

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 17 Issue 4

www.SalemChurch.cc

April 2015

## April 2015 Revised Common Lectionary Year B

### Resurrection of the Lord/Easter – April 5

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
John 20:1-18

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – April 12

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – April 19

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – April 26

Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

## The Bible Window

1 Peter 1:22-25 (NLT) says: “You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. As the Scriptures say, ‘People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever.’”

At the center of the window is the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word for us, the source of our faith and hope. That Word is the Good News that was preached to you.

At the top of the window you can see the palms, which remind us of Palm Sunday and Jesus’ entry in Jerusalem, and the lily, which reminds us of Easter and Christ’s resurrection. The names of those who gave the window in memory of a loved one, was encircled with a heart. This reminds us of God’s great love for us, and of the love for God and people that prompted the gift of the window.

Read: 1 Peter 1:22-25

Reflect: How can you continue to use the Bible after you are confirmed?

Pray: Ask God to help you continue to turn to the Bible for comfort, hope, guidance, and learning.



Source: The Salem Confirmation Class Handbook

## Pastor's Thoughts



Count Nicholas Zinzendorf

When the Monrovia evangelist, Count Nicholas Zinzendorf, was a young man, he had an experience in an art gallery that changed his life forever. From a life of wealth and luxury, Zinzendorf had been reared and trained for a diplomatic career in the Court at Dresden.

Leslie D. Weatherhead in his writing, Key Next Door, tells the story that one day, on a trip to Paris, Zinzendorf rested in Dusseldorf. During his stay in the city, he visited the city art gallery. There he noticed Sternberg's painting of the crucified Jesus named "Ecce Homo." The artist had written two short lines in Latin beneath the painting. The lines

were: “Hoc feci pro te” and “Quid facid pro me?” meaning: “What I did for You.” “What have You done for me?”

As the account goes, when he spotted the eyes of the thorn-crowned Savior, he was filled with a sense of shame. He could not answer that question in a means which would satisfy his conscience. He stayed there for hours, beholding the painting of the Christ on the cross until the light failed.

As the gallery was closing, he was still staring at the face of Christ, trying in vain to find an answer to the question of what he had done for Christ. He left the gallery at nightfall, but a new day was dawning for him. From that day on, he devoted his heart and soul, his life and his wealth and all that he had to Christ. He declared, “I have but one passion; it is Jesus, Jesus only.”

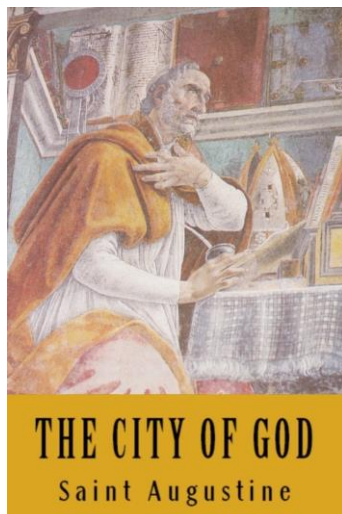
The sight of the crucified One “high and lifted up” on the tree made a sudden and permanent change in his life, and the resurrection bore fruit then and there in his heart and soul. As we celebrate Easter this year, let us ask ourselves in view of God’s sacrificial act of mercy for us: “In view of what You did for me, what have I done for You.”

Pastor Tom

### Understanding a Just War

Augustine of Hippo, was the first Christian theologian to assert that a Christian could both be a soldier and serve God at the same time. Based upon Romans 13:4, Augustine claimed that God has given the sword to the government for our protection and soldiers should not be ashamed to protect the peace and to punish evil. The question for our times is “Is war justified in the current conflict in the Middle East?”

For insights, for centuries the church has turned to Augustine of Hippo’s book, City of God, for help in understanding when a war is warranted. Augustine’s discernments and guidelines are: **First**, God has delegated legitimate authority to governments. A head of government must



make the decision to go to war.

**Secondly**, there must be right intentions in fighting a war; that purpose must be to protect or restore the peace,

not to seize riches or land. **Thirdly**, war can be waged only as a last-ditch effort.

**Fourthly**, war must be waged on the basis of the principle of proportionality. The good to be accomplished by the war must outweigh the suffering and killing that will be unleashed by the war. **Fifthly**, the war must have a realistic chance of success before one enters it. **Sixthly**, the war must be waged with all the moderation possible obeying the accepted rules of the Hague and Geneva Conventions. Civilian non-combatants and prisoners of war must be protected to the greatest extent possible.

Augustine’s principles for a just war are appropriately met in our current engagement with ISIS. Let me caution: First, those who take a black and white position regarding war do so at their peril. Second, God can neither be said to be for war or against war. Assuming God is for war creates tyrants; saying God is against war appeases them.

Current events must be taken into consideration. ISIS has the means, the mentality, and the motives to damage our way of life with suicidal attacks. ISIS has shown its willingness to invade other countries. ISIS has committed genocide against minorities. There is no evidence that it has changed its jihadist world conquest pursuits. All other options to end this warfare have been exhausted. The proper secular authorities were duty bound to declare war in this situation.

Augustine reminds us that the Church’s role is to provide a moral context for that decision, but the church can never declare war or advocate war herself. God has taken that role away from His people and placed it on the shoulders of governments. Neither should the church be blindly against all wars. We have not been given the authority by God to take such a position. Such a position gives the upper hand to evil men who are bent on taking advantage of the powerless that God wants us to protect.





## This Past Month at Salem



Salem celebrated **St. David's Day** with punch, doughnuts, and fellowship after the Sunday morning service on March 1, served by these two cuties!



The **Women's Association** held their first meeting of the year on March 19, hosted by Doris Price in the church basement. Many topics were discussed including the 100<sup>th</sup> Gymanfa Ganu celebration. The possibility of having special ornaments made to commemorate the event was also put forth.



The **Lion's Club Pancake & Sausage Day** brought almost 800 people to Venedocia on March 22. We are

very thankful for and proud of all that the Lion's Club members do for our community!



This month at Salem Church, we were blessed with **special music** by our own children. Kathy McCollow leading the Bell Choir and Jenny Pugh directing the Junior Choir. It's amazing to hear all the children from a range of ages work together to glorify God in music! Also, Joyce Morris, special music guest on March 22, performed a medley of familiar hymns on the piano.



The first **Senior Luncheon** of the year had a great turnout on Wednesday, March 25. Everyone enjoyed a great meal and a fun game of Bingo. There was, as usual, some good natured fun with costumed helpers Kim Coil, Evelyn Martz, and Marylin Foust.

## Trustee Notes

**Air Conditioning Fund:** The Trustees have announced that a fund has been formed by generous donations to purchase and install air conditioning in the church in time for our 100<sup>th</sup> Gymanfa Ganu this year! Salem Church is now accepting monetary gifts to go towards this project.



Please designate your gift towards the Air Conditioning Fund. More information will be announced. The next Trustee meeting will be held Sunday, April 12 at 6:30 pm.

## Session Notes

Session spent time planning the Easter events, taking our youth to the Converge Youth Conference, and funeral meal organization. At the next meeting, April 19 at 4:00 pm, Session will discuss feedback on the recent Presbyterian Church USA vote to allow gay and lesbian marriages in churches and also changes to our Book of Confessions.

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)

## Looking Ahead

The **Maundy Thursday** service will be on April 2 at 7:00 pm. This special Tenebrae service will include the observation of communion. Please plan on coming early at 6:00 pm to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the Morris Family!

On **Good Friday**, Salem Church will be open from 2:00 – 5:00 pm for prayer. Also, the Van Wert County churches are holding a Good Friday service at 12:00pm at the First United Methodist Church in Van Wert (113 W. Central Avenue).

The Youth Group invites everyone to our **Easter Morning Sunrise Service at 7:00 am, April 5**. After the service, the **Easter Breakfast** by the Morris Family will be served in the church basement. Let us all come together to share good food and fellowship as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus! The Easter Worship Service will follow at 9:30 am.



**The Women's Association** will host a meeting on Thursday, April 16 at 9:30 am in the church basement. All ladies are welcome to join the meeting for a devotional, topic discussion, and refreshments.

This month's **Senior Luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, April 29, at 12noon. The menu includes beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, and cupcakes for dessert.

## Chief's Grocery Store

Please bring in your **receipts** from Chief's Grocery Store during the school year and place in the basket in the vestibule at church. Chief will give the church a portion of the total amount on the receipt.

## Salem to Celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Gymanfa Ganu!



According to church records, this will be our 100<sup>th</sup> 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, or 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](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc), or send directly to Jean Owens: [joytrips@watchtv.net](mailto:joytrips@watchtv.net).

## Recital



Tamara Mullenhour of Mullenhouse Music will be presenting a Spring Recital for her flute and piano students at Salem Church. Anyone is welcome and invited to attend, **Friday, May 1, at 7:00 pm**.



## Church Family

### *Birthdays*

4/2 Lyndi Breese  
4/6 Carol Emery  
4/8 Andy Breese  
4/12 MaKenna Kimmet  
4/13 Sammi Jones  
4/16 Bill Evans  
Anne Morris  
4/20 Kevin Matthews  
4/22 Elgarda McGee  
4/23 Grant Zielke  
4/24 Jeff Hoehn  
Larry Profit  
Elaine Siler  
4/25 Julia Morris  
4/26 Gwenda Blackmore  
4/29 Jenny Pugh  
4/30 Bob Bolton  
Ruth Evans

### *Anniversaries*

4/21 John & Mary Ellen Lloyd

## A Mountaintop Experience

Mark 9:2-4 tells us “Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed,<sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them.<sup>4</sup> Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus” (NLT).

Do you want to be ready for an invitation to the mountain top with God as you never had before? Let me make a few suggestions.

**First**, make yourself available; Peter, James, and John were invited up the mountain slope, because they were already in the company of Jesus. Similarly, the company of Jesus in the year 2015 is right here in the church among Christians. Those who, for whatever reason, choose to pass on the church fellowship will not be ready to respond to the invitation.

**Second**, learn all you can about your faith tradition through Sunday school, Bible Studies, Reformed

Tradition classes, and personal devotions. All the surveys indicate that the American biblical literacy is at a low ebb these days in the culture! The text does not tell us how Peter, James, and John recognized Moses and Elijah, but they did, and they knew how incredibly important these men were. Had they never heard of them, the moment on the mountain would not have been nearly so special.

**Third**, listen to Jesus. Only twice in the gospels does God (the Voice) speak - once at Jesus' baptism, and again here on the mountaintop. God wastes no words. "This is my Son, the Beloved; Listen to Him." We hear Him as we worship. We hear Him as we study scripture. We hear Him in the voice of other Christians. Listen to Him. Listen to Jesus.

**Fourth**, remember where your work is – the valley, not the mountaintop. The church exists for those people outside the church.

Have about you an air of joyous expectancy. When you come to this church from week to week, prayerfully begin your trip through the doors ready, not to run into someone you would rather not see, not to sing a hymn you don't know and would rather not learn, not to mumble through a prayer and a creed without thought, not to suffer through a sermon that somehow misses you. No. Rather come in ready to meet Jesus... in a person, a song, a word. The older we get, the more we should realize that attitude is everything.

Please remember the four suggestions in preparation for a trip to the mountaintop: make yourself available; learn all you can about your faith tradition; listen to Jesus; remember where your work is; and finally, attitude. Then you will be ready to meet Jesus on the mountaintop.



**Violet Ashton**  
c/o Roselawn Manor  
420 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 109  
Spencerville, OH 45887



**Serving our Country**

**Evelyn Hoverman**  
Hearth & Home  
1118 Westwood Drive  
Van Wert, OH 45891

**Lee Lare**  
P.O. Box 654  
Venedocia, OH 45894

**Betty Lloyd**  
Van Wert Manor  
160 Fox Rd.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

**Gordon Morgan**  
Vancrest of Convoy  
510 Tully Drive  
Convoy, OH 45832

**Marian Morris**  
Hearth & Home  
1118 Westwood Drive  
Van Wert, OH 45891

**Ruth E. Morris**  
Vancrest Healthcare  
10357 Van Wert—Decatur Rd.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

**Evelyn Pugh**  
Vancrest Healthcare, Room 100  
10357 Van Wert—Decatur Rd.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

**Warren Summersett**  
Vancrest Healthcare  
10357 Van Wert—Decatur Rd.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

**Becky Zirkle**  
Vancrest Health Care, Room A8  
10357 Van Wert—Decatur Rd.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

**Cory McCollow** (U.S. Coast Guard)  
311 Oak Street #109  
Oakland, CA 94607

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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)  
Tim (cancer – friend of Barb Good)  
Noah Wyatt (post-surgery – son of Stuart Wyatt)  
Aaron Reis (in need of heart transplant –Bruce Reis' son)

**In Mourning**

The Family of Janell (Swygart) Miller  
The Family of Gene Ellerbrock

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

# APRIL EVENTS

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:00pm – <b>Meal at Church</b> 7:00pm – <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>Service &amp; Communion</b>	3 2:00 – 5:00pm <b>Good Friday:</b> Church Open for Prayer	4
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b> 7:00am Sunrise Service 8:00am Breakfast 9:30am Worship Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	13	14	15	<b>16</b> 9:30am - <b>Women's</b> <b>Association Meeting</b>	17	18
19 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 4:00pm Session Meeting	20	21	<b>22</b> 12:00pm – <b>Senior</b> <b>Luncheon</b>	23	24	25 
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	27	28	29	30		

Week of	Greeter*	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.
April 5	Dave Rees	Bill & Ruth Evans  Bob & Kathy McCollow	Catie Emery	<i>not staffed</i>	
March 8				Dave & Carla Breese	
April 19				Bob & Kathy McCollow	
April 26				Bob & Denise Pugh	



**Salem Presbyterian Church**  
**P.O. Box 678**  
**Venedocia, Ohio 45894-0678**

## **Music for April**

**Church Phone: 419-667-4142**  
**Church Web Page: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)**  
**Church E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)**

**Rev. Thomas Emery cell: 419-863-9131**  
**Email: [PastorTomEmery@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:PastorTomEmery@SalemChurch.cc)**

**Sunday, April 5, 2015**

Special Music: TBD

**Sunday, April 12, 2015**

Special Music: Jake Wilder

**Sunday, April 19, 2015**

Special Music: Lindsey Newlove

**Sunday, April 26, 2015**

Special Music: Junior Choir or Bells



*State Route 116 near Venedocia*