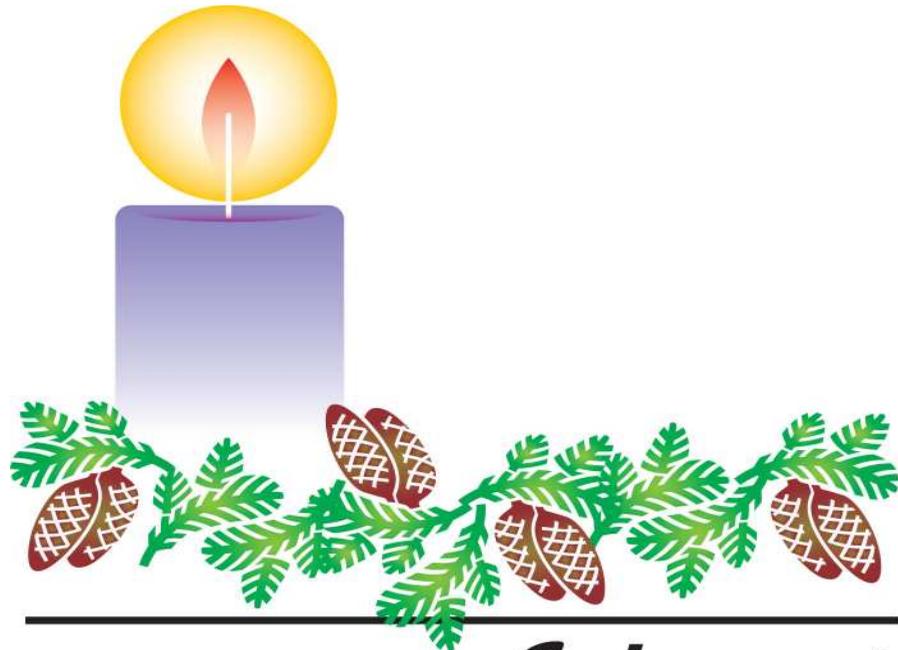




Salem Lutheran Church

Welcome to the House of the Lord
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2015 - 8:30 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

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you.

Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation.

Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ☩ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads!

The reign of God is near. **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*

Red Book #438

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Presiding: Pastor Melinda McCluskey
Organist: Ruth Sheldon
Reader: Becky Helgeson
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 K1OW-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

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Like us on Facebook. Search Salem Lake Mills

Salem Contact Information

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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