

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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4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

In Our Prayers: Shirley Delefave, George Wise, Chet Molzen, Marvin Hartman, Tari Lowe, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Marian Martin, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Jean Shoup, Family of Noreen Miller, Family of Lynn Molzen, Family of Zachary, Family of Andy, Family of Erin Cronick.

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. You are welcome to join us by coming up front and receiving the host and wine during our communion service. We are also making available sealed and disposable packets containing wine and a wafer. If you choose to utilize these packets, please pick one up as you enter the sanctuary.

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

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Prelude
Bell

Call to Worship
Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

A: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

A: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

A: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

WE PRAISE GOD

Gathering Hymn *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!* Red Hymnal #369

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 Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, 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

Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are

questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

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

Psalmody Refrain

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the
rock of our sal - va - tion.

Psalmody Tone

Psalm 23

A: ¹The LORD | is my shepherd;
 I shall not | be in want.

C: ²The LORD makes me lie down [|] in green pastures
and leads me be- [|] side still waters.

A: ³You restore my [|] soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways [|] for your name's sake.

C: ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall [|] fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they [|] comfort
me. R

A: ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence [|] of my
enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is [|] running over.

C: ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days [|] of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the [|] LORD forever. R

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—
and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's
love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or
sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and
action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will
reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us;
for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows
everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have
boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask,

because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Red Hymnal Page 216

Please stand.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel

John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* **Red Hymnal #385**

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: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

C: #616 Jesus Remember me
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

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

C: #616 Jesus Remember me
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

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

C: #616 Jesus Remember me
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

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: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: **Amen**

Thanksgiving for the Word

Canticle of Thanksgiving

O Living Breath of God

RED #407

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal #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
they 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**

Please stand.

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *God Be with You Till We Meet Again!* **Red Hymnal #536**

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

Sandy Smith

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, April 21

4th Sunday of Easter

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

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

Monday, April 22

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday April 28

5th Sunday of Easter

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

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

11:00 a.m. Special Fellowship

12:00 p.m. Council Meeting

2:00 p.m. Avenues Worship

Monday, April 22

6:00 p.m. NFL Monday Night! 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.

Monthly Worship: Avenue at Wooster Care and Rehabilitation Center, 1700 E. Smithville Western Road, Wooster, OH 44691. Services are held on the fourth Sunday of the month – our next service will be held **April 28, 2:00 p.m.** If you would be willing to help with this service, 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: As we return to services in the sanctuary, we will need help in continuing our online as well as our in-house service. 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.

Special Fellowship Meal on April 28, 2024*! Pasta Fellowship – come for pasta, celebrate the pastor. Bring your favorite, sauce, noodle or dessert item to share.

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 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.

