

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 23 Issue 11

November 2021

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it (Psalm 139:13-14 NLT).

In the Salem adult Sunday School class, we are reviewing the reenactment of the Gospels in the video series, "The Chosen." It proclaims the ministry of Jesus and His gathering His disciples. From the example of His unconditional love seen in the series, you will realize that God created each of us to be one of His loved children for a relationship with Him with a purpose in the mission He has for each of us.

In fact, the Bible tells us that God made us in His image by overseeing every stage of our development. He ordained our days before we even took our first breath! Think about that for a moment. He spent time fashioning us into His likeness so that we could walk the earth as His children. He wants the very best for us. We were created with great worth.

However, sin and shame are the main culprits in hindering our sense of worth in this world controlled by Satan. Don't believe you are worthless to the Lord. Your past and current mistakes are redeemable every time! God loved us while we were sinners! And He continues to love us to bring us to the saving knowledge of His Son.

You are important because Jesus has called you to be essential for His kingdom. The nearer you walk with Christ, the less you focus on worldly self-worth, and instead, you focus on the Jesus who is worthy to be praised! Allow your worth to shine through by seeking the Good Shepherd. When you do, Christ's love will radiate through you, increasing His presence in your life. There is no greater worth than that!

The closer you seek Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the more tuned to His voice you become over the voices of the world, and those things He speaks about your self-worth are shown to be true. So, we rebuke those negative thoughts in the Name of Jesus!

We move forward in step with God's Spirit, knowing we were made to bring Him glory. Shake off your feelings of unworthiness in exchange for the confidence we've been given in Christ's love. For in Him, we find that life has meaning. Feel the love that He offers you!

Pastor Tom Emery

"O Come to The Altar"

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling



O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide

Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Oh what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen

Oh what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

"O Come to the Altar" Elevation Worship. [Link](#)

How to Really Be Happy

Since we were not made to live in a fallen world, true happiness must be found outside it – through the living and written Word. Just read Matthew 5, the most famous sermon ever given. Jesus says to us that we won't find happiness in the things of the world. Christ offers a series of startling messages on how to be happy, stating things in complete opposition to what the world says will make up happy.

Happy are the Humble. The world tells us not to be humble. But God will resist the proud and exalts the humble. He will draw near to those who recognize that they are incomplete apart from God.

Happy are the hurting. The world says to avoid pain at all costs. But Jesus says that the most profound experiences we ever have will come from pain. The greatest truths will be learned through suffering. Some of our most joyous moments will be when everything on the outside is dictating anguish in our lives. Happy are those who hurt, *for they shall be comforted.*

Happy are the harnessed. The world says that we don't want to be hungry, we want to be satisfied. Jesus says that true joy can never be found in material things. Happiness comes from having an inner desire to know God and partake of His nature. Those people who fill themselves up on the Lord, rather than the world, will find real happiness.



Happy are the helpers. The world says that happiness is being served by others. Jesus says that He came into this world not to be served but to serve. Happy are those who are merciful to others, *for they shall be ministered to.*

Happy are the holy. The world says that joy is found in unrestrained freedom. Happiness comes from having a clean heart and knowing that we are walking close to the Almighty.

Happy are the healers. The world says that we are in competition with our fellow workers using any means to reach the top. Jesus says the happy people are the peacemakers, those who can heal situations rather than exacerbate them. Mend your relationships. Happiness is found not in creating a war but in establishing peace.

Happy are the harassed. The world wants us to conform to its image, live by its standards. It is at war with God and expects us to be too. Jesus says we ought to be happy when persecution comes, for it is a sign that we belong to God. We must be making an impact, or the devil wouldn't bother with us. So, while we are living in this culture, we must learn how to live God's way; and that will create tension with our world.

Psalm 1 helps describe how we can live God's way. "*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful*" (verse 1). *Ungodly* means that they are living without God. The next step away from God is

toward sin. Those who are *scornful* are rebellious against God, blasphemous in their attitude toward Him. As a person is pulled into the world, he is pulled away from God and toward sin and rebellion.

If a person will look back over their life, they'll find that the things with which they used to be uncomfortable have gradually become comfortable. That's the pull of the world. Jesus explained that by living out the Beatitudes, we can experience the life-changing power of God in the midst of an evil culture.

The only way to survive in the world which tries to slowly poison our minds is to renew our minds each day. Psalm 1 again says that the blessed man is the *one who delights in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night*. When I open my Bible, I know I'm looking at the very Word of God!

Paul says, *"Therefore, I urge you, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, I but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, His pleasing and perfect will"* (Romans 12:1-2).

By allowing God's Word to refresh and transform you, you can begin to see the principles of Jesus Christ start to work in your life. You'll be blessed – happy. There is a path to happiness the world knows nothing about. If we spend our lives cultivating the Word of God, we'll find real happiness.

Adapted from "How to Be Really Happy: How to Be Happy According to Jesus" in *The Study of the Beatitudes* by Dr. David Jeremiah (used in the Women's Bible Study).

What's the Difference Between Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day?

According to dictionary.com, the word "Halloween" is a "direct derivation of All Saints Day" with "All Hallows" in Old English meaning "the feast of the saints." To hallow is "to make holy or sacred, to sanctify or consecrate, to venerate." The adjective *hallowed*, as used in The Lord's Prayer, means holy, consecrated, sacred, or revered.

It is important to keep in mind that All Saints Day is also known as All Hallows Day, Halloween or Feast of All Saints in the Christian Church. The day November 1 commemorates all the saints in the church both known and unknown who have attained heaven.

What Is All Hallow's Eve? Though the original roots of All Hallow's Eve aren't certain, it has been traced back

to the countries of Ireland, Britain, and France. The Celts of Ireland, Britain and France divided their year in halves: the light half and the dark half. The light half consisted of the spring and summer months when the days were longer and the nights were shorter. The dark half was the opposite. It consisted of the fall and winter months with longer, colder nights and shorter days. To mark the end of summer, the Celts held a harvest festival known as *Samhain* steeped in superstition and fear of evil. It is celebrated on the 31st of October beginning at sunset and ending at sunset on Nov. 1.

This ancient Celtic pagan harvest festival Samhain was also associated with human death. The Druids built bonfires in order for the people to make sacrifices of crops and animals. Those who participated in the festival would dance around a bonfire. Some of the dances were a representation of the circle of life and death. The Celts also believed that on the night before the New Year, the boundary between the worlds of the dead and living became blurred. It was believed that fairies and ghosts of the dead could freely return to earth. It was believed these spirits could hide livestock, haunt the living and destroy their crops. For this reason, they concealed their real identities from the spirits through the use of costumes made from animal skins and heads.

Following the Roman conquest of Britain, British Celts adopted the Julian calendar and fixed the date of Samhain's observance to November 1.

The holiday was Christianized as Halloween by the early church. Over time, it has evolved into a day of activities like making jack-o-lanterns from pumpkins, bobbing for apples, trick-or-treating and other festivities. In other countries as well as in Catholicism, one attends church services. Some Christians also abstain from meat, eating vegetarian foods including potato pancakes, apples and soul cakes.

What Is All Saints Day?

Around 609 A.D., Pope Boniface IV reconsecrated the Pantheon in Rome. He renamed it the Church of St. Mary and the Martyrs. He established the anniversary as a day of celebratory remembrance for all of

the Church's martyrs. Later, Pope Gregory III changed to date to November 1 during the dedication of St.



Peter's Basilica to "all saints," in an effort to combat pagan worship.

November 1 became All Saints Day, otherwise known as All Hallow's Day. Christians would come together on this day to ask for God's protection from evil in the world as well as blessings. Patrons would dress up in costumes of evil spirits or saints in order to depict the battle between good and evil.

What Is All Souls Day? All Souls Day commemorates the faithful departed. This day is observed in the Catholic Church as well as the Eastern Orthodox churches. Roman Catholics believe that the souls of the faithful who at death have not been cleansed from their sins and punishment could not attain heaven and are instead sent to purgatory. It was believed, based on certain books of the Catholic Bible, that these trapped souls could be helped by prayer. The custom of setting apart this day for intercession was established by Saint Odilio of Cluny. This practice then spread throughout Europe and eventually to the Western Church.

What Does the Bible Say about the Dead? Now that you've been given a detailed history about the accounts of these three holidays, it's important to keep in mind that the Bible doesn't tell us to pray to saints ([Matt 6:6](#)), there is no discussion or evidence of purgatory, and we cannot pray our departed loved ones into heaven. The doctrine of purgatory is not a scriptural concept. We do, however, see much discussion in God's Word about the only two destinations for those who have died: Heaven and Hell.

However, we can turn to the Bible and allow the Holy Spirit to use the Word to spur our faithfulness. [Hebrews 11](#) gives examples about the cloud of witnesses whose lives left a legacy of God's grace and speak to us about our future in heaven with Christ.

Adapted from "What's the Difference Between Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day?" by Heather Rigglesman. Crosswalk.com.

Van Wert County Prayer Meetings November 4, 11, 18, and 25th

The Trinity Friends Church of Van Wert is hosting this month's **Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting** at noon each Thursday during November at 605 N. Franklin Street.

Salem News

The **Veterans Day Service** is on November 14th. The Budget and nomination reports will be given to the

Congregation November 14th, and the vote on the budget and officers will be November 21st.

Please start collecting **gravy packets**. The goal for our church this year is 650 packages to donate to the Salvation Army by December 6th.

Election Day Meal November 2nd



All Saints Day

The Church of Jesus Christ exists in two places: on earth and in heaven. On All Saints' Day, recognition is on **Sunday, Nov 7th**, and we acknowledge the loss of lives we have experienced in the past one year. The names of the ones who departed are read in the Salem service of worship, and a hand bell is rung in memory of each loved one:

The names this year are: Larry Tribolet, Carol Ringwald, Karen Lentz, Art Eversole, Dean Mollenkopf, Corky Hammons, Ken Davies, John Pavel, Gretta Waltz-Shaw, Billy Hughes, Ron Bagley, Curt Whetstone, Marcia Hundley Hernandez, Dick Kirkendall, Barb Laing, Max Myers, Jill Burnett, David Owens, Ken Coil, Danny King, Clint Mosier, Naomi "Jane" Mason, Linda Girod, Inara Febus, Ralph Eversole, Ray Young, Ione Owens, Linda Lifesy, Sheri Youngpeter, Jim Lehman, Alice Morris, Dale Davies, Harold Wollenhaupt, and Evelyn Harter.

Christmas Shoe Boxes



Plan to pack a shoe box this year and be part of an amazing project that brings hope and joy to children in over 150 countries. Not only do they receive fun and useful items, but they also hear the Gospel message. Since 2009, 12.5 million children

reported making decisions for Christ, and 26.5 million children have been enrolled in this program. Boxes and brochures are available in the Prayer room with instructions for packing a box. Collection day is Sunday, November 21, 2021. [Link](#)

Church Financial Update

Prayerfully consider making a donation. Salem Church. Offerings should be mailed to the church at:

Salem United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Needed to Date: \$92,768.80
Received to Date: \$101,475.56

Old Memories



Bell choir group: Mary Evans, Mary Patterson, Jean Owens, Becky Zirkle, Marcile Lare, Doris Price, Mildred Morris, Evelyn Pugh, Bartie Jones

Van Wert County Revival



2021-10-15 Revive Van Wert County event at the Van Wert Fairgrounds

Salem and Sights



2021-10-17 Kim Coil and Carol Emery with the Sunday School crafts.



2021-10-17 Meeting of the Salem Session and Trustees planning for 2022.



2021-10-24 Junior Bell Choir



2021-10-24 Soloist Colan Fokine with Dave Van Tilburg on piano.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

Shut-Ins

Barlie Jones

407 Stony Ridge Dr
Sandusky, OH 44870

Marjorie Rhodes

Homestead at Towne Ctr
240 Towne Ctr Blvd,
Van Wert, OH 45891

John & Mary Ellen Lloyd

20155 Venedocia-Eastern
Venedocia, OH 45894

Maxine Stewart

Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th St.
Spencerville, OH 45887

Paul & Doris Price

18890 Bebb St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marian Morris

Homestead at Towne Ctr
240 Towne Ctr Blvd,
Room # 210
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marjorie Eutsler

15044 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marilyn Stockton

Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th St.
Spencerville, OH 45887

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

(U.S. Coast Guard)
7225 Altura Place
Oakland, CA 94605

SPC Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Cmr 405 Box 3825
APO, AE 09034

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)

Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler

(National Guards)
14975 Van Wert-Mercer
Co. Line Road
Venedocia, OH 45894

Sgt. Micah Linger

(U.S. Marine Corps)
2nd MEF G4
PCS Box 20085
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Gyer Blackmore (Army)

Section BDE. S1. Unit HHC
101st DSB
APO AE 09366

Away at College

Madison Pugh – USCGA | 15 Mohegan Ave..
8785 Chase Hall, New London, CT 06320

Condolences

Condolences to the family of Harold
Wollenhaupt, Evelyn Harter, and Jeanette
Smith

Prayer Concerns

Rick Army
Greg & Mara Beougher & family
Lynnix Bragg
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Pastor Tom Emery
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair (cancer)
Nikki Ford (knee surgery & funds for surgery)
Andy Francis (pneumonia)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Brett Hammons (brain tumor)
Jane Harter
Jerry Holscher
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Ann King (cancer)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)

LuAnn (family issues)
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd
LuAnn (family issues)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Bruce Mentrup (Covid)
Byron Mohr
Dave Morris (Zeb)
Marian Morris
Judy Jones Muhn (health issues)
Steve Peters (surgery & recovery)
Paul & Doris Price
Greg Richards
Marjorie Rhoades
Reddington Rothgeb (leukemia)
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Stacy Smith
6 Brenda Staten
Betty Tennant
Rosa Wollenhaupt
Area Nursing Homes and residents

Birthdays

2 Avery Zielke
5 Carla Breese
5 Missy Zielke
11 Sarah Kimmet
16 Doug Jones
30 Mike Breese
1 Dan Lloyd
5 Marjorie Rhoades
10 Lucas Mullenhour
12 Katie Emery
29 Kathy McCollow

November 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 4:30-7:00 PM Election night dinner at the Lion's Club.	3 7 PM Viewing of "The Chosen" at the manse	4 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Trinity Friends Church	5	6
7 FALL BACK TIME CHANGE 9:30 AM Worship All Saints Day 10:45 AM Joint Trustee and Session meeting Adult Sunday School	8	9 7:00 Women's Bible Study	10 7 PM Viewing of "The Chosen" at the manse	11 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Trinity Friends Church	12	13
14 9:30 AM Worship Thank Offering Veteran's Day recognition Budget & nomination Reports will be available Adult Sunday School	15	16 7:00 Women's Bible Study	17 7 PM Viewing of "The Chosen" at the manse	18 Van Wert County- Wide Prayer Meeting at the Trinity Friends Church	19	20
21 9:30 AM Worship Congregational Meeting Shoe boxes are due Adult Sunday School	22	23 7:00 Women's Bible Study TBD	24 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service- food offering Canned goods & gravy packets	25	26	27
28 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 Advent Breakfast	29	30 7:00 Women's Bible Study				

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
November 7	Mark & Missy Zielke	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	LaDonna Allenbaugh
November 14	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Mark & Missy Zielke	Connie O'Neill
November 21	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Mark & Missy Zielke	Connie O'Neill
November 28	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Dave & Carla Breese	Dave Van Tilburg
		Greeter:	Marilyn Foust

Salem Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894



2021-10-27 Salem Senior Luncheon and Bingo at the Lions Club

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

**November 2021
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR B**

24th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 7

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Psalm 127
Heb. 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

25th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 14

1 Sam. 1:4-20 1 Sam. 2:1-10
Heb. 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8

Christ the King/Reign of Christ – Nov 21

2 Sam. 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-18
Rev. 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

1st Sunday of Advent – Nov 28

Jer. 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thess. 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36