

SOUNDS OF SALEM

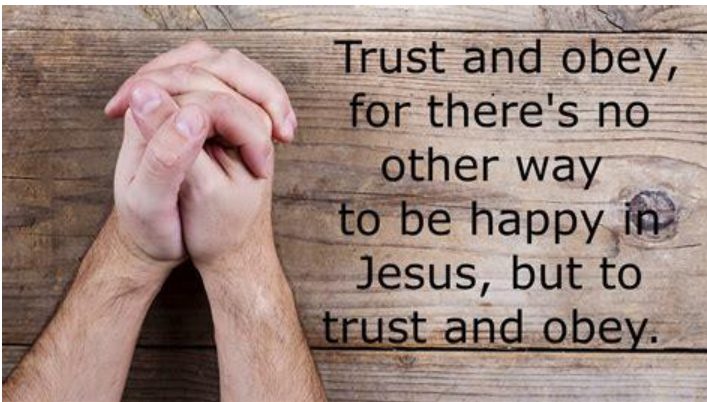
A MONTHLY PRINT AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

¹² But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust me enough to demonstrate my holiness to the people of Israel, you will not lead them into the land I am giving them!" (Number 20:12 NLT).



Numbers 20:12 reveals how Moses and Aaron failed to trust and honor God. By placing themselves at the center of attention, they fell into sin. When God instructed Moses to speak to the rock, he struck it with his staff instead. He displayed disobedience and a lack of respect for the Lord. Tragically, Moses' disobedience had consequences for his leadership. He was not allowed to lead the people into the land God had promised them.

We can learn a lot from this passage. Are we true to the way we honor God's Word by our obedience in these last days of wicked times? Let's replace disobedience and frustration with complete trust, gratitude, and obedience to God in every circumstance. Let us check our hearts and ensure that we do not try to dethrone God.

No matter how challenging our situations may be, we should always put our faith in the Lord's plan. God loves us, and the testimonies of others show that His ways are always superior to our plans.

The hymn "Trust and Obey" inspires us to trust God completely in every aspect of our lives. When we walk

with Him and obediently do His will, He abides with us. Please pray with me.

Heavenly Father, thank You for being faithful and true. God, I ask You to help me believe You. Help me obey Your Word, especially when it is difficult, that I might honor You as holy before those I live and work with daily. In Jesus name, Amen.

Pastor Tom Emery

"Trust and Obey"

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
 - o Refrain:
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.
3. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.
4. But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.
5. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

John H. Sammis 1887 Hymn. [YouTube Link](#)

Why Easter Matters

People who only attend church once a year usually choose Easter. It's ironic because this is the service where we celebrate the one claim about Christ that most people have difficulty believing: His resurrection from the dead. In our culture, there's widespread acceptance of the fact that Jesus existed, that He taught nice things about how to live, and that He died on a Roman cross. But people stumble over the assertion that He rose from the dead three days after His execution. There are three reasons why Easter matters more than just one day a year.



First, *Easter matters because the resurrection is central to Christianity.* In his letter to the Corinthian church, the apostle Paul raises a question. What if Jesus were *not* raised from the dead? In other words, what if the Easter story *is* just a myth?

Paul is clear. Christianity could not stand on its own without the resurrection. Preaching would be worthless, faith would be misplaced, the dead would be lost forever, and sins would not be forgiven (1 Corinthians 15:13–18). If Christ wasn't raised from the dead, then all the suffering and trials endured by Christians over the centuries have been a pitiful waste, and we are of all people "most miserable" (1 Corinthians 15:19).

Without the truth of Easter, there is no salvaging of Christianity. It would be a dead religion that has spent 2,000 years duping people into wasting their lives.

Second, *Easter matters because the resurrection happened.* People stumble over the resurrection because it seems incredible (it is a miracle, after all). But it's impossible to explain the tumultuous events of the first century if Christ did *not* rise from the dead.

Weak disciples suddenly became bold witnesses of the resurrection. Hardened skeptics, like Paul and Jesus' half-brother James, became so convinced in the

resurrection that they gave their lives to tell others about it. Within just five weeks of Christ's death, over 10,000 Jews confessed publicly their belief that Christ was resurrected in fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures. Almost overnight, the day of worship changed from Saturday (the Sabbath) observed for 1,300 years to Sunday—the day of the Resurrection.

Then, of course there is the empty tomb. The corpse of Jesus has never been discovered, and no plausible natural explanation for this has ever been offered. The Romans and religious leaders lacked the motivation to steal the body of Jesus and hide it. If they could have produced Jesus's corpse, they would have paraded it up and down the streets of Jerusalem and disposed of Christianity at its inception. The disciples lacked the courage to steal the body by defeating an entire unit of Roman soldiers who had been assigned to guard the tomb.

What accounts for so many rapid and dramatic changes in the disciples and in religious customs? Something dramatic happened that first Easter morning. The hand of Almighty God reached down and rescued His Son from the grave---just as He will do for all who trust in the saving power of Jesus Christ. Someone has said that Easter is God's "Amen" to Christ's "It is finished!"

Finally, *Easter matters because one day you're going to die.* I believe people are drawn to Easter because we all know, deep down, that death is coming for us one day. Like Job, we wonder: *when I die, will I live again?* That is the bottom-line question that we cannot stop asking because God has "placed eternity in our hearts" as the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us. In each of us is an innate desire to live forever.

Easter matters because it proclaims the truth that what we all inherently want is, in fact, possible. Because of what Christ has done, eternal life and unending joy are possible. This isn't based on wishful thinking but on an empirical fact. Jesus Christ is alive. He conquered death just as He promised He would. And one day, those who trust in Him will also enjoy eternal life.

Adapted from: Why Easter Matters. There are three reasons why Easter matters more than just one day a year. Robert Jeffress. FoxNews Opinion.

Willing to Talk About Jesus?

"Preach the gospel at all times; if necessary, use words," -Saint Francis of Assisi is supposed to have said. The saying, often quoted, expresses a well-meaning viewpoint of many Christians today that we need to show the gospel in our lives.

It's a good sentiment, and we certainly agree that we need to demonstrate the gospel change in our lives by caring for others. But there are two problems with the Assisi quote. First, he never said it. Second, it's bad theology.



You see, using that statement is a bit like saying, "Feed the hungry at all times; if necessary, use food." For Christians, the gospel is good news—it's what the word literally means. For evangelicals, our name speaks of the commitment to evangelism that defines us. The good news needs to be told.

Yet, Christians, evangelicals included, seem to love evangelism, as long as someone else is doing it. It's time for all of us to start preaching our good news again.

Christianity Is a Missionary Faith. It's essential to understand that, regardless of our comfort level, we are called to share our faith because Christianity is a missionary faith. Despite the change in our culture and the way our faith is regarded, Christians are commanded to tell people about Jesus. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus called fishermen as his first disciples and told them he would make them "fishers of men."

His disciples are still called to be fishers of men. Even in our multi-faith environment, this calling should not be offensive to those of other faiths or no faith at all. Evangelism does not mean coercion. We can and should respect each other and strive for tolerance across varying beliefs, but that does not require pretending those differences do not exist. One of the core beliefs of Christianity is that Christianity should be propagated.

Every Christian doesn't need to rent a stadium to proclaim the gospel to thousands. Most Christians can gain a hearing for the gospel while exchanging life stories at the coffee shop, taking a meal to a hurting family or standing for justice in an unjust world. What evangelism requires is that when we care for a friend or speak out for a cause, we tell others that our faith is the reason. We tell them the good news that was told to us.

People Are More Open Than We Think. When speaking to his disciples about sharing his message, Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37). The problem then and now has always been about the lack of workers, people who tell the news. It has never been about the harvest—those who do not know Christ. They are often more open to listening than we expect.

Famous magician and outspoken atheist Penn Jillette once talked on his video blog about an encounter with a Christian who gave him a Bible as a gift. Rather than be offended by it, Jillette recognized the gesture for what it was—concern for him. "How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize?" Jillette asked. "How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?" That's a good question for many Christians to answer today.

Lifeway Research, found that 78% of those who do not attend church said they, like Jillette, would be willing to listen "if someone wanted to tell me what she or he believed about Christianity." Younger people were even more likely to say they would be willing to listen.

The harvest at least seems ready to hear, while the workers don't seem as willing to talk. That's a missed opportunity.

Christians Are Timid. A 2012 Lifeway Research study found that 80% of churchgoing Protestants believe they have a responsibility to share their faith, but only 39% have shared with someone how to become a Christian in the past six months. In other words, a lot of people think they should share their faith, but they don't often do so.

In Jesus' last words before he ascended, he said we are to "make disciples of all nations." Evangelism isn't just one part of our calling. It is central to our calling. Jesus' last words should be our first priority.

Adapted from: Are You Willing to Talk About Jesus, by Ed Stetzer, Outreach Magazine.

The Biblical Significance of the Upcoming Solar Eclipse

On April 8, a total solar eclipse will be visible across the U.S. Hundreds of viewing parties for this amazing and rare astronomical phenomenon have been scheduled from coast to coast, but many Christian leaders believe this event is more than an incredible scientific occurrence. Many believe it is a prophetic sign that we are living in the end times and that Christ's return is

imminent. Many of these leaders point to Scripture passages, particularly in Revelation, which talk about the end of the age and the signs to look out for. Here is what several Christian leaders had to say about this total solar eclipse.



The eclipse will occur on April 8 around 1:54 PM. According to officials most hotels and campgrounds will be filled in the county. County traffic by GPS will be routed to back roads. The Fairgrounds will be open.

Mark Blitz "From a biblical point of view, a solar eclipse is meant as a sign from God. When there is a total solar eclipse, it is a warning to a specific nation or nations depending on its path. ... Could God be giving us a warning that we need to repent or judgment will be coming to the United States? The timing couldn't be clearer!"

Paul Begley "I believe it is a prophetic sign." Begley also referenced a passage from the book of Joel which says, 'the sun shall be turned to darkness' before the 'Day of the Lord come.' Somebody sound the trumpet because the eclipse may mean, 'we are living in the last days.'"

Scott Clarke "You've got this epic solar eclipse over America and it's happening right at Regulus, in Leo the Lion—the constellation. There are twelve constellations. It could happen anywhere, but it's happening in the constellation of the king, meaning the return of the king!"

Anne Graham Lotz My perspective on the upcoming phenomenon is not celebratory. While no one can know for sure if the judgment is coming on America, it does seem that God is signaling to us about something. Time will tell what that something is."

Gary Ray "The Bible says several times that there's going to be signs in the heavens before Jesus Christ returns to Earth. We see this as possibly one of those. "My number one encouragement to people would be to just trust God. More importantly, to trust the right God. If people want to be ready, the one thing you can do is

accept what He has offered, which is the gift of grace and forgiveness. That's all we must do to be ready."

More information: [YouTube Link](#)

Adapted from: What Is the Biblical Significance of the Upcoming Solar Eclipse? Christian Leaders Explain. Veronica Neffinger | *iBelieve Contributor* | Updated: Mar 15, 2024.

Thank You

The Lloyd family would like to sincerely thank you for your kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness for John C. Lloyd, Jr. We are blessed to be surrounded by our amazing church family and friends. Thank you to everyone who prepared food, visited, called, donated, made desserts for the funeral lunch, and prayed for the family during this difficult time. We have greatly appreciated all you have done, and it will always be remembered.

The family of Mary Ellen and John Lloyd, Jr.

Church Financial Update

Prayerfully consider donating to Salem Church. Offerings should be mailed to the church at:

Salem United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Needed to Date \$29,875.31
Received to Date \$37,103.25

Salem Photos



Palm Sunday Ceremony with the Children



2024-03-27 Venedocia Senior Luncheon and Bingo at the Lions Club



Easter Sunday, Sunday School kids



2024-03-28 John Lloyd funeral with family rebuilt pickup for a spin around the block before the interment at Venedocia Cemetery.



Flowering of the Cross Deanna Dearing speaker



Easter Breakfast preparations



Easter Sunday Flowering of the Cross Michael and Lindsay Breese family

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

“Young at Heart”

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

Room 302
Homestead at Town Ctr
240 Towne Center Blvd
Van Wert, OH 45891

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

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

Dillon Ellerbrock

(Marines)
Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler

(National Guard)
14975 Van Wert-Mercer
Co. Line Road
Venedocia, OH 45894

Madison Pugh-USCGA

8800 Pine Forest Rd
Apt 6303
Pensacola, FL 32534

Corbin Evans (Marines)

Grandson of Bill & Ruth
Evans

Away at College

Landon Price. Ohio University,
77 Mill St, 101, Athens, Ohio 45701

Evan Pugh University of Pikeville
147 Sycamore St, Pikeville, KY 41501

Isaiah Pugh University of Toledo
3030 Residence Drive, Ottawa East Room 4205-A
Toledo, OH 43606

Condolences

Condolences to the families of Tressa Dicus, John Lloyd, and Andy Francis.

Birthdays

2 Lindi Breese/Forsythe	6 Carol Emery
8 Piper Finn	8 Andy Breese
1s MaKenna Kimmet	13 Sami Jones
16 Bill Evans	16 Anne Morris
20 Kevin Matthews	22 Elgarda McGee
23 Grant Zielke	25 Julia Morris/Moliter
26 Gwenda Blackmore	29 Jenny Pugh
30 Ruth Evans	

Prayer Concerns

Josh Archinal (recovering from car accident)
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (cancer)
Dave Burnett (heart)
Tim (Alfie) Burnett (auto accident healing)
Kim Coil (recovery from surgery)
Kirk Dougal (cancer)
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
Marjorie Eutsler
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Jane Harter

Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
Pat Hunt (breast cancer)
Larry Miller (cancer)
David Morris (Zeb)
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul & Doris Price
Ann Rees (at Hearth & Home)
Kristy Ringwald (adenoid cystic carcinoma)
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Phillip Winfield (brain tumor)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

 **April 2024** 

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	3	4 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. is at-Salem Church	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker John Zerbe Special offering for Lincolnview Bible	8	9 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	10	11 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. is at-Salem Church	12	13
14 9:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting.	15	16 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	17	18 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. is at-Salem Church	19	20
21 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session meeting.	22	23 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW. .7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	24	25 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. is at-Salem Church	26	27
28 9:30 Worship	29	30 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, at the Orchard Tree in VW. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study				

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
April 7	Bill & Ruth Evans	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	LaDonna Allenbaugh
April 14	Steve & Lindsay Richards	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Cindy Bowsher
April 21	Jason & Danielle Lloyd	Jeremy & Samantha Morris	Becky Reichard
April 28	Dave & Carla Breese	Jeremy & Samantha Morris	Becky Reichard
		Greeter:	Morgan McConnell

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



Pastors Gary Ginter (as a Roman Soldier) and Tom Emery participating in the Van Wert County Good Friday Service

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

**April 2024
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR B**

2nd Sunday of Easter – April 7

Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter – April 14

Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48

4th Sunday of Easter – April 21

Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

5th Sunday of Easter – April 28

Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31
Ex. 19:1-6	Psalm 118:19-25
1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8