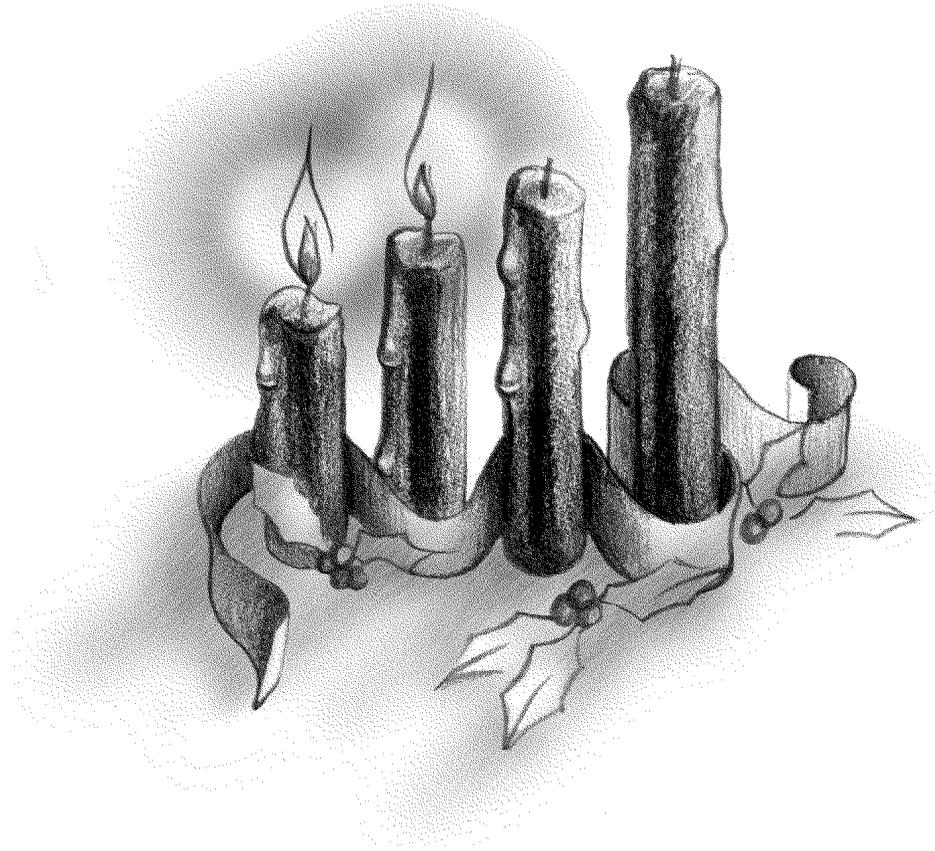




Salem Lutheran Church

Welcome to the House of the Lord
Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2015 - 10:30 a.m.



INTRODUCTION

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

***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 God's messenger: in the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius, ...the word of God came to John Son of Zechariah... He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. *(Luke 3:1-3)*

God comes to us through particular people, in particular places and times in the past, and here and now. Our second candle reminds us to look for the light of God in God's messengers today.

(Light the second candle.)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you and hope to follow you.

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

Gathering Song

My Lord He Is a Comin' Soon

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*Gospel Luke 31:1-6

Page 87 in Bible

The holy gospel according to Luke. Praise to you, O Christ.

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord. Glory to you, O Lord.

Message

Song of the Day

Give Me Jesus

Red Book #770

Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Prayers

Please respond at the end of each petition:

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

*Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Music

You are Mine – congregation sings on refrain

Red Book #581

MEAL

*Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. 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.

*Words of Institution

When Holy Communion is served, all Christians who recognize the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament and the offer of forgiveness of sins are invited to the Lord's Table. Children are invited forward to receive a blessing. Please follow the ushers' instructions in coming for communion. Communion will be continuous.

***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

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

***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.**

***Song of Anticipation** *Angels we have Heard on High* **Red Book #289**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Preaching: Pastor Peter Soli
Assisting: Pastor Melinda McCluskey
Altar Guild for December 6: Joan Kloster & Gloria Kvale

The radio broadcast this morning is in loving memory of David Rasmussen from Esther Rasmussen, Clear Lake.

The 8:30 a.m. worship service is broadcast weekly on KIOW-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.**

A farewell lunch for Pastor Soli will be held at 11:30 a.m. today in the fellowship hall. Please join together in appreciation of Pastor Soli's service to Salem.

Tapestry Singers Advent Concert this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Hospice Tree Lighting Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



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.

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.



Holiday Blues - Anyone can get the Holiday blues. Sometimes we can become blue during the holidays because we find ourselves under a lot of stress to get out the Christmas cards, buy the perfect gifts for loved ones, attending Christmas concerts, and Sunday School Programs and Christmas gatherings. Sometimes we get the blues because we are missing a loved one, who is no longer present to celebrate all the above Christmas activities. Stephen Ministers are trained to listen and walk alongside you during these times. If you or someone you know could use a Stephen Minister, call Pastor Randy at 641-590-0727 and he will see if a Stephen Minister is available. Stephen Ministry is a shared ministry between One in Christ, Our Savior's and Salem.



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.

PRAYER

changes things

Please remember in prayer this week:

The family & friends of Mitch Jenson, Helen Groe, Daniel Swanson and Ardell Brua

Michael Thune, Yvonne Back, Gavin Thompson, Roger Juveland, Darlene Madson

Prayer Families: Samantha Rasmussen, Karen Rasmussen, Devan Register, Gary Register, Shane/Jean Reinlasoder, Holly Reuter Family, Jacob Reynoldson, Daniel/Allison Rice Family, Gregory/Julie Rice, Larry/Helen Rice

A memorial service will be held for Helen Groe on Wednesday, December 9 at 1:00 p.m. in Salem's sanctuary.

Those worshipping November 25/29: 176
Last week's giving to the Glory of God: \$4546

Salem Contact Information

Pastor Peter Soli, Interim Pastor: 507.369.6303

Pastor Melinda McCluskey: 563-581-9965

Pastor Joel Dahlen: 641.420.5604

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

3:10 p.m. Girl Scouts – Room #4

3:30 p.m. Hannah Circle – Elaine Aamodt

5:30 p.m. Council – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Worship & Music Board

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

10:00 a.m. Care Givers Support Group - Lounge

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

1:00 p.m. Helen Groe Memorial Service - Sanctuary

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Piano Lessons - Lounge

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

7:00 p.m. Contemporary Music Practice; St. Pat's Youth Group - Room #9

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program Practice

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

11:30 a.m. Pastor Soli Farewell Luncheon – Fellowship Hall



You are welcome to place mittens, caps and scarves on the Mitten Tree by the pulpit prior to services in December or at any time during the week. Gifts will be distributed locally and in the surrounding area.

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