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

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25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026

In Our Prayers*:* Michaela Johnson, Coleen Green, Marty Jacobson, Norma Jean Vincent, Clemencia Thmomasettti, Jerry Botkin Sr., Bob Thomasetti, Steven Williamson, Helen Raudebaugh, Fred Gilbert, Margarite Wise, Nancy Wise, Catrina Dotson, Mark Ewing, Lea Ewing, Diane Cook, 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 Gene Lifer.

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

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Prelude
Bell
Call to Worship
Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity,☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
C: **Amen**
A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A: Holy God,
C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.
A: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
C: **Amen.**

We Praise God

Gathering Hymn *Christ, Be Our Light* **Red Hymnal #715**

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: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

We Hear God's Word
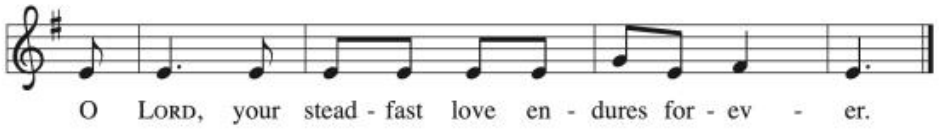
First Reading **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at
hand! The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his
guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will
punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in
their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though
they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the
sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud
there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and
anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and
gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast
and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they
shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the
LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like
dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save

them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

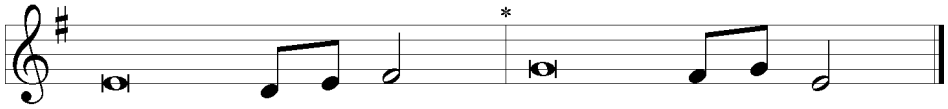
L The Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Refrain



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



Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

A: 1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.

C: 2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.

A: 3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."

C: 4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night; R

A: 5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:

C: [6] **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.

A: [7] For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.

C: [8] **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R

A: [[9] When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

C: [10] **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.

A: [11] Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?]

C: [12] **So teach us to num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 5:1–11**

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,
you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you
yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a
thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security,"
then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains
come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But
you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to
surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and

children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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-fifth chapter.

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

Gospel **Matthew 25:14-30**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few

things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

Sermon **Tim Barrage**

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* **Red Hymnal #707**

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 United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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 Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

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: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

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

Blessing

A: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *Through The Night of Doubt and Sorrow* **Red Hymnal #327**

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude **Sandy Smith**

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Poinsettia's Orders Now Being Taken

4.5 inch pots $15.00 **Color options**: Red, White, Jingle Bells, Pink, Marble

If you wish to give one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate. The price of the plants is **$15.00 each**. Your order must be turned in to the Church office on or before **Sunday, November 15th, 2026.**

In Honor of: _____ **In Honor of:** _____

_____ _____

In Memory of: _____ **In Memory of:** _____

_____ _____

Given by: _____ **Given by:** _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: _____ **Number of Poinsettias Ordered:** _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____

Poinsettia's Orders Now Being Taken

4.5 inch pots $15.00 **Color options**: Red, White, Jingle Bells, Pink, Marble

If you wish to give one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate. The price of the plants is **$15.00 each**. Your order must be turned in to the Church office on or before **Sunday, November 15th, 2026.**

In Honor of: _____ **In Honor of:** _____

_____ _____

In Memory of: _____ **In Memory of:** _____

_____ _____

Given by: _____ **Given by:** _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: _____ **Number of Poinsettias Ordered:** _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____

Poinsettia's Orders Now Being Taken

4.5 inch pots $15.00 **Color options**: Red, White, Jingle Bells, Pink, Marble

If you wish to give one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate. The price of the plants is **$15.00 each**. Your order must be turned in to the Church office on or before **Sunday, November 15th, 2026.**

In Honor of: _____ **In Honor of:** _____

_____ _____

In Memory of: _____ **In Memory of:** _____

_____ _____

Given by: _____ **Given by:** _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: _____ **Number of Poinsettias Ordered:** _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____

Poinsettia's Orders Now Being Taken

4.5 inch pots $15.00 **Color options**: Red, White, Jingle Bells, Pink, Marble

If you wish to give one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate. The price of the plants is **$15.00 each**. Your order must be turned in to the Church office on or before **Sunday, November 15th, 2026.**

In Honor of: _____ **In Honor of:** _____

_____ _____

In Memory of: _____ **In Memory of:** _____

_____ _____

Given by: _____ **Given by:** _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: _____ **Number of Poinsettias Ordered:** _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____

Poinsettia's Orders Now Being Taken

4.5 inch pots $15.00 **Color options**: Red, White, Jingle Bells, Pink, Marble

If you wish to give one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate. The price of the plants is **$15.00 each**. Your order must be turned in to the Church office on or before **Sunday, November 15th, 2026.**

In Honor of: _____ **In Honor of:** _____

_____ _____

In Memory of: _____ **In Memory of:** _____

_____ _____

Given by: _____ **Given by:** _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: _____ **Number of Poinsettias Ordered:** _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____

Poinsettia's Orders Now Being Taken

4.5 inch pots $15.00 **Color options**: Red, White, Jingle Bells, Pink, Marble

If you wish to give one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate. The price of the plants is **$15.00 each**. Your order must be turned in to the Church office on or before **Sunday, November 15th, 2026.**

In Honor of: _____ **In Honor of:** _____

_____ _____

In Memory of: _____ **In Memory of:** _____

_____ _____

Given by: _____ **Given by:** _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered: _____ **Number of Poinsettias Ordered:** _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____

THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 15
25th 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, November 16
6:00 p.m. NFL Monday Night! Community Meal
7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Tuesday, November 17
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Bell Ringing at Buehler's Milltown

Friday, November 20
7:00 p.m. Cover to Cover Bible Study (via ZOOM)

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 22
Christ the King Sunday
9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Facebook Live Stream)
10:00 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live Stream)
11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting / Fellowship
2:00 p.m. Avenue Worship
5:00 p.m. YouTube replay of livestream worship

Monday, November 23
6:00 p.m. NFL Monday Night! Community Meal
7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Friday, November 27
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:
December 13 2:30 p.m. Brookdale Senior Living, Wooster. Services are held on the second Sunday of the month.

November 22nd, 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 Meeting: 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 December 6.**

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.

Congregational Meeting – November 22, 2026
Please make plans to attend our annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for November 22, 2026. This meeting is where decisions are made, elections are held, the budget is approved, and planning is solidified for the coming 200th anniversary year of the congregation. To be an eligible voter: You must have attended an in-person worship service; Given an offering of record during the past twelve months; and communed with the congregation.

