



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

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2017 – 5:00 & 10:30 p.m.



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

Prelude

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.

Ringing of the Christmas bells and lighting of the candles in the Chancel.

Hymn: I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve (5:30) Jenna Eidness (10:30) Pastor Scot
Jenna/Scot will sing verse 1. Congregation sings verses 2, 3, 4

1. Jeg er så glad hver julekveld, ti da blev Jesus født; da lyste stjernen som en sol, og engler sang så sødt.
- 2 **The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.**
- 3 **He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.**
- 4 **I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king.**

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

² 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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Hymn: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Meditation**Offering****Musical Offering**

Be Born in Me

(5:00) Jenna Eidness

The Gift of God

(10:30) McCluskey Family

Offertory Hymn: What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Offering Prayer

God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.
You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.
And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. **Amen.**

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.

Thanksgiving At The Table: Christmas

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

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.

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

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

Hymn #271 Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959

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Pastor Joel Guttormson
Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey

Pianist: Gary Gjerstad (5:00 p.m.)

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

Ushers: (5:00 p.m.)

(10:30 p.m.) Erich & Julie Stene Family

Acolytes: (5:00 p.m.) Alex Beaty, Thea Hoffman, Bennett Berger, Brooke Bergo
(10:30 p.m.) Ella Stene, Madison Levine

Communion Servers: (5:00) Scott & Shelley Hagenson
(10:30)

Altar Guild for December: All Guild Members

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

In loving memory of Kurtis Helgeson's birthday, Christmas Eve, from Verna and his kids
In loving memory of Ernie Langerud and Michael Langerud, from Sue and Mindy & family
In loving memory of Allan 'Pete' Pederson from Marilyn & family



Salem's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 28 at 11:00 a.m.. There will be one service at 9:30 a.m. Potluck dinner held in the fellowship hall. The Annual Meeting will begin at 11:00 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 Allan Pederson & Morris Levorson

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.

CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR 2018 DATE - 592.1771. Cost for 2018 is still \$83

2018 - 8:30 A.M. KIOW RADIO BROADCAST DATES AVAILABLE:

**Jan. 14, Feb. 25, Mar. 25, April 1, 22, 29, May 6, 20,
June 10, 17, July 8, 15, 29, Aug. 5, 19, Sept. 2, 16,
Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, Dec. 2, 9, 23, 30**

We also have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday. **Call the office to reserve a date in 2018.**



INTRODUCING GIVE+ TEXT

Have you made a donation through Give+ Text? You can make weekly offerings, respond to special appeals or set up a recurring donation by sending a text to 1.641.832.5367.

With **GIVE+ TEXT**, you can conveniently give to the church even when you're away, or don't have cash or checks with you. It's simple and secure.

It takes just minutes to sign up and support the church. So, we hope you'll try this easy, modern way to give.

Stop by the office for help setting it up on your cell phone.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

Pledge cards for 2018 were distributed at services recently. If you did not get one, they are in the narthex and outside the office. All completed cards can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off/mailed to the church office over the next several weeks. Thank you for your support.

Any donations you would like credited for 2017 need to be received by December 31, 2017.

Salem has begun a new direct mailing system of offering envelopes beginning January 1, 2018.

If you used offering envelopes in 2017, you will now receive your envelopes directly through the US Mail. About two weeks before each calendar quarter, members will receive the next quarter's offering envelopes. If you travel south for the winter, please contact the church office to update your mailing address so you may stay current with your 2018 pledge to Salem. If you currently do not use Salem offering envelopes, but wish to begin, please contact the church office and a set will be assigned to you. Thank you for your patience during this time of transition.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

OFFICES CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

1:45 p.m. Mills Harbour Communion

2:30 p.m. LMCC Communion

5:15 p.m. Good Samaritan - Lounge

5:30 p.m. New Life Nutrition – Room #4

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

No Saturday Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols – Sanctuary

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

OFFICES CLOSED



“Visit us on the web at www.salemlakemills.com”

Like us on Facebook. Search Salem Lake Mills

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