

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY PRINT AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

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## The Pastor's Thoughts

<sup>28</sup> "Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it (Matthew 10:28-29 NLT).

Many times when I do hospital visits, those in the hospital are fearful of what is going to happen next in their lives. Jesus made it clear that He doesn't want us to experience fear and worry. But what we may worry about, sometimes seems endless. It can take away your joy.

It is interesting that Jesus tells us that we are focusing on the wrong things when we worry, the things of this world rather than our permanent home. He made it clear that even death should not be feared. It is just the doorway to the eternal place that our hearts truly yearn.

We need to have the full confidence that nothing will happen that is not in God's loving will. God knows everything about us. He knows our every need. God knows what is around the corner in our lives. He even loved us so much that He sent Jesus into our world so that we could see and experience the love of God.

Why not fill our minds with God's Word so that we can get the peace that this world cannot offer? God knows us, and He loves us. Knowing and believing God's Word will give you the peace that will replace your fears and worries. Matthew 10:30-39 then tells us, "<sup>30</sup> And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows" NLT.

Pastor Tom

## We Give Thanks to You

As we bow our heads to pray, we give thanks to you God, for this Thanksgiving Day.

We thank you, Father, for our families, friends, and for all the blessings, both big and small, that you pour out on us each day.

We give thanks to you for this food and for the hands that have prepared it.

We ask your blessings upon this meal: that it will nourish our bodies and refresh our souls.

We give thanks to you for this wonderful time together, and for each one present here today.

We ask you, dear Lord, let each one of us feel your love, comfort, and presence in our lives today and every day.

Let us not forget those who can't be here with us today. We give thanks to you for them, too. We miss our loved ones, Lord, but we are thankful for all the good times that we had with them.

We know, Lord, that this life is not all there is; that the best is yet to come if we live for you.

So, help us each day to live our lives in ways that honor and please you. And we'll not forget to give you all the praise and glory.

In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

By Ethel Faye Grzani

## Reformation Day October 31, 1517

A single event on a single day 500 years ago changed the world. It was October 31, 1517. Brother Martin Luther, a monk and a scholar, had struggled for years with his church, the church in Rome. He had been greatly disturbed by an unprecedented indulgence sale. Can we buy our way into heaven? Luther had to speak out.

But why October 31? November 1 held a special place in the church calendar as All Soul's Day. On November 1, 1517, a massive exhibit of newly acquired relics would be on display at Wittenberg, Luther's home city. Pilgrims would come from all over, genuflect before the relics, and take hundreds, if not thousands, of years off time in



purgatory. Luther's soul grew even more vexed. None of this seemed right.

Martin Luther, a scholar, took quill in hand, dipped it in his inkwell and penned his 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. These were intended to spark a debate, to stir some soul-searching among his fellow brothers in the church. The 95 Theses sparked far more than a debate. The 95 Theses also revealed the church was far beyond rehabilitation. It needed a reformation. The church, and the world, would never be the same.

One of Luther's 95 Theses simply declares, "*The Church's true treasure is the gospel of Jesus Christ.*" That alone is the meaning of Reformation Day. The church had lost sight of the gospel, because it had long ago papered over the pages of God's Word with layer upon layer of tradition. Tradition always brings about systems of works, of earning your way back to God. It was true of the Pharisees, and it was true of medieval Roman Catholicism. Didn't Christ Himself say, "*My yoke is easy and my burden is light?*" Reformation Day celebrates the joyful beauty of the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is Reformation Day? It is the day the light of the gospel broke forth out of darkness. It was the day that began the Protestant Reformation. It was a day that led to Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, and many other Reformers helping the church find its way back to God's Word as the only authority for faith and life and leading the church back to the glorious doctrines of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

It kindled the fires of missionary endeavors, it led to hymn writing and congregational singing, and it led to the centrality of the sermon and preaching for the people of God. It is the celebration of a theological, ecclesiastical, and cultural transformation. So, we celebrate the October 31<sup>st</sup> Reformation Day. This day reminds us our obligation, to keep the light of the gospel at the center of all we do.

Adapted from Stephen Nichols "What Is Reformation Day"

### How Firm a Foundation

In 1787 Dr. John Rippon published *A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors* as a supplement to Isaac Watts' classic *Psalms and Hymns*. Among these original hymns



was the title "*How Firm a Foundation.*" By R. Keene, who was at one time a song leader in Dr. Rippon's church. It is known to have been the favorite

hymn of General Robert E. Lee and was sung at his funeral. It is also said that once, while conducting evening prayers in Princeton Seminary's Oratory, Dr. Charles Hodge was so overcome with feeling during the last line of the hymn ("*I'll never, no never, no never forsake,*" from Hebrews 13:5) that he could no longer sing but only gesture the words.

Perhaps the most noteworthy and appreciated feature of this hymn is how closely it resembles the passages of the Bible (which is fitting, given that its theme is the solidity of the word of God). For a sample of the many parallels consider that Stanza 3 echoes Isaiah 41:10:

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Adapted from the Blog of Tim Challies

### Do the Unsaved Immediately Go to Hell?

The question here is about when do the unsaved go to hell. There are two schools of thoughts on that.

1. Some believe that the unsaved lay unconsciously in the dirt, waiting for their final punishment. 2. The other school of thought is that they go directly to hell, awaiting their final consequences of their sins. Both schools of thought agree with the final judgment of the wicked. I will let you decide which one is the correct one.

Luke 16:19-31 tells the parable of Lazarus and the Beggar. "*The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side "... 'between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us (to warn the rich man's brothers before they died)'*" NIV.

School 1 of thought believes this was a parable and that Jesus was trying to give the message that if the people of His day were not listening to Moses and the Prophets, even someone raised from the dead would be unable to convince them. The parable itself is just a made-up story to make a point. It may have been a popular belief, but we should concentrate only on the message, not on the content of the parable.

School 2 of thought believes that this story is quite different from Jesus' other parables. In none of His other parables, is Jesus using a specific name. What is even more interesting is that a man named Lazarus was actually resurrected by Jesus Himself (see John 11:43-44) and although his testimony was true, the chief priests who had rejected Jesus, were planning to kill him as well (see John 12:10), thus rejecting the testimony from someone coming from the other side.

Also, this school of thought notices that although this story was directed to the Pharisees (see Luke 16: 14, 15), no reaction is mentioned from them after Jesus finished his story. Generally, when they disagreed with Him, they opposed Him fiercely (read all 4 gospels). Why wouldn't they oppose Him now? Wouldn't it be a perfect opportunity to contradict Jesus in front of everyone concerning heaven and hell? They did not. Why? Because they believed in heaven and hell after death as well.

Job 27:19-20 *"He lies down wealthy, but will do so no more; when he opens his eyes, all is gone. Terrors overtake him like a flood"* NIV.

School 1 says that this happens at the resurrection of the wicked. School 2 says: Can it be any more clear? The sinner lies down and his body appears to sleep, but he instantly opens his eyes and realizes he is no longer in the body and physically existing in this world. Immediately terrors take hold of him.

Now the Bible also talks about the Day of Judgment, when the unsaved will be judged for what they have done. Here again there are two schools' of thought, one proclaiming that this destruction is complete annihilation (body and spirit) of the unsaved. This is why it is called the second death. The other school of thought is that the unsaved will suffer in the lake of fire for eternity. I will use but a few Bible texts on that topic and will let you decide which school of thought is the correct one.

Matt 25:41-46 *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink...'"* "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

*"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life"* NIV.

2 Thess 1:7-9 *"This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power"* NIV.



Rev 20:14-15 *"Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire"* NIV.

No matter what school of thought you do believe in, the future of the unsaved does not look too appealing. The Bible records truth. The many fulfilled prophecies are proof of that, as well as our many personal experiences with our Heavenly Father. The unsaved will eventually all end up in the lake of fire!

Are you saved my friend? The Bible is true and one day you will face judgment (Heb 9:27 *"Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment"* NIV.) Don't act like the foolish speeder who tells himself that he will never be caught speeding by the police. Sooner or later he is caught and is facing the consequences of his infractions. It isn't too late to accept Jesus' offer.

Where are you heading? It is your choice my friend! Will you invite Him into your heart (Romans 10:9-10) and enjoy His peace into your life?

Adapted from Rob Chaffart *"When unsaved people die, do they go into hell as soon as they die?"*

### Womens Ministry

Introducing Salem's Women's Ministry where our goal is to fellowship and have fun while experiencing God. We've begun a Bible Study on *Salvation - God's Great and Gracious Gift*. Here was a recent topic:

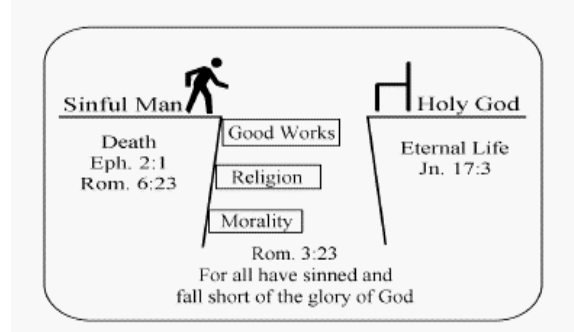
**Women's**  
*Ministry*

Everyone knows Adam and Eve committed the first sin and got kicked out of the Garden of Eden. *"Satan was*

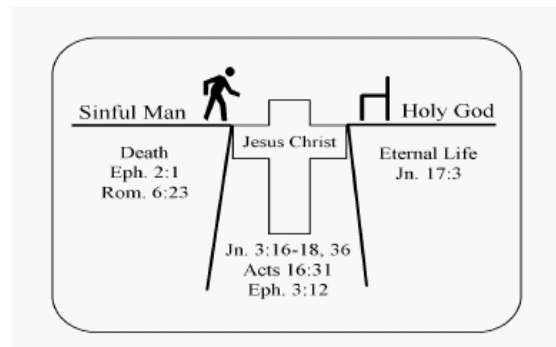


*subtle! He still is!"* Some may think our enemies on earth are drugs, alcohol, war, bad neighbors, money or even ourselves. But *"the secret to victorious Christian living lies in knowing our enemy. Satan delights to have us think these things and people are our foes. But he and his demons are our real enemy."*

There is hope! Genesis 3:15 says Eve's offspring will crush the head of the serpent. That's more than just a statement. It's a promise from God! The serpent, of course, is Satan, and Eve's offspring is Jesus!



Salvation doesn't come from joining the right religion or doing the right things so we can be acceptable to God. We are totally unacceptable in our humanity. Even when we try to hide our sin like Adam did in the garden, God searches for us. *"How gracious God was to seek after His creatures even when they willingly disobeyed His clear command."*...*"The message of the Bible is one of God searching for man, not man searching for God (Romans 3:10,11)."* Luke 19:10 says that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (that's us!).



*"When we truly comprehend the utterly wicked, desperate state of human beings, we also comprehend that salvation takes the supernatural work of God's grace."* Our being saved is a gift of God.

Let's learn more together! Join us on Tuesdays at 7pm and Thursdays at 10am. For more information, contact Carol Emery. Invite a friend!

Adapted from Salvation - God's Great and Gracious Gift by Ernest Pickering

## Violet Ashton's Pecan Pie

3 eggs slightly beaten  
 ½ cup sugar  
 1 cup light karo  
 ¼ cup melted butter or oleo  
 1 tsp. vanilla  
 ½ cup coarsely cut pecans  
 8" pie shell

Bake for 10 minutes at 425, then at 350 for another 35 min. Check for a firm center.

## Special Music



Dave Lust with Isaiah and Madison Pugh

## Salem Sights



Some of the candy and Bible tracts at the outreach at the Manse



“Sandy” Children’s play with the Ten Commandments



Praying with the youth



Worldwide Communion



Trustees fixing the pinnacle of the church steeple bent from the high winds



Trick or Treat Costume judging at the Lions Club



Acting funny in costume at the Senior Luncheon with Bingo



## Prayer Concerns

Elizabeth Adkins (liver issue)  
 Leona Browning  
 Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
 Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
 Doris Evans (cancer)  
 Larry Howell  
 Linda Howell  
 Tim Hurbertj(cancer in lungs & pancreas)  
 Paula Jones (healing from fall)  
 Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)  
 Betty Lloyd  
 Becky Martz  
 Marian Morris  
 Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)  
 Kim Owens  
 Dorothea Plikerd  
 Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)  
 Lewis Price (bladder cancer & stones)  
 Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)  
 Randy Richards  
 Laura Saylor  
 George Siler (physical therapy)  
 Bill Stewart (heart issues)  
 Keith Stoller (surgical complications)  
 Thad Summersett (brain tumor)  
 Warren Summersett (cancer)  
 Natalie Wilkens (90 years old and failing in health)  
 Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)  
 Sami Jones (health issues)  
 Jan Jones (health issues)  
 Kristin Jones (moving)

## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

*Remember our elderly members, soldiers, and college students with cards and visits.*



**Betty Lloyd**  
 Van Wert Manor  
 160 Fox Road  
 Van Wert, OH 45891

**Marian Morris**  
 Hearth & Home  
 1118 Westwood Dr.  
 Van Wert, OH 45891

**Warren Summersett**  
 Vancrest Healthcare  
 10357 VW—Decatur  
 Van Wert, OH 45891

**Marjorie Rhoades**  
 Hearth & Home  
 1118 Westwood Dr.  
 Van Wert, OH 45891

## Serving our Country

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

**Nick Fuller**  
 (U.S. Air Force)  
*Grandson of Dave & Ann Rees*

**Phoebe Eutsler**  
 (U.S. Army)

**Pete McCollow**  
 (U.S. Marine Corps)  
 116 HAC Street  
 Jacksonville, NC 28540

**Micah Linger**  
 Grandson of Doris Evans  
 (U.S. Marine Corps)  
 LCTL Linger, Micah  
 9 phesb 3mlg H&S Co.  
 Unit 38430 FPO AP96385

## Away at College

**Evan Pugh** – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

**Andrew Emery** – University of Cincinnati

**Christina Emery** – University of Cincinnati

## Birthdays

1 Avery Zielke	5 Carla Breese
5 Marjorie Rhoades	5 Missy Zielke
10 Lucas Mullenhour	11 Sarah Kimmet
12 Catie Emery	16 Doug Jones
29 Kathy McCollow	30 Mike Breese

## Anniversaries

28<sup>th</sup> David & Jean Owens  
 30<sup>th</sup> Herman & Nell Jean Wienken

## Trustee Update

Projects repaired and completed in October were the steeple, the elevator, and the water lines at the back of church.

Among the Projects under review is a wind-proof awning over the outside elevator door.

### Election Day Supper

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

**4:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

*Venedocia Lions Club Building*

### Featuring:

*Lions Club Sausage, Chicken Sandwiches  
 Homemade Soup and Desserts*

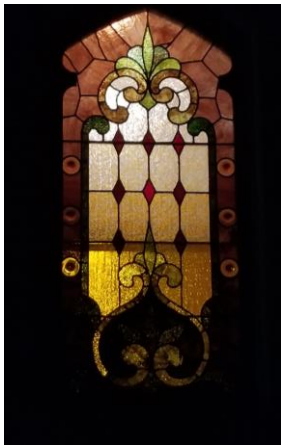
## Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$83,162.00  
 Received to Date: \$84,878.91

# November 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 10:00 am Women's Bible study	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship <b>All Saints Day</b> 10:45 Sunday School	6	7 Election Supper 4:30-7:00 pm at the Lion's Club 7 pm Teens for Christ 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	8	9 10:00 am Women's Bible study	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship <b>Veteran's Day</b> 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Joint session/Trustee Mtg.	13	14 7 pm Teens for Christ 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	15	16 10:00 am Women's Bible study	17	18
19 <b>*Shoe boxes due*</b> 9:30 AM Worship -Distribute budget info -Thank Offering -Guest: Kevin Clancy	20	21 7 pm Teens for Christ 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	22 Thanksgiving Eve Service and Communion 7 pm	23 10:00 am Women's Bible study	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship Congregational Mtg 10:45 Sunday School	27	28 7 pm Teens for Christ 7:00 pm Women's Bible study	29	30 10:00 am Women's Bible study		

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Flowers	Nursery
Nov 5	Marylin Foust	Tamara Mullenhour	Bob & Kathy McCollow Dave & Carla Breese	Jean Owens- 5 <sup>th</sup> Zielke family-12-26 <sup>th</sup>	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
Nov 12		Marie Morris Winfield			Jeff & Kim Coil
Nov 19		Double Quartet			Todd & Jayne Morris
Nov 26		Jr. Choir			Gwenda Blackmore



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

# Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142  
Church Web Pages: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)  
[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](https://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)  
Church E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)  
Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131  
Pastor's Email: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

### The Music Committee News

The **Music Committee** was recently informed by the Lima Pipe Organ Company that our Organ needs repair. The blower air reservoir has developed splits in the seams of the wood box. This reservoir contains the high-pressure wind generated by the blower. To properly have it repaired, it will require removal of the blower, and the entire reservoir will be disassembled and structural repairs performed. The work will require the organ to be out of service for two weekends. The cost of this work is estimated at \$5,300.00. The work has been scheduled for the month of January. We are pursuing this project as we strive to maintain this beautiful instrument that is an intricate part of our church and heritage. Anyone wishing to donate to our Organ Fund may do so by sending your donation to the church address labeled "Organ Fund". Any questions you may contact Kathy McCollow at 419-233-6126. Thank you for your support.

### November 2017 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR A

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 5

Josh. 3:7-17	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thess. 2:9-13	Matt. 23:1-12

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 12

Judges 24:1-3a, 14-25	Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thess. 4:13-18	Matt. 25:1-13

#### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 19

Judges 4:1-7	Psalm 123
1 Thess. 5:1-11	Matt. 25:14-30

#### Advent-Christ the King – Nov 26

Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 100
Eph. 1:15-23	Matt. 25:31-46