



THE MONARCH

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

2 p.m. Service with Mary Miller on piano

5 p.m. Family Service led by Salem youth with St. David's Youth Choir

8 p.m. A Special Musical Pre-service with Handbells, Choir, and other special accompaniment. Candlelight service with holy communion will begin at 8:30 p.m.

Christmas Day

10 a.m. Service with Communion

Sunday, December 28

10 a.m. Christmas Hymn Sing!



MONARCH ON-LINE

Salem's Monarch is available on-line at www.salem-catonsville.org. If you would like notification that a new issue has been posted or would like a Monarch (PDF form) emailed to you, please contact Guy Davis at guyddavisphd@gmail.com.

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SALEM'S NEW DISCIPLES (CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH)

Armstrong/Esposito/Titcomb Family. Colin Armstrong has lived in Catonsville his entire life, while Gina Esposito moved to the area about ten years ago with her children. Together, they have a blended family with six children:

- Circe Titcomb, 17, is a senior at Catonsville High School.
- Tristan Titcomb and Owen Armstrong, both 15, are sophomores—Tristan attends Mt. St. Joe, while Owen goes to Catonsville High.
- Evan Armstrong, 12, is in seventh grade at Catonsville Middle.
- Gwyneth (Gwyn) Armstrong, 7, is a second grader at Hillcrest.
- Their youngest child, June Armstrong, is just four months old.



Gina works as a Women's Health Nurse and in her free time, enjoys crafting, practicing yoga, cooking, and tending her large flower and vegetable garden. Colin is an engineer who loves running, mountain biking, fishing, and woodworking. He is also a member of the Catonsville Men's Civic Association.

While the older children participate in sports at their schools, Gwyn sings in Salem's Children Choir.

Gina grew up in Crofton and was raised Lutheran. Colin's mother was also raised Lutheran, which led him to explore Lutheran churches. They both wanted their children to be baptized and attend Sunday School. The older children even took piano lessons from Mary and Holly Miller.

Gina's faith journey began in childhood; she believes in being a good person and giving back, emphasizing that faith and prayer are greater than ourselves. She wishes to raise her children with the same values. Colin also wants his children to learn about religion and have faith. Both Owen and Evan were baptized Catholic and now attend both Salem and Catholic church services with their mother and stepfather. They have developed an interest in exploring the similarities and differences between the two denominations.

Chenris Lestina Collins is known as Kitty. She is the middle child of three children. Given that she was the most mature, she has lived her entire life trying to be helpful to her family and friends. She enjoys her family of two daughters, ten grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and aunts. She has lived in Baltimore most of her life but has also traveled and lived in other countries as well. Kitty had taken several college courses to help enhance her civilian and military careers.

Kitty is a retired secretary from the Baltimore City Public School system with 42 years of experience. She had worked at central offices, writing teams, and in schools. Throughout her career, she has also worked with non-profit organizations, government agencies, and international partners.



As a non-commissioned officer (NCO), Kitty's military career spans 33 years of service in the US Army and Maryland Army National Guard. She completed short tours as well as two deployment and rescue missions. She has held leadership and supervisory positions. She has represented the Army in numerous food service competitions which earned her numerous awards and is proud to say that she is a Veteran of Foreign Wars.

Currently, Kitty is a member of the Historic Old Salem Board of Directors. When she is not doing projects, you can find her listening to music, roller skating, bowling, line dancing, and watching movies. **{Note:}** She is always there to help anyone out. She sits on the Lectern side of the Nave at the 11 a.m. worship service.} Welcome to “905” Kitty!

UPDATES ON MARKETPLACE 2025 – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

Dee Trimble and Sharon Stanton thank all of the terrific and hardworking volunteers who helped make this year’s Marketplace a success. They truly appreciated all the setup and clean up crews who helped tremendously in getting the halls and Narthex organized for the event and then put back together for Sunday’s worship events. Even though there was a different set up for one of the areas, everyone enjoyed the day shopping, having a delicious lunch with friends, purchasing some wonderful baked goods, and took their chances on the great Silent Auction.

A “Marketplace Debrief” meeting was held on November 5th with most of the “area” Leaders and Pastor Carolyn. Here are some of the suggestions that they are passing on to the **NEW 2026 Chairpersons** that came from the group get together.

1. Change the date of the event to September/middle of October
2. More children’s activities - more books, children’s corner with face painting, Secret Santa shop, children’s craft activities
3. Encourage youth participation - service-learning hours given for helping/working at the event
4. More publicity through social media/banners/posters
5. Reformation Hall be designated Indoor Yard Sale area with participants bringing their own tables {Salem lacks enough tables for all the areas}; more posted charity recipient information. Set up tables around the outside perimeter of Reformation Hall leaving lots of middle room open space to move around
6. Free Will/Bake Table rather than a “set” price for items. If priced, show price clearly
7. Need younger families or individuals involved in Marketplace in all aspects. Reinvent into more children’s activities
8. Indoor Yard Sale room - no fee for a table; however, profits go to the General Fund of the event; seek more “outside of Salem member” vendors for either area
9. Event time was 9 am to 1 pm - good time as shoppers are out and about early for this type of event; **stick with 9 am to 1 pm time**
10. Breakfast time change - 7:30 to 10 am; not as many items for sale for breakfast although all food items were delicious, especially crab soup/pulled pork/chili
11. Only have two (2) organizations as recipient charities {larger gift given to each}
12. Stick with individuals selling their own “White Elephants” with no contributions from the congregation

This table (next page) is a breakdown by each area comparing the event’s sales in 2025 to last year’s totals in 2024. There were about 40 fewer items contributed to the Silent Auction in 2025 and not as many books. Profits will be distributed evenly between the selected three non-profit organizations: The Gatekeepers, Heifer International, and the Baltimore Station.

AREA OF SALE	AMOUNT COLLECTED {2025}	AMOUNT COLLECTED {2024}
Jewelry	\$ 487.25	\$ 627.00
Shared Craft Table {Debbie/Mark Sanders}	\$ 163.00	
Dave Trump {profits to General Fund}	\$ 69.00	
Julie Kempton {profits to General Fund}	\$ 45.60	
Denise Morris - Denise's own table {to General Fund}	\$ 70.00	
Indoor Yard Sale – {to General Fund}	\$ 150.00	
Books	\$ 275.50	\$ 821.00
Kitchen	\$ 517.15	\$ 601.00
Bake Table	\$ 546.25	\$ 409.00
Vendor Table Sales {Craft/Indoor Yard}	\$ 345.00	Crafts Only \$225.00
Silent Auction	\$ 4,581.00	\$ 5,861.00
Fair Trade Sales- not in General Fund	\$ 261.00	Not known
2024 White Elephant Sales		\$ 2,383.00
2024 Miscellaneous Sales		\$ 175.00
TOTAL Marketplace Sales	\$ 7,249.75	\$11,102.00

NOTE: A few latecomers to the Silent Auction increased the final overall sales total to \$7,259.63.

ADULT FORUM

Pastor Carolyn will lead the Advent Adult Forum on Motherhood and the Bible on December 7 and 14. How do the Scriptures depict motherhood? What do the stories of Eve, Hannah, Mary, Herodias, and other mothers reveal about discipleship and faith? Our first week focuses on motherhood in the Old Testament, and our second week continues with the New Testament.

In January and February, Jim Kempton will lead adult forum for eight weeks. *Together by Grace: Bible Conversations* invites participants to gather together, dwell in the stories of the Bible, and engage with the text and one another through **8 sessions**. With guided conversations and open-ended questions, everyone is invited to share thoughts, experiences, and similarities in these roundtable discussions that approach biblical stories honestly, wrestle with tough questions, and build community.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2025

Ho ho ho! It's that time again! As is our long-held tradition, we are once again sponsoring The Children's Home of Catonsville for Christmas. The 32 children who live there are separated from their families and many come to the home without any personal belongings. Our wish is to share our love and show them we care. We would like to provide Christmas gifts for as many of the children as we can. The Home has an online registry which makes the purchase and direct delivery of gifts very easy. It can be accessed via: thechildrenshome.net/holiday

If you would rather not use a computer, look for the gift tags on our Christmas tree in the narthex (although all are encouraged to look at their Amazon and Target registries for inspiration anyway!). Gifts can be mailed directly to the Home, purchased and taken there on the designated drop-off dates, or purchased and brought to church by Sunday December 14 at noon. More details can be found on flyers near the Christmas Giving tree in the narthex and in our church bulletin. Thank you for your continued and faithful support!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DECEMBER

The children are enjoying our year of God A-Z and coming up with words for the letter of the week. This past month, we covered 1) G - Good: Jesus Feeds 5,000 - We learned how with just five loaves and two fish, Jesus fed 5,000 and how God has the power to provide for all our needs. 2) H - Healer: Ten Men Healed - We discussed how ten men were healed but only one thanked God. 3) I - Involved: Manna, Quail and Water - Students learned that God provided for the Israelites in the desert after they were freed from Egypt and how we should trust God in our lives. 4) J - Joyful: Jesus' Baptism - We learned about Jesus' baptism by his cousin John and how God spoke identifying Jesus as His son. The children also made a thankful quilt that is hanging in the Sunday School area, and thankful trees that they took home. On the last Sunday in November we made Advent wreaths and talked about our Christmas pageant. We will be putting God A-Z on pause for December as we practice for the pageant. The pageant will be held on Sunday, December 21st at 9:30 am in the Nave. Everyone is invited to attend.



COOKIE KINDNESS RETURNS



Indulge your sweet tooth and make a difference around the world! Support Cookie Kindness, a fundraiser benefiting Lutheran World Relief. Christmas cookies will be available on December 13 and 14. Want to share your baking gifts? Sign up in the narthex to bake a batch and join in spreading kindness one cookie at a time!

SALEM PREMIERES NEW WEBSITE

Thanks to the work of Dan D'Avella and Pr. Carolyn, Salem has a new website. The new website is visually appealing and provides easy access to upcoming events and information for both potential visitors and members. The old website had become cluttered and information was difficult to find. Please take time to visit the site and offer any suggestions for future revisions.

www.salem-catonville.org

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

In November, Council approved the 2026 budget, as well as nominated four candidates for new three year Council terms starting in January. Don't forget to attend the congregational meeting held after worship services on December 13 and 14 to vote on these important issues! Council also reviewed the new website design which was one of Salem's long-term goals. Thank you to Pastor Carolyn, Dan D'Avella, and the Technology Committee for their hard work putting this together!

-Emily D'Avella

The screenshot shows the new website for Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church. The header includes a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT, EVENTS, MINISTRIES, NEWSLETTER, and CONTACT. The main banner features a close-up of hands being baptized in a font, with the text "Welcome to Salem Lutheran Church" and "There's a place for you here!". Below the banner, there's a "Welcome!" section with a photo of a family and text stating the church is Christ-centered and offers worship on Saturdays (5p.m.), Sundays (8:30 and 11a.m.), and online. A "Learn More" button is present. The "Worship Service" section lists times: Saturdays at 5:00 PM and Sundays at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM. The "Pastors" section lists Rev. G. Wesley Smith, Interim Pastor, and Rev. Carolyn Lammert, Associate Pastor. A "Lay Welcome" video thumbnail is shown. The "Upcoming Events" section lists six events with photos and times: Saturday Worship (5:00 PM), Early Sunday Service (8:30 AM), Sunday School (9:45 AM), Youth Group (8:45 AM / Youth Room), Late Sunday Service (11:00 AM), and Late Sunday Service (11:00 AM) in the Sanctuary. A "Sign up for our Newsletter" section includes an email input field and a "Subscribe" button. The footer contains contact information, location details, and social media links.

HOME ABOUT EVENTS MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER CONTACT

Welcome to Salem Lutheran Church
There's a place for you here!

Welcome!
We are a Christ-centered, caring community experiencing God's grace and sharing God's goodness with all people.

Worship with us:
Saturday 5p.m.
Sunday 8:30 and 11a.m.
And online!

Learn More

Worship Service
Join us Saturdays at 5:00 PM and Sundays at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Salem Lutheran Church
105 Frederick Road
Catonville, MD 21028

Pastors
Rev. G. Wesley Smith, Interim Pastor
Rev. Carolyn Lammert, Associate Pastor

Lay Welcome

Learn more about what makes Salem a friendly and faith-filled community!

Upcoming Events
Mark your calendars for these great events coming up:

29
Saturday Worship
5:00 PM

30
Early Sunday Service
8:30 AM

30
Sunday School
9:45 AM

30
Youth Group
8:45 AM / Youth Room

30
Late Sunday Service
11:00 AM

30
Late Sunday Service
11:00 AM Sanctuary

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Location
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View on Google Maps

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Email: office@salem-catonville.org
Office Hours
Monday to Friday 9a.m. to 5p.m.

Salem is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Diocese of Maryland.

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MEET SALEM'S CALL COMMITTEE

In November, Salem's Call Committee was installed during church services. This month, they (along with Council president and vice president) will meet with Pastor Robin Simpson Litton from the Synod office to go over the call process and learn more details about their role as the Call Committee. Interviews with candidates are anticipated to begin in January. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this important work!

Melanie Gibbons, Committee Chair

My husband Damien and I joined Salem in 2006, drawn by rave reviews from several of my colleagues at the Lutheran Center in Baltimore and by Salem Players. The welcoming nature of the congregation sealed the deal! I'm a lifelong Marylander and Lutheran, and grew up in an ecumenical family. I've spent my career working for various Lutheran organizations, including the Churchwide office of the ELCA, Global Refuge/Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service, and Lutheran World Relief. Damien and I are so grateful to be raising our kids, Eleanor and Elias, in the Salem community. It's an honor to be part of this committee, and I look forward to seeing where the Spirit leads us!



Zoe Dell

I've been a member of Salem since childhood, and it has always felt like home to me. I'm blessed to serve as a Sunday School teacher and to share God's love with our youngest learners. During the week, I teach preschool at Hillcrest Elementary, where I get to help little ones grow and discover the joy of learning. When I am not with little learners, you can find me on the field coaching field hockey. I'm excited to serve on the Call Committee and look forward to seeing how God will lead us as we search for our next pastor.

Michael Fitch

Michael and his wife Lindsay came to Salem for the first time in 2001 on the first Sunday in Advent. They knew right away that they had found their new church home. Their two kids have been baptized and confirmed here, and one is now off to college. Michael sings in the choir and plays trumpet in Salem Brass, and recently played trumpet in the pit band for the Salem Players production of "70 Girls 70". He is a physicist at JHUAPL, which makes him a bit of a family outlier, since his father is a retired pastor, and his little brother is currently serving as Senior Pastor of Harrold Zion Lutheran Church in Greensburg PA.



Anthony Liberto

My name is Anthony Liberto. I've been attending Salem with my daughter Talia for about five years now. I am in sales in the telecommunications industry. I feel blessed to have been included as part of this committee and look forward to working together to find our new Pastor.

Meghan McNichol-Tress

Meghan McNichol-Tress lives in Elkridge. She was born in Baltimore, MD and is a long time Ravens and Orioles fan and Terps grad! She is mom to Cieran (6), Marni (4), and her four-legged Camden (2). Meghan enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, Barre, hiking, theatre and food, and wine. Meghan works in sales in the wine industry.

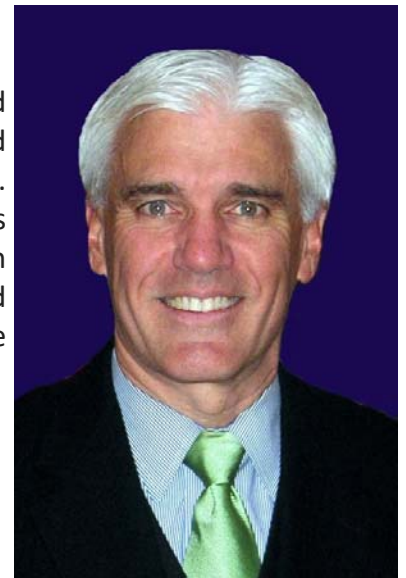
**Sharon Rossi**

Sharon has lived in Catonsville for over 20 years and absolutely loves her neighbors, our town's charm, beautiful trees, gardens, historic homes, and the rich history of Salem. She and her wife Karen joined Salem in 2024 which fulfilled their desire to attend church in their community, having previously attended Christ Lutheran Church. Sharon recently retired from the nursing field. She completed both her BSN and Master's in Nursing Administration at the University of Maryland, and has worked extensively as a director of nursing in both Women's and Children's Services and Surgical/Endoscopy services. She has also spoken nationally on numerous leadership

topics, and continues to mentor current and aspiring leaders. Sharon is involved in life at Salem in many capacities, including serving on several committees and volunteering in various roles. She is both humbled and honored to serve on the Call Committee, where her background as a leader and a person who finds and cultivates talent will aid in finding the right person to lead our congregation. In Sharon's spare time, she enjoys taking walks with Karen and their dog, Freddy (named after Frederick Road), playing pickleball, helping Karen with her Real Estate business, cooking, and enjoying sunsets at Ocean City, Maryland.

Pete Salmon

Peter Salmon became a Salem church member in 2001, but has attended services here ever since his wife, Sue Gdovin, joined in 1991. They have raised two sons - Matthew, baptized at Salem in 1992, and Daniel, baptized in 1994. Pete, a retired business owner, has served Salem in numerous capacities throughout the years. He served on Church Council, served as communion assistant and lector, delivered food to the Spring Grove homeless shelter, aided with the Children's Home Giving Tree, and was involved with refugee settlement efforts. Currently, you will find him greeting at our Sunday services.



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

This November, over 190 middle and high schoolers gathered to worship God, share their faith, serve their communities, and have a lot of fun! Salem had seven youth attend the retreat, with two leading the music team as a part of the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO).

The theme for the retreat was Called in our Wandering. Youth discussed how faith journeys are seldom straightforward, but God is with them through it all. They learned about biblical figures who wandered in their own ways. With games, activities, and debriefs, students were encouraged to stay on God's path and listen for God's purpose and plan for their lives. Pastor Amy Wright ended the weekend with a powerful sermon on the Parables of the Lost Sheep and Coin, preaching that even when youth feel lost in their wandering, God seeks them out and rejoices when they are found.

Particular highlights for our students were the service projects assembling LWR school kits and writing letters to homebound folks, the lively music during worship, campfire worship, one-on-one conversations, and the cats who roamed around the retreat center looking for cuddles!



BABY SHOWER FOR PR. CAROLYN AND MIN

Dear Salem,

Thank you so much for the delightful baby shower, the thoughtful gifts, and encouragement you've shared with us since we've announced our pregnancy. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and love. We are so excited to start our family and share this joy with you all. It is truly good to be in a caring community. We feel so much more prepared for our daughter's arrival, having received so much support from Salem.

We appreciate your continued prayers as we welcome our daughter into this world and navigate the joys and challenges of being new parents.

In Christ's peace,

Carolyn and Min



PR. CAROLYN'S PARENTAL LEAVE PLANS

Dear Salem,

As Min and I prepare for the birth of our daughter, I wanted to share my tentative parental leave plans with the congregation. Many thanks to Pastor Stan for his leadership during my absence, and to the council for their ongoing support. Though I will be on leave, I will be checking emails occasionally and may return for funerals or other unexpected services.

While this plan may shift due to surprises during birth or recovery, my hope is that my time away from Salem will look something like the plan below:

Our baby's due date is January 22nd. As per my call documents, I have eight weeks of leave. Assuming a birth near that date, I will take leave from birth and return Transfiguration Sunday (February 15). I will continue working through Lent and Easter, and resume my leave April 6. At that time, I will take whatever weeks are remaining of my leave.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out! Thank you all for your support and encouragement as we prepare for this new and exciting journey of parenthood!

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Carolyn

HISTORIC OLD SALEM NEWS

By the time this Monarch comes out, we will have enjoyed our Christmas bus trip on Wednesday, December 3rd to the Riverside Center for the Performing Arts in Fredericksburg, Virginia. It's a dinner theater where we enjoyed the wonderful "White Christmas" play after a delicious meal. It was a very special way to begin our Christmas celebrations.

At our quarterly Board meeting on November 19th, we began making plans for 2026. The Board of Directors will be celebrating our 50-year anniversary at our Founders' Day celebrations on Sunday, June 7th at 2 pm at Old Salem, 701 Ingleside Avenue. In 1976, a group of interested Catonsville people, including some Salem members, organized Historical Old Salem, Inc. Its purpose was to restore and preserve the original Church and cemetery grounds, built in 1849 by a German Lutheran congregation that wished to worship in their own Church. Through a 99-year lease with Salem Newburg, the organization accepted the responsibility for the care and custody of the building and grounds. With a substantial grant from the Maryland Historical Trust, annual donations, and memorial gifts the restoration got under way. Our work continues to this day to preserve and maintain Salem Church's original worship place. The original congregation {in 1849} worshiped at this site until 1901 when decisions were made to move to the "center of town" Catonsville, where we worship today.

The Board will host our annual Craft Fair/Flea Market on Saturday, March 7th from 9 am to 1 pm in Bethany Hall. Seeking vendors with handmade crafts and yard sale items. We'll have lunch, several raffles and a bake table too. Put the date on your calendars now; help support the Old Salem preservation efforts by hosting a table or coming to shop, eat and take a chance.

Our next Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 21st at 7 pm in the Katie Luther Room as we finalize our Craft Fair/Flea Market plans. Interested? Come join us. Everyone is welcome.

Questions? Contact Sharon at memsha7311@gmail.com or 410-744-8724.

WHAT'S IN THE SHOWCASE

November showcase was done by Dottie Bobart, Theme "Giving Thanks". She even made some of the whimsical characters in the display.

December hosts Lisa Yerkey's Santas. Unique creations. Don't miss it.

Karen Gatzke will ring in January 2026 with her collection.

Many thanks to all who so willingly shared your collections, your committee's themes and Salem Players' performances in 2025. We've enjoyed them all and look forward to the 2026 showcases.

Scheduling of Showcase display's open dates begin in April. If you would like to share your committee's projects/events or your own private collection, please contact Sharon-memsha7311@gmail.com or leave a note with your name, showcase request date and idea in the Historic Old Salem mailbox outside the main church office. I'll contact you. Thank you

FAIR TRADE

We have plenty of Fair Trade Chocolate, Coffee, Tea, and Cocoa for the holiday season; they make great stocking stuffers! Fair Trade items will be available for purchase in the narthex at the following times in December and January.

- After the 5 pm service on Saturday, December 6, 13, and 20 and January 10.
- After the 8:30 am service on Sunday, December 7, 14, and 21 and January 11.
- Before and after the 11 am service on Sunday, December 7, 14, and 21 and January 11.

Please contact Jim Kempton if you are interested in helping sell Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, and tea.



SAVE THE DATE

We will be decorating Salem for Christmas on SATURDAY, Dec. 20, starting at 9 a.m. We need volunteers to help set up and decorate trees, set up nativity sets, and hang garland from the chancel and choir loft. There are jobs (and treats) for everyone, so please come and lend a hand. Any questions, contact Shelley Wolfram at kswolfram@gmail.com, or by phone.

GUARDIANS OF EDEN

CARBON FOOTPRINT:

In response to Listening Goal #7, over the last few months, GOE committee members have engaged in a factfinding effort to {1} compile a history of carbon footprint reduction actions taken by Salem over the years; {2} research what carbon footprint means and share this information with the Salem community; and {3} develop recommendations for promoting environmentally friendly practices through the congregation.

When our building was last renovated in 1997, the heating system was converted from oil fired heating system burners with natural gas fired burners. Also in 2013, the two heating system boilers have been updated with energy efficient Lochinvar boilers. Windows and doors have been replaced with more efficient double-paned insulated windows and steel doors.

Over the last decade, fluorescent lighting has been updated with LED lighting. The Property Committee has pursued solar energy panels for installation several times. In both endeavors to do so, Salem was deemed ineligible for solar panels due to the age and type of the roof.

COMMUNITY SOLAR:

Community Solar led a program on solar power. Adam Obest described how the program works to save money on your electric bill and eliminate the middleman with fees. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, getting answers directly from Adam. Below is a brief summary provided by Adam to the Guardians of Eden about the Maryland Community Solar Program.

Community Solar is one of the most impactful clean-energy programs the federal government has introduced in years. Each state manages the initiative independently, and in Maryland, it's run through the Maryland Energy Administration and the Maryland Public Service Commission.

The program allows Maryland residents (renters or homeowners) to support clean, renewable energy while receiving a guaranteed discount on their electric bill—all established and protected by state law. There is no cost to enroll, (or cancel for any reason), and you are not buying or installing solar panels. Discounts range from 5% to 25%, depending on income, and everyone is eligible as long as they meet these basic requirements:

Have an email address

Lived in property for more than 3 months

Have a bill more than \$50 a month

Have access to their electric bill (online or paper)

Are willing to eventually set up autopay

Additional Points:

Maryland requires utility companies to apply Community Solar Credits directly to your bill which you then pay back at a discounted rate.

These credits come from local Maryland solar farms so you're supporting in-state clean energy.

Credits typically show up 2–3 months after enrollment depending on utility billing cycles.

Although the Adult Forum focused on residential properties, institutions such as Salem can subscribe to participate or enroll in this type of energy-saving program. GOE recommends Salem participate in this type of program to support sustainability by providing a way to reduce Salem's carbon footprint and support environmental goals. A church can subscribe to a portion of a community solar farm and receive credits on its electricity bill without installing any panels on its own property. This will then result in reduced electric bills. A church going solar can inspire its members to subscribe to community solar for their own homes.

Should you be interested in learning more about Community Solar, here are some helpful websites for you to explore.

Maryland Community Solar

<https://www.mdcommunitysolar.org>

Neighborhood Sun Solar

<https://neighborhoodsun.solar>

Nautilus Solar

<https://www.nautilusolar.com>

NATIVE LANDSCAPING:

Since God's Work, Our Hands in September, 15 bags and 6 large bundles of assorted non-native and invasive plants have been removed from the parking lot perimeter near the fence. In addition, six native grasses of two different species have been planted along the hillside. GOE continues to remove English Ivy during the winter months. If interested in helping, please contact Sharon Schueler at sharonpisces57@gmail.com.

PLASTIC BAGS:

We are not collecting plastic bags. The requirement is for more bags than we can collect and store.

ADVENT LADIES IN WAITING

Remember Christmas in 2020? After months of isolation due to Covid 19, we were inching into in-person worship. Attendance was limited. Masks were required. We had "socially distanced" seating and no choirs or congregational singing. There was no children's pageant. The Covid vaccine was still months away.

Additionally, the spring and fall productions of Salem Players performances were cancelled. This creative fellowship was desperate to DO SOMETHING. So, we wrote and produced a Christmas video for the congregation.

Fast forward to 2025... **Sunday evening December 14th one night only!**

Salem Players will reprise their original production of *The Ladies in Waiting of Christmas: Advent to Epiphany*, Live! Starring Sue

Gdovin, Linda Fleischer, Julie Kempton, Carolyn Lawrence, Sue O'Connor, Sara Toscano, Shannon Willing, and Lisa Yerkey with Bhavna Ambalavanan, Sterling Gray, Damien Gibbons, Nick Mason & Paul Timmel.

Mark your calendars, **5:00 p.m. pot luck dinner, 7:15 p.m. live performance in the Nave.**

Come meet Elizabeth, Mary, Nan the Innkeeper's Wife, Glory the Angel. Faith the Shepherd's Mother, and the Wives of Wonder.



salemplayers@salem-catonsville.org

A WORD TO THE CHURCH FROM OUR PRESIDING BISHOP

The Rev. Yehiel Curry

Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

When I was installed as your presiding bishop, the preacher proclaimed that in times of division, disruption and fear, God calls us, through love, to lift up one another just as Christ lifts us up. I have taken that to heart and been alert to all the ways in which we, made into God's own beloved through word and sacrament, testify to that love in daily service and ministry. Across the ELCA, I have seen and am deeply grateful for:

Ministries mobilizing to serve meals and distribute food amid the harm, chaos and confusion of a government shutdown and the ongoing blocking of food assistance for 42 million people in our nation.

Congregations offering accompaniment and hope as they come alongside neighbors made vulnerable by aggressive and indiscriminate immigration enforcement.

Leaders from Lutheran Disaster Response urging members of Congress to commit to programs that lift up those made vulnerable in disasters.

Congregations reaching out to federal workers by supplying meals, meeting daily needs, providing gift cards and helping them find work.

Preachers faithfully proclaiming the theology of the cross that illuminates the brokenness of sin but also the mystery of a grace that claims us, frees us and sends us to be messengers of hope in a hurting world.

As a church, we do not hold back in lifting up those whom God calls us to serve, even and especially when government abdicates its responsibilities for the common good. My installation as your presiding bishop coincided with the start of the longest government shutdown in our nation's history. In this moment, I draw strength from the writings of Martin Luther, who used the example of Mary and the words of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) to urge the rulers of his time to exercise power in ways that serve all people.

Jesus gave us an image of a vine and its branches (John 15:1) to illustrate our connectedness to him and, through him, to one another. Our rootedness in Christ sustains us with his love. His love connects us to one another. We must stay connected to face the challenges of this moment.

An end to the government shutdown will not immediately resolve food insecurity, so we will keep feeding and supporting our neighbors. The racial profiling and harm to our immigrant neighbors show no signs of diminishing, so we will heed God's call to show up alongside these neighbors in solidarity. Our broken politics and partisan divisions will not heal by themselves, so we will show up through participation, bridge-building and advocacy.

No matter what happens next, we must continue to care for all neighbors, especially those who are marginalized. Our 1994 social message "Community Violence" tells us that "we have the responsibility to join with others to hold government accountable for protecting society and ensuring justice for all, and to seek changes in policies and practices toward these ends" (p. 4). As we do, I am confident that Christ's grace will be sufficient, freeing us to lift up others and seek justice for everyone.

I invite you to pray for and participate in ELCA ministries that support the well-being of all including by taking advocacy action, applying for ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread Matching Grants to support your hunger ministry, and watching the recent ELCA Advocacy webinar "Faith Communities and the Realities of Food Assistance."

Gracious God, we pray for our public servants, that they do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Inspire them to use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life. Guide our leaders to govern in such a way that all people enjoy a peaceful and just society. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. (All Creation Sings, p. 50)

OCTOBER FINANCIAL DATA

General Fund

Receipts to Date \$475,500.92

Expenses to Date \$537,337.49

Difference **\$61,836.57**

Budget to Date \$550,110.00

R.S.V.P

Receipts to Date \$30,640.00

Disbursement to
Date **\$25,859.93**

Difference \$4,780.07

(Carryover balance from 2024: \$30485.05)

ANNOUNCEMENT CHANGE

You may have noticed that we're now sharing our announcements after communion rather than at the start of worship. We've made this small change to help us begin our time together by entering right into prayer, song, and scripture, grounding us in worship. After communion, our announcements naturally connect with our sending where we're encouraged to go out and live out our faith in the week ahead. Thank you for receiving this change with grace as we continue shaping a worship service that is centered in Christ's love and shared with our community.

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR STAN

To say only 'thank you' does not seem adequate. The prayers, meals, cards - WOW! The cards and all the good wishes were very much appreciated and helped in my recovery from surgery. Salem has impressed me with your generosity, your care for each other, your involvement in the community, and so much more and now I have felt the love and support of Salem with my surgery and continual rehab. I started back on Monday, December 1st on a somewhat limited role but will be fully back by the time you receive the Monarch. God has blessed me with the opportunity to be a part of this congregation and to share in the faith and spirit you all exhibit. Thanks again for everything, you have indeed been a vital part of my healing process.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Stan



United
Lutheran
Seminary

October 30, 2025

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Rd
Catonsville, MD 21228-4517

*"From beginning to end, fundraising as ministry is grounded in prayer and undertaken in gratitude." Henri
Nouwen A Spirituality of Fundraising*

Amount received: \$1,300.00 (Direct Deposit)
Gift Purpose: United Lutheran Seminary Fund

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

As a new academic year begins at United Lutheran Seminary, I want to thank you - not just for supporting this mission, but for being part of it.

You're not simply *helping* form future church leaders - you *are* forming them. When a student steps into the classroom with curiosity and conviction, when they wrestle with Scripture, when they preach their first sermon or comfort someone in crisis: You are right there with them. You are raising leaders for the church. You are teaching theology. You are sustaining a community of faith, courage, and hope.

At ULS, we are deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition, guided by the Spirit's call to be bold, compassionate, and engaged. Our students come from many backgrounds and traditions, but they are united in a desire to serve - and they carry your influence with them. Every time a student answers a call they weren't sure they could fulfill, every time they lead worship with steady hands or bring a word of hope to someone on the margins, you are there. Your generosity becomes books on their desks, mentors by their side, and moments of clarity that shape their call. You may never meet them, but know you are part of their story - and they will carry your faithfulness into the congregations, hospitals, chaplaincies, and communities they serve.

If there's ever a way we can support you, please reach out at advancement@uls.edu. We also invite you to stay connected through our Kindling Faith continuing education programs: uls.edu/kindlingfaith

With sincere gratitude,

Mr. Conor Brooks, CFRE
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
cbrooks@uls.edu
717-338-3012

United Lutheran Seminary is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution, making it fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please retain this receipt for your records. Our Tax ID: 23-1365169.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

November 4, 2025

Thank You

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Rd
Catonsville, MD 21228-4517

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,500.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

"From [Christ's] fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."
-John 1:16

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock and education, and it advances peace and justice for all people. Through your gifts, you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

With gratitude,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.

Gift date: 10/24/2025
Gifts are designated for:

ELCA World Hunger	\$1,000.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$500.00

Total contribution: **\$1,500.00**

Dear Pastor Stan, Pastor Carolyn,
and our Salem Family,

Thank you for your messages,
cards, well wishes, and prayers
following my shoulder surgery and
my mother's hospitalization. The
altar flowers we received were
lovely. Thank you, also, to the
Salem Angels for the delicious
meals and visits.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness
over these last months has blessed
us. Gratefully, Donna Sandt

THE HEART OF MARYLAND CHORUS
WISHES TO EXPRESS THEIR SINCERE
APPRECIATION FOR ALLOWING US USE
OF THE SALEM CHURCH FACILITY AND
EXTENDS OUR WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND
HEALTHY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!



Dear Friends at Salem,

Thank you for your generosity in hosting
one of my 25th Ordination Anniversary Celebrations.
Your kindness means a lot to me, and I
was glad that others got to see Salem
shine brightly, too!

You all bless me all day!

In Jesus, Diie Gohl

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7pm - Prayer Stitchers 7:30pm - Nar-Anon 7:30pm - Overeaters	9am - Catonsville Garden 4pm - Girl Scout Troop 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Heart of Maryland	6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Prayer 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga	8am - Business Builders 10am - Stitchcrafters 6pm - St. David's Choir 7pm - Ladies in Waiting 7:30pm - Salem Choir	12pm - AA Group	12pm - Ladies in Waiting Rehearsals 5pm - Contemporary Worship 6:30pm - Salem Supper
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30am - Early Service 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service 12:30pm - Salem Brass 1pm - Strings recital	9am - Catonsville Garden 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7pm - Guardians of Eden 7pm - Lazarus Caucus	9am - Catonsville Garden 4pm - Girl Scout Troop 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Prayer 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop	8am - Business Builders 10am - Stitchcrafters 6pm - St. David's Choir 7:30pm - Salem Choir	12pm - AA Group 6pm - Girl Scout Troop	11am - Ladies in Waiting Rehearsals 5pm - Contemporary Worship 6pm - Fair Trade Cart
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30am - Early Service 9:15am - Fair Trade Cart 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service 5pm - Ladies in Waiting	1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7pm - Prayer Stitchers 7:30pm - Nar-Anon 7:30pm - Overeaters	4pm - Girl Scout Troop 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Church Council 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Prayer 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop	8am - Business Builders 10am - Stitchcrafters 11am - Bent Twig Garden 6pm - St. David's Choir 7:30pm - Salem Choir	12pm - AA Group 5pm - Salem Youth Group	5pm - Contemporary Worship
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30am - Early Service 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service	1pm - Fourth Monday Bible Study 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer	4pm - Girl Scout Troop 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	2pm - Christmas Eve Worship 5pm - Christmas Eve Worship 8:30pm - Christmas Eve Worship	10am - Christmas Day Worship	12pm - AA Group	5pm - Contemporary Worship
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10am - Combined Service 12:30pm - Salem Brass 7pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Al-Anon Meeting	1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7:30pm - Nar-Anon 7:30pm - Overeaters	4pm - Girl Scout Troop 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Prayer 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting			

OFFICIAL ACTS

AT THE BAPTISMAL FONT

Bane Aslan Taylor

11/30/2025

PARISH LEADERS

Altar Guild: Mary Krebs

Archive Committee: Judy LeGath

Arts Committee: Tricia Morgan

Child Protection Committee: Linda Fleischer

Children's Ministry Committee: Eileen Merriman,
Zoë Dell

Christian Fellowship Committee: Darla Sando, Pam
Wilsey

Communications Committee: Guy Davis, Karen Amy

Evangelism Committee: Nicki Fatherly

Finance Committee: Ken Wolfram

Guardians of Eden: Ken Scarlatelli, Sharon Schueler

Health Resources: Beth Rodgers, Lynda Bell

Historic Old Salem: Sharon Stanton

Memorial and Bequests: Paul W. Krabitz

Prayer Tree Coordinators: Karen Amy, Barbara
Beem

Property: Rusty Schaefer

Refugee Task Force – Beth Rodgers

Salem Players: Lisa Yerkey

Scholarship: Sue Gdovin

Social Ministry: Mary Kay Willing

Stewardship Committee: John Brohawn

Technology Support Committee: Lisa Yerkey

Ushers: Mary Krebs, Ray Hamelin

Youth Ministry Committee: Melissa Miller and
Veronica Merriman

Worship Life: Jane Stolte

ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2025

	Saturday Evening	Sunday Service		Other	Livestream	Weekly* Total
		First	Second			
Oct 25/26	29	30	143		10/24**	236
Nov 1/2	34	50	103		9/33	229
Nov 8/9	20	68	78		6/26	198
Nov 15/16	22	61	103		5/27	218
Nov 22/23	29	60	81		11/25	277
Nov 26 Thanksgiving Eve				54	17	
Nov 29/30	23	60	122		12/17	234

*Week reflects Saturday through Friday

**Livestream datum has been updated since the last Monarch publication



NO PHISHING
Don't take the bait!

Occasionally we hear about members receiving an email from one of the Pastors asking for gift cards or for us to pay a bill, etc.; because 'they are in a meeting' (or whatever) and 'can't take care of this right now.' This is ALWAYS a scheme to get something from you by someone else and this is NEVER from Salem's Pastors. Please, if you are contacted by anyone asking for money or gift cards and they say it is an emergency; contact us yourself first. Please don't take the bait in their phishing scheme!

WIFI AT SALEM

The Technology Committee has installed WIFI access throughout the church. This free internet access is available to members and guests. Users may access any of our four networks connections throughout the building. The password for all connections is **SalemChurch**.

If you have any questions about our network please contact the Technology Committee, Lisa Yerkey, at salemtch@salem-catonsville.org.

SMART PHONE QR CODE**AVAILABLE FOR GIVING**

Salem allows offerings via your smart phone. Image Salem's QR code and you will be taken to the mobile-friendly version of Salem's giving page where you can make your gift via your bank account or credit card.



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Office
Telephone: (410) 747-0720

Interim Pastor G. Stanley Steele
pastorstan@salem-catonsville.org

Pastor Carolyn Lawrence
pastorcarolyn@salem-catonsville.org

Pastor Emeritus: G. Edward Whetstone
edward-victoria@verizon.net

Director of Music: Mary Miller
marymiller359@gmail.com

Director of Contemporary Music: Sid Meier

Worship Technology Director: Joey Morgan

Office Manager: Jeff Tsai
jefft@salem-catonsville.org

Sexton: Joey Morgan

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

President: Emily D'Avella

Vice-President: Lisa Yerkey

Secretary: Matthew Fairchild

Financial Secretary: Linda Fleischer

Treasurer: Ray Hamelin

Assistant Treasurer: Jane Stolte

CHURCH COUNCIL

Ron Bruce
Emily D'Avella
Guy Davis
Matthew Fairchild
Ray Giuliani
Pat Jennings

Veronica Merriman
Carolyn Moore
Mary Oliver
Michael Petry
Janet Van Sant
Lisa Yerkey

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Guy Davis, Co-Chair
Karen Amy, Co-Chair
Barbara Beem
Dan D'Avella
Peggy Dell
Carolyn Lawrence
Judy LeGath
Joey Morgan
Sharon Stanton
Bethann Snyder
Ed Whetstone

Contributing Photographers
Guy Davis
Carolyn Lawrence

Proofreading
Sharon Stanton

NEXT MONARCH PUBLICATION

January-February 2026

Articles due January 15

If you are interested in participating on the Communications Committee, or contributing as a *ad-hoc* writer or photographer, please contact our committee chairpersons.



Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church strives to be a Christ-centered, caring community experiencing God's grace and sharing God's goodness with all people.

905 Frederick Road
Catonsville, MD 21228-4517
(410) 747-0720
office@salem-catonsville.org

We are on the Web!

www.salem-catonsville.org



www.facebook.com/salemlutheranchurch.catonsville



Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
www.elca.org



Delaware-Maryland Synod
<http://demdsynod.org/>

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

905 Frederick Rd.
Catonsville, MD 21228-4517

Change Service Requested
TIME VALUE