



**Sunday:** 2024-12-22  
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery available, but not staffed*)  
10:45 AM Christmas Joy Offering  
Sunday School

**Monday:** 2024-12-24  
9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service and Communion

**Sunday:** 12-29-24  
9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker John Zerbe  
(*nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd*)  
No Sunday School

**Announcements:**

Salem is collecting **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the December collection is toilet paper.

**We will not be using the large white envelopes** for church giving in 2025. If you want to put your money in an envelope, please use the small white envelopes found in the little brown boxes in the two vestibules.

The **2025 Flower chart** is in the vestibule. Please sign up.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the January newsletter. Submit them to [secretary@saalemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@saalemchurch.cc) or [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

23 <sup>rd</sup> Samantha Morris	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jeff Owens	30 <sup>th</sup> Isaiah Pugh
Jan 2 Chris Beck	3 <sup>rd</sup> Emily Blackmore	5 <sup>th</sup> Karen Pugh

**Upcoming Anniversaries**

28<sup>th</sup> Doug & Marilyn Strickler



Riding Into Bethlehem

*Salem Presbyterian Church*

Venedocia, Ohio | December 22, 2024

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

[www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc) | [secretary@saalemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@saalemchurch.cc)

**Prayer Concerns:**

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery)  
Charles Boroff (heart issue)  
Dave Burnett (heart issues)  
Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)  
Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)  
Marjorie Eutsler  
Millie Fletcher  
Ellen Friesner  
Cecil Foust (heart surgery)  
Shana Fryer  
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)  
Bob & Jane Harter  
Sheryl Hefner (cancer)  
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese  
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher  
David Kroeger (pancreatic cancer)  
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues)  
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter)  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Tim Morris  
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's stepdad  
Bev Place (cancer)  
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)  
Paul Price  
Denise Pugh  
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)  
Bianca Richards  
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

**Serving Our Country:**

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)  
Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps)  
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)  
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)  
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Rev. Thomas Emery  
“The Implication of Bethlehem” Micah 5:2-5a  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
December 22, 2024

Like his fellow prophets, Micah denounced the sins of the people and the sins of the nobility. The leaders of the nation hated justice and perverted all that was righteous and holy. The Assyrians thundered toward Jerusalem and crushed the little villages because of the idolatry and faithless actions of those in corridors of power in Jerusalem. Micah declared hope would not come from Jerusalem but from an unlikely place, a little village that bore the cost of the rebellion against God in the capital. Front and center is Mary who sang a rousing and uplifting song with the fancy Latin title “The Magnificat.” We can reflect on the simple fact that Mary sang a song of immense trust in God and hope for the world.

#### TEACHING POINTS

*POINT ONE – The event at Bethlehem is the center of the universe.*

*POINT TWO – Jesus did not visit this planet when we became good enough to receive Him.*

*POINT THREE – The Messiah will be our peace.*

#### THIS WEEK’S KEY PASSAGE

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf. (*Micah 5:2 NLT*).

#### ACTION POINT

Micah 5:2 is a good sample of one of the most precise messianic prophecies in the Bible. Remember that what Micah wrote here was written 750 years before the Lord Jesus was ever born. The Davidic line has been humiliated, defeated, and seemingly cut off. But that is not God’s planned conclusion for the story. This new Davidic ruler comes from God and not from the Jerusalem succession of Davidic kings. Gospel logic always works this way. God has always been ready to correct human power and its foolishness. The prophet speaks of this God “whose origin is from old, from ancient days.” Speaking on origins, Rudolf Bultmann (in his commentary on John) wrote about the meaning of being “born again.” It’s not a psychological rush; it’s a whole new life. As Rudolf Bultman holds, “Rebirth means... something more than an improvement in man - it means that man receives a new origin; this is... clearly... a thing which he cannot give to himself.” Why not make Christ the center of your life at the Bethlehem manger?

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