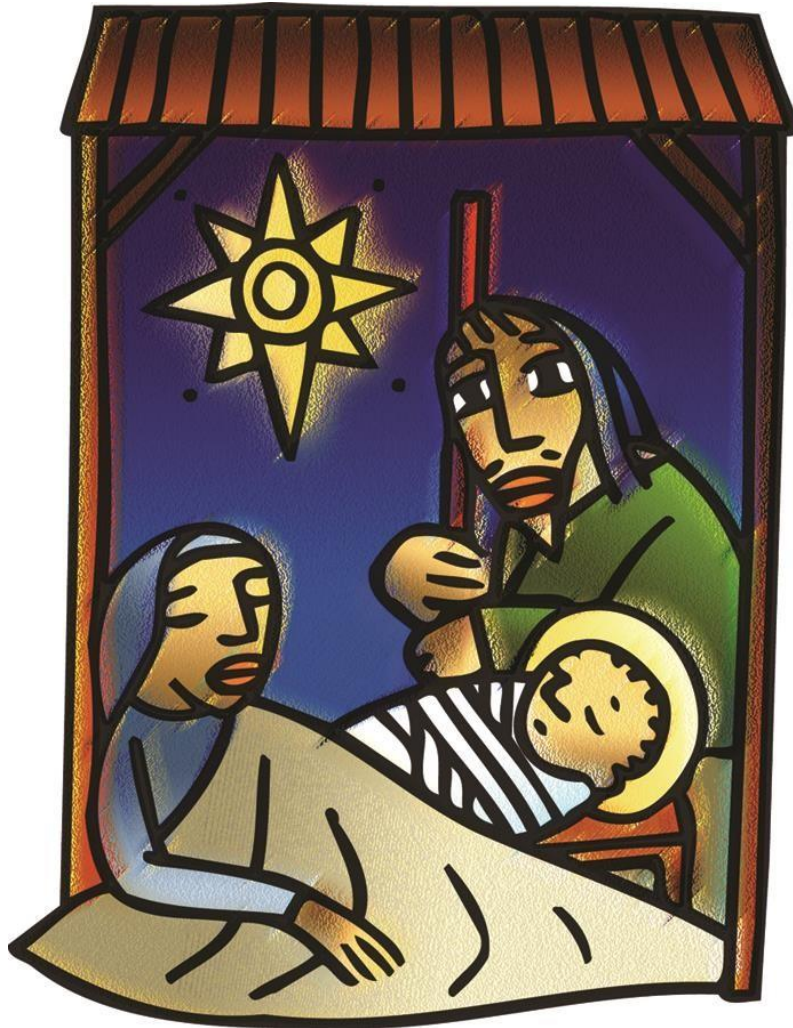


SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God.

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. 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.

Prior to the ringing of the bell and call to worship, feel free to greet each other and catch up with your neighbor. The prelude offers a time for quiet reflection and readying hearts and minds for worship.

P Pastor **A** Assisting Minister **C** Congregation **L** Lector

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people.

Prelude

Bell

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

P: Throughout the Season of Advent the church has reflected on God's Promises so often spoken by the Prophets to send a savior to the People of Israel who would be Emmanuel, that is, God with us. In the fullness of time those promises were fulfilled with hearts full of joy. Let us listen to the proclamation of our Savior's birth. (*reading of the proclamation*)

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed in God's own image;
 long after the great flood,
when God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
 eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
 a thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
 in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
 the seven hundred and fifty-second year
 from the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,
willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
 was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
 Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 God made flesh.

Entrance Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Red Hymnal #283

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P: God-with-us,

C: **we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

C: **Amen**

Gathering Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Red Hymnal #279

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

A: As we light the Christ candle tonight, we thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, for the joy he pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

A: We thank God for his gift of Jesus. We thank him that thru Christ his light has come into the world and made it possible for us to see, and in seeing, to rejoice. His truth, his love, his very self, transforms all who receive him.

Light the Christ Candle

A: Loving God, Emmanuel, we thank you for being with us – for sending your Son to walk with us and to lead us. Grant that the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of which we have heard and spoken of throughout Advent may be fully realized in us as we worship and serve you through Christ Jesus our Lord, this both now, and in the new year that comes this night, and forevermore.

C: Amen.

Carol of Praise

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing **Red Hymnal #270**

Prayer of the day

A: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing of the Nativity Scene

A: O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Red Hymnal #282

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Angels We Have Heard on High

Red Hymnal #289

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the

angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day

Joy to the World

Red Hymnal #267

Nicene Creed

A: Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: **We believe in one God,**
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in Glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

A: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A: Prayers continue. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

Please stand.

Offertory Response

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

Red Hymnal #286

Offertory Prayer

P: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Great Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal Page 144

P: It is indeed right...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Red Hymnal Page 144

Eucharistic Prayer

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**

Invitation to Communion

A A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come,
receive the gift of Jesus.

Please be seated.

Distribution

What Child is This Red Hymnal #296

Musical Selection

Post-Communion Prayer

A Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Leader takes flame from the Christ Candle. Ushers come forward to light their candles and “carry the light of Christ” to the congregation.

Carefully tip only the unlighted candle into the lighted candle.

Hold lighted candles upright at all times.

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

C: **The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

P: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

C: **But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.**

P: And nations shall come to your light.

C: **And kings to the brightness of your rising.**

P: Light dawns for the righteous;

C: **and give thanks to his Holy Name!**

P: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

C: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

Red Hymnal #281

Please hum the tune until all candles are lit.

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

P: The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C: **Amen.**

At the conclusion of the blessing, all extinguish their candles.

Sending Hymn

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Red Hymnal #290

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Sandy Smith

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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

**These poinsettias are placed to the Glory of God
In Memory Of:**

Loran & Mary Alexander
by Colleen Alexander-Green

Luella & Dr. Robert Barrage
by Tim Barrage

Master Srgt. Gary Fiser
by Sharon Salmons

Patti & Kenny Hoff
by Mason & Sarah Shamp

Marian & Chester Martin
by Colleen Alexander-Green

Doris Nathan
by Pastor Alan Nathan

Barb Richmond
by Morris Richmond

Lt.Col. Virgil Salmons
by Sharon Salmons

Robert & Lois Skamfer
by Paul & Sandy Smith

Eugene & Donna Smith
by Paul & Sandy Smith

Stan Snyder
by Betty Snyder & Sherry Parish

Our loved ones that have gone before us
by Tim & Beth Ann Zimmerman

In Honor of:

Candace, Jordan & Kaladin Ressler
by Tim Barrage

My Grandchildren: Alexander, Isabella, Sierra & Savannah
by Pastor Alan Nathan

Our Parents, Children & Grandchildren
by Tim & Beth Ann Zimmerman

