NOVEMBER

8

2026

24TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

It's Time to Watch for the Final Events



Salem Lutheran Church & School - Stillwater, MN

14940 62nd St N | 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: LORD Jesus you are coming soon. We ask you to rule in our hearts right now the same way you will rule when you come again. Guide our hearts away from everything that distracts us from your loving you and loving who you place into our lives. Thank you for saving us on the Great and Terrible Day of the LORD. AMEN.

THEME OF THE DAY: Waiting is hard. As the minutes pass we often lose our focus on the original goal and get distracted. Perhaps we even fall asleep. As we wait for Christ to return, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. We're in the beginning of the end, but God's time is not our time. No matter when it happens, God grant that we are found awake and ready in faith. Today we are reminded that the time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor JonAlden Pedersen Piano: Paige Reiners
Choir Director: Steve Angus

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 WELS/ELS church, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with a pastor after the service. We would love to share the special unity of the sacrament with you in the future.

Whether this is your first Sunday or your fiftieth, we're glad you're here. ***Scan the code*** *to check in on the Salem app, share a prayer request, and learn more about our church, including what's happening this week and how to get connected.*

Connect Card
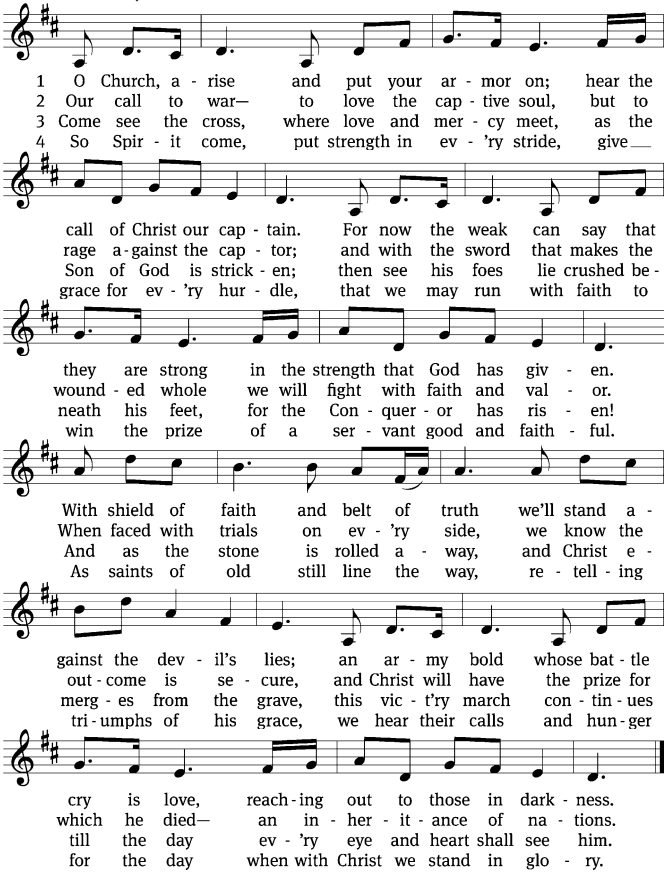
Questions? Ask an usher or anyone nearby. We're happy to help! More information, including accessibility and family resources, is on the back page.

Commented [SC1]: Sacred Rhythm- Where is this document? Link it here

Commented [JP2R1]: 1.**Fact:** The Hymn of the Day is a Proper. It is the people's commentary on the lessons just heard—the congregation's sung response to the specific Word of the Day.

Hymn: O Church, Arise

CW 870
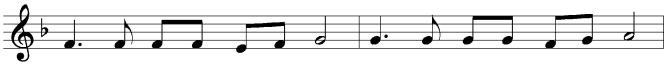


Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ┼ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen.
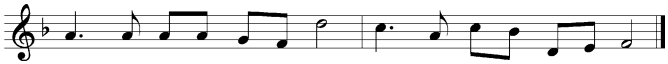
Confession CW 189

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
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: 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

(Saturday) Now the Light Has Gone Away CW 784 sts. 2–3, 5



2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way all that I've done wrong to - day.
3 Let my near and dear ones be safe with you e - ter - nal - ly.
5 Ah, my best and kind-est Friend, you will love me to the end.



Make me ev - er more like you, good and gen - tle, kind and true.
O bring me and all I love to your hap - py home a - bove.
Let me love you more and more, al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

(Sunday) Men's Chorus Anthem ***For the Beauty of the Earth***
by John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise.

The Word

M: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.
Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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 Isaiah 52:1-6

The prophet cries "Awake!" to people sleepwalking through life.

[1]Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendor, Jerusalem, the holy city.

The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again.
[2]Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
Free yourself from the chains on your neck, Daughter Zion, now a captive.

[3]For this is what the LORD says:

"You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed."

[4]For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them.

[5]"And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD.

"For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock," declares the LORD.

"And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed.
[6]Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it.
Yes, it is I."

M: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Be watchful for Jesus to return. Live as children of light.

[1]Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, [2]for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
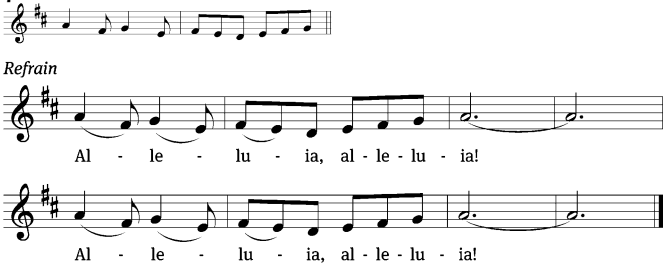
[4]But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. [5]You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. [6]So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9]For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10]He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

M: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42



Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ***Refrain***

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Those who are watching and ready for the Bridegroom will enter into the great wedding banquet.

[1]"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went
out to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish and five were wise. [3]The foolish ones
took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. [4]The wise ones, however, took oil in jars
along with their lamps. [5]The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy
and fell asleep.

[6]"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

[7]"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish ones said to the wise,
'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

[9]" 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who
sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

[10]"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who
were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

[11]"Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

[12]"But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'
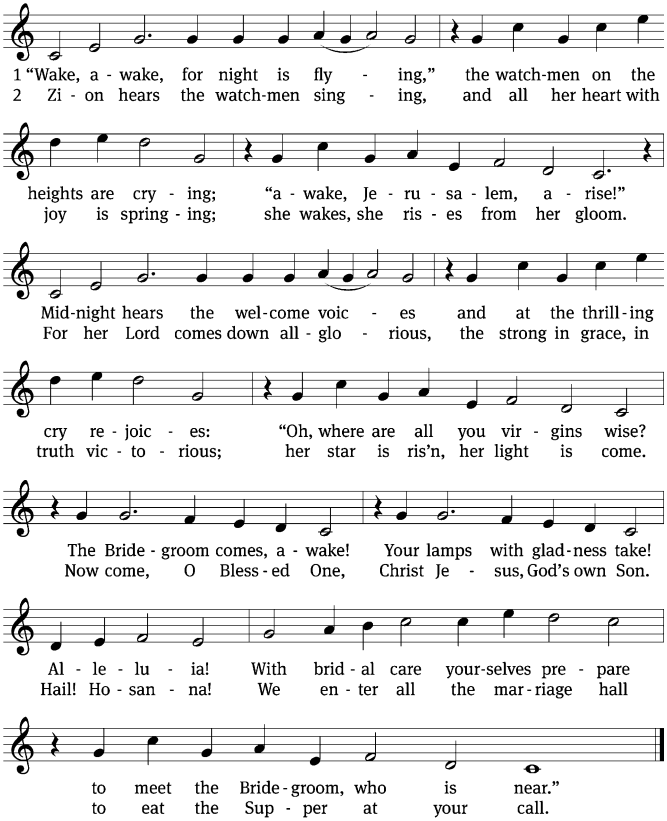
[13]"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying CW 486 sts. 1–2



Sermon Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

"Christ is Coming!"

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

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 QR code on the screen or in the folder. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask all attendees to "check in" using the code on the back of the folder or by filing out the paper card in the pew and putting it in the basket on the rear table as you leave. Please share your prayer requests so that we can pray for you.

Give Online

Please stand after the offering.

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.

The Sacrament

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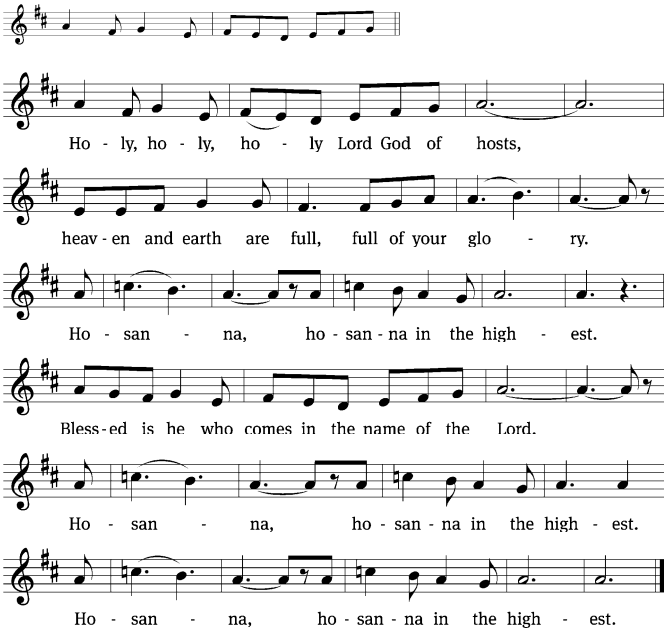
M: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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, through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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
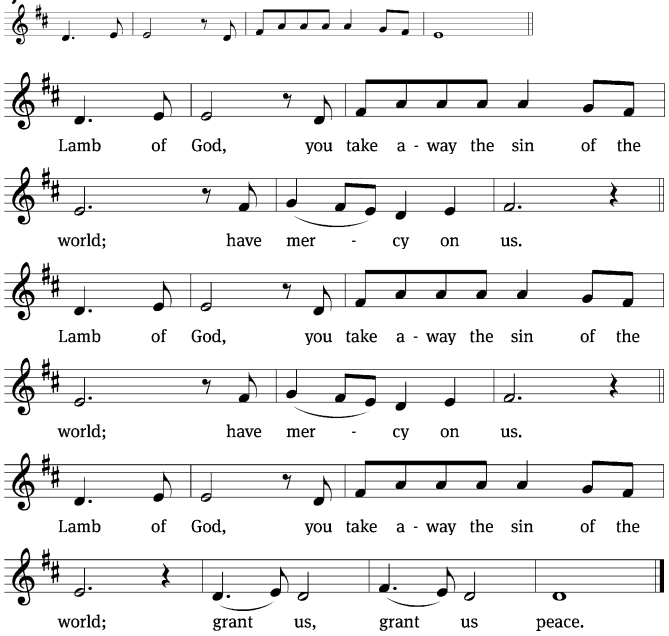


Words of Institution

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.

Lamb of God CW 202



Be seated

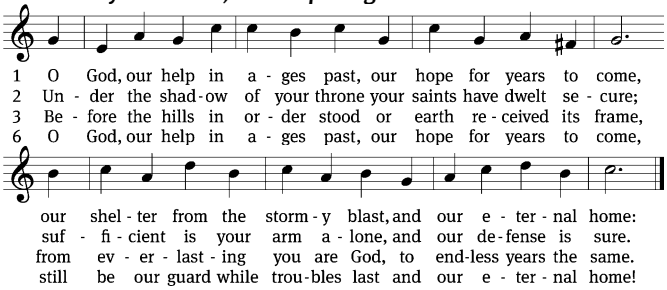
Communion Distribution

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.

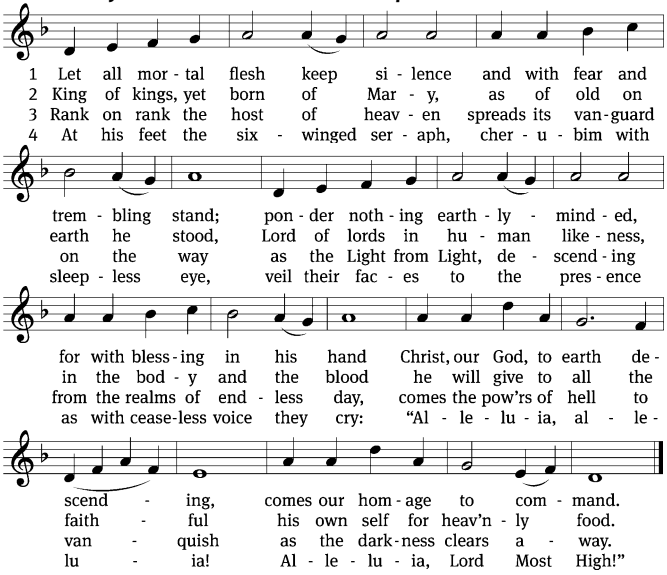
Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

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

Distribution Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past CW 820 sts. 1–3, 6



Distribution Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence CW 672



Please stand after the distribution.

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
C: his mercy endures forever.

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

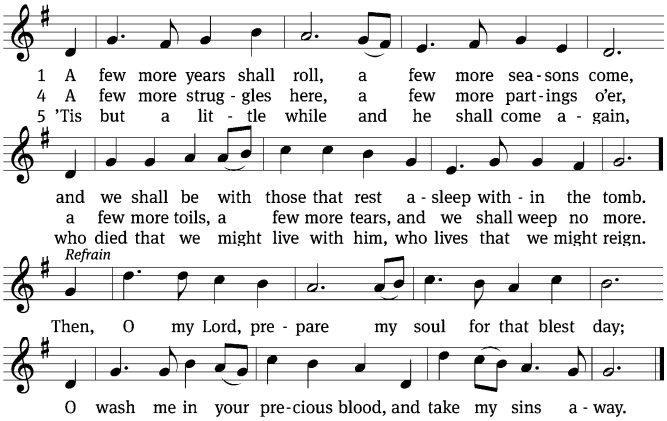
M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we 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.

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: A Few More Years Shall Roll

CW 492 sts. 1, Ref, 4–5



Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments
Setting Three from Christian Worship
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Small Groups at Salem



"You're taking stuff up like three notches in terms of how well you know people."

Dave Anderson · in a small group since March 2020

Groups of 8–12 people meet 2–4 times a month to dig into the sermon text, pray together, study God's Word, and talk about how it applies to life.

READ THE FULL STORY IN THE NEWSLETTER

"From Strangers to Family" is in our Salem Family Spotlight for November. Missing the newsletter? Let us know! Paper copies are available in the church entry.

Curious?

Scan here to learn more.

No matter your background or biblical knowledge, it's a place for friendship and growth. Scan the code to fill out the interest form, and we'll help you find the right fit.

New to Salem? Your first step is to connect with a pastor (church@salemlutheran.org) to join our next Bible basics group.

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 and School

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may grow in grace and faith to share eternity.

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.