

June 27-28, 2026

**SAY IT  
OUT  
LOUD**



**LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL**

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



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**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:** Lord Jesus, you show your love to us in the saving work of Jesus and in your continuing blessing of protection in this life. Lead us to respond with grateful hearts of praise in worship here and throughout the week. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Not all love is good. For example, it would seem to be a good thing for a man to love his dog. But if he loves his dog more than he loves his wife, his "love" for both is disordered. Christians love the people whom God has placed into their lives. But when those people desire something that God does not desire, Christians love and serve God above all. Properly ordered love leads us to be faithful to God and his Word. We love God above all because he first loved us.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** The Season after Pentecost features Christ's teachings, and Christians in every vocation are encouraged to say it out loud. The truths of God's Word are good for the soul, useful for life, and more reliable than anything else in the world. Watch out for false teachers who come with wise sounding words and pious promises, but who do not base everything on the Word of God! Give thanks to the Lord for faithful servants in the ministry of the gospel and those who support them!

**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 or a sister church, 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:***

Preacher: Pastor Jon Alden Pedersen      Worship Assistant: Thad Kratz  
Organist: Luke Dorn

**Acknowledgments**

Setting Three from Christian Worship  
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# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Three

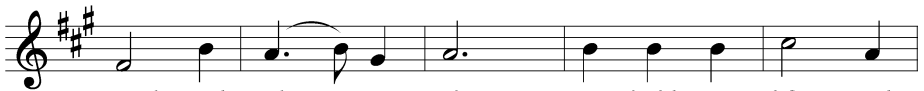


## Hymn: Fight the Good Fight

CW 876



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your  
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up your  
3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; his bound-less  
4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chang - es



strength and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and  
eyes and seek his face. Life with its way be -  
mer - cy will pro - vide. Lean, and the trust - ing  
not, and you are dear. On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
fore us lies; Christ is the path and Christ the prize.  
soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.  
you will see that Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Please stand.

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

C: Amen.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved others as I should.  
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his innocent suffering and death.  
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Response: Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices**

CW 503 sts. 1, 4



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my  
4 Lord, I will tell, while I am liv - ing, your love and



God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -  
grace with ev - 'ry breath and greet each morn - ing with thanks-



joic - es, would then pro-claim in grate-ful songs to all, wher-  
giv - ing un - til my heart is still in death, and, when at



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me.  
last my lips grow cold, your praise shall in my sighs be told.

## **(Saturday) Sacrament of Baptism**

*The Rite of Baptism continues at the font at the Saturday service.*

M: The Gospel according to St. Mark: *“People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”*

*The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says:*

M: Lacie Jane Koester, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart  $\dagger$  to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

## **(Saturday) Exhortation to Parents & Congregation**

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Lacie and all the children of our church may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

**C: Yes, as God gives me strength.**

M: Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Lacie as your own child and made her a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to her and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: Let us pray.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

### **First Reading**

*Exodus 32:15-29*

*When we hear Aaron's excuses, we recognize our own rationalizations.*

<sup>15</sup>Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back.

<sup>16</sup>The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

<sup>17</sup>When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp."

<sup>18</sup>Moses replied:

"It is not the sound of victory,  
it is not the sound of defeat;  
it is the sound of singing that I hear."

<sup>19</sup>When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. <sup>20</sup>And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

<sup>21</sup>He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"

<sup>22</sup>"Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. <sup>23</sup>They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' <sup>24</sup>So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

<sup>25</sup>Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. <sup>26</sup>So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, “Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.” And all the Levites rallied to him.

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.’ ” <sup>28</sup>The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. <sup>29</sup>Then Moses said, “You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:11-16

*St. Paul describes the good fight of faith.*

<sup>11</sup>But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*



**God**, the blessed  
and only **Ruler**,  
the **King** of kings  
and **Lord** of lords.

1 Timothy 6:15, NIV

## Gospel Acclamation

Mark 8:34



### Refrain



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



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

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **Refrain**

## Gospel

Matthew 10:34-42

*Jesus calls us to love him above all.*

<sup>34</sup>“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to turn

“ ‘a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

<sup>36</sup>a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

<sup>37</sup>“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

<sup>40</sup>“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. <sup>42</sup>And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## Children’s Devotion

# Hymn of the Day: Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

CW 702



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my  
2 "I am the light, I light the way, a god - ly  
3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your  
4 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord and take the



way a - bid - ing; de - ny your-selves, the world for - sake,  
life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day,  
soul's sal - va - tion, your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,  
cross ap - point - ed and, firm - ly cling - ing to his Word,



o - bey my call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -  
I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and  
from sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge  
in suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, take my ex - am - ple for your guide.  
well I show how you must so - journ here be - low.  
of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."  
bat-tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

## Sermon

Based on Matthew 10:34-42

"Love God Above All"

Please stand after the sermon.

# THANKSGIVING

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.**

**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

### 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. We invite to communion all those who share in our confession by 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.**

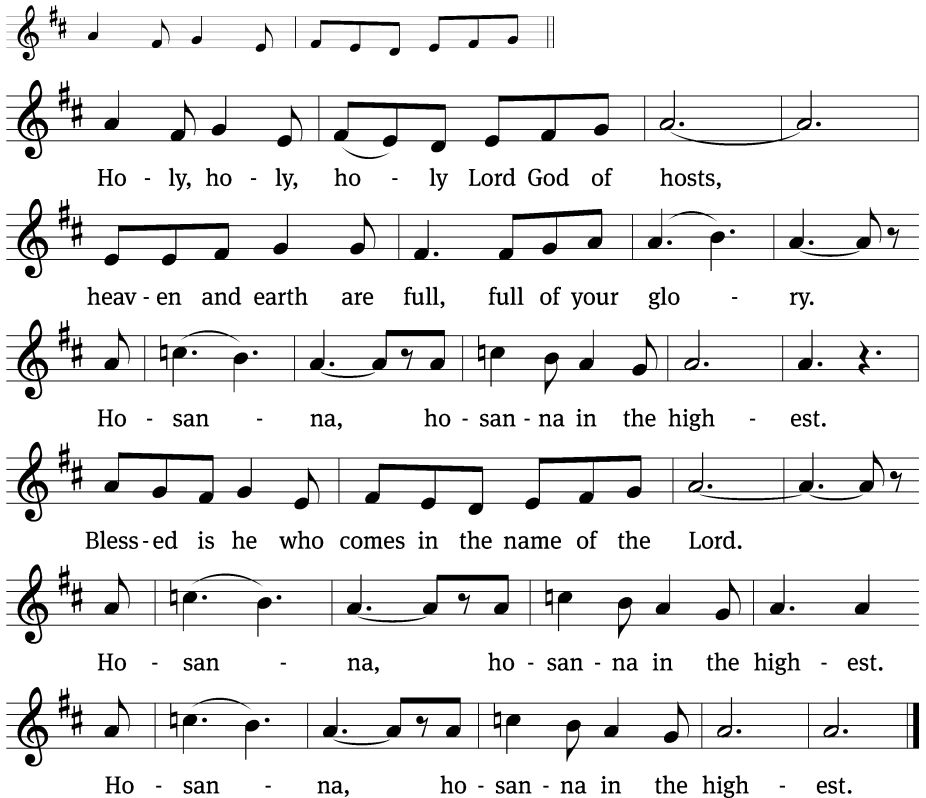
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,  
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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 202

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

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

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



### Hymn: Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult

CW 711 sts. 1-4



1 Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our  
2 As the first dis - ci - ples heard it by the  
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his voice in -  
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and  
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and



vites us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"  
kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.  
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."

# Distribution Hymn: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

CW 704



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex -  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, to his im - age  
 3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus; his death from the  
 4 Let us glad - ly live with Je - sus; since he's ris - en



am - ple pure, flee the world which would de - ceive us and to  
 e'er con - form; heav - en's glo - ry soon will please us, sun - shine  
 sec - ond death, from our soul's de - struc - tion, frees us, quick - ens  
 from the dead, death and grave must soon re - lease us. Je - sus,



sin our souls al - lure. Ev - er in his foot - steps tread - ing,  
 fol - low on the storm. Though we sow in tears of sor - row,  
 us with life's glad breath. Let us mor - ti - fy, while liv - ing,  
 thou art now our head. We are tru - ly thine own mem - bers,



bod - y here, yet soul a - bove, full of faith and  
 we shall reap in heav'n - ly joy, and the fears that  
 flesh and blood and die to sin, and the grave that  
 where thou liv - est, there live we; take and own us



hope and love, let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
 now an - noy shall be laugh - ter on the mor - row. Christ, I  
 shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
 con - stant - ly, faith - ful Friend, as thy dear breth - ren. Je - sus,



Lord, a - bide with me; Sav - ior, lead; I fol - low thee.  
 suf - fer here with thee; there, O share thy joy with me.  
 here I die to thee, there to live e - ter - nal - ly.  
 here I live to thee, al - so there e - ter - nal - ly.

After the distribution please stand at the pastor's direction.

## Thanksgiving & Blessing

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*

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and 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: Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult

CW 711 st. 5

5 Je - sus calls us! In your mer - cy, Sav - ior,  
help us hear your call; give our hearts to your o -  
be - dience, serve and love you best of all!

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Salem Minute

#### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services. Summer Bible study begins at 9:15 in the sanctuary.

#### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Christians Live in Two Kingdoms

Bible Readings: Daniel 1:3-21, Romans 13:1-7, Matthew 22:15-22

Hymns: 775, 619, 774

# 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.**

