

Christmas Day Festival



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Christmas Day Festival

*Theme: Good News of Great Joy—
God Became Man!*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Father in heaven, thank you for sending your Son into the world to bring us life and light. Bless our hymns and prayers on this festival day that we might give you glory, honor, and praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: This day is known as the "Festival of the Nativity." Nativus is Latin for "birth." No one knows the calendar date on which our Savior was born, but by the fourth century, the Christian Church had set December 25th as the day to celebrate the birth of Christ. The birth of our Savior at Christmas and the Resurrection of our Savior at Easter mark the two greatest celebrations in the Church Year. For centuries the Festival of the Nativity has included celebration of the Lord's Supper. This is seen in the word Christmas, which is simply short for "Christ's Mass."

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS: The "Twelve Days of Christmas" describe the whole Christmas season, beginning Christmas Day through the festival of Epiphany on January 6th. Join us for these continuing Christmas worship opportunities!

- *Weekend of Sunday, December 31 (Regular service times)*
Good News: Peace on Earth
- *Weekend of Sunday, January 7 (Regular service times)*
Good news: For All People

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Orchestra Leader: Roger Zolldan
Organ/Piano: Robyn Stoller & Madison Boerner Soloist: Abigail Ibisch

Order of Worship

Christmas Day Festival Worship



Pre-Service Christmas Carols

Minister: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Congregation: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



Refrain
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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

C: Amen.

OPENING RESPONSES & CONFESSION OF SINS

M: By right, we should have nothing to sing about. We do not deserve God's love. He created humankind in his perfect image to live with him in peace forever. But Adam and Eve sinned against him, and we have sinned against him no less than they have.

C: **We confess our sins, O Lord.**

M: We are embarrassed to think of our sins here. Our hearts are filled with love for you, but we confess we have often loved others more than you. Our eyes behold your glory, but we confess we have lusted for what you forbid. Our lips praise you, but we confess we have spoken evil again and again.

C: **We deplore our sins, O Lord.**

M: They have only gained us trouble. They have not given us the happiness they promised.

C: **For the sake of Jesus, forgive us for sinning against you, O Lord.**

M: Remind us that Christ came into the world to free us from the guilt of sin. Proclaim to us that his life and death cover our sins. Keep us from being attracted to sin. Spare us from being enslaved by sin. Help us make up for the sins we commit against one another.

C: **Deliver us from sin's power, O Lord.**

M: Glory to God in the highest! In love that astounds us, the eternal God sent his one and only Son to live among us, to obey as we could not, and to suffer what we deserved. In Christ there is indeed peace on earth. In him God extends his good will to all people. Because of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God has already proclaimed: In Christ your sins are forgiven!

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**



FOR TO US
A SON IS GIVEN

A “Te Deum Laudamus” for Christmas Day

Since the 6th century A.D. Christians have adored Christ in a song of praise and confession entitled *Te Deum Laudamus* (We Praise You, O God). After the minister speaks the words of the majestic song, the congregation sings Christmas hymns that reflect the song’s teachings and exultation.

M: We praise you. O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, Father everlasting.

Hymn: Of the Father’s Love Begotten

CW 358 sts. 4–5



4 Let the heights of heav’n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



prais - es sing, pow’rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



and ex - tol our God and King.
and un - end - ing prais - es be,



Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



ev - ’ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

M: To all angels, all the powers of heaven, cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heavenly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hymn: A Great and Mighty Wonder

CW 349 sts. 2-3



2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate and yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your mon - arch, those bright an - gel - ic bands,



and cher - u - bim sing an - thems to shep - herds from the sky.
re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, and o - ceans, clap your hands.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry and peace to all the earth!"

M: The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

Hymn: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CW 363 sts. 3-4



3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

M: You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CW 350 sts. 2-3



2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

M: When you became man to set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Hymn: What Child Is This

CW 344 sts. 1-2



1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

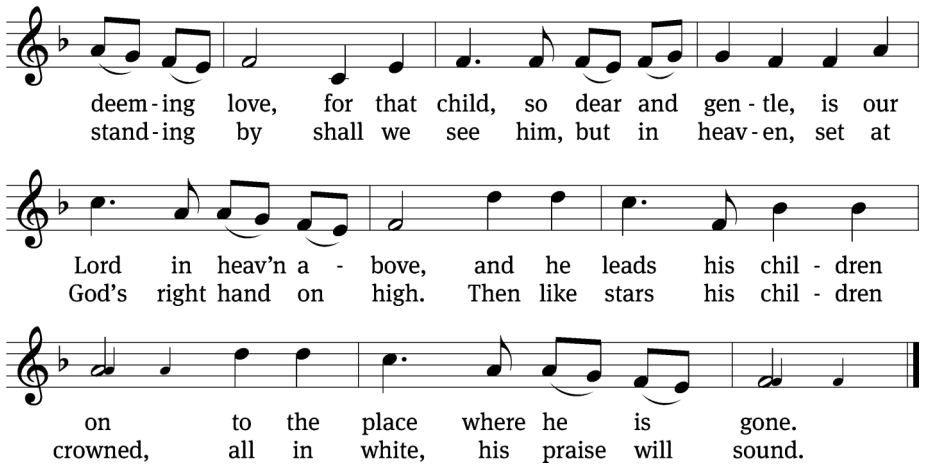
M: You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that you will come to be our judge. Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

CW 343 sts. 3-4



3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -
4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en



deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our
stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at

Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren
God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren

on to the place where he is gone.
crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Bethlehem was a little town. Yet, it will be known throughout history as the birth-place of the God-man.

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

The Son of God was born of a woman so that he might redeem us and make us heirs of the heavenly Father.

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18

The mystery of the incarnation—God became man; the Word became flesh.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn: O Rejoice, All Christians Loudly

CW 366 sts. 1-3



1 O re - joice, all Chris - tians, loud - ly, for our joy has
2 See, my soul, your Sav - ior choos - es pov - er - ty and
3 Lord, how shall I thank you right - ly? I am saved e -



now be - gun; won - drous things our God has done.
weak - ness, too; in such love he comes to you.
ter - nal - ly by your life and death for me.



Tell a - broad his good - ness proud - ly, who our race has
Nei - ther crib nor cross re - fus - es, all he suf - fers
Let me not for - get it light - ly, but with all my



hon - ored thus, that he has be - friend - ed us.
for your good to re - deem you by his blood.
heart be - lieve that from you I shall re - ceive

Refrain



Joy, O joy, be - yond all glad - ness! Christ has done a -



way with sad - ness! Hence, all sor - row and re - pin - ing,



for the Sun of grace is shin - ing!

*“Christmas is for kids!”***Offering**

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Please stand.

Prayer of the Church**Lord's Prayer**

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333 sts. 3-4



3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

Good News
of Great Joy

Christmas Day Communion Anthem

The Birthday of the King
By W. Niedlinger

In the little village of Bethlehem there lay a child one day
And the sky was bright with a holy light o'er the place where Jesus lay.

Alleluia, O how the angels sang!
Alleluia, how it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light 'twas the birthday of a King.

'Twas a humble birthplace, But O how much God gave to us that day!
From the manger bed, what a path has led, what a perfect holy way.

Alleluia, O how the angels sang!
Alleluia, how it rang!
And the sky was bright with a Holy light 'twas the birthday of a King.

Please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Nativity Prayer

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, you have proclaimed to us once again the joyful good news of the birth of your Son. We give you thanks and praise for the gift of the world's redemption, for the gift of eternal peace, and for the gift of joy in the Holy Spirit. Preserve these treasures in our hearts and minds until we finally come to share your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: 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.

Hymn: Joy to the World

CW 353



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship
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Christmas Season Thank You

Thank you once again to all the talented people who make the Christmas season special here at Salem. It takes many men and women to maintain and decorate the building, teach and organize the children, and practice and play the instruments. We are blessed to have so many people willing to share their time and talents so that our celebration and proclamation of the Savior's birth can be so rich. Thank you to everyone involved, from the youngest child to the oldest volunteer. Merry Christmas!





Christmas Poinsettias

IN LOVING MEMORY

Gearldine Roettger	Howie Elder	Leora Gilreath
Donald Roettger	Tracy Berdan	Roy & Shirley Koester
Alfred & Joanna Stoller	Ella Berdan	Burdette Bjorklund
Kent Hadrits	Gilbert Ecker	Andy McKean
Sue Galler	Rosella Ecker	Hazel McKean
John & Arlene Cromien	Kay Berdan	Linda McKean
Tom & Dorothy Gerson	LaVon Schmidt	Fran Schubkegel
Andrew Lochner	Brenda Ross	Franklin & Verna
Janice & Lloyd Grobe	George Hackler	Gruetzmacher
John Falck	Merlyn & Arayla Rogge	Harold, Carol, and Dickie
Robert Golish	Linda Wohlers	Wohlers
Gary Campbell	Gib & Eulah Schmoeckel	Evan & Beatrice
Michael Miller	Arlyn Kunze	Thompson
David Richert	Leonard LeMay	Harold and Mabel
Wayne Swanson	Olga and Arvid Deters	Zolldan
Ervin & Rose Schwalich	June & Wakter Husner	
Knute Lewis	Amber Nicole	
Dave Genter	Lyle and Aris Crawford	
Howard & Pearl Elder	Barb & Don Anderson	



Good News!

THE **12** DAYS OF  CHRISTMAS 

We thank you for joining us this evening, and hope you can join us again sometime this holiday season. You are probably familiar with the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. It is aptly named. The early Christian church would celebrate Christmas for twelve days. The Season of Christmas begins on December 25th with the great Festival of the Nativity. On January 6th, the Festival of Epiphany brings the season of Christmas to an end.

Monday, December 25 at 10:00AM

Good News of Great Joy—God Became Man

In a celebratory service we ponder some of the most profound words in Scripture, teaching us the meaning of this baby in the manger. On Christmas day we marvel at the incarnation of Christ, the miracle of God taking on flesh to save mankind. Worship includes the celebration of Holy Communion for our members. All are invited to join us 15 minutes before the service to join in singing some of our favorite Christmas carols.

Weekend of December 31st (Regular service times)

Good News of Great Joy—Peace on Earth

The angels sang to the shepherds a song of peace between God and men. The Son of God was born! In our service on this first Sunday after Christmas we remember that Jesus' perfect life as the true Son of God was lived so that we could be adopted into God's family ourselves. Praise our God of grace and love!

Weekend of January 7th (Regular service times)

Good News of Great Joy— For All People

The season of Christmas ends on January 6th, known as Epiphany, "the Gentile Christmas." On Sunday morning, January 7th we'll consider the way God guided the wise men to Jesus and made it clear that salvation in Jesus is for us Gentiles too.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Also printed in the hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

For our guests

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

For those with young children

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

