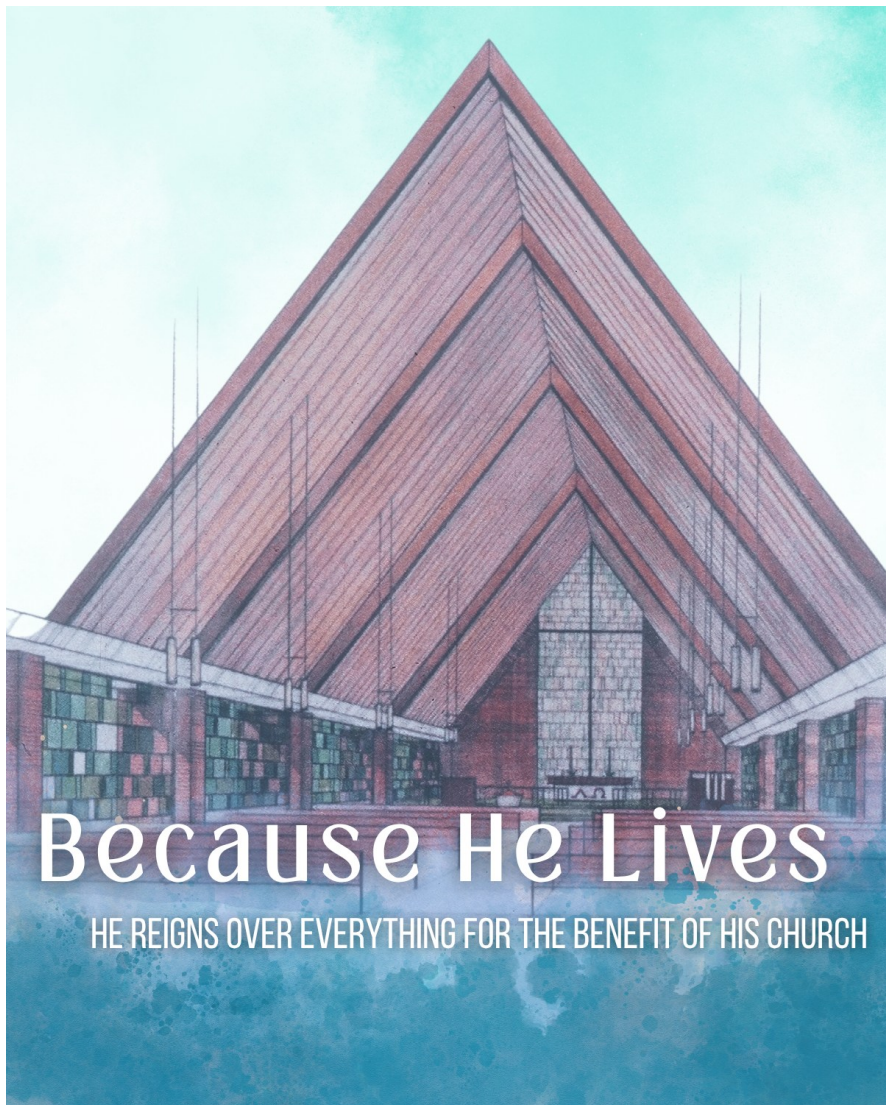


Ascension Celebrated

May 31-June 1, 2025



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

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

### **Ascension Celebrated**

*Because He Lives He Reigns Over Everything  
for the Benefit of His Church*

**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.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Mighty God, we celebrate today your victory over all things. Bless me to see your wisdom, power, and love in my life. When your way is hidden, lead me to trust in you. When your blessings are clear, lead me to praise and thanksgiving. Bless me always in Jesus' name. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Jesus' ascension marked the fact that his work was complete, in one sense. Never again will a sacrifice for sins need to be made. However, Jesus' ascension also marks that, in another sense, his work is just beginning. Jesus promised to send us his Spirit to give us power from heaven, that we might take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This year, our celebration of Jesus' blessings to us from heaven extends to our celebration of 50 years of sharing that Gospel with children and families through Salem Lutheran School. Over these years God has used our teachers, staff, members, and ministry to shine the light of Jesus to hundreds. May he bless us as fully and fruitfully in years to come.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** It is easy to become so engrossed in the details of historical events—who, when, where—that we miss their significance. In this season of Easter, it is good we review the historical details that remind us that the resurrection of Christ is not fairytale or fable. Just as importantly, we celebrate Easter's significance. Jesus won! It is our privilege and pleasure to use the 50-day season of Easter to consider this truth: because He lives, not only is our eternity secure, but we have abundant resources to face the present.

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

Guest Liturgist: Pastor-Elect Caleb Raasch

Guest Preacher: Pastor Marcus Birkholz

Saturday Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano/Organ: Luke Dorn

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + [www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org) + 651-439-7831

[church@salemlutheran.org](mailto:church@salemlutheran.org)

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



## Hymn: Christ High-Ascended

CW 747



1 Christ high-as-cend-ed, now in glo-ry seat-ed, throned  
2 Christ, from the Fa-ther ev-'ry pow'r pos-sess-ing, who  
3 Christ, who in dy-ing won for us sal-va-tion, lives  
4 Christ in his splen-dor, all do-min-ion gain-ing, Christ  
5 As at his part-ing, joy shall ban-ish griev-ing, faith



and ex-alt-ed, vic-to-ry com-plet-ed, death's dread do-  
on his cho-sen lift-ed hands in bless-ing, sends forth his  
now the first-born of the new cre-a-tion; to win dis-  
with his peo-ple ev-er-more re-main-ing, Christ to all  
in his pres-ence strength-en our be-liev-ing; filled with his



min-ion fi-nal-ly de-feat-ed, we are his wit-ness-es.  
ser-vants, still in faith con-fess-ing, we are his wit-ness-es.  
ci-ples out of ev-'ry na-tion, we are his wit-ness-es.  
a-ges, glo-ri-ous-ly reign-ing, we are his wit-ness-es.  
Spir-it, love and pow'r re-ceive-ing, we are his wit-ness-es.

*Please stand.*

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## LITANY FOR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

**M:** We praise you, Father, for sending your Son Jesus, for giving us the Good News about him, and for bringing us to faith in him.

**C:** **We praise you, Lord.**

**M:** We thank you for providing a school that teaches about your plan of salvation and for supplying the people and resources to train the students.

**C:** **Thank you, Lord.**

- M: We thank you for the dedication of our teachers, principals, pastors, staff, volunteers, and Board for Christian Education.
- C: Thank you, Lord.**
- M: We thank you for our congregation that dedicates resources to provide Christian education for their youth.
- C: Thank you, Lord.**
- M: Bless the parents of the students in our school, and all parents in our congregation, as they serve the needs of our children, especially their children's spiritual needs. Support them with your guidance, strength, and wisdom.
- C: Bless all parents, Lord.**
- M: Continue to bless those who teach that they may be effective in their classrooms. Send your Holy Spirit to bless the Gospel they share and model. May our teachers reflect your love as they interact with students and families. Bless them with joy in their teaching.
- C: Bless our teachers, Lord.**
- M: Continue to bless the students in our school, and all students in our congregation, as they grow in wisdom and knowledge about you and your creation. Nurture in them a desire to serve you and others.
- C: Bless our students, Lord.**
- M: May the Light of your Word always guide our church and school.
- C: Let the Light of Jesus always enlighten our ministry.**
- M: We thank and praise and serve and obey you – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him

CW 619



1 Praise the Al - might - y; my soul, a - dore him!  
 2 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,  
 4 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud him un - til death. With songs and  
 par - don and peace from him ob - tain; ev - er the  
 of him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I'll come be - fore him as long as  
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, their faith - ful  
 be - ing, to praise him sole - ly, with hap - py



he al - lows me breath. From him my life and  
 God he will re - main. He helps his chil - dren  
 heart its a - men sings! Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; bless, O my soul, his ho - ly  
 in dis - tress, the wid - ows and the fa - ther -  
 an - gel host praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 less. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ghost! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens, and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

### First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

*Jesus ascends to rule over all things as His Church serves as His witnesses.*

<sup>1</sup>In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

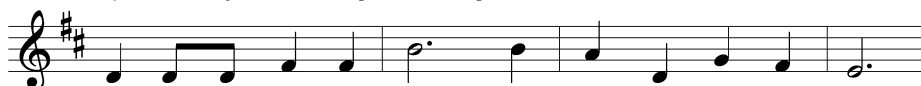
<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: All Peoples, Clap Your Hands

Psalm 47D



1 All peo - ples, clap your hands, and shout with joy and sing.  
2 God has gone up on high, with shout and trum - pet voice;  
3 No - bles from all the earth are joined with A - bram's seed;



The LORD Most High is to be feared; he is the earth's great King.  
sing praise to God, our glo - rious King, sing praise to him, re - joice!  
the rul - ers of the world are God's; he's lift - ed high in - deed!



He brings the na - tions down, sub - dues them in our sight;  
For God is King of all. Sing praise with all your skill;  
So to the Fa - ther raise, with his as - cend - ed Son,



he choos - es our in - her - it - ance; his love is Ja - cob's might.  
he sits up - on his ho - ly throne and rules the na - tions still.  
and Ho - ly Spir - it end - less praise, e - ter - nal Three in One.

## Second Reading

Revelation 19:11-16

*St. John sees the ascended Lord as a warrior riding on a white horse fighting against all those who oppose Christ's gospel and His Church.*

<sup>11</sup>I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.

<sup>12</sup>His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup>He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup>The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup>Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup>On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:20

### Refrain



Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. **Refrain**

## Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

*Before He ascends, Jesus promises to send the disciples power from on high to carry out the mission of the Church.*

Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

**M:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,





our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end-less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

## **(Sunday) Sermon Text**

*Deuteronomy 31:12-13*

<sup>12</sup>Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. <sup>13</sup>Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

*“O God Our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to Come”*

*Please stand after the sermon.*

## **THANKSGIVING**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

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

*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.



 Give Online

*Please stand.*

## Prayer of the Church

M: Today we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Salem Lutheran School. God's grace has been richly shown to us. We now join to rededicate ourselves as a congregation to the service of Christ and His kingdom, and to His glory.

**C: The Lord bless our coming in and our going out forevermore.**

M: O God, our Father, Creator of heaven and earth, by whose grace and favor we have been established as Salem Lutheran Church and School.

**C: To You we rededicate this congregation and our hearts.**

M: O Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, our Lord and Savior:

**C: To you we rededicate this congregation and our hearts.**

M: O Holy Spirit, Source of Life and Light, our Sanctifier and Comforter.

**C: To you we rededicate this congregation and our hearts.**

M: To the teaching of Your Holy Word, the proclamation of both Law and Gospel, and the faithful use of the sacraments.

**C: To You we rededicate this congregation and our hearts.**

M: As a house of learning for all who call on Your name and praise You in spirit and in truth.

**C: To You we rededicate this congregation.**

M: As a place where You manifest Your presence to the children of our congregation:

**C: To You we rededicate this congregation and school.**

M: As a place where the lambs of the flock of Christ are fed, where children may increase in wisdom and favor with God and man, where the young may be taught to remember the Creator in the days of their youth, where a generation may grow for citizenship on earth and in heaven:

**C: To You we rededicate this congregation and school.**

M: As a place where Christian fellowship may be celebrated and Christian brotherhood grow and increase:

**C: To You we rededicate this congregation.**

M: As a light to the world so that all may know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

**C: To You we rededicate this congregation.**

M: We humbly ask You to hear us, good Lord, and in Your mercy:

**C: Bless Salem Lutheran Church and School and us all!**

M: Hear us now as we commit our ministry to You once again:

**C: We, the members of Salem Lutheran Church, rededicate this church and school in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We also dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of the Triune God. We exalt and lift up Your name as we worship Your majesty. 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.

### **(Sunday) Faculty Choir Anthem**

#### *Feed My Lambs*

by Natalie Sleeth, arr by Tom Fettke

Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, over all a vigil keep;  
In My name, lead them forth gently as a shepherd.

When they wander, when they stray, their protector be.  
As ye do unto My flock, thus ye do to me.

Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, over all a vigil keep;  
In My name, lead them forth gently as a shepherd.

Unto all who lose the way Hope and comfort be.  
As ye do unto My flock, thus ye do to Me.

Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, over all a vigil keep;  
In My name, lead them forth gently, gently as a loving shepherd of the Lord.  
As a loving shepherd of the Lord.

## Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: Almighty God, we give You thanks for the blessings we share as members of Your Holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship You and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in Christ. Wherever Your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let Your kingdom come to us and to others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing Your praises forever.

C: Amen.

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: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

CW 472 1, 4-6



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-  
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the  
5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our  
6 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
fu - ture great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
you let earth ac - cord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un -  
"Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing  
Then, throned with you for - ev - er, we shall praise your  
You are, while end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
name e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
and with Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



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

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth


Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship after the service. A reception for the anniversary celebration will be held in the gymnasium.

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Festival of Pentecost— Christ Sends Us His Spirit

Bible Readings: Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:23-27

Hymns: 479, 585, 592, 477, 592



Answers **VBS**


# KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM

Put On the Armor of God

**June 9 - 13 • 9 am - Noon**

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**Pre-K - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**\$10 per child**

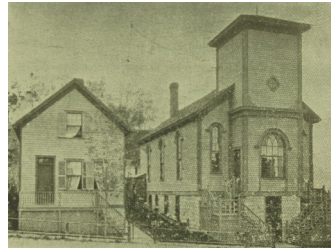


# Salem Saints—50 years of God's grace

In keeping with our Lord's command, *"Let the little children come unto me,"* Salem Lutheran Church established a Christian Day School—originally referred to as the "German School"—in 1882, the same year the congregation was founded. At that time, the church was located at 4th and Oak Streets in Stillwater, and classes were held in the church basement.



The first mention of the school appears in the parish notes dated September 12, 1882. Classes were held four days a week, with a tuition of fifty cents per student per month, a common practice among Lutheran schools of that era. By April 1899, enrollment had reached 85 students.



Emil Reim served as the first teacher from 1883 to 1892, followed by Louis Huber until 1899, when Salem's building was destroyed by fire. On the day the rebuilt church was rededicated, a new teacher, John Gieschen, was installed. During Pastor Pieper's ministry, he also assisted in teaching.



In 1916, the school adapted to the public school grading system, but due to economic decline—marked by the closure of sawmills and factories—many families left Stillwater. As a result, Salem's school closed in May 1919, with congregational records referring to it as a "temporary" closure. From 1919 to 1974, children were served through Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Released-Time classes, and catechism instruction.



Nearly 55 years later, in 1973, the congregation revisited the idea of reopening the school. A committee was formed in January, a school fund was established in



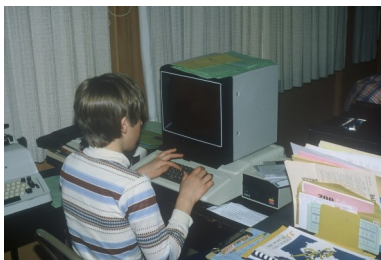
October, and at the January 1974 congregational meeting, the decision was made to reopen Salem Lutheran School in the fall.

After two initial calls were returned, Miss Bonnie Voth accepted the call to teach grades 1–6, and Mrs. Charles Kurth served as the kindergarten teacher. Salem's school reopened in September 1974, once again proclaiming the peace of Christ to his lambs. As enrollment grew, the congregation constructed a new school building, dedicated in 1979. During construction, classes were held in various parts of the church, including the overflow area and subdivided fellowship hall.

To further serve the needs of families, Salem Lutheran Preschool opened in the fall of 1990 with Sue Geske and Cheryl Raleigh as its first teachers. Continued growth led to a major school expansion completed in 1995, providing additional classroom space and updated facilities.

In 1990, the school adopted a new identity: the mascot was changed from the Loggers to the Saints, and new school colors were introduced to foster unity and school spirit. Staff additions in the following years, including Debbie Hansen (1998) and Jane Grobe (2001), helped support the school's expanding ministry.

Now, more than 140 years after its founding and over 50 years since its reopening, Salem Lutheran School remains committed to providing a Christ-centered education, serving students and families with faith, excellence, and love.





# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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## *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.**

