



# Salem Lutheran Church

Welcome to the House of the Lord  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2015 - 10:30 a.m.

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## INTRODUCTION

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

\*Please stand as you are able.

## GATHERING

### Announcements

Report from Council  
Call Committee Update

### 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 tells how Mary meets her cousin Elizabeth: When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (*Luke 1:41-42*)

God speaks in many ways: through dreams, visions, new ideas, and the kicking of a child not yet born. We light our fourth candle, asking that we may hear God's call in our body, mind, and spirit.

(Light the fourth 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.**

### 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.

**\*Song** Emmanuel Screen

## \*Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you All. **All: And also with you.**

## \*Prayer of the Day

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

### Luke 1:46b-55

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

**\*Gospel** Luke 1:39:55

Page 58 in Bible

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

## Children's Message and Message

Song of the Day

*Canticle of Turning*

Red Book #723

\*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

Vocal Solo

*Mary Did You Know?*

Bruce Adams

## 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

\*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

*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.*

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

Litany of Farwell

*On Screen*

**\*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**

*Joy to the World*

Red Book #267

**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 19-25:** Candy Hanna and Medara Winter

**The radio broadcast** this morning is in loving memory of Eva Colby and Ardell & Phyllis Ausen from Bob & Yvonne Ausen and Doug & Candy Hanna.

**Flowers have been placed** in loving memory of Roger Juveland, from his family.

**A poinsettia has been placed** in loving memory of Roger Peterson & Bob Peterson, from their family.

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

**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.**

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

**Today is Pr. Soli's last Sunday at Salem.** His interim ministry with Salem comes to an end as he begins interim ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Austin, MN. His leaving is marked by a special Litany of Farewell at the end of today's worship.

**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.

**Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2016 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 dates. Cost for 2016 is \$83.**

**Available dates are:** Jan. 3, 17 Feb. 28, March 6, 20, 27, April 3, 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



Gifts will be distributed locally and in the surrounding area.

**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.**



**Donate a Christmas  
Candle**

At our candlelit 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 Candle Light 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.**



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

\*\*\*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.\*\*\*

\*\*\*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.\*\*\*

## PRAYER

*changes things*

Please remember in prayer this week:

The family & friends of Roger Juveland, Alice Hansen and Helen Groe

Sharon Casey, Bonnie Steffens, Michael Thune, Gavin Thompson, Darlene Madson

Prayer Families: Jonah Ringham, Terry Ringham, Zachary Ringham, Norman/Marvis Risius, Adam/Megan Ritter Family, Andrea Rodberg, Scott Rodberg, Terry/Karen Rodberg, Chalsea Roder, Sarah Roelfs Family

Those worshipping December 9/13: 323

Last week's giving to the Glory of God: \$4283.48

### “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: Matinee **today** 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 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.

“Visit us on the web at [www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com)”

Like us on Facebook. Search Salem Lake Mills



### THIS WEEK AT SALEM

#### 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

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

2:00 – 5:00 Food Shelf Open

2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Operation Clothes for Kids Pickup – Chapel

3:10 p.m. Girl Scouts – Room #4

7:00 p.m. Quilt Club – Fellowship Hall

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00 p.m. Stephens Ministry – Lounge

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

OFFICES CLOSED

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

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

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

#### Salem Contact Information

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

#### Sunday Worship Schedule

Beginning January 3.

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Coffee Fellowship

Email: [melindamcmc@gmail.com](mailto:melindamcmc@gmail.com)

Email: [pastorjoeld@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoeld@gmail.com)

Email: [janelle.gilbertson@yahoo.com](mailto:janelle.gilbertson@yahoo.com)

Email: [salem@wctatel.net](mailto:salem@wctatel.net)