## **Salem Presbyterian Church**

4th Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 22, 2019

Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Carla Breese

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Prelude Lighting of the Candles Welcome & Prayer

\*<u>Hymn</u> What Child Is This? 94

Call to Worship Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 529

<u>Prayer of Confession</u>: Immanuel, there is a lot of focus on You during Christmas. We put up our nativity scenes and hang up our stars. We pay attention to You, and give You the honor that is due You. But so often, throughout the rest of the year, we forget to remember the significance of who You are. You are God with us, Immanuel, God in the flesh. Forgive me for being so easily distracted that I do not give You the honor that is due You, each and every day. Forgive me for looking outside of You to try and find that which only You can supply – my meaning, my purpose and life. We pray this together in Jesus' Name. Amen. (*Please take a moment of silent confession*).

Assurance of Pardon

Response Glory Be to the Father Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

<u>Prayer Response</u> The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings \*Isaiah 7:10-16 623

Matthew 1:18-25 877 Romans 1:1-7 1024 Special Music LaDonna Allenbaugh

Time for Children

\*Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem 92

Sermon "Immanuel, God Is with Us" Rev. Thomas Emery

\*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 quick 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 God's tithes and our offerings.

Julie Foust

Response Praise God Inside Front Cover

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High 89

\*Congregational Response Three Fold Amen Inside Back Cover

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

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**Financial Update** 

Needed Weekly:	\$1,945.26	Needed to Date:	\$97,263.00
Rec'd 12-15-19:	\$1,888.50	Rec'd to Date:	\$110,333.92

<sup>\*</sup>Taking the Light into the World

<sup>\*</sup>Charge and Benediction

Sunday: <u>12-22-2019</u>

9:30 AM Worship (nursery is not staffed)

10:45 AM Sunday School

Wednesday: <u>12-24-2019</u> 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

Sunday: <u>12-29-2019</u>

9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker John Zerbe

No Sunday School (nursery with Eric & Jenny Pugh)

Sunday: <u>1-5-2020</u>

9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker Glenn Hux

No Sunday School (nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd)

### **Announcements:**

Don't forget the **Prayer Sheet** is on the back table which will be read during our prayer time.

Pastor Tom is attending the **Archaeological Institute of America** convention in Washington DC January 2-5<sup>th</sup> for his study leave.

Women's Bible Study starts again Tuesday, January 7th, at 7 PM. All women are invited.

The next **Session meeting** is at 12:30 PM on Sunday, January 19.

The **Confirmation Class** starts up again 11:30 AM on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 6:30 PM on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The next **Congregational Meeting** is on January the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Be sure to sign up for the 2020 Flower Chart on the back bulletin Board.

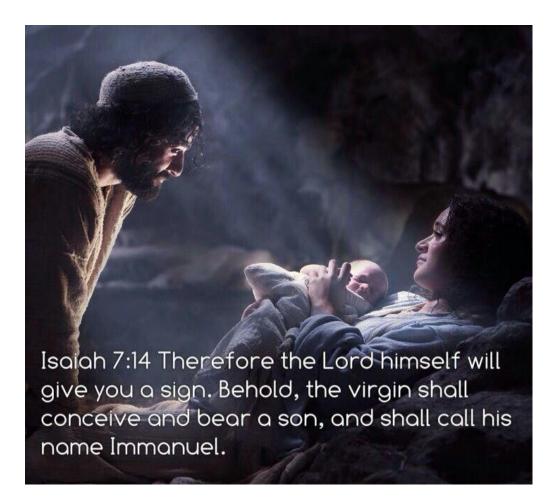
Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the January newsletter. Submit them to <a href="mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc">secretary@salemchurch.cc</a>.

**Upcoming Birthdays:** 

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

**Upcoming Anniversaries:** 

28<sup>th</sup>-Doug & Marilyn Strickler



## Isaiah 7:10-17

# Salem Presbyterian Church

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

Secretary 419-303-2032 (call/text)

secretary@salemchurch.cc
December 22, 2019

## **Prayer Concerns**

Connie Bassett (breast cancer) Kyle Baxter (brain cancer)

Barry Coil (stroke)

Kathy Comer

Amy Cunningham (Fibromyalgia)

John Davis (stroke)

Cathy Donnal (health issues)

Kent DuCheney (surgery)

Aiden Ellerbrock (injuries from a fall)

Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)

Catie Emery (nightmares)

Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)

Suzanne Hadley-Himes (cancer)

Bill Harmon (cancer)

Tim Huster (cancer)

Connie Johnson (cancer)

Jan Jones (health Issues)

Paula Jones (healing from fall)

Dale Kiesza (leg operation)

Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)

Linda Lissey (cancer)

Bob Louth (heart problems)

Bob Louth, Jr. (prostate health)

LuAnn (family issues)

Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)

Marian Morris (failing health)

Dorothea Plikerd

Terry Profit (chemotherapy)

Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)

Marjorie Rhodes

Julie Sheets (lung cancer)

Sherry Silar (cancer)

Bruce Taylor (had a liver transplant)

Martha Jean Evans Vasquez

Natalie Wilkins (failing in health)

Noah Wyatt (brain surgery)

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Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps
Corey McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
4th Sunday of Advent
"God Uses the Unlikely" – Isaiah 7:10-16
Salem Presbyterian Church
December 22, 2019

In Isaiah 7, the circumstance of the passage prophecy is that the foolish King Ahaz of Judah refuses to trust in God for deliverance from the powerful Israelite-Syrian alliance against him. Ahaz even turned down God's offer of a divine sign meant to build his faith in the confidence of God's care for him. But, God gives him a sign anyway—a young woman (NLT, "virgin") will give birth to a child called Immanuel ("God is with us"). In Isaiah 9, however, it is indicated that there are spectacular characteristics about the future coming child that will be fulfilled only through the Messiah. Isaiah calls Him "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Ahaz did not show faith in God for God's care for him, but here to us, God is asking if we will have faith in His Son who is "God with us" to show His care for us.

## **TEACHING POINTS**

POINT ONE – God uses what He wants to accomplish His purposes.

POINT TWO – It pleases God to use the unlikely.

POINT THREE – Then, God can use any of us.

#### THIS WEEK'S VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us') (Isaiah 7:14 NLT).

## **ACTION POINT**

When God offered the gift of salvation, He didn't send a technical book for us to figure it out; He sent his only Son. A young couple experiences the miraculous in their lives. A humble carpenter husband shows extraordinary love and trust. And God enters into human experience so we can know and trust Him. Christmas is a time for reflecting on God reaching out to us in love. God's Son is reaching out to you to begin a relationship with Him. Why not take the time this Christmas season and receive by faith the gift of salvation that God is offering to you?

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