



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

Welcome to the House of the Lord

First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2017 - 8:30 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols



INTRODUCTION

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

PRELUDE

BELLS

SPECIAL MUSIC

Do You Hear What I Hear

Paul Sullivan

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

GATHERING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW #267

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

FIRST CAROL *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

ELW #282

SECOND READING: Micah 5:2–5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall
 come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.
⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the
 LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ELW #279

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26–35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's
 name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with
 you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this
 might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He
 will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the
 throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his
 kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a
 virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the
 Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called
 Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according
 to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

THIRD CAROL *Cold December Flies Away*

ELW #299

FOURTH READING: Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been
 engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the
 Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to
 public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an
 angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid
 to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear
 a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this
 took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the
 virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God
 is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded
 him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;
 and he named him Jesus.

FOURTH CAROL*Peace Came To Earth*

ELW #285

FIFTH 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.

FIFTH CAROL*Angels, From the Realms Of Glory*

ELW #275

OFFERING**MUSICAL OFFERING***Jesus Loves Me***Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren****OFFERING PRAYER**

Pastor: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. C: **Amen.**

SIXTH READING: Matthew 2:1–11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

SIXTH CAROL*What Child Is This***ELW #296****SEVENTH READING: John 1:1–14**

In 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.

SEVENTH CAROL*Love Has Come***ELW #292****RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

THE 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.

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Angels We Have Heard On High

ELW #289

POSTLUDE

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Pastor Joel Guttormson	Acolyte: Josie Gilbertson
Assisting: Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey	Ushers:
Organist: Ruth Sheldon	Altar Guild for December: All Guild Members



The radio broadcast this morning is in honor of Delane & Darlene Behr's 40th wedding anniversary December 30th.

A plant has been placed in their honor from their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

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

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
Delane & Darlene Behr and their family

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.

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.



INTRODUCING GIVE+ TEXT

The church isn't open just on Sundays. There's something going on every day of the week, and we want to provide convenient giving options that fit into all your church activities.

Electronic giving options like **GIVE+ TEXT** offer you the opportunity to give simply and securely from anywhere in our community. Next time you are in the fellowship hall for an event, in the sanctuary for Sunday service or in a meeting room for Bible study, try texting your payment of gift to our secure account at **1.641.832.5367**.

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 church office for help setting it up on your cell phone.

Thank you for being a vital part of our church community.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

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

9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 OFFICES CLOSED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

9:30 a.m. Martha Circle

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 Altar Guild

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Board

4:30 p.m. New Life Nutrition

Confirmation Class (Confest @ 5 in Northwood)

No Choir

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

9:30 a.m. Martha, Sarah, Ruth, Grace Circles - Church

4:00 p.m. Taking Down of the Greens

5:00 p.m. Life & Growth Board

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

5:30 p.m. Casual Communion Service – Chapel

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Worship

9:30 a.m. Youth Praise Choir; Coffee Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Faith Formation

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Worship

Readings for next week: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

Salem Contact Information:

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