

April 5, 2026

# Alive<sup>ē</sup>

From Death to Life

Easter Festival



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

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



## Easter Festival

*What Difference Does it Make? He Lives to  
Take Me From Death to Life*

**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:** Father in heaven, the victory you gave your Son on Easter is our victory. His resurrection is ours. Open our eyes to your grace every day and bless us throughout the year with Easter joy. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Without the resurrection of Jesus, death would appear permanent. No one would have come back from the dead to explain what happens after death. Jesus told his disciples what would happen. But they were slow to believe the Easter truth. God ensured that his people had witnesses to assure that Jesus did not remain dead. He lives, and it makes a difference! I too shall live. Death has become a pathway into paradise. Jesus has already made us spiritually alive by giving us faith in his resurrection. In every possible way, Jesus takes us from death to life.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** Life is full of either/or moments. Some matter more, and some matter less. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Since Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead, if he were to remain dead he would be both a failure and a fraud. If Christ had not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50 day celebration of that fact.

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

**Preacher:** Pastor JonAlden Pedersen    **Liturgist:** Pastor Ryan Wolfe

**Organ:** Robyn Stoller    **Choir Director:** Luke Dorn    **Handbell Director:** Jessie Wolfe

**Instrumentalists:** Ryan Wolfe, Brian Shult, Melinda Wells, Reese Collins,  
Roger Zollan, Caleb Wolfe

### **Acknowledgments**

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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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 Two



## Easter Acclamation

M: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

## Hymn: This Is the Threefold Truth

CW 824 sts. 1, 3-5

*The congregation sings verses 1, 3, and 5. The choir sings verse 4.*

*Please stand for the final verse and refrain.*



1 This is the three-fold truth on which our faith de - pends;  
3 On this we fix our minds as, kneel - ing side by side,  
4 By this we are up - held when doubt or grief as - sails  
5 This is the three-fold truth which, if we hold it fast,



and with this joy - ful cry — wor - ship be - gins and ends:  
we take the bread and wine, take him, the — Cru - ci - fied:  
our Chris - tian faith and love, and on - ly — grace a - vails:  
chang - es the world and us and brings us — home at last:



*Refrain*  
Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!

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

Congregation: Amen.

## EASTER CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

M: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

M: Jesus Christ was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

C: Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God.

M: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

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

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade.

**C: This inheritance is kept in heaven for us.**

M: Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in him will live, even though they die.

**C: And those who live by believing in him will never die.**

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

**C: I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.**

M: Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

**C: When Christ, who is our life, appears, we will appear with him in glory.**

M: Why do you look for the living among the dead?

**C: He is not here; he has risen!**

M: This is the day the Lord has made.

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

M: Christ is risen!

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

*Be seated.*

## **Anthem: I Will Rise**

*Craig Courtney*

There's a peace I've come to know though my heart and flesh may fail.  
There's an anchor for my soul. I can say, "It is well."

Refrain: Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed.  
The victory is won, He is risen from the dead.  
And I will rise when He calls my name,  
No more sorrow, no more pain, I will rise on eagles' wings.  
Before my God fall on my knees and rise. I will rise!

There's a day that's drawing near when this darkness breaks to light.  
And the shadows disappear and my faith shall be my eyes. *Refrain*

And I hear the voice of many angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb!"  
And I hear the cry of every longing heart, "Worthy is the Lamb!" *Refrain*

## 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, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

Jonah 2:2-9

*Jesus compared himself to the Old Testament prophet who escaped certain death after three days in the belly of a fish.*

<sup>2</sup>He said:

“In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me.  
From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,  
and you listened to my cry.

<sup>3</sup>You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas,  
and the currents swirled about me;  
all your waves and breakers swept over me.

<sup>4</sup>I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again  
toward your holy temple.’

<sup>5</sup>The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me;  
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

<sup>6</sup>To the roots of the mountains I sank down;  
the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.

<sup>7</sup>“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD,  
and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup>“Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them.

<sup>9</sup>But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.

I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’ ”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: Let Us Rejoice

Psalm 118E

*The Cantor sings the first refrain and the verses. The congregation joins to sing the remaining refrains.*

### 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

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

*Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.*

<sup>1</sup>Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup>By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup>and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

<sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder

than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 1:18

Alleluia! I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.  
Alleluia!

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

5 For the Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ who was slain has be -

gun his \_\_\_\_\_ reign. — Al - le - lu - ia! *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

## Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

*The account of Christ's Easter Victory*

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

<sup>2</sup>There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His ap-

pearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

<sup>8</sup>So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: I Know That My Redeemer Lives

CW 441

*All sing verses 1, 2, 5, 8. Women sing verses 3 & 6. Men sing verses 4 & 7.*



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
3 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to  
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives all - glo - rious  
plead for me a - bove; he lives my hun - gry  
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
in the sky; he lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.  
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;  
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end;  
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same.  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

## **Sermon**

*Based on 1 Corinthians 15: 1—11*

### *“First Things First!”*

*Please stand after the sermon.*

## **The Second Article & Explanation**

*Luther's Small Catechism*

**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.*

# THANKSGIVING

## 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

## Handbells Offertory: God's Love Rings Out

Sandra Tucker

Please stand.

## Prayer of the Church

M: Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

**C: Christ is risen!**

M: For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

**C: He is risen indeed!**

M: He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.

**C: Alleluia!**

M: We marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at your mighty power, which raised him from the dead.

**C: We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.**

M: Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

**C: You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.**

M: With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt.

**C: You are risen!**

M: Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

**C: You are risen indeed!**

M: Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.

**C: Alleluia!**

M: Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen Lord.

**C: We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.**

M: Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

**C: He is risen!**

M: As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

**C: He is risen indeed!**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

M: Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

**C: Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia! 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.**

## **Prayer**

M: Grant, O Lord, that the lips which here have sung your praises may continue to glorify you in the world; that the ears which have heard you speak may be open always to your Word and closed to discord; that the tongues which have confessed your name may always speak the truth without fear; that all of us who have worshiped together today may be united in true love for each other as you have loved us, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**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: He's Risen, He's Risen

CW 445

All sing verses 1, 3, 5. Men sing verse 2. Women sing verse 4.



1 He's ris - en, he's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;  
2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry  
3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,  
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



he o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate Word.  
the Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.  
and death, hell, and Sa - tan he van - quished, his foes.  
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.  
pro - claim the blest ti - dings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song  
In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,  
The con - quer - ing Lord lifts his ban - ner on high;  
For all our trans - gres - sions his blood does a - tone;  
Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



and earth, sea, and moun - tain, the prais - es pro - long.  
for Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.  
he lives, yes, he lives, and will nev - er - more die.  
re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are his own.  
with Fa - ther and Spir - it he ev - er shall reign.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Easter Thank You

Thank you to all the people who used their time and gifts this year to make our Lenten and Easter services a blessing to us all. Thank you especially to our musicians, to those who helped decorate the church, to the hosts at Lenten suppers and Easter breakfast today, to those who helped with our Easter for Kids program, and to everyone else that helped in so many ways. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

# Alive

## Easter Truth at Salem

### **What if the thing you're chasing isn't what you actually need?**

It shows up in quiet moments- driving, sitting on the couch, scrolling past everyone else's highlight reel. Maybe you've tried to fix it. Stay busy. Stay distracted. Stay positive. But the satisfaction isn't there.

And then there's Easter. It's powerful but it can feel distant. Like it matters, just not personally.

### **So what does it actually change? *Everything.***

Jesus is alive and the answers to every question were written in stone when the grave was opened. Jesus is alive, and peace is yours in the fear, in the uncertainty, and in the emptiness. Jesus stepped from the grave and stepped into rooms full of anxious, uncertain people and said, "Peace to you!" Right there in the middle of their questions, before they even truly understood, Jesus gave peace.

He still does. He shows gives us hope when we're stuck in the dark. He restores us when we feel like we've drifted too far. He gives us purpose when we were just getting by. ***Easter means everything.***

### **Join us for our new series: *Alive.***

We're so glad you came today. These moments matter in a world that can feel dark and disconnected. If you want to learn more about Jesus, have tough questions, or if you'd like to learn more about our community at Salem, visit us at [saulemlutheran.org/start](http://saulemlutheran.org/start) or scan the QR code. We would love to talk more.

Come and see why Easter isn't just a moment in history. It's for you.



## Paschal Candle

The large candle next to the baptismal font symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World. It is lit at every baptism, for *“we are buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”* (Romans 6:4) It is kept burning throughout Easter and always lit for Christian funerals to show the connection between the resurrection and the Christian’s resurrection to eternal life.

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# Easter Flowers on the Altar are placed in memory of

Verna & Franklin Gruetzmacher  
Pearl & Howard Elder  
Robert & Neola Raasch  
John Rogotzke  
Anna Rogotzke  
Bill & Lois Polzin  
Barb & Don Anderson  
Lyle & Aris Crawford  
Bernice & Paul Roth  
Connie Sweeney  
Lyle Doerr  
Tracy & Ella Berdan  
Kay Berdan  
Gilbert & Rosella Ecker  
Alfred & Joanna Stoller  
Kent Hadrits  
Palmberg Family Members  
Brenda Ross  
Merlyn & Arayla Rogge  
Linda Wyland  
Al & Eileen Lindberg  
Bill Galler  
Bob & Doris Sinclair  
Robert Sorensen  
Harold Wilk  
Marvin & Jeanne Passow  
Carl & Emma Bourman

Gary Campbell  
Stan Vetsch  
Collin Fitzgerald  
Zaylee Fitzgerald  
Schultz Family  
Friends of Sharon Looney  
Pastor David & Carmen Ponath  
Raj & Meena Nair  
Donald Roettger  
Geraldine Roettger  
Victor Prescott  
Amanda & Charles Dahlke  
Michael Miller  
John Falck  
Jan & Lloyd Grobe  
Eliana Eudora Shah  
Syed Shah  
George & Mardell Hackler  
Kevin Danen  
Ron & Beulah Raleigh  
Sue Galler  
Tom & Dorothy Gerson  
Ron & Bonnie Smith  
Darrold Thompson  
Emma & Wilbert Miller  
Anton & Frances Wolfe  
Herb & Catherine Monthie



## **Built Stronger Together – Salem Marriage Retreat**

**(April 17–18 | St. Croix National Golf Course**

Is your marriage good? But could it be... **GREATER?** Salem couples are invited to join presenters Emily and Mike Krill for a weekend using the *CliftonStrengths* assessment to discover your God-given strengths and learn to see them in each other. Sessions, meals, a date night, and a new understanding of “why your spouse does that one thing” are all included. Registration is open now and spots are filling. Learn more at [salemlutheran.org/retreat](http://salemlutheran.org/retreat).



**REGISTER NOW!**

*built stronger*  
**TOGETHER**

**Marriage Retreat**  
*“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”*  
*Proverbs 27:17*

**APRIL 17-18 | \$100**  
St. Croix National Golf, Somerset, WI

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### **This Week at Salem**

<b>Mon, 4/6</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Tue, 4/7	9:30 am Hero’s Coffee Club 6:00 pm Outreach Committee
Wed, 4/8	9:00 am Chapel 5:30 pm Catechism Class 7:15 pm Handbell Practice
Thurs, 4/9	9:45 am Group Bible Study 11:00 am Women’s Guild 11:30 am Parish Nurse Office Hours 6:00 pm Bible Basics 7:00 pm Open School Board Meeting
<b>Sat, 4/11</b>	9:00 am LWMS Rally at St. Croix Lutheran Academy <b>5:00 pm Worship with Communion</b>
<b>Sun, 4/12</b>	<b>8:00 am Worship with Communion</b> 9:15 am Adult Bible Study/JAM <b>10:30 am Worship with Communion</b>

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### **Hero’s Coffee Club**

Thank you to everyone who has been joining us for our Veteran’s Coffee Club. We’ve been so glad to welcome members and people from the community. Salem will continue to host this group on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 7 and 9:30. Stop by for a cup of coffee, a donut, and time to relax and remember with other veterans.

# 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.**

