

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1500 North Main

Higginsville, Missouri

web page: salemucchigginsville.org



**We are a gathering church sent out
by God to bring the good news of
God's grace, justice, peace, and
love to the world**

May 3, 2026

10:00 a.m.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MUSIC SUNDAY**

THE GATHERING

MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP

WELCOME: No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. Welcome to worship, friends! As Jesus met Saul (later called Paul) in a powerful light and voice on the road to Damascus, so he meets us here. It might be less dramatic, but it's no less real.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL

Piano Prelude

“Spiritual Medley - Do Lord, Down By the Riverside, I'll Fly Away”
arr. Wolaver

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song, a song of hope and rejoicing!

People: Praise God for wonderful acts of mercy and kindness!

Leader: God has remembered God's faithful ones.

People: God has poured blessing upon blessing upon us!

Leader: Praise the Lord, all the earth, shout your praise!

People: Rejoice, for God is truly with us.

*** HYMN**

“To God Be the Glory”

No. 66

***INVOCATION (Unison)**

God of songs and marvels, old and new, your powerful love for this world continues to astound us. In these early days of Easter, we gather to recall the love that brought Jesus into this world and into our lives: as savior, friend and brother. We thank you for welcoming us into your household and for trusting us with your marvelous work to draw all people into the spacious home of your love. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 623

**HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE
WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14: 1-14

CHIME BELL CHOIR “Will the Circle Be Unbroken?” Gabriel

LITTLE NOTES “Jesus Is My Superhero” Wakerley

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

June

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 100

YOUTH CHOIR “Here I Am to Worship”

Hughes

HYMN “Blessed Assurance”

No. 345

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS Preparation for prayer

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE, 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)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 15: 9-17

Jeremiah 29:11

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

Tina Gibler, Board of Christian Education Vice President

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 95: 1-7

HAND BELL CHOIR

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing” Berry/ Valey

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14: 15-21, John 11: 25-26

CHANCEL CHOIR

“Hallelujah! By and By” arr. McDonald

“Standing On the Promises” Carter/ arr. Hayes

THE SENDING

*HYMN “When We All Get to Heaven” No. 542

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Trumpet Tune” Purcell

Offering plates are at the exits from the sanctuary.

The Worship Service is over and our Service begins.

**Indicates please stand if you are able to do so*

Leading Worship Today:

Choir Members - Liturgists

June Howell – Christian Education Coordinator

Jamie Smith – Music Director

Salem Youth - Acolytes

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 GRADUATES!

Graduates from Lafayette Co. C-1 High School:

Graduation day May 10, 2026

Blair Marie Bergsieker, daughter of Tim and Courtney Bergsieker. Blair will be attending the University of Missouri in Columbia and plans to major in Agricultural Policy and minor in Political Science. Her goal is to be a voice for agriculture, and one day run for political office.

Jacob Trae Engle, grandson of Eva and the late Wayne Whitaker. Jacob will be attending automotive classes at Pitt State, in Kansas.

Atticus John Kerivan, son of Clara and Jordan Salyer and Tyson and Lindsey Kerivan. Atticus will be attending a Community College with the A+ Program.

Nora Marie Knipmeyer, daughter of Aaron and Vicki Knipmeyer, granddaughter of Dennis and Judi Knipmeyer and David and Robin Rogers. Nora will be attending Truman State University in Kirksville and plans to study Classics and Art History. Her goal is to someday work as a museum curator.

Graduate from Liberty North High School:

Graduation day May 12, 2026

Parker Drecktrah, son of Denise and Brian Drecktrah, grandson of Kenneth and Carleen Buchanan and Carolyn and the late Raymond Drecktrah. Parker will be attending MU and plans to study Engineering.

Graduate from Odessa High School:

Graduation day May 7, 2026

Morgann Lorenz, great-niece of Peggy Pragman. Morgann will be attending MU in Columbia, Missouri this fall.

Graduate from Harlan High School in San Antonio, Texas:

Graduation day May 31, 2026

Jonathan Golt, great-great-nephew of Peggy Pragman. Jonathan will be attending UTSA (University of Texas San Antonio.) He is going for his Bachelors in Biology with hopes of applying after that for a P.A. Program.

Graduates from College:

Sara Maschmeier, daughter of Shawn and Stephanie Maschmeier, granddaughter of Kenneth and Carleen Buchanan and the late Gary and Ann Maschmeier. Sara will graduate May 1, 2026, from NFU (North Florida University) with a B.S. in Finance.

Jordan Michelle Smith, daughter of Kirk and Jamie Smith, will graduate from the University of Central Missouri with a Bachelor of Science Business Administration Degree in Marketing on Saturday, May 9, 2026. She has accepted a position with the Missouri Department of Social Services as a Benefit Program Technician.

Best Wishes for Birthdays this week...

Mason Bergsieker, May 3

Ricky Erdman, May 3

Scott Jensen, May 3

Barb Nolte, May 4

Bradley Robinson, May 5

Penny Harris, May 9

Erin Robinette, May 9

Emmalynn Ventura, May 9

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Mark, Leslie, and Reed Heimsoth, were involved in a bad car wreck in Arkansas. Leslie is waiting to be transferred closer to home for therapy on her leg. Mark is doing well and is staying with Hanni for the time being. He has appointments that Hanni plans on taking him to. Reed has been taken off the ventilator and is still recovering from the sedation medication. All labs are looking good as of now. He is still in ICU but seems to be stable and doing as well as to be expected. It is a long road ahead for the 3 of them! (Information provided by Jana Nowack.)

Bobby Bergsieker, continued prayer is appreciated as Bobby has been taking radiation treatments.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ITEMS FOR SALE & FREE ITEMS:

Please check out the table in the back of the Sanctuary. There are items for sale and also free items. If you want to purchase any item, please put your money in the offering plate.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS:

Eve Circle will meet May 5, 7:00 p.m. at Salem in the Board Room. Shirley Paul will be the hostess and Janice Johnson will have the program. All women of the church are welcome to come.
Mary Dickmeier, chairman

LAMPLIGHTER ARTICLES DUE: June Lamplighter articles are due in the church office Friday, May 22. Thanks!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

FLAGS AT SALEM CEMETERY FOR MEMORIAL DAY:

We are asking any Salem members that would like to be involved this Memorial Holiday with placing flags at the Salem Cemetery to call Stanton Thompson at (816) 225-9515. The flags will be placed (weather permitting) Friday, May 22, at 10:00 a.m. There are over one hundred veterans buried in the church's cemetery who need to be properly honored.

HELP SHOW OUR OLD DOORS THE EXIT:

If you have tried to enter or exit the Main Street doors of the education wing in the past year, you may have found them very difficult to open or close. Sadly, after 50+ years of use, they are old and are wicking moisture whenever it rains or is overly humid. At times, they simply can't be opened. While they are designed to be self-closing and locking, since they don't close well, they have been found unlatched at times when they should not have been. Consequently, during the week, they are not opened or used right now.

After contacting multiple companies in Kansas City, the Council has received bids to replace the doors with ones that are nearly identical, maintaining the beauty and integrity of our church frontage. To do so will cost between \$12,000 - \$15,000, depending if they can reuse all or part of the hardware.

The Council would very much like to do this through donations. If you would be willing to assist, please drop your gift by the church office or place it in the offering plate with a notation that it is to go to the education door replacement. Thank you in advance for your support of our church and our facilities.

IT IS TIME FOR ...SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC!

The choirs are taking their summer break from June - August which provides an opportunity for special music to be shared! If you play an instrument or enjoy singing and would like to share your musical talent during the summer worship service, please call Jamie Smith at 660-232-4470. Thank you in advance!

Jamie Smith, Music Director

PAPER COPIES OF THE LAMPLIGHTER AVAILABLE:

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Memorial Committee is asking for volunteers to water the flower pots at the front doors of the church. If you are interested please call Mary Homfeld, 660-584-3060.

WANTED: SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON OR CO-CHAIRPERSONS:

The Women's Fellowship Board is needing a Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons for the Service Committee. Responsibilities are:

The Service Committee will be responsible for the following meals:

1. The Easter Breakfast
2. The Advent Chorale reception
3. Any other meals that may be requested when Salem Hosts:
 - a. Lafayette Area Women's Fellowship
 - b. Church Women of Higginsville and Corder.

Members from the Contribute Food Service Committee will be asked to donate food for the meals.

The Co-Chairperson along with the help from the committee will buy the groceries and be in charge of preparation and serving the meal.

The Service Committee is responsible for taking any meal leftovers with them after each meal service unless people want to purchase any meal leftovers or donate to a needy family.

The service Committee is to clean out the refrigerator in the kitchen and outside the kitchen at least once a month.

If anyone is interested in fulfilling this position, please let the church office know and they will let me know.

Women's Fellowship,
Karen Homfeld, President

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

If your child is most comfortable with you in worship, they are welcome. If you prefer, the nursery room is open and available for parents who would like to take their child there and stay with them. Our nursery has been recently updated!

BLANKETS FOR MOTHER'S DAY:

The Evangelism Committee is still doing the Blankets for Mother's Day. Because the Lamplighter is no longer being mailed to the congregation; we are not going to individually mail out the cards. The cards will be at the back of the sanctuary and by the church office. You may take a card and list the names on the inside of the card that you are honoring for Mother's day. Put the card and your monetary donation in the envelope and either put it in the offering plate or bring it by the church office. You may also use the Salem Church website or text 73256 on your phone to make a monetary donation.

Thank you,
The Evangelism Committee

COMMUNITY NEWS:

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. Rev. Glenn Elmore (New Beginnings Fellowship) will lead Bible Study during the month of May. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

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 this evening, 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.

OUR FRIENDS AND CHURCH FAMILY IN CARE

FACILITIES: Listed below are our members and friends (at the time of printing of the bulletin) now residing or recovering at our local and surrounding community nursing homes and care facilities. A card from a church family member would be a delightful surprise!

Meyer Care Center, 1201 W. 19th St., Higginsville, MO

Bill Davenport, Kenneth Rinne, Rosa Lee Starke, Roger & Tillie Erdman, and Mary Ann Vorwark

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 (salemucchigginsville.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

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS:

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

UP COMING DATES:

May 3—Music Sunday

Recognition of Graduates during the 10:00 a.m. service
Lafayette County C-1 Baccalaureate at Salem

May 7—National Day of Prayer

May 10—Mother’s Day

May 17—Perfect Attendance

Fourth Grade Bible Presentation

May 25—Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)

ATTENDANCE FOR April 26, 2026

8:00 a.m. worship service attendance: 10

10:00 a.m. worship service in-person attendance: 78

10:00 a.m. live-stream attendance on YouTube: 19

INCOME & EXPENSES FOR April 24-APRIL30, 2026

General Fund Income: \$2,867

General Fund Expense: \$3,771

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT SALEM

May 3 thru May 10, 2026

- Sunday - Music Sunday
Graduate Recognition Sunday
No 8:00 a.m. 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 (Recognition of Graduates) and Live-Stream Worship on YouTube
7:00 p.m. Lafayette CO C-1 Baccalaureate
- Monday - 6:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education
- Tuesday - Food Pantry
7:00 p.m. Eve Circle
- Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Lafayette County Cancer Coalition
- Friday - 7:00 p.m. A. A.
- Saturday - 9:30 a.m. A. A.
1:00 p.m. Fisher Family Event
- Sunday - Mother's Day
Evelyn Elmore, Pulpit Supply
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 and Live-Stream Worship on YouTube

Fun Fact: If we added all the years of service for each Chancel Choir member together, it would total 360 years! Thank you Chancel Choir members for sharing your gifts to the glory of God.

To God's Glory

Johann Sebastian Bach - choirmaster and composer - wrote dozens of cantatas. Each one wove music and mood to present that Sunday's biblical text for his mostly illiterate congregation. At the bottom of each hand-written page, Bach signed three letters: "SDG" --Soli Deo Gloria. Latin for "To God's glory alone."

Bach's cantatas rang out his devotion to God and his desire to *serve* God in his music...in his work.

While we may never write choral music to last the ages, we daily compose our lives. In classrooms, offices, farm fields, shops, schools, homes, churches...we can inscribe each page with "SDG" --to God's glory alone-- in the high calling of our daily work