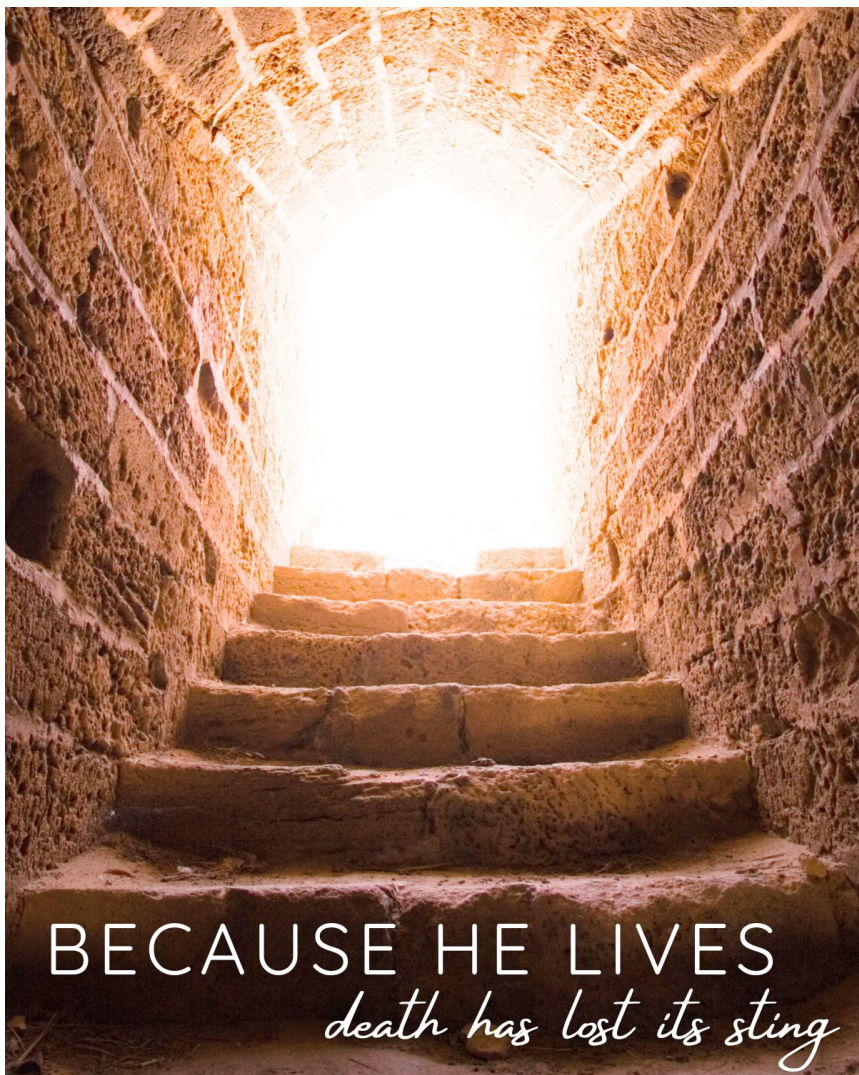


April 20, 2025



BECAUSE HE LIVES  
*death has lost its sting*

Easter Festival



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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

## Easter Festival

*Because He Lives—  
Death Has Lost Its Sting*

**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:** Father in heaven, the victory you gave your Son on Easter is our victory. His resurrection is ours. Bless us throughout they year with Easter joy. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Death can sting in many ways. Note that word “can”. Because Jesus lives, death has lost its sting for those who put their faith in the living Lord. Because Christ lives, we have all the proof we need that God accepted Jesus’ death as the complete and final payment for all our sin. Christ’s resurrection is the assurance that our Christian loved ones are not lost. We will see them again in the resurrection on the Last Day.

Christ’s resurrection means we will rise to a world of incomprehensible and unending joy. Death remains unnatural, but Christ has defeated it. So, while death may still cause tears, death does not cause dread. Because he lives, death has lost its sting.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** It is easy to become so engrossed in the details of historical events—who, when, where—that we miss their significance. In this season of Easter, it is good we review the historical details that remind us that the resurrection of Christ is not fairytale or fable. Just as importantly, we celebrate Easter’s significance. Jesus won! It is our privilege and pleasure to use the 50-day season of Easter to consider this truth: because He lives, not only is our eternity secure, but we have abundant resources to face the present.

## Order of Worship

*CW Hymnal, Setting Two*



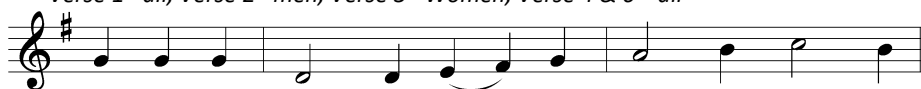
### ***Easter Acclamation***

**M:** Christ is risen!

**C:** He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

# Hymn: Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands CW 440 sts. 1-4, 6

Verse 1—all, Verse 2—men, Verse 3—Women, Verse 4 & 6—all



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands for our of -  
 2 No son of man could con - quer death, such ru - in  
 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, his peo - ple  
 4 It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and  
 6 So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the



fens - es giv - en; but now at God's right hand he  
 sin had wrought us. No in - no - cence was found on  
 to de - liv - er; de - stroy - ing sin, he took the  
 death con - tend - ed. The vic - to - ry re - mained with  
 Lord in - vites us; Christ is him - self the joy of



stands and brings us life from heav - en.  
 earth, and there - fore death had brought us  
 crown from death's pale brow for - ev - er.  
 life, the reign of death was end - ed.  
 all, the sun that warms and lights us.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing to  
 in - to bond - age from of old and ev - er  
 Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns; an emp - ty  
 Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly saith that death is  
 Now his grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal



God right thank - ful - ly loud songs of  
 grew more strong and bold and held us  
 form a - lone re - mains; its sting is  
 swal - lowed up by death; dis - graced, it  
 sun - shine to our hearts; the night of



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 as its cap - tive. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 lies de - feat - ed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Please remain seated.*

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

## A DIALOGUE FOR EASTER

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ has gained the victory for us by his death and resurrection.

**C: It is for us that he has triumphed.**

M: Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: For God, who created light to shine out of darkness, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.  
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.  
And He shall reign forever and ever! King of kings and Lord of lords.  
Hallelujah!

**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, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**First Reading**

*Isaiah 25:6-9*

*The Lord has taken away our disgrace, torn up the shroud of death,  
and promised us an eternal feast of joy.*

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare  
a feast of rich food for all peoples,

a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines.

<sup>7</sup>On this mountain he will destroy

the shroud that enfolds all peoples,

the sheet that covers all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears

from all faces;

he will remove his people's disgrace

from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

“Surely this is our God;  
we trusted in him, and he saved us.  
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;  
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 16A

Introduction (first time only)

The introduction consists of two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, and a quarter note on B4. The second measure contains a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on A4, and a quarter note on G4.

*Tone*



With him at my right hand, I will not be / shaken. *Refrain*

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue re- / joices;  
my body also will / rest secure,  
because you will not abandon me to the realm / of the dead,  
nor will you let your Holy One / see decay.  
You make known to me the / path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at / your right hand.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

*Christ is risen, so death has lost its sting.*

<sup>51</sup>Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup>in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup>“Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Psalm 118:24*



*Refrain*



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

This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Refrain**

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Anthem: Resurrection Hymn

Steven Strite

*The congregation is invited to join the choir on verses 1 & 3.*

Alleluia!

1. **See what a morning, gloriously bright,  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem.  
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,  
As the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"  
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!**

Alleluia!

2. See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"  
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;  
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;



It's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years,  
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,  
Will sound 'til He appears, for He lives:  
Christ is risen from the dead!

Alleluia!

- 3. One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.  
Honor and blessing, glory and praise to the King  
Crowned with pow'r and authority.  
And we are raised with Him, death is dead, Love has won,  
Christ has conquered;  
And we shall reign with Him, for He lives:  
Christ is risen from the dead!**

Alleluia

## **Sermon**

*Based on 1 Corinthians 15:51-57*

### *"The Empty Tomb Means a Promise Fulfilled"*

*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



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.



Connect Card

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

## Offertory Handbell Anthem

Easter Joy  
Michael Helman

## Hymn: Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

CW 444

Verse 1, 3, 5— all, Verse 2— women, Verse 4— Men



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er  
2 Je - sus lives! To him the throne high o'er heav'n and  
3 Je - sus lives! For me he died; hence will I, to  
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well noth - ing me from  
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death but the gate to



can ap - pall me. Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!  
earth is giv - en. I shall go where he is gone,  
Je - sus liv - ing, pure in heart and act a - bide,  
him shall sev - er. Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell  
life im - mor - tal; this shall calm my trem - bling breath



From the grave Christ will re - call me. Bright - er  
live and reign with him in heav - en. God is  
praise to him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I  
part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will  
when I pass its gloom - y por - tal. Faith shall



scenes will then com - mence; this shall be my con - fi - dence.  
faith - ful; doubt - ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
need God will dis - pense; this shall be my con - fi - dence.  
be a sure de - fense; this shall be my con - fi - dence.  
cry, as fails each sense: Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

*Please stand.*

## **Lord's Prayer**

M: I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me the Lord's Prayer as Christ our Lord taught us.

M: First, we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

M: We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, his Son, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

**C: Your kingdom come.**

M: We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

**C: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

M: We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for all our needs.

**C: Give us today our daily bread.**

M: We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

**C: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

M: We pray that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

**C: Lead us not into temptation.**

M: And finally, we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul now and forever.

**C: But deliver us from evil.**

M: All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts “Amen,” trusting without doubt that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

C: **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **Prayer**

M: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

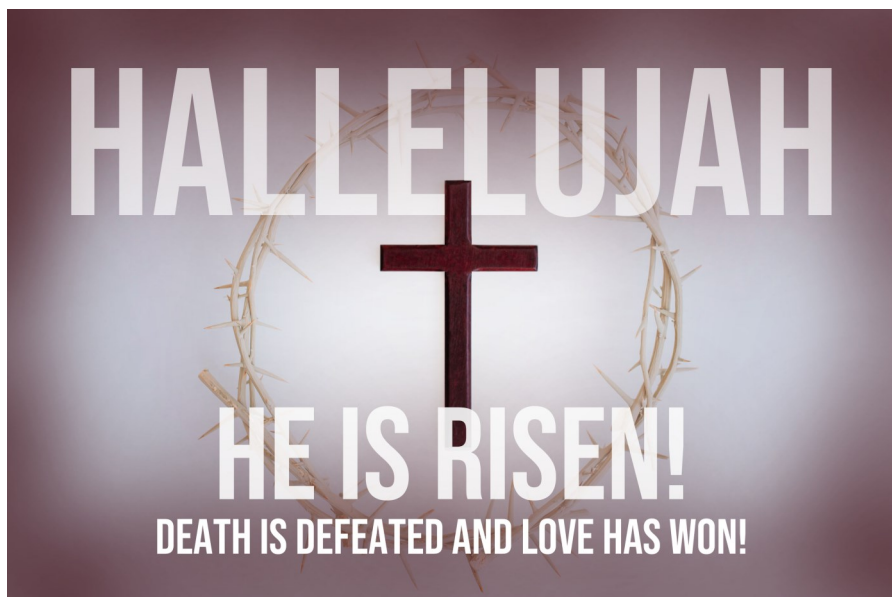
## **Blessing**

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: I Know That My Redeemer Lives

CW 441

Verses 1, 2, 5 & 8— all, Verses 3 & 6— Women, Verses 4 & 7— Men



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
3 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to  
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives all - glo - rious  
plead for me a - bove; he lives my hun - gry  
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
in the sky; he lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.  
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

- 5 He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same.  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

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

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe      Piano/Organ: Luke Dorn, Robyn Stoller  
Choir Director: Luke Dorn      Handbell Director: Jessie Wolfe  
Musicians: Ryan Wolfe, Reese Collins, Caleb Wolfe, Roger Zolldan



## ***Easter Thank You***

Thank you to all the people who used their time and gifts this year to make our Lenten and Easter services a blessing to us all. Thank you especially to our musicians, to those who helped decorate the church, to the hosts at Lenten suppers and Easter breakfast today, to those who helped with our Easter for Kids program, and to everyone else that helped in so many ways. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

## **Easter Fellowship & Celebration Continues**

After worship all are invited to enjoy breakfast and fellowship downstairs. Bible study and Sunday JAM for kids will return next Sunday.

# BECAUSE HE LIVES

## *Easter Worship Series*

The season of Easter is a 50-day celebration of the fact that because Jesus lives, so will we. And not just for eternity, but already today. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Throughout this season, we explore what that means. Our worship follows this path in Easter as we worship under the theme **“Because He Lives”**:

April 20 (Easter Festival) – He Lives to Take Me from Death to Life

April 27 – We Have a Meaningful Mission (Youth Examination @ 10:30)

May 4 – He Lives to Restore My Hope (Youth Confirmation @ 10:30)

May 11 – We Can See Things Clearly

May 18 – We Know Jesus is Trustworthy and True

May 14 – We Live Lives of Lavish Love

May 25 – We Have Deep and Lasting Joy

June 1 (Ascension) – He Reigns Over Everything for the Benefit of His Church

# Easter Flowers on the Altar are placed in memory of

Eliana Eudora Shah

John Rogotzke

Robert Raasch

Alfred & Johanna Stoller

Gilbert & Rosella Ecker

Kay Berdan

Howard & Pearl Elder

Robert & Delores Splieth

Alice Gatzke

Emma & Wilbert Miller

Robert H. Golish

Anton & Francis Wolfe

Darrold Thompson

Lyle & Aris Crawford

Victor Prescott

Herb & Catherine Monthie

Syed M. Shah

Anna Rogotzke

Luella Joswiak

Kent Hadrits

Tracy & Ella Berdan

Lyle Doerr

Franklin & Verna Gruetzmacher

George & Adeline Light

Bill Staab

Stan Vetsch

Marvin & Jean Passow

Michael Miller

Harold Wilk

Don & Barb Anderson

Carl & Emma Bourman



# 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 marked room down the hallway across from the restrooms.
- ✦ 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.**

