

# DEAR FUTURE ME

Second Sunday in Advent

December 4-5, 2021

# W elcome to Our Guests!

We are glad to have you here! If you have any questions regarding our services, weekly programs, Lutheran elementary school, or preschool, please talk with us or call the office at your convenience. Any of us would be glad to talk with you. We look forward to meeting you. Please come again soon and worship with us.

- 🔗 **Connection Cards** We ask everyone, guests and members, to fill out the connection card that that is available in the pews or on the website. We care about you and this is the easiest way for us to stay in contact with you and our fellow believers who might have missed worship. There are also spots on the connection card for prayer requests and questions you might have. We love to read them and share in your struggles, praises, and questions as a family in Christ!

LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE!  
saalem.lutheran.org/connect



- 🔗 **Ways to Give** The members of Salem give an offering in honor of all God has done for us, and to support God's mission within our congregation and beyond. If you have an offering, you can drop it in the basket on the table in the back of church as you leave. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to support this ministry. You are our guest. Welcome!

## Restrooms

are located at the end of the hallway leading away from the narthex.

## Cry-room

If you have a young child or nursing infant and are in need of a cry-room, you will find it across from the rest rooms. A television there allows you to watch the service.

## Hearing Support

Salem is equipped with an induction loop system, so please switch your hearing aid to T-coil to use it.



# Order of Service for THE SEASON OF ADVENT



## INVOCATION

*The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

*The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners" [The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?]. See John 20:21-23.*

P: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

P: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.  
*Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23*



O, come, O, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here



Un-til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!



Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

P: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the hope candle. The Spirit declares through the psalmist, "Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption."

**C: We wait for the Lord, and in his word we put our hope.**

*Galatians 4:4,5; Psalm 130:5,7*

O, come, our Hope, who has de-clared "Sal - va - tion's won; do not de-spair." Help us be-lieve that once for all You bore God's wrath, re - deem - ing all. Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

P: In the peace of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

**C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.**

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## **First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-7b**

1 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

5 “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

## **Breaking Covenant by Withholding Tithes**

6 “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 7 Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

## Comfort, Comfort All My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,"  
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out  
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des -  
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -



so says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
 each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger  
 ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance  
 er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all  
 He no more will see or heed. They have suf -  
 For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -  
 Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -



Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
 fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.  
 ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er,  
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness  
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken



That their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 And the hills bow down to greet him.  
 That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

## **SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:6-7**

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

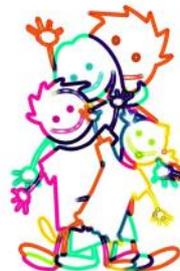
### **Gospel: Luke 3:1-6**

#### **John the Baptist Prepares the Way**

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— 2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.  
5 Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.  
6 And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

#### **Children’s Message**



## Second Grade

## Prepare the Royal Highway

*Prepare the royal highway,  
the King of kings is near;  
let every hill and valley  
a level road appear.  
Then greet the king of glory  
foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord.  
For he fulfilled God's word.*

*Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king;  
your king, yet every nation  
its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before him;  
all voices, thus adore him:  
Hosanna to the Lord.  
For he fulfilled God's word.*

*His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord.  
For he fulfilled God's word.*

### Message:



## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Thank Offering**

*The members of Salem give an offering in honor of all God has done for us,  
and to support God's mission within our congregation and beyond. If you have an  
offering, you can drop it in the basket on the table in the back of church as you leave. If  
you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to support this ministry.*

*You are our guest. Welcome!*

*We would love to make a meaningful connection with you. Please take one of the  
connection cards in the pew or follow the link to the electronic card and fill it out.*

*You can drop the card in the offering basket. Thank you!*

## **Prayer Requests and Lord's Prayer**

**Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not  
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

# The Blessing

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

## 16 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,  
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our  
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we  
 us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on  
 vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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## What's going on this week at Salem

- Sun, 12/5** 8 am Worship - Pastor Enter  
9:15 am Education Hour  
10:30 am Worship - Pastor Enter
- Mon, 12/6** 6:30 pm Teacher Call Meeting
- Tues, 12/7** 10:10 am Bible Support Group
- Wed, 12/8** 9:30 am Chapel  
4 pm Advent Service - Gr K-1  
Youth serving Soup Buffet following the Service
- Thur, 12/9** 6 pm Preschool Christmas Service
- Sat, 12/11** 5 pm Worship - Pastor Birkholz  
Game Night following the Service
- Sun, 12/12** 8 am Worship - Pastor Birkholz  
9:15 am Education Hour  
10:30 am Worship - Pastor Birkholz

### Ministry Support

God blessed Salem with offerings this past week in the amount of \$20,205.01 for Current Expenses and \$1,100.00 for Missions. We pray God will bless us again this week. EFT or credit card service is available for giving on the mobile-friendly page of [salemlutheran.org/donate](https://salemlutheran.org/donate)

### Saturday Services to be TEMPORARILY Suspended.

Beginning in January 2022, the Saturday service will be temporarily suspended. Our service times on Sundays will remain at 8:00 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. Church council welcomes your thoughts and comments as we navigate these challenging times.

be reinstated. Church council welcomes your thoughts and comments

### Teacher Call Meeting

On Monday, December 6th, Salem will be calling for a Kindergarten teacher and a 7-8th grade Language Arts teacher and Music Director. The Voter's Meeting will be on December 6th @ 6:30pm in the church.

### Game Night

Please join us for food, fellowship, and board games on Saturday, December 11th after the 5pm service. We will meet in the fellowship

hall. Please bring a snack to share and your favorite board games! Members of ALL ages are welcome! Hosted by the Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study. Questions? Contact Abigail Ibisch or Rachel Boerner.

### **MLC Christmas Concert**

Martin Luther College's highly anticipated Christmas Concert will be presented Saturday, December 4, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 5, at 4:00 pm in the MLC Chapel of the Christ. *Also, you can watch the Christmas concerts on the MLC streaming page at <https://livestream.com/mlc-streams>*

### **Midweek Advent (4 PM)**



- Wednesday, December 8th—  
*K—1st grade service (Soup Buffet)*
- Thursday, December 9th—  
PreK Christmas Service  
(6 PM Immediate family only)
- Wednesday, December 15th—  
*2nd-4th grade service (Sloppy Joes)*

**Christmas Eve, December 24th, 3 & 5 PM**

**Christmas Day, December 25th, 10 AM with communion**



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[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)

Jon Enter, Pastor

Paige Reiners, Pianist