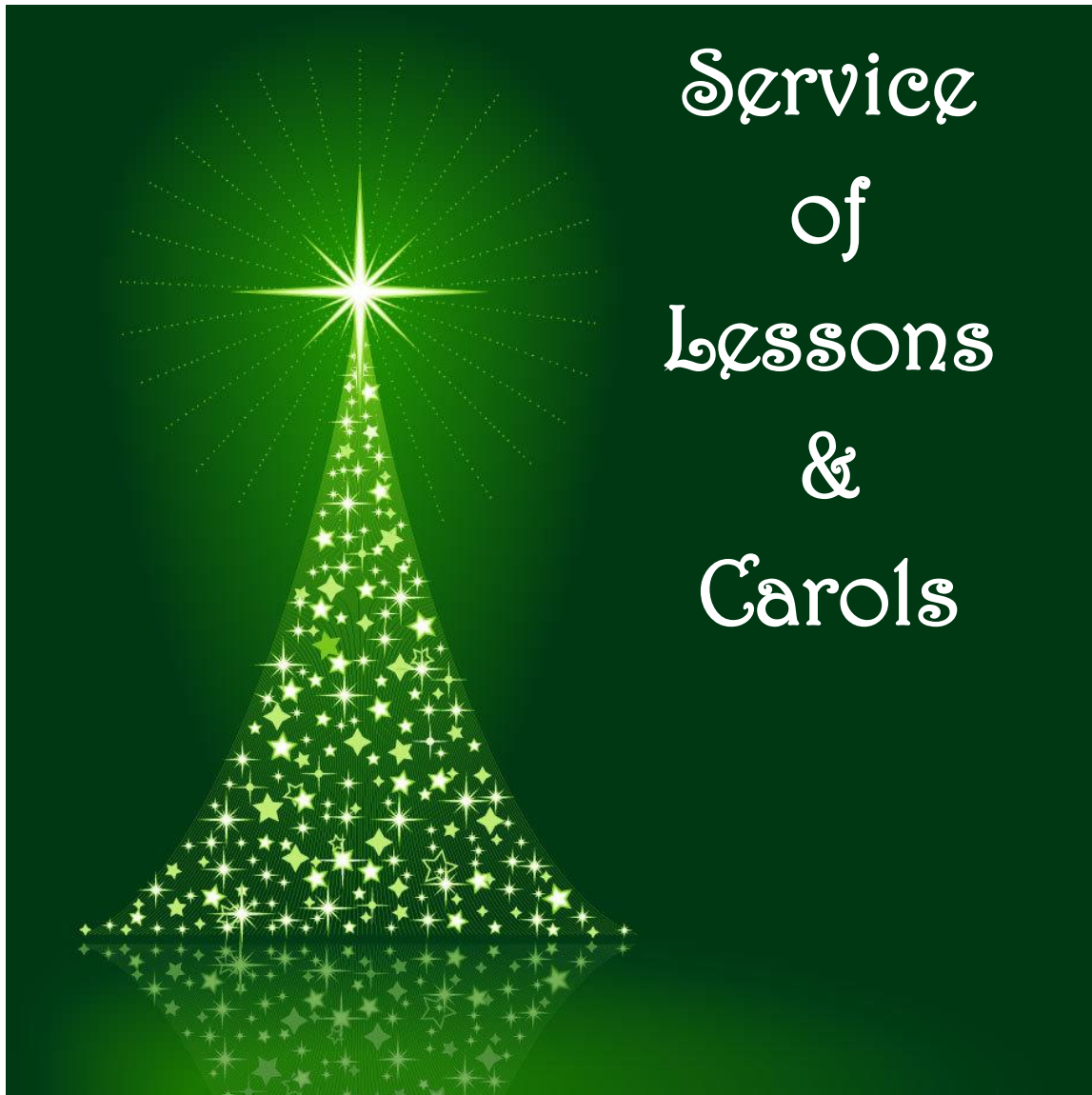


SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4873 Cleveland Road

Wooster, Ohio 44691



MINISTERS: The People of Salem

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December 29, 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.

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. There are activity bags on the coat tree in the Narthex. The nursery is available (with speaker system) should you have need of it.

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/Lay Leader

C Congregation

L Lector

Bell

Call to Worship

P This is the day the Lord has made.

C **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER WE CONFESS OUR SINS AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

Please Stand.

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.**

WE PRAISE GOD

Gathering Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Red Hymnal #282

Dialog

P: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: **By day and night he shines for all to see.**

P: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

P: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

P: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: **Jesus is the light of our lives.**

P: Sing to God a new song!

C: **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

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.**

Opening Prayer

P Let us pray.

C **Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1,2,7,8)

Red Hymnal #257

Second Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Red Hymnal #279

Third Reading

Luke 1:26–35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Red Hymnal #272

Fourth Reading**Matthew 1:18–25**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.****Carol***In the Bleak Midwinter***Red Hymnal #294****Fifth Reading****Luke 2:8–20**

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Carol *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Red Hymnal #275

Sixth Reading

Matthew 2:1–11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had

stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and

paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

What Child Is This?

Red Hymnal #296

Seventh Reading

John 1:1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Red Hymnal #295

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S PRESENCE AND GUIDANCE

Responsive Prayer

P It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

P In his light, draw all to the manger.

C to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C to sing for joy with the angels.

P In the brightness of his life

C cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

P It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

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 brief silence.

A: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Please be seated.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always,

C And also with you.

Peace

WE OFFER GOD OUR GIFTS

Offering of Gifts

Offertory

Please stand.

Offertory Response *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Red Hymnal #276

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.**

WE SHARE GOD'S GRACE

Great Thanksgiving

For music see Red Hymnal page 144

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

Lord God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

Please be seated.

Distribution

Lamb of God

Red Hymnal Page 146

Musical Selections

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

P Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered

people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

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

Blessing

P Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C **Praise God, all creatures here below!**

P You are the shepherds telling the story.

C **We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

P You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C **We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

P You are the angels announcing peace.

C **We live with joy and go now in peace.**

P Almighty God, Father,+ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Sandy Smith

**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

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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.

January 26 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: 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.

