

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4873 Cleveland Road

Wooster, Ohio 44691



*Building Faith by Praying for God's Guidance, Hearing God's Word,
Sharing God's Grace, Serving God's Children*

MINISTERS: The People of Salem

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7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

In Our Prayers: Terry Parker, Paxton Galvin, Alyssa Snyder, Willy Zamora, Kathy Bond, Barbara Fedor, Kenny Wise, Sherri Snyder, Mike Fiser Jr., Regina Carson, Sheril Buchwalter, Shirley Delefave, Chet Molzen, Marvin Hartman, Tari Lowe, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Jean Shoup, Family of Laura Keys, Family of George Wise, Family of Betty Wise, Family of Randy Ross, Family of Don Fry.

Welcome Visitors! Your presence is a blessing to us. Please pick up an information brochure, complete the visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

Parents with small children: We welcome you and your children to worship this morning. There are activity bags in the Narthex. The nursery is available (with speaker system) should you have need of it.

Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month; we practice open table fellowship: All baptized Christians who share our belief that Jesus Christ is truly present with his body and blood along with the bread and wine, are invited to participate. Register using the card in the back of the pews.

P: Pastor A: Assisting minister C: **Congregation** L: Lector

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

Prelude

Bell

Call to Worship

Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: **Amen.**

A: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Merciful God,

C: **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

A: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: **Amen.**

WE PRAISE GOD

Gathering Hymn *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

Red Hymnal #835

Greeting

- A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Red Hymnal Page 213

Canticle of Praise

Glory to God

Red Hymnal Page 213

Prayer of the Day

- A: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you

- A: ³ Put your trust in the LORD ¹ and do good;
dwell in the land and ¹ find safe pasture.
- C: ⁴ **Take delight ¹ in the LORD,
who shall give you your ¹ heart's desire. R**
- A: ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust ¹ in the LORD,
and see what ¹ God will do.
- C: ⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear ¹ as the light
and the justice of your case like the ¹ noonday sun.**
- A: ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait ¹ patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one
who succeeds in ¹ evil schemes.
- C: ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave ¹ rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- ¹ ly to evil. R**
- A: ⁹ For evildoers shall ¹ be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- ¹ sess the
land.
- C: ¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall ¹ be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will ¹ not be
there.**
- A: ¹¹ But the lowly shall pos- ¹ sess the land;
they will delight in abun- ¹ dance of peace.
- C: ³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from ¹ you,
O LORD;
you are their stronghold in ¹ time of trouble.**
- A: ⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and ¹ rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver
them, because in you ¹ they seek refuge. R

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Red Hymnal Page 216

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for

those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

Red Hymnal #603

Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith using the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living 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.**

Prayers of the Church

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray
for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

C: #744 Be Glorified (vs.1)
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A: Prayers continue, God of grace,...

C: #744 Be Glorified (vs.1)
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and
certain hope that your promise is revealed among the
people.

C: Amen.

Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

WE OFFER GOD OUR GIFTS

Offering of Gifts

Offertory

Amanda Herbert & Sandy Smith

Please stand.

Offering Song

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Red Hymnal #186

Offering prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: **Amen**

Thanksgiving for the Word

Canticle of Thanksgiving *O Living Breath of God* **RED #407**

P: Let us pray.

P: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

**WE ARE BLESSED AND SENT FORTH
TO SERVE GOD'S CHILDREN**

Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* **Red Hymnal #608**

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Sandy Smith

Here is your chance to help Raise the Roof:

A roof is an expensive but necessary expense for our community of faith. While we are not a poor church by any metric, we do not want to spend down our investments to complete maintenance tasks. This means that we must be willing to think outside of the box on how we can raise the monies necessary for this project. Please prayerfully consider a gift to assist us with this most needed and faith focused investment for our future.

DO YOU HAVE A MANDATORY WITHDRAWAL FROM YOUR IRA OR RETIREMENT ACCOUNT SCHEDULED IN THE COMING WEEKS? IF SO, CONSIDER MAKING A PORTION OF THAT WITHDRAWAL A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISING DRIVE. BY DOING SO, YOU WON'T TAKE THE HIT OF ADDITIONAL INCOME ON YOUR TAXES, AS THE GIFT WOULD BE 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

WE WILL BE PASSING OUR PLEDGE CARDS IN THE COMING WEEKS FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER WHAT THEY WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ROOF CAMPAIGN. OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$50,000. THIS WOULD COVER THE ROOF AND ANY EXCESS WOULD BE PASSED ALONG TO OUR FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM.

I _____ AM PLEDGING A TOTAL OF \$ _____ TOWARDS THE RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISING DRIVE TO BE PAID IN INSTALLMENTS OVER THE NEXT _____ MONTHS.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT OF \$ _____ TOWARD THE RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISING DRIVE. (PLEASE ATTACH A CHECK MADE OUT TO SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (RTR CAMPAIGN)
(PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE)

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE # _____ TICKETS FOR THE ELECTRIC BIKE (#1) RAFFLE FOR \$50/TICKET.
(PLEASE ATTACH A CHECK MADE OUT TO SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (RTR CAMPAIGN-TICKETS-1)
(PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE)

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE # _____ TICKETS FOR THE ELECTRIC BIKE (#2) RAFFLE FOR \$25/TICKET.
(PLEASE ATTACH A CHECK MADE OUT TO SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (RTR CAMPAIGN-TICKETS-2)
(PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE)

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 23

7th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Facebook Live Stream)

10:00 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live Stream)

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

12:00 p.m. Council Meeting

2:00 p.m. Avenue Worship

5:00 p.m. YouTube Livestream Replay

Monday, February 24

6:00 p.m. NFL Monday Night! Free Community Meal

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday March 02

Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Facebook Live Stream)

10:00 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live Stream)

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

5:00 p.m. YouTube Livestream Replay

Monday, March 03

6:00 p.m. NFL Monday Night! Free Community Meal

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study



Pastoral Concerns – Tim Barrage is available to the members of Salem in times of Pastoral concerns or emergencies. He can be reached at 330-465-5763.

Nursing Home Worship:

March 09 2:00 p.m. Brookdale Senior Living, Wooster. Services are held on the second Sunday of the month.

TODAY 2:00 p.m. Avenue at Wooster Care and Rehabilitation Center. Services are held on the fourth Sunday of the month.

If you would be willing to help with these services, please contact Barbara Buchwalter @ 330-317-7906.

Women of Faith has a Facebook group called “Women of Salem.” If anyone is interested in meeting for brunch at Buehler’s Towne Market at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month, please let us know. <http://www.facebook.com/WomenOfSalem>

ELCA World Hunger - All loose change in the offering plate will go toward this special social ministry project.

Worship Lay Assistants Needed: Consider being a part of this ministry. If you have never performed any of these duties before, we will be happy to show you the ropes. If you have a beautiful voice or are musically inclined, please let us know.

Continuing Live Stream Services: Our goal is to continue the livestream services. Please consider supporting this livestream ministry with a designated gift by marking “livestream” on your offering envelope. For us to be able to fully utilize this technology we continue to invest in additional tools and higher end cameras. This ministry is grateful for the support, consideration and generosity.

NFL Monday Night Free Community Meal: 6:00 p.m. Come for a hot meal, stay for a bible study. This meal is open to any all who hunger.

The Chosen – Monday nights*: Monday evenings 7:00 p.m.. We continue to show a new episode of “The Chosen” series. Join us as we watch the series together and discuss the episodes in detail.

*Invite friends or neighbors to one of our special events with the provided post card invites. Fill out their name, add a personal note, and drop in the mail. We can mail it if you drop them in the offering plate.

