

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 7, 2022

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PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the Good News! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

HYMN: *How Great Thou Art*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 15: 1-6

The First Reading is from the 15th chapter of Genesis.

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

PSALM: Psalm 33: 12-22 (Please read responsively)

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!

¹³**The Lord looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

The Second Reading is from the 11th chapter of Hebrews.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he

looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” ¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 12: 32-40

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE SERMON

HYMN: *Blessed Assurance*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight ,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who 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

Response to: "Merciful God," . . . **receive our prayer.**

Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate the presence of God in bread and wine. All are welcome to receive this gift.

COLLEGE BLESSING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear –
All because we do not carry ev’rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged – Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness – Take it to the Lord in prayer.

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to Outdoor Worship! We continue to Worship in the picnic grove **every Sunday at 10:30 am** (weather permitting). Bring your lawn chairs, sit at the picnic tables or park near the grove and listen from your car. Plans are to worship in the grove through September 4th. In case of rain, services will be held in the sanctuary. Friends and family, come join us!

TODAY is “**Newsletter Sunday**.” Please check your email for the August Newsletter. If you do not have email and receive your newsletters in your church mailbox, the Secretary will hand-deliver your copy the months we are worshipping in the grove.

Only two more weeks for Salem’s Summer Project! Make sure you turn in your slips for each puzzle you complete (in the red ballot box on the first picnic table) for a chance to win the fabulous prize! The winner will be announced on **Sunday, August 28th** at the Sausage Gravy Breakfast and worship!

Two more weeks to participate in Part 2 of “Bible Tic-Tac-Toe”. For every box of **gallon-sized Zip-loc style bags** you bring (these will be donated to the ‘Meals for Seals’ program), you have the chance to put an X or an O on the big Tic-Tac-Toe board. How many Tic-Tac-Toes we can make as a congregation??

Bible Tic-Tac-Toe Answers – Week 7:

Who was brought back to life by Jesus? Lazarus, Jairus' daughter and the son of the widow Nain
Apostle known for his skepticism – Thomas
I gave birth to Jesus – Mary
About half the books in the New Testament are attributed to this Apostle - Paul
Isaac's Mother – Sarah
Patriarch of the Israelites – Abraham
King of Israel known for his wisdom – Solomon
He was almost sacrificed to God by his father – Isaac
Owner of the coat of many colors – Joseph

Reading today's lessons is Kim Bolig.

Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, August 8th at 7:00 pm** and via *Zoom*.

Prayer Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 10th at 7:00 pm**.

College Send-Off: As our college students head into another year, we send them off with our blessings and prayers. During the worship service **today and next Sunday, August 14th**, all college and graduate students are invited to receive a blessing as they head off on their new adventures!



HAM & EGG BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY!

We missed seeing a lot of you earlier this month at the Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. We hope you can join us at the Ham & Egg Breakfast **NEXT SUNDAY!**

**** PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME! ****

Breakfasts now begin at 9:00 am, followed by **Worship at 10:30 am**. Following Worship, an ice cream & dessert buffet will be held. **Please bring your place settings and a dessert or snack food to share. MEN!** Come early to help prepare for and cook breakfast and join in the fun in the grove kitchen!

Salem's Summer Book Club will meet one more time on **August 16th at 7:00 pm** in the grove (weather permitting).

Backpack Blessing: Calling all Students, Teachers and School Staff! On **Sunday, August 21st** we will be blessing and sending you off with our payers for a new school year. Bring your backpack, briefcase, laptop or just yourselves to receive a blessing for a great start!

A Celebration of Life: On **Saturday, August 27th**, we will gather at Salem to celebrate the life of **Orpha Yoder**. The Memorial Service will be at **12:00 noon here at Salem**. Following the service, you are invited to join the family for a luncheon in the basement. **** IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND**, please contact Orpha's son, Mike Yoder, (email: **glorystang@yahoo.com**) or Salem Secretary, Linda Maurer (**570-374-0339**) **by August 10th** so there can be an accurate count for the luncheon. Thank you.

A **SAUSAGE GRAVY BREAKFAST** will be held in the grove on **Sunday, August 28th**. **Breakfast begins at 9:00 am**, with **Worship to follow at 10:30 am**. Please bring your place setting. We hope to see you there!





COLLEGE STUDENTS & MILITARY



The time of year will soon be here to show our college students & those in the military, that we're keeping them in our thoughts and prayers and give them our support. Collections to help purchase gift cards will begin when we move inside for Worship. Notes of support and gift cards are sent to them 4 times a year. **If you have a college student or young person in the military, please contact Linda Carl (570-556-8451 or dwarfgrumpy@yahoo.com)** with their college or military mailing address. We don't want to miss anyone! When collections begin, **PLEASE** give prayerful thought to making donations to help support and remind these young adults that their Salem Family is keeping them in thought and prayer. Thank you to all who support this important program.



Watch the Bulletins & Newsletters for announcements about an upcoming "musical event" planned for the grove on **September 17th**! You won't want to miss it!

UPCOMING AUGUST EVENTS

Monday, August 8 – Council Meeting – 7:00 pm

Wednesday, August 10 – Prayer Meeting – 7:00

Sunday, August 14 – Ham & Egg Breakfast – 9:00 am

Outdoor Worship – 10:30 am

Ice Cream & Dessert Buffet

Sunday, August 21 – Outdoor Worship – 10:30 am

Wednesday, August 24 – Prayer Meeting – 7:00 pm

Saturday, August 27 – Celebration of Life for Orpha Yoder

Service at 12:00 noon at Salem Church followed by luncheon in the basement

*** **Please notify Mike Yoder (glorystang@yahoo.com) or**

Linda Maurer (570-374-0339) by August 10th if you will be attending.

An accurate count is needed for the luncheon. Thank you.

Sunday, August 28 – Sausage Gravy Breakfast – 9:00 am

Outdoor Worship – 10:30 am