



# TESTIMONY SUNDAY

SHARE YOUR STORY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

## **SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**1500 North Main**

**Higginsville, Missouri**

web page: [salemucchigginsville.org](http://salemucchigginsville.org)

April 12, 2026

10:00 a.m.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
TESTIMONY SUNDAY/BAPTISMS**

**THE GATHERING**

**MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP**

**WELCOME:** No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. The glow of Easter remains! Our risen Lord has promised to be with us always. He welcomes all of us who have come to worship. Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit!

**NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO GOD**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**Piano Prelude**                      "Victory in Jesus"                      Bartlett/ arr. Sikes

**\* RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** As we worship, let us remember that we are all created in God's image of divine love.

**People:** **Out of our Creator's amazing love we are all children of God.**

**Leader:** God's amazing love that sustains us to do God's good will.

**People:** **We were created to be loved by God, to share God's love with one another, and with all the world.**

**Leader:** By God's grace, we have been given all we need to love just as Christ loves us.

**All:**     **May the sunrise of Easter love continue to break forth like dawn, and shine from hearts of gratitude upon our worship this morning.**

**\* HYMN**                      "The Day of Resurrection"                      No. 226

**\* OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

**Our good and gracious God, we give thanks for the fellowship to which the Good News of your undeniable love calls us to embrace. It is a fellowship in which we are called: to share for the sake of your good work among us; to joyfully labor together as servants to all people; and, to share the love of Christ through words and deeds to any and all we meet. May this hour of worship and dedication strengthen our hearts and minds to always strive for the manifestation of your good will on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

No. 623

**HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE  
WORD**

**HYMN** “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” No. 212

*(Please write your joys and concerns on the card and hand it to the usher during the hymn)*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS** Preparation for prayer

**PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD’S PRAYER**

(“debts” and “debtors” words in hymn No. 426)

**MORNING OFFERING**

\*Doxology

No. 625

\*Dedication Prayer

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostle’s Creed

*(Printed inside back cover of Hymnal)*

**CHANCEL CHOIR** “Shout to the Lord” Zschech/ arr Pethel

**RITE OF BAPTISM**

**Welcome:** Mark Gross, President of the Board of Elders

**Elder:** Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**People:** **There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God’s call to us.**

**Elder:** There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Creator of us all.

**Address:** Andy

Jesus said, “Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God’s new order.” The apostle Paul said, “All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ’s death. We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.”

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, the sign and seal of one’s participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

### **Invitation to Candidates, their Families and Sponsors**

Mark Gross, President of the Board of Elders

Elder: We invite those to come forward who wish to be baptized into this community of faith.

Elder: Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to be baptized and to claim in our Presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

### **Questions of Candidates for Baptism, and Sponsors**

Pastor to Candidates: Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor to Sponsors: Are you ready with God’s help to guide and encourage your candidate by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to follow the way of Jesus Christ?

Pastor to Candidates: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor to Candidates: Do you profess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor to Candidates: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in his way of living, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidates: I promise with the help of God.

Pastor to Candidates: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidates: I promise with the help of God.

### **Questions of Parents, Family, and Congregation:**

Mark Gross, President of the Board of Elders

**\*Elder:** Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care, to these children of God about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

**\*People:** We promise our love, support, and care. We receive these children of God as new persons in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as they explore life. We enfold these two in our love, seeking to grow together in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and all people. We join with these parents in sharing the gospel in our midst, so that their children may live with us for Christ, showing forth Christ's love for all people.

**Act of Baptism** Andy



### **Best Wishes for Birthdays this week...**

Will Knipmeyer, April 12  
Roger Russell, April 12  
Kathie Wesley, April 12  
Spencer Rauch, April 13  
Kristin Mullins, April 14  
Betty Rinne, April 16  
Harley Akin, April 18  
Hunter Zuehlsdorf, April 18  
Addison Schloman, April 18

**RECEPTION:** Will be held today following the 10:00am worship service. This year's class is 7 confirmands: Brooklyn Bergsieker, Jaxson Cowherd, Emory Gash, Beau O'Dell, Garrison Salyer, Charles Thaller, and Bailey Urfer. Come celebrate our confirmands! Cake and punch will be served.

### **IN OUR PRAYERS:**

Bobby Bergsieker, will have radiation treatments for a few more weeks.

Charles & Evelyn Marcks, the family would appreciate prayers for both Charles and Evelyn.

Angie Erdman, has breast cancer. She is taking treatments and doing very well. Prayers are appreciated.

Roger Erdman & Tillie Erdman, are at Meyer Care Center. Roger has greatly improved!

Prayers, for anyone with a health issue, anyone grieving, and anyone that has a heavy burden on their heart, mind, and soul.

Prayers, for our world and nation.

### **BEING BAPTIZED TODAY:**

Beau Raymond O'Dell son of Ashley O'Dell.

His grandparents are: Lisa and Donnie Heuser, Cicily and Joe Miller, and the late Johnnie O'Dell.

### **BEING BAPTIZED TODAY:**

Bailey Annette Urfer daughter of Sean and Michelle Urfer.

Her grandparents are: Mary and Lester Homfeld, Julia and Dan Hawkins, Allen and the late Janice Urfer, and Yvonne Guyton and Terry Horn.

## **CONFIRMANDS GIVING TESTIMONIES TODAY:**

Brooklyn Joy Bergsieker daughter of Tim and Courtney Bergsieker. Brooklyn's mentor is Amy Goetz.

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”

Jaxson Samuel Cowherd son of Sara and Mason Vandiver and Robert Cowherd. Jaxson's mentor is Aaron Knipmeyer.

*Mark 10:27*

“Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

Emory Breille Gash daughter of Justin Gash and Shona and Jeff Damron. Emory's mentor is Amy Goetz.

*Jeremiah 29:11*

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Beau Raymond O'Dell son of Ashley O'Dell. Beau's mentor is Dennis Knipmeyer.

*Philippians 4:13*

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Garrison James Salyer son of Teri and Jeff Graham and Justin and Abby Salyer. Garrison's mentor is Delbert Goetz.

*Ephesians 5:19*

“Address one another in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.”

Charles Jewell Bernerd Thaller son of Pete and Mandy Thaller. Charles' mentor is Keill Borchers.

*Colossians 3:23*

“Whatever you do, do it from the heart for the Lord and not for people”

Bailey Annette Urfer daughter of Sean and Michelle Urfer. Bailey's mentor is Hailey Pessetto.

*Jeremiah 29:11*

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TESTIMONY BOOKLETS:** Confirmands testimonies will be available in the back of the sanctuary Sunday, April 19, 2026.

**LAMPLIGHTER:** Articles for the May Lamplighter are due in the church office by Thursday, April 23. Thank you.

### **RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES:**

The church will recognize all graduates on Sunday, May 3, 2026, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. If you have anyone graduating from high school or college this spring please call the church office (660) 584-3603 with the information by April 29, 2026, so they can be included in the bulletin.

### **PAPER COPIES OF THE LAMPLIGHTER AVAILABLE:**

Paper copies of the Lamplighter are available in the back of the Sanctuary and by the church office.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS:**

#### **The Lafayette Area Women's Fellowship Spring Meeting**

will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at Ebenezer UCC in Levasy. The registration and fellowship time will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. Martha Hawthorne will have the presentation “Claiming our Heritage.” Each church is to give a 5-minute presentation sharing the history of their church and recognize past and present women in their church. All women (and men) are welcome. You do not have to be a part of a women's group. There will be a salad luncheon.

**JKV AND MEYER CARE CENTER BIBLE STUDY:**

John Knox Village and Meyer Care Center have a weekly Bible Study that is led, on a rotational schedule, by the Ministerial Fellowship. Mary Biesemeyer (Ministerial Fellowship) will lead Bible Study during the month of April. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

**WESTERN ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING:**

The Western Association meeting will be held April 18, at Bethel UCC in Concordia.

**LAFAYETTE CO C-1 BACCALAUREATE**

Everyone is invited to the Baccalaureate Service at Salem Church celebrating and praying for the Graduating Seniors of Lafayette County C-1 on Sunday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m.

**PRAYERS AND CONCERNS:** Anyone who is in need of prayers, please call the church office, (660) 584-3603.

**UP COMING DATES:**

April 12—Testimony Sunday with Two Baptisms

Confirmation Reception following 10:00 a.m.

Service **(No 8:00 a.m. Worship)**

April 19—Confirmation Sunday **(No 8:00 a.m. Worship)**

April 26—Installation of Officers at the 10:00 a.m. Service

April 29—Please call church office with Graduates Information

May 3—Music Sunday

Recognition of Graduates during the 10:00 a.m. service

Lafayette County C-1 Baccalaureate at Salem

May 10—Mother's Day

May 17—Perfect Attendance

Fourth Grade Bible Presentation

May 25—Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)

### **ATTENDANCE FOR April 5, 2026**

Easter Sunrise worship service attendance: 83

10:00 a.m. Easter worship service in-person attendance: 60

10:00 a.m. live-stream attendance on YouTube: 28

### **INCOME & EXPENSES FOR April 3 –April 9, 2026**

General Fund Income: \$5,187

General Fund Expense: \$1,576

### **FINANCIAL GIVING OPTIONS:**

1. Check or Cash is always accepted. You may place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Offering plates are placed in the back of the Sanctuary at the 10:00 a.m. service or by the bulletins at the 8:00 a.m. service. On special occasions the offering plate will be passed at the 10:00 a.m. service. You may also mail your contribution to Salem, 1500 Main, Higginsville, MO 64037.
2. Salem Church website ([saalemucchigginsville.org](http://saalemucchigginsville.org)). Click on the Resources & Links tab then click the online giving link
3. Text 73256 on your phone and use the code SalemHigg and then click on the link
4. Download the Salem church app and under the giving tab is a link for online giving

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT SALEM

April 12 thru April 19, 2026

- Sunday - Andy Mockridge, Pulpit Supply  
No 8:00 a.m. Early Worship  
8:45 a.m. Sunday School  
8:50 a.m. Little Notes and Chime Bell Rehearsal  
9:10 a.m. Youth Choir  
10:00 a.m. Worship: Testimonies/Baptisms and Live-Stream Worship on YouTube  
Reception for Confirmands following worship
- Monday - No Activities Scheduled
- Tuesday - Food Pantry  
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group  
7:00 p.m. Lafayette Area Cancer Coalition
- Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. Church Council Special Meeting  
6:00 p.m. A. A. Business Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group
- Friday - 7:00 p.m. A. A.
- Saturday - 9:30 a.m. A. A.
- Sunday - Andy Mockridge, Pulpit Supply  
No 8:00 a.m. Early Worship  
8:45 a.m. Sunday School  
8:50 a.m. Little Notes and Chime Bell Rehearsal  
9:10 a.m. Youth Choir  
10:00 a.m. Worship: Confirmation and Live-Stream Worship on YouTube  
Gash Family Lunch  
Thaller Family Lunch