

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

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Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

In Our Prayers: Jerry Botkin Sr., Gene Lifer, Bob Thomasetti, Steven Williamson, Helen Raudebaugh, Fred Gilbert, Margarite Wise, Nancy Wise, Catrina Dotson, Mark Ewing, Lea Ewing, Diane Cook, Grady Cronick, Lois Phillips, Debra Sears, Alyssa Parish, Willy Zamora, Kathy Bond, Mike Fiser Jr., Regina Carson, David Carson, Sheril Buchwalter, Chet Molzen, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Family of Betty Snyder, Family of Carlton Zimmerman, Family of Jerry Botkin Jr., Family of Val Barner, Family of Tyler Carr, Family of Tari Lowe, Family of Scott Ries, Family of Christine & McKinley McWilliams, Family of Bob Wasson, Family of Carolyn Knipper, Family of Bernie Buchholz, 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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world.

We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Prelude

Bell

Call to Worship

Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: **Amen**

A: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

A: Compassionate God,

C: **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

We Praise God

Gathering Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Red Hymnal #504

Greeting

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

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Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Page 99

Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and

they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

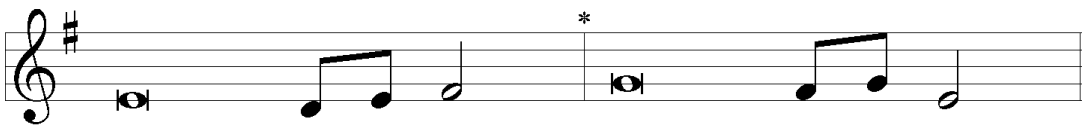
Psalm Refrain



Psalm 138:8

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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Psalm tone



Psalm 46

- A: ¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- C: ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of
the sea;
- A: ³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- C: ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of**
God, the holy habitation of | the Most High.

A: ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

C: ⁶ **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R**

A: ⁷ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

C: ⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

A: ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns
the | shields with fire.

C: ¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be
exalted | in the earth.”**

A: ¹¹ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who

believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Red Hymnal Page 102

Please stand.

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

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

Gospel

John 8:31-36

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P The Gospel of the Lord C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

Red Hymnal #517

Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith using the Apostles' Creed.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

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

**He will come again to judge the living 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.**

Prayers of the Church

A Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

C **#744 Be Glorified**
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

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

C #744 Be Glorified
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

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

C #744 Be Glorified
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these
spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

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 *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **Red Hymnal #185**

Offertory Prayer

P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth
abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous
with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and
always.

C: Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal page 219

A: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. 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.

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

Please stand.

Blessing

A: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

A: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all
circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

A: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

Red Hymnal #729

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Sandy Smith

Liturgical elements and prayers are drawn from:

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 25

Reformation Sunday

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

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

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

12:00 p.m. Council Meeting

2:00 p.m. Avenue Worship

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

Monday, October 26

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Friday, October 30

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

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 01

All Saints Day

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

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

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

12:00 p.m. Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting

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

Monday, November 02

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Friday, November 06

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:

November 08 2:30 p.m. Brookdale Senior Living, Wooster. Services are held on the second Sunday of the month.

TODAY, 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.

200th 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! Next meeting November 1.

Annual Congregational Meeting is set for November 22, 2016

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.

