

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 24 Issue 11

November 2022

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

*Psalm 100 A psalm of thanksgiving.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.

<sup>3</sup> Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture (Psalm 100:1-3 NLT).

So much of our life is affected by a simple decision to respond to God in thanksgiving. This is not just over a turkey dinner on this November Thanksgiving, but also every day of our lives. We've got so much to thank God for and so much to praise Him for, because He has been so good to us.

The praising and worshipping God personally and corporately from a heart of thanksgiving is an essential part of the Christian life, and it has been that way from the very beginning of humanity. Cain and Abel were tasked with giving offerings of praise back to God although only one of them did it sincerely.



But giving thanks to God is not just something great to do, it is good for us. Something positive and helpful happens to our minds and hearts when we shift our focus from complaining about what we perceive as negative in our lives to recognizing all the things in our lives that are good.

That is why the Apostle Paul charged us to think about: *"whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable..." (Philippians 4:8).*

Did you catch Paul's equation or formula for peace? Instead of being anxious or stressed about all that is wrong or that could be wrong in our lives in this fallen world, if we communicate with God by both presenting our cares to Him (which is called Supplication) as well as praising Him for the blessings we have (which is

called Thanksgiving), the result will be a peace in our lives that might not even make sense when considering our situation.

So many Christians going through difficult times have grasped this passage for good reason. In a similar way, no matter the difficulties and tragedies that we have to deal with in our life, when we rely on the Holy Spirit's power to help us *"rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances..." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, ESV)*, we too can live the kind of peaceful Christian life that God wants us to live.

But in contrast, Paul tells us in Romans 1 that when people do not honor God as God or *"give thanks to Him,"* they become *"futile"* in their thinking and their *"foolish hearts"* become darkened (Romans 1:21).

So let us give thanks to the Lord on Thanksgiving as well as every day! So much of our life is affected by this simple decision to respond to God in thanksgiving or not, not just over a turkey dinner in November, but every day of our lives. So, let's find peace this season as we pray to God and set our hearts on giving Him thanks and glorifying Him this side of heaven!

*Pastor Tom Emery*

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and  
defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend  
thee;  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare  
are waging,  
Who, when the elements madly around thee are  
raging,  
Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,  
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of sin is  
abounding,  
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue  
confounding,  
Sheddeth His light, chaseth the horrors of night,  
Saints with His mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises  
before Him;  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Lyrics by Joachim Neander, 1863. [Link](#)

### Thoughts on How Hymns Fill Us with Gratitude

I have the most amazing group of women in my Bible study. One thing we like to do before we dig into the material we're studying is to go around and share something we're thankful for. Somehow, coming up with something to share is simple – it works. We don't have to have completed the homework or memorized a verse or thought too hard. We can find a reason to be thankful almost on demand. And speaking out loud something for which we are grateful mentally turns the page for us, toward our Savior.

One mom in her twenties has a son with cystic fibrosis. She shares that the doctor called saying the antibiotics for her son worked! The bacteria have cleared from his lungs.

A grandma comments on her beautiful drive coming to church, the changing colors of the leaves, the fog lifting and allowing the sun to shine through.

Someone is thankful for her kids, another for her husband, one for a cozy sweater on a brisk fall morning,

yet another for the Bible – that exists for her to learn more about God. Yet another is grateful for her garden and all the canning she was able to do for the winter. We all agree because we are all grateful for healing, family, God's Word, His creation, warmth, and His provision.



Not one woman is thankful for something she's done herself, that she has any control over. It's as if we're singing in the background of our discussion the old German hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty." *All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near, join me in glad adoration!* The hymn talks about God's great love, about all that He provides for His people! God really is so good!

It's one thing when I think of all the things He's done and is doing in my life, but to look around the room and listen to all the incredible ways God is weaving His love into the lives of the people around me magnifies my ability to see how great His love is.

Each of my Bible study ladies, despite their various life stages, the large variances in how long and how they've been seeking God, despite their different socio-economic situations, each one knows that all the goodness comes from Jesus.

The young woman didn't heal her son's infection. The woman in her seventies didn't paint the leaves golden yellow and deep scarlet. Sure, we married our spouses and birthed our babies, but in no way could I take credit for my husband or kids. A sweater and canned vegetables? None of it happens without God. Not a bit. *Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do.*

Yet God provides all our needs, not because He has to do this for us, but because He is so very gracious. Food, clothing, shelter – all of it comes from God. Spectacular scenery and medications that heal are glorious things. But there's something much more glorious.

Each of us has a past. A list of arguments we've been in, choices we've made, things we've tried or said, we wished we hadn't. We have real life struggles from self-image, finances, relationships. Despite the ways we don't have it together, despite our many failings, Jesus looked at each one of them and communicated a message like this: "I love you so much. I know what I'm about to face is unbearable – the humiliation of all the words people are about to say about me. The pain of nails piercing my hands and feet. Not being able to catch a breath as my lungs collapse for you on the cross. But, of course, I'll do it. It's all worth it. Why? Because I love you. I love you so very much."

And that's where Jesus' mercy undoes me. It's one thing to be grateful for sweaters and snuggles from kiddos on fall mornings, but another to realize my life has been changed because of what He's done. Because Jesus gave up His life for me, for you, *His goodness and mercy shall daily attend us.*

What are you thankful for today? Can you honestly take credit for an ounce of it? Who gave you those skills? That opportunity? That connection? That relationship? Who created the heart in your chest that's currently pumping blood through your body? Who loved you so much that He died for you, so you could stand here today, able to give thanks?

There are things about God I'll probably never understand, like how He can love us so immeasurably. How He can see to every detail of landscapes and heartbeats and conversations and snacks. And why He showers glorious gifts upon us on a daily basis, despite the things we've said and done to Him, and His children. God's love: So deep I cannot fathom it. *Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!*

#### CONTEMPLATE:

1. For what are you thankful for today?
2. When you "*ponder anew what the Almighty can do,*" what comes to mind? What amazes you about what God does for you?
3. What's one thing you can do each day this month to give your own personal "*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*"? Maybe start a gratitude journal listing all the things you're grateful for or write a thank-you note telling someone you're thankful God put them in your life.

Adapted from *How Sweet the Sound* by Laura L. Smith

### Getting Your Unsaved Loved Ones to Church

Before we talk about ways to get your unsaved loved ones to church, let's first discuss three ways to ensure

they won't come to church with you: **Nag them. Frighten them with hell. Trick them.**

**Here are 7 ways to encourage your loved ones to attend church.**

#### 1. Pray for them.

James 5:16 reminds us that the prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective. Pray God would give them a desire to come to church with you and that they would be open to your invitation to attend. Seed the ground with prayer before you try any other suggestions.

#### 2. Invite them.

Not in a nagging way, but on a regular basis, such as once a month or so, make them feel welcome to attend services with you. Also ask them to come to special services, like musical groups, plays, or children's performances (especially if your kids are participating).

#### 3. Be faithful in asking.

Despite the many no's, continue to invite them as often as it seems natural to do so (without nagging). It might take months or even years. Remember, God's timing is perfect, so ask and be prepared for a yes amidst all the no's.

#### 4. Accept 'no' graciously.

You will probably hear more negative responses than positive ones, so learn how to receive those answers in a gracious manner. Don't pout or try to guilt them into saying yes. They might be watching to see how you accept their response and that might be the reason they say yes next time.

#### 5. Talk about church like you enjoy it.

This might seem obvious, but how often do you discuss something you learned from a recent sermon with your unsaved loved ones? Not in the "you need to be saved so listen up" way, but in the "this really helped me to recognize sin in my own life" or "this opened my eyes to a new truth about the Gospel" way.

As Psalm 95:1-2 admonishes us, "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" (ESV). If this is how we view church, then we need to share that with others. If we don't discuss what happens Sunday mornings in a positive light, then why would our unsaved loved ones want to come with us?

#### 6. Share your faith in normal conversation.

As followers of Jesus, we should pepper our conversations with our faith, not shoehorning it in, but in a natural way. For example, during my husband's recent bout of unemployment, we often talked about God's gracious provisions to us with unsaved family and friends. It was a natural response to questions about how we were doing, and a genuine way to share our faith.

### 7. Show the support of your church.

Our fellow church members are part of our support system, and it's important that unbelievers recognize this. Seeing the love and care of Christians for one another could spur an unbeliever to want to check out church. Remember, part of our calling as Christians is to encourage others in their faith and to find Christ.

Adapted from 9 Ways to Get Your Unsaved Loved Ones to Church by Sarah Hamaker. Crosswalk.com.

## All Saints Day

We always stand in a larger community than just those who are around us daily. For those who are older, many of those people who shaped our spiritual journey are gone now.

But this is the time of year, the time near All Saints Day, that the Church calls us to remember our father and mothers in the Faith. We truly are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, the Church and its people across the centuries that were faithful to God and to us. This year, we celebrate All Saints Day on the November 6<sup>th</sup> at Salem. Let us celebrate the dearly departed for this year with **the 2022 Naming of the Saints:**

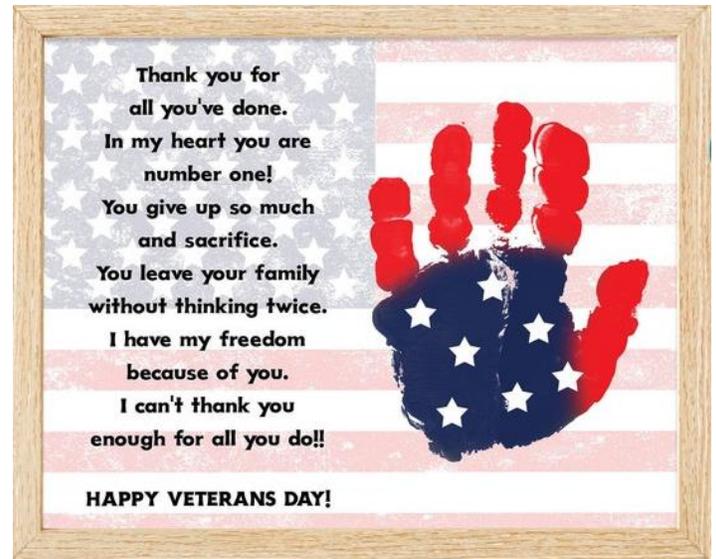
Harold Wollenhaupt, Evelyn Harter, Jeanette Smith, Marion Morris, Brenda Staten, Karen Smith, Fred Snyder, Jerry Foust, Jim Wallace, Randy Roof, Earl Fast, Rob Richardson, Roger McMichael, Judy Jones, Muhn, Doug Jones, Jean Owens, Dan Sutton, Helen Ashbaugh, Harold Klaus, Mary Young, Shirley Jarmean, Byron Mohr, Tyler Priest, Maxine Stewart, Marjorie Rhoades, Rosa Wollenhaupt, John Jones, Leone Pollock, Clarence Ringwald, Caden Meyer, Eileen Lucier, Dr. Ron Bell, and Ron Richards.

## Veterans Day

The **Veterans Day Service** is celebrated at Salem on November 13th.



Memorial Park cannon celebrating local Veterans.



## NOTICES

The **Veterans Day Service** is on November 13th.

The Budget and nomination reports will be given to the Congregation November 13th, and the vote on the budget and officers will be November 20th.

Please start collecting **gravy packets**. The goal for our church this year is 500 packages to donate to the Salvation Army by December 11th.

The Lighted Cross Project is taking in visions of where to locate the outdoor cross and how to configure the landscaping and benches. Please give ideas to the Trustee Members.

*Dear Congregation,*

*The Salem Trustees would like to thank everyone for your financial support of Salem Presbyterian Church. The Church Carillon Project is moving forward with the material being received, and we are waiting on an*

installation date, with updates forthcoming. Again, thank you for your support and God Bless Everyone!

Salem Trustees

### Church Financial Update

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

Salem United Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 678  
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Needed to Date: \$93,578.14  
Received to Date: \$99,786.90

### Salem Photos



2022-10-16 Jeremy Morris holding Brezlynn, one of the twins after the church service.



2022-10-09 Pastor Tom praying over Charlotte Ann McConnel with parents Tyler and Morgan McConnell during the baby Baptism.



2022-10-26 Senior Luncheon with a Halloween theme



2022-10-15 Ron Richard's great nephew, Jameson Art.



# 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

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

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

**Paul & Doris Price**  
18890 Bebb St  
Venedocia, OH 45894

**Charles Boroff**  
311 West 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Guard)  
14975 Van Wert-Mercer  
Co. Line Road  
Venedocia, OH 45894

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

**Madison Pugh-USCGA**  
8800 Pine Forest Rd  
Apt 6303  
Pensacola, FL 32534

**Dillon Ellerbrock** (Marines)  
Grandson of Gloria Leiter

**Gyer Blackmore** (Army)  
Grandson of Gwenda  
Blackmore

## Away at College

**Landon Price.** Ohio State University,  
160 Woodruff, Columbus, Ohio 43210

## Condolences

Condolences to the family of Ron Richards

## Anniversaries

No wedding anniversaries this month

## Birthdays

1 Avery Zielke  
1 Dan Lloyd  
5 Carla Breese  
5 Missy Zielke  
10 Lucas Mullenhour  
11 Sarah Kimmet  
12 Catie Emery  
18 Boone Finn  
29 Kathy McCollow  
30 Mike Breese

## Prayer Concerns

Eddie Basham (back surgery)  
Marion Morris's daughter  
Charles Boroff (heart issue)  
Jason Boyd (cancer)  
Jeff Coil (Bypass heart surgery)  
Lynn Collins (cancer)  
Kathy Comer  
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)  
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)  
Marjorie Eutsler  
Deb Fair (cancer)  
Nikki Ford (surgery & funds for surgery)  
Shana Fryer  
Stephanie Gamble (eye & knee issues)

Jane Harter  
Jerry Holscher  
Ann King (cancer)  
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd  
Steve Martz  
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Todd Morris (open heart surgery)  
)  
Paul & Doris Price  
Evan Pugh  
Evelyn Schwartz  
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)  
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

# November 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.  7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	2	3 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at 1 <sup>st</sup> United Methodist	4	5
<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Worship. All Saints Day 10:45 AM Joint Session & Trustee Meeting Budget & Nom. reports due *Shoebboxes are due today*	7	<b>8</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.  7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	9	10 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at 1 <sup>st</sup> United Methodist	11	12
<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Session Meeting Thank offering Veterans Day Service Budget & nom. reports available	14	<b>15</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.  7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	16	17 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at 1 <sup>st</sup> United Methodist	18	19
<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Worship Congregational meeting to approve budget & nominations 7 PM - <b>Community Thanksgiving Service</b> at First United Methodist Church 113 W Central Ave in Van Wert	21	<b>22</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.  7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Worship Advent breakfast to follow the Worship Service	28	<b>29</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.  7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	30			
Week of	Nursery		Flowers		Organist	
November 6	Kevin & Kristen Price		Marylin Foust		LaDonna Allenbaugh	
November 13	Rex & Lisa Lloyd		Mark & Missy Zielke		Becky Reichard	
November 20	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs		Mark & Missy Zielke		Connie O'Neill	
November 27	Jeff & Kim Coil		Mark & Missy Zielke		Dave Van Tilburg	
			<b>Greeter:</b>		Denise Pugh	

*Salem Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 678  
15240 Main Street  
Venedocia, Ohio 45894*



2022-10-09 Charlotte Ann McConnel being fed early by Tyler McConnell. The mother, Morgan, enjoys the moment before the service and the baby Baptism.

## *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)

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

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

**November 2022  
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY  
YEAR C**

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**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 6**

Hag. 1:15-2:9                      Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21  
2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17      Luke 20:27-38

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**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 13**

Isa. 65:17-25                      Isaiah 12  
2 Thess. 3:6-13                      Luke 21:5-19

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**Christ the King/Reign of Christ – Nov 20**

Jer. 23:1-6                      Luke 1:68-79  
Col. 1:11-20                      Luke 23:33-43

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**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Nov 27**

Isa. 2:1-5                      Psalm 122  
Rom 13:11-14                      Matt. 24:36-44