

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 24 Issue 06

June 2022

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. ¹⁹ The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst... And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass (Revelation 21:18-21 NLT).

In my early grade school years, I remember that my grandmother would put me on her knee and read the Bible to me. She was a grade schoolteacher who taught me to read before kindergarten. It was amazing to me how the written word would come alive in spoken language.

When she came down with diabetes and eventually had a broken hip [before hip replacements] from a fall on ice on the school playground, she knew her days were numbered. She sought to comfort me from missing her. She told me what the heaven was like that she was going to after death. "The streets are pure gold... you will see me there in a perfectly healed and happy body."

I was comforted that she would be "OK" for eternity in a beautiful place in a new body. Before she died, I still remember stopping in after school as I walked by her house on my way home. I was often treated to those banana blender malted milkshakes. I would show her what I did in school that day. Afterward, she would walk me through her backyard garden and show me among other things how flowers open and close with the direct sunlight and what the birds communicate to each other.

As time rolled on after her death, I heard several testimonies about Leola. About thirty years later fresh out of seminary, I was filling in one Sunday as a pulpit supply in a church without a minister in Cincinnati. A woman came up to me afterward and asked if I knew Leola Hadley. I told her that she was my grandmother.

The woman told me that Leola was her first-grade teacher in the 1950s. She told me how great an impression Leola had made on her about the love of reading and about Christ and heaven. She said that Leola would frequently talk to her classes about me, her grandchild. That woman who came up to me, had a great memory because she told me "I finally got to meet you!"

Then later, I heard about a German immigrant family who would drop by her house every Thanksgiving to give her wonderful cakes and pastries from their premiere bakery that they had started from scratch. Leola had taught the whole family to read and write

English after WWII when they fled bombed out Germany to start a bakery in Cincinnati. She had refused payment. They wanted to show their gratitude, respect and admiration for her for her help and her witness of Christ.

If you knew Leola back, then she would tell you about her hope that she had in Christ and the blessings of going to heaven. She sought to tell

everyone with a kind and loving gracious spirit. People saw Christ at work in her.

By all looks of the world today, Christ is coming back soon. Let us also put our faith into action by sharing our faith with others!

Pastor Tom Emery

"In the Garden"

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;



And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him,
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.

Written by Charles A Miles. [Song Link](#) by Alan Jackson.

The Keys to the Kingdom

"I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19).

The keys come from the Lord and are available to anyone who will confess and repent and be reborn in Christ. They belong to every Christian; that is, to every faithful, repentant, individual who has ever or will surrender his or her life to Christ until his return.

These are exciting words spoken by Jesus Christ to one of his disciples. Peter and all followers of Christ have been given the same key to the same kingdom. What is this key, and what is this Kingdom it unlocks for them?

At the beginning of Matthew 16, Jesus was being questioned by the Pharisees. Clearly, this Rabbi from Nazareth was special; he had already given them many signs and performed numerous signs and wonders.

But, while the religious leaders wanted more signs, Jesus wanted the disciples to know how to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The religious leaders could quote Moses, Abraham, and Isaiah, but they did not know God. Therefore, their students (the Israelites under their teaching) did not know God either. Christ taught his disciples how to know God and also how to lead others to the Kingdom.

According to Christopher Morgan, "The kingdom of God is the rule of God over his people in his creation, established through his Messiah in the new covenant, which is now present in the world, though it is awaiting its fulfillment at the second coming of Christ."

R.C. Sproul's explanation, regarding Luke 10:11, adds another dimension: "The kingdom of God was near to them because the King of the kingdom was there."

The presence of Christ brings the Kingdom close to his believers, but the Kingdom is not a series of buildings and rooms.

Although Christ has ascended and now intercedes for all believers at God's right hand, every believer is indwelt by the Spirit who is One with the Son and the Father; therefore, the Kingdom of God resides in each Spirit-filled believer.



The Kingdom has been manifested in the past, and it will also come down when Satan is defeated, and the earth is restored to its Edenic beauty and wholeness. But the Kingdom is near to each believer through the Spirit of God.

How does one recognize the Kingdom of God if it is not a place? If His Kingdom is a sovereign rule, a dynamic

power, and a divine activity then how does one know where to locate the entry point?

Morgan explains that Christ is "the bearer of this kingdom," so we recognize it in the person of Jesus. "The only way the kingdom of God is going to be manifest in this world before Christ comes is if we manifest it by the way we live as citizens of heaven and subjects of the King."

Sproul indicates that, for believers and for unbelievers, the Kingdom of God is manifested in the Fruit of the Spirit, which is on display in the lives of Christians.

Christians reflect a Kingdom-focused reality by demonstrating "compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience" (Colossians 3:12). They bring Christ to the world in a tangible way.

There is no literal door, and therefore no physical key to this door. "Jesus requires repentance to enter his kingdom community, since the present way of the world must be rejected and the new age of God's rule and its

corresponding way of life embraced. As such, repentance is not only the way into the kingdom but also the way of the kingdom.” Sproul explains that Christians possess the key at all times. This is love and reverence for the Lord, who “is the King of all the earth” (Psalm 47:7).

It is essential to confess and repent of sin, to allow God to make one new in him. Without confession and repentance (dying to self) there can be no resurrection in the spirit. There is no surrender to Christ.

Going through the motions like the Pharisees and Sadducees were doing equated to putting up a smokescreen, which obscured their and their students’ view of the door to heaven. They were not being changed; they did not know God.

Therefore, they failed to recognize Jesus Christ as “the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). He is the key, the door, and the Kingdom wrapped into one. Knowing him is the key to knowing God and living with him for eternity. Knowing things about him, about the Word of God, and about his prophecies and commandments, is not enough.

Repentance is a sign that one has come to God through Jesus because it is a sign that one understands what Christ did for humankind at the cross and why it was necessary. It is a signal that one *knows* and *loves* Jesus and is being transformed by Him.

Jesus told the disciples that they possessed the keys to the Kingdom. He alluded to this idea when he told them “do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20).

Knowing Him was the special gift they had received. Their power came from Him, it was nothing special about the disciples themselves. The keys come from the Lord and is available to anyone who will confess and repent and be reborn in Christ.

John Piper explained that although Jesus said to Peter “whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19), he said the same thing “to Christians in general, with the very same words, two chapters later in Matthew 18:18.” So, the promised keys belong to every Christian; that is, to every individual who surrenders his or her life to Christ.

Adapted from “What Does it Mean We Will Be Given the Keys to the Kingdom?” by Candice Lucey.

Some scholars believe that Romans chapter 8 is the greatest chapter in the Bible, at least in the New Testament. Let’s explore this chapter and see why. In chapters 1-7, Paul, the apostle of Jesus Christ, has been presenting a picture of *our fallen state as human beings*.

In Romans 8, he now begins to outline the *solution to our wretched state: the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives*. As Paul will relate, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be liberated from the law of sin and death. We can know that we will have the victory even as we struggle with our human tendency toward sin. We can gain confidence, comfort, and hope in knowing there is “*no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 8:1).

So, you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15).

In chapter 7, Paul focused on *faith in Jesus Christ being the only way to salvation*. In chapter 8, he focuses on the believer’s ability to live the Christian life through the *empowering work of the Holy Spirit*. The Holy Spirit thus plays a key role in the sanctification of believers – freeing them from the chains of sin to live lives that honor God. Sanctification simply means the Holy Spirit grows and changes us to become more like Jesus.

Paul wants his readers to understand--without a shadow of a doubt--that they have a priceless standing before God as coheirs with Jesus and adopted sons and daughters of God. He reminds them that they have a high calling as God’s children, which includes both the call to suffer as Jesus suffered and the calling to lead godly lives so they will one day be glorified just as Jesus was glorified. Through it all, he reminds believers in Christ of *God’s deep and unending love for believers and the perfect purpose that He has for each of His children’s lives*.

Paul celebrated what it means for a believer to have life through the Spirit--which includes freedom from sin and death. *Those who accepted Jesus as their Savior thus have an obligation to live according to the direction of the Holy Spirit*. Paul also notes that our present suffering is minor when compared to the future eternal glory that awaits us in Heaven. *When the Holy Spirit resides within us*, we can know that God will be with us in the midst of any trial, will help us in our prayers, and

will enable us to conquer the attacks of the enemy (Satan).

We as believers "*we are more than conquerors*" through Jesus Christ (8:37). In other words, believers are winning the supreme battle against their enemy in this life. *The victories they are securing are of an eternal nature, with rewards that are not temporary but everlasting.*

To truly understand that you truly are in Christ, you first have to understand *what* the Bible says about *who* you are in Christ. You are "*sons and daughters of God*" (8:14). You must be aware of the rights and privileges that brings. After all, if you can come to accept these truths about yourself, you will start to act more like that person. You will begin to truly walk with confidence in this life, knowing that you have been given the ultimate victory.

Here are a few verses in the New Testament that can help to remind you of your identity in Christ and the promises you have been given as a child of God:
John 1:12 *But to all who believed Him and accept Him, He gave the right to become children of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *That means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone, a new life has begun.*

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.*

Philippians 3:20 *So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.*

Those are words that will sustain, encourage, and embolden those of us who are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ.

Adapted from Jeremiah Bible Study Series by Dr. David Jeremiah.
Romans the Gospel of Grace. Used by the Salem Women's Bible Study.

Gymanfa Update

We are so delighted to announce our up-coming Gymanfa on Sunday, Sept. 4, at 7:00 pm. Our director, Kevin Fancher will be joining us from Columbus, and we welcome Harriet Schaadt and Connie O'Neill on the organ and piano. Special music will be performed by Sheila Chilcote-Collins and a 10-lady singing group called InSpirit. We look forward to sharing an evening of music, singing, and fellowship once again. So set the

date on your phone, calendar, or refrigerator door and join us for the evening!

Senior Luncheon



Senior Luncheon 2022-05-25 at the Lions Club. The luncheons will happen each month beginning again in September.

Salem Ice Cream Social



Sycamore Ice Cream, Venedocia Sausage, dinner items, and pies. Dine in or carry out.

Friday, June 17th, 4:30 – 7:00

Located at the Lions Club, Route 116, Venedocia

Everyone invited

Church Financial Update

Prayerfully consider making a donation. Salem Church. Offerings should be mailed to the church at:

Salem United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Needed to Date: \$46,789.07 Received to Date: \$54,302.54

Salem Photos



2022-05-08 Junior Bells Special Music for Mother's Day



2022-05-10 Eagle Scout award event with Dominic Atkins and mentor, John Lloyd.



2022-05 Landon Price graduation from Lincolnview High School.



2022-05 Cory McCollow promoted to United States Coast Guard Commander. Pictured with his wife Silvia and his daughter Adelina. He graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 2006 and has been stationed in Philadelphia, San Antonio and currently Oakland, California.



2022-05 Madison Pugh Coast Guard Academy graduation and commissioning with cousin, Commander Cory McCollow. She will serve on the USCG ship, Decisive, in Florida.

Memorial Day

Let us show our gratitude to those who gave their all so that we could have the freedoms we have today. Come join the Memorial Day observances in Venedocia. There is a 10:30 AM gathering in Horeb Cemetery and an 11:00 AM gathering in Memorial Park.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

"Young at Heart"

John & Mary Ellen Lloyd
20155 Venedocia-Eastern
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marjorie Rhoades
Homestead at Towne Ctr
240 Towne Ctr Blvd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Bartie Jones
Parkview Healthcare Ctr
3800 Boardwalk Blvd
Sandusky, OH 44870

Marilyn Stockton
Lochhaven Apt 220
1640 Allentown Rd
Lima, OH 45805

Paul & Doris Price
18890 Bebb St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Charles Boroff
311 West 4th Street
Apt. 104
Odessa, Texas 79761

Marjorie Eutsler
15044 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow
(U.S. Coast Guard)
7225 Altura Place
Oakland, CA 94605

SPC Phoebe Eutsler (Army)
Cmr 405 Box 3825
APO, AE 09034

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler
(National Guards)
14975 Van Wert-Mercer
Co. Line Road
Venedocia, OH 45894

Sgt. Micah Linger,
(U.S. Marine Corps)
2nd MEF G4
PCS Box 20085
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)
Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Gyer Blackmore (Army)
Grandson of Gwenda
Blackmore

Away at College

**Madison Pugh- USCGA | 15 Mohegan Ave.,
8785 Chase Hall, New London, CT 06320**

Condolences

Condolences to the families of **Byron Mohr, Tyler
Priest and Maxine Stewart**

Birthdays

2 Barb Owens	4 Chad Pugh
6 Cassy Emery	8 Tammy Lloyd Wells
10 Dillon Ellerbrock	11 Doris Evans
13 Kevin Price	14 Sandra Caffro
18 Charlie Good	22 Ann Rees
25 Tamara Mullenhour	29 Tom Evans
30 Shania Profit	

Anniversaries

2 Ron & Barb Owens
14 Jeff & Kim Coil
17 Bill & Elgarda McGee
22 Todd & Jayne Morris
24 Owen & Karen Pugh
25 Rex & Lisa Lloyd
28 Larry & Sandra Caffro

Prayer Concerns

Kenzie Bay
Kathy Comer
Jim Davis
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)
Pastor Tom Emery
Andrew Emery (blood clots)
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair (cancer)
Nikki Ford (surgery & funds for surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye & knee issues)
Brett Hammons (cancer)
Jane Harter
Jerry Holscher
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Ann Kina (cancer)

LuAnn (family issues)
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Anne Morris
David Morris (Zeb)
Steve Peters (surgery & recovery)
Paul & Doris Price
Denise Pugh
Clarence Ringwald (hospice)
Marjorie Rhodes
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Stacy Smith (Covid)
Rosa Wollenhaupt
6 The area Nursing Homes and their residents

June 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Noon - Van Wert Prayer Meeting	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship Pentecost Offering Communion Graduate Recognition 10:45 AM Session Meeting	6	7 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	8	9 Noon - Van Wert Prayer Meeting	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship w/guest speaker John Zerbe 5:00 Trustee Meeting	13	14 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	15	16 Noon - Van Wert Prayer Meeting.	17 4:30 to 7 pm Ice Cream Social	18
19 9:30 AM Worship Father's Day Recognition	20	21 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	22	23 Noon - Van Wert Prayer Meeting	24	25 Summerfest – meet at 3 pm, parade begins at 4:30
26 9:30 Worship	27	28 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	29	30 Noon - Van Wert Prayer Meeting		

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
June 5	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Gloria Leiter	
June 12	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Gloria Leiter	
June 19	Bob & Denise Pugh	Sarah & Jason Kimmet	Dave VanTilburg
June 26	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Sarah & Jason Kimmet	
		Greeter:	Ron Richards

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



2022-05 Madison Pugh graduation and commissioning with VP Harris and cousin, Commander Cory McCollow, handing her the Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree.

Sounds of Salem *Newsletter*

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Secretary E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131
 Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

June 2022 **REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY** **YEAR B**

Day of Pentecost – June 5

Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Rom. 8:14-17	John 14:8-17 (25-27)

Trinity Sunday – June 12

Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8
Rom. 5:1-5	John 16:12-15

2nd Sunday after Pentecost – June 19

1 Kgs. 19:1-15a	Psalm 42 and 43
Gal. 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39

3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 26

2 Kgs. 2:1-2, 6-14	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Gal. 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62