

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY PRINT AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

Volume 19 Issue 12

December 2017

## The Pastor's Thoughts

*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also  
(Matthew 6:21 NLT).*

As we come into the Christmas season, we experience shopping and busyness to get the right present and to acquire those things that we feel that we are due. In the words of Dave Ramsey, many people *"buy things we don't need, with money we don't have, to impress people we don't like."* We are distracted by attractions that have no eternal worth. The Christmas season is a holiday of this world. The early American church banned the riotous Christmas celebrations until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Charles Dickens revived it with his stories of family, good cheer, gift-giving, and religion.

We see Christmas scenes, yet we don't stop to ponder their deeper meaning. Pause this year to ponder the simple command *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."* God came down from heaven taking the form of a helpless child, so we can know and love God. The only way to know the Father is to look at His Son. You might respond, *"How do I treasure God more than anything else?"* It happens as you get to know Him. The more that you know Him, the more that you will treasure Him.

God would rather you obey His words and become bonded to Him. He wants you to love others by getting them to know the Father. Think of the smiles of children on Christmas morning. Take time to read a Nativity story about God's Son being born before giving the gifts so they know who is being celebrated.

Sadly, most overvalue that which is temporary and undervalue the spiritual eternity offered us. Nothing is more worthwhile than to get to know the Father and His Son. We have limited time here on earth. Don't waste it seeking things of this world. Store up treasures in heaven by doing God's will and by leading loved ones and neighbors to follow Christ, who is the reason for the season.

Use this Christmas season to point people to the *"God who loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

*Pastor Tom*

## Silent Night

"*Silent Night*" has been translated into over 200 languages around the world and is one of the most popular carols of all time. On Christmas Eve in 1818, a severe snowstorm stranded the small village of Ogledorf, nestled in the Austrian mountains. That same day, the people of St. Nicholas' church discovered that their organ was broken. Accordingly, the priest and organist began composing a hymn that could be sung without an organ, yet beautiful enough to worship with Christmas joy.



All day and all night long they worked, and at midnight the gentle carol *Silent Night* was born as a guitar song. The bright tones echoed with

popularity. And the world has been captivated by the beauty of that simple song ever since.

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
glories stream from heaven afar  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born!

Source: *Silent Night, Holy Night* by Bill Egan

## Christmas Bells

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was inspired to write this poem in 1863 during the Civil War when his son went off to fight for the Union against his wishes. While this song is about Christmas time, there is an underlying tone of the war (The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail). This poem is the basis for the Christmas carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."*

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

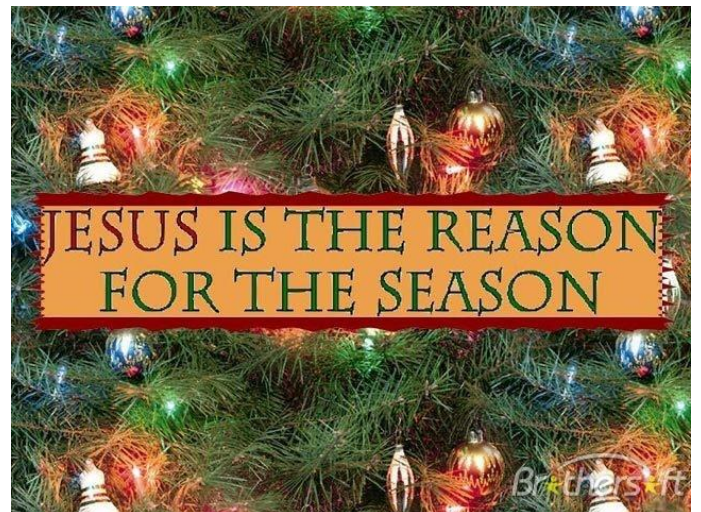
### **A Christmas Prayer**

Lord, we worship You during this Christmas season. You are our wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace ([Isaiah 9:6](#)). We choose to put You at the center of our family life as we celebrate Your birth. Keep us from distractions and help us to invite You into all our family activities.

Teach us to pray and help us to glorify and worship You in our family during this busy time of year. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation that we might know You better ([Ephesians 1:17](#)). Thank you for being

Immanuel, "*God with us*." Open our eyes to realize this each day as we interact with others. Help us to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as You forgave us ([Ephesians 4:32](#)). Show us creative ways to love and care for those outside our home. Fill us to overflowing with Your love for the lost. Teach us to do acts of kindness to those who are in need at this time of year.

May our family be a refreshment and light to others. We ask You to touch with salvation those in our family who do not know You [Name those individuals]. Open their hearts to Your great love for them. Help us to share Your Truth and be Your light. You are the Savior of the world.



We love Your Word and choose to make it central in our family life. Your Word is alive and active—It's sharper than any double-edged sword—It judges the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts ([Hebrews 4:12](#)). We long to align ourselves spiritually with You and Your Word every day. We want to pray your Word with Your authority, and with greater faith and obedience in our lives as we approach this New Year.

We rejoice in following Your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. We meditate on Your precepts and consider Your ways. We delight in Your decrees. We will not neglect Your Word. Open our eyes that we may see wonderful things in Your law. We run in the path of Your commands, for You have set our hearts free (Psalm 119:14-16, 18, 32).

Lord, we want to be passionate about the things you are passionate about. Help each member of our family to be a student of the Bible. Teach us to pray Your Word out loud in our family devotions in such a way that we see mighty spiritual breakthroughs in our home, friends, school, and workplace. Help us declare prophetic

promises and decrees from Your Word. We want to experience the life-giving power of Your Word on a daily basis in our family.

Show us truth in Your Word, and bring it to life through our prayers. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may be enlightened in order to know the hope to which You have called us, the riches of our glorious inheritance in You and Your incomparable great power ([Ephesians 1:18-19](#)). In Jesus' name, Amen.

Adapted from *12 Christmas Prayers*. Crosswalk.com

### Suggested Christmas Reading

**Life Application Study Bible.** NLT. Personal size. Tyndale. This compact Bible has commentary footnotes at the bottom to explain the passages and to apply the truths to your life.

**Love and Respect: The Love She Most Desires and The Respect He Desperately Needs.** Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. Thomas Nelson. This book is a classic for having healthy marriages and restoring struggling ones. It is also an audio book.

**Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God.** Henry T. Blackaby. B & H Publishing. Nashville. It is also an audio book. This is also a classic for knowing how to walk with God.

**Jesus Speaks.** Steven K. Scott. WaterBrook Press. 365 Days of daily guidance and encouragement straight from the Words of Christ as if He was talking with you.

**War Room: Prayer Is a Powerful Weapon.** Chris Fabry and Kendrick Bros. LLC. Book and DVD. Hoping for a new real estate listing, Elizabeth visits the home of Clara Williams, an elderly widow, and is both amused and uncomfortable when Clara starts asking about her marriage and faith. But it's Clara's secret prayer room, with its walls covered in requests and answers, that has Elizabeth most intrigued even if she's not ready to take Clara's suggestion that she create a prayer room of her own.

### Welsh Wassail Recipe

Heat 4-5 cups of apple cider, ½ tsp. cinnamon, ¼ tsp. nutmeg, ¼ tsp. cloves and a dash of ginger.

Warm over low-medium heat. Stir until spices blend into the cider.

When hot, pour into mugs and garnish with cinnamon sticks. Enjoy!



### Thank You

*The family of Leona Browning would like to thank Pastor Tom for all his visits to our mother and grandmother over the course of her illness. His visits always made mom smile! Thank you, to our church family for loving our family in your thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.*

*-- Bob, Denise, Morgan, and Evan Pugh. Carolyn, Bud, Deb, Chris and Liz Browning.*

### Thank You

Pastor Tom Emery and the Salem Church,

Thanks for your prayers and support [for the passing of Sharon King.] You certainly know how to make a person feel special!

*-- Danny King and Family*

Sunday, December 3

10:30 AM – **Advent Breakfast-Joy Offering**

Wednesday, December 6

12:00 PM – **Christmas Senior Luncheon**

Sunday, December 10

5:00 PM – **Caroling to Nursing Homes**

7:00 PM – **Party at the Manse**

Sunday, December 17

9:30 AM – **Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 24

9:30 AM – **Christmas Day Service**

10:00 PM – **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**



## What Christmas Means to Us



Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength.

**You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.**

God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child. Luke 2:4-19 (NIV) says:

*"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

*This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great*

*company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."*

**Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world?**

He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

**Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong.** The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God.

Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

*"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness" 1 John 1:9 (NLT).*

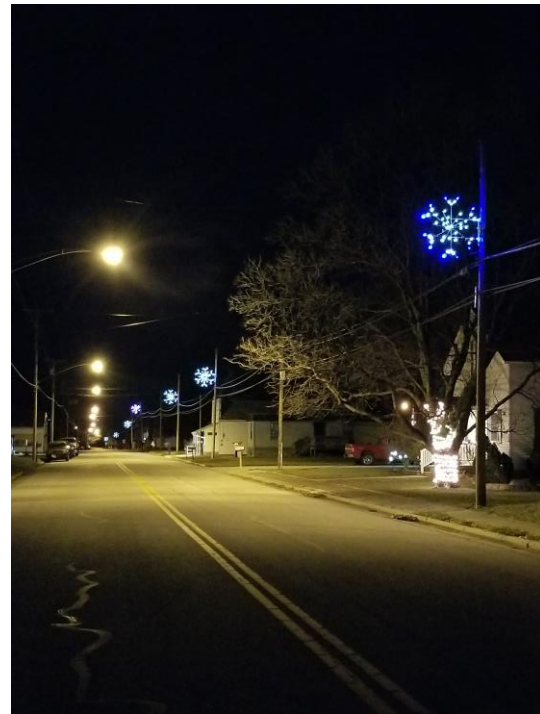
**We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.**

Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

Adapted from *The Real Meaning of Christmas* by Martha Noebel.



Thanksgiving Eve Service



Christmas street lights in Venedocia by the Lions Club



The Election Day Dinner



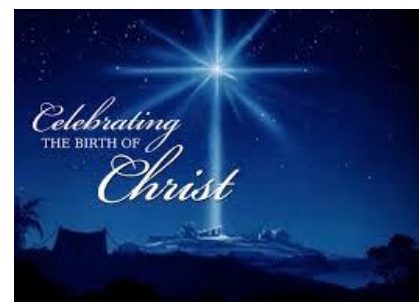
Double Quartet for Special Music



"Sandy play" talking about the Good Shepherd to the youth

## Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$92,832.00  
Received to Date: \$95,781.06



# IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

## **Betty Lloyd**

Van Wert Manor  
160 Fox Road  
Van Wert, OH 45891

## **Marjorie Rhoades**

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

## **David Hugh Evans**

PO Box 696  
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

## **Marian Morris**

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

## **Warren Summersett**

Vancrest Healthcare  
10357 VW—Decatur  
Van Wert, OH 45891

## **Serving our Country**

### **Cory McCollow**

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

### **Nick Fuller**

(Air Force)  
Grandson of Dave & Ann  
Rees

### **Pete McCollow**

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

### **Micah Linger**

Grandson of Doris Evans  
(U.S. Marine Corps)  
LCTL Linger, Micah  
9 phesb 3mlg H7S Co.  
Unit 3840 FPO AP96385

**Phoebe Eutsler** (Army)

## **Away at College**

**Evan Pugh** – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

**Andrew Emery** – University of Cincinnati

**Christina Emery** – University of Cincinnati

## **Birthdays**

5 Dave Owens	17 Jeremy Morris
8 Paige McClure	23 Jeff Owens
9 Jason Lloyd	24 Mary Ellen Lloyd
13 Marilyn Stockton	30 Isaiah Pugh

## **Anniversaries**

16 Kent & Heather McClure  
28 Doug & Marilyn Strickler

## **New Addresses**

Charles Boroff  
4030 New Orleans  
Odessa, Texas 79762

## **Prayer Concerns**

Elizabeth Adkins (liver issues)  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
Doris Evans (cancer)  
Larry Howell  
Linda Howell  
Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas)  
Jan Jones (health Issues)  
Paula Jones (healing from fall)  
Sami Jones (health issues)  
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)  
Becky Martz (health problems)  
Janet Mohr  
Marian Morris  
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)

Kim Owens (cancer)  
Dorothea Plikerd  
Walter Poling  
Lewis Price (bladder cancer & stones)  
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)  
Randy Richards (mowing accident & loss of wife)  
Laura Saylor (viral meningitis)  
George Siler (physical therapy)  
Keith Stoller (surgical complications)  
Thad Summersett (brain tumor, grandson of Warren)  
Warren Summersett (cancer)  
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)  
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)



# DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> 9:30 Worship Christmas Joy Offering 10:30 Advent Breakfast	4	<b>5</b> 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Teens for Christ	<b>6</b> Senior Luncheon Christmas Party	7	8	9
<b>10</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Christmas Caroling 7:00 Manse Party	11	<b>12</b> 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Teens for Christ	13	14	15	16
<b>17</b> 9:30 Christmas Program 10:45 Sunday School 12:00 Session Meeting 2-4:00 Santa visit at Lions Club, Venedocia	18	<b>19</b> 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Teens for Christ	20	21	22	23
<b>24</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion	25	<b>26</b> 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Teens for Christ	27	28	29	30
<b>31</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School						

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
December 3	Connie O'Neill	Mark & Missy Zielke	Dave & Carla Breese
December 10	Surprise Quartet/choir	<i>To be filled</i>	Dave & Carla Breese
December 17	Christmas Program	Ross & Alyssa Evans	Dave & Carla Breese
December 24	Advent Group	<i>Not needed</i>	Gloria Leiter
December 31	Hymn Sing	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Gloria Leiter
<b>Ushers</b>	Mark & Missy Zielke Doug & Jan Jones	<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)  
[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](https://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)

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

Secretary's cell: 419-203-5271

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

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

### **December 2017 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 3**

Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Cor. 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 10**

Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 17**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126
1 Thess. 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 24**

Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day – Dec 31**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 148
Gal. 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40