

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God (Luke 12:8).

To begin this new year, it is important to put our priorities in order. The most important priority is to obey the Word of God. God has a plan for each of our lives; it may not be what you expected. But, it is perfect and blessedly external in nature.

I came to Christ in my early twenties. I was open and interested in Christ, but I couldn't find anyone living as a Christian. Believe me, I was searching and looking.

The "supposed Christians" wouldn't do as they said. It was only later that I had a sales job that took me into many different families' homes that I



began to see the difference between worldly and real Christian homes that I now experienced. Worldly homes were full of unspoken pain, anxiety, unforgiveness and anger; I could sometimes sense their vibes at the front door and know what kind of home I was walking into. But, in some houses, I noticed a transformation just by walking in the door. The real Christians had something that I wanted, but I was shy of directly asking them what was different about them. Sadly, many did not sense my spiritual needs. But in those homes, I got a sense of peace that the world didn't offer. It was a pleasant experience that I couldn't describe.

God directs that our first mission for this new year involves our families and our friends. They need to hear our testimony of what God has done for us. You need to let them see God in your lives by the lifestyle that you lead. They need to see the Galatian 5:22-23 fruit of the Spirit in you of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." They need to see you apologize and ask forgiveness

when you are off. They need to see you while imperfect, as you have something they need that only God can offer them. They need to see the love in your life. You will need to let them see that the words of God have transformed your life.

In Mark 5:19, Jesus' gave the command to "...go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been."

Why not start the New Year by humbling yourself before God and others so that the world will notice and give glory to God.

Pastor Tom

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Singing has always been a part of the worship of God. Moses led the whole nation of Israel in singing the psalm of praise in Exodus 15. The Book of Psalms contains such statement as "Compose new songs of praise to him" (33:3) and "Come before him singing with joy" (100:2). Colossians 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 14:15 depict how singing was an important part of worship in the first century church.

"Holy, Holy, Holy" was written by Reginald Heber (1783-1826), who was an Anglican bishop whose ministry spanned continents, placing him as one of the heroes of the Christian faith.

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

Perhaps the most intriguing characteristic of the hymn is how the text does not initiate praise, but instead encourages the singer to join in an endless song. Both Isaiah 6:1-5 and Revelation 4:2-11 inspire this hymn, spanning the Testaments, reminding us that the thrice holy statement has been uttered in worship for centuries. Isaiah received his vision in the eighth century B.C.; John the Apostle recorded his revelation in the first century C.E.; while Reginald Heber composed his hymn in 1826, in the nineteenth century.

Congregations continue to be inspired by Heber's text in the twenty-first century. It is safe to say that songs of praise, begun by the seraphim and cherubim, have

been echoing throughout the millennia through the voice of the people.

Heber is careful to describe the Trinity without encroaching upon its mystery. This is especially evident with the phrase, "*though the darkness hide Thee*" in stanza 3, and this separation between God and man is exacerbated by sin ("*though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see*"). Though we may not see or completely understand the Trinity in its fullness in this lifetime, it is not a reason that preclude our worship of the Triune God.

Most of his hymns, though, were not published until he passed away in 1826. The hymn was characterized by attack on established beliefs or institutions at the time, since hymn singing was prohibited in Church of England liturgies. Unfortunately, he failed to persuade church authorities within the Church of England to grant permission for hymn singing during Sunday services while he was alive.

Adapted from History of Hymns: "*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*" by Stanton Nelson

Just One Request

Dear Master for this coming year
Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing—
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou leadest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be—
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

--Unknown Author

The Four Special Names of Jesus

I want you to remember this. God has given you two things He did not have to give you. Number one: He has given you life; He didn't have to create you. Number two: He has given you a Lord that can give you eternal life.

Years ago, a wealthy English family was entertaining friends at their estate. As the children swam, one of them got into the deep water and was drowning. The gardener heard the other children screaming and jumped in the water and saved that child. That youngster's name was **Winston Churchill**.

Deeply grateful to the gardener, the parents asked him how they could ever repay him. He hesitated, but then he said, "*I wish my son could go to college some day and be a doctor.*" Churchill's parents said, "*He will, because we will pay his way.*"

Many years later when Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of England, he became ill with pneumonia. The best physician that could be found was called to the bedside of this great leader. His name was Sir Alexander Fleming, the developer of penicillin, and the son of that gardener who had long ago saved Winston Churchill when he was drowning.

Winston Churchill later said, "*Rarely has one owed his life twice to the same person.*" Well we owe our physical life to God the Father who created us, and we owe our chance for eternal life to God the Son who died for us. In this Jesus, we see the goodness of God.

With this child we share God's grace. Now this child has many names. We know Him as **Jesus, Lord, Master, Savior, Christ**. He has many titles: **King of Kings, The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, The Rose of Sharon, The Bright and Morning Star**. But Isaiah gives us four special names that this child will be called, and I believe each name represents a way this child will gladden the grieving, heal the hurting, and save the sinning.

For the hurting He is the **Wonderful Counselor**. "*And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor...*" (Isaiah 9:6). There are over 27,000 psychiatrists in the United States alone. People today are going to psychologists, psychiatrists, and psychoanalysts in record numbers looking for answers to life's greatest problems. As a

Christian, I have nothing against any of these people, but let me give you some insight. These people can give you advice and they can give you opinions, but both of them can be wrong.

The Lord Jesus doesn't give advice. He doesn't even give opinions; He gives truth. He will never steer you wrong. Isaiah 28:29 says, "*The Lord of hosts is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance.*" If we could listen fully to the Wonderful Counselor, we would not need any other counselor.

After many years of studying human behavior at one of the finest universities in the world, Harvard psychiatrist, Robert Cole, said this: "*Nothing that I have discovered about the makeup of human beings, contradicts what I have learned from the Hebrew prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Amos. From the book of Ecclesiastes and from Jesus and the lives of those He touched, anything that I can say as a result of my research into human behavior, is a mere footnote to the lives of those in the Old and New Testaments.*"

The greatest counselor you can ever have is the Son of God; the greatest counsel you will ever find is in the Word of God. Their advice is always true; their counsel never fails. When you let Jesus be your counselor you will say, "*Wonderful!*"

For the hopeless He is the "**Mighty God**." Now as the Wonderful Counselor He can tell you what is right, but as the Mighty God He can empower you to do what is right. Because as the Mighty God He is in complete control over this universe.

He is mighty in His presence, for He is Omnipresent; He is mighty in His power, for He is Omniscient; He is mighty in His perception, for He is Omnipotent.

As long as there is God there is hope. As long as there is God there is help. As long as there is God there is healing, for there is nothing impossible with God. For the hopeless He is the Mighty God.

For the helpless He is the **Everlasting Father**. "*And His name will be called.... Everlasting Father.*" Now the phrase "*Everlasting Father*" literally translated says, "*He is the Father of eternity.*" Now in the Jewish mind a father denoted the source of something or the origination of something. Jesus is the Father of all things that pertain to eternity.

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is the Father of eternity.

He is the one who can make an eternal difference in anyone's life.

Jesus is the Eternal Lord, who brought into this world eternal light, that He might give to this world eternal life, that He might bathe this world in eternal love. Neither time nor space is an issue to Him. He is never late, He is never early, He is always on time. He is always where you need Him to be when you need Him the most. For the helpless He is the Eternal Father.



For the heartbroken He is the **Prince of Peace**. "*And His name shall be called... Prince of Peace.*" People are popping pills, taking tranquilizers, hitting the bottle, doing everything they can to

find peace. Well only Jesus can give you a peace that will last. When you give your heart and life to Jesus Christ, you have the peace of God, and then you have peace with God.

The Lord Jesus said something about the peace He gives that I wish the entire world could hear. He said, "*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you*" (John 14:27). The peace of this world can be shattered by a sneak attack, a sniper's bullet, or a terrorist's bomb. But the peace that Jesus gives can weather any storm.

Adapted from *What Child Is This* by James Merritt

Reading Plans for 2018

Many Christians take the beginning of a new year to evaluate their Bible reading habits, and then change or begin a Bible reading plan. Here are some Ligonier Ministries suggestions **for download**:

5 Day Bible Reading Program Read through the Bible in a year, with readings five days a week. [PDF](#)

A Bible Reading Chart Read through the Bible at your own pace. Use this chart to track your reading throughout the year. [PDF](#)

Chronological Bible Reading Plan Read through the Bible in the order the events occurred chronologically. [PDF](#)

Every Word in the Bible Read through the Bible one chapter at a time. Readings alternate between the Old and New Testaments. [PDF](#)

Historical Bible Reading Plan Readings in an attempt to follow the order in which the books were authored. [PDF](#)

Duration: One year | **App:** Accessible on [YouVersion](#).
Straight Through the Bible Reading Plan Read straight through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. [PDF](#)

Two-Year Bible Reading Plan Read the Old and New Testaments once, and Psalms & Proverbs four times. [PDF](#)

Have you struggled to read through the entire Bible? R.C. Sproul's [basic overview of the Bible](#) may help you.

Thank You

We would like to thank our Church family for the funeral home visits and coming to the funeral. Also, we would like to thank all who made a food donation and helped with the dinner, and thank you for cards and prayers.

- Dan and Jim Lloyd

Our Gifted New Outdoor Manger Scene



An anonymous donor replaced our plastic lighted one with a beautiful ceramic scene.

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$102,502.00
Received to Date: \$104,469.86



St. Nick visit at the Venedocia Lions Club



Senior luncheon and bingo



Elf helpers at the luncheon



Manse party



Caroling to shut-ins



The Van Wert Ministerial Association Community Event / New elevator awning



Sandy character reading the Christ story



Lighting the Advent Candles



Christmas Eve Communion



Children's Program



Christmas Eve Candlelight service

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

Serving our Country

David Hugh Evans
PO Box 696
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

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

Bob Louth
15113 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

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

Warren Summersett
Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

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

Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

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

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

Condolences

Condolences to the families of Martha Droll
and the family of Betty Lloyd

Birthdays

2	Chris Beck	3	Emily Blackmore
5	Karen Pugh	6	Jim Lloyd
7	Nell Jean Wienken	7	Loretta Williams
8	Dean Swygart	9	Megan Smith
10	Dominic Adkins	11	Chelsey Lloyd
11	Ashlyn Price	12	Cristina Emery
12	George Siler	16	Rob Breese
16	Liz Hobbs	28	Scott Fair
30	Doris Price	30	John Smith
31	Carrie Jones		

Prayer Concerns

Elizabeth Adkins (liver issues)
Peggy Burnett (cancer)
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)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Becky Martz (health problems)
Janet Mohr
Marian Morris
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)

Kim Owens (cancer)
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling
Joyce Profit
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Randy Richards (mowing accident & loss of wife)
Laura Saylor (viral meningitis)
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
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)

January 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Teens for Christ	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School Noon Session Retreat	8	9 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Teens for Christ	10	11	12	13
14 9:30 Worship. Annual reports due. Installation of Officers 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	15	16 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Teens for Christ	17	18	19	20
21 9:30 Worship Reports to the Congregation. 10:45 Sunday School	22	23 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Teens for Christ	24 6-7 pm Potato Supper 7 pm Prayer Service	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	29	30 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Teens for Christ	31			

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
January 7	To Be Advised	Dave & Carla Breese	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
January 14	Una V anWynsberghe	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
January 21	To Be Advised	Bob & Denise Pugh	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
January 28	To Be Advised	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	?
Ushers	Rex & Lisa Lloyd family	Greeter:	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
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Secretary E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

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

Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

January 2018 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

Baptism of the Lord – January 7

Gen. 1:1-5	Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11

2nd Sunday after Epiphany – January 14

1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Cor. 6:12-20	John 1:43-51

3rd Sunday after Epiphany – January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12
1 Cor. 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20

4th Sunday after Epiphany– January 28

Deut. 18:15-20	Psalm 111
1 Cor. 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28