



Salem Lutheran Church

Welcome to the House of the Lord
Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015 - 9:30 a.m.



GATHERING

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.

In the Gospel of Luke, John the Baptizer points to Jesus: As the people were filled with expectation, ... questioning whether John might be the Messiah, John answered them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (*Luke 3:15-16*)

If we follow Jesus Christ, we will get everything we hope for, and more than we bargained for. We light our third candle to praise God, whose Spirit comes to us with disturbing and wonderful blessings.

(Light the third candle.)

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

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

Sunday School Christmas Program *A Strange Way to Save the World*

*Prayers

Please respond at the end of each petition:
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Conclusion of the Program

Dismissal

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

Recessional

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Congregations sings refrain

Postlude

Presiding: Pastor Melinda McCluskey
Organist: Ruth Sheldon
Guest Pianist: Krista Reeder
Altar Guild for December 12-18: Sharon Johnson and Pat Young

The radio broadcast this morning is in loving memory of John Ellingson and Dawn Westrum, from Linda and family.

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.



Jesus' Birthday Party

Following the Christmas Program, we are going to Celebrate Jesus' Birthday. The Birthday Party for Jesus will be held in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited!!!

Dear Salem Members,

I want to thank you for putting on the farewell luncheon and program for Sandy and I last Sunday. I am blessed by your generous spirit and the care you have shown to me as I have served as your interim pastor. It has been a blessing to serve here at Salem and I will miss the partnership we have formed in ministry. Thank you for the golfing gift card. Someone knows that I have a weakness for the game. I will think about you every time I am successful in sinking the putt or hitting a long straight drive.

I give thanks to God for you and pray for your future ministry.

Pr. Peter Soli

Be sure to look at the beautiful picture on display in the narthex. It is a gift to Salem from Pastor Soli and wife, Sandy. It will be placed over the fireplace in the library when the library remodeling project is completed.



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.



Donate a Christmas Candle

At our Candlelight Christmas Eve worship, we will be placing white candles on and in front of the altar to create an image of God as the *Light to the World*. Please consider donating white candles and holders for this display. You will need to drop them off at the church by Wednesday, December 23rd. Please set them on the tables in the narthex. You will be able to reclaim your candles the first Sunday in January. Thanks for your help!

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant for the Advent/Christmas season, please bring them to the church at any time.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services
will be held at 5:00 & 10:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Sunday, December 27
A Service of Lessons & Carols
8:30 and 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.
Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.





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.



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.

*****Two Salem members are needed to be placed on the Annual Meeting Ballot to attend the North Eastern Iowa Synod Assembly, June 10-12, 2016 at Wartburg College, Waverly IA. Please contact the office or Scott Hagenson if interested.*****

*****New Sunday Schedule beginning January 3, 2016 with one Sunday service at 9:00 a.m., Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.*****



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!

PRAYER

changes things

Please remember in prayer this week:

The family & friends of Helen Groe and Ardell Brua

Sharon Casey, Bonnie Steffens, Michael Thune, Yvonne Back, Gavin Thompson, Roger Juveland, Darlene Madson

Prayer Families: Nick Rice, Phillip/Christina Rice Family, Richard Rice, Susan Rice, Tyler Rice, Derek Richards, Douglas Richards Jr, Douglas Sr/Vivian Richards, Kristi Richards, Konner Rikala

Those worshipping December 2/6: 227
Last week's giving to the Glory of God: \$6367

“The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe”

BrickStreet Theatre will present an adaptation of C.S. Lewis' “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe” this Christmas season. This classic tale of good overcoming evil will be performed three times at the Lake Mills High School: Friday, Dec. 18, and Saturday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m., with a Sunday, Dec. 20, matinee at 2:30 p.m.

All seats are general admission, and all tickets are \$10. Children (age 0-3) who will be sitting in a lap rather than a seat are free. Tickets may be purchased at MBT Lake Mills, and the Lake Mills Chamber of Commerce. Tickets will be pre-sold until Wednesday, Dec. 16, for the Lake Mills performances. After those dates, tickets may be purchased at the door, pending availability. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to curtain. Patrons who require accessible seating are asked to arrive early.

BrickStreet Theatre is a regional community theatre based in Forest City that provides art and entertainment opportunities for North Central Iowa.

2016 Pledges:

# Responses	107
# Pledges	96
\$'s Pledged	\$177,994
New Simply Giving	12
# Simply Giving	28

Thank you for your 2016 Pledges.
We are still accepting Pledges until December 31.



THIS WEEK AT SALEM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program/Worship
10:30 a.m. Birthday Part for Jesus – Fellowship Hall
1:00 p.m. Private Family Party – Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

1:00 p.m. Mission Quilters – Fellowship Hall
2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

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
6:00 p.m. Casual Worship – Chapel
7:00 p.m. St. Pat's Youth Group - Room #9

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

2:00 p.m. WELCA – Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

3:10 p.m. Girl Scouts – Room #4

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Worship - Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Worship Service

“Visit us on the web at www.salemlakemills.com”

Like us on Facebook. Search Salem Lake Mills

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2016 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KLOW (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 dates. Cost for 2016 is \$83.

Available dates are: Jan. 3, 10, 17 Feb. 28, March 6, 20, 27, April 3, 24, May 1, 8, June 5, 12, July 10, 17, 31 Aug. 7, 14, 21, Sept. 4, Oct. 9, 16, 23, Nov. 6, 20, Dec. 4, 11, 25

Please do not park in St. Patrick's parking lot during Christmas Eve service. Thank you!



Salem Contact Information

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Pastor Joel Dahlen: 641.420.5604

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