

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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17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

In Our Prayers: Bob Thomasetti, Steven Williamson, Jerry Botkin Jr., Helen Raudebaugh, Fred Gilbert, Margarite Wise, Nancy Wise, Catrina Dotson, Mark Ewing, Lea Ewing, Diane Cook, Kyle Richards, Benjamin Richards, Betty Snyder, Grady Cronick, Lois Phillips, Debra Sears, Alyssa Parish, Willy Zamora, Kathy Bond, Mike Fiser Jr., Regina Carson, David Carson, Sheril Buchwalter, Chet Molzen, Tari Lowe, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Family of Scott Ries, Family of Christine & McKinley McWilliams, Family of Bob Wasson, Family of Carolyn Knipper, Family of Bernie Buchholz, Family of Marvin Hartman, Family of Jean Shoup, Family of Jeanne Lifer, family of Sue Cook.

Altar Flowers are provided by members of the congregation. See the last page of this bulletin for the full listing. Many thanks to all who have donated.

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

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Prelude

Bell
Call to Worship
Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: **Amen**

A: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

A: Compassionate God,

C: **n the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

We Praise God

Gathering Hymn
Greeting

Take My Life That I May Be

Red Hymnal #685

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

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Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Page 99

Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah

was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

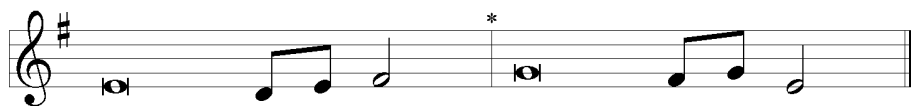
L The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm Refrain



Psalm 138:8
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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Psalm tone



Psalm 145:1-8

A: ¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

C: ² Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

A: ³ Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

C: ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power. R**

A: ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

C: ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

A: ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

C: ⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by

those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Red Hymnal Page 102

Please stand.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the Twentieth chapter.

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

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing

you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Red Hymnal #588

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 Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

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

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

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

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

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

A Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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 & Michaela Jones

Please stand.

Offertory Response *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **Red Hymnal #185**

Offertory Prayer

P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal page 219

A: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

A 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

Please be seated.

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

Please stand.

Blessing

A: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the
body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

A: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all
circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn *What Rise up O Saint of God* **Red Hymnal #669**

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Michaela Jones

Liturgical elements and prayers are drawn from:

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 20

17th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom/Livestream)

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

11:00 a.m. Fellowship / Cook-Out!

5:00 p.m. YouTube replay of livestream worship

Monday, September 21

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Friday, September 25

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

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 27

18th Sunday after Pentecost

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. Avenues Worship

5:00 p.m. YouTube replay of livestream worship

Monday, September 28

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Friday, October 02

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:

October 11 2:30 p.m. Brookdale Senior Living, Wooster. Services are held on the second Sunday of the month.

September 27th, 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: 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.

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.

200th 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! Next meeting October 4.

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.

