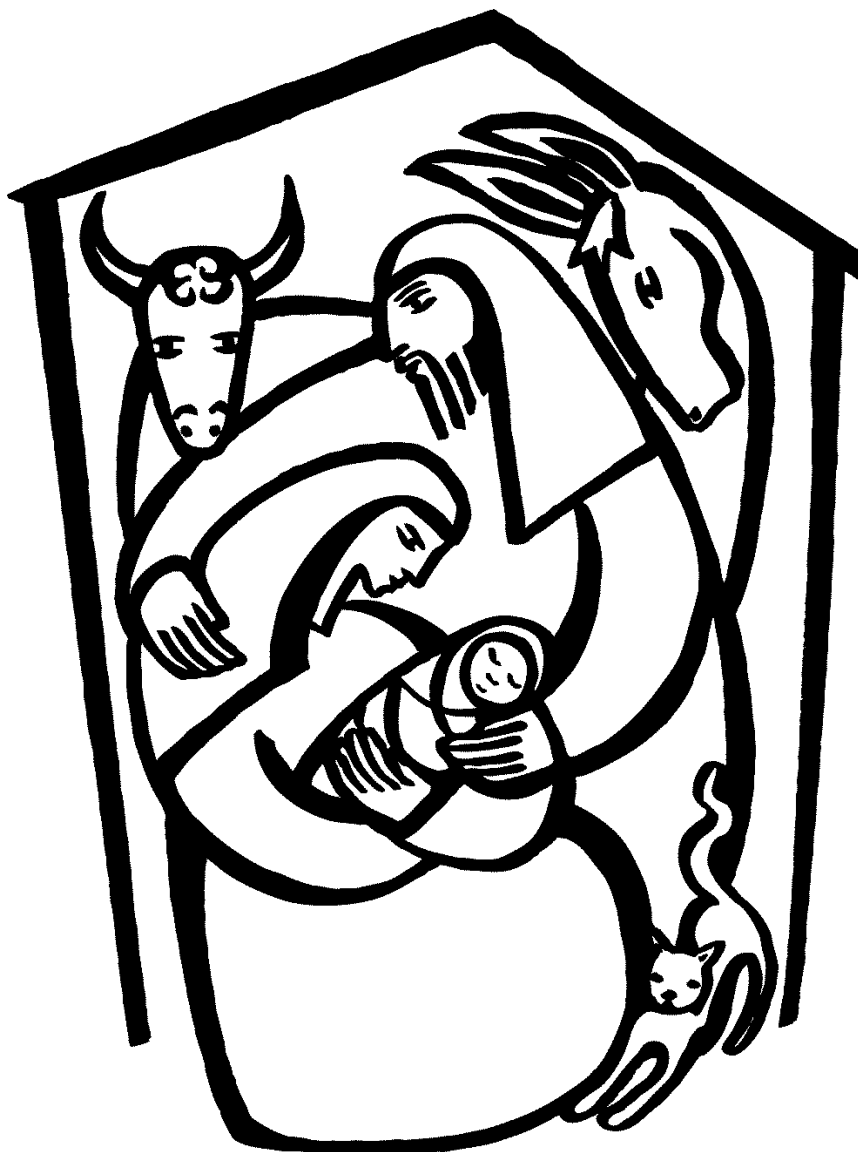




Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021 – 5:00pm



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.

Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson

Acolytes: Sondra Nelson, Heather Mannes

Additional Help: Doug & Shannon Bruhns

Altar Guild for December: All Guild Members

Communion Servers: Linda Helgeson, Sondra Nelson

Special Music: Jenna Eidness, Quiliano Anderson, Bruce Adams

Ushers: Lyle & Orloue Thomson, Gary & Linda Helgeson Family

Organist: Ruth Sheldon

Reader: Becky Helgeson

Live Stream: Brad Evenson

Sound: Al Skellenger

The radio broadcast is given in Memory of Vonice Stene from her son Erich.

A poinsettia has been placed in loving memory of Verna & Kurtis Helgeson from their children and grandchildren. Also a special heavenly birthday to Kurt as he would be 100 today.

A poinsettia has been placed in loving memory of Ernie and Mike Langerud from Sue Langerud and family.

Salem Contact Information:

Pastor Joel Guttormson: 641.596.0535

joelguttormson@gmail.com

Shannon Bruhns, Council President:

641.592.5978 / 641.590.1532

shelby@wctatel.net

Ruth Sheldon, Organist: 641.592.0184

Barb Kinseth, Custodian

Marci Adeogun, Office Admin: 641.590.1182

Salem Office: 641.592.1771

saalem@wctatel.net

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE & BELLS

The service begins in a dark sanctuary as the Christ Candle is processed

CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Celebrate the coming of the Light.

O sing to the Lord a new song, God's salvation is at hand.

Celebrate the coming of Salvation.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

Celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace.

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

Celebrate the coming of Christ!

As the Christ Candle is placed in its stand the acolytes will light the remaining candles.

GATHERING HYMN

Love Has Come

ELW #292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

A Tiny Baby Is Born

Whirl Story Bible p.182

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be Born in Me – Francesca Battistelli

Jenna Eidness

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ave Maria – Schubert

Quiliano Anderson

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Magnificat*

ELW #236

We stand for the hearing of the gospel. First time through in unison, second in a two part round

Canon

Ma - gni-fi-cat, ma - gni-fi-cat, ma - gni-fi-cat a - ni-ma me - a Do-mi-num.

Ma - gni-fi-cat, ma - gni-fi-cat, ma - gni-fi-cat a - ni-ma me - a!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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!”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

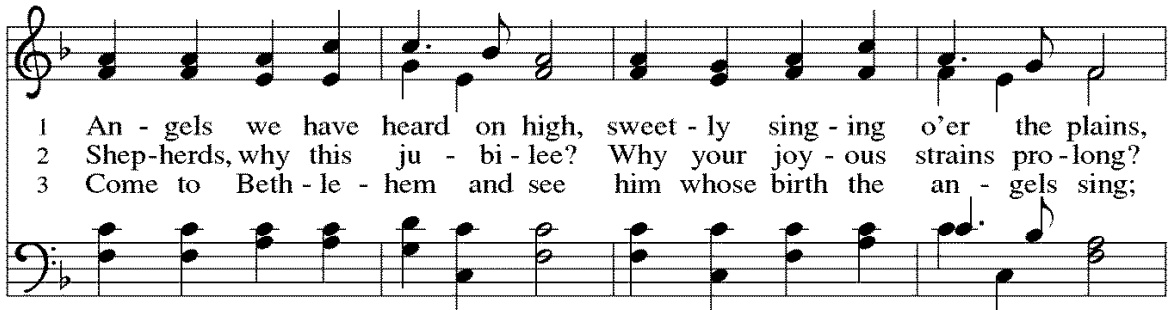
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

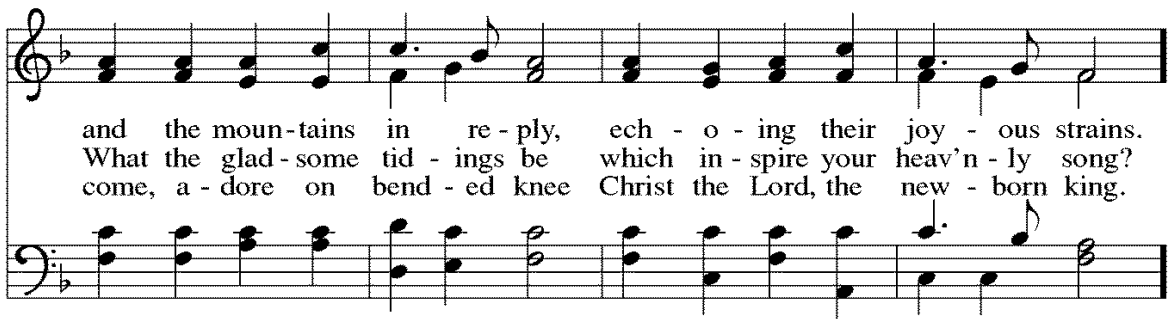
Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289

First verse will be sung in unison, verse two choir in parts, verse three all



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from The Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

All may be seated as the pastor invites us into our time of prayer.

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered as the pastor concludes the prayers.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

The offering is being collected at the beginning of the service as you walk in. The usher will bring the offering forward at the time of the offering song and prayer.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Lullaby on Christmas Eve

Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.

As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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.

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

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
come, see what God makes known for you.

DISTRIBUTION

Communion will be distributed at three stations, two at the front of the sanctuary and one in the narthex for those who sit in the balcony. Ushers will direct you to the stations where you will receive a communion packet. Packets with a rose-colored card are filled with wine, grape juice packets have an amber-colored card. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Candles for the candle lighting will also be distributed by the acolytes at this time.

COMMUNION HYMN

What Feast of Love

ELW #487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

CANDLE LIGHTING

When all have communed and received their candles, the ushers will come forward to light their candles to distribute the flame to those sitting in the pews. After your candle is lit, we ask you to hold your candle upright as you pass the flame to the person seated next to you. When all the candles are lit and the sanctuary lights have been dimmed we will sing all three verses of Silent Night. At the conclusion of the singing of the hymn we ask you to extinguish your candles.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mary Did You Know

Bruce Adams

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

"Silent Night"

ELW #281



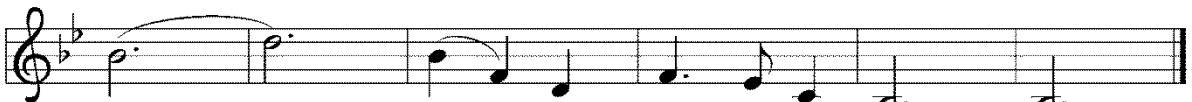
	Stil - le	Nacht,	hei - li - ge	Nacht!	Al - les	schläft,
1	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	All	is calm,
2	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Shep - herds	quake
3	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Son	of God,



ein - sam	wacht	nur	das	trau - te,	hoch - hei - li - ge	Paar.
all	is	bright	round	yon	vir - gin	moth - er and child.
at	the	sight;	glo - ries	stream	from	heav - en a - far,
love's	pure	light	ra - diant	beams	from	your ho - ly face,



Hold - er	Kna - be	im	lok - ki - gen	Haar,	schlaf	in	himm - li - scher
Ho - ly	In - fant,	so	ten - der	and mild,	sleep	in	heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly	hosts . . .	sing,	al - le - lu - ia!	Christ,	the	Sav - ior,	is
with the	dawn of	re - deem - ing	grace,	Je - sus,	Lord,	at your	



Ruh,	schlaf	in	himm - li - scher	Ruh.
peace,	sleep	in	heav - en - ly	peace.
born!	Christ,	the	Sav - ior,	is born!
birth,	Je - sus,	Lord,	at your	birth.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.



SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Call to worship <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3412/worship-elements-christmas-eve-option-3> Used by permission. Liturgy and songs From [sundaysandseasons.com](https://www.sundaysandseasons.com). Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS020622. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.



Merry Christmas