

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen (Isaiah 9:6-7 NLT)!



We celebrate at Christmas, the coming of Jesus as the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He is the Living Word who reveals Himself to us. He is the Almighty King

of Kings who seeks us out for relationship. The Christmas story gives more meaning to Revelation 3:20: "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends." In Him, we find that life has meaning. In Him, we find purpose as a Child of God who will be a party to His heavenly Kingdom.

As we prepare for a New Year, if you have not already, why not invite Jesus into your life so you can experience the living Christ come alive in your heart. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel means "come God with us." The more that you experience Him, the more things of this world will fade in importance, and the more you will be filled with the more than abundant joy that this world cannot offer you!

Pastor Tom Emery

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times did'st give the Law,
In cloud, and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

13th century Hymn. Public domain. [Link](#)



"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

What Is Advent?

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40

days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas.

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the church’s cry during the Advent season.



Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God’s unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus’ sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize

the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy, and peace. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

Adapted from “What Is Advent?” Justin Holcomb. Christianity.com

Why do we celebrate Christmas?

Christians the world over celebrate Christmas in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. Various Christmas traditions have been associated with the celebration of Christmas, and different cultures celebrate different ways. The unifying factor is the historical fact that Jesus was born, c. 5 BC. The angel who appeared to the shepherds the night of Jesus’ birth said, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:10–11).

We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, the birth of Jesus Christ is “good news.” Good news is meant to be celebrated. In fact, the angel said the news of Jesus’ birth would cause “great joy” and would be “for all the people”—the joyful celebration would be universal. People around the globe would be glad for this occasion.

We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, “A Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” The three titles the angel applies to Jesus are important. Jesus is the *Savior* who delivers us from sin and death (Matthew 1:21). He is the human *Messiah* (or Christ) who fulfills the Law and the Prophets, showing that God is faithful (see Matthew 5:17). And He is the divine *Lord* who has entered our world: the Almighty has taken on human flesh; God and man have been fused together in an indivisible, eternal bond; God is truly with us (see Matthew 1:23).

In celebrating Christmas, we celebrate the Savior, because we needed deliverance. We celebrate the

Christ in whom all of God's promises are "Yes" and "Amen" (2 Corinthians 1:20). We celebrate the Lord who in humility took on "the very nature of a servant" for our sakes (see Philipians 2:6–8).

We celebrate Christmas with gift-giving because of the "incredible gift" that God gave to us (2 Corinthians 9:15). We celebrate Christmas by stringing lights because the Light of the world has come to us (John 1:4; Isaiah 9:2). We celebrate Christmas with carols and choirs because they are expressive of joy and follow the examples of Mary and Zacharias and Simeon and the angels, all of whom extolled the Lord in poetry (Luke 1–2). We celebrate Christmas by decorating evergreen trees with stars and angels and tinsel because of the eternal life Jesus brings (John 4:14)—and stars and angels and beauty were all associated with Jesus' birth.

In celebrating Christmas, we celebrate the love and condescension of God. In Texas in 1987, a toddler by the name of Jessica McClure fell into an eight-inch well casing. Down she went, becoming stuck twenty-two feet below ground. Once people discovered that "Baby Jessica" was in the well, they took immediate action. They didn't tell her to find a way to climb back up, and they didn't just shout happy thoughts to encourage her. No, *they went down to where she was and got her*. They did whatever it took. Rescuers worked nonstop for fifty-eight hours to free her.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve fell. Down they went, dragging all humanity with them into the darkness and death of sin. And what did God do? He did not tell us to find our own way out of the mess we were in, and He did more than shout down happy thoughts to us from heaven. No, *He came down to where we were and got us*. That's what Christmas is all about—God's coming down to rescue us, to do whatever it took to deliver us from sure death.

When even one person is in a life-threatening situation, we understand what has to be done. When God looked down at our sinful planet, He saw a whole world of people in mortal danger. We celebrate Christmas because it was at Christmastime that the Rescuer of all mankind came to save us from the hopeless situation we were in. God did not stay in heaven; He came down to where we are.

Adapted from: "Why do we celebrate Christmas?"
GotQuestions.org.



Heal from Hurt Around the Holidays

You and I both know that there are a lot of hurting people at Christmas time. A lot of people hurt during the holiday season. We all act like it's a time of great joy. It is for many of us, until some pull back the curtain.

Behind the curtain we find children being tossed back and forth between parents. Some can't afford to buy presents. There is just no money to spare. Some are jobless. Some are sick. Some families are tragically dysfunctional. Some parents can't stand their children. Some children can't stand their parents—or siblings. Some feel lonely. Others are rejected.

Alexander Maclaren, an old Scottish preacher, once said: "Please be kind to everyone you meet because everyone is fighting a battle."

When I recite his quote, I ask the folks in the congregation to look up and down their row. "Everyone sitting around you is fighting a battle." Everyone gets quiet. We are imperfect, and we live with imperfect people in an imperfect world. Therefore, we will all experience some hurt. Unfortunately, it's my experience that most of us have no model for how to heal hurts.

A man asked his wife, "If you could have anything in the world for one day, what would you want?" She said with a smile, "Well, I'd love to be six again."

Early the next morning, the morning of her birthday, he got her up, and off they went to a local theme park. What a day. He put her on every ride in the park—the death slide, the screaming loop, the wall of fear—everything that was—five hours later she staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling, her stomach was upside down. It's off next to McDonald's. He ordered her 2 Big Macs along with extra fries and a thick chocolate shake.

Then off to an animated movie, the latest Hollywood blockbuster. They ate hot dogs, and popcorn, and M&Ms and Pepsis. It was a fabulous 6-year-old adventure. Finally, she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed. He leaned over and lovingly asked, "Well dear, how did you like being six again?"

One eye opened, she said, "Well, actually, I meant my dress size."

Most people miss seeing the real needs by miles. They come as if hurting people need sermons and condemnation and illustrations and philosophical thoughts and examples from nature. But, Job said, "Can't you just be here with me and say, "You're sorry," as I try to survive.

Adapted from: "How Do I Heal from Hurt around the Holidays?" by Dr. Roger Barrier. [Preach It, Teach It](#). 2021 30 Nov

Needed to Date: \$101,202.32
 Received to Date: \$113,892.81

Salem and Sights



2021-11-02 Salem Election Day Supper Fundraiser Drive Through/ Sit Down

The Chosen



For the first time ever, the greatest story ever told is being presented as a multi-season show. Digging deeper into the possible backstories and context of the people and events of the gospels, *Season One* of the #1 highest crowd-funded media project of all time introduces you to people such as Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew, and of course Jesus in a way never before seen on film. Salem has loaner DVD copies for your viewing and

has showings at the manse.



**Van Wert County Prayer Meetings
 December 2, 9, 16, and 30th**

The Church on the Horizon at 638 Washington St., of Van Wert is hosting this month's **Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting** at noon each Thursday during December.



2021-11-27 Salem Christmas Manger Scene

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



2021-11-28 Hope Advent candle lit by Avery Zielke.



2021-11-28 Junior Bell Choir



2021-11-28 Soloist Maria Van Tilburg



2021-11-28 Advent Breakfast

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 guest room available for them. Luke 2:6-7



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

Charles Boroff

311 West 4th Street
Apt. 104
Odessa, Texas 79761

Marjorie Eutsler

15044 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marilyn Stockton

Lochhaven Apt 220
1640 Allentown Rd
Lima, OH 45805

Away at College

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

Condolences

Condolences to the families of Marion Morris,
Brenda Staten, Karen Smith, and Fred Snyder.

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

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

16 Kent & Heather McClure
28 Doug & Marilyn Strickler

Prayer Concerns

Rick Army
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)
Charlie Good
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Brett Hammons (brain tumor)
Jane Harter
Jerry Holscher
Doug & Jan Jones
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Ann King (cancer)

Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd
LuAnn (family issues)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Byron Mohr
Dave Morris (Zeb)
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
Betty Tennant
Rosa Wollenhaupt
6 Area Nursing Homes and residents



December 2021



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Noon Senior Luncheon	2 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Church on the Horizon, 638 N Washington St.	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session meeting 11:30 AM service for Marion Morris	6	7 7:00 Women's Bible Study	8 Children's Program practice 6 PM	9 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Church on the Horizon, 638 N Washington St.	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship Christmas Program 2:00 Santa at Lions Club 5:00 Trustee Meeting 7:00 Manse Open House	13	14 7:00 Women's Bible Study	15	16 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Church on the Horizon, 638 N Washington St.	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship Christmas Joy Offering	20	21 7:00 Women's Bible Study	22	23	24 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion	25
26 9:30 AM Worship	27	28 7:00 Women's Bible Study	29	30 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer Meeting at the Church on the Horizon, 638 N Washington St.	31	

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
December 5	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Dave & Carla Breese	Connie O'Neill
December 12	Bill & Ruth Evans	Dave & Carla Breese	Becky Reichard
December 19	Nursery is not staffed	Gloria Leiter	Becky Reichard
December 26	Steve & Lindsay Richards	Gloria Leiter	Dave Van Tilburg
		Greeter:	Rex Lloyd

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



2021-11-26 Venedocia Christmas lights decorating poles
During a snowy evening



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

December 2021 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

2nd Sunday of Advent – Dec 5

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

3rd Sunday of Advent – Dec 12

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

Mark 13:1-8

1st Sunday of Advent – Dec 19

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

1st Sunday of Christmas– Dec 26

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