

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

Volume 19 Issue 2

February 2017

## Pastor's Thoughts



*34 "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness. 35 Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness (Luke 11:34-35 NLT).*

The other day, my wife, kids, and I were watching a TV program, and when the program was over, we started channel surfing with the remote control. Within a few seconds a drama show that we started to watch, quickly turned into a sex scene involving violence and murder. The kids quickly said, "turn it off." That made me feel good as we have taught the kids over the years that our eyes are the window to our mind and heart, and not to put that kind of garbage in their heads. The same with raunchy sit-coms and demonic shows. The adversary uses what seems fun and worldly natural to lure you in to catch you off guard as like a spider to a fly.

The Bible tells us that if your eyes focus on what is good and righteous, it produces the light also called the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. But when you focus on darkness, darkness enters your mind and you get selfishness, strife, greed, envy, and pride among many kinds of evils.

Jesus tells us that we are to be a "light of the world, like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden." We are to display Christ's righteousness and love for the world. To do that, we need to make it a habit to guard our eyes from things that bring darkness to our soul. Who doesn't want love, joy and peace? Why not guard our eyes and be filled with the light of Christ?

*Pastor Tom*

## 500 Years of Reformation

In 2017, the world will mark the five-hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The concept of reformation, from the Latin "reformatio" for improvement, began on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther rediscovered the Gospel message that we do not earn our salvation by doing good works. Rather, God freely offers deliverance from sin to all who believe by faith.

Luther argued that the Bible, not the pope, was the central means to discern God's word — a view that was certain to raise eyebrows in Rome. Luther had been especially appalled by a common church practice of the day, the selling of indulgences. These papal documents were sold to penitents and promised them the remission of their sins. To Luther and other critics, it appeared that salvation was for sale. Rome enthusiastically supported the use of indulgences as a means to raise money for a massive church project, the construction of St. Peter's basilica.



This Reformation message liberated people to engage in all kinds of new undertakings and activities, chief among them lives of service to others. Meanwhile, across Europe the ideas coming out of Wittenberg inspired others to interpret the Bible in new ways, thereby calling into being many of the Protestant denominations. The Catholic Church responded too, introducing its own reforms that would change that institution.

This watershed event in Western history also bequeathed to the world a variety of concepts that are still deeply relevant today: plurality in society, freedom of conscience, toleration, individualism, freedom of religion,

freedom of thought, the idea of the equality of all humans, institutionalized poor relief, literacy and universal education, the importance of public discourse, and its impact on music and art. Out of this, the modern Western world was born.<sup>1</sup>

The Catholic Church had grown fond of addition. They added tradition to Scripture, works to faith and priests to Jesus. In doing so, they created doctrines that undercut the Biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ. They stifled the Gospel message and exchanged it for a man-powered, church-dominated, works-focused religion that is entirely foreign to the Gospel.

Paul's exhortation is for the Christian to resist conformity to a worldly way of thinking, and to be transformed by the truth that God has revealed in the scriptures. It is here, at the most elementary level, that the church had failed. They routinely put their thoughts, ideas and desires atop God's Word. Therefore they warped the church into a place of manufactured doctrines absent of the Good News of Jesus Christ and His cross. The heart of the Reformation was to bring the church back to the centrality of the Bible.

The best way to summarize the work of the Reformation is through the **Five Solas**. **Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)**, we don't need anything but the Bible to know who God is, who we are, and how we are saved. However, where the Bible's sufficiency is most visibly rejected today is on matters related to abortion, homosexuality and homosexual marriage. It has become commonplace for Christians, and Christian

churches alike, to rely on experience rather than on God's Word for direction in matters related to the sexual and moral revolution. The Bible, however, is incredibly clear on the matter. Sola Scriptura has been rejected for "Sola Culture" or "Sola Feels." This leads believers to doubt God's Word in other areas. Once you add to Scripture in one area, what is to keep you from adding or taking away in other areas?

**Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)**, reminds us that we are saved by our unearned mercy from God alone, because in our utter depravity there is no way, but through His grace. Sola Gratia directs us back to the Bible. It reminds us of what Romans 3 teaches, where Paul tells us that "none is righteous, no not one; no one understands, no one seeks God" (Romans 3:10-11). In our utter depravity, there is no way to come to God, but through His grace.

**Sola Fide (Faith Alone)**, the faith that follows is what leads to our justification, the act of being judged "not guilty before God." We, of course, are guilty, but the perfect righteousness of Jesus is credited to us as He takes on our sin and gives us the state of being made right before God at the cross.

**Solus Christus (Christ Alone)**, Jesus did not come to show us the way. He did not come to help us find the way. He didn't come to give us a jump start. He came to completely fulfill and accomplish all that righteousness demands. He came to be the satisfaction, to appease the wrath of God that burned hot against us. When the cross of Christ is preached to its full extent, the believer is

overwhelmed by the love of Jesus and motivated to live for Him.

**Soli Deo Gloria (To the Glory of God Alone)**, it teaches that God does everything—blesses people, brings disaster, sends His Son, brings salvation all for His own glory. If God's purpose is to make man happy and complete and fulfilled in this life, then why are our lives so often filled with hurt and pain. Doubt about God's goodness and sovereignty inevitably creeps into the believer's mind when He is replaced by man on the throne of glory. Soli Deo Gloria places God on His rightful throne and puts man in his rightful place of submission.

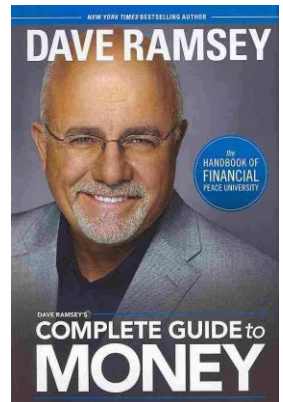
The work of the reformers was to bring the church back to these all-simple, yet all-important doctrines.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Robert Christman, "Commemorating 500 Years of Reformation" Luther College.

<sup>2</sup>Ryan Welsh, 500 Years Later: Why The Reformation Still Matters. ▲

## New Sunday School Class

A new Sunday School class series has begun! Based on the book, **Dave Ramsey's Complete Guide to Money**, the hour long adult class looks at how to budget, save, get rid of debt, and invest. You'll also learn about insurance, mortgage options, marketing, bargain hunting, and the most important element of all — giving. This book is the foundation to a **nine week Adult Sunday School Class** that runs through March 5th at 10:45 after the 9:30 service.



For a sampling of the class visit:

<https://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/preview/>

# Christian Response to Immigration

We need Biblical clarity in this cultural moment after the release of President Trump's executive order on immigration and refugees, and the resulting chaos of misinformation and hysteria. Here is a framework for thinking Christianly about the intertwined issues of refugees, immigrants, and national security.

Let's start with clarity about what the order says. First, contrary to media, protesters, and Hollywood actors, the Executive Order was not a ban on Muslims, or on immigration, nor was it a radical break from U. S. policy. The order *temporarily* bans entry to the U. S. for those holding passports from seven nations previously identified by the *Obama Administration* as "countries of concern."

The order also directs administration officials to develop a plan for uniform screening; it suspends the refugee program for four months and bars refugees from Syria indefinitely. In addition, the order caps the number of refugees this year at 50,000, which, as David French noted in the [National Review](#), is roughly in between what President Bush and President Obama would allow in a year. In fact, in 2011, President Obama himself suspended admitting Iraqi refugees for six months.

The order also prioritizes refugee status for persecuted religious minorities, which President Trump admitted is designed to give priority to persecuted Christians, and it allows for case-by-case waivers. Up-to-now, only 0.5% of the admitted Iraqi refugees were Christian, and they were persecuted and exterminated widely by ISIS.

So, that's what the order says. But how was it implemented? By all accounts, not well. There was initial confusion over whether green card holders—that is, permanent residents of the U. S.—would be allowed to return from overseas travel. Some legal residents were detained before Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly stated Sunday they'd be eligible for re-entry. And lawmakers on both sides of the aisle lamented the confusion and uncertainty, calling for better coordination between government agencies and Congress. Even now, things seem to be changing by the moment. So, which key biblical worldview principles can we bring to bear on all of this?

First and foremost, every human being is made in the image of God. Christians must start here, and therefore may never write off or refuse to care about the plight of whole peoples on any basis, and that includes being Syrian. The President said they he would establish safe zones in Iraq with food and housing for the refugees. Second, as Jesus said, the two greatest commands are to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. And Jesus told a parable about who is our neighbor.

Third, we cannot ignore Jesus' parable about the sheep and the goats where he said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." American churches have a long history of loving Christ by showing love to refugees. And in this climate, we must ramp up our efforts toward these communities around us. Perhaps, God is bringing them here because of the difficulty to share the Gospel there.

Fourth, government was instituted by God and has a biblical mandate "to promote justice and restrain evil." To restrain evil, a government must, justly, defend its nation's borders and determine who gets to cross them and who doesn't.

Finally, let's strive to see this through the mind of Christ. Pray for our leaders and for those in need, remembering that Jesus is both our savior and our judge.

Adapted from: John Stonestreet, "How should we as Christians think about President Trump's executive order on immigration and refugees?"

M. Daniel Carroll, "Immigration Laws in the Old Testament and Now"

Derrick G Jeter, "The Bible and Immigration Reform" ▲

## What Valentine Can I Give Him?



What can I give to Jesus  
On this special Valentine's Day?  
How can I tell Him I'll love Him,  
And follow Him, come what may?

How can I show I need Him?  
Should I send a red heart, with lace?  
How can I thank Him enough  
For his sacrifice, love and grace?

What Valentine can I give Him,  
My adoration to impart?  
I'll give to Him what He wants most;  
I'll yield to Him my heart.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

### God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us  
Was not a bunch of flowers;  
It wasn't candy, or a book  
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,  
So He could freely give  
His sacrificial love for us,  
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and  
Instruction, good and true--  
To love our friends and enemies  
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,  
Let's thank our Lord and King;  
The reason we have love to give  
Is that He gave everything.  
*By Joanna Fuchs*

### We Love You for Who You Are

Valentine's Day reminds me  
Of a love increasingly rare:  
The love shown giving of yourself,  
Expressing how much you care.  
Investing in another's child,  
Sowing seeds in a future generation—  
That's the love that sets apart  
A people and a nation.  
You're a rare breed, an unsung hero,  
A backstage superstar.  
This Valentine's Day please know without  
doubt—  
We love you for who you are.

### Be Mine, Soldier!

For all you do so I can  
Go to school,  
Play outside,  
Run around,  
Fall down, and  
Get back up again.  
For all you see there,  
so I don't have to see it here.  
For the risks you take  
So I can make  
the choices of a kid:  
Which hat to wear,  
Which crayon to use,  
What book to read,  
What team to choose.  
That looks like love to me.  
Be My Valentine.▲

**For Cooks Only...**

**Rice-n-Broccoli Casserole**

**by Lisa Lloyd**

- 1 can cream of chicken
  - 1 can cream of mushroom
  - 1 small jar of cheese whiz
  - 1 package frozen broccoli
  - 1 stick of oleo (melted)
  - 1 can sliced undrained mushrooms
  - 1 can of whole undrained mushrooms
  - 1 cup of rice
- Mix altogether, put in a 9x13 baking dish, and bake in a 350 degree oven for 1 1/2 hours.

**Ginger Snaps**

**by Alma Williams**

- 3/4 cup shortening
  - 1 cup brown sugar
  - 1/4 cup molasses
  - 1 egg
  - 2 1/4 cup flour
  - 2 teaspoons baking soda
  - 1/2 teaspoons salt
  - 1 teaspoon ginger
  - 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- Roll in balls, dip in sugar and bake.

**Lenten Service Schedule:**

**Sunday, February 26th - Salem Presbyterian Church - Justin Fuhrmann**

**Sunday, March 5th - Trinity United Methodist Church - Darryl Potts**

**Sunday, March 12th - Monticello United Brethren in Christ Church Dan Murphy**

**Sunday, March 19th - Kossuth Zion United Methodist Church - Charles Johnson**

**Sunday, March 26th - Agape Fellowship Church - David Howell**

**Sunday April 2nd - Spencerville Friends Church - Tom Emery**


**Sunday, April 9th - Spencerville Nazarene Church - Jim Fletcher**

**Friday, April 14th - First Baptist Church - Andrew Atkins**

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Mark your calendars for the **2017 Gymanfa Ganu** to be held Sunday September 3, 2017. The director this year will be D. Ben Williams, a resident of Louisville KY with ties to our community as he is the nephew of Tom Dustman a past Gymanfa director. Mr. Williams is a graduate of Wittenberg University with a Bachelor of Music Education and is teaching at Louisville Central High School. He currently directing several choirs and he is a freelance performer.

**Please mail or email your favorite recipes!**



**V-FIT**

**Classes Offered At Salem Presbyterian Church**


**Join us every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for V-FIT at Salem Presbyterian Church.**

**V-FIT is an inspired exercise class where we dance and workout to upbeat music. The workout will last about 45 minutes. A \$1.00 donation per class is appreciated.**

**Where: Salem Presbyterian Church located at 15240 Main Street, Venedocia, OH 45894**

**Starting: Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m – 7:30 p.m.**

**Your Presence would mean a great deal. Hope to see you!**



# IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Remember our elderly members, soldiers, and college students with cards and visits.

## Away at College

### **Evan Pugh-**

Lourdes University

### **Andrew Emery-**

University of Cincinnati  
2931 Scioto St. Rm 908  
Cincinnati, OH 45219

**Cassy Emery-** Box 564,  
Cincinnati Christian University  
2700 Glenway Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45204

## Shut-Ins

### **Violet Ashton**

Roselawn Manor  
420 E. 4th St. - Apt. 109  
Spencerville, OH 45887

### **Betty Lloyd**

Van Wert Manor  
160 Fox Road  
Van Wert, OH 45891

### **Marian Morris**

Hearth & Home  
1118 Westwood Dr.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

### **Marjorie Rhoades**

Hearth & Home  
1118 Westwood Dr.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

### **Warren Summersett**

Vancrest Healthcare  
10357 VW-Decatur  
Van Wert, OH 45891

## Serving Our Country

### **Phoebe Eutsler**

(U.S. Army)  
Mail to home  
14975 Van Wert/ Mercer County Line  
Van Wert, OH 45891

### **Nick Fuller**

(Air Force)  
AIC Fuller Nicholas K  
PSC 3  
1320 Truemper St. Unit 367514  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236

### **Micah Linger**

(U.S. Marine Corps)  
LCPL Linger Micah  
9th ESB 3 MLG H&S Co  
Unit 38430  
FPO AP 96385

### **Cory McCollow**

(U.S. Coast Guard)  
311 Oak Street #109  
Oakland, CA 94607

### **Pete McCollow**

(U.S. Marine Corps)  
116 HAC Street  
Jacksonville, NC 28540

## Church Financial Update

Needed to Year: \$100,568.00  
Needed to Date: \$9,670.00  
Received to Date: \$8,481.80

## Prayer Concerns

Violet Ashton  
Norma Adam (diabetic issues)  
Toby Adkins (back surgery - Feb 2)  
Arlene Barrientos (Alzheimer's & foot surgery)  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
Marjorie Eutsler (Kidney stones - surgery Feb 2)  
Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)  
Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)  
Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)  
Betty Lloyd  
Marian Morris (stage two cancer)  
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)  
Joyce Profit (heart issues)  
Chris Riechert  
George Siler (physical therapy)  
Thad Summersett (brain tumor, grandson of Warren)  
Martha Walker (recovering from heart attack)  
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)  
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)  
Ian (brain cancer)  
Daniel Cruse (lymphoma cancer)  
Simon Ibell (serious birth condition)  
Karen Payne (cancer)  
Walter Poling (heart attack and poss kidney failure)  
Kyle Mullenhour (kidney transplant Kory's brother)  
Nick Roxo's Family (house fire)  
Nancy Lautzenhtiser (colon cancer)  
Martin Family (house fire)  
Mother of Shana Fryer

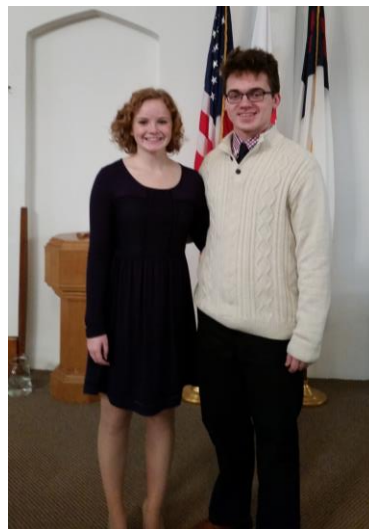


Session Members 2017

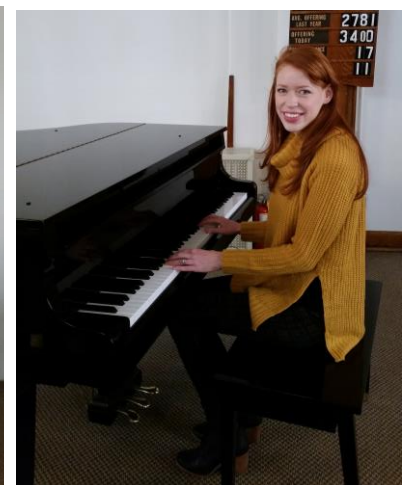
Confirmation Class  
serves at Potato  
Supper

## Birthdays

1 John Lloyd  
1 Ashley McClure  
4 Andrew Emery  
4 Jerry Foust  
11 Evelyn Martz  
12 Madison Pugh  
15 Ryan Fair  
16 Jeff Lloyd  
16 Scott Lloyd  
18 Dalton Ellerbrock  
18 Marilyn Foust  
19 Corry Hobbs  
21 Paul Price  
23 Alice Gamble  
24 Tim Price  
25 Bill McGee  
27 Kevin Fair  
28 Jean Owens



Griffin and Madison



Tamara Mullenhour





# February 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School Souper Bowl of Caring	6	7	<b>8</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> 6:30pm	<b>9</b> <b>V-Fit Class</b> 6:30-7:30pm	10	11
<b>12</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	13	14	15	<b>16</b> <b>V-Fit Class</b> 6:30-7:30pm	17	18
<b>19</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	20	<b>21</b> <b>Presbytery Meeting</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> 6:30pm	<b>23</b> <b>V-Fit Class</b> 6:30-7:30pm	24	25
<b>26</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	27	28	March 1 <b>Ash Weds Service</b> 7:00pm	2	3	4

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Ushers
February 5	Christina Emery	Ross & Alyssa Evans	Tuzz and Liz Hobbs Bill and Ruth Evans
February 12	Heather McClure	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	
February 19	Valerie Barnhart	Dave & Carla Breese	
February 26	Bells/ Jr. Choir	Bob & Kathy McCollow	<b>Greeter</b>
			Bob McCollow

Salem Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 678  
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

# Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)

E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

## February 2017 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY - YEAR A

### February 5 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12      Psalm 112:9-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-16

### February 12 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deut. 30:5-15      Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Cor. 3:1-9      Matthew 5:21-37

### February 19 - 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Lev. 19:1-2,9-18      Psalm 119:33-40  
1 Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23      Matthew 5:38-48

### February 26 - 8th Sunday after Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18      Psalm 2 or 99  
2 Peter 1:16-21      Matthew 17:1-9