

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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**~ DECEMBER 28, 2025 ~ 10:00 am**

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP "*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*" Hymn #275**

Vs. 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the  
earth;  
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

***Refrain:***

***Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born king.***

Vs. 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by  
night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.

***Refrain***

Vs. 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.

***Refrain***

Vs. 4 All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.

***Refrain***

\* **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS** *Page 211*

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

***C: Amen.***

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly  
love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

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

L: Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from  
you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly  
sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our  
sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we  
have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your  
Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in  
sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been  
saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.***

\* **GREETING** *Page 213*

L: 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 "*In the Bleak Midwinter*"** *Hymn #294*

Vs. 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Vs. 2 Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Vs. 3 What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

**\*Hymn of Praise**

Hymn #300

Vs.1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain:**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!**

**Born is the King of Israel.**

Vs. 2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

Vs. 3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

Vs. 4 This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;

and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**

Vs. 5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon the knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain**

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God,

***C: 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.***

**WORD**

**FIRST LESSON: Isa 63:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**Psalm 148**

*Please read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup>**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**<sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

**<sup>6</sup>He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

**<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**<sup>10</sup>Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**<sup>12</sup>Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**<sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!**

## **SECOND LESSON: Hebrew 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God,<sup>[a]</sup> for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father.<sup>[b]</sup> For this reason Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

<sup>13</sup>And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself

likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. Word of God, word of life. ***Thanks be to God.***

### **\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “A Christmas Alleluia” 2x**

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the

Savior of the world, He has come! Alleluia, alleluia!

To the highest name of all: Alleluia!

### **\* GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23**

L: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

### **\* GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23**

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph<sup>[a]</sup> got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” <sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi,<sup>[b]</sup> he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,<sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”<sup>21</sup> Then Joseph<sup>[d]</sup> got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.<sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.<sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”<sup>[e]</sup> The Gospel of our Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

#### MESSAGE

#### SERMON SONG “***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice***” Hymn #288

Vs. 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Vs. 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Vs. 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to  
save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

#### \* APOSTLES’ CREED

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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 & CONCERNS

#### \* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: God of grace,

***C: receive our prayer.***

#### \* THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

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

### THANKSGIVING

#### OFFERING COLLECTION

L: We will accept our offering at this time.

#### \* OFFERING “***What Child Is This***”

Hymn #296

Vs. 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds  
watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and  
angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Vs. 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are  
feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is

pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;

hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

Vs. 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

\* OFFERING PRAYER

***C: God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

\* THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

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L: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

***C: we give you thanks and praise.***

L: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

***C: we give you thanks and praise.***

L: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed

by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

***C: we give you thanks and praise.***

L: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

***C: Amen.***

\* LORD'S PRAYER

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***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.***

**SENDING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

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L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

***C: Amen.***

\* SENDING SONG "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Hymn #290

***Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

Vs. 1 While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and  
ev’rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

Vs. 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.  
**Refrain**

Vs. 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
**Refrain**

\* **DISMISSAL**  
L: Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

*\* Please stand if you are able*

*A special thank you to Chris, Lee, the music team and tech  
team for leading worship this morning while Pastor John is on  
vacation.*

***Pastor John is on vacation through January 1. Please  
contact the church office in case of an emergency.***

**From the Church Office: For those members who do not use  
electronic giving, 2025 Offering Envelopes are now available in the  
narthex.  
Annual Report Articles are due January 2, 2026.  
Annual Reports will be available in the narthex and via email  
Sunday, January 11, 2026  
Salem’s Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 25, 2026 following  
worship. 2025 Contribution Reports will be sent out on or before  
January 31, 2026.**

| This Week a Salem  |          |
|--|----------|
| <u>TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025</u>  |          |
| Worship .....  | 10:00 am |
| Coffee Fellowship.....   | 11:00 am |
| <br><u>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31 , 2025</u><br><b><i>New Year’s Eve</i></b><br><b><i>Office Closed</i></b> |          |
| <br><u>THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026</u><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>   |          |
| <br><u>FRIDAY, JANUARY 2 , 2026</u><br><b><i>Annual Report Articles Due!</i></b>                       |          |
| <br><u>NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026</u>  |          |
| Youth Education .....  | 9:00 am  |
| Worship .....  | 10:00 am |
| Coffee Fellowship.....   | 11:00 am |
| Cub Scouts.....  | 4:00 pm  |

**Facebook – Salem Lutheran Church**

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

# **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***