



# Salem Lutheran Church

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**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 – CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP–

**DECEMBER 24th – JANUARY 3rd**

**THIS 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]



### Hope Born in a World of Humbugs

Dressed up with presents, lights, TV specials, extra concerts, parties, and spending money, there is a sense that Christmas is the time to feel good, do good, and perhaps live a little better than the rest of the year. Even the most cynical get swept up in the idea that the world and their lives shine a little brighter. It is a sugar-coated holiday rush only to be met days later by an emotional crash. Yet these signs point to a deep-seated hope that is lodged in the hearts and minds of those moving into this season. There is a longing and fervent hope that God will enter in and counter the challenges and humbugs of our days and world. And to this longing and fervent hope we look to one who claims us from marginal lives and engages us in a central story of hope and promise.

Wrapped in every breath, song, and action is God's direct connection with the earth and her peoples. This night counters voices and theologies that view God as distant and unengaged with humanity and the world. From old, the promise of God drawing near has been uttered; in the gospel we witness the birth of God's yearning presence through a teenage girl; throughout we are invited to join the song of creation, hope, and salvation. Tonight we pulse with the exhilaration of Mary and the shepherds, and those who have lived at the margins, as we experience and proclaim, that "God dwells with us." While people may often talk of the "magic" of Christmas, it is our call to speak to the *incarnation* of Christmas. As people come together to hear a familiar story and sing familiar hymns, the blessing and challenge is to witness again to God's promise and promise-keeping with vitality and to join the chorus of joy in what God has done and continues to do in being made real among us.

Into the lights and presents, the music and gatherings, even the wars, poverty, little empires, and tumult of the world, God meets and claims us in that spirit of hope. God calls us to dream and live into a new reality as we encounter this babe at Bethlehem and find this Christ-child born in our lives again. Christmas speaks to our greatest longing, and turns the "humbugs" to carols of joy.

## 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](http://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

**NEXT SUNDAY-** 8:30 a.m. rebroadcast of Christmas Eve Service  
**Sunday January 3rd-** 8:30a.m. worship broadcast

**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS** –Second Sunday of Christmas

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 31:7-14

**PSALM:** 147:12-20

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 1:3-14

**GOSPEL:** John1:[1-9]10-18

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

**Marci Adeogun has been hired by the council as Administrative Assistant. Carolyn will be working with her to make this a smooth transition. Office hours will be 9am-5pm on Monday and Friday, 9am-2pm on Wednesday.**



Annual meeting is set for January 24, 2021  
There will be more details available soon.

**Reserve your special date to sponsor a 2021 8:30 a.m. radio broadcast. The service is heard on K1OW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City and on cable channel 2. Cost for 2020 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