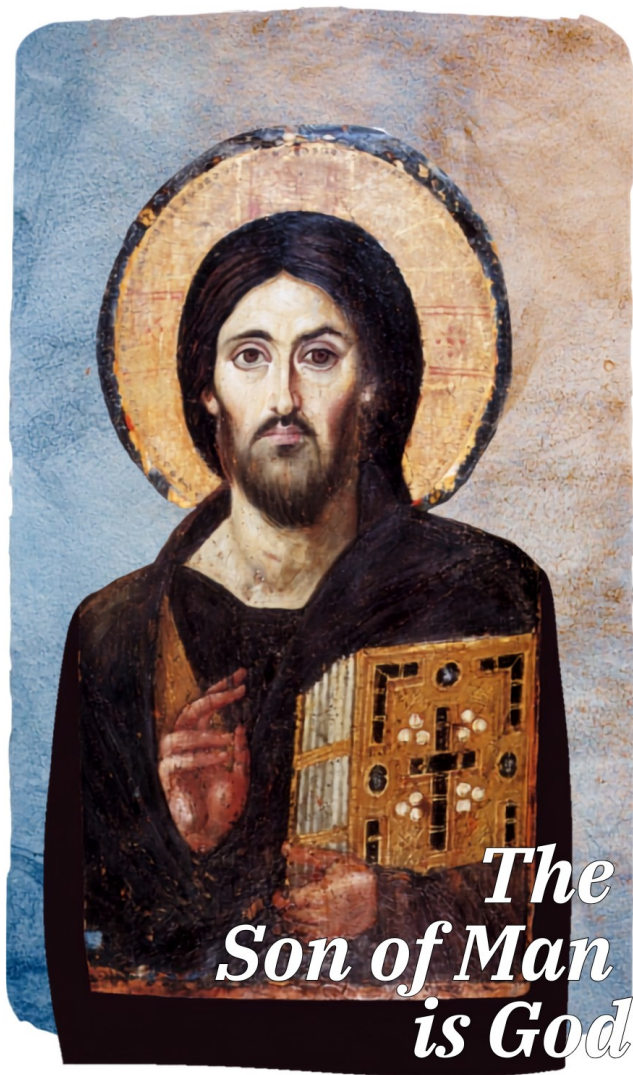


Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 22-23, 2026



UNEXPECTED TRUTHS



Salem Lutheran
Church and School

14940 62nd St. N—Stillwater, MN 55082
www.salemlutheran.org
church@salemlutheran.org | 651-439-7831

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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Savior Jesus, you always hear our prayers and deliver us through trials and suffering. Bless us in this time of peace as we gather together to hear your word and give you praise. . Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" It's the most important question in the world, and it is a question every human being must answer. The expected answer may be dead wrong. Some in Jesus' day thought he was John the Baptist. Some thought he was the prophet Elijah who had come back from the dead. Today plenty of people believe that Jesus existed. They think that Jesus was a wise teacher or a role model for love. Both answers are expected. Both miss the main point. Jesus is a real human being, the Son of Man. He is also Lord and Savior, the Son of the living God. This unexpected truth is the core of saving faith.

WORSHIP SERIES: The most important truths in the Bible are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectation. Humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. Salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God's grace. God brings sinners to eternal life through Jesus' suffering and death. Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious, the Bible is filled with unexpected truths.

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 in the WELS or ELS, 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 Ryan Wolfe Piano/Organ: Luke Dorn

Praise Group: Luke Dorn, Allison Dorn, Tom Stob,

Nathan Enter, Jacob Olson, Renee Nair

Instrumentalists: Ryan Wolfe, Roger Zolldan

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



Hymn: Built on the Rock

CW 856 sts. 1-4



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand e - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, tell - ing how



steeples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; high a - bove earth his
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God has re - ceived us. Th' al - tar re - calls Christ's



ev - 'ry land; bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, all earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns heirs of his won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice and what the sac - ra - ment gives



ing, call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two his name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim



but a - bove all the soul dis - tressed,
chooses to live with us in love,
yet he would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,



long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
with all his grace and his fa - vor.
and ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.

Please stand.

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

Congregation: 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: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases extending across bar lines. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your

glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the
 right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth. For you a -
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
 with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

D: Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Exodus 34:5-9

God proclaimed to Moses what he is like. The Church's job is to proclaim to the world who Christ is and what he is like.

⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

⁸Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. ⁹"Lord," he said, "if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 10:5-13

Those who believe that Jesus is both Lord and Savior will be saved.

⁵Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

John 6:68



Refrain



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

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. **Refrain**

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

The truth upon which God builds his Church is Jesus, the Son of the living God.

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.” ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children’s Devotion

Hymn of the Day: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

CW 563



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus’
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I



blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
 his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - ’ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; when ev - ’ry earth - ly
 then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -



oth - er claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus’ name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Sermon

Based on Exodus 34:5-9

“hwhy (YHWH) – The Name above All Names”

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, be-
gotten, 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 Scrip-
tures. 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 wor-
shipped 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.

(Sunday) Installation/Recognition of Church Council Members

President: Clay Raasch
Financial Oversight: Dave Anderson
Council Secretary: Eathan Doyle
Elders Chairman: Kurt Sames
Buildings & Grounds: Curt Richter
Worship: Al Sehloff

Spiritual Growth: Mark Daniels
School/Education: Jonathan Ibisch
Youth: Justin Shopbell
Stewardship: Zuber Shah
Fellowship: Dan Muenkel
Caring: Tom Gruetzmacher

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + 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.

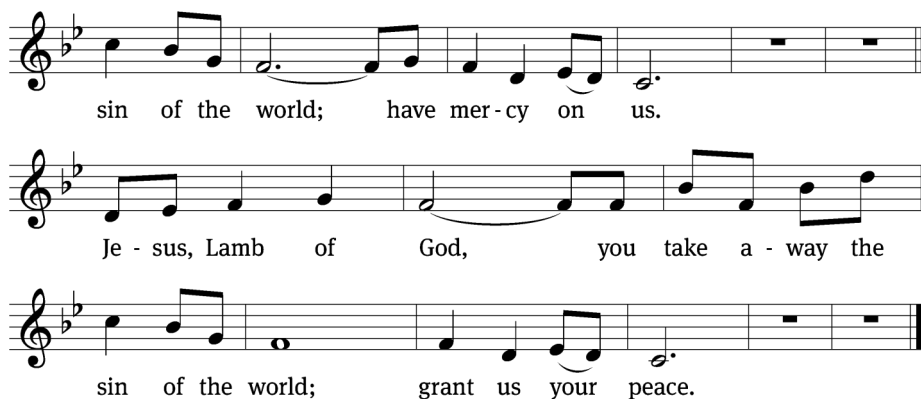
C: Amen.

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second and third staves are connected by a slur, indicating a continuous phrase. The fourth staff also ends with a double bar line.



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.

Choir Anthem: In Christ Alone Medley

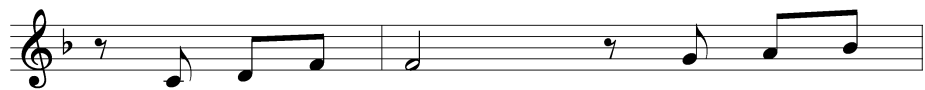
In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All. Here in the love of Christ I stand

Christ alone; Cornerstone. Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.
When darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.

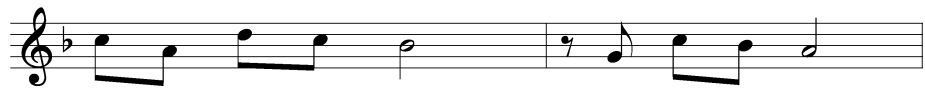
Christ alone; Cornerstone. Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.
On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.
No guilt in life, no fear in death: This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, Christ alone; Cornerstone
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Distribution Hymn: What Is This Bread

CW 665



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	that	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from	the	dead:	this	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	the	cup	of	grace
live	and	he	should	die	un -	der	the
Word	and	prom -	ise	clear,	in	mouth	and
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be -	lieve



this	life	we	take,	was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
brings	his	em -	brace	of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	why	have	you	not	for -	sak -	en
he	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
that	I	re -	ceive	his	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	his



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

Response of Thanksgiving

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

C: His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

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

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

1 Corinthians 11:26

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Luther's Morning and Evening Prayer

CW 782



Sun. I thank you, heav'n-ly Fa - ther, thro' Je - sus, your dear Son,
Sat. I thank you, heav'n-ly Fa - ther, thro' Je - sus, your dear Son,
2 I trust my soul and bod - y in - to your lov - ing hands.



that you this night have kept me from dan - ger and from harm.
that gra - cious - ly you kept me while dai - ly tasks were done.
All things that I en - coun - ter I leave to your good plans.



Keep me this day from e - vil, that all I say and do
I pray that you for - give me for all my sins and wrongs,
Send me your ho - ly an - gel to rout the e - vil one



be pleas - ing and re - flec - tive of love first shown by you.
and in your love con - tin - ue to keep me all night long.
and crush his dread - ful pow - ers. A - men. Your will be done.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to fellowship in the entry between services. Adult Bible Study starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Unexpected Truths: Cross Comes Before Crown

Bible Readings: Jeremiah 15:15-21, Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 16:21-16

Hymns: 806, 694, 405

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

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

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

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

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

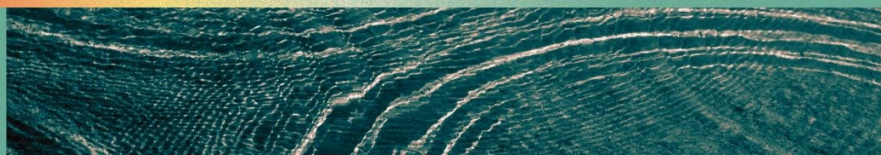
A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

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

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

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

BEYOND TEMPLE WALLS



On September 13, we're kicking off "Beyond the Temple Walls" — a four-week sermon series tracing the biblical theme of the temple, from Eden to the New Jerusalem, and asking what it means to be God's people not confined to a building, but sent beyond its walls. A companion Bible study begins the following Sunday, September 20, to dig deeper into each week's theme.

This series marks the start of our congregation's Year of Discipleship, shaping a culture where membership means living the Christian life seven days a week: nurturing relationships in our homes, on late nights when someone is lonely or struggling, and making a tangible impact in our community and world, far beyond our church's physical location. We're excited to see where God is going to send our ministry efforts this year, and we want every member to have a hand in it.

Join us for our Annual Ministry Fair: September 13, at 9:15 am. This is the one time each year you can see all of Salem's ministries in one place. Come learn how members serve, meet the people who lead our ministries, and find where your own gifts might fit. If you've noticed a need in our congregation or community, this is the perfect time to talk it over with our leaders and figure out how to bring your gifts to the work ahead.

More details are coming as we get closer, but plan to be there on September 13!

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.**

