



*To the church of God as found at Marion Salem Church, called to be saints together with those in every place who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ: You are miracles of God's grace and mercy!*

For centuries Christians have yearned to walk closer with the Lord. The question of how has often led to dangerous thinking that we are saved by our works—that it is the things we do that enable us to be Christians. The results are disappointing. Either we will feel like failures because works religion only makes us realize how fallen we are, or it will lead to a prideful heart that falls further and further from the Lord. This thinking boils down to: We do so we can become.

So how can we walk closer to the Lord? Well, the first step is to realize that we are already close to the Lord. That's what salvation has done for us. We can be Christians because the Lord has made us into Christians. Jesus empowers us for actions we take; whether works of piety those acts of devotion to the Lord, or works of mercy that are acts done in the name of the Lord for others. We do neither of these with the mindset that doing them makes Christians. It is because of who we are (our being), we do certain things, we act. This flips the previous way of thinking around, our actions do not make us, they flow from what Christ has remade us to be.

Thus the season of Lent and all the spiritual disciplines we might undertake or explore are not so that we become, we do them because they flow from who we are. The spiritual practices of the early Methodists were known as the means of grace, in other words, the acts by which God imparts His grace to us. The instituted means of grace are better known; Communion, prayer, Scripture reading, fasting, giving, and joining together with other believers in worship and accountability (called "Christian conferencing" back then). These are instituted because they are clearly instructed in Scripture and they have reference to God's promised work in our lives. There are also prudential means of grace; that is those things in which God decides of His own goodness to bless us at that time and in those circumstances. God is not required to communicate His grace to us at every opportunity of a prudential means of grace, like a walk in nature.

Focusing on the instituted means of grace, I would like to challenge you during Lent to make a special effort at giving yourself to these acts. Do not do them so that you can become more like Christ. Do them because you are a follower of Christ. Let them flow out of who you are, not to make or change who you are. We have just received Communion on Ash Wednesday. We will once again on March 1st and 15th during Sunday worship, as well as on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. I would encourage your daily prayers be not solely about food, health, and temporal concerns—the Lord's heart aches for the lost. May we pour out petitions for those who have lost their way that through our prayers and through us the Lord might reach them. Be in Scripture. If you have never done the 30 Days with Jesus reading plan, now would be a good time. If you've done that one, I would highly recommend you go deeper in a theological study traveling 60 Days with Paul and the rest of the New Testament. Of course, many think of fasting in connection with Lent; yet it is truer still that we replace a bad habit with a good one. So if you fast, replace that with giving, study, or service and make your fast complete.

Giving should come from a place of sacrifice, not spare change. Finally, joining with others to encourage and be encouraged makes growth fuller. Be this Lent, don't do it.

Blessings 🙌,

### Lenten Series: The Cure

Based off a book by the same name, we will explore the paths of Pleasing God and Trusting God, learning that one is built on self-effort and the other on humility. This series is for those seeking a deeper relationship with Christ no matter where they are starting on the journey.

**3/1: "Two Solutions" 2 Corinthians 5 — 3/8: "Two Healings" 1 John 4:7-21**

**3/15: "Two Friends" John 3:16-21 — 3/22: "Two Destinies" John 12:12-16**

# Baptism Celebration!



Congratulations to the Smith Family who received Baptism during our half-time Super Bowl Worship Service. As we promised, let us continue to be in prayer for them and one another as we seek to encourage our growth as disciples of Christ.



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## Holy Week Schedule

Holy week begins with:

- Palm Sunday on Sunday, March 29th and the Choir Cantata will be our message. We will continue with...
- Maundy Thursday on April 2nd 7pm, a service focused on the grace of Christ offered during the Last Supper with Communion.
- Good Friday on April 3rd 7pm will focus on the Crucifixion and we will remember through the Passion play of John's Gospel. This leads up to...
- Easter Sunday on April 5th: Sunrise Service at 8am and Breakfast at 8:30am both in the Family Center. Sunday School and Sunday Worship will continue as normal.

ANNUAL  
Spaghetti Dinner  
& Auction

Saturday,  
March 7, 2026  
5:30 PM

at



**MARION SALEM**  
GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

1640 Salem Road • Caledonia

3-10 years old—\$5

11 years and over—\$10

*Fundraiser  
benefits youth  
ministry/missions.*

Questions, Contact  
Conni—419-210-0925



## Our Easter Hearts

During the season of Lent we will have hearts available in the sanctuary. We will pray for the unchurched (those who have never attended), dechurched (those who have completely left the community of faith), and the unsaved (those who have no connection to Christ). Simply write the first name of someone on the heart and they will be hung up for congregational prayer during Lent. On Wed., March 25 at 7pm we will join together for a prayer service to lift up all these names as well as our congregation for the upcoming Holy Week Services that start with Palm Sunday on March 29.

### Prayer Service

Wed. March. 25th at 7PM we will join together to pray over the Easter Hearts: those unchurched, dechurched, or unsaved loved ones. Praying starts at 7PM and you can leave when you are done praying.

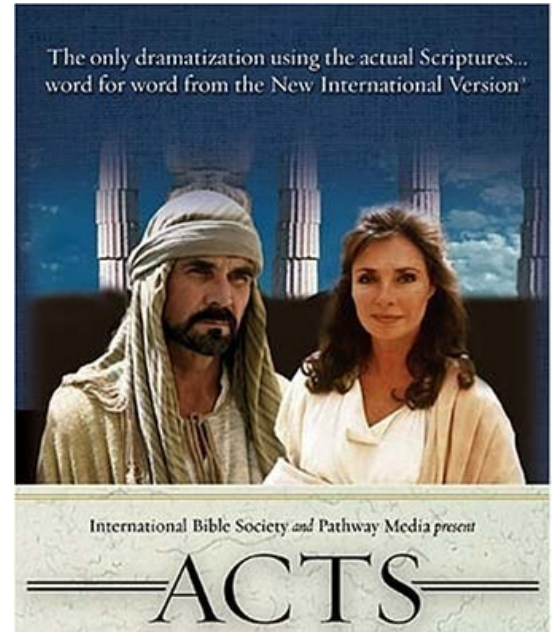
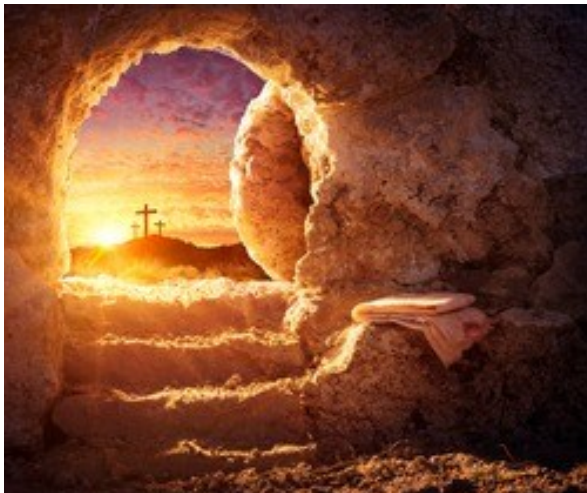


### Basic Christian Faith Wednesdays 7pm

Join Pastor Jason for an engaging time of discussion as we explore basic teachings of Christian Faith. This is a paced study and you can drop in anytime.

#### March Studies:

- 4th: Study continues
- 11th: Study continues
- 18th: Study continues
- 25th: No Study (Our Easter Hearts)



### Monday Bible Study

Join in the study where we watch the Word come to life with the Visual Bible's presentation of the Book of Acts. Study resumes on March 2.

- March 2:** Review & Acts 9:32-43
- March 9:** Acts 10
- March 16:** Acts 11
- March 23:** Acts 12
- March 30:** No Study (Holy Week)

### Trail of Easter Coming:

#### March 1 through April 5

The "Trail of Easter" provides a fun way for families to experience the story of Holy Week and the Resurrection from the convenience of their own car. The route is mapped out for you and will take you past different locations where objects relating the story are placed for you to find as you drive by. You'll stay in your car and spot the items from the road, Scripture passages will be available to read on the map handout. Maps will be available.

— Credit to Lockport Mennonite Church for the idea.

“He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; he gently leads those that have young.” Isaiah 40:11

# The Strivers Sheepdog Spot

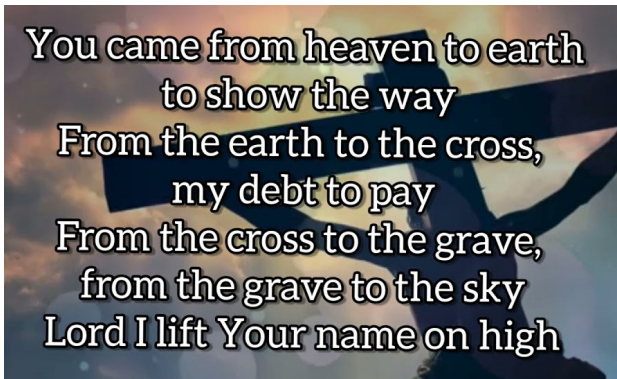
ASSISTING THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN TENDING THE FLOCK, ESPECIALLY THE LAMBS AND THOSE THAT HAVE YOUNG



## Our Students in Youth Group Are Amazing!

We may be a small youth group, but our students are mighty! March marks a beginning of new leadership responsibilities for our students. Each week, one student will choose the games for the day, another will choose a devotional, and two others will open and close in prayer. They will rotate these responsibilities for a few weeks as they start to take more ownership in this ministry.

We are also planning the Easter Sunrise service for April 5. All four students will be assuming important roles in the service. Be sure to come out bright and early Easter Sunday to worship the risen Lord and support our amazing youth!



## Strivers Youth Schedule

- **Mar 1, 6pm:** Youth Group
  - **Mar 6-7 (TBA):** Help with set-up, serving and tearing down at the Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Auction
  - **Mar 8, 6pm:** Youth Group
  - **Mar 15, 6pm:** Youth Group
  - **Mar 22, 6pm:** Youth Group
  - **Mar 28, 2pm:** Help with the Easter Eggstravaganza
  - **Mar 29:** NO YOUTH GROUP
- Have a blessed Palm Sunday and Holy Week!

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14

## Special Events Coming Up at Youth Group

April 5, 7:30am (youth arrival time)	Youth-led Easter Sunrise Service
April 24-26	Encounter Youth Retreat
May (TBA)	Service Project: Work Day at the Church
June (TBA)	Lock-in to Kick Off Summer!
July 16-26	Camp Sychar
August (TBA)	Another Lock-in? A Pool Party? BOTH?!

# Beyond Youth Group

## It's Almost Time!



March 28, 2026, 2pm-4pm



Thank you to all who organized, baked, shopped, and otherwise supported the Youth Valentine Auction on February 15. The grand total raised was \$744!

### Children's Message Schedule

March 1	Pastor Heather
March 8	Cheryl Doezma
March 15	Ruth Lutz
March 22	Mike Springer
March 29	Charisse Smith



### July 16 (evening) - 26 (morning)

Ten days of worship, Bible study, rest, and fun for ALL AGES in a rustic setting in nearby Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The youth program (grades 6-

12 in 2025-2026) runs concurrently with the rest of the camp but has separate housing, activities, and costs. There are also separate and joint activities for adults, children (grades 1-6 in 2025-2026), tiny tots (ages 3-6), and nursery (under age 3).

### July 26-28

Vacation Bible School is coming! Contact Cheryl Slack for more info.

# Spaghetti Auction Items

More are needed!!



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Valentine  
Fundraiser  
February  
15th  
YUM!!





## Easter Eggstravaganza

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

This free event is for children of all ages and families.

Invite a friend or two!

Come any time, stay as long as the party lasts.

**Fun for the whole family**

**Photo booth**

**Games and prizes! Crafts and cookies!**

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### **New Directory Available**

The New Marion Salem Church Handbook and Family & Friends Directory is available for pick-up at the church.



## **HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**

**APRIL 12th**

**Holy Humor Sunday is the Sunday after Easter, when God's people get to laugh at the devil because Jesus rose from the dead and the devil lost! Pastor Jason invites the congregation to participate in this service through the creation of an on-the-spot message utilizing images that the congregation provides.**

**A box is in the sanctuary marked "Sermon in a Box." Everyone is encouraged to place a picture of an object (no words) in the box (photographs can be sent to [marionsalem1640@gmail.com](mailto:marionsalem1640@gmail.com) to be printed). Keep these secret from Pastor Jason! He will not be looking at the photographs prior to the service.**

**One picture will be drawn randomly on Easter Sunday for Pastor to start working on ideas for the message on Holy Humor Sunday. On Holy Humor Sunday another 4 pictures will be drawn at the beginning of the service. Pastor Jason is challenged with incorporating all 5 pictures into the message. At the end of service we'll enjoy some ice cream treats together.**



## Mr. Sparling is Retiring

Brian Sparling will be retiring as the Headmaster of Rhema Academy effective the end of this school year. He plans to continue to be a part of the school, but is retiring (for the fourth time) after spending 46 years in education. His ten grandchildren are scattered across many states and he looks forward to a lighter schedule to allow for more flexibility in travel.

Thank you, Brian, for your diligence and faithfulness to God and to Rhema Academy!



Rhema is recruiting for the 2026 school year. Come and see what Rhema Academy is all about!

### Cookies for Kairos!!

Cookies will be picked up by Kairos people in the morning on March 6. See Annette for details.

### Families can donate to Rhema in two different ways:

<https://rhemaacademyk12.education/>

[https://app.ocen.org/users/sign\\_in](https://app.ocen.org/users/sign_in)

1. Direct tax deductible donation by check or by giving online to:
2. Through Ohio Christian Education Network (OCEN) at:  
This is an OHIO STATE TAX CREDIT & thus will reduce your state tax liability up to \$750 per person.

See Brian Sparling with any questions.

Senior Lunch

**Wed. March 25th—Noon**  
**Menu: Chicken sandwiches**  
**Please bring a side or dessert to share**






### Food Pantry

Hours: Monday 10-noon



# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <span style="color: red;">Communion</span>	2 Bible study 4 pm	3 Bible study 5 pm	4 Choir 6:15 pm Bible study 7 pm	5 AHG 6 pm	6 	7 Spaghetti Auction
8	9 Bible study 4 pm	10	11 Choir 6:15 Bible study 7 pm	12 Twp. Dinner 6pm SPRC 6:30 pm	13	14 Fam Center Reserved
Kairos Weekend						
15	16 Bible study 4 pm Ad Council 6:30 pm	17 	18 Choir 6:15 Bible study 7 pm	19 AHG 6 pm	20	21
22	23 Bible study 4 pm	24	25 Choir 6:15	26	27	28 Eggstravaganza 2pm
29 	30	31				



1st Sunday every month in the Family Center at 8:30 AM.

March—Crusaders Class  
April—Upper Room



### Birthdays

- 3/1 Robin Schelb
- 3/3 Mike Springer
- 3/5 Hunter Smith
- 3/9 Jim Van Meter
- 3/11 Heather McLeod
- 3/19 Jeff Schelb
- 3/21 Shad Pollock
- 3/23 Janet Strine
- 3/26 Mary Linn
- 3/27 Mallori Hedges
- 3/29 Dave Monroe  
Annette VanVoohis  
Jacob Howard



### Pray for ....

- Ron VonAlmen
- Janet Schelb
- Jude Stitzel
- Sheryl Campbell
- Donna McKinnis
- Vicki Adams
- Israel & the Middle East
- Judi Myers
- Rick Hicks
- Haiti
- Mike Dilsaver
- Steve Crock
- Paul Messenger
- Jamie Marquis
- Inda Lama & sister
- Janie Wooten
- Doug Burkhart
- Nathan Cedric
- Mary Linn
- Joni McCray
- Ed Crawford family
- Andrew Pfeiffer
- Tierney Bender
- Austin Wagner
- Brenda Tomlin family
- George Schram
- Dianne Runser
- Schrote grandparents



### GREETERS

- 3/1 Jana Bauer & Linda Seitter
- 3/8 Mike & Penny Rose
- 3/15 Rob & Tracy Weisbrodt
- 3/22 Steve & Susan Rockwell
- 3/29 Bruce & Conni McChesney



### ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/12 Scott & Jennifer Croskey
- 3/28 Shad & Megan Pollock

### Children's Church

- 3/1 No Children's Church
- 3/8 Emily Sharp & Mary Galloway
- 3/15 Jesseca Wagner & Cheryl Slack
- 3/22 TBD
- 3/29 No Children's Church

### Nursery Schedule

- 3/1 Karen Marquis & Marilyn Shroyer
- 3/8 Susan Rockwell & Robbi Smart
- 3/15 Karla Sharp & Tracy Weisbrodt
- 3/22 Kathy Fisher & Conni  
McChesney
- 3/29 Amy McGuire & Robbi Smart