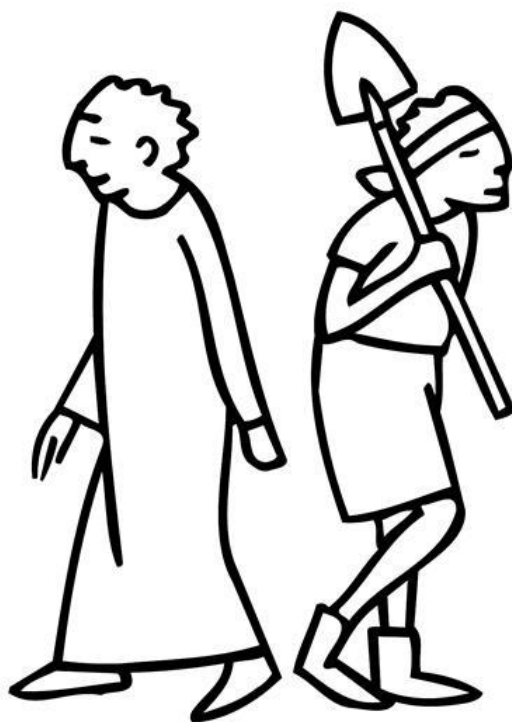


SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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
Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us

to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

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

God is Here

Red Hymnal #526

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 98

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Page 99

Prayer of the Day

A: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they

considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

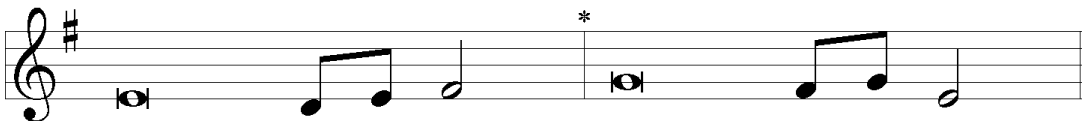
Psalm Refrain



Psalm 138:8

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



Psalm 25:1-9

A: ¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

C: ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

A: ³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

C: ⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. R**

A: ⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted
all | the day long.

C: ⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

A: ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the
sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

C: ⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

A: ⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the

form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 Twenty-first chapter.

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

Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do

not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day *O Master Let Me Walk With You*

Red Hymnal #818

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 & Sandy Smith
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

Sending Hymn *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* **Red Hymnal#538**

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Sandy Smith

Liturgical elements and prayers are drawn from:

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 27

18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

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)

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 04

19th 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. Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting

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

Monday, October 05

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Friday, October 9

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.

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: 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.

