

# 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

330-345-6727

slcmain@gmail.com

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

***In Our Prayers:*** Catrina Dotson, Sue & Tom Kenney, Mark Ewing, Lea Ewing, Diane Cook, Kyle Richards, Benjamin Richards, Betty Snyder, Grady Cronick, Lois Phillips, Debra Sears, Alyssa Parish, Willy Zamora, Kathy Bond, Barbara Fedor, Mike Fiser Jr., Regina Carson, Sheril Buchwalter, Chet Molzen, Marvin Hartman, Tari Lowe, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Family of Jean Shoup, Family of Jeanne Lifer, family of Sue Cook.

***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  
*Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.*

**Prelude**

**Bell**

**Call to Worship**

**Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time**

## GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

A: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: **Amen.**

A: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

A: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*). Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

A: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

A: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

A: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## WE PRAISE GOD

Gathering Hymn *Come, Thou Fount of every Blessing* Red Hymnal #807

### 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

Page 147

### Canticle of Praise

*Glory to God*

Red Hymnal Page 148

### Prayer of the Day

- A: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And

day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

### Psalmody Refrain

Refrain

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

### Psalmody Tone

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

### Psalm 23

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

C: <sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down <sup>|</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>|</sup> side still waters.**

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

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

A: <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>l</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>l</sup> running over.

C: <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>l</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>l</sup> LORD forever. R

### Second Reading

### 1 Peter 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia*

Red Hymnal Page 151

*Please stand.*

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

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

### Gospel

### John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the

sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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

**Sermon**

Tim Barrage

*Please stand.*

Hymn of the Day

*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

Red Hymnal #764

**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: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and  
redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all  
creation.

*A brief silence.*

**C #752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**  
**(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)**

A: Prayers continue... As we lift up our prayers,

**C #752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**  
**(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)**

A: Prayers continue... As we lift up our prayers,

**C #752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**  
**(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)**

A: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to  
proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through  
Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**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: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen**

## Thanksgiving for the Word

### Canticle of Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal page 219

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**

*Please stand.*

### Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Sending Hymn** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

**Red Hymnal #774**

**A:** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

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

**Postlude**

**Sandy Smith**

*Liturgical elements and prayers are drawn from:*

*Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20591. New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.*

*All rights reserved. Hymns licensed under One License #A-713299 and CCLI License #11271355. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission*

***THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**Sunday, April 26**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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, April 27**

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

**Friday, May 01**

7:00 p.m. Cover to Cover Bible Study (via ZOOM)

***NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**Sunday May 03**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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, May 04**

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

**Friday, May 08**

7:00 p.m. Cover to Cover Bible Study (via ZOOM)



**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:**

**May 10<sup>th</sup> 2:30 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.

## **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee Formed:**

Planning has begun, history being reviewed, invite lists being put together, activities being planned, dignitaries being contacted, programming and activities being created. We need your involvement and participation in this massive endeavor. Your ideas, your expertise, your funding, your presence. 2027 will be here before we realize and this is the year, 200 years ago that Salem Lutheran Church first held services as a congregation. Join us as we celebrate this amazing accomplishment!

**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.

