

February 11-12, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



**Live a Holy Life**



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

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

**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:** Savior Jesus, thank you for bringing me through another week and back to your house of grace. Bless me through your word today and fill me with a desire to live a holy life of thanksgiving to you. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** The word "holy" comes from an Old English word that means "whole" or "healthy." We have a holy God. He wants us to live a holy life, one that is dedicated to him; one that is spiritually and emotionally healthy for us. So, as Jesus continues his Sermon on the Mount, he makes a crucial point that not all his followers (including present day followers) understand well. Jesus came to free us from sin. He did not come to free us to sin. God commands that we live a holy life. He provides dire warnings to remind us just how holy he wants us to be. Secure in his grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit, each day we strive to live the holy lives to which we have been called.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** The Greek word epiphany means "appearance." In the first half of this church season called Epiphany, we saw Jesus appear on the scene, beginning his ministry. It's not long before large crowds start following. In the second half of this season we look at Jesus' most famous sermon to learn what it means to be one of his followers. The Sermon on the Mount was not delivered from a pulpit but on a hill. Jesus' voice called out over the crowd and his followers hung on every word. This season we too hear the Savior's sermon as he teaches us about living an authentic Christian life.

**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, 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.

# Order of Worship



## HYMN: *Before You I Kneel*

CW 735 sts. 1-2



1 Be - fore you I kneel, my Mas - ter and Mak - er, to of - fer the  
2 Be - fore you I kneel and ask for your good - ness to cov - er the



work of my hands. For this is the day you've giv - en your  
work of my hands, for pa - tience and peace to shape all my



ser - vant; I will re - joice and be glad  
la - bor; your grace for thorns in my path.



for the strength I have to live and breathe, for each  
Flow with - in me like a liv - ing stream; wear a -



skill your grace has giv - en me, for the needs and op - por -  
way the stones of pride and greed, till your ways are dwell - ing



tu - ni - ties that will glo - ri - fy your great name.  
deep in me and a har - vest of life is grown.

*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: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

I now ask you in the presence of God, who searches the heart: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his wrath and punishment?

**C: I do confess my many sins and admit that I deserve God's punishment.**

M: Do you willingly repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed? And do you promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life?

**C: I do repent of my sins and promise to amend my sinful ways.**

M: Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, forgives you all your sins?

**C: I do believe, for God has promised that whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life.**

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, and as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

### Hymn: Before You I Kneel

CW 735 st. 3

3 Be - fore you we kneel, our Mas - ter and Mak - er; es - tab - lish the  
work of our hands, and or - der our steps to seek first your  
king - dom in ev - 'ry small and great task.  
May we live the gos - pel of your grace, serve your

pur - pose in our fleet - ing days, then our lives will bring e -  
 ter - nal praise and all glo - ry to your great name.

**THE WORD OF GOD**

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; 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.*

**Scripture Reading**

*2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27*

*King David is described as a “man after the Lord’s own heart.” Yet we see how easily sinful desires lead to sinful actions. May God turn us from sin to holiness!*

<sup>1</sup>In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, <sup>3</sup>and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” <sup>4</sup>Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. <sup>5</sup>The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

<sup>6</sup>So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. <sup>7</sup>When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup>Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. <sup>9</sup>But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

<sup>10</sup>David was told, "Uriah did not go home." So he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?"

<sup>11</sup>Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

<sup>12</sup>Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. <sup>13</sup>At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

<sup>14</sup>In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. <sup>15</sup>In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

<sup>16</sup>So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. <sup>17</sup>When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

<sup>26</sup>When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. <sup>27</sup>After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **(8 & 10:30am) Men's Chorus Anthem**    *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone;  
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*Please stand.*

## **Gospel**

Matthew 5:21-30

*Jesus sets a high bar for holy living. He calls us to be holy in our relationships with our brothers, our enemies, and even our own bodies.*

<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

<sup>25</sup>“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 695 sts. 1-3, 6



1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea - sure store;



take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

### (10:30am) Catechism Examination

*Every week during the school year, young members of Salem in grades 6-8 study the Bible with our pastor using the outline Martin Luther provided in his Small Catechism. Before students are confirmed and eligible to attend Lord's Supper they share what they have learned with the members of Salem. Today is the second of three "examinations."*

### Sermon

Based on Matthew 5:21-30

### *"Real Problems of a Broken Heart"*

*Please stand after the sermon.*

## THANKSGIVING

### Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.**



**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*Be seated.*

## **Offering**



 **Connect Card**

*Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.*

*We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or leave it on the back table 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. 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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## **Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -



san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,



bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

## **Words of Institution**

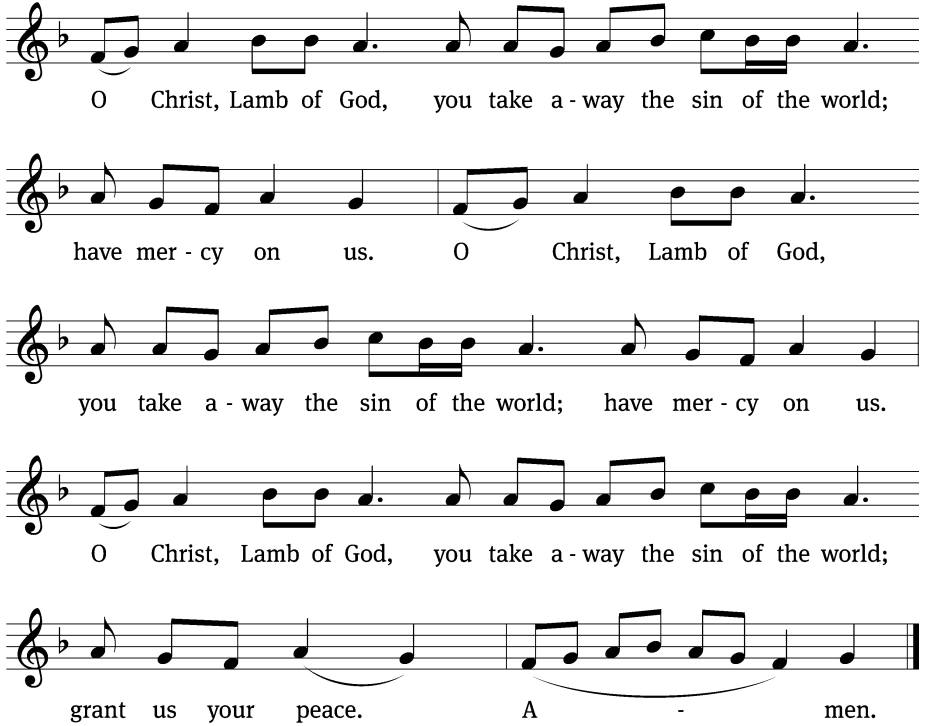
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\dagger$  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.

### O Christ, Lamb of God



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

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.*

### Distribution Anthem

Lord, Have Mercy

Please stand at the pastor's direction.

## 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*

## Closing Prayer & Blessing

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.**

## Closing Hymn: May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

CW 928



May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the Fa - ther's



bound - less love with the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor



rest up - on us from a - bove. Thus may we a - bide in



1. un - ion with each oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess in



sweet com - mun - ion joys which earth can - not af - ford.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

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

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Madison Boerner

Soloist: Carolyn Forster

### **Fellowship & Spiritual Growth**

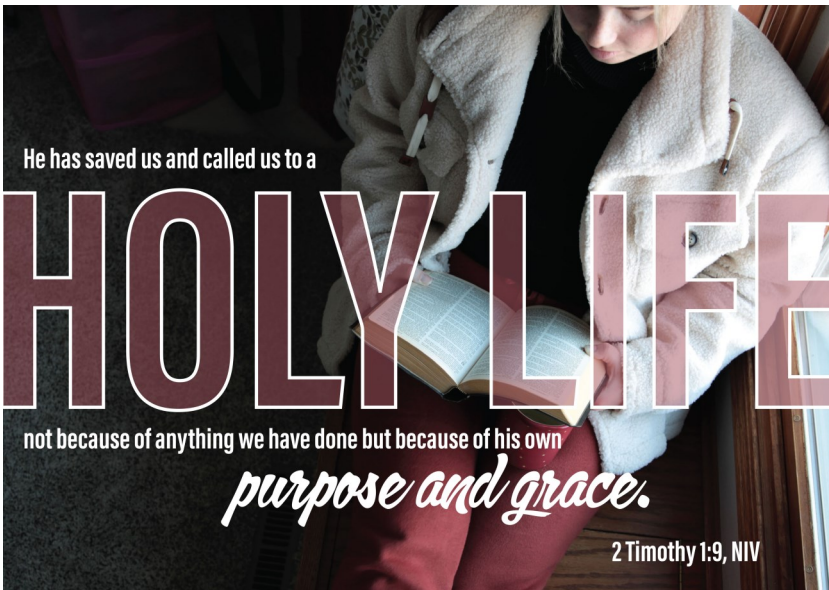
Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary. This morning in place of regular Teen & Adult Bible study we hold a short voters' meeting to call a teacher and an open forum for our leaders to share updates with the church. All are invited to join us for the meeting beginning 9:15am in the sanctuary.

### **For Worship Next Week**

Worship theme: The Savior's Sermon-Love your enemies (Transfiguration Sunday)

Bible Readings: Exodus 24:9-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Hymns: 522, 389, 388, 977



# LENTEN

## Schedule



Ash  
WEDNESDAY

### Ash Wednesday & the Season of Lent

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday Worship Service at **7pm** on February 22nd. Salem will once again make available the ancient custom of receiving ashes on the forehead or the hand to those who want it as part of the service. The ashes remind us of the consequence of our sin, our bodies' return to ashes in death.

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For 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. This year we will have two different, but related worship series in this solemn, but hopeful season. On Sundays we will consider the price and blessing of our salvation under the theme **Our Greatest Needs**. Our greatest needs are universal. We all live under the curse of sin, leaving us utterly helpless in our natural state. Left in sin, people are doomed to death: spiritually, physically, and eternally. Lent is the season of the Church Year where we wrestle with our greatest needs, but also find that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. This Lent, the Spirit makes one thing clear: If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need.

OUR  
GREATEST  
NEEDS

Each Wednesday we'll have shorter, devotional services at 4pm and 7pm under the theme **His Final Steps**. The series ponders key words and moments from the account of Jesus' passion that demonstrate the thorough completeness of his saving work for us, the breadth and depth of his love for us, and the strength of his union with us. Guest pastors will rotate preaching each mid-week. Our time together includes a meal served from 5 to 6:30pm. We invite you to join us for these evenings of fellowship as we "break bread" together. The meals are offered freely, but a free-will offering will help serving groups pay for the meals and support their ministries. Check the church calendar online for serving groups and menus as they are settled.

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

HIS  
FINAL  
STEPS

## **PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

(Also printed in the hymnal)

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 that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should 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.

# *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** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers. Cards can be placed in the offering basket or left on the table near the sanctuary entrance.
- † 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.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship 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 to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**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.**

