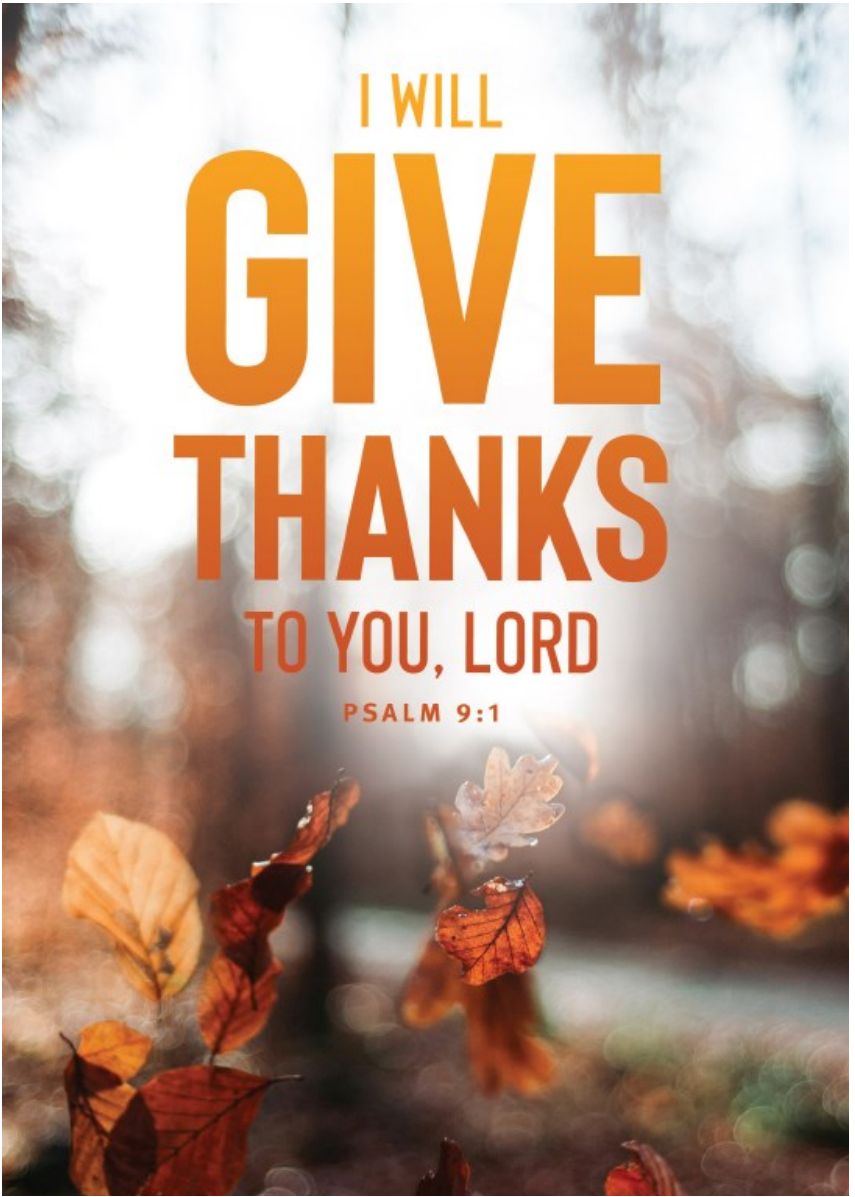


November 27, 2024

Thanksgiving Eve



I WILL
**GIVE
THANKS**
TO YOU, LORD

PSALM 9:1



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org

Thanksgiving Eve

*Thanksgiving to God in
Word and Song*

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: Gracious Father in heaven, your Word reveals your power and goodness to us, and your plans for every living thing. Accept our thanksgiving for all our blessings as we worship tonight in Jesus' name. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Salem members submitted over fifty favorite hymns over the past two months. These hymns, paired with the Scripture on which many are based, form the basis of our worship this evening. May our voices ring out in thanksgiving to God as we hear this precious Word and respond with songs that are so beloved.

A THANKSGIVING THOUGHT:

The British author Charles Dickens said that we are somewhat mixed up here in America. Instead of having just one Thanksgiving Day each year, we should have 364. *"Use that one day just for complaining and griping," he said. "Use the other 364 days to thank God each day for the many blessings he has showered upon you."*

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Organist: Robyn Stoller Choir Director: Luke Dorn



Cover graphics for this bulletin provided by WELS Christian Aid and Relief. Learn more about this humanitarian ministry of our church in the graphic on page 15.

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

CW 597



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,



who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Please stand.

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

Congregation: Amen.

Thanksgiving Confession & Absolution

M: We read in James 1:17-18: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created." In truth, then, let us examine our hearts and come to him in repentance for those times we've failed to recognize his gifts or honor him as the Giver.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
 For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
 For sins of habit and sins of choice,
 For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
 You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
 In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our
 sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your
 sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live;

C: **May our meditation be pleasing to him as we rejoice in the Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: Abide with Me

CW 783 sts. 1-2, 5



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 5 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me!

Sermon Reading

Philippians 4:10-13

¹⁰I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

“The secret to a heart of thanksgiving”

Hymn: Abide with Me

CW 783 sts. 6-7



6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
7 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



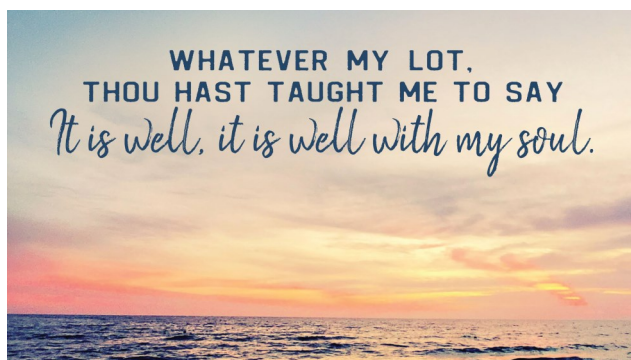
ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.



Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



I tri - umph still if thou a - bide with me.
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me!



Salem's Favorite Songs & Scripture

Reading

Genesis 1:1–5, 26–31

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

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

C: **Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of your creation.**

Hymn: How Great Thou Art

CW 612 sts. 1, Ref, 3



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,



con - sid - er all the works thy hand hath made,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,

I see the stars, I hear the mighty thun - der,
that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing

thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
he bled and died to take a - way my sin;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior-God, to thee, How great thou
art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my
Sav-ior-God to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!

Reading

Exodus 14:5–14, 19–22

⁵When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!” ⁶So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. ⁷He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. ⁸The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. ⁹The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon. ¹⁰As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?” ¹²Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

¹³Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you; you need only be still."

¹⁹Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²²and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

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

C: **Thank you, Lord, for your power used to deliver your people from evil.**

Hymn: To God Be the Glory

CW 627



1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,



So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son,



who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our joy and our won - der when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!

O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son

and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done!

Reading

Luke 17:11–19

¹¹Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

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

C: **Thank you, Lord, for your love and healing.**

Choir Anthem

O God Beyond All Praising

David Schwoebel

The congregation is invited to join the choir for the verses in bold.

O the depth of the riches of the wisdom of God!
O the depth of the riches of the knowledge of God!
How unsearchable His judgment, and untraceable His ways.
O the depth of the wisdom and knowledge of God.
For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things:
To whom be the glory, forever. Amen.

**O God beyond all praising, we worship You today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at ev'ry gift You send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end;
We lift our heart before You and wait upon Your Word,
We honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord.**

**Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know Your favor may serve You as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still:
To marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.**

For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things:
To whom be the glory, forever. Amen.

Reading

Romans 8:1–4, 10–11

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

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

C: **Thank you, Lord, for freedom from sin.**

Hymn: In Christ Alone

CW 510



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -
 world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
 Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
 God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- M: Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.
- C: **Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.**
- M: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.
- C: **Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.**
- M: Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.
- C: **Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.**
- M: Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.
- C: **Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

Silent prayer.

- M: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.
- C: **Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.**

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.

Reading

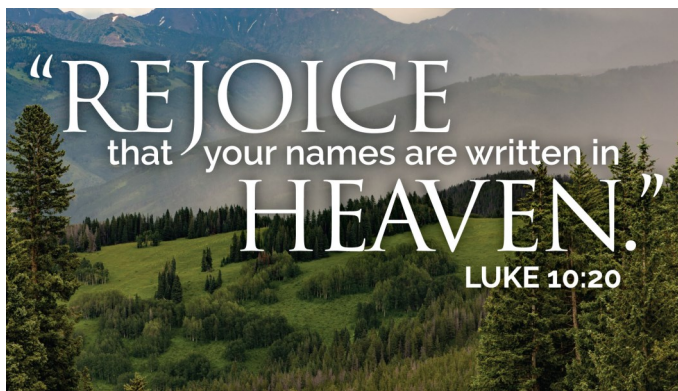
Revelation 21:1–5

¹Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

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

C: **Thank you, Lord, for our future home in heaven.**



Praise Group Anthem

*Hymn of Heaven
Phil Wickham*

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets
To look upon the One who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity
There will be a day when all will bow before Him
There will be a day when death will be no more
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again.
Holy, holy is the Lord

And every prayer we prayed in desperation
The songs of faith we sang through doubt and fear
In the end, we'll see that it was worth it
When He returns to wipe away our tears
Oh, there will be a day when all will bow before Him
There will be a day when death will be no more
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again
Holy, holy is the Lord

And on that day, we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice, a thousand generations
Sing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain"
And on that day, we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice, a thousand generations
Sing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain"
"Forever He shall reign"

So let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven
With angels and the saints, we raise a mighty roar
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy, holy is the Lord

So let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven
With angels and the saints, we raise a mighty roar
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy, holy is the Lord x3

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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WELS Christian Aid and Relief

**I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds (Psalm 9:1).**

We have much to be thankful for – an embarrassment of riches! God created us and continues to provide for us, showering us with an abundance of good things. He sent his Son to redeem us by shedding his blood on the cross to pay for our sins. He called us to faith and sustains us in the faith through Word and sacrament. What wonderful things God has done for us! One way to thank God for his wonderful deeds of love is by imitating his love and compassion as we care for people in need. This is something we do in our own personal lives. This is something we do together through the ministry of **WELS Christian Aid and Relief**. We carry out a ministry of compassion in four main ways, which are detailed below. Your special gifts help us minister to hurting people all around the world and lead to many opportunities to share the good news of God's love in Christ. Thank you for helping us show compassion to people in need!

Grant Summary—fiscal year 23-24

Disaster Relief: \$273,090 was utilized for disaster relief. We assisted with flood relief in India and Kenya, helped rebuild several churches in Malawi destroyed by a cyclone, and helped to provide Christian counseling to those impacted by a wildfire on the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona.

Humanitarian Aid: \$581,000 was utilized for humanitarian aid projects in partnership with WELS Home and World Missions. This aid includes food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, medical care for the sick and dying, vocational training, and many other vital resources and services for people in need.

Community Care and Compassion: \$52,355 was granted to WELS self-supporting congregations in the form of matching grants to assist them with compassion ministry projects in their communities such as food pantries, school supply giveaways, and support for pregnancy counseling centers.

Personal Relief Grants: \$359,343 was utilized for personal relief grants given through our congregations to assist brothers and sisters experiencing a medical or financial crisis.

Total: God enabled us to use **\$1,265,788** of your gifts to show compassion to people in need! To him alone be all the glory!

To learn more, make a donation, or volunteer, visit wels.net/relief and like us on Facebook at [fb.com/WELSCChristianAidandRelief](https://www.facebook.com/WELSCChristianAidandRelief). If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact Director Rev. Daniel Sims.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief
daniel.sims@wels.net • 414-256-3204
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188



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.
- † 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.

