

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 17 Issue 5

www.SalemChurch.cc

May 2015

## May 2015 Revised Common Lectionary Year B

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 3

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 10

Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 17

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

### Day of Pentecost – May 24

Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### Trinity Sunday – May 31

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

## The Alpha and Omega Window

<sup>12</sup> “Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End” (Rev. 10:12-13 NLT).



The Alpha (Α) and the Omega (Ω) are the first and last letters of the Greek language of the New Testament alphabet. In Revelation, Jesus says He is the first and the

last, the beginning, and the end. They remind us that God had the first word at creation, and will have the last word at the judgment at the end of time.

Read: Revelation 22:12-17.

Reflect: What does it mean to you that God has the first and last word?

Pray: Give thanks to God for being present throughout history and going before you into the future.

Source: The Salem Confirmation Class Handbook



## Pastor's Thoughts



**As we have finished our April Easter season, we are left with the insight that without the resurrection, the presence of suffering in our world just cannot be explained.** I know that you and I have wrestled with this problem many times in our lives. How can our loving God place us in a world where there is so much suffering?

Consider just one aspect - of our aging. That which is physical, gradually degenerates away. Our flesh ages, our energy declines, and our bodies are not naturally capable of earlier feats.

I can only accept one real explanation. It is because the only way we grow spiritually is by struggling with pain and by experiencing that this world truly cannot satisfy us. A person who never confronts pain and suffering will forever remain a spiritual infant with the illusion that happiness can be discovered in this life. The only way I can accept some of the profound tragedies I see in this world, is to believe that this world is a merely preparatory school for a better world yet to come.

Without the resurrection, it is simply difficult to explain a world in which people suffer. But, the resurrection is real.

Jesus was seen by over 500 witnesses in His resurrected body! There is a better world to come! That's a fact!

Christ is alive. Christ rose from the dead. He is alive, and He is available in our world today for a personal relationship. He is our Good Shepherd that knows us by name. Christ is preparing us for a future perfect home in heaven. Amen!

Pastor Tom

### Reasons Why We Believe in the Resurrection

(1) Jesus himself testified to his Resurrection from the dead (Mark 8:31; Matthew 17:22; Luke 9:22).



(2) The tomb was empty on Easter Sunday (Luke 24:3). Although the guards claimed (Matthew 28:13), that the disciples of Jesus had stolen the body, every sensible Jew knew that it was impossible for the terrified disciples of Jesus to steal the body of Jesus from a tomb guarded by an armed, 16-member Temple Guard detachment.

(3) The initial disbelief of Jesus' own disciples in His Resurrection, in spite of His repeated apparitions, serves as a strong proof of His Resurrection. Their initial disbelief explains why the Apostles started preaching the Risen Christ only after receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

(4) The transformation of Jesus' disciples transformed men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion (Luke 24:21, John 20:19), into men who now were confident and bold witnesses to the Resurrection (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2).

(5) Neither the Jews and the Romans could disprove Jesus' Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus.

(6) The Apostles and early Christians would not have faced martyrdom if they were not absolutely sure of Jesus' Resurrection.

(7) The Apostle Paul's conversion from a persecutor of Christians to a zealous preacher of Jesus supports the

truth of Jesus' Resurrection (Galatians 1:11-17, Acts 9:1, Acts 9:24-25, Acts 26:15-18).



(8) The sheer existence of a thriving, empire-conquering early Christian Church, bravely facing and surviving three centuries of persecution, supports the truth of the Resurrection claim.

(9) The New Testament witnesses do not bear the stamp of dupes or deceivers. The Apostles and the early Christians were absolutely sure about the Resurrection of Jesus.

New Testament scholar N.T. Wright has commented that the clearest indication for a first-century Jew, that someone was not the Messiah, would be his death at the hands of the enemies of Israel. That the Church of Christ endured as a Messianic religion is possible only on the assumption that the Crucified One was alive.

Source: <http://www.news.va/en/news/easter-sunday-april-5-2015>

### A Mother's Prayer



Lord, give me strength just for today  
To lead my children in your way;  
Oh, give me wisdom, Lord, and grace  
To show to them Your precious face!

And help me, Lord, to teach them, too,  
The things of Christ so rich and true,  
Just let them see in me, dear Lord,  
Your holiness in life and word.

Keep me from sinning with my tongue,  
From harsh, quick words that might have stung  
Their tender hearts that trust me so  
And watch to see which way I go.

Dear Father, keep my thoughts so pure  
That they will always know for sure  
My Lord has lead me all the way,  
Lord, grant my prayer just for today.

Author Unknown



## This Past Month at Salem



On March 27 – 28, the youth attended the large Converge Youth Conference in Lima.



The bells rang out on **Palm Sunday**!



**Maundy Thursday** meal served by the Morris Family preceded the Tenebrae evening service.



Venedocia Memorial Park welcomed 'docia kids for the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 4. Doug Jones, was his usual self except with the addition of bunny ears! John Lloyd and helpers were spotted the day before cleaning the sidewalk from town to the park of debris that collected over the winter. Though the morning was a crisp one, it was one of the nicest days this far into spring!



The **Easter Sunrise Service** began just as the sun was rising Easter morning, led by the church's youth. Evan Pugh gave a thought-provoking sermon for the congregation. Madison Pugh and Christina Emery performed a clarinet duet for special music and Dominic Adkins, Catie Emery, Isaiah Pugh, Austin Kimmet, Dawson Kimmet, Andrew Emery, and Landon Price all led and served in various ways





during the service. Salem's traditional "Flowering of the Cross" involved the entire congregation. Afterwards, everyone gathered for the delicious breakfast before the morning worship service. The Sunday School bulletin board was bright and beautiful in celebration of the hope we have in Jesus' resurrection.



The Emery Siblings, Christina, Cassy, Catie, and Andrew pose in front of the flowered cross.

The Sunday following Easter, we welcomed guest speaker, Glenn Hux to preach and worship with us. Jake Wilder ministered to us in special music. This month we also welcomed Schylar Miller to sing for us, performing "How Great Thou Art."



It's amazing how fast the grass greened up after Easter with just a few warmer days. Saturday, April 18 reached the high seventies and was a perfect day for the Venedocia teens to participate in the York Township **trash pickup**.

### Trustee Notes

The trustees plan to purchase a new soundboard and amplifier to improve the quality and performance of our sound system.



### Session Notes

Session discussed the Presbytery correspondence we received that informed us of the denominational change to our Constitution that allows same sex marriage in churches that decide to allow it and for pastors willing to preside over the weddings. With the change, both churches and pastors have the current right to refuse to conduct the ceremonies; some feel that the right to refuse will only be for a limited time citing past denominational changing stances. Same sex marriages are currently illegal in Ohio. Ohio has an appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court awaiting decision. Some PCUSA churches are seeking to leave the denomination over this issue for other Presbyterian denominations.

The Presbytery Meeting is May 19, 2015; Charlie Good will accompany Rev. Thomas Emery to this meeting.



The Ice Cream Social is penciled in for July 24, 2015; the plan is to serve Lion's Club Sausage along with the other food items.

## Looking Ahead

**Mother's Day** – Sunday, May 10. Along with recognizing our dedicated mothers with a gift, the annual Junior Choir recognition will be held during the morning service.

**Graduation Sunday** – Sunday, May 17. Please let a session member or the secretary know of students who should be recognized and who are planning on attending.



Andrew Emery's **Graduation Party** is on May 31, from 4:30 to 7:00pm at the church.

**The Women's Association** – Thursday, May 21 at 9:30 am in the church basement. All ladies are welcome. The group is busy planning for the 100<sup>th</sup> Gymanfa Ganu celebration.

**Memorial Day Services** – Monday, May 25. The Horeb Cemetery Service will be held at 10:30am and the Venedocia Service will be held at 11:00am.



**Senior Luncheon** - Wednesday, May 27, at 12noon. The menu will be picnic style with hamburgers and hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, watermelon and ice cream. *This is the last Senior Luncheon until September!*

## A Letter Regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> Gymanfa Ganu



Each year we are thrilled and delighted to welcome the several hundred people who come back to Venedocia for the Gymanfa Ganu. If you were to ask them why they return and what their memories are, each would be different, but heartfelt. For some, it is like a homecoming to renew friendships. Many have come since they were children and they can still hear the wonderful voices of years past. Whatever the reason, it is always an inspiring and memorable experience.

This year will be unforgettable as it is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gymanfa at Salem. It is truly amazing and a tribute to God's grace that this tradition has been kept alive and still has the power to stir the souls of those who come.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, **September 6** as you won't want to miss this very special and meaningful Gymanfa. Eric Foster will be the director and Bonnie Bolton the Organist. Margaret Lopez will also be participating. It will be their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of high school graduation this year so that adds to the festivities. Connie O'Neill will be the pianist. They all grew up in

Venedocia and we are so pleased to have them return to share their talents and accomplishments.

Special music is being planned that will thrill and warm your heart. There will be keepsakes available and many added highlights. We are also hoping that many of you will



share your memories with us now so that they can included in the celebration. Send any information to the church office by mail: P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894, or by email: [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc). There are also plans to update the sound system so that everyone who comes can hear clearly and enjoy.

We hope you will plan to attend so that we have a packed house to sing praises to the Lord!

*Jean Owens*

## Birthdays

5/1	Logan Friesner
5/2	Audrey Hobbs
5/3	Kim Coil Deb Fair Eric Pugh
5/4	Rod Eutsler Heather Matthews
5/6	Emma Jones
5/7	Josh Lloyd
5/8	Bob Pugh
5/9	Linda Fisher Howell
5/10	Rex Lloyd
5/12	Sandy Clayborn
5/14	Bob Louth
5/15	Dane Ebel
5/16	Chance Mosier
5/17	Mary Jane Haines Delayna Profit Stacia Profit
5/18	Ione Owens
5/19	Holden Price
5/22	Dawson Kimmet
5/23	Carolyn Girod
5/25	Taylor Hoehn

## Anniversaries

5/11	Don & Jeannine Leckrone
5/13	Jerry & Marilyn Foust
5/19	Bart & Rosemary Strict
5/20	Mark & Melissa Zielke

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



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

**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

#### **Away at College**

**Cassy Emery** Box 564  
c/o Cincinnati Christian University  
2700 Glenway Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45204

**Sammi Jones**

#### **Serving our Country**

**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

**Will Morrison** (U.S. Army Reserves)  
*Deployed to Iraq*

**Micah Linger**  
*Grandson of Doris Evans*

#### **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 problems)  
Taylar Stephens & Family  
Tom Theobald (cancer in remission)  
Tim (cancer – friend of Barb Good)  
Noah Wyatt (post-surgery – son of Stuart Wyatt)  
Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)  
Aaron Ries (received heart transplant –Bruce Ries' son)  
Bev Hefner (aunt of Jenny Pugh)  
Judy Foust (knee surgery)  
Jean Owens (hip)  
Tina Mayes

#### **In Mourning**

The Family of Esther Spridgeon  
The Family of Ted Hirn



# MAY 2015 EVENTS

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School	4	<b>5 Election Day</b>	6	<b>7 National Day of Prayer</b>	8	9
<b>10 Mother's Day Junior Choir Recognition</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>17 Graduation Sunday</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 4:00pm Session Meeting	18	19	20	<b>21</b> 9:00am – <b>Women's Association Meeting</b>	22	23
<b>24/31</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	<b>25 Memorial Day</b> 10:30am – Horeb Service 11:00am – Venedocia Service	26	<b>27</b> 12:00pm – <b>Senior Luncheon</b>	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.
May 3	Liz Hobbs	Todd Morris Family	Adkins Children	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	
May 10				Bill & Ruth Evans	
May 17				Eric & Jenny Pugh	
May 24				Rex & Lisa Lloyd	
May 31				Tuzz & Lizz Hobbs	



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

## **Music for May**

**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, May 3**  
Special Music: Madison Pugh

**Sunday, May 10**  
Special Music: Junior Choir

**Sunday, May 17**  
Special Music: Ladonna Allenbaugh

**Sunday, May 24**  
Special Music: Julie Miller

**Sunday, May 31**  
Special Music: Doris Price & Eileen Lucier



*Cattle on the Pugh Farm*