

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4873 Cleveland Road

Wooster, Ohio 44691



*Building Faith by Praying for God's Guidance, Hearing God's Word,  
Sharing God's Grace, Serving God's Children*

MINISTERS: The People of Salem

330-345-6727

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5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 03, 2026

***In Our Prayers:*** Catrina Dotson, Sue & Tom Kenney, Mark Ewing, Lea Ewing, Diane Cook, Kyle Richards, Benjamin Richards, Betty Snyder, Grady Cronick, Lois Phillips, Debra Sears, Alyssa Parish, Willy Zamora, Kathy Bond, Barbara Fedor, Mike Fiser Jr., Regina Carson, Sheril Buchwalter, Chet Molzen, Tari Lowe, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Family of Marvin Hartman, Family of Jean Shoup, Family of Jeanne Lifer, family of Sue Cook.

***Altar Flowers*** are provided by members of the congregation. See the last page of this bulletin for the full listing. Many thanks to all who have donated.

***Welcome Visitors!*** Your presence is a blessing to us. Please pick up an information brochure, complete the visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

***Parents with small children:*** We welcome you and your children to worship this morning. There are activity bags in the Narthex. The nursery is available (with speaker system) should you have need of it.

***Holy Communion*** is offered the first Sunday of each month; we practice open table fellowship: All baptized Christians who share our belief that Jesus Christ is truly present with his body and blood along with the bread and wine, are invited to participate. Register using the card in the back of the pews.

**P** Pastor      **A** Assisting minister      **C** Congregation      **L** Lector

*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*

Prelude  
Bell  
Call to Worship  
Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

**GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER**  
**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

C: **Amen.**

A: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

A: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to  
come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the  
waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.  
We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may  
be named*). Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

A: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on  
our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and  
resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.  
Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

A: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

A: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **We Praise God**

Gathering Hymn  
Greeting

*Evening and Morning*

Red Hymnal #761

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

**Kyrie**

**Page 147**

**Hymn of Praise**

**This is the Feast**

**Page 149**

**Prayer of the Day**

A: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**First Reading**

**Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he

said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

L     The Word of the Lord.     **C     Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading**

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup> and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L     The Word of the Lord.     **C     Thanks be to God.**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John, the Fourteenth chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel****John 14:1-14**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please stand.*

Hymn of the Day

*Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

Red Hymnal #816

**Nicene Creed**

**A:** Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C:** **We believe in one God,**  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation**  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**  
he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again**  
in accordance with the Scriptures;

**He ascended into heaven**  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in Glory to judge the living and**  
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of**  
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the Church**

**A** Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

**C** ***#752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***  
**(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)**

**A** Prayers continue... As we lift up our prayers,

**C** ***#752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***  
**(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)**

**A** Prayers continue... As we lift up our prayers,

**C** ***#752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***  
**(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)**

**A** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C** **Amen.**

## Peace

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## WE OFFER GOD OUR GIFTS

### Offering of Gifts

#### Offertory

Amanda Herbert & Sandy Smith

*Please stand.*

**Offertory Response** *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful* **Red Hymnal #181**

#### Offertory Prayer

P Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C **Amen.**

#### Great Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal Page 152

P: It is indeed right...  
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### Holy, Holy, Holy

Red Hymnal Page 144

#### Eucharistic Prayer

C: **Amen.**

#### Lord's Prayer

A Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come  
they will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen

*Please be seated.*

### **Invitation to Communion**

**A** Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*Please be seated.*

### **Distribution**

*Lamb of God*      Red Hymnal Page 154  
*Musical Selection*

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

**A** Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**C** Amen.

**WE ARE BLESSED AND SENT FORTH  
TO SERVE GOD'S CHILDREN**

*Please stand.*

## **Blessing**

A: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

**Red Hymnal #389**

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

**Sandy Smith**

*Liturgical elements and prayers are drawn from:*

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***THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**Sunday, May 03**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom/Livestream)

10:00 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live Stream)

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

5:00 p.m. YouTube replay of livestream worship

**Monday, May 04**

6:00 p.m. NFL Monday Night! Community Meal

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

**Friday, May 09**

7:00 p.m. Cover to Cover Bible Study (via ZOOM)

***NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**Sunday, May 10**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Facebook Live Stream)

10:00 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live Stream)

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

2:30 p.m. Brookdale Worship

5:00 p.m. YouTube replay of livestream worship

**Monday, May 11**

6:00 p.m. NFL Monday Night! Community Meal

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

**Friday, May 15**

7:00 p.m. Cover to Cover Bible Study (via ZOOM)



**Pastoral Concerns** – Tim Barrage is available to the members of Salem in times of Pastoral concerns or emergencies. He can be reached at 330-465-5763.

**Nursing Home Worship:**

**May 10<sup>th</sup> 2:30 p.m.** Brookdale Senior Living, Wooster. Services are held on the second Sunday of the month.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.** Avenue at Wooster Care and Rehabilitation Center. Services are held on the fourth Sunday of the month.

If you would be willing to help with these services, please contact Barbara Buchwalter @ 330-317-7906.

**Women of Faith** has a Facebook group called “Women of Salem.” If anyone is interested in meeting for brunch at Buehler’s Towne Market at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month, please let us know. <http://www.facebook.com/WomenOfSalem>

**ELCA World Hunger** - All loose change in the offering plate will go toward this special social ministry project.

**Worship Lay Assistants Needed:** As we return to services in the sanctuary, we will need help in continuing our online as well as our in-house service. Consider being a part of this ministry. If you have never performed any of these duties before, we will be happy to show you the ropes. If you have a beautiful voice or are musically inclined, please let us know.

**NFL Monday Night Free Community Meal:** 6:00 p.m. Come for a hot meal, stay for a bible study. This meal is open to any & all who hunger.

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee Formed:**

Planning has begun, history being reviewed, invite lists being put together, activities being planned, dignitaries being contacted, programming and activities being created. We need your involvement and participation in this massive endeavor. Your ideas, your expertise, your funding, your presence. 2027 will be here before we realize and this is the year, 200 years ago that Salem Lutheran Church first held services as a congregation. Join us as we celebrate this amazing accomplishment! **Meeting TODAY following worship.**

**The Chosen – Monday nights\*:** Monday evenings 7:00 p.m.. We continue to show a new episode of “The Chosen” series. Join us as we watch the series together and discuss the episodes in detail.

\*Invite friends or neighbors to one of our special events with the provided post card invites. Fill out their name, add a personal note, and drop in the mail. We can mail it if you drop them in the offering plate.

