

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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4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

In Our Prayers: Alyssa Snyder, Willy Zamora, Kathy Bond, Barbara Fedor, Kenny Wise, Sherri Snyder, Mike Fiser Jr., Regina Carson, Sheril Buchwalter, Shirley Delefave, George Wise, Chet Molzen, Marvin Hartman, Tari Lowe, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Jean Shoup, Family of Betty Wise, Family of Randy Ross, Family of Don Fry.

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

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

Prelude

Bell

Call to Worship

Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: **Amen.**

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: God of mercy,

C: **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts. God of might, we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises. God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: **Amen.**

WE PRAISE GOD

Gathering Hymn *All Earth Is Hopeful*

Red Hymnal #266

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

Red Hymnal Page 213

Canticle of Praise

Glory to God

Red Hymnal Page 213

Prayer of the Day

- A: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Week 4

Advent Verse *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (Verse 4)* Red Hymnal #240

**Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!**

Litany

- A: The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High." -*Luke 1:30-32*
Blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfillment of what the Lord said to her. -*Luke 1:45*

Four candles shine as God's purpose is revealed in word and flesh, a gift of love for the whole creation.

C: Christ is coming to make all things new! With blessed faith, we prepare him room, and we are waiting for Christ, the light of the world.

A: Today we light the candle of Love.

(The candle of Love is lit.)

C: Our love is in the Lord.
Please be seated.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

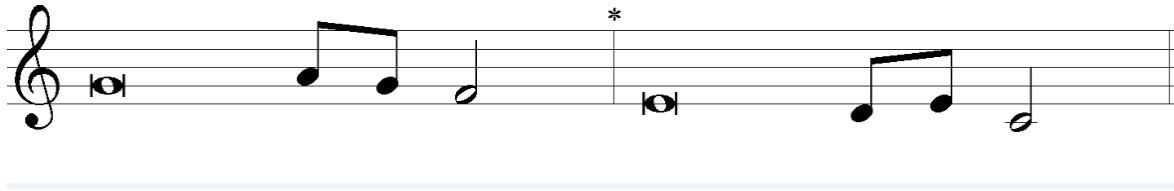
² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

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

Psalmody

Refrain

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



Psalm Luke 1:46b-55

- A: ^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
- C: ⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:
- A: ⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.
- C: ⁵⁰ **You have mercy on | those who fear you,
from generation to | generation. R**
- A: ⁵¹ You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,
- C: ⁵² **casting down the mighty | from their thrones
and lifting | up the lowly.**
- A: ⁵³ You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.

C: ⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

A: ⁵⁵ the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. **R**

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these
are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come
to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the
second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through
the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Red Hymnal Page 216

Please stand.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

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

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

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

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Red Hymnal #257

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: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

C: #262 Wait for the Lord

A: Prayers continue..., Merciful God,...

C: 262 Wait for the Lord

(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A: Prayers continue..., Merciful God,...

C: **262 Wait for the Lord**

(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to us. We praise you for these gifts.

Strengthen us, and guide us so that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

Thanksgiving for the Word

Canticle of Thanksgiving *Prepare a Royal Highway* **RED #264**

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 of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and
the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep
you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *Soon and Very Soon* Red Hymnal #439

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

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, December 22

4th Sunday of Advent

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

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

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

2:00 p.m. Avenue Worship

5:00 p.m. YouTube Livestream Replay

Monday, December 23

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday December 29

Lessons & Carols Service

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, December 30

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study



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:

January 12 2:00 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.

Continuing Live Stream Services: Our goal is to continue the livestream services. Please consider supporting this livestream ministry with a designated gift by marking “livestream” on your offering envelope. For us to be able to fully utilize this technology we continue to invest in additional tools and higher end cameras. This ministry is grateful for the support, consideration and generosity.

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.

