

SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 17 Issue 3

www.SalemChurch.cc

March 2015

March 2015
Revised Common Lectionary
Year B

2nd Sunday in Lent – March 1

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

3rd Sunday in Lent – March 8

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

4th Sunday in Lent – March 15

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

5th Sunday in Lent – March 22

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Passion/Palm Sunday – March 29

Palms: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philemon 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

The Anchor Window

The anchor has a cross at the top, and has become a symbol of hope. Anchors are used to keep boats from being tossed about and hitting rocks during storms, and Christ is thought of as the anchor that keeps us safe and secure during the storms of our lives.

Read Hebrews 6:18b-19 “So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie.



Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary.” (NLT)

Reflect: What kind of storms threaten your faith?

Pray: Ask for the faith to hold on tightly to Christ, your Anchor, in the storms of your life.

Source: The Salem Confirmation Class Handbook

Pastor's Thoughts

As we are heading into our second week of Lent, it gives us time for reflection on Christ and our commitment to God. The devotional booklets passed out in Salem Church were “The Promise of Easter” and “Passion with a Purpose.” The real question from them is “Do we believe that God really saves sinners, and if He does, what is our responsibility?”

People who doubt the reality of conversion are not likely to share the gospel.

If, deep down, you’re an inclusivist who believes



God may have other ways of saving people, then you'll stay quiet about the gospel.

If, deep down, you're a Hyper-Calvinist who believes God will save people whether you share your faith or not, then you'll stay quiet about the gospel.

But, those who see God change lives are most likely to get excited about evangelism. The power is in the gospel, not us. It is the confidence in the power of the gospel that motivates us to share it.

Do you believe God has given this responsibility to you? Do you believe that the proclamation of His Word is the way He saves people?

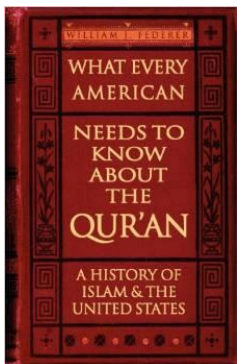
The question here concerns commitment: "Do you truly believe you've been given this amazing privilege and weighty responsibility and that the Holy Spirit will use you to draw people to God?"

Let us ponder on a personal level, "Why did Jesus have to die for me?" and "What comfort do I have from Christ's crucifixion?" Easter should mean something to you, when Jesus defeated death for your sake and God sacrificed His own Son for us to be made right with Him. Lent is about the awareness of Easter making it from our heads to our hearts. Let us open our hearts to God this Lent, and let us share our faith!

Pastor Tom

Understanding Islam

This past month, our adult Sunday school class has been studying the conquest and historical rise of Islam



through the book, What Every American Needs to Know About the Qur'an by William J. Federer. The take away from the class is that Islam and Christianity contradict each other. Islam teaches that Jesus Christ wasn't crucified for our sins; thus, He wasn't resurrected. Paul in the Bible teaches there is no Christianity without the crucifixion

and resurrection for what we Christians will celebrate the upcoming Good Friday and Easter.

There are many troubling Qur'an passages; among them are: Sura 5:17 says that infidels are those who declare "God is the Christ, the son of Mary." Sura 9:123 says, "Make war on the infidels who dwell among you." Sura 2:191, "Kill the disbelievers wherever we find them."

Jesus warned, ¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves." ¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ¹⁹ So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions." (Matthew 7:15-20, NLT)



Christ's core commandment is, ³⁴ "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." (John 13:34) On the other hand, Islam is a religious, militaristic, political and totalitarian belief system that calls for war upon the "unbeliever of Islam."

Muhammad is described as a "prophet" meaning "teller of truth." Islam's Qur'an is held as "holy" meaning "flawlessly unaffected by sin." No sincere Christian would bestow the title of "prophet" upon someone who has spread a false message about Jesus or that person's book as "holy." Jesus holds that, ²¹ "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter." (Matthew 7:21)

Just because someone claims to be a Christian doesn't mean they are one. Jesus said, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and you do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46) Further, "For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels." (Luke 9:26)

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) Christ says sincere faith comes only by the hearing of His words and by following His commandments.

Finally, Jesus says, "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul, but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell." (Matthew 10:28) There is no reconciling Islam with Christianity as either one or both have to be false; I challenge you to educate yourself further. Next, we will look at the meaning of the Ten Commandments.

This Past Month at Salem

The children's Sunday School class has been very active this winter! They are all smiles displaying their unique Valentine's Day projects.



Led by teacher Carol Emery, the children display what they have been learning in class by creating a bulletin board at the front entrance of the church. The current display is based on Isaiah 33. As Easter approaches, let's remember *we need a Savior!*



The Youth Group did a great job serving a deliciously warm **Potato Supper** on February 11, as part of the annual prayer meeting held at Salem.



We were blessed once again by Sheila Collins' voice, Sunday, February 22 with her selection, "O Lord, Be Merciful," by Bartlett. Special music guests from earlier in the month included our own Junior Bell Choir, vocalists Jake and Luke Wilder, and Tamara Mullenhour on piano.

Trustees Notes

The trustees have put much effort into clearing snow this winter. The parking lot and walkways have been an almost constant job of clearing and salting. With the wind-chill below negative twenty-five degrees with black ice conditions, church was canceled on February 15 for safety reasons.



Session Notes

The session members discussed how best to organize the funeral meals held at the church and the



Lion's Club building. A sign-up sheet is in the front lobby for "kitchen help" and "set-up and tear down." Also, for everyone who contributes to the meals, there is a separate sign-up sheet where you may list your name and meal category preferences (salads, casseroles, hot vegetables, or desserts). The Session hopes that the new policy and organization of volunteers will streamline the service that Salem offers in times of grief. Contact Gloria Leiter or Ann Rees for more information!

Facebook



To more easily stay connected to church activities and cancelations, please visit and "like" our new Facebook page! "Salem Church of Venedocia, OH" can be found by search or through the direct link:

www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Looking Ahead

The Women's Association will begin the year with their first meeting on Thursday, March 19 at 9:30 am in the church basement. All ladies are welcome to join the meeting for a devotional, topic discussion, and refreshments. 2015 Program Booklets are available.

Senior Luncheons are back! Everybody is welcome back to the first luncheon of the year on Wednesday, March 25, at 12noon. Spaghetti and meatballs, garlic toast, salad, and dessert will be a great meal to catch up with everyone over.

Venedocia Lion's Club Pancake and Sausage Day
Saturday, March 21, 6:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday – March 29

Service at 9:30am

Maundy Thursday – April 2

Meal at 6:00 pm, Service with Communion at 7:00 pm

Easter Morning – April 5

Sunrise Service at 7:00am, Easter Breakfast at 8:00am, Easter Worship Service at 9:30am.



Salem to Celebrate 100th Annual Gymanfa Ganu!

According to church records, this will be our 100th Gymanfa Ganu! So this year, we want to make it a special celebration. The Music Committee is requesting that if you have any pictures, articles, stories, memories of the Gymanfa through the years, that you share them! Please give



such items to any member of the music committee or take them to the church office. You may also email attachments or stories to the church email: secretary@salemchurch.cc Thank you!

Church Family

Birthdays

3/2	Marilyn Strickler
3/8	John Morris
3/11	Todd Morris
3/14	Larry Caffro
3/16	Pastor Tom Emery
3/20	Johnathon Morris
3/20	Brian Owens
3/22	Toby Adkins
3/23	Josh Hoehn
3/23	Joyce Profit
3/28	Norma Adams
3/28	Ron Richards

Anniversaries

3/23	Dean & Nancy Swygart
3/29	Haydn & Loretta Williams

Favorite Memories



Lee Lare fondly remembers leading music on Sunday mornings at Salem for over thirty years! He recalls working with Ward and Anita Mowery who were music instructors at Lincolnview Schools. Ward was the Lincolnview band director and Anita the school's choir director.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, flowers, food, visitation and memorial gifts that helped us through the loss of our son, Dennis.

The outpouring of sympathy and love was really uplifting and comforting. Thank you to Pastor Tom for the inspiring service, to Eileen Lucier for leading the hymns, to Bill Evans for all the preparation. And thank you to all who donated and served the wonderful meal and to the church for the beautiful flower arrangement.



The Owens Family

A Poem of Hope by Helena Fehr

I feel the arms of God around me,
as I lay on my bed at night.
Asleep, I feel the Angel's touch-
I'm surrounded and held tight.

I don't know why it is,
that God should love me so,
that he would send His only Son,
to hang there on Death-row.

He guards me night and day,
always bringing love and hope.
Somehow, I know I will survive,
for He will help me cope.

As a father has compassion on his child,
so my Lord has compassion on me.
I know I can count on him-
There is nowhere from His love I want to flee.



Eternal Comfort

David E. Leininger wrote in his article, "Wow," of a friend who has been at the bedside of many persons who have had experiences of "seeing past the veil."

He writes, "Among our hospice, we frequently explained this with the metaphor that as one nears death, the boundary between this life and the next becomes thinner, more permeable... We have had our patients report lots of visits. Several of them have reported visits from Jesus; others have visits from passed-on family members..."

"At any rate, after over three hundred deaths in our hospice, all of the Near Death Experiences have resulted in an increase of the sense of peace. One patient I became particularly close to had a typical experience. While in the hospital, (he was not a hospice patient), his heart stopped. Aggressive intervention returned his heartbeat. When I came on-shift the next day, he had been moved to ICU.

"As I entered his bay, his face broke into a big grin. The first words out of his mouth were: 'I've seen the light.' He described a fairly typical Near Death Experience: bright light, overwhelming sense of peace, etc. The upshot of this...was that he insisted his doctor issue a 'Do Not Resuscitate' order. To get his doctor to make him a No Code, he practically had to twist the doc's arm. He was THAT convinced by what he had witnessed."

Jesus Christ tells us that, "...nothing can ever separate us from God's love. **Neither** death nor life, **neither** angels nor demons, **neither** our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love" (Romans 8:38 NLT). If we have made Christ our Lord and Savior, we can have joy in all circumstances, because we know that we are granted eternal life if Christ has paid for our sins.

Romans 10:9-11 tells us, "⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, 'anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.'"

Won't you ask God to forgive your sins by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross; Jesus paid the price of our sins? Make Him your Lord and Savior today!

**Violet Ashton**

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Serving our Country**Cory McCollow** (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Oakland, CA 94607

2nd Lt Pete McCollow (U.S. Marine Corps)

116 HAC Street
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Away at College**Cassy Emery** Box 564

c/o Cincinnati Christian University
2700 Glenway Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45204

Sammi Jones**Prayer Concerns**


Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)
Ralph Du Cheney (father of Stacia Profit)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Jeannie Etzler (daughter of Warren Summersett)
Hope Eutsler (leukemia in remission)
Ralph Eversole (recovery from hospital)
Jesse (heroin addiction and starting recovery)
Margaret Keltner (in hospice—mother of Jan Jones)
Betty Lloyd
James Marshall (mysterious ailment and M.S.)
Tim Morris (liver transplant)
Stacia Profit (painful sciatic pinched nerve)
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)
Aimee Schulte (friend of Sarah Kimmet)
David Slygh (organ transplant)
Taylar Stephens & Family
Tom Theobald (cancer in remission)
Gene Ellerbrock (in failing health – April's father-in-law)
Tim (cancer – friend of Barb Good)

In Mourning

The family of Dennis Owens
The Family of Sue Moeller
The Family of Sue Leiendecker
The Family of Angel Lawrence's Mother
The Family of John Burnett
The Family of Lori Ball

*Please remember our elderly members, soldiers and
college students with cards & visits.*

MARCH EVENTS

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 St. David's Day  9:30am Worship 10:30am Refreshments 10:45am Sunday School	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins  9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 4:00pm Session Meeting	16	17	18	19 9:30am - Women's Association Meeting	20	21 6am - 2pm Lion's Club Pancake & Sausage Day
22 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	23	24	25 12:00 PM Sr. Luncheon	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday  9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	30	31	<u>April 1</u>	2  6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Service & Communion	3 Good Friday 	4

Week of	Greeters*	Ushers	Acolyte	Nursery**	*Besides greeting with a smile, greeters should be at the outside landing to watch the steps and parking lot as well as assist with the elevator to help those in need. ** Nursery workers please bring snacks for 15 children.
March 1	Rex Lloyd	Rex & Lisa Lloyd Josh Lloyd, Lynette Lloyd	Kimmie Children	Mark & Missy Zielke	
March 8				Kent & Heather McClure	
March 15				TBA	
March 22				Ross & Alyssa Evans	
March 29				Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	



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Music for March

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Rev. Thomas Emery cell: 419-863-9131
Email: PastorTomEmery@SalemChurch.cc

Sunday, March 1, 2015
Special Music: Junior Choir

Sunday, March 8, 2015
Special Music: TBA

Sunday, March 15, 2015
Special Music: Junior Choir

Sunday, March 22, 2015
Special Music: Joyce Morris

Sunday, March 29, 2015
Special Music: Junior Bells

