

# **Welcome Visitors!**

## **First Time Visitor**

### **Common Worship Questions**

#### **Where do I go?**

**100 Twelve Oaks Drive, McCormick, SC – at the corner of St.Rt. 378 and Twelve Oaks Drive.**

Parking is readily available in the large lot adjacent to the church and fellowship hall. Many spaces are available for handicap parking if needed. The Sanctuary for worship is in the building on the left toward St. Rt. 378. Please come in through the double glass doors into the “narthex” or greeting space, and you will be only steps away from our beautiful sanctuary. Restrooms are down the hallway straight ahead and the Bridge gathering space is on the right. Our ushers and visitor’s table are in this area we call the “narthex”.



#### **When should I arrive for worship?**

Services start on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. (October-April) and 10:30 a.m. (all year long) Many people arrive a few minutes before the service to prepare for worship and greet those around them. If you're running late for worship, don't worry — just find a seat and join in with the service. We are so happy to have you join us in worship!

**Be sure to watch for our announcement about beginning the wonderful tradition of having outdoor worship at Elijah Clark State Park again next year after Easter!**

**Our 9:00 a.m. Service from May to September is held in the Cathedral of Creation.**

#### **What should I expect when I get there?**

As you enter the narthex an usher will hand you a bulletin with details about the service. If you let them know you're visiting, they can help you with any questions you may have. You will be directed to the Visitor’s Welcome Table and asked to sign our guest book, fill out a name tag, and receive a welcome bag from the church. From there, you may choose to mingle in the narthex, or proceed into the sanctuary and sit where you wish. Hymnals and Bibles are readily available under the pew in front of you. The bulletin you receive upon entering will guide you in finding hymns in the red book. At times, a small red book is passed down each pew for

attendance purposes. We are happy to have you sign the book so that we may send you a note thanking you for your visit.

## **What is the Service Like?**

Our worship experience is planned to be meaningful for all people. The Sunday worship service utilizes a richly traditional worship format which includes hymns, piano and/or organ accompaniment, choir, candles, vestments, and sacred spaces. Worship draws on the historic liturgy of the Lutheran Church which invites the congregation to be active in singing songs, hearing the scriptures, offering prayers and responses, and celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion. All of these provide a connection between faith and our everyday lives as we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. The bulletin will guide you through the service. The bold print indicates the congregation participation with the reading or singing.

## **What should I wear?**

You will find a wide variety of clothing choices at Lutheran Church By The Lake, ranging from casual to formal. If in doubt, you should feel comfortable wearing business-casual attire at any service.

## **May I share in Holy Communion?**

We trust that Jesus Christ is fully present in the meal of Holy Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or Eucharist). All baptized Christians, whether or not they are members of this congregation, are welcome at Christ's table.

During distribution, an usher directs worshipers by row forward through the center aisle. You may choose to kneel at the altar rail or stand. You will first be offered "the body of Christ" or wafer, followed by a second communion assistant offering wine or grape juice, "the blood of Christ" which you will remove from the tray. You will then rise, dispose of your cup in the basket, and return to your seat by the side aisles. Typically, the pastor will offer instructions before communion.

Gluten-free and non-alcoholic communion elements are available.

If you do not participate in Holy Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing which you will receive by indicating your desire by crossing your arms in front of your chest. If you are not able to come forward, indicate that to an usher and the elements will be brought to you.

## **Is there a nursery?**

At Lutheran Church By The Lake, we welcome children to join us in worship. If you need nursery services, we can arrange to live-stream the service to our fellowship hall, the ARK, where parents may participate in the services and children may feel free to play under their parents' watchful eye

## **After the Service What Happens?**

Following the Sending Hymn and Dismissal, "Go in peace. Serve the Lord" the congregation responds: THANKS BE TO GOD", and the pianist begins to play the postlude, or end of service music. The congregation files out, greeting the pastor as they depart. Please be sure to mention to the pastor that you are visiting. Many people share greetings and look forward to meeting with visitors during this time. A Coffee Mingle is available between services which provides an opportunity for fellowship. We hope that you will find our worship together meaningful and return to worship with us again soon!

(Note: Special Sundays, Festivals and Holidays may vary slightly from the above format and will be so noted in the weekly worship bulletin.)