Salem Presbyterian Church Sunday, March 15, 2015 4th Sunday in Lent

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles Price Children

Pastoral Welcome & Prayer

<u>Call to Worship</u> **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22** 548

*Hymn Bringing in the Sheaves 420

*Prayer of Confession: O' Lord, we have failed to be like Jesus. We have not fed those who were hungry. We have not drawn near to those living on the margins and those who are excluded. We have not brought healing and wholeness to those in need. We have not hungered and thirsted for righteousness. O' Lord, may we be more like Jesus in Your power. We pray to You, in Jesus' Name. Amen. (Take a moment of silent confession.)

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response Glory Be to the Father Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

<u>Prayer Response</u> The Lord's Prayer

Special Music Junior Choir

Gospel Lesson John 3:1-21 968 Epistle Lesson Ephesians 2:1-10 1064

A Time with the Children

*Hymn Come Christians, Join to Sing

Sermon "Born From Above" Rev. Thomas Emery

*Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Offertory *Ushers will receive God's tithes and our offerings*

*Response Praise God Inside Front Cover

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn To God Be the Glory 449

*Taking the Light into the World

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response Three Fold Amen

Inside Back Cover

55

Today: 03-15-15
9:30 AM Worship
10:45 AM Sunday School
4:00 PM Session Meeting

Thursday: <u>03-19-15</u>

9:30 AM Women's Association Meeting

Sunday: 03-22-15

9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Ross & Alyssa Evans)

10:45 AM Sunday School

^{*}Those who are able are invited to stand.

The flowers are dedicated to the glory of God by the Evans Family.

Financial Update:

Needed Weekly: \$2,067.00 Needed to Date: \$20,670.00 Rec'd 03-01-15: \$1,923.80 Rec'd to Date: \$16,966.13

Announcements:

Today's **Adult Sunday School** will be exploring *The Meaning of the Ten Commandments*.

The Women's Association will hold their first meeting of the year this Thursday, March 19 at 9:30 am.

The first **Senior Luncheon** of the year will be next week, Wednesday, March 25 at 12noon at the Lion's Club building.

The **Youth Group** will be attending Converge 2015 **March 27-28**, Friday 6:00 – 10:30 pm, and Saturday 9:00 am – 11:00 pm.

On **April 2nd** our annual Maundy Thursday meal by the Morris Family will be at 6:00 pm. Following the meal, the **Maundy Thursday Service and Communion** will begin at 7:00 pm.

The Youth Group invites everyone to the **Easter Sunrise Service**, **April 5 at 7:00 am.** After the service, the **Easter Sunrise Breakfast** will be served. Let us all come out for sharing good food and fellowship as we gather together on this joyous Easter morning!

Session requests all who are interested in providing food for the **funeral dinners** to sign-up in the vestibule and check which food categories you prefer (Salads, Casseroles, Hot Vegetables, and Desserts).

Lion's Club Pancake & Sausage Day is Saturday, March 21, 6:00 am-2:00 pm.

March 15, 2015



Rooted in our heritage and called into God's future, we proclaim in new ways the unchanging Good News of Jesus Christ in a changing world.

Salem Presbyterian Church Venedocia, Ohio

Established 1848, Built 1898

Prayer Concerns:

Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)

Ralph Du Cheney (father of Stacia Profit)

Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)

Gene Ellerbrock (in failing health – April Ellerbrock's father-in-law)

Jeannie Etzler (daughter of Warren Summersett)

Hope Eutsler (leukemia in remission)

Ralph Eversole (several conditions)

Margaret Keltner (in hospice – mother of Jan Jones)

Jesse (seeking help from heroin addiction)

Betty Lloyd

James Marshall (mysterious ailment)

Tim Morris (liver transplant)

Stacia Profit (painful sciatic pinched nerve)

Taylar Stephens & Family

Tom Theobald (cancer in remission)

Tim (cancer – friend of Barb Good)

Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)

Aimee Schulte (friend of Sarah Kimmet)

Dave Slygh (organ transplant problems)

Noah Wyatt (recovering from surgery - son of Stuart Wyatt)

Serving our Country:

Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

Pete McCollow (U.S. Marine Corps)

Rev. Thomas Emery "Born from Above" John 3:1-21 Salem Presbyterian Church Sunday, March 15, 2015

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night looking for a set of rules to add to organized religion's already lengthy list of guidelines. Nicodemus was asking: "How can I be sure that God loves and accepts me? How can I be Born Again, be Born from Above, and know it for a fact? How is the womb re-entry routine accomplished?"

There is a fascinating thing to notice here about Nicodemus. He knew his scriptures well. But for him, being religious meant knowing what to do and especially what not to do. But Jesus changed all of that.

TEACHING POINTS

<u>Teaching Point One</u>: *What "Born from above" means:* Jesus said that in order to see the Kingdom of God, the emphasis must shift to what God does.

<u>Teaching Point Two</u>: *The New Birth is required of everyone*. The New Testament makes it clear that this "New Birth" is not our doing. We are "Born from Above;" it is God's gift.

<u>Teaching Point Three</u>: *How the New Birth happens:* We can't earn it. We can only accept it in faith. So, to be "Born From Above" means to come alive to the Bible by falling in love with "the author and finisher of our faith."

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3 NLT).

ACTION POINT

People in their natural state became like computers with faulty wiring. They can't work right because they are mis-wired. They cannot correct the problem. God is the only spiritual computer specialist who can fix it. It cost him a cross in order to be able to do it. One of the awful failings of many mainline churches in America is that they no longer preach that it is necessary to be Born Again. They imply that a person can be saved by just hanging around the church. But hanging around the church no more makes you a Christian than hanging around the Lion's Club makes you a lion. Each of us needs to prayerfully ask God what it means to be "Born from Above" and to trust Jesus as the Lord of our lives. May we all enter into the eternal Kingdom of God!