

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 17 Issue 12

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December 2015

December 2015  
Revised Common Lectionary  
Year B

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 6

Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79
Phil. 1:3-11	Luke 3:2-6, 10-14

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 13

Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6
Phil. 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 20

Micah 5:2-5a	Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-55

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day – December 27

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

## Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

For many Christians, Advent Wreaths are a favorite way to celebrate the month of December leading up to Christmas Day. Even though Advent Wreaths are popular among Christians, many are not aware of the rich meaning and symbolism embedded in the tradition. If we learn this meaning, we can appreciate it all the more!

## DARKNESS AND LIGHT

The Advent candles readily demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the “Light of the World” contrasted with the darkness of sin. Human history spanned long ages before our prophesied Savior would finally make his appearance, and with him God’s promise to make all things new through him. As his Advent, or “coming,” draws nearer another candle is lit, each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us to spiritually contemplate the great drama of

salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate who comes to redeem the human race.

## SHAPE, NUMBER, AND COLOR

**SHAPE:** The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God’s complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse



of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

**NUMBER:** The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world’s Savior—from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament. Some Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white “Christ” candle, symbolizing purity, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day. Many circular wreaths can incorporate a white candle by adding a pillar candle to the wreath center.

**COLOR:** Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. Advent, also called “little Lent,” is the season where we spiritually wait in our “darkness” with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption, just as the whole world did before Christ’s birth, and just as the

whole world does now as we eagerly await his promised return.

## THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday.

On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent.

Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings.

Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning which you can read more about in many Advent prayer books that are available.

These meanings are also simply illustrated in the lovely Four Weeks of Advent Pewter Wreath:

- The **1st Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Hope with the “Prophet’s Candle” reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The **2nd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Peace with the “Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”
- The **3rd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Joy with the “Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The **4th Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Love with the “Love Candle” reminding us God’s love for us sending His Son to pay for our sins.

## ENHANCE YOUR WREATH WITH MORE SYMBOLISM

You can festively decorate your Advent Wreath with other natural materials that traditionally carry their own Christian symbolism. The use of **evergreens** reminds us of our eternal life with Christ; pointy **holly leaves and berries** represents the crown of thorns from the Passion of Jesus and his Precious Blood; and **pine cones** symbolize Christ’s Resurrection.



There are also special Advent prayers to be said around the wreath as a candle is lit each week. Children in the family can also participate in this wonderful Christian tradition. There are many Advent prayer books that include Advent wreath prayers to accompany the candle lighting to make it a special ceremony. The

parent reads the Advent prayer, and the children can offer a response.

Here is one prayer given for the First Sunday of Advent in the same book just mentioned, *The Essential Advent and Christmas Handbook*:



**Parent:** Lord, you are the light of our world.

**Children:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

**Parent:** O gracious God of promise, we prepare to worship together as we await the fulfillment of your wondrous plan. Help us to grow as we hear your Word and live in your love.

**Children:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

**Parent:** May the light of your love always shine in our hearts.

**Children:** We pray in Christ’s Name. Amen.

Hopefully this article helped you to understand the richness and graces to be enjoyed during the Advent season. Having and blessing the Advent wreath in your home, and using it to focus your prayer and mediation on welcoming Christ Himself into your heart, is a great way to prepare for the true meaning of Christmas.

Adapted from a blog by Gretchen Filz

### Pastor's Thoughts

When I was ten years old, my grandmother on my mother's side unexpectedly died. We were stunned. While at the dinner table the telephone rang. I can still remember my mother holding the telephone receiver close to her cheek, her eyes filling with tears. After she hung up, my mother moved over in the next room to the couch. I went and sat alongside her. I couldn't say anything, and I sat there as we cried together.

After a few minutes, my mother hugged me, and said, "I love you, Tommy, and don't ever forget that." "I won't, Mom," I whispered. She spoke softly, "because I didn't say 'I love you' often enough to your grandmother."



I have to tell you that I have a similar message for you from God; it took much of my life to let its truth sink into my own heart. The message is that God loves us! Don't ever forget that! God loves you more than you can imagine. Always remember that the Almighty has said that and continues to say it. God expressed it most fully when He became flesh and dwelt among us in the person of Jesus Christ – our New Born King, our Shepherd, and our Savior. He wants us to be His children!

- Pastor Tom

### My Christmas Prayer

Your birth we celebrate this day,  
but some have turned away.  
No longer is your name proclaimed—  
now it's just a holiday.

Let us recall the manger  
where You lay your tiny head—  
Mary, Joseph, three Wise men  
knelt there before your bed.

Give us inspiration  
to follow the great light

that shown upon your birthplace  
from a Star that Holy night.

Let each head bow and sing  
the glories of your being.  
Scrape the scales now from our eyes  
that keep us, Lord, from seeing.



Savior, take us to your breast  
for we wonder from You still  
tho' we know the story of your birth,  
your death, and our free will.

Oh Child of God, forgive us  
for trespasses we have done  
worshipping false idols  
since this lowly world's begun.

Let us hear You clearly,  
and know that You will lead  
your people from iniquity,  
away from sin and greed.

I pray you hear me, Lord above,  
for You are the Father's Son  
born upon this Christmas Day—  
Jesus Christ the Holy One...Amen

Tamara Hillman

My Christmas Prayer © Christmas/2009



## "For Cooks Only"

We have received some new recipes for our "For Cooks Only" Cookbook just in time for your holiday entertaining...These 3 recipes come to us from *Joyce (Beerman) Profit*



### Heavenly Biscuits

4 C. Bisquick  
1 C. sour cream  
1 C. 7-up  
1/2 C. melted butter  
Mix Bisquick, sour cream and 7-up.  
Dough will be soft.  
Knead and fold until dough is coated with Bisquick.  
Pat dough out in 9x13 casserole dish.  
Make marks or cut slits to divide dough where you want the biscuits to be.  
Pour melted butter over biscuits.  
Bake at 400 degrees 12-15 min. or until done.

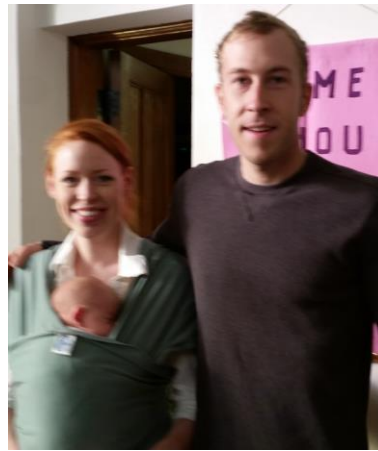
### Brunch Pizza Squares

1 lb. bulk pork sausage  
1 tube (8oz) refrigerated crescent rolls  
4 eggs  
2 T. milk  
1/8 tsp. pepper  
3/4 C. shredded cheddar cheese  
Cook sausage in skillet until no longer pink. Drain.  
Unroll crescent rolls onto the bottom and 1/2 way up the sides of a lightly greased 9x13 dish and seal seams.  
In large bowl, beat egg, milk and pepper.  
Pour over sausage.  
Sprinkle with cheese.  
Bake at 375 degrees for 15 min. or until knife inserted in middle comes out clean.

### Chocolate Chip Cookies

1 C. butter Crisco  
1/2 C. white sugar  
1 C. brown sugar  
2 eggs  
1 tsp. vanilla  
2 1/3 C. flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 C. chocolate chips  
3/4 C. nuts if desired  
In mixing bowl, cream butter, sugars together then add eggs. Add vanilla.  
Combine flour, baking soda and salt. Gradually add to creamed mixture.  
Stir in chocolate chips and nuts.  
Drop by tablespoon on cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees until slightly browned.

## Looking at Salem



*Lucas Wayne, Tamara and Kory Mullenhour having just lit the Advent Candle.*



*Christmas dinner for the Senior Luncheon*



*Lisa & Lynette Lloyd and Kim Coil bookkeeping*



*Christmas Junior Bell practice with Jenny Pugh*



*Veteran's Day Youth presentation*



*After decorating the Chapel, the Morris family set up the Advent Breakfast on December 6*

### Session Notes

Session met November 15, at 11:30 am, after the Joint Trustee-Session meeting. The Budget Committee requested that budget and income information to be posted on-going in the Newsletter. Carol Emery and Jen Pugh are working on the program for the December 13<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Service. Christmas Caroling and the Manse Party** is set for the evening of December 13. **Communion** will be served next at the December 24 **Christmas Eve Service.**

### Officers for 2016

The Congregational Meeting was held November 29 after the service. The proposed 2016 budget, the minister's Terms of Call were passed by ballots, and the nominations for officers was passed without change by a floor vote. The following will be the new officers:

**Clerk of Session** - Carolyn Girod  
**Financial Secretary** - Kim Coil  
**Head Usher** - Joyce Profit  
**Auditor** - Denise Pugh  
**Treasurer** - Lisa Lloyd  
**Session** -

Marilyn Foust  
 Kelly Lloyd  
 Evelyn Martz

### Trustees -

Jeremy Morris  
 Tuzz Hobbs  
 Tim Price

### Music Committee -

Lisa Lloyd  
 Ann Rees

### Nominating Committee

Kelly Lloyd  
 Carla Breese

### Sunday School

**Superintendent** - Paul Price



*Bob McCollow explaining the Congregational vote*

### Financial Update

**Rec'd to 11/29:** \$94,764.30  
**Needed to Date:** \$101,283.00

### Christmas Ornaments

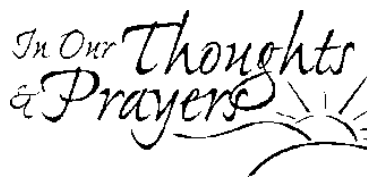


*There are still plenty of brass ornaments available for purchase (\$12.00 each) which would make great Christmas gifts! Please contact Doris Price, 419-667-3652 or Ann Rees, 419-667-3215. They even look better in person.*

### Recommended Reading

Here's a 2015 reading list for the 2016 year:

- [The Complete Bible Answer Book](#), Thomas Nelson Publishers, to understand basic theology questions.
- [The Daily Walk Bible](#), Bruce H. Wilkinson, Editor, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., NLT version
- [The Life Application Study Bible](#), Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. NLT version is an easy to read Bible with excellent footnote commentaries on important passages.



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



## Prayer Concerns

### Violet Ashton

c/o Roselawn Manor  
420 E. 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
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

### Andrew Emery

Siddall Hall, 102  
2540 Corbett Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45219

### Cassy Emery Box 564

c/o Cincinnati Christian U.  
2700 Glenway Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45204

### Sammi Jones



## Serving our Country

### Cory McCollow

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

### 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*

### 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)

Hope Eutsler (leukemia)

Eric Fancher (chemotherapy – son of Rev. Jon & Mary Fancher)

Bev Hefner (aunt of Jenny Pugh)

Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)

Jesse (seeking help from heroin addiction)

Betty Lloyd (broken hip)

Eileen Lucier (cancer treatment)

James Marshall (mysterious ailment)

Evelyn Pugh

Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)

Mike Rowland (diagnosed with brain tumor)

Dave Slygh (organ transplant problems)

John Stutz

Thad Summersett (malignant brain tumor – grandson of Warren Summersett)

Kevin Thatcher (ALS)

Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)

Noah Wyatt (recovering from surgery – son of Stuart Wyatt)

## Anniversaries

12/16 Kent & Heather McClure

12/28 Doug & Marilyn Strickler



## Birthdays

12/5 Dave Owens

12/8 Paige McClure

12/9 Jason Lloyd

12/13 Marilyn Stockton

12/17 Jeremy Morris

12/19 Sue Ann Skanes

12/23 Jeff Owens



12/24 Mary Ellen Lloyd

12/30 Isaiah Pugh

12/31 Vicki Profit



# December 2015

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Senior Luncheon - 12:00 noon 	3	4	5 11:00 am Youth Group Event
6 Advent Breakfast 9:30 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Trustee Meeting	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Christmas Program	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service with Communion 10:00 pm	25 	26
27 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School	28	29	30	31	1	2

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Acolyte	Nursery
December 6	Charles Good	Anne Morris	Morris Family	Catie Emery	Ross & Alyssa Evans
December 13		Christmas Program			Toby & Elizabeth Adkins
December 20		Senior Choir			Dave & Carla Breese
December 24		Heather McClure			Not Staffed
December 27		Christmas Carols			Bob & Kathy McCollow



**Salem Presbyterian Church**  
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## **Sounds of Salem Newsletter**

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Church E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)

*When Jesus spoke again to the people,  
he said, "I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in  
darkness, but will have  
the light of life."*

*John 8:12 NIV*



*The Salem Manger Scene for Venedocia*