



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

Welcome to the House of the Lord  
Nativity of Our Lord  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2016 - 5:00 & 10:30 p.m.

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#### INTRODUCTION

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Prelude      *Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
*Nowel, Nowel*  
*One Small Child*  
*Lullaby Jesus*  
*We Three Kings*

*Lighting of the altar and Advent candles.*

#### Entrance Hymn: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the king of angels:

#### *Refrain*

**Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!    *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest:    *Refrain*

#### Christmas Dialog

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

**He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

**With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."**

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

**With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

*Ringling of the Christmas bells and lighting of the candles in the Chancel.*



## Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

### *Refrain*

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;**

**Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## Greeting and Prayer

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

### *Refrain*

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

## Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

## Hymn: Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.

With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul's delight.

## Third Reading: Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.  
Let every heart receive your Savior.

### **Communion**

*Distribution will be done in a continuous manner. The ushers will direct those seated on the lower floor in two lines to center front where you will receive bread. Continue to the side to receive the wine. Those in the balcony will be directed to the serving station in the narthex.*

*For the 10:30 service all will commune at the center front station.*

### **Communion Blessing**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.  
On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.  
As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.  
Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **The Gospel of the Incarnation**

*The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

### **John 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### **The Prayers**

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace, **Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy (*especially*). We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Hymn of Light: Silent Night, Holy Night!

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## Blessing

*The minister blesses the congregation.*

May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
*The candles are extinguished.*

## Departure Hymn: Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

## Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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**Preaching & Presiding:** Pastor Joel Guttormson

**Assisting:** Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey

**Organist:** Ruth Sheldon (5:00 p.m.)

**Guitarist:** Rev. Scot McCluskey (10:30 p.m.)

**Ushers:** (5:00 p.m.) Scott Hagenon Family, Roy Kvale, Christopher Jamtgaard, Al Sterrenberg  
(10:30 p.m.) Stephanie Steffens Family

**Acolytes:** (5:00 p.m.) Peyton Severson, A.J. Ramaker, Jack Ramaker, Brook Bergo, Courtney Lorenson  
(10:30 p.m.) Bennett Berger, Carson Eaton, Riley Kirschaum

**Communion Servers:**

**Video Coordinator:** Carol Abbey

**Videographer:** Hope Levine

**Altar Guild for December 24-31:**

Sharon Casey, Marilyn Hoffman, Sharon Johnson, Gloria Kvale, Janet Swenson, Pat Young

***Thank you for the poinsettias placed in memory of loved ones:***

*In loving memory of Kurtis Helgson's birthday, Christmas Eve, from Verna and his kids  
In loving memory of Ernie Langerud and Michael Langerud, from Sue and Mindy & family*



**Salem's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 22. There will be one service at 8:30 a.m.** Brunch will be served in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. The Annual Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall. All members are encouraged to attend.

**PRAYER**  
*changes things*

**Please remember in prayer this week: The family & friends of Rhoda Brue**

**The family & friends of Robert John Barrett.** Robert is the son of Marge Olson and the brother of Donna (Gary) Harig and Karla (Chris) Eaton.

The 8:30 a.m. worship service is broadcast weekly on KIOW-FM 107.3. Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2017 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. Call the office to reserve your dates. Cost for 2017 is \$83. Dates available: March 26, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, June 11, July 9, 16, Aug. 13, Sept. 3, 17, Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, Dec. 10.

We also have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday. Call the office to reserve a date in 2017.

Salem has a wheel chair available for use. It is kept in the narthex closet near the coat rack.



Salem offers a safe and easy way to give online. Scan this QR code to go to the website. There you can click the **Donate Now** button to make your gift. You decided the amount. You will need either a credit or debit card to complete the transaction. Thank you for your support of ministry at Salem!

2017 Pledges may still be returned to the office.

Any donations that you would like credited for 2016 must be received or be postmarked by December 31, 2016.

2017 Offering envelopes are on tables in the elevator entry.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26**

OFFICES CLOSED

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

OFFICES CLOSED

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**

OFFICES CLOSED

1:45 p.m. LMCC Communion

2:30 p.m. Mills Harbour Communion

5:15 p.m. Good Samaritan – Lounge

**THURSDAY/FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29/30**

OFFICES CLOSED

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31**

No Saturday Service

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

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

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

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2**

OFFICES CLOSED

“Visit us on the web at [www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com)”

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**Salem Contact Information:**

Pastor Joel Guttormson: 641.596.0535

Email: [joelguttormson@gmail.com](mailto:joelguttormson@gmail.com)

Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey: 563-581-9965

Email: [melindamcmc@gmail.com](mailto:melindamcmc@gmail.com)

Ashley Hoffman, Communications:

Email: [salemlminfo@gmail.com](mailto:salemlminfo@gmail.com)

Ruth Sheldon, Organist: 641.592.0184

Salem Office: 641.592.1771

Email: [salem@wctatel.net](mailto:salem@wctatel.net)