## Salem Presbyterian Church Sunday, December 23, 2018, 4th Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh Flowers are given to the glory of God by Joyce Profit & Gloria Leiter \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Call to Worship: God has done great things for us! God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ. Holy is God's name! God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ. God's mercy extends from generation to generation. God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

Media piece

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus \*Hymn:

84

Prayer of Confession: Loving God, even during this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. Despite holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about Your reordered world—a world where the lowly are lifted and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with You, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our prayers of confession).

Assurance of Pardon

Glory Be to the Father Inside Front Cover Response

Joys & Concerns of the Church Prayers of the People

Prayer Response The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings 849 \*Micah 5:2-5 932 Luke 1:46-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 1095

Time for Children

O Little Town of Bethlehem 92 \*Hvmn:

"The Significance of Bethlehem" Rev. Thomas Emery Sermon

\*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 guick 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 our tithes and offerings

\*Response **Praise God** Inside Front Cover

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn: What Child Is This? 94

\*Taking the Light into the World

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response Three Fold Amen Inside Back Cover

\*Those who can are invited to stand.

Financial Update:

Needed Weekly: \$1,927.00 Needed to Date: \$96,350.00 Rec'd 12-16-18: \$2,017.00 Rec'd to Date: \$98,398.55 Sunday: <u>12-23-18</u>

9:30 AM Worship (nursery available, but not staffed)

10:45 AM Sunday School

Monday: <u>12-24-18</u>

10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service and Communion

Sunday: <u>12-30-18</u>

9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Tuzz & Liz Hobbs)

Guest speaker John Zerbe

No Sunday School

## **Announcements:**

The **Women's Bible Study** is next January 8, at 7 PM. We are going through the Book of Matthew. All are welcome.

The boxes with **offering envelopes** can be found on the white table in the prayer room. Please sign your name beside the box number you are taking for the year 2019.

The 2019 Flower chart is in the vestibule. Please sign up.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the January newsletter. Submit them to <a href="mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc">secretary@salemchurch.cc</a> or PastorTomEmery@live.com.

## **Upcoming Birthdays**

23<sup>rd</sup>-Jeff Owens 24<sup>th</sup> Mary Ellen Lloyd 30<sup>th</sup>-Isaiah Pugh

## **Upcoming Anniversaries**

28th-Doug & Marilyn Strickler



# Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | December 23, 2018

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.cc

**Prayer Concerns:** 

Kylee Ball (surgery)

Peggy Burnett

Jim Davis (cancer)

Mark Davis

Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)

Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)

Doris Evans (cancer)

Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer)

Judy Foust

Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)

Bill Harmon (cancer)

Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)

Bob Hundley (cancer)

Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas-friend of Barb Good)

Jan Jones (health Issues)

Paula Jones (healing from fall)

Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer - friend of Evelyn Martz)

Barbara Lewis (heart attack, friend of Evelyn Martz)

Linda Lissey (cancer)

Bob Louth

Becky Martz (health problems)

Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)

Sarah Miller (health issues)

Gwen Montez (Vertebrae & internal surgery)

Marian Morris

Chance Mosier (shoulder surgery)

Kim Owens

Dorothea Plikerd

Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)

Joyce Profit

Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)

Marjorie Rhodes

Julie Sheets (lung cancer)

Shelly (vertigo)

Bobbie Spyres

Natalie Wilkins (failing in health)

Noah Wyatt (brain surgery)

## Serving our Country:

Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)

Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)

Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
"The Signicance of Bethlehem" Micah 5:2-5a
Salem Presbyterian Church
December 23, 2018

Like his fellow prophets, Micah denounced the sins of the people and the sins of the nobility. The leaders of the nation hated justice and perverted all that is righteous and holy. The Assyrians thundered toward Jerusalem and crushed the little villages because of the idolatry and faithless actions of those in corridors of power in Jerusalem. Micah declared hope would not come from Jerusalem but from an unlikely place, a little village, one that bore the cost of the rebellion against God in the capital. Front and center is Mary who sang a rousing and uplifting song with the fancy Latin title "The Magnificat." We can reflect on the simple fact that Mary sang a song of immense trust in God and hope for the world.

#### **TEACHING POINTS**

POINT ONE – The event at Bethlehem is the center of the universe.

POINT TWO – Jesus did not visit this planet when we became good enough to receive Him.

POINT THREE – The Messiah will be our peace.

#### THIS WEEK'S KEY PASSAGE

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf. (*Micah 5:2 NLT*).

#### **ACTION POINT**

Micah 5:2 is a good sample of one of the most precise messianic prophecies in all of the Bible. Remember that what Micah wrote here was written 750 years before the Lord Jesus was ever born. The Davidic line has been humiliated, defeated, and seemingly cut off. But that is not God's planned conclusion for the story. This new Davidic ruler comes from God and not from the Jerusalem succession of Davidic kings. Gospel logic always works this way. God has always been ready to correct human power and its foolishness. The prophet speaks of this God "whose origin is from old, from ancient days." Speaking on origins, Rudolf Bultmann (in his commentary on John) wrote about the meaning of being "born again." It's not a psychological rush; it's a whole new life. As Rudolf Bultman holds, "Rebirth means... something more than an improvement in man - it means that man receives a new origin; this is... clearly... a thing which he cannot give to himself." Why not make Christ the center of your life at the Bethlehem manger?

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