

SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 18 Issue 4

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April 2016

APRIL 2016

Revised Common Lectionary
Year C

2nd Sunday of Easter – April 3

Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter – April 10

Acts 9:1-20	Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19

4th Sunday of Easter – April 17

Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30

5th Sunday of Easter – April 24

Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35

Pastor's Thoughts

Paul wrote to the Roman Christians to tell them about Jesus' free offer of eternal life and how to receive it. He wrote in Romans 10:9-10, *"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."* Make Jesus the boss of your life, tell others about your commitment, and believe that Jesus was raised from the dead.



Flowering the Cross at
Salem on Easter



If you think about it, the Resurrection of raising Jesus from the dead is the capstone and cornerstone of our faith. We should be excited about the Resurrection. Billy Graham acknowledged, *"If I were an enemy of Christianity, I would aim right at the Resurrection because that's the heart of Christianity."* Paul felt the same way by saying, *"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain."* (1 Cor. 15:2)

So many people nowadays are filled with hopelessness and despair. So many are filled with anger and fear. Are we not Christians? Have we not gotten the word that, though there will always be disappointments until the day the Lord takes us home. God loves us so much that He will not leave us in disappointments, in grief or in the grave.

Norman Vincent Peale, that positive-thinking saint, often used a familiar parable to teach us the hope we should have each day as a Christian.

He said, *"Let's suppose that an unborn infant, in its mother's womb, is able to reason and speak. Suppose also that someone says to it, 'Soon you must leave this place and be born. You will enter a different realm.' The infant might protest and say, 'I like it here. I am fed, warm, and I feel loved. I don't want to leave this place and be born.'"*

Continued on next page.



“But nature takes its course and the baby is born. After he endures a slap on his rear and cries a bit, he looks up into a loving face. The infant is cuddled in loving arms.

“He soon discovers that he can get anything he wants if he will just cry or coo. So, the infant says to himself, ‘This is nicer than I thought it would be.’ The years of childhood pass. Then the child becomes a youth, then an adult, and years later, he grows old. Lots of bodily parts begin to wear out and ache. One day the thought of death begins to worry him. He says to himself, ‘I like this place. I don’t want to leave. Death scares me.’ But nature again takes its course. He dies. What happens then?

The Bible declares that each believer is born once more with the Resurrection. He looks up into a face more beautiful than that of his mother. Loving eyes look down on him and underneath are the everlasting arms of the Creator God.

“He is born again into a heavenly realm where there is no more pain, no more death, and no more sin. He is home at last.”

Let us not be worried about our earthly trials and tribulations and even that death will one day come. Let us live by the hope that God is in control in every circumstance including life and death, and God promises us an amazing future life where there is no more pain, no more death and no more sin. Let us seek God and live by his promises in the scriptures. Let us have joy in all circumstances!

Pastor Tom Emery

Embraced – a poem by John Piper

Your life! Your precious life for mine,
O Christ, my Lord, my God, my Crown,
No foe nor pow'r in Palestine,
Took at their will. You laid it down.

For silver sold, betrayed, for me,
But not unwittingly. Untrue,
This Judas kiss! And yet, when he
Was chosen as your friend, you knew.

O, bloody path! And in my place!
You strode unwavering the way
Of woe. To die you set your face,
And none could hasten or delay.

What awful aim! What cruel end!
A scheme of suffering to span
The ages for my sake! Dear Friend,
You knew! Indeed, you formed the plan.

My Lord, my ever-living King,
I love you now, and would not waste
One hour to love you more, but cling
To you, who death and me embraced.

Are We Committed?

I love our large Christmas and Easter crowds. We all know that many folks are in churches those holidays who do not usually attend, and we welcome these folks. To them I offer this gentle advice that there is a big difference between the way we treat a historical champion and an alive Lord.

We honor the memory of a departed hero, like George Washington, with a respectful nod of appreciation each February during President’s Day. We might even visit his memorial in Washington D.C. We might try to remember and teach his principles to others.

Now, if Jesus Christ were nothing more than a deceased hero, perhaps a few annual visits to a church would be sufficient. But if he was resurrected from the dead and is now an alive Lord, that’s not enough. We should be active in Church giving God our time, talents and treasures; after all, it is owned by God anyway. If he is the living Lord, then it seems more fitting to join with his followers and worship him continually. How often you visit his church is evidence of whether you believe him to be a dead hero or whether Christ is your *living* Lord and Savior. It is a good indicator of your commitment to Christ.

The Church consists of those who live on the other side of the Resurrection. We are those who have the freedom of knowing that *“God is with us and that neither life nor death can separate us from God’s love.”* How is that being displayed in your life? ❖

March Activities



St. David's Day Celebration



Junior Bell Practice



The Senior Choir practices for Easter



Palm Sunday Bells



Special Music by
Tori Knapke



Senior Luncheon
Servers



Kathy McCollow & LaDonna Allenbaugh
discuss music



Kim Coil & Christina Emery pause during
Becky Zirkle Memorial Service set-up





Spencerville Community Lent Service
special music using chimes



Maundy Thursday Service Cross



Venedocia Community Easter Egg Hunt



Doug Jones as the
Easter Bunny



Easter Egg Hunt
at Memorial Park



Easter Sunrise Service
Flowering of the Cross



Easter Sunrise Service Youth Skit



"Mystery of the Shaking Ground" Actors

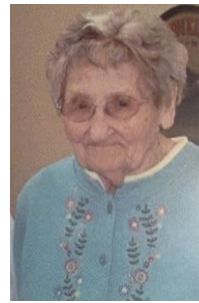


Easter Second Service Congregation



Flowering Cross & Dawson Kimmet (actor)

You Will Be Missed



Our hearts go out to the families of **Becky Zirkle** and **Gordon Morgan**, members of Salem Church, who passed away in the month of March.



Senior Luncheon



Please join us, Wednesday, April 27, 12:00 pm at the Lion's Club, for food, fellowship, and fun! The menu will include spaghetti and meatballs, green beans, and a dessert.

Ministry Training Opportunity

Are you looking for a **meaningful ministry** for yourself through Salem Church to help you express your care for others? Please see Pastor Tom for more information on attending a **workshop** being held on April 30 in Toledo. Using the **Stephen Ministry** system, lay leaders in thousands of churches across the states are trained to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are dealing with grief, loneliness, cancer, hospitalization, financial stress, job loss, and personal crises. Please consider this opportunity to be better equipped to serve and guide those around you who need our love and support.



God's Not Dead 2 Movie



Pastor Tom highly recommends you see the movie, **God's Not Dead 2** while it is in local theaters. After answering a student's question about Jesus in her classroom, a Christian teacher gets in legal trouble and is threatened to lose everything. Her faith gets shaken at times, but she still stands strong.



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

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

Condolences

The Becky Zirkle Family
The Gordon Morgan 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: \$26,871.00
Rec'd 03-27-16: \$3,066.82 Rec'd to Date: \$23,532.23

Prayer Concerns

Norma Adams (diabetic issues)
Bob Allenbaugh (lung cancer – husband of LaDonna)
Arlene Barrientos (Alzheimer's & foot surgery)
Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Hope Eutsler (leukemia)
Bill (Nancy) Evans
Eric Fancher (chemotherapy – son of Rev. Jon F.)
Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)
Phyllis Holmes (cancer – sister of Jack Blackmore)
Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)
Betty Lloyd
Elizabeth Markus (depression and salvation)
Rev. John Medaugh
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)
Dave Slygh (organ transplant problems)
Elaine Siler (cancer – cousin of Ann Rees)
Thad Summersett (brain tumor – grandson of Warren)
Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)
Jean Owens (fall and hip plate operation)

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

21 John & Mary Ellen Lloyd

**“Grant that I may not pray alone with
the mouth; help me that I may pray
from the depths of my heart.”**

~ Martin Luther

April 2016

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Guest Speaker: Glenn Hux 9:30 AM Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Session Meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School	25	26	27 Senior Luncheon 12:00 noon	28	29	30

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Acolyte	Nursery
April 3	Evelyn Martz	Evan Pugh	Bill & Ruth Evans Mark & Melissa Zeilke	Zeilke Children	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins
April 10		Christina Emery			Dave & Carla Breese
April 17		Kaitlyn Wendell			Bob & Kathy McCollow
April 24		Bells			Bob & Denise Pugh



Salem Presbyterian Church
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Sounds of Salem Newsletter

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