# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church




## Sundays at Salem

Youth Education – 9:00 am
Worship – 10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am

***Rev. John Ansell***
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***"Our Mission is to pass on the faith by involving all members of our community in Christ's ministry."***

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

# First Sunday of Advent
# ~ November 29, 2026 ~ 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"*** **Vs. 2** *(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** *Page 94*

L: 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.***

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

L: 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.***

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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
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* **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.***

# Word

**First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so
that the mountains would quake at your presence— 2as
when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to
boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that
the nations might tremble at your presence! 3When you did
awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the
mountains quaked at your presence. 4From ages past no
one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any
God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
5You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember
you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our
righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7There is no
one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered
us into the hand of our iniquity. 8Yet, O Lord, you are our
Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all
the work of your hand. 9Do not be exceedingly angry, O
Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider,
we are all your people.
Word of God, word of life. ***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** *Please read responsively*

1Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a
flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

**2before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up
your might, and come to save us!**

3Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be
saved.

**[4]O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

[5]You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**[6]You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

[7]Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**[17]But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

[18]Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

**[19]Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

[3]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. [4]I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5]for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— [6]just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— [7]so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8]He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: Mark 13:24-37**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

* **Mark 13:24-37**

24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when

he comes suddenly. [37]And what I say to you I say to all:
Keep awake."
The Gospel of our Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

**SERMON**

**SERMON SONG *"Hark the Glad Sound"*** *Hymn #239*

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.

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

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.

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**

P: God, in your mercy,
***C: receive 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.

* ***"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 Songs***

***"Joy Has Dawned"***
Vs 1 Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation; God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation. Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory, but a humble gift of love: Jesus, born of Mary.

Vs 2 Sounds of wonder fill the sky, with the songs of angels, as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable. Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness, cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'rable and helpless.

Vs 3 Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory; gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story. Gold, a King is born today; incense, God is with us; myrrh, his death will make a way; and by his blood he'll win us.

Vs 4 Son of Adam, Son of heav'n, given as a ransom; reconciling God and man— Christ, our mighty Champion! What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious myst'ry: once a Babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry.

***"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.

*** Post Communion Blessing**

*** PRAYER**

P: 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 **3X**

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!
***C: Thanks be to God.***

** Please stand if you are able*

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# 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.*

***2027 Offering Envelopes are now available in the narthex. Please pick yours up today! Thank you!***

### Salem's Christmas Family

**We will be adopting a family for Christmas again this year. There is a Christmas tree with gift tags in the narthex if you are interested in donating. Please return unwrapped gifts to the box in the narthex or the church office by December 10th. Contact Sara Borndal 218-213-7774 or Laura Lilyquist 218-391-1812 with any questions. Thanks!**

## Online Advent Devotions

Advent is here and we are creating some mid-week devotion videos. Please be on the lookout for these wonderful videos of members reflecting on their faith and an advent theme. The themes of Advent are hope, peace, joy, and love. Each week during the advent season a member has written and will speak about what their designated theme is and how it relates to their faith. We will post a video each week to Facebook along with a link to the videos on our website. We hope these videos provide you with some reflection and encouragement in your faith during this Advent Season.

## This Week a Salem

**TODAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026**

***First Sunday of Advent***

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2026**

Day Care……. 6:00 am

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026**

Day Care……. 6:00 am
Thrive Support Group…… 6:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2026**

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

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026**

Day Care……. 6:00 am

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026**

Day Care……. 6:00 am

**NEXT SUNDAY, December 6, 2026**

***Second Sunday of Advent***

Youth Education…… 9:00 am

Worship …….. 10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship…….. 11:00 am
Cub Scouts……. 4:00 pm