Salem Presbyterian Church January 26, 2025, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: Dave VanTilburg Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Mark & Missy Zielke

Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Call to Worship:	Psalm 19	488
* <u>Hymn</u> :	Deemster	Welsh Hymnal, 29

<u>Prayer of Confession:</u> O' God, we do not understand Jesus, the Prophet. We do not want to get our hands dirty with the poor, the oppressed, and the prisoners. Forgive us for being selfish and isolated. Open our hearts to those around us and help us to love them as You love them, working to bring in the Good News of the reign of God. Let us confess the ways in which we have rejected God's vision of wholeness. For we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved You with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, Holy One. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our prayers of confession).

Assurance of Pardon <u>Response</u>	Glory Be to the Father	Inside Front Cover
Joys & Concerns of the Church Prayers of the People		
Prayer Response	The Lord's Prayer	
Scripture Readings	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 *Luke 4:14-21 1 Corinthians 12:12-31	430 936 1046

Time for Children

* <u>Hymn:</u>	Have Thine Own Way, Lord	388
Sermon	"Set the Captives Free"	Rev. Thomas Emery

*Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory Prayer * <u>Response</u>	Praise God	Inside Front Cover		
*Prayer of Dedication				
* <u>Hymn:</u>	I Surrender All	395		
*Taking the Light into the World				
*Charge and Benediction *Congregational Respons	e Three Fold Amen	Inside Back Cover		
*Those who can are invited to stand.				
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Financial Update:				
Needed Weekly: Rec'd 2025-01-19:	+ )	ded to Date: \$7,037.69 d to Date: \$10,968.25		

Sunday: 9:30 AM	<u>2025-01-26</u> 3rd Sunday After Epiphany Worship ( <i>nursery with Mark &amp; Missy Zielke</i> ) Congregational Meeting following the service
Tuesday: 7:30 AM	<b>2025-01-28</b> Men's Bible Study meets at the Global Methodist Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets
7:00 PM	The Women's Bible Study meets downstairs
<b>Thursday:</b> Noon	<b>2025-01-30</b> The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets at the Promise Church at 1017 S Shannon Street.
Sunday: 9:30 AM	2025-02-02 4th Sunday After Epiphany Worship ( <i>nursery with Toby &amp; Elizabeth Adkins</i> ) Souper Bowl of Caring (bring a canned good)

#### Announcements:

There is a **Sunday School sign-up sheet** at the back of the church. We are asking people to sign up for a month to help with lessons during the church service time.

Salem is collecting **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the February collection is canned meat.

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

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **February Newsletter.** Submit them to: <u>PastorTomEmery@live.com</u>.

## Upcoming Birthdays

30th John Smith 2nd Lindsay Breese 31st Carrie Jones I 2nd Jerry Holscher

Feb 1st Ashley McClure 3rd Elizabeth Holscher But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.



Luke 4:14-21

Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | January 26, 2025

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

www.SalemChurch.cc | <u>secretary@salemchurch.cc</u>

#### Prayer Concerns:

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery) Charles Boroff (heart issue) Dave Burnett (heart issues) Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident) Kim Coil (foot surgery) 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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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) Rev. Thomas Emery **"Set the Captives Free" Luke 4:14-21** Salem Presbyterian Church January 26, 2025

This election year, the country is clamoring daily about values. We teach others our values, talk about our values, vote for candidates that have our values, and hopefully, we live out our values. Values are the grit that sustains us throughout life. They are our guiding principles to use as lenses to make our decisions. Our attitudes and beliefs make up our values about what is good and right and what is desired and meaningful. People with poor and unclear values live poor lives. The problem is that none of us thinks that Jesus is talking about us as poor; we think He is talking about someone else out there somewhere.

## **TEACHING POINTS**

POINT ONE - We are poor. Jesus was talking about each of us.

POINT TWO – We are not as free as we think and are blind to it.

POINT THREE – We are oppressed. We do not see our self-imposed prison bars.

## THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come." Luke 4:18-19 NLT

## **ACTION POINT**

So, I invite you to use the following days to examine your core values by prayer and introspection. It is our convictions that guide our lives. We need to meditate on them and to lift them up in the broad daylight in honesty. You then need to examine them in the presence of Jesus. What would it take for you to pursue a life that is pleasing to God? I urge you to be refreshed by being honest with God about how you have lived your life and the new direction you can take for this new year.

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