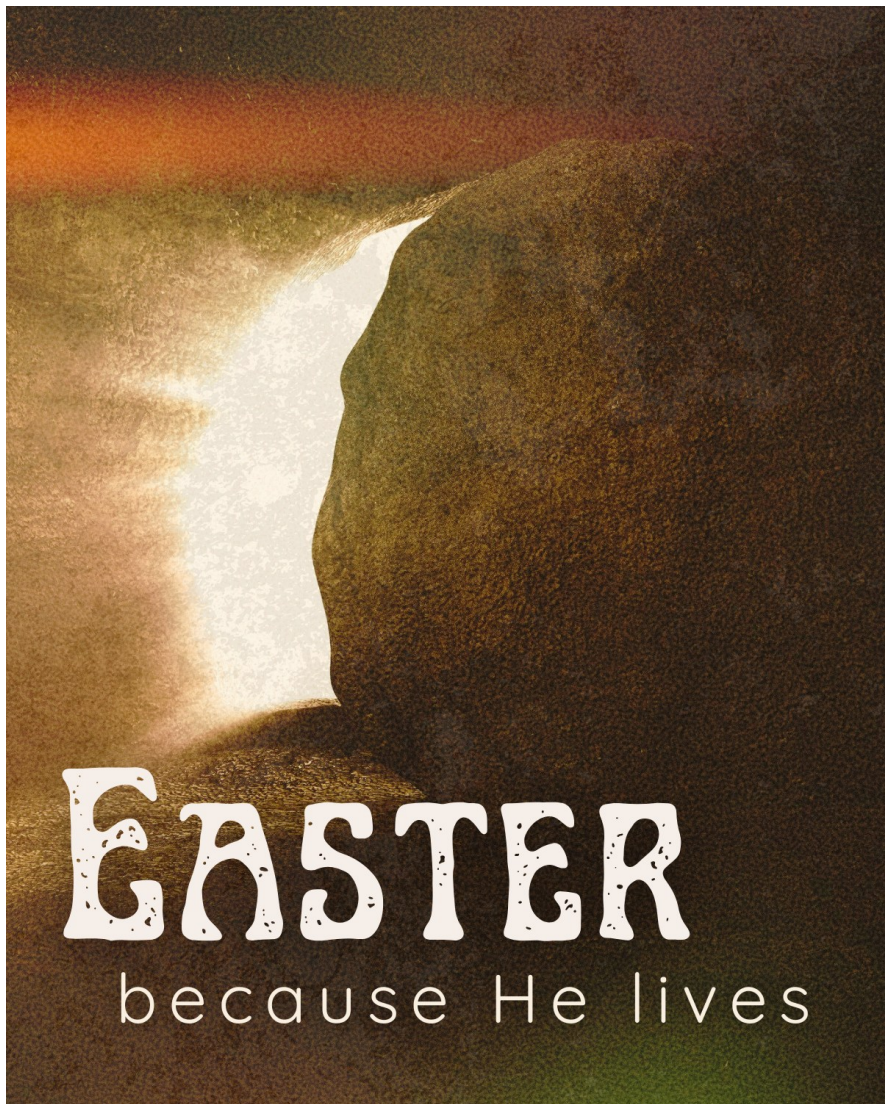


April 20, 2025

Easter Dawn



# EASTER

because He lives



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

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

**W**elcome! 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.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** In the darkness before dawn, the women walked to the tomb with heavy hearts. Jesus was dead. All that was left to do was finish embalming the corpse and then try to move on. Yet, Jesus wasn't dead. And because he lived, they were disciples of the one who had conquered sin and defeated death. It is as simple as this. Because he lives, we have a whole new identity: redeemed saints; not doomed, but saved; not only servants, but sons and daughters of God Almighty; not losers, but victorious, because Christ gives us the victory. The living Lord has given us a whole new identity. It is all because of him. It is all because he lives.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** In this season of Easter, it is good we review the details: who, when, where. That reminds us that the resurrection of Christ is not fairytale or fable. It is a historical event. However, we do ourselves a disservice if we simply recall the historic details of Easter without thinking long and hard about Easter's significance. Jesus won. That means something! It is our privilege and pleasure to use the fifty days of Easter to discuss this fact: because he lives, not only is our eternity secure, but we have abundant resources to face the present.

**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.

***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe      Piano: Luke Dorn  
Praise Group: Luke Dorn, Abigail, James & Joy Ibsch, Jessie Wolfe

# Order of Worship



*The service starts in darkness. After the ringing of the bells, the pastor removes the veil from the altar cross, reminding us of the funeral shroud gone from Jesus' face Easter morning. The light returns as we hear of Christ's resurrection.*

## **Anthem: Christ Is Arisen**

**CW 458**

Christ is arisen from the grave's dark prison.

We now rejoice with gladness; Christ will end all sadness. Lord, have mercy.

All our hopes were ended had Jesus not ascended from the grave triumphantly.

For this, Lord Christ, our thanks shall be. Lord, have mercy.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

We now rejoice with gladness; Christ will end all sadness. Lord, have mercy.

## **Easter Acclamation & Dialogue**

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Congregation: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M: This is the day the Lord has made.

**C: We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

M: I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

**C: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

M: I will not die, but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

M: The Lord's right hand is majestic in power. The Lord's right hand has shattered the enemy.

**C: Death has been swallowed up in victory.**

M: The Lord will not abandon me to the grave. He has made known to me the path of life.

**C: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**

M: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

**C: The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.**

M: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

C: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Hymn: Welcome, Happy Morning

CW 469

*Verses 1 and 3 will be sung by a soloist.*



1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say;  
2 Mak - er and Re - deem - er, life and health of all,  
3 Source of all things liv - ing, you came down to die,  
4 Free the souls long pris - oned, bound with Sa - tan's chain;



"Hell to - day is van - quished; heav'n is won to - day!"  
God from heav'n be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,  
plumbed the depths of hell to raise us up on high.  
all that now is fall - en raise to life a - gain.



Lo, the dead is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!  
of the Fa - ther's God - head you, the on - ly Son,  
Come, then, true and faith - ful, come, ful - fill your word;  
Show your face in bright - ness; shine in ev - 'ry land



Him, their true Cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore.  
man - kind to de - liv - er man - hood did put on.  
this is your third morn - ing— rise, O bur - ied Lord.  
as in E - den's gar - den when the world be - gan.

### *Refrain*



"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say;



"Hell to - day is van - quished; heav'n is won to - day!"

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

**M:** God dearly wants us to share in his life and love. He created us for himself, yet we fall short of his perfect holiness. He yearns to be reconciled with us. Let us therefore approach him this Easter morning seeking his pardon for our sins.

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. I confess that I stumble in my faith. Sometimes I live and act as though Your Son neither died for my sins nor rose bodily from the grave. Too many times I have neglected your Word and worship.**

**For these and other offenses, I deserve to be abandoned by you both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my risen Savior, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, did not spare his own son but gave him up into death on the cross to atone for the guilt of all people. Whoever believes in him will not perish but has eternal life! Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the risen Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen

### Hymn: *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

CW 452 sts. Ref-1, 3, 5



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1	The	strife	is	o'er,	the	bat - tle	done;	now	is	the
3	The	three	sad	days	have	quick - ly	sped,	he	ris - es	
5	By	your	deep	wounds,	O	ris - en	King,	come	set	us



vic -	tor's	tri -	umph	won;	now	be	the
glo -	rious	from	the	dead.	All	glo -	ry
free	from	death's	sharp	sting,	that	we	may



song	of	praise	be -	gun:	Al - le - lu - ia!
to	our	ris -	en	Head:	Al - le - lu - ia!
live	and	ev -	er	sing:	Al - le - lu - ia! <i>Refrain</i>

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before you in righteousness and purity forever; 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 Reading**

Exodus 15:1-11

*The Lord destroyed Egypt's army in the Red Sea. In saving them, the Lord gave the Israelites a new identity—not slaves of Egypt but God's special people.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

"I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.

<sup>2</sup>"The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.  
He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

<sup>4</sup>Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea.  
The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea.

<sup>5</sup>The deep waters have covered them;  
they sank to the depths like a stone.

<sup>6</sup>Your right hand, LORD, was majestic in power.  
Your right hand, LORD, shattered the enemy.

<sup>7</sup>"In the greatness of your majesty  
you threw down those who opposed you.  
You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.

<sup>8</sup>By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up.  
The surging waters stood up like a wall;  
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

<sup>9</sup>The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them.  
I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them.  
I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.'

<sup>10</sup>But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them.

They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

<sup>11</sup>Who among the gods is like you, LORD?

Who is like you—majestic in holiness,  
awesome in glory, working wonders?

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day: Let Us Rejoice

Psalm 118E

The cantor will sing the verses. The congregation is invited to join in the refrain.

Refrain

This is the day the LORD has made, let us re -  
joice and be glad! This is the day the LORD has  
made, let us re - rejoice and be glad!

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.  
Let the house of Israel say: "His mercy endures forever." **(Refrain)**
- 2 The hand of the LORD has struck with pow'r, his right hand is exalted;  
I shall not die, but live anew, declaring the works of the LORD. **(Refrain)**
- 3 The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone;  
the LORD of love and mercy has brought wonder to our eyes. **(Refrain)**



## Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

*Our new identity includes a type of glory that, for now, is hidden from the world. That glory will be fully revealed when our living Lord comes again on the Last Day.*

<sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 15:22



*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

For as in Adam all die,  
so in Christ all will be made alive. **Refrain**

## Gospel

John 20:1-18

*The first appearance of Jesus after his resurrection was to Mary of Magdala. In that appearance, for the first time Jesus give his followers this new identity: "my brothers."*

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup>So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup>So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup>Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the



strips of linen lying there,<sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.<sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.<sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)<sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

<sup>11</sup>Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb<sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup>They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."<sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup>Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## ***Children's Devotion***



# Hymn of the Day: Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

CW 443



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness— see what to -  
 2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed when Christ lay  
 3 This is a sight that glad - dens— what peace it  
 4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my  
 5 He brings me to the por - tal that leads to



day is done! Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes  
 in the tomb; but lo, he now is rout - ed, his  
 does im - part! Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the  
 Sav - ior dear. My Lord will leave me nev - er; with  
 bliss un - told, where-on this rhyme im - mor - tal is



forth the glo - rious sun. My Sav - ior there was  
 boast is turned to gloom. For Christ a - gain is  
 joy with - in my heart. No gloom shall ev - er  
 him I need not fear. He rends death's i - ron  
 found in script of gold: "Who there my cross has



laid where our bed must be made when to the  
 free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry he who is  
 shake, no foe shall ev - er take the hope which  
 chain; he breaks through sin and pain. He shat - ters  
 shared finds here a crown pre - pared; who there with



realms of light our spir - it wings its flight.  
 strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
 God's own Son in love for me has won.  
 hell's dark thrall; I fol - low him through all.  
 me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied."

- <sup>18</sup>May it please you to prosper Zion,  
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- <sup>19</sup>Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,  
in burnt offerings offered whole;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

### *“Rejoicing in Resurrection Hope”*

*Please stand after the sermon.*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### *The Second Article (Redemption)*

**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.**

#### *What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

*Be seated.*

### *Offering*



 **Connect Card**

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.*



 **Give Online**

## **Prayer of the Church**

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

**C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

**C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.

**C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

**C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **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.*

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

## **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 + 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 + 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.**

## **Jesus, Lamb of God**

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

*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.*

*If you have not communed with us before, please see the announcement on the inside cover of this service folder.*

## Communion Anthem

### Because He Lives

By B. Johnson & P. Wickham

I believe in the Son. I believe in the risen One.  
I believe, I overcome by the power of His blood

Refrain: Amen, Amen. I'm alive, I'm alive because He lives  
Amen, Amen. Let my song join the One that never ends because He lives.

I was dead in the grave. I was covered in sin and shame.  
I heard mercy call my name. He rolled the stone away. *Refrain*

Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives every fear is gone  
I know He holds My life My future in His hands. *Refrain*

*Please stand at the pastor's direction after the distribution.*

## Response of Thanksgiving

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

**C: His mercy endures forever.**

*Psalms 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*

## Easter Prayer & Blessing

M: The events and victory of this Easter Day happened for you! Christ is risen and with that he has brought you life and forgiveness; and he gives you purpose, peace, and hope. May these truths guide you and be a blessing to you. Go and live each day in that victorious joy!

**C: Amen**

# Hymn: The Tomb Is Empty

CW 453

*Cantors will sing verses 1 and 3.*



1 The tomb is emp - ty, is emp - ty! Come and  
 2 The tomb is emp - ty, is emp - ty! Come and  
 3 The tomb is emp - ty, is emp - ty! Come and  
 4 The tomb is emp - ty, is emp - ty! Come and  
 5 The tomb is emp - ty, is emp - ty! Go and



see where once the bod - y lay.  
 hear these words of life and peace:  
 touch the stone and fold - ed shroud.  
 meet the ris - en Christ our Lord  
 serve all peo - ple who long to be free!



Can it be true, be true, that Je - sus  
 "He is not here, not here. He lives a -  
 Christ lives in - deed, in - deed. Al - le - lu -  
 in whom we have, we have our vic - to -  
 Raise those who sleep, who sleep in tombs of



Christ is raised to life to - day?  
 gain in all your Gal - i - lees."  
 ia! Be - liev - ers, shout a - loud.  
 ry, in whom is life re - stored.  
 fear, and give them eyes to see!

*Refrain*



Sing al - le - lu - ia! Sing al - le - lu - ia!

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Acknowledgments

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# 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 make a donation 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 your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly 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.**

