

SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 17 Issue 8

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August 2015

August 2015 Revised Common Lectionary Year B

10th Sunday after Pentecost – August 2

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Psalms 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

11th Sunday after Pentecost – August 9

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalms 130

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

12th Sunday after Pentecost – August 16

1 Kings 2:1—12; 3:3-14

Psalms 111

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

13th Sunday after Pentecost – August 23

1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43

Psalms 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

14th Sunday after Pentecost – August 30

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9

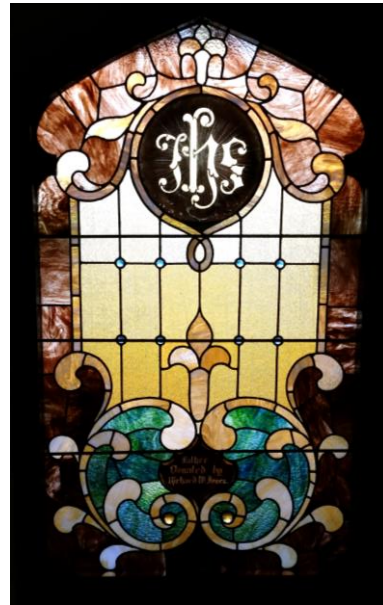
James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The “IHS” Windows

“Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, *‘I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life’*” (John 8:12).

IHS: “Iota Eta Sigma” are the first three letters of the name Jesus in Greek. In early copies of the Bible, they were often used as an abbreviation for Jesus’ Name. The circle surrounding the symbols reminds us of God’s eternal love. The three points on the torch-like shape



remind us of the Trinity: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The torch reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world.

Read: John 8:12 and Matthew 5:14-16.

Reflect: Were you ever afraid of the dark? How does Jesus give light to you now when you are afraid?

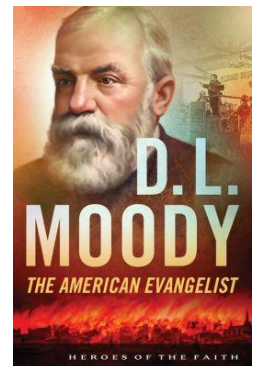
Pray: Ask God to help you to shine with the light of Christ’s love to those who are afraid.

Source: The Salem Confirmation Class Handbook

Pastor’s Thoughts

D.L. Moody once said, *“The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible”* (American Evangelist, 1837-1899).

Several members expressed that they grew up in the church, and they struggle not to let the church become merely a routine to them. The Word isn’t as fresh to them anymore as it was earlier in their life. TV, the internet, social media, and sports keep them from setting aside time for God. On the other hand, we are called by God to renew our mind daily on the things of God by meditating on Biblical Scriptures. Here are

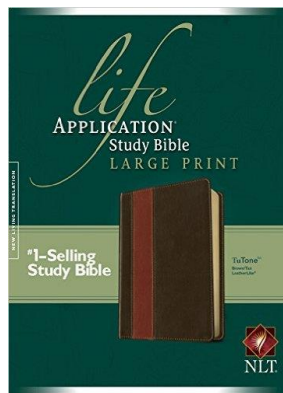


some Scriptures to refresh our faith. We can begin by meditating on these Scriptures to be reminded why valuing the Bible is essential to our daily outlook on life.

“When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart’s delight...” (Jeremiah 5:16 NLT). *“How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey”* (Psalm 119:103 NLT). The Psalmist said: *“My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures”* (Psalm 2:1, 4 NLT). Finally, *“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path”* (Psalm 119:105 NLT).

When the Bible seems distant and reading it seems like a task, try reading the text and then praying about what you just read. Talk directly to God about what you read. God sent His Holy Spirit to help open God’s Word for our lives. When the Word becomes your “heart’s delight,” “sweeter than honey,” more valuable than “silver,” and a “lamp to guide” your life during these prayers, then praying for others with take on new meaning.

Finally, find a version that you can understand. For example, the NLT version [Life Application Bible](#) is a study Bible with useful scholarly footnotes to help you take in what you just read.

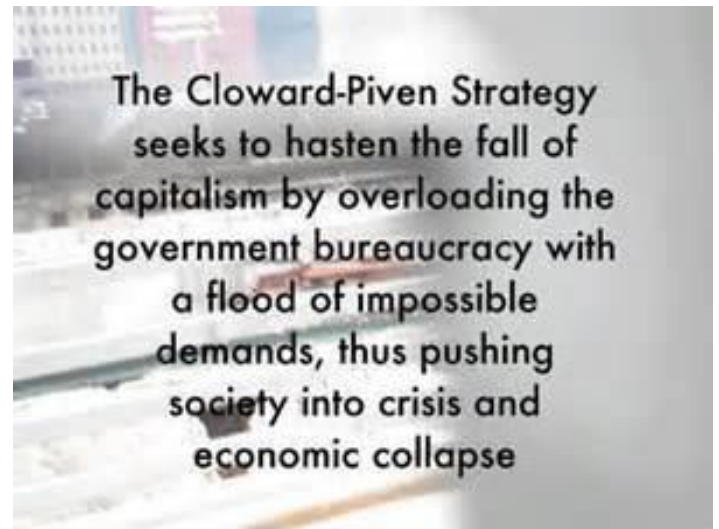


Charles Spurgeon in [Christ Our Passover](#) said, *“The more you read the Bible, and the more you meditate upon it, the more you will be astonished with it... He who is but a casual reader of the Bible, does not know the height, the depth, the length and breadth of the mighty meanings contained in its pages.”* I challenge you to do just that!

- Pastor Tom

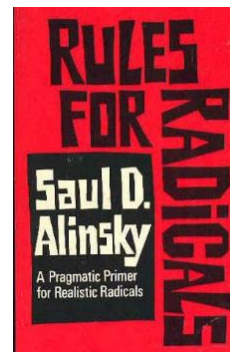
The Need for Reconciliation in Politics

In the American politics, Christian civility seems to be put aside and the constitution sidelined. The influence of two sources widely taught in universities and government circles seems to be central. **First**, the [Cloward-Piven Strategy](#) calls for the accelerated fall of capitalism by overwhelming the government with unbearable stresses. Crises will be misused to obtain unpopular policies in a heavy handed manner. These are



the goals initially spelled out in 1966 in [The Nation](#), and we see the updated influence of this strategy in our lifetime:

1. Healthcare should be fully controlled by the government to control people.
2. Increase the poverty level as high as possible to make it easier to control the population.
3. Increase the debt to an unsustainable level.
4. Remove the ability to defend themselves from the government by gun control.
5. Welfare – take control of every aspect of lives – food, housing and income.
6. Education - control what people read and listen to beginning with school curriculum.
7. Remove the belief of God from schools and government.
8. Finally, class warfare - divide the people into the poor and wealthy to cause more discontent to fully tax the wealthy.



Second, Saul Alinsky’s [Rules for Radicals](#) is used for the action plan. Candidate Hilary Clinton, wrote her bachelor thesis on this book. President, Barack Obama taught the principals as a community organizer in Chicago. Alinsky gives 12 Rules on how to seize power by unscrupulous means and to destroy an opponent.

A sample is: Rule 12, to “pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it.” “Cut off the support network and isolate the target from sympathy. Go after people and not institutions; people hurt faster than institutions. (This is cruel, but very effective. Direct, personalized criticism and ridicule works.)” Alinsky’s ethics uses “Rule 8. The morality of means depends

upon whether the means is being employed at a time of imminent defeat or imminent victory.”

On page 1x of the book, Rules for Radicals is a dedication to Satan: “Lest we forget at least an over-the-shoulder acknowledgment to the very first radical: from all our legends, mythology, and history (and who is to know where mythology leaves off and history begins – or which is which) the first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so effectively that he at least won his own kingdom – Lucifer.”

Christ in Matthew 10:16 says to us, “Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. (ESV)” I challenge you to know more about these two political influences. Yet, know also the Biblical defense of prayer and knowledge of the Word of God against them. We are called to be different while in this world which the Bible tells us is controlled by Satan.

To become a member of Salem Church, we begin by rejecting sin with these questions: “Do you renounce all evil, and the powers of this world which defy God’s righteousness and love?” “Do you renounce the ways of sin that separate you from the love of God?” “Do you turn to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?” And, “Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love, to your life’s end?”

We live in a culture where the gospel of Christ has been marginalized. Yet, those who whole-heartily follow Christ serve others and stand out as examples of a better way of life; that moral example helps to bring people to Christ. But, be aware that you will often be attacked for it. You will stand in the way of people utilizing the Alinsky Rules who do not play fair.

We need to pray for our political leaders and also to fulfill our duties as voters discerning which candidates truly support the growth of the kingdom of God. We need to show our compassion to those who do not yet know Christ, and we need to share the gospel with others.

I am reminded of the modeling of Christ that can save our culture. Not seeking power for himself, Father Damien, who gave himself unselfishly to serve the unfortunate lepers on Molokai Island. One day when he stood to speak to his flock, he began his remarks by



Father Damien serving lepers on the Molokai Island

addressing them as "we lepers." He had touched them intimately as he bound their wounds, that he himself contracted the dreaded disease. Similarly, we are to serve others by helping single parents raising kids and to reach out to the lonely, unpopular and marginalized with the love of Christ.

If we seek to touch the hurting places of the world, we need to be prepared for the fact that there are costs involved. But, there are also rewards in heaven for those who selflessly serve Christ by serving others. Let’s live by the Rules of Christ!

Sources: [May 1966 article in the magazine The Nation titled “The Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty.”](#) Saul Alinsky’s [Rules for Radicals](#).

Looking Ahead

Ice Cream Social

Friday, July 31, 5:00 – 7:30 pm at the Lion’s Club Building in Venedocia. Lion’s Club Sausage, Sycamore Ice Cream, and other dinner and dessert items will be served!

Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday

Sunday, August 23. Drive to church Venedocia Style! A special blessing and thanksgiving will be held outside the church in front of the line-up of tractors after the service. Following the service, a carry-in meal will be shared in the church basement.



Gymanfa Ganu 2015

Pronounced "Ga-mahn-fa Ga'-nee"

Excitement is building as our **100th Gymanfa Ganu** celebration approaches! Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, September 6 of Labor Day Weekend. You won't want to miss it!



Our annual Welsh Festival of Song is for many a time of reunion and memories. As part of this year's 100th celebration, a special effort has been made to reunite many of our own from times past and present.

Our director this year will be our own Eric Foster. Bonnie Bolton will perform as the organist and Connie O'Neill will be our pianist. Even the Sunday morning service will include Maggie (Morris) Lopez leading the alumni choir, which is being called, "Bartie's Reunion Choir," just as they all sang when they were children which was directed by Bartie Jones. What wonderful memories this will bring back for many of us! Eric, Bonnie, Connie, and Maggie all grew up in Venedocia. Eric, Bonnie, and Maggie are celebrating their 50th high school reunion that weekend as well.



Each year we invite very talented and special musical guests to be our soloists and this year is no different. Sheila Chilcote-Collins, who resides in Van Wert with her husband Keith, is well known in the area for her beautiful soprano voice. She sings with the Ft. Wayne Philharmonic Chorus and is active with the Van

Wert Civic Theatre, Stage Left Theatre Productions, Celina Lakeside Players, First Presbyterian Women's Quartet and the Chancel Choir. She studies voice with Mr. David Van Tilburg and is often a featured soloist at many churches, special programs, and weddings.



We also have the pleasure of featuring Jake Wilder as soloist. Mr. Wilder is a locally known tenor and teacher in Van Wert. He graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor in Music Performance and a minor in Vocal Pedagogy. He has been in many productions in the College of Musical Arts as principle tenor and has won first place in the Concerto Competition. Mr. Wilder and his "powerful and unique timbre" tenor voice has also taken him to perform with the Toledo Opera on Wheels.

Salem Church will be full of voices raised, glorifying our Lord, joyful reunions of friends and family, and celebration of our Welsh heritage and Venedocia



history. You will really enjoy seeing the special displays that bring back memories of so many past years and souvenirs will be given to remember this remarkable 100th milestone.

Schedule – Sunday, September 6

- 9:30 AM Worship Service with Alumni Choir
- 4:00-6:00 PM Light Supper & Fellowship
- 7:00 PM Festival of Song



A Letter to Alumni Choir Members

Dear Alumni Choir Members,



I am writing to you on behalf of the Salem Presbyterian Music Committee. As you may already know, this year on Sunday, September 6, we will be hosting our 100th Gymanfa Ganu!

Maggie Lopez has agreed to lead past choir members in a special music presentation for the **Sunday 9:30 am** worship service on **September 6**. We are excited about a great return of "Bartie's Choir Kid's" and hope that you will join us. Maggie says she will keep the song simple and fun (and we know she always delivers on the fun part)! A practice is to be set for Saturday, September 5 at 1:00 pm with a second practice on Sunday before church at 8:30 am.

We would appreciate hearing from all of you, no matter what your voice range is or age may be! Please let me know if you can attend and feel free to add anyone that has not heard from us yet. You may contact me through the church which will be forwarded to me: secretary@salemchurch.cc or 419-667-4142. You can also follow our Gymanfa Ganu 100th year celebration on our church website, www.SalemChurch.cc. Hope to see you on September 5 and 6, 2015!

Sincerely, Kathy McCollow

This Past Month at Salem



The youth group enjoyed a hot day at Camp Clay the end of July!



A beautiful sunset over Venedocia Cemetery.



Elijah Martz lighting the candles.



Vern Hobbs with grandson.

Trustee Notes

Where we have been: The church printer/copier has been replaced and a new service contract has been put in place. The old copier does have some life cycle left in it. The trustees will accept bids on the old copier for purchase starting at \$100.00. The bids will close August 30th. **Where we are at:** The foundation work at the manse was completed and the recent rains have helped the dirt settle around the walls. The yard will be returned to the normal condition and grass will be replanted. **Where we are going:** The sound system update has been completed in time for the Gymanfa and is working well. Exterior mulching will be completed as well.

To The End – by Deborah Ann Belka

The Lord is my God,
from beginning to end
His love and mercy
are around every bend.

No matter where I go,
or whatever I do . . .
His grace is before me
it always shines through.

He is always with me,
I know that He cares
and all of my worries
I know that He bears.

When first I met Him,
I knew I was in love
for His goodness fits
my heart like a glove.

I'll never leave Him,
I'll follow Him to the end
for I have never found
a better helper or friend!





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

Violet Ashton

c/o Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th Street, Apt. 109
Spencerville, OH 45887

Evelyn Hoverman

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Betty Lloyd

Van Wert Manor
160 Fox Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marian Morris

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Gordon Morgan

Vancrest of Convoy
510 Tully Drive
Convoy, OH 45832

Evelyn Pugh

Vancrest Healthcare, 100
10357 VW—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Warren Summersett

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Becky Zirkle

Vancrest Health Care, A8
10357 VW—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Lee Lare

P.O. Box 654
Venedocia, OH 45894

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

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

116 HAC Street
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Will Morrison (U.S. Army Reserves)

Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)

Grandson of Doris Evans

Prayer Concerns

Norma Adams (diabetic issues)
Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)
Ralph Du Cheney (father of Stacia Profit)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Jeannie Etzler (daughter of Warren Summersett)
Hope Eutsler (leukemia)
Judy Foust (knee surgery)
Bev Hefner (aunt of Jenny Pugh)
Jesse (recovering from heroin addiction)
Margaret Keltner (in hospice – mother of Jan Jones)
Betty Lloyd (broken hip)
James Marshall (mysterious ailment and M.S.)
Evelyn Pugh
Aaron Ries (received heart transplant –Bruce Ries' son)
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)
David Slygh (organ transplant problems)
Taylor Stephens and family
Tim (cancer – friend of Barb Good)
Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)
Haydn Williams (esophagus cancer treatment)
Noah Wyatt (post-surgery – son of Stuart Wyatt)
Steve Martz (pancreatitis)
Mike Rowland (diagnosed with brain tumor)
John Stutz
Eileen Lucier (cancer treatment)

In Mourning

The Family & Friends of Tina Mayes
The Family & Friends of Angela Martz



Birthdays



8/2	Lee Lare	8/13	Becky Zirkle
8/4	Philip Eutsler	8/15	Henry Wiss
8/4	Don Owens	8/20	Austin Kimmet
8/6	Brooke Coil	8/22	Jan Jones
8/9	Denise Pugh	8/27	Barb Owens
8/11	David Hobbs	8/30	Kelly Lloyd

Anniversaries

8/12	David & Carla Breese
8/17	Kory & Tamara Mullenhour
8/19	George & Elaine Siler
8/27	Pastor Tom & Carol Emery



AUGUST 2015 EVENTS

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					31  Ice Cream Social 5:00 – 7:30 pm	1
2 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 4:00pm Session Meeting	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Blessing of the Tractors 9:30am Worship 10:45am Blessing 11:00am Carry-in Meal 	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	31					

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.
August 2	Stacia Profit	John & Mary Ellen Lloyd Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Catie Emery	Jan Jones	
August 9				Ross & Alyssa Evans	
August 16				Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	
August 23				Dave & Carla Breese	
August 30				Bob & Kathy McCollow	



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

Music for August

Church Phone: 419-667-4142
Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Rev. Thomas Emery cell: 419-863-9131
Email: PastorTomEmery@SalemChurch.cc
Church E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Sunday, August 2

Special Music: Welsh Hymn Sing

Sunday, August 9

Special Music: Anne Dunn

Sunday, August 16

Special Music: Paula Schumm

Sunday, August 23

Special Music: Chris Bindel

Sunday, August 30

Special Music: Madison Pugh

