

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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20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

In Our Prayers: Gene Lifer, 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, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Family of Tari Lowe, 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
In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in

the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

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: **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in 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 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* **Red Hymnal #553**

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

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Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Page 99

Prayer of the Day

A: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 25:1-9

¹ O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like

heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

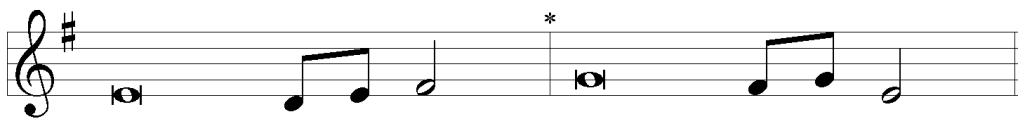
L The Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Refrain



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



Psalm 23

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

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

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

C: ⁴ **Though 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: ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my
enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

C: ⁶ **Surely 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

Philippians 4:1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,

if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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-second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants,

‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Red Hymnal #523

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 Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

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 Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our 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.

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 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* Red Hymnal #547

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, October 11

20th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

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

Monday, October 12

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Friday, October 16

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

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 18

21st Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

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

Monday, October 19

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Friday, October 23

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

Saturday, October 24

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Jeepers Creepers /Trunk or Treat



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:

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

October 25th, 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 Saturday 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.

