meaning is almost overshadowed by the sheer physicality of the encounter. Imagine the hasty travel, demonstrative greeting, joyful exclamation, the unborn John leaping for joy, and robust singing. As the celebration of Christ's birth approaches, the four active and responsive bodies in this text remind us that this is, after all, the incarnation itself unfolding.

God becomes a body in Jesus, and that body will be offered up for the sake of the world. This body, recognized already by John in the womb, will eventually undergo the suffering and shame of death on a cross. Without losing sight of that big picture, today we enter into the up-close picture of Mary and Elizabeth's encounter and share in the joy and gratitude they have in common with all who recognize Christ in their neighbor.

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

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

-- By mail.

-- By "Simply Giving"- Sign up for weekly or monthly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to get a form.

-- By PayPal- Go to our website home page (www.salemlakemills.com) and scroll to the bottom left- there is a Donate button. Click on that and it will take you to a PayPal or credit card donation page.

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 12/12/21	\$ 7,607
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 12/14/21	\$ 222,841
LAST YEAR: as of 12/14/20	\$ 233,717
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -10,876

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Micah 5:2-5a

From Bethlehem comes a ruler

Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

Hebrews 10:5-10

I have come to do your will

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Blessed are you among women / My soul magnifies the Lord

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Isaiah 62:6-12

God comes to restore the people

Psalms 97

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. (Ps. 97:11)

Titus 3:4-7

Saved through water and the Spirit

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer. We ask that you also remember them in your daily prayers.

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR:

Sheri Fjelstad

Fjelstad/Bellinger Family (Tanner, Beckham, Lucas)

Flo Family (Joshua, Cassie, Teagan, Kiley)

Alison and Slade Flugum

Flugum Family (Michael, Jill, Leighton, Taelynne)

This week the following members will be celebrating their birthdays and we would like to wish them a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

19-Candy Olsen

21-Colby Schriever

23-Logan Brown

19-Sean Smalley

21-Cullen Schriever

25-Caitlin Porter

19-Karen Sterrenberg

21-Briar Heinz

25-Anna Rogers

19-Lori Westcott

22-Bridget Odom

25-Tremaine Thorson

20-Andrew Story

22-Laura Smith

25-Cyndy Bartness

If you have an upcoming birthday and want it to be listed, please call the office to make sure we have your birthday in our records. 641.592.1771

Christmas Eve Service: Salem will have one Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM on December 24, 2021. It will be live-streamed as well and posted on YouTube for later viewing. The Service will be rebroadcast on Sunday, December 26 on KIOW Radio (107.3) and Channel 2.

Volunteers Needed: The Board of Worship and Music is looking for volunteers. If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read, sing in the liturgical choir or would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, please contact Heather at 641-909-4050 or write it on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Pastoral Visits: If you or someone you know would like a visit from Pastor Joel, please call the office to make an appointment. 641.592.1771

Christmas Caroling: The Board of Youth would like to invite all Salem members and non-members to join them for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 19th. Everyone will meet in the Lounge at 4:30pm and then carpool together to go Christmas Caroling. Dress warm and bring a light to see the sheet music.

Thank you! We would like to thank Bruce Adams for the new computer he donated to the sanctuary to be used for music/worship services, in memory of his Dad, Don Adams.

Suggested Best Practices for Salem Members

As we continue to experience community spread of Covid-19 and we enter flu season please keep in mind the following recommendations and best practices to protect yourself and others while worshipping here at Salem:

- Monitor your own health – If you are not feeling well or have had a possible exposure to Covid-19, please stay home.
- Wash your hands often; hand sanitizer is available at the west entry doors and in the Narthex. Sharing the peace without contact is preferred and safer for all.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Masking is optional for those who have been vaccinated. Masking is strongly recommended for those not vaccinated. Show respect for all members who choose to wear a mask. Masks are available at the west entry doors and in the Narthex.
- Maintaining distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household provides you better protection from those without symptoms that could spread the virus.

Radio Sponsorship: Reserve your special date to sponsor an 8:30am radio broadcast. The service is heard on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City and on cable channel 2.

Radio sponsorship costs \$83. Call the office to reserve your date. 641.592.1771
(Live Internet Broadcast Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday)

2022 RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

Jan. 2, Feb. 10, March 13, March 27, May 1, May 8, May 22, June 12, July 17, July 24, July 31, Aug. 7, Aug. 14, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 25



Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Joel Guttormson

Monday: Off, but on-call

Tuesday: Off, but on-call (2:30pm Pastors Text Study)

Wednesday: Noon-8:00pm

(10am Bible Study, 1:30pm Mills Harbour Service, 2:30pm Care Center Service)

Thursday: Noon-8pm

Friday: 8am-Noon, 1pm-5pm (5pm Christmas Eve Service)

Saturday: Noon-8pm

Sunday: 8am-Noon (9am Worship Service)

Secretary

Marci Adeogun

Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm

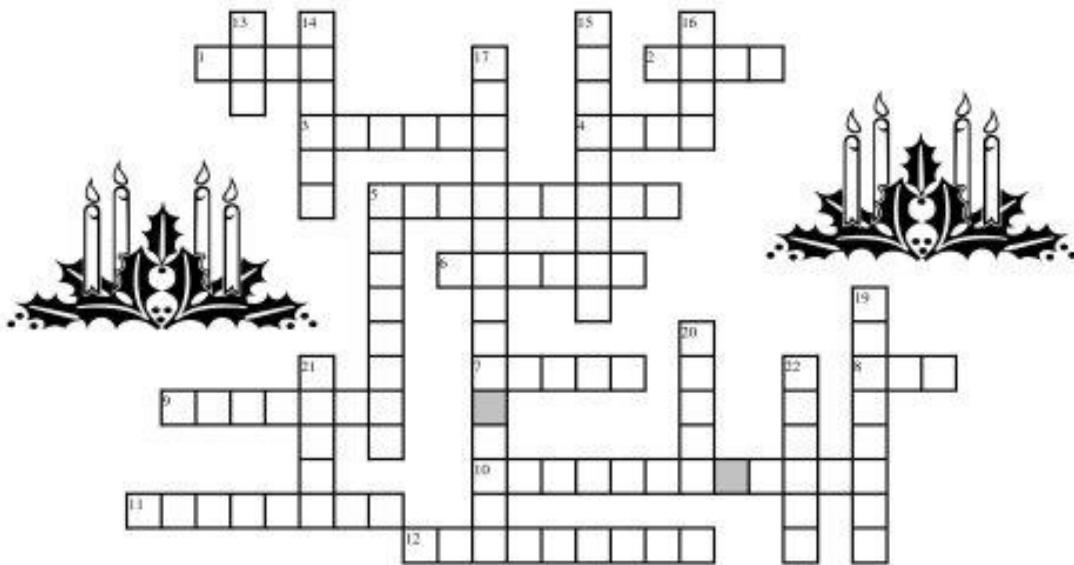
Fri 10am-4pm

Sat-Sun: Off

Name: _____

Advent Crossword Puzzle

Put each word in the correct boxes based on the clues.



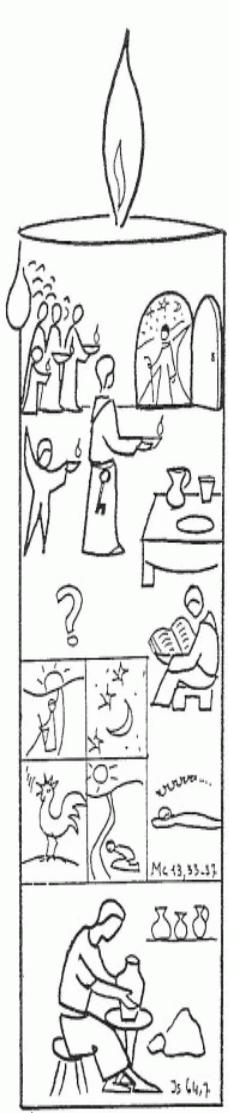
Across

- Advent is the ___ Sunday's prior to Christmas.
- The liturgical color of the 3rd Sunday of Advent is ___.
- ___ is the start of the liturgical year.
- The symbol of the 1st Sunday of Advent is ___.
- The ___ branches represent the unending love of God.
- ___ is the liturgical color for the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sunday of Advent.
- Christ is the ___ of the world.
- Each candle on the Advent wreath represents ___ week.
- The 3rd Sunday of Advent is called ___ Sunday.
- The circular shape of the Advent wreath represents ___.

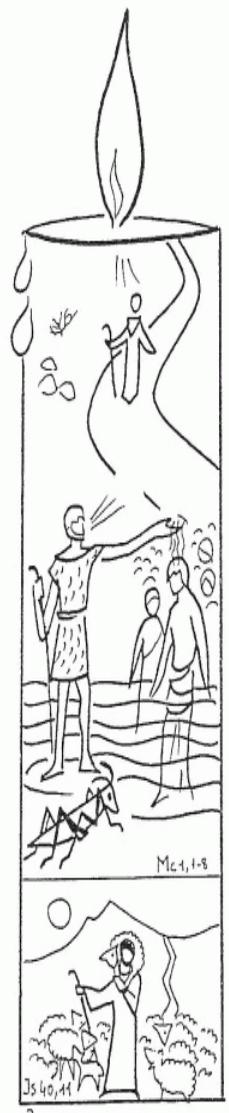
- The 3rd candle is called the ___'s Candle.
- The day that Jesus was born is ___ day.

Down

- The symbol of the 3rd Sunday of Advent is ___.
- One candle is lit each Sunday on the Advent ___.
- The 2nd candle is called the ___ Candle.
- The symbol of the 4th Sunday of Advent is ___.
- The first Sunday of Advent is the start of the new ___.
- Another name for Jesus is ___.
- The 1st candle is called the ___ Candle.
- The 4th candle is called the ___'s Candle.
- The symbol of the 2nd Sunday of Advent is ___.
- Advent means that Jesus is '___'.



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SATURDAY 12/18

5:30pm Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 12/19

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Confirmation-Choir Room

10:00am-10:45am Faith Formation-Chapel

4:30pm Christmas Caroling-meet in the Lounge

MONDAY 12/20

2:00pm-4:00pm Clothes Closet is Open

(Call 641-592-5085 to schedule alternate time by appt.)

3:15pm Daisies (Christmas Party)-Preschool Room

6:00pm Quilt Club-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY 12/22

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

3:15pm Brownies (Christmas Party)-Preschool Room

7:00pm Choir Practice-Choir Room

FRIDAY 24

5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service-Sanctuary

SUNDAY 12/26

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall