

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
~ DECEMBER 3, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: "The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in a land of deep shadow, on them a light has shined."  
(Isaiah 9:2)

Almighty God, grant that the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, may so light our whole lives that we never need again walk in darkness.

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP "Peace, Peace, Peace"** (Tune: *Still, Still, Still*)

Hope, hope, hope – the light of Christ is hope. In  
All our darkness Christ is shining. Leading upward, faith refining.  
Hope, hope, hope – the light of Christ is hope.

\* **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\* **GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\* **KYRIE**

Forgive us, Lord, for times when hope was lost, and moments when we never thought to trust, for times when we despair and forget that you are where all joy and truth have met. Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins and help us hope and trust you without end.

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"**

Sing we the song of Emmanuel  
This the Christ who was long foretold  
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem  
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.

God Most High in a manger laid  
Lift your voices and now proclaim  
Great and glorious, Love has come to us  
Join now with the hosts of heaven  
Come we to welcome Emmanuel  
King who came with no crown or throne  
Helpless He lay, the Invincible  
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son  
O what wisdom to save us all  
Shepherds, sages, before Him fall  
Grace and majesty, what humility  
Come on bended knee, adore Him  
Go spread the news of Emmanuel  
Joy and peace for the weary heart  
Lift up your heads, for your King has come  
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark  
Glory shining for all to see  
Hope alive, let the gospel ring  
God has made a way, He will have the praise  
Tell the world His name is Jesus  
Glory shining for all to see  
Hope alive, let the gospel ring  
God has made a way, He will have the praise  
Tell the world His name is Jesus

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

**C: *By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Word**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness." Word of God, word of life. ***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 25:1-10**

*Please read responsively*

I offer you my heart, LORD God,

**<sup>2</sup> and I trust you. Don't make me ashamed or let enemies defeat me.**

<sup>3</sup> Don't disappoint any of your worshipers, but disappoint all deceitful liars.

**<sup>4</sup> Show me your paths and teach me to follow;**

<sup>5</sup> guide me by your truth and instruct me. You keep me safe, and I always trust you.

**<sup>6</sup> Please, LORD, remember, you have always been patient and kind.**

<sup>7</sup> Forget each wrong I did when I was young. Show how truly kind you are and remember me.

**<sup>8</sup> You are honest and merciful, and you teach sinners how to follow your path.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead humble people to do what is right and to stay on your path.

**<sup>10</sup> In everything you do, you are kind and faithful to everyone who keeps our agreement with you.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

<sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

\* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs. 2**

*Hymn #257*

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh;  
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide  
our way.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

\* **GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

\* **Luke 21:25-36**

Jesus said: <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

<sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.” The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**SERMON SONG “Hark, the Glad Sound”**

*Hymn #239*

Vs. 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior  
promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare  
a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

Vs. 2 He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's  
bondage held. The gates of brass  
before Him burst, the iron fetters yield.

Vs. 3 He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding  
soul to cure, and with the treasures  
of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

Vs. 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome  
shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal  
arches ring with your beloved name.

\* **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

\* **JOYS, SORROWS AND CONCERNS**

\* **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

L: God, in your mercy,

**C: *hear our prayer.***

\* **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: *And also with you.***

**OFFERING COLLECTION**

P: We will accept our offering at this time.

\* **OFFERING “*Doxology for Advent*”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

\* **OFFERING PRAYER**

**C: *Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered,***

***in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

**MEAL**

\* **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: *And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: *We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

\* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

\* **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.***

***“O Lamb of God”***

*(Tune Hymn #257 “O Come, O, Come Emmanuel)*

O Lamb of God you take away

The sins of the whole world, now let us pray

For peace, forgiveness, hope, joy and love

Be our protector from above.

O Lamb of God,

O Lamb of God

Grant us your peace on

Earth we pray.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION SONGS

### ***“Carol at the Manger”***

WOV #638

Vs.1 Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near; come as friend to every stranger, come as hope for every fear. As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound, as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

Vs. 2 Once again we tell the story-- how your love for us was shown, when the image of your glory wore an image like our own. Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace. May the fire of your compassion kindle every land and race.

Vs. 3 Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way, so we see in every stranger how you come to us today. In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you, that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

### ***“My Lord, What a Morning”***

Hymn #438

***Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning; oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.***

Vs. 1 You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 2 You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,

looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. ***[Refrain]***

***Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning; oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.***

Vs. 3 You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. ***[Refrain]***

### \* **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

### \* **PRAYER**

L: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

## **Sending**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### \* **BENEDICTION**

### \* **SENDING SONG “Prepare the Way of the Lord”**

Prepare the way of the Lord, Tell everybody about him  
Prepare the way of the Lord, Tell everybody He's coming  
Shout for joy Jerusalem  
Shout for joy, you nations of God  
Jesus is coming to save the world  
Prepare Him a place in your heart  
Prepare the way of the Lord

### **DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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*\* Please stand if you are able.*

## **WELCOME**

We are delighted to welcome those of you visiting with us today. Communion is open to all who believe. ***If you need gluten-free bread or prefer grape juice, please let the servers know.*** As you receive the bread for Communion, please hold your hands out. *Notify the usher if you want to be served in the pew.*

*Please fill out a communion card located in the pew rack so we can get to know you better. If you have any other questions, please ask the pastor or any other members.*

# **Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church**



## **Sundays at Salem**

Youth Education – 9:00 am

Worship – 10:00 am

Coffee Fellowship

*Rev. John Ansell*

**4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811**

**218-727-1357**

**Email – salemhermantown@gmail.com**

**Web – www.slecduluth.org**

**Facebook – Salem Lutheran Church**

*“Our Mission is to pass on the faith by involving all members of our community in Christ’s ministry.”*

**Cookies for St. Louis County Jail**

Kathryn Bell, Chaplain at St. Louis County Jail has requested donations of homemade cookies for their Christmas celebration on December . If you are able to bake cookies, bring them to worship with you on Sunday, December 10 or drop them off at the church office (9-1) on Tuesday December 12. **Please no nuts or coconut due to possible allergies!**

**Mitten Drive**

To meet the needs of all students at Piedmont, they are collecting donations of new mittens and gloves in sizes pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Bring your mittens/gloves to church and look for the basket in the narthex. This collection will continue through the winter!

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024**

Day Care ..... 6:00 am  
 Ruth Circle-Prayer Room ..... 1:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024**

Day Care ..... 6:00 am  
 Quilters..... 9:30 am  
 Trillium Works! Collective ..... 3-4:30 pm

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024**

*Church Office Closed*

Day Care ..... 6:00 am

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024**

Day Care ..... 6:00 am

**NEXT SUNDAY, December 8, 2024**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

Youth Education ..... 9:00 am  
 Worship ..... 10:00 am  
 Coffee Fellowship..... 11:00 am  
 Cub Scouts..... 4-5 pm

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**This Week a Salem**

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**TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024**

*First Sunday of Advent*

Youth Education ..... 9:00 am  
 Worship ..... 10:00 am  
 Coffee Fellowship ..... 11:00 am  
 Prison Ministry  
 Cub Scouts ..... 4-5 pm

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024**

Day Care ..... 6:00 am