



Lessons and Carols for Christmas

First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2015 – 8:30 & 10:30 A.M.

Salem Lutheran Church
401 South Lake Street
Lake Mills, Iowa 50450

LESSONS AND CAROLS

***Please stand as you are able**

GATHERING SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High

Red Book #289

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.

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 **Red Book #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 **Red Book #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

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming **Red Book #272**

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

Jesus, What A Wonderful Child **Red Book #297**

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 **Red Book #275**

Offering

*Offertory Verse *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord,
the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

Red Book #286

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

Red Book #292

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Red Book #288

Preaching: Pastor Melinda McCluskey

(8:30) Organist: Ruth Sheldon

(10:30) Pianist: Karen Harthan

Sound: Al Skellenger

Video Coordinator: Carol Abbey

Altar Guild for December 26-31: Phyllis Moen and Kathy Nelson

Thank you for the poinsettias placed in memory of loved ones:

*In loving memory of Kurtis Helgson's birthday, Christmas Eve,
from Verna and his kids*

In memory of Roger Peterson & Bob Peterson, from their family

In memory of Robert Kvale, from his family

The radio broadcast this morning is in loving memory of Howdy Evenson who passed away one year ago, from Bev and family.

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

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. 17 Feb. 28, March 6, 20, 27, 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.

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 in 2016.

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

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.

Sunday Worship Schedule

Beginning January 3 there will be one worship service at 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship will held at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School resumes January 10.

Salem's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 24.

Worship service that day is at 9:00 a.m. Coffee will be served in the fellowship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. Brunch will be served in the fellowship hall at 11:15 a.m., following Sunday School. The Annual Meeting will begin at 11:45 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

All members are encouraged to attend.

*****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.*****

Pledges may still be returned to the office.

Any donations that you would like credited for 2015 must be received or be postmarked by December 31, 2015.



*Thank you to the many Salem members, youth and adult,
who donated their time and talents to help with our
2015 Sunday School Christmas Program.*



PRAYER

changes things

Please remember in prayer this week:

The family & friends of Roger Juveland

**Bonnie Steffens, Michael Thune, Gavin Thompson,
Darlene Madson**

Prayer Families: Anna Rogers, Tryggve Rogers, Charles Rognes, Cody Rognes, Dennis/LuAnne Rognes, Kjersti Rognes, Oswald/Muriel Rognes, Bruce Rogness, Arlo/Margaret Rogstad, Brad Rogstad

Next Week's Lessons:

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:1-18

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Like us on Facebook. Search Salem Lake Mills

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

1:45 p.m. Mills Harbour Communion

2:30 p.m. Lake Mills Care Center Communion

6:00 p.m. Informal Worship - Chapel

7:00 p.m. Contemporary Music Practice

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

OFFICES CLOSED

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

9:00 a.m. Communion Worship Service - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall



Salem Lutheran Church

401 S. Lake Street

Lake Mills IA 50450