

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

Volume 19 Issue 4

April 2017

## Pastoral Thoughts

With Easter coming, I have been asked many times by people "How do I know my sins are forgiven." Further, they point out that many Christians seem to be confused as to what constitutes a "Work."

I will ask this rhetorical question. "What must we do to receive forgiveness, and if there is something we must do, is it Work?"

A quick answer can be Romans 10:9-10, "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."



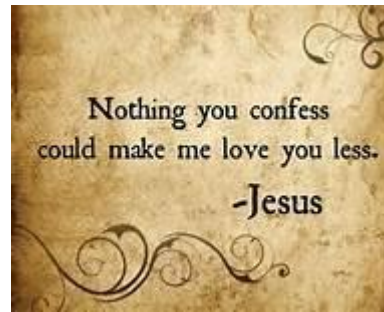
It is God who accepts the payment in full of our sins by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. He does it for us, we do nothing. It is a free gift.

It is more than confessing one's sins, being baptized and agreeing to some Creed or historical Confession for better understanding; our faith may require some godly action, but that is not what "Works" means.

In any discussion of Faith verses Works relating to salvation, "Works" means voluntary, charitable, deeds that are thought to **earn** favor with God leading, at least in part, to salvation. They are thought to be our own doing. This kind of Works doesn't get us into heaven.

John says in Luke 3:7-14, "7 When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, 'You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?' 8 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God... Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire... 10 The crowds asked, 'What should we do?' 11 John replied, 'If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.'"

According to scriptures, there are indeed things we "must do" in order to be forgiven. But still, not "Works" as earlier defined.



From the thankfulness in our hearts for our being saved by Jesus dying on the cross for each of our sins, we will want to do good things that will bring glory to God. We do it out of love and appreciation, not

fear of damnation. Further, we are rewarded in heaven for the good things we do to bring glory to God and to build His Kingdom on earth.

This Easter season, why not invite a friend or neighbor to church. Have them hear how loving our God is, and what price He paid to have us once again be His children. [Link for a deeper look](#)

## Prayer

*Lord help me this day to develop a Lenten discipline. Allow me to conquer the desires of my body for rest, comfort and ease so that I may offer myself to You. For it was in your discomfort and pain that you brought life to me. Let this Lenten season be a time that I remember your sacrifice as I make the spiritual journey to the cross. In Jesus' Name. Amen*



At the Foot of the Cross, author unknown

At the foot of the cross, I lay it all down  
Everything in my life, that's hidden deep inside  
I give it away, for my Savior to heal  
These fears that I have, that I've buried for years  
At the feet of Jesus, my heart pours out tears  
As I kneel and pray, my thoughts become clear  
And I finally see what's so very dear

At the foot of the cross, I cry out in pain  
Anguishing thoughts pour out like rain  
But, amidst these tears, I find a peace so calm  
As Jesus scurries in, the darkness fades away  
My heart is freed, my mind once again sane  
And the past torments I've had are forever washed  
away  
My life burns brighter, like the dawning of a new day

At the foot of the cross, I'm loved and not lost  
Where the Holy drops of blood, have paid off sin's  
costs  
And the Savior was taken, now risen once more  
Through the grace of God, the veil was torn  
And the world was cast a new rope of hope  
Dangling freely from Heaven, climbable by faith  
alone  
To an eternal place, where sin and death are dead

At the foot of the cross, life can be found  
On your knees draped in blood, on Calvary's sacred  
ground.

## Lessons from the Passion

**Matthew 26:39 Shows Jesus praying at the Garden of Gethsemane:** *“He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”*



The last hours of Jesus' life bear powerful truths for our daily living. Lessons and principles for following Christ are to be learned in almost every event of those last hours.

On Thursday night, Jesus ate the traditional Passover meal with His disciples. That night, He performed an act of great humility. The Messiah washed the feet of His apostles. He taught them that to be great, you must be small. The way to lead is to serve. Remember Jesus washing the disciples' dirty feet if you feel unimportant, un-empowered or small.

Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet. He declared his loyalty, even to the death. But Jesus sadly informed him that he would vehemently deny knowing the Savior three times before the rooster would crow in the morning. Remember Peter as he heard the rooster crow early Friday morning if you feel self-sufficient or confident in your own resources alone.

After the meal, Jesus went to the garden to pray. His followers chose sleep, not prayer. In the loneliness of those hours, Jesus' heart was in great agony as He accepted death for our salvation. Remember Jesus kneeling alone in the garden if you find it hard to do the right thing.

Then came the trials. First, Christ stood before the Jewish high court, the Sanhedrin; then, the Roman governor, Pilate; next, Herod, the Jewish puppet king; and finally back to Pilate again. In cowardice, Pilate let the people choose; Jesus or Barabbas, a convicted criminal. Remember Jesus as he heard the crowd shout, "Crucify him! Give us Barabbas!" If you feel wrongfully accused.

The Roman soldiers beat Him, crowned Him with thorns, mocked Him and made Him carry His cross. Remember the humiliation of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa if you feel rejected or excluded.

Jesus was nailed to the cross with huge spikes. In the midst of His torture, He prayed for His executioners. Remember Jesus' words, "*Father, forgive them,*" if you find it hard to forgive.

Those same soldiers gambled for His clothes. Remember how Jesus must have felt as the soldiers played games at the foot of the cross if you feel discouraged by power struggles, feel used or feel misunderstood.

There are lessons to be learned from all suffering but the passion of Christ shows us the true heart of God. The Lenten season gives us 40 days to ponder Christ's passion and learn from it.

Monica Boudreaux

### *Prayer*

*Father - Give me the wisdom to learn lessons of service and humility as I consider Christ's passion. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Many Infallible Proofs:  
How We Know Christ Lives Today

What happened? Where is his body? Why is the tomb empty? What does it mean? The question before the house is very simple. Did Jesus really rise from the dead? Can we know for sure? Acts 1:3 says there are "many convincing proofs" that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. What are those proofs? And can we trust them? This is the most important question any of us can ever ask. Behind the answer lies the issue of what happens to our eternal soul. Let us look at the evidence.

By simply looking at the facts as we have them in the gospel accounts. Here are seven pieces of evidence

surrounding the events on that Sunday morning in Jerusalem in AD 33.

A. The Roman Guard - After Jesus was buried, Pontius Pilate ordered a Roman guard placed around the tomb. Such a guard usually consisted of 16 men. Four soldiers would have been placed immediately in front of the tomb, with the other 12 sleeping in a semicircle in front of them. The guards changed shifts every four hours. These soldiers were elite, the most highly trained fighting force in the world. The penalty for failure to guard a prisoner or for falling asleep on duty was death (sometimes they were burned alive in a fire made from their own clothes). Believe me, these soldiers had every reason to stay wide awake. No one could have gotten past them to steal the body from the tomb.



B. The Stone - Frank Morrison calls the stone "the one silent and infallible witness to the whole episode." The stone was of enormous size and doubtless weighed over two tons. It was so heavy that the women who came on Sunday morning knew they couldn't move it. Once rolled into place, it took three or four men to move it. The gospels also tell us that the soldiers sealed the tomb, which meant that they stretched a cord over the rock and fastened it at either end with a sealing compound. Then they stamped it with the seal of the Roman governor. The penalty for breaking the seal was death. This again argues against any attempt to steal the body.

C. The Graveclothes - Both Luke and John comment on the condition of the graveclothes in the tomb. They found the linen wrapping sheets still in place with the cloth that covered the face folded to the side. Evidently the spices and resins had hardened into the shape of Jesus' body, leaving the appearance of a cocoon after the butterfly has escaped. How do you explain that fact? Grave robbers would have taken the body without unwrapping it or they would have unwrapped it and thrown the winding sheets to the

side. No one steals a body and then rewraps the grave clothes.

I believe that when Jesus rose from the dead he passed right through the grave clothes leaving behind the linen wrappings just as John and Peter found them.

D. The Empty Tomb - The skeptics have never been able to explain the following fact. When Mary arrived on Sunday morning, the tomb was empty. When Peter and John arrived, the tomb was empty. When the other disciples found the tomb, it was empty. When the Jews inspected the tomb, it was empty. When the Roman soldiers woke up, it was empty. No one has ever disputed that fact.

### *Prayer*

*Lord help me to be what you want me to be. Give me the freedom and grace to seek you in my journey. Give me the courage to stop pretending to be something I am not. Allow me to put aside my pride and trust the unknown that you have planted in me. We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Think about it. Within a few weeks of the Crucifixion, the disciples were publicly preaching that Jesus had risen from the dead. If they had been lying or hallucinating, all the authorities would have to do is simply go to the tomb and drag out the dead body of Jesus. As Peter Lewis points out, they could have nailed the dead body on the city wall and that would be the end of the Christian movement. But they could not do it because the tomb was empty and the body was gone. They had no answer to the preaching of the apostles. The silence of the Jew is as eloquent as the speech of the Christians.

E. The Resurrection Appearances - The New Testament records at least 12 separate appearances of Jesus after his Resurrection. He appeared sometimes to individuals—such as Mary and Peter, sometimes to a small group—such as the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, sometimes to a larger group—such as the disciples, and at least once to a group of 500 people. Still later he was seen by Stephen at his death, by Paul at his conversion, and by John on the isle of Patmos.

Please note that all of these are eyewitness accounts. You might somehow dismiss one or two of them as wishful thinking. But it is not possible to dismiss them all. The accumulated weight of all the appearances is overwhelming. They point to one conclusion and one only: Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

F. The Initial Unbelief - I have always considered it a point in favor of the Resurrection that all the gospel writers agree that none of the disciples were expecting a resurrection and none of them believed it at first. Luke tells us that when the women who saw Jesus reported this to the disciples, they thought it was an idle tale, just wishful thinking. They had to be convinced against their wills that Jesus rose from the dead. This is a great argument in favor of the Resurrection.

G. The Radically Changed Disciples - Consider their state on Friday night. They were frightened, confused, dazed, fearful, disoriented, and disheartened. Every one of them was running for cover. They truly believed that Jesus was dead and that they would never see him again. In their minds Jesus was gone forever. Peter had denied him. The other disciples stood at a distance. Only John would come near the cross. The women who went to the tomb on Sunday morning fully expected to find a dead body there. The two disciples Jesus met on the road to Emmaus were walking away from Jerusalem, their faith buried with the corpse of their Master. Meanwhile the disciples huddled in an upper room with the door locked for fear of the Jews.

Now consider the scene a few weeks later. These same disciples now boldly stand in the temple courts preaching that Jesus Christ is Lord of all, that he had come back from the dead, and that only by repentance and faith can anyone be saved.

What changed these cowering men and women into flaming evangelists who shook their world with the message of the gospel? There is only one credible explanation for such a radical change. They had seen the risen Christ and that sight had changed them forever. As word spread from one person to another, they began to shout the good news. "*He's alive! He's alive! He's alive!*"

If all of this does not convince you, let me raise one final point: For 2,000 years no one has produced a convincing answer to the question, "*If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, what happened to his body?*" This is

the ultimate unanswered question. Where is the body of Jesus? No one throughout 2,000 years of history has provided a credible answer to that question. I will go so far as to state that no one ever will. I've been to the Holy Land and I can tell you that you can start in the North and dig to the South or start in the East and dig to the West. You'll find bones everywhere you dig. But you won't find the bones of Jesus because they aren't there.

This morning we join with Christians around the world to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We stand in a long line of believers who proclaim with the angel, *"He is not here, for he is risen, just as he said."*

Adapted from writings of Ray Pritchard

1 quart Water for 6 to 7 minutes  
Combine sauce and macaroni and bake  
at 375 degrees for 25 minutes.  
Serves 4-6



### For Cooks Only

Please mail or email your favorite recipes!

#### Meat Loaf by Doris Evans

2 lbs Hamburger  
2 Eggs  
1 1/2 teaspoons Salt  
Pepper to taste  
1/2 medium Onion chopped  
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire Sauce  
24-30 ground Crackers  
Shape into a pan and cover with either  
1 quart tomato juice, 1 can cream of  
mushroom or chicken soup. Bake 45  
minutes at 375 degrees. Serves 8-12.



#### Macaroni and Cheese by Susan Diss

Melt 2 tablespoons Butter  
Blend in 2 tablespoons Flour,  
1/2 teaspoon Salt,  
1/8 teaspoon Pepper,  
1/4 teaspoon Paprika  
Add 1 1/4 to 2 1/2 cups Milk  
Stir constantly until thickened  
Add 1/2 to 1 cup finely diced Cheese  
until melted  
Boil 3/4 to 1 cup Macaroni in about

### 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

### Birthdays

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Lyndi (Breese) Forsythe | 6 Carol Emery       |
| 8 Andy Breese             | 12 MaKenna Kimmet   |
| 13 Sami Jones             | 16 Bill Evans       |
| 16 Ann Morris             | 20 Kevin Matthews   |
| 22 Elgarda McGee          | 23 Grant Zielke     |
| 25 Julia (Morris) Molitor | 26 Gwenda Blackmore |
| 29 Jenny Pugh             | 30 Bob Bolton       |
| 30 Ruth Evans             |                     |

### Anniversaries

John & Mary Ellen Lloyd 4/21/16



Senior Luncheon St. Patrick's Day theme Servers

**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

**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

**Prayer List**

Norma Adam (diabetic issues)  
 Violet Ashton  
 Arlene Barrientos (Alzheimer's & foot surgery)  
 Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
 Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
 Doris Evans (cancer)  
 Alice Gamble (car accident)  
 Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)  
 Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)  
 Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)  
 Sami Jones (shoulder surgery)  
 Betty Lloyd  
 Byron Mohr (recovering from Bowel hospitalization)  
 Marian Morris (stage two cancer)  
 Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)  
 Joyce Profit (heart issues)  
 Chris Reichert (health issues)  
 George Siler (physical therapy)  
 Thad Summersett (malignant brain tumor)  
 Martha Walker (recovering from heart attack)  
 Natalie Wilkins (90 yrs old and failing in health)  
 Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)  
 Simon Ibell (deadly birth condition)  
 Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)  
 Nick Roxo's Family (house fire)  
 Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)

# April 2017

| Sunday  | Mon | Tue | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|-----|-----|---|--|---|---|
| <b>2</b><br>9:30 Worship<br>10:45 Sunday School   | 3   | 4   | <b>5</b><br>Confirmation<br>Class 6:30 PM<br>Bells 8:30 | <b>6</b><br>V-Fit Class<br>6:30pm  | 7   | 8   |
| <b>9 Palm Sunday</b><br>Confirmation class joins<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>10:30 Session Meeting<br>5:00 pm Trustee Meeting | 10  | 11  | 12  | <b>13</b><br>Maundy<br>Thursday<br>6:00 pm meal<br>7:00 Service &<br>Communion | <b>14</b><br>Good<br>Friday<br>Noon<br>Van Wert<br>Community<br>Service | <b>15</b><br>Venedocia<br>Egg Hunt<br>1pm<br>Memorial<br>Park |
| <b>16 Easter Sunday</b><br>One Great Hour of Sharing<br>7:30 AM Service & breakfast<br>9:30 Worship   | 17  | 18  | 19  | <b>20</b><br>V-Fit Class<br>6:30pm   | 21  | 22  |
| <b>23</b><br>9:30 Worship with<br>guest speaker<br>Kevin Clancy   | 24  | 25  | <b>26</b><br>Senior<br>Luncheon<br>12:00 noon           | <b>27</b><br>V-Fit Class<br>6:30pm   | 28  | 29  |
| <b>30</b><br>9:30 Worship<br>10:45 Sunday School  |     |     |   |  |   |   |

| Week of  | Special Music      | Nursery                           | Ushers                         |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| April 2  | Adam Rohabaugh     | Rex & Lisa Lloyd                  | Isaiah Pugh                    |
| April 9  | Palm Sunday Bells  | Tuzz & Liz Hobbs                  | Landon Price                   |
| April 16 | Senior Choir       | Nursery Available, not<br>staffed | Dawson Kimmet                  |
| April 23 | LaDonna Allenbaugh | Jeff & Kim Coil                   | Dominic Adkins                 |
| April 30 | Snyder Kids        | Todd & Jayne Morris               | <b>Greeter</b><br>Evelyn Martz |



## Salem Presbyterian Church

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Venedocia, Ohio 45894

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)

### Trustee Update

The church sustained roof damage due to high winds. Wellman Brothers are working on the repairs. The final bill for roof repair has not been received at the time of printing the April newsletter.

### Church Financial Update

Needed to Year: \$100,568.00  
Needed to Date: \$25,142.00  
Received to Date: \$23,910.08

### Gymanfa Ganu

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 is currently directing several choirs and he is a freelance performer.

### April 2017

### REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY - YEAR A

#### April 2 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14      Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11      John 11:1-45

#### April 9 – Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a      Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11      Matthew 26:14-27:66

#### April 16 – Easter Day -Resurrection

Acts 10:34-43      Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4      John 20:1-18

#### April 23 –Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32      Psalm 16:1-11  
1 Peter 1:3-9      John 20:19-31

#### April 30 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41      Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23      Luke 24:13-35