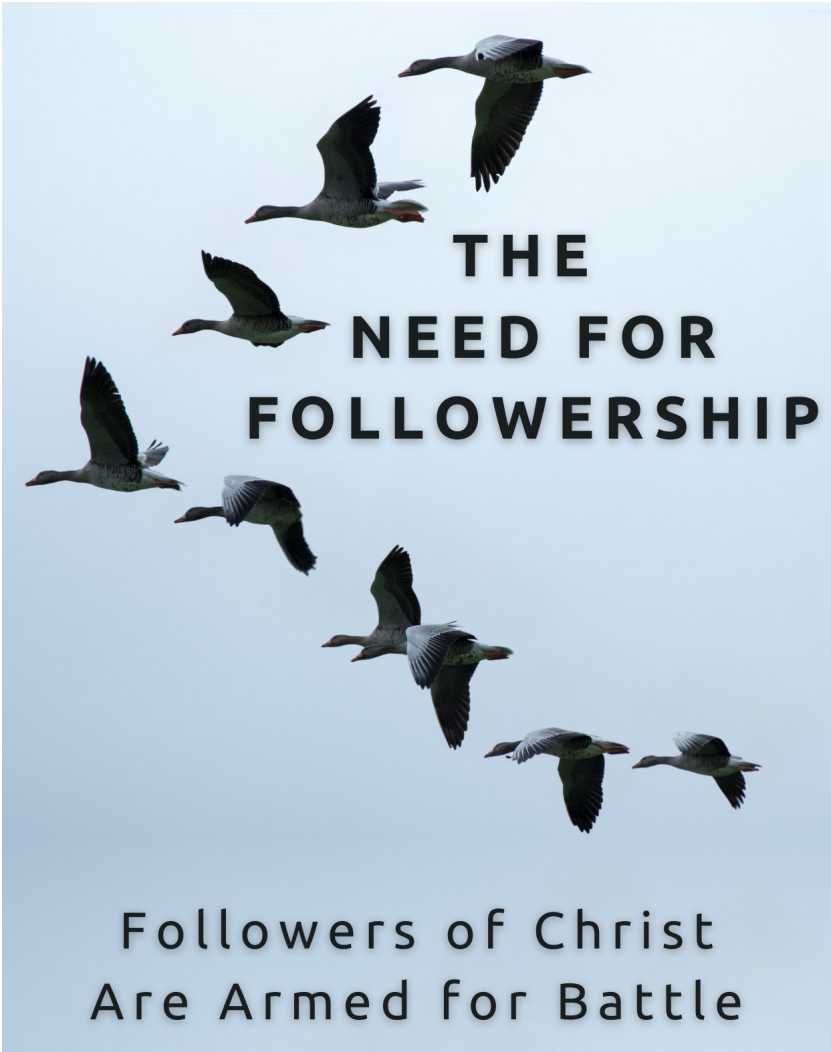


September 14-15, 2024

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



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



## **Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*The Need for Followership--  
Followers of Christ are Armed for Battle*

**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, we thank you for your blessings in another week. Forgive us for our sins and bless us today in our worship. Send your spirit that we might praise you here and in the week ahead. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** What is the worst war in history? World War II, with at least 90 million dead? The Three Kingdoms War, which resulted in over 40 million deaths and lasted for most of the third century? Any of a number of civil wars, with brothers fighting against each other? No. The worst war in history began with shots fired in Eden and continues to rage today. It is a war against "spiritual forces of evil" (Ephesians 6:12). This is a war for souls. There are demonic forces that want to do more than kill you; they want to claim you for all eternity. But there is good news: Christ has already called you his own and equipped you for this war. Followers of Christ are armed for the battle.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** Have you ever been a part of a group that needed better leadership? We become frustrated when politicians, management, or coaches don't lead well. Leadership is extremely important. Jesus Christ is the leader of our congregation, our home, our lives. His leadership is perfect in every way. Therefore, when things are wrong, what we need is not better leadership, but better followership. In this series, we ask Christ to empower us with his Spirit so that we might better follow his lead. May we better reflect the beauty of his life, better make his priorities our own, and better serve our God and neighbor.

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

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe  
Choir Director: Luke Dorn

Piano/Organ: Abigail Ibisch  
Handbell Director: Jessie Dorn

***Jr. Handbell Preservice***

*Celebration #1 in G, Celebration #5  
By Michael Keller*

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



## Hymn: O Church, Arise

CW 870



1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the  
2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to  
3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the  
4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—



call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that  
rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the  
Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -  
grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.  
wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.  
neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!  
win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -  
When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the  
And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -  
As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle  
out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for  
merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues  
tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.  
which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.  
till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.  
for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

Please remain seated.

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 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.** (1 John 1:8-9)

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.

(5:00/8:00) Hymn: *With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord* CW 658



1 With all my heart I praise you, Lord, that in your  
2 When I confess my sin and shame, peace and for -  
3 Lord, I rejoice to be your guest, at your rich



Son you saved me. You saw in me what you de-plored;  
give-ness seek-ing, you grant me par-don in your name  
ta-ble feed-ing, there, by your mer-cy, find-ing rest



my griev-ous sin en - slaved me. Yet, Lord, you paid  
 be - fore I've fin - ished speak - ing! In love you lis -  
 and all my soul is need - ing. Let your good Spir -



the high - est price, Je - sus' a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice,  
 ten care - ful - ly to all our sighs of mis - er - y,  
 it work with - in to show that all my wretch - ed sin



that you might ev - er own me. Were I to bless  
 our ev - 'ry need ad - dress - ing. Our guilt should make  
 has tru - ly been for - giv - en. Thus, well pre - pared,



you all my days, it would be in - suf - fi - cient praise  
 you turn a - way; in - stead you turn toward us and say:  
 Lord, I be - lieve that in your sup - per I re - ceive



for kind - ness you have shown me.  
 "Re - ceive my gra - cious bless - ing."  
 life, par - don, peace, and heav - en.

**(10:30) Hymn: By Faith**

CW 868 sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–5

*Jubilate Choir will sing stanzas 1 - 4 and the first refrain. The congregation is invited to join in the remaining refrains and stanza 5.*

- 1 By faith we see the hand of God  
 in the light of creation's grand design,  
 in the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,  
 who walk by faith and not by sight.
  
- 2 By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
 with the pow'r of his promise in their hearts,  
 of a holy city built by God's own hand,  
 a place where peace and justice reign. *(Refrain)*

*Ref We will stand as children of the promise;  
we will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.  
Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

- 3 By faith the prophets saw a day  
when the longed-for Messiah would appear  
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death  
and rise triumphant from the grave.
- 4 By faith the church was called to go  
in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost  
to deliver captives and to preach good news  
in ev'ry corner of the earth. **(Refrain)**
- 5 **By faith this mountain shall be moved  
and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,  
for we know in Christ all things are possible  
for all who call upon his name. (Refrain)**

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

1 Kings 18:21-39

*In a showdown between Elijah and the prophets of the idol Baal, the LORD makes it clear that all the combined forces of hell are nothing compared to the almighty power of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."  
But the people said nothing.

<sup>22</sup>Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the LORD’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. <sup>23</sup>Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. <sup>24</sup>Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”

Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

<sup>25</sup>Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” <sup>26</sup>So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

<sup>27</sup>At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” <sup>28</sup>So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. <sup>29</sup>Mid-day passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

<sup>30</sup>Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. <sup>31</sup>Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” <sup>32</sup>With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. <sup>33</sup>He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

<sup>34</sup>“Do it again,” he said, and they did it again.

“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. <sup>35</sup>The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

<sup>36</sup>At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. <sup>37</sup>Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

<sup>38</sup>Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

<sup>39</sup>When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”


M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm of the Day: If God Is for Us

Psalm 46E


## Refrain



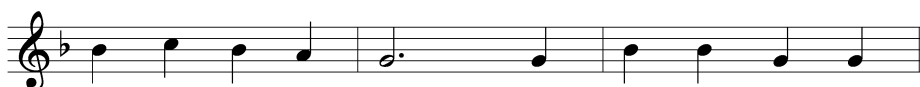
If God is for us, who can be a - gainst us?




God is our sal - va - tion, al - ways by our side.




1 God is our ref - uge and our strength, an  
2 A riv - er flows whose streams make glad the  
3 Be - hold the won - drous deeds of God, who




ev - er pres - ent aid, and there - fore, though the  
cit - y of our God, the ho - ly dwell - ing  
caus - es wars to cease, the weap - ons of the




earth be moved, we will not be a - fraid; though  
of the LORD, the place of God's a - bode. Since  
strong de - stroyed, God brings a - bid - ing peace. "Be



hills in - to the seas be cast, though foam - ing wa - ters roar,  
God is in the midst of it, our safe - ty is se - cure;  
still and know that I am God, ex - alt - ed ev - er - more;"



the LORD of hosts is by our side, a  
the LORD of hosts is by our side, a  
the LORD of hosts is by our side, a



ref - uge strong and sure. *Refrain*  
ref - uge strong and sure. *Refrain*  
ref - uge strong and sure. *Refrain*



## Second Reading

Ephesians 6:10-18

*Followers of Christ put on the full armor of God so that they might be ready for the battle.*

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Mark 9:14-27

*As we face spiritual battles, Jesus assures us that "Everything is possible for the one who believes." The one who relies on Christ has already won the war in him.*

<sup>14</sup>When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

<sup>16</sup>"What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. <sup>17</sup>A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup>Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

<sup>19</sup>"You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

<sup>20</sup>So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. <sup>22</sup>"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

<sup>23</sup>"If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

<sup>24</sup>Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

<sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

<sup>26</sup>The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

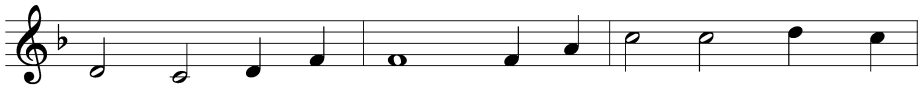
CW 517



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -  
2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing  
gen - tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the  
in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the  
pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool  
may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing  
wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this  
glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.  
well comes liv-ing wa - ter, quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

## Sermon

Based on Ephesians 6:10-18

*"Followers of Christ, get ready for war!"*

*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 as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.*



 Give Online

*Please stand.*

## Presentation of Bibles (10:30)

### 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.

#### 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: Onward, Christian Soldiers

CW 869 sts. 1, 3-4



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march - ing as to war,  
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, king - doms rise and wane,  
4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, join our hap - py throng,



with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.  
but the Church of Je - sus con - stant will re - main.  
blend with ours your voic - es in the tri - umph song:



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, leads a - gainst the foe;  
Gates of hell can nev - er 'gainst that Church pre - vail;  
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or un - to Christ the King;



for - ward in - to bat - tle see his ban - ners go!  
we have Christ's own prom - ise, and that can - not fail.  
this through count - less a - ges saints and an - gels sing.

*Refrain*

On-ward, Chris-tian sol - diers, march-ing as to war,  
with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.

## **Silent Prayer and Announcements**

## **School Update - Principal Ryan Klatt**

### **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship  
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # 48708 and CCLI # 630266

### **Fellowship & Spiritual Growth**

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services. Amber Swenson will be talking about her book at 10:15 in the fellowship hall. Children ages 3yrs to 6th grade are invited to learn more about Jesus in Sunday JAM, starting at 9:15am in the Kindergarten room.

### **For Worship Next Week**

Worship theme: Followers of Christ are Humble Servants  
Bible Readings: Numbers 12:1-15; James 3:13-18; Mark 9:30-37  
Hymns: 737, 767, 668, 735





## **Family Activities**

- **Sunday JAM (Jesus and Me)** **Every Sunday at 9:15**  
Children learn from God's Word and see how God's love and teaching applies to them through songs, Bible history, and Scripture. In September we'll be studying the Old Testament Israelites.
- **WELS Area Youth Night** **October 13, 5-7 pm**  
Young people from Eastern MN/Western WI bring friends and hang out for an interactive evening of music, games, and discussion focused around God's Word.
- **Trunk or Treat** **October 27, 4-6 pm**  
Enjoy a fun evening with decorated trunks, lots of candy, costumes, and games. Sign up to host a trunk or just come and enjoy. It's a fantastic event for the whole family.
- **Youth Group** **November 3 & December 8, 6:30 - 8 pm**  
Teens in grades 7-12 meet for fellowship, Bible study, food, and games in a variety of events.
- **Mission Festival** **November 24, 10:30-noon**  
Celebrate a Sunday dedicated to mission work! Enjoy great music and hear World Missions Coordinator Larry Schlomer share how we're spreading God's Word worldwide. Join us for lunch afterward!
- **Christmas for Kids** **December 14, time TBA**  
Children ages 3 to 6th grade are invited to Christmas for Kids! Enjoy devotions, crafts, and activities and help refocus your kids on the heart of Christmas. Stay tuned for more details.

## **Fall Bible Studies**

- **Sunday Morning** **Every Sunday at 9:15 am**  
Stewardship means managing all God's gifts, especially time. How we choose to spend it shapes how we serve Christ and one another, both individually and as a church.
- **Tuesday Morning** **Every Tuesday at 10:15am**  
This year-round group is coming to the end of our study of Revelation. We haven't chosen our next topic yet. Join us and share your idea!
- **Women's Bible Study** **1st/3rd Wednesday at 10 am**  
Studying the book of Isaiah. Isaiah reveals God's justice and mercy, offers deep insights into prophecy, and provides hope through divine redemption and restoration.
- **Men's Bible Study** **1st Saturday at 8 am**  
Study based on "Walking with Luther" encouraging you to walk closer with Luther, but more importantly, you will walk even closer with God. Bible study is at Gorman's Restaurant.
- **Bible Basics** **Mondays at 6:30 pm**  
Weekly study over ten weeks covering the most important teachings of the Bible, and looking at God's answers to questions.



# 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.**

