



Salem Lutheran Church

401 SOUTH LAKE STREET LAKE MILLS, IA 50450

Phone (641)-592-1771

www.salemlakemills.com

salem@wctatel.net

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 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT–

DECEMBER 21ST - DECEMBER 27TH

THIS 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



Those Who Hear and Do

Who is God's family? Where is God's home? In the church we often speak of our home parish as a family. Many of us grew up thinking of the church building as God's house. But the readings for this day call us to anticipate that Emmanuel might understand kinship and home in different ways. As we approach Christmas, which in our culture is increasingly a celebration of hearth and home more than a public festival, the inclusiveness of God's promise rings out from these readings.

The temple often stood in the imagination of Israel as the "house of God," but in 1 Samuel God expresses reservations before the temple is even built. The promise made to David is not about the building. Instead of the expected places of wealth and power, God chooses to dwell in a *people* instead of a "house of cedar" (2 Sam. 7:2, 7).

So if God is dwelling in a people, who is included in *that* promise? Although no one disputes that Jesus is born of the "house of David," Luke's gospel stresses Mary's lowliness instead of her bloodlines, reminding us that Christ became flesh in the most unlikely circumstances. Later in Luke's gospel, when someone mentions his family to Jesus, he says his family includes all "who hear the word of God and do it" (8:21). In today's gospel we see Mary acting out that definition of family.

FYI: Altar Guild members.... In 2021 we will be following the same calendar as we have had for 2020!

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: 12/13/20	\$ 14,960
YEAR-TO-DATE: as of 12/17/20	\$ 233,335
LAST YEAR: as of 12/17/19	\$ 252,886
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:	\$ -19,551



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
- THURSDAY**- **Christmas Eve Service**
- NEXT SUNDAY**- 8:30 a.m. **Rebroadcast of Christmas Eve Service**

**THE JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH CHRIST IN
OUR HOME DEVOTIONAL BOOKS ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE AIRLOCK.**

NEXT WEEKS TEXTS –Christmas Eve Worship

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

PSALM: 96

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]



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.

Christmas Eve kits for those who have ordered can be picked up during office hours Monday through Wednesday this week.

Let the office know ASAP if you are still needing to order a kit.

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

Reserve your special date to sponsor a 2021 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 2021 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

