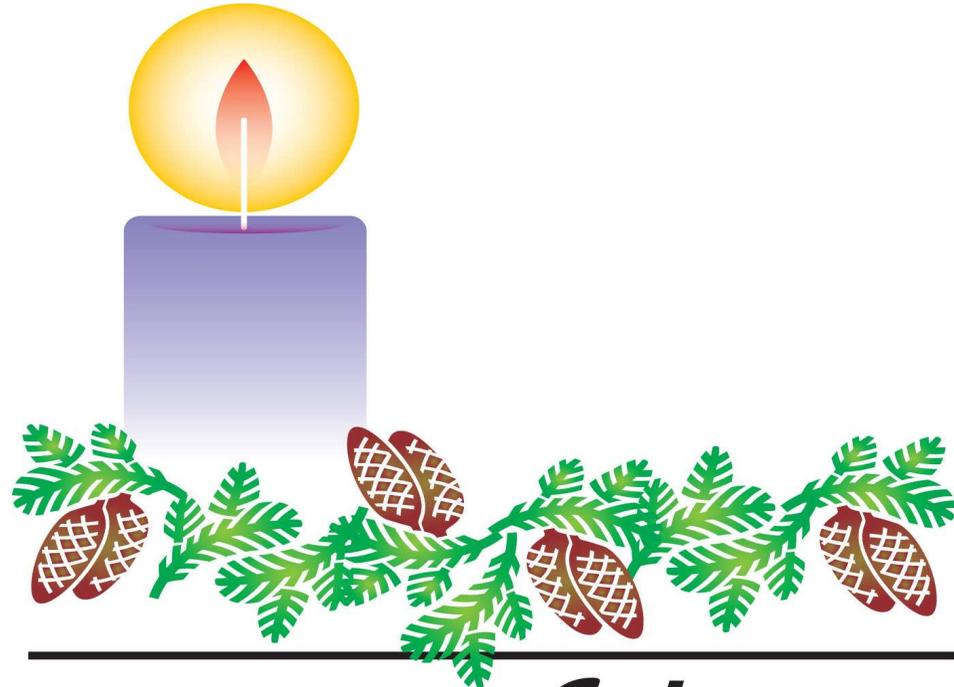




Salem Lutheran Church

Welcome to the House of the Lord
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2015 - 10:30 a.m.



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

INTRODUCTION

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

***Please stand as you are able.**

GATHERING

Prelude

Bells & Announcements

Call to Worship

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

What are these candles for?

This is an Advent candle ring. It shows the circle of God’s unbroken love.

There are four candles.

We shall light a new candle each Sunday from now until Christmas.

What is the point of doing this?

Because the old proverb is true: “What I hear, I forget.
What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand.”

As we light our Advent candles, may they bring us together in the warm light of God’s love.

The Gospel of Luke speaks about the future:

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth, distress among nations. People will faint from fear and foreboding.” *(Luke 21:25-36)*

Because our world is full of fear and distress, we light our first candle, trusting that Christ is alive on earth and that the Spirit of Christ lives among us.

(Light the first candle.)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

Gathering Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Red Book #257

Call to Confession

Testify with honesty the condition of your souls. Give defense not for yourself but only the Lord’s grace, which will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Lord is our Righteousness. In Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16 Page 821 in Bible

Psalm 25:1-10 (read responsively)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God
of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my
transgressions; remember me according to your
steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach
sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and
Faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Lesson 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Page 222 in Bible

*Gospel Luke 21:25-36

Page 87 in Bible

The gospel concludes:

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

Message

Song of the Day *Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand*

Red Book #441

*Prayers

Please respond at the end of each petition: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

*Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Offertory

*Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in
need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: 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

May the God of mercy keep you, the Holy Spirit cheer you, and Christ in glory greet
you, now and at the day of his coming. Amen.

*Closing Song Soon and Very Soon ELW 438

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Presiding: Pastor Melinda McCluskey
Pianist: Beverly Lombardi
Reader: Linda Tweeten
Altar Guild for November: Sharon Casey & Pat Thorson

The radio broadcast this morning is sponsored by Salem Lutheran Church.

The 8:30 a.m. worship service is broadcast weekly on KLOW-FM 107.3.

Salem has a wheel chair available for use. It is kept in the narthex.

We 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 - 641.592.1771.



Salem offers a safe and easy way to give online. Scan the 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 Lutheran!



Thank you to all who helped to decorate for Advent and Christmas!



The Salem Good Samaritan Ministry Team thanks you for your “Coin” donations last Sunday. Your donations have already helped many in our community. We have helped with gas for medical appointments, heating bills for the elderly, medical expenses not covered by insurance or Medicare, victims of violence, and many other ways. Thank you for your support.

Tapestry Singers Advent Concert Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m.

The concert is held in the sanctuary.
Everyone is welcome to attend.



Hospice of North Iowa Tree Lighting Service will be held in Salem’s Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m.** With your gift to Hospice, a light will be placed on the Tree of Life. Every light on the Tree of Life celebrates and honors our loved one and friends in a very special way. A light in memory of a loved one who has died is a reminder that, despite the wintry effect death can bring, life can still be celebrated. Names of those you wish to remember and honor will be listed at the service. Your contribution will help extend hospice care to others, so they can live the last months of their lives with dignity, often in the comfort of their own homes.

Jesus’ Birthday In this year’s Sunday School Christmas Program, “A Strange Way to Save the World”, we are going to Celebrate Jesus Birthday, following the service. We are asking for cake and cupcake donations to help us celebrate. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or outside the Chapel. The Christmas program will be held Sunday December 13th. Thank you.



The Marine Corps Toys for Tots Collection Box is outside the church office. Unwrapped gifts may be placed in the box. Monetary donations are also appreciated.



Christmas Prelude

Do you want to sing? Maybe, play the piano? Or you and a group play a song. In this year’s Christmas Program we are giving all members of the congregation an opportunity to perform a Christmas Hymn in front of the church. You will be able to perform as the prelude for the service. If you are interested, select one song, and complete the sign-up sheet in the narthex or outside the Chapel. Please sign-up by December 4th. You may also contact Casey Shaw, 641-590-7806, with any questions.



Operation Clothes for Kids!

- Sixth annual Operation Clothes for Kids, a community project to compliment Toys for Tots.
- Pick a Christmas Tag (with a child's needs/sizes on it) from one of the following trees: Salem Lutheran Church Chapel, Winnebago Lutheran Church, Citizens' Community Credit Union, Farmers Trust and Savings Bank or Manufactures Bank and Trust.
- Purchase the all items on the child's tag and wrap in one box and deliver to the listed drop sites by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16th. Feel free to **team up and share costs**.
- Donations will be distributed to families throughout the LMCS District.
- Tags will be available for pick up starting Friday, November 20st!

PRAYER

changes things

Please remember in prayer this week:

The family & friends of Ardell Brua

Gordy Cavett, Yvonne Back, Bonnie Sanden, Viola Simmons, Gavin Thompson, Roger Juveland, Darlene Madson

Prayer Families: Laura Prescott, Marci Prescott Family, Marvin/Donna Prescott, Heather Price, Misty (Proulx) Frank, Jason/Dawn Ramaker Family, Anthony Ranes, Diane Ranes

Those worshipping November 18/22: 237

Last week's giving to the Glory of God: \$5850.75

"Visit us on the web at www.salemlakemills.com"

Like us on Facebook. Search Salem Lake Mills

Salem Contact Information

Pastor Peter Soli, Interim Pastor: 507.369.6303

Pastor Melinda McCluskey: 563-581-9965

Pastor Joel Dahlen: 641.420.5604

Janelle Gilbertson, Communications:

Ruth Sheldon, Organist: 641.592.0184

Salem Office: 641.592.1771

Email: Peter.Soli@DialogWorks.org

Email: melindamcmc@gmail.com

Email: pastorjoel@gmail.com

Email: janelle.gilbertson@yahoo.com

Email: salem@wctatel.net



THIS WEEK AT SALEM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

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

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

11:30 a.m. Miriam Circle - Teluwut

6:45 p.m. Tapestry Rehearsal - Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Altar Guild – Fellowship Hall **(Please bring goodies to share)**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

2:10 p.m. Girl Scouts – Room #4

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Pizza – Fellowship Hall

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Large Group – Fellowship Hall

5:00 p.m. Life & Growth Board - Lounge

6:00 p.m. Informal Communion Worship – Chapel

7:00 p.m. Contemporary Music Practice

St. Pat's Youth Group – Room #9

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:30 a.m. Grace Circle – Carolyn Rawlings, Rhoda Circle – Rita Bakken

11:30 a.m. Sarah Circle – Teluwut

2:00 p.m. Martha Circle – Virginia Thomas

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

3:10 p.m. Girl Scouts – Room #4

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

9:30 a.m. Sunday School; Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Worship Service

4:00 p.m. Tapestry Advent Concert – Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Hospice Tree of Life Program – Fellowship Hall