

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 18 Issue 3

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March 2016



**MARCH 2016**

**Revised Common Lectionary  
Year C**

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126
Philemon 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8

## Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16
Philemon 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56

## Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12

## Pastor's Thoughts

*“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.” (Romans 12:1 NLT)*



**W**hat does it mean to become an “N” Christian? A painted “N” on your home in the Islamic countries means giving up your home, possessions, security, family members, and possibly your life for your Christian faith. It means standing courageous with Jesus Christ and being His witness whatever the cost including beheading, crucifixion, torture, rape, and sold into the sex trade.



**N'**, or **ū** in Arabic, is the symbol used by the Islamic State (IS or ISIS) to identify who is a Nazarene - a Christian.

**T**his Easter Season, as we prayerfully conduct our observance of Lent, the sacrifice of Jesus for us tells us of choosing between living for this fading world or living for God. Lent is a time of looking inward to become more holy in our faith giving all of our self to God. It's a time to put everything on the line for God. The Bible gives us instruction.

**I**n the Old Testament, Abraham well over the age of one hundred was called by God in Genesis 22:2 (NLT): *“Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering.”* Isaac was Abraham's cherished son. Abraham did not have to comply, but he was obedient to his God. God offered a substitute goat at the last moment.

**I**t is interesting that Isaac was said to be about the same age as Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane. There, Jesus as the only Son of God was offered for our sins that Good Friday and His obedience redeemed us from the evil one.

**B**ut sacrifice was to continue. A few years later, all but John of the Disciples were martyred holding firm for their faith. John wrote, *“And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone*

who does what pleases God will live forever” (1 John 2:17, NLT).

**We** can see our lives as a test, even while our lives are not threatened for the Gospel. Those who overcome, have the joy of the Lord vs. the hurts of this world.

**Gregory the Great**, in 600 A.D., said there are seven deadly sins from which all our spiritual struggles stem:

**ENVY** is my displeasure at the good of another. It is not rejoicing with those who rejoice.

**GREED** is the need to get, to have, to hold for yourself money, power, prestige, and advantages.

**GLUTTONY** is addictions to eating and drinking, and appetites that go unrestrained.

**ANGER** is the sum of rage, resentment, bitterness where your thoughts are about getting even instead of getting over. We seek to hurt and ruin others.

**SLOTH** is apathy and hopelessness with an: *“I don’t care”* attitude about life.

**LUST** is love distorted by objectifying people sexually instead of seeing them as your Christian brother or sister.

**PRIDE** is superiority. It is considering ourselves better than others instead as another broken humble sinner before God.

**Paul** says, *“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience”* (I Corinthians 10:13, NLT). We all have the same spiritual struggles, but some choose to live for this world while others resolve to lay all at the foot of the cross.

**A Nigerian Christian** was quoted: *“I once thought that if I should be captured by Boko Haram Islamic fighters, I will never deny my faith in Christ Jesus... So when I met them, my mind was made up beforehand since I know who I serve.”*

**Are you** willing to pay whatever price is necessary to identify with Jesus? Christ calls us to step out to be His salt and light in a hurting world needing to know Jesus. You are Christ’s ambassador to this world; the world



looks at you to see if there is something real about “this Christianity.” Have you put everything on the line?

**This Lent celebration**, are you willing to look inward and give up the vices and bad habits that hurt your witness of Christ? Are you willing to put everything on the line to be an “N” Christian?

Pastor Tom Emery

Resource and quote: March 2016 “Voice of the Martyrs,” pp. 2-5.  
Google images of the martyred are beyond decency to show.

### Franklin Graham: Calling the Nation to Repentance



“I believe we are perilously close to the moral tipping point for the survival of the United States of America.

“Founded by separatists from Europe seeking religious freedom to practice their faith before Almighty God, America has long enjoyed the blessings of a people who acknowledged and practiced belief in the God of the Bible. For centuries, our country has stood brightly as a ‘city upon a hill,’ defending freedom abroad, and affirming our spiritual heritage as one nation under God.

“In recent decades, however, that enduring foundation and heritage have been under relentless and vicious assault. Christians now find themselves constantly on the defensive from a progressive, godless culture that seeks to diminish and eradicate any religious influence in our society.

“There now exists deep-seated antagonism and hostility toward Christianity in every seat of power in this nation—government, media, courts and education. It has become open season on Christians. Sin is openly celebrated and flaunted by the highest office in our land, and men and women of deep and sincere faith are publicly scorned.

“I refuse to bow or bend. I refuse to be silent and watch the future of our children and grandchildren be offered up on pagan altars of personal pleasure and immorality. In the words of the Prophet Daniel as he foretold of dark and oppressive days to come for Israel, *‘the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action’* (Daniel 11:32).

“If our nation is to ever again lead with moral integrity and return to the faith of our fathers, we must repent of sin and humble ourselves before Him.

“First and foremost, I want people to pray for our land and our leaders. Prayer calls on omnipotent, omniscient God to accomplish His sovereign will.

“On many occasions, the nation of Israel cried out to the Lord for deliverance and relief from their adversaries, and God answered their plea. He was, and is, sovereign over every political and military empire that has ever existed, or ever will exist.

“Second, I want to encourage God’s people to go to the polls, not just to elect our president but also for local and state elections. In the 2012 elections, it is estimated that 17 million evangelical Christians did not vote. That would have been more than enough to tip an election that was decided by 5 million votes.

“Cast your ballot for those who stand boldly on the side of biblical truth.

“Third, engage in the civic process wherever you can. Think what a huge difference it can make if godly men and women across this nation are elected to local offices. There will be opportunities to positively influence our neighborhoods, communities and schools. Perhaps we can check the decaying spread of policies promoted by those with hostile anti-Christian agendas.



“Psalm 11:3 sounds an urgent warning to a people where wickedness seems to have gained the upper hand: *‘If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?’*

“I don’t believe the foundation laid by our forefathers is destroyed just yet, but it certainly is cracked and crumbling. We shouldn’t be surprised by our trials, for Psalm 11:5 tells us, *‘The Lord tests the righteous.’* But He promises that He will not leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6). The rest of Psalm 11 assures us that God is on His throne in the heavens, He hates wickedness and violence, and He loves justice.

“For the sake of America, Christians need to pray, to vote, and to work hard in our cities and towns to be a clear voice for God’s eternal truth and His redeeming love.

“I hope that God will spark a revival and awakening in our nation. My confidence and trust is completely in His mercy and grace.”

Quoted from Franklin Graham  
©2015 BGEA. English Standard Version quoted.

## Ohio Election Day: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

### “For Cooks Only”



#### Lemon Delight Louise Morris



Dissolve 2 packages of lemon Jell-O in 2 cups boiling water. Add: ½ cup honey, juice from ½ lemon, & 1 can drained crushed pineapple. Let set, but slightly.

Fold above mixture into one can whipped evaporated milk (let milk form crystals in freezer before whipping).

Graham Cracker Crust: melt 1/3 cup butter; add 1 ¼ cup graham cracker crumbs. Place in bottom of a baking dish (save some crumbs to sprinkle on top).

Put Jell-o & evaporated milk mixture in crust. Sprinkle remaining crumbs on top.

Refrigerate before serving.





## Church Family



*Ash Wednesday Evening Service & Dinner*



*Left: Lincolnview Bible Board Speaker, Sue Miller.  
Right: Sandy and Kim perform a skit for the children.*



*The funeral for Evelyn Pugh was held on Wednesday, February 24. Dinner was held in the church basement.*



*Left: Jake Wilder performed special music on Sunday February 28.*



*Below: The Junior Bell Choir played on Sunday, January 31. After playing the first time through with regular ringing tones, the children used a damp technique which created a unique, muted or "stopped sound."*

*Below: A Community Lenten Service was held at Salem February 28 with guest speaker, Pastor Tom Shobe. Food and fellowship followed.*



## Community Lenten Services

Everyone is invited to the remaining Community Lenten Services (*Spencerville and surrounding area*). All services will begin at 7:00 pm and will be followed by a time of food and fellowship.

### March 6 – First Baptist Church in Spencerville

Speaker – Pastor Justin Furman

### March 13 – Trinity UM Church in Spencerville

Speaker – Pastor Tom Emery

### March 20 – Kossuth UM Church

Speaker – Pastor Jim Fletcher

### Good Friday – March 25

### Nazarene Church in Spencerville

Speaker – Pastor Charles Johnson



## Sanctity of Life

The Van Wert Pregnancy Center is hosting an event on Sunday, March 6 at 3:00 pm. **Sanctity of Life – Love Out Loud** will be held at Calvary Evangelical Church with featured speaker, Shannon Maxey, who will share her story of strength and love when she and her husband chose life for their son who was diagnosed with Trisomy 13 at 21 weeks gestation. Additionally, PLC clients and members of our community will be sharing about the process and progress of our center's goal to become a medical facility.

## Venedocia Lion's Club



The Venedocia Lion's Club will be hosting their annual **Pancake and Sausage Breakfast** on Saturday, March 19 from 6am – 2pm.

## Easter Schedule

Easter Choir Practices – March 13 & 20 at 8:45 am

Palm Sunday Service – March 20: service at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday – March 24: dinner at 6:00 pm and service at 7:00 pm.

Easter Egg Hunt – March 26 at 1:00 pm

Easter Sunday – March 27: Sunrise Service at 7:30 am, breakfast at 8:30 am, Easter Service at 9:30 am.



## Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheons are back! Please join us, Wednesday, March 23, 12:00 pm at the Lion's Club, for food, fellowship, and fun! The menu will include lasagna, salad, and a green dessert.



## Parting in Joy & Hope



When we go to meet our Maker, the thoughts of Christians are full of hope. Here are the parting words of departing saints that may give us comfort in their confidence in Christ.

**Jonathan Edwards:** "Trust in God and you shall have nothing to fear."

**John Owen:** "I am going to Him whom my soul loveth, or rather who has loved me with an everlasting love, which is the sole ground of all my consolation."

**D. L. Moody:** "I see earth receding; heaven is opening. God is calling me."

**William Shakespeare:** "I commend my soul into the hands of God my Creator, hoping and assuredly believing, through the only merits of Jesus Christ my Savior, to be made partaker of life everlasting; and my body to the earth, whereof it was made."

**Martin Luther:** "Into Thy hands I commend my spirit! Thou hast redeemed me, O God of truth."

**David Livingstone:** "Build me a hut to die in. I am going home."

**Charles Dickens:** "I commit my soul to the mercy of God, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and I exhort my dear children humbly to try and guide themselves by the teaching of the New Testament."

**Andrew Jackson:** "My dear children, do not grieve for me . . . I am my God's. I belong to Him. I go but a short time before you, and ...I hope and trust to meet you all in heaven."

Source: The Evidence Bible by Ray Comfort





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

#### **Violet Ashton**

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

#### **Marian Morris**

Hearth & Home  
1118 Westwood Drive  
Van Wert, OH 45891

#### **Betty Lloyd**

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

#### **Warren Summersett**

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

#### **Gordon Morgan**

Vancrest of Convoy  
510 Tully Drive  
Convoy, OH 45832

#### **Becky Zirkle**

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

### **Condolences**

**The Evelyn Pugh Family**

### **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

#### **Micah Linger**

(U.S. Marine Corps)  
*Grandson of Doris Evans*

### **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

### **Church Financial Update**

Needed Weekly: \$2,067.00    Needed to Date: \$18,603.00  
Rec'd 02-28-16: \$5,266.85    Rec'd to Date: \$15,475.96

### **Prayer Concerns**

Norma Adams (diabetic issues)  
Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
Hope Eutsler (leukemia)  
Eric Fancher (chemotherapy – son of Rev. Jon Fancher)  
Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)  
Betty Lloyd (broken hip)  
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)  
Dave Slygh (organ transplant problems)  
Elaine Siler (cancer returned – cousin of Ann Rees)  
John Stutz  
Thad Summersett (brain tumor)  
Kevin Thatcher (ALS)  
Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)  
Noah Wyatt (recovering from surgery)  
Bob Allenbaugh (lung cancer – LaDonna's husband)  
Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)  
Bill (Nancy) Evans  
Rev. John Medaugh

### **Birthdays**

1 Maeleigh Evans	2 Marilyn Strickler
8 John Morris	11 Todd Morris
14 Larry Caffro	16 Rev. Tom Emery
20 Johnathon Morris	20 Brian Owens
22 Toby Adkins	23 Josh Hoehn
23 Joyce Profit	28 Norma Boroff
28 Ron Richards	

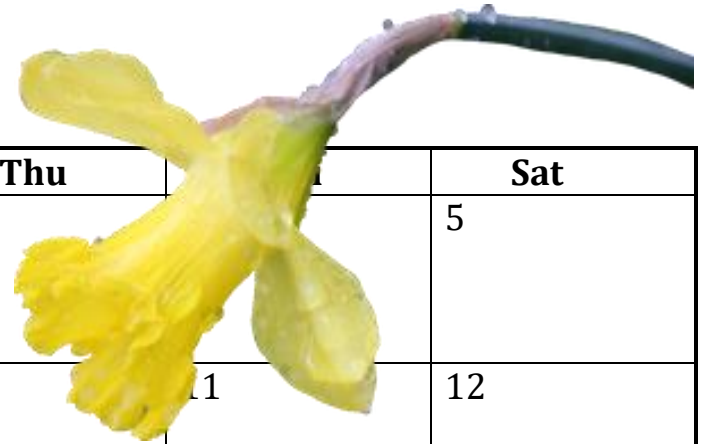
### **Anniversaries**

23 Dean & Nancy Swygart


**"Do you often feel like parched ground, unable to produce anything worthwhile? I do. When I am in need of refreshment, it isn't easy to think of the needs of others. But I have found that if, instead of praying for my own comfort and satisfaction, I ask the Lord to enable me to give to others, an amazing thing happens – I find my own needs wonderfully met. Refreshment comes in ways I would have never thought of, both for others, and then, incidentally, for myself."**

**~Elisabeth Elliot**

# March 2016



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>6 St. David's Day Service</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting 7:00 PM <b>Lent Service</b> at Trinity UMC Pastor Tom speaks	14	15	16	17	18	<b>19 Venedocia Lion's Club Pancake &amp; Sausage Day</b> 6:00 am – 2:00 pm 
<b>20 Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 4:00 PM Session Meeting 	21	22	<b>23 Senior Luncheon</b> 12:00 noon 	<b>24 Maundy Thursday</b> Supper – 6:00 PM Service – 7:00 PM	<b>25 Good Friday</b> 	<b>26 Easter Egg Hunt</b> 1:00 pm at Memorial Park 
<b>27 EASTER SUNDAY</b>  <b>Communion</b> <b>Great Hour of Sharing</b> 7:30 AM Sunrise Service by Youth 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Worship	28	29	30	31		

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Acolyte	Nursery
March 6	Rex Lloyd 	Welsh National Anthem – Kids	Rex, Lisa, Lynette, and Josh Lloyd	MaKenna Kimmet	Mark & Missy Zielke
March 13		Bells			Carol & Christina Emery
March 20		David Van Tilburg			Ross & Alyssa Evans
March 27		Adult Choir			N/A



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

## **Sounds of Salem Newsletter**

Church Phone: 419-667-4142  
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[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](http://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)

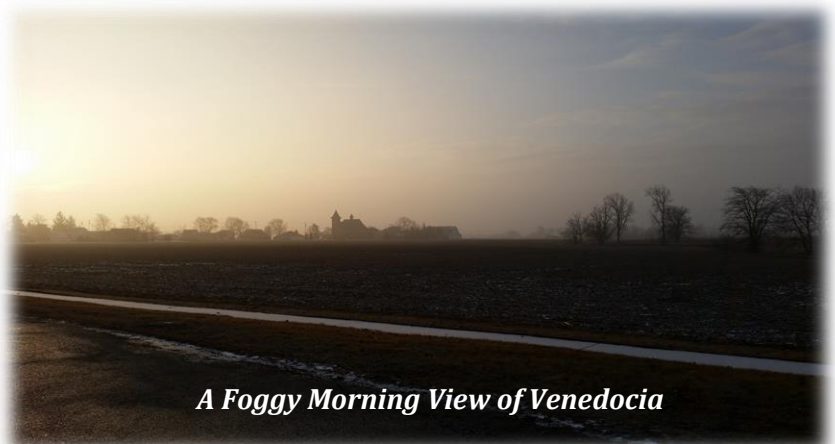
Rev. Thomas Emery cell: 419-863-9131  
Email: [PastorTomEmery@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:PastorTomEmery@SalemChurch.cc)  
Church E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
**March 24**

6:00 pm – Meal  
7:00 pm - Service

**Easter Sunday**  
**March 27**

7:30 am – Sunrise Service  
8:30 am – Breakfast  
9:30 am – Easter Service



*A Foggy Morning View of Venedocia*