

**Salem Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, May 4, 2025, 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Pianist: Jake Wilder

The flowers are given in honor of God by Bob & Kathy McCollow



Prelude & Lighting

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

Call to Worship Psalm 30 494

\*Hymn: Take Time to Be Holy 376

Prayer of Confession

God of Forgiveness, hear now the confession of our sins. **Our greed and our lust for power create enemies where we should find friends.** We fail to offer comfort and aid to those who are afraid and beat down by the burdens of life. **We are as blind and willful as Saul to the pain and the destruction of our wrongdoings and our well-meaning crusades.** Forgive us, merciful One. **Give us sight to see with Your eyes, that we may bring hope peace to our world. We pray in Christ's Name. Amen.** *(Take a moment of silent confession).*

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Response 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 John 21:1-19 989  
\*Acts 9:1-20 1000  
Revelation 5:1-14 1120

Time for Children

\*Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy 70

Sermon "Active Christianity" 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 – *ushers will receive our tithes and offerings*

\*Response Praise God Inside Front Cover

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn Diadem Welsh Hymnal, 13

\*Taking the Light into the World

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response Three Fold Amen Inside Back Cover

*\*Those who can are invited to stand.*

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**Financial Update:**

Needed Weekly:	\$2,345.90	Needed to Date:	\$39,880.24
Rec'd 2025-04-27	\$1,691.59	Rec'd to Date:	\$44,970.36

**Sunday:** 2025-05-04 3rd Sunday of Easter  
 9:30 AM Worship with Pastor Tom Emery  
*(nursery with Todd & Jayne Morris)*

**Tuesday:** 2025-05-06  
 7:30 AM 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.

**Thursday:** 2025-05-08  
 Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets in the Prayer Room at Salem Church.

**Sunday:** 2025-05-11 4<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
 9:30 AM Worship *(nursery with Michael & Lindsay Breese)*  
 Recognize Mothers Day

**Announcements:**

Salem gives **Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army**. Each month, we collect different items; the food we collect for May is cereal.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **June Newsletter**. Submit them to: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

4 <sup>th</sup> Rod Eutsler	4 <sup>th</sup> Heather Matthews	6 <sup>th</sup> Emma Jones
7 <sup>th</sup> Josh Lloyd	8 <sup>th</sup> Bob Pugh	10 <sup>th</sup> Rex Lloyd
12 <sup>th</sup> Sandy Clayborn	15 <sup>th</sup> Dane Ebel	16 <sup>th</sup> Chance Mosier

**Upcoming Anniversaries**

15 <sup>th</sup> Steve & Lindsay Richards	19 <sup>th</sup> Bart & Rosemary Strick
20 <sup>th</sup> Mark & Missy Zielke	



Acts 9:1-20

*Salem Presbyterian Church*

Venedocia, Ohio | May 4, 2025

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

Secretary: [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc) 419-667 4142 (call/text)

Website: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)

**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)  
Charlie Good (prostate cancer)  
Sheryl Hefner (cancer)  
Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese  
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher  
Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues)  
Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter)  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's stepdad  
Bev Place (cancer)  
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)  
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)  
Bianca Richards (leukemia)  
Mark Zielke (prostate cancer)  
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**  
**“Active Christianity” Acts 9:1-20**  
**Salem Presbyterian Church**  
**May 4, 2025**

Paul was on his way to Damascus to persecute those who belonged to the followers of Christ, and Paul is thrown to the ground and blinded by a heavenly light (9:1–3). By persecuting Jesus’s followers, Paul has been persecuting Jesus (9:4–5). Jesus tells the blinded persecutor to enter Damascus and await further orders (9:6–9). The chief enemy of the church is soon transformed into a leading witness for Christ.

The account shows how Jesus is at work in the world. The Lord gives a vision to both Ananias, a disciple from Damascus, and Paul about what happens next (9:10–12). Ananias at first objects because of Paul’s reputation, but Jesus responds, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry My Name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel” (9:13–16). Ananias then goes to meet Paul so Paul may regain his eyesight and be filled with the Spirit (9:17–19). Almost straightaway, Paul begins to preach Jesus as the Son of God in the synagogues of Damascus, puzzling those who knew of him only as an opponent of Christ (9:19-22).

**TEACHING POINTS**

**POINT ONE** – Much more happens in the spiritual world than we realize.

**POINT TWO** – If you are a “True Believer,” hold your non-Biblical beliefs lightly and search for the absolute truth and answers in God’s Word.

**POINT THREE** – Conversion is when you have your life turned around.

**THIS WEEK’S MAIN VERSE**

“He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains” (Acts 9:3 NLT).

**ACTION POINT**

Romans 8:28 NLT tells us, “God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Paul’s life shows how God is at work in this world. He transformed a murderous zealot into Christianity’s greatest church planter. God will not give up on you. Why not turn your heart over to Him right now?

Men mocked Jesus’ humility, but He will be praised for His strength. He was butchered like a Lamb, but He will receive the honor of a mighty King. He was rejected in shame, but the whole universe will celebrate Him in glory. He became a curse for the sinner, but He will receive much more honor than that given to a saint. Praise the “Lord of Lords.”

**Rev. Thomas Emery**  
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