



THE MONARCH

REFLECTIONS OF A SERVANT OF GOD

*¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Isaiah 42:1-4*

that those who are attempting to find a home that is safe and provide the income necessary for their family to be treated like our enemies goes against the very ministry Jesus spent his earthly life living. Jesus cared for those on the margins and challenged the authorities to do the same. I honestly have been more of a 'bruised reed and a dimly burning flame' out of fear of rejection and conflict. But I find it more difficult to continue in this vein. I need to raise my voice and stand stronger against this affront to what I hold to be true.

Jesus said we need to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and spirit, and love our neighbors as ourselves. How can I love God completely and not love my neighbor who is created in God's holy image? Who is going to speak if not **us** who are the disciples of Jesus? My silence is deafening to me, and my soul is a bruised and dimly lite flame. So, how do I address this? Do I go to Minneapolis or Springfield, Ohio to join those who are protesting what is happening?

Or do I shrink back within myself and protect myself from harm and criticism? Isaiah says that God will bring forth justice but without crying out or raising the voice of his servant. Is this even possible today? Yet there is so much shouting and accusing that nothing is heard, especially the cries of those mistreated or killed. Does one more loud voice really change what is occurring?

Isaiah finishes these verses by saying the servant will bring justice for truth. The servant will not be discouraged or fail. The servant will not give up till justice is established on the earth. Isaiah is saying whether we shout out or we speak more quietly, we are to be firm in our fight for justice. Even as a bruised reed or dimly lit candle, we still stand and we still share the light of justice.

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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.

So, at this point I am still searching for answers. I am beginning to see we need to be both prophets loudly calling for justice while more quietly we strive to speak more softly to quell the anger and fear that feeds injustice. It is time to speak out and to listen as Jesus did when confronted by the injustice and mistreatment of the weak. Our call to serve God as Jesus has taught us is challenging and at times full of risk as Jesus himself discovered and accepted.

I will continue to wrestle with these questions and pray God give me wisdom to discern his will.

In the name of peace,

Pastor Stan

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Salem Call Committee is actively meeting on a regular basis. The first meeting was with Pastor Robin Simpson Litton (the Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership). The purpose of this meeting was to provide an orientation to the call process as well as to review the committee's responsibilities and ensure that members follow proper procedures. The committee also received the final Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which is a compilation of feedback received from the congregation. Committee members were all tasked with becoming very familiar with the contents of the MSP as this is the "voice" of Salem's members and will guide the committee in seeking God's will for the congregation. The synod has already received the MSP and the staff are actively working to identify a slate of candidates for us. The next step is for Pastor Robin to share the slate with the call committee for review and discernment for next steps.

The committee asks for your continued prayers and support as they embark on this important work ahead.

THRIVENT BENEFITS FOR SALEM MEMBERS

The article that follows is not an advertisement for Thrivent; it is meant to list benefits available to Thrivent members and how these benefits can be used at Salem.

As some know, Thrivent is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial services organization for Christians, offering financial advice, investments, insurance, banking, and generosity programs to help members align their finances with their faith and values, focusing on financial security and giving back to communities. The generosity programs (i.e., benefits) available to Thrivent members include Thrivent Cause Kits (see the accompanying article), Thrivent Choice Dollars, and Thrivent Action Teams.

Thrivent distributes portions of its charitable grant funds to nonprofit organizations. Each eligible client with membership can distribute their portion of these funds (i.e., Choice Dollars). Examples of nonprofit organizations eligible for Choice Dollars include Salem, the Community of St. Dysmas, Historic Old Salem, and Mar-Lu-Ridge. Thrivent clients can also nominate organizations to receive Choice Dollars.

The Thrivent Action Teams program provides resources, including up to \$250 in seed money and promotional materials, for members to lead community service projects, fundraisers, or educational events, enabling them to make a tangible impact in their local areas. Members apply online, get a project kit, rally volunteers, and then report on the project's success, fostering generosity and community involvement; each Thrivent member can do this once or twice a year depending on their membership status. Thrivent members at Salem in the past have used these resources for youth group events, food and other items at Marketplace, yarn and other supplies (Stitchcrafters), and God's Work, Our Hands projects (e.g., assembly of backpacks and casseroles for the West Side Men's Shelter).

If you are a Thrivent member, please create an account at thrivent.com and take advantage of Thrivent Cause Kits, Thrivent Choice Dollars, and Thrivent Action Teams. Each Thrivent member gets a new allotment of these each year. Please contact Jim Kempton if you have any questions regarding Thrivent benefits.

THRIVENT CAUSE KITS

As mentioned in the article on Thrivent benefits, Thrivent Cause Kits are available to Thrivent members. A Thrivent Cause Kit is a pre-packaged volunteer experience to help individuals make an impact right from their home. It includes all the necessary tools and instructions to ensure you can make a difference in a way that is simple and stress-free. Each Thrivent member can get one Solar Light Build or Water Filter Build Kit each year. Solar Light Build Kits are provided through a partnership with SolarBuddy (solarbuddy.org). SolarBuddy creates awareness and tackles the issues surrounding energy poverty by gifting innovative sustainable solutions to illuminate the future of all children. Each solar light provides a safe, sustainable hand-held lighting solution that directly supports education, health, financial wellbeing, and environmental sustainability. SolarBuddy to date has helped illuminate over 1,800,000 lives across the world by gifting 293,955 solar solutions (i.e., approximately six lives per solar solution) to children & communities. (Please note that SolarBuddy partners with other organizations besides Thrivent, but their partnership with Thrivent is important.) Each Solar Light reduces approximately 2,800 pounds of CO2 equivalent over its 10-year lifespan.

Water Filter Build Kits are provided through a partnership with Wine To Water (WTW; wtw.org). Wine To Water is a global non-profit preserving life and dignity through the power of clean water. WTW's vision is to end the root cause of global poverty by providing sustainable water solutions in communities around the world. Since 2004, WTW has reached over 2.3 million people with clean water across 55 countries, including disaster relief efforts in Ukraine, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Haiti, Nepal, Cuba, Puerto Rico, various Caribbean Islands, the USA, Mozambique, and more. Each water filter provides clean water for 12 people for 10 years; it uses advanced membranes, which allow the filters to eliminate 99.99999% of bacteria and over 99% of turbidity (dirt, unnecessary minerals, mud, etc.).

On January 4, 2026, the Adult Forum built three water filters that were contained in a Thrivent Cause Kit. Within 15 minutes, the three teams consisting of three to five individuals built the water filters and wrote the note that was to be included with each filter. All teams reported that they found the experience fun and rewarding and would be willing to do it again. Many congregations have annual Cause Kit assembly events. How about it, Salem, are you up to holding a Cause Kit assembly event? (Maybe we could have one over the summer.) While only Thrivent members can order a kit, anyone in the congregation can participate in an assembly event. Please let the office know if you are a Thrivent member, and we will coordinate the ordering of Cause Kits.



SALEM WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Nathanael Bray

Nathanael Bray was baptized at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church on January 11. He and his husband, Gary, have been attending worship at Salem for the past several months and are grateful to have found a congregation where they feel at home.

Nathanael grew up in the small coastal town of Brooklin, Maine. His parents both worked for WoodenBoat magazine, and time on the water played a central role in his early life. Nathanael earned his captain's license at age 19 and spent many years building wooden boats before later moving west.

Over time, Nathanael's path took him to California and Nevada, where he worked in technical and analytical roles. Eventually, he returned east and settled in Maryland. Nathanael also studied at Howard Community College and enjoys learning new creative skills.

About a year ago, while traveling in Thailand during a difficult period in his life, Nathanael began a serious exploration of faith. After returning to the United States, he spent many months studying Scripture and learning about different Christian traditions. Through that process, Lutheran theology stood out to him, particularly its focus on grace, the sacraments, and a faith grounded in honesty and care for others.

Nathanael began attending Salem a few months ago and says he was especially drawn by the welcoming spirit of the congregation and Pastor Carolyn's thoughtful and encouraging sermons. He most often attends Saturday evening worship and recently chose to be baptized at Salem.

He has also developed a strong appreciation for sacred music, especially the works of Johann Sebastian Bach and the Thomanerchor in Leipzig, a connection he later learned was rooted in the Lutheran tradition. Nathanael says he is gradually becoming more comfortable singing during worship.

Outside of church, Nathanael spends much of his time volunteering, particularly delivering food to local families in need. He is also an artist and photographer with interests in filmmaking. Nathanael and Gary enjoy traveling, hiking, cooking together, and watching films.

As he begins this new chapter at Salem, Nathanael looks forward to continuing to grow in faith and becoming more involved in the life of the congregation.



Aleister Lyman, 17

Aleister is a native of Catonsville. He was raised here, and still lives here. He is a senior at Catonsville High School where he - like several Salemites before him - plays in the Steel Drum Band. After graduation, he intends to study at Catonsville Community College (CCBC) so will be staying in the area.

Aleister is at the beginning of his faith story. He has been looking for some meaning and community in his life and decided to become a Christian and join Salem on his own after meeting with Pastor Stan. We welcome him to the Salem family.

**PASTOR CAROLYN AND MIN WELCOME DAUGHTER JULIAN**

On January 19, Julian Park Lawrence was born to Pastor Carolyn and Min Park. They are overjoyed to become a family of three! Min and Julian are doing well, and the whole family has greatly appreciated the prayers and support of the congregation. Pastor Carolyn will return to Salem for Transfiguration Sunday and take the remainder of parental leave after Easter.

Julian's name comes from Julian of Norwich, a Christian mystic who lived in England in the 1300s. Living as an anchoress (a religious woman permanently dwelling in a church) Julian provided spiritual care to her community ravaged by plague and unrest. In a series of visions, she received comforting words from Jesus that though sin and evil dwell in this world, ultimately "all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." Her revelations are the earliest recorded works written by a woman in English. Pastor Carolyn and Min chose this name to remind their daughter of the Father's unfailing goodness, the Son's triumph over sin, and the Spirit's consolation that all shall be well.

They expect Julian to be baptized on the Easter Vigil on April 4. Historically and traditionally the Vigil was the service when the faithful were baptized. Just as Christ on Holy Saturday passed from death to new life, so too were those baptized into Christ's death and resurrection.

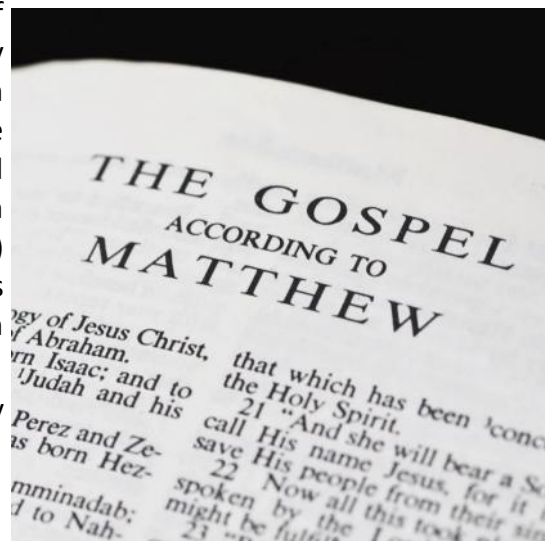


THE STUDY OF MATTHEW CONTINUES IN ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum started an eight-week study of the Gospel of Matthew in early January using the *Together by Grace* Bible Study series from Augsburg Fortress. This series walks through books in the Bible and allows participants to ask how we can approach these stories, wrestle with tough questions in our lives, and build community along the way. In January, we covered the passages on 1) Jesus and his family traveling to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-18), and 2) Jesus fulfilling the law of the prophets (Matthew 5:17-20). The titles and passages for the four Sundays in February and the first two in March are:

- Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and the gift of God's heavenly kingdom, Matthew 6:25-34
- Trusting in God's Embrace, Matthew 14:22-33
- Relentlessly Pursuing Liberation and Life, Matthew 15:21-28
- Loving God and One Another, Matthew 22:34-40; 23:1-3
- Standing at the Foot of the Cross, Matthew 27:11-13, 24-31
- Letting Go and Letting God, Matthew 28:8-20

Please note that each study is distinct and stands on its own (i.e., you can still learn something and participate even if you miss one or more sessions). As always, the Adult Forum meets in the Katie Luther Room at 9:45 am on Sundays. See you there!



FAIR-TRADE

We have plenty of fair-trade chocolate, coffee, tea, and cocoa for Valentine's Day and belated Groundhog Day enjoyment. (Do groundhogs like cocoa or coffee?) Fair trade items will be available for purchase in the narthex at the following times in February.

- After the 5 p.m. service on Saturday, February 7th
- After the 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, February 8th
- Before and after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, February 8th

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

GUARDIANS OF EDEN

DO YOU KNOW WHAT CSA MEANS? No, it's not Confederate States of America...it's Community Supportive Agriculture. Consumers buy shares in a local farm, receiving regular boxes of seasonal produce (vegetables, fruits, herbs) and other farm goods in exchange for upfront payment to the farmer, sharing both the farm's risks and rewards. Want to learn more about it? Check out the Guardians of Eden bulletin board, first floor hallway, near the restrooms.

The committee meets the 2nd Monday of each month, except July and August, at 7 p.m. in the Katie Luther room. Interested in preserving our Earth and working on conservation efforts? Join us and share your ideas.

Co-Chairs – Ken Scarlatelli kscarlatelli@gmail.com and Sharon Schueler sharonpisces57@gmail.com

MINISTERIAL SON OF SALEM JOSHUA WILSON ORDAINED AND INSTALLED AT RIVER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MANASSAS, VIRGINIA ON DECEMBER 7

Those who were members of Salem in the 1990s and 2000s will remember Joshua Wilson and his family as very active members of Salem. In the early 2000s Salem supported Josh's seminary studies at Gettysburg with our prayers and a stipend from the Scholarship Fund. Some will remember him best from his role in 2000 as Jesus in Salem Players' very successful production of *Godspell*!

On December 7 we were pleased in worship to remember Josh in our prayers on the day of his ordination and installation. Pastor Joshua will be serving as River of Grace's pastor half-time, and continuing his cybersecurity profession as a Certified Ethical Hacker.

Josh married Tiana Sherman, also a member of Salem, a genuine Salem romance. We pray for them in their new home, and for Pastor Josh in his first parish, ministering to the members and community of Rivers of Grace Church. The church's address is River of Grace Lutheran Church, 15012 Dumfries Rd, Manassas, VA, 20112.



REFUGEE TASK FORCE

The Alam family from Laurel was moved to Syracuse on Dec 25 by Susan and Joe Lyke, a rapid trip to avoid snow storms on the horizon. The family disposed of all items not needed and were packed and ready Christmas morning! It was a long drive and relatives waited anxiously for the arrival in Syracuse. The truck was unloaded in 20 minutes and the Lyke's drove home that same day! The family is so happy to be with family in an area that has fellow Rohingya families.

As Pr. Ed said, "the Bethlehem star shone over Syracuse that night."

Ed, Vicky and I helped clean the apartment on Saturday to close that part of the adventure. The family is doing well and receiving services in New York, already! Happy New Year and thanks for your continued support of the refugees in our community.

Beth Rodgers

RMD DONATIONS

If you have an IRA or 401(k) or 403(b) and have an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), it may be advantageous to donate to Salem some of that RMD directly through your financial institution. By having your financial institution write a check for your donation, the donation will be tax-free even if you take the standard deduction. If you deposit your RMD, taxes will be deducted from your deposit. You can only recover those taxes on your sharable contributions if you itemized.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DECEMBER 25/JANUARY 26

December was a short month; on our first two Sundays, we practiced for the pageant. On December 19th, the children performed Christmas A-Z, written and produced by Lisa Yerkey. Many of the children's extended families and church members attended an outstanding performance. Sunday School took a short break and resumed on January 11th. In January, we covered the topics of joyful learning of Jesus' Baptism with a visit to the Baptismal Font, talking about baptisms, and learning how water can wash away sins. We also covered K - King: How David was chosen and L-Light: The light of the world.



HISTORIC OLD SALEM CRAFT FAIR AND FLEA MARKET

Historic Old Salem Craft Fair and Flea Market will take place on Saturday, March 7th. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be lots of vendors for crafts and also lunch. All money will go to the upkeep and benefit of the original Old Salem church on Ingleside Avenue. Come one, come all, and support us!

Tables are \$25 per table and \$20 per space if you provide your own table. Please contact Sharon Stanton memsha7311@gmail.com or call 410-744 8724

HISTORIC OLD SALEM NEWS

Enjoyed a wonderful Christmas bus trip to the Riverside Center for Performing Arts in Fredericksburg, VA on December 3rd. Show was "White Christmas" – very well done and the food was delicious, served directly at your table by the actors themselves. It was a good time, except for the gridlock traffic coming home on 95. What a mess but we made it safely home, albeit a little later than anticipated.

The HOS Board of Directors are celebrating our formation 50 years ago in 1976 throughout 2026. Several bus trips and our June 7th Founders' Day open house and program are already scheduled. Just a brief history of our beginnings - In 1976, a group of interested community persons, including some Salem members, incorporated Historical Old Salem, Inc. Its purpose was to restore and preserve the original Church and cemetery grounds, located at 701 Ingleside Avenue. The church was built in 1849 by a German Lutheran congregation that wished to worship in their own Church, after having used St Timothy's Church to worship in for several years. Through a 99-year lease with Salem Newburg in 1976, the organization accepted the responsibility for the care and custody of the church 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 when decisions were made to move to the "center of town" Catonsville, building and dedicating a new church in 1903, where we worship today.

We will again 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; \$25 if we provide the table, \$20 if you bring your own table fitting in a 3' X 8' space. We'll have great food, several raffles and a bake table too. Put the date on your calendars now; help support the Old Salem Board's preservation efforts by hosting a table, coming to shop, eat and take a raffle chance.

Bus trips scheduled: **June 17th** – to Cambridge. Meet our tour guide at the Visitor Center. Itinerary-Harriet Tubman Visitor Center, Old Salty's Restaurant on Hooper Island for a seafood buffet lunch, and Layton's Chance Winery. The tour is wonderful having taken it in 2019.

August 7th- 4th Annual Crabs N' Cruise out of Suicide Bridge Hurlock, Maryland.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW ON BOTH BUS TRIPS.

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, February 11th at 7 pm in the Katie Luther Room as we finalize our Craft Fair/Flea Market and other plans. Interested? Come join us. Everyone is welcome. Questions? Contact Sharon at memsha7311@gmail.com or 410-744-8724.

WHAT'S IN THE SHOWCASE

December's display featured Lisa Yerkey's Santas with unique creations by her mom, Charlotte Douthat, Pastor Ed Whetstone, and herself.

Karen Gatzke shared a marvelous memorabilia collection of all things Catonsville, which brought back many wonderful memories of years gone by especially to those who grew up in Catonsville.

AND, the elephants will come marching in two by two or four by four in **February's** collection from Carl and Maria Engelbrecht

Anyone willing to do our April Showcase? May and June showcases are already scheduled. 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

SALEM FINANCES

December Year to Date

General Fund	
Receipts to Date	\$585,729.40
Expenses to Date	\$627,576.89
Difference	\$41,847.49
Budget to Date	\$667,889.00
R.S.V.P	
Receipts to Date	\$35,853.00
Disbursement to Date	\$28,720.93
Difference	\$7,132.07

(Carryover balance from 2024: \$30485.05)

2025

	Expenses	Budget	Difference	Income
Ministry of Benevolence	\$90,425.90	\$93,940.00	\$3,514.10	
Staff Salaries	\$312,392.73	\$353,460.00	\$41,067.27	
Staff Benefits	\$60,867.06	\$57,664.00	(\$3,203.06)	
Worship Life	\$14,679.90	\$15,800.00	\$1,120.10	
Evangelism, Stewardship & Christ. Fellowship	\$3,000.79	\$2,600.00	(\$400.79)	
Caring Ministries	\$1,482.58	\$1,700.00	\$217.42	
Youth Ministry	\$1,517.16	\$3,000.00	\$1,482.84	
Christian Education	\$1,848.90	\$2,350.00	\$501.10	
Church Administration	\$39,190.05	\$36,875.00	(\$2,315.05)	
Church Property	\$102,171.82	\$100,100.00	(\$2,071.82)	
Drama Camp	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	
Total	\$627,576.89	\$667,889.00	\$40,312.11	\$585,729.40
Income - Expenses				(\$41,847.49)

FREE LIVING LUTHERAN DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Living Lutheran, the magazine of the ELCA, is offering members of our congregation **free** digital memberships. Visit livinglutheran.org/subscribe to sign up.



Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran,

Thank You!

Thank you so much for supporting Heifer International.

We are truly grateful for your recent donation of \$2,419.89! Your support means so much to us and to all the families around the world that will be receiving assistance thanks to your great efforts.

We are reaching out to thank you for your support and extend the offer for any additional resources you may need for upcoming fundraisers or events. You can order resources here: <https://www.heifer.org/take-action/get-involved> or give us a call at 888.548.6437.

Also, we wanted to let you know that your donation was matched! Our ongoing Community Marketing match will double the value of all community donations postmarked by June 30, 2026. Please let us know if you have any questions or are in need of any additional resources.

We are honored to have you as a valued supporter. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of many, and your commitment to our cause is truly appreciated. We hope you have a wonderful day and Happy Holidays!

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us using any of the methods listed below or browse our website at www.heifer.org. With your support, we have power over poverty and hunger!

Kind regards,

Shunta' Stubbs
Donor Services Representative
Heifer International

Halima Ellams Nicole Kiefer Sofia Zurek
Katherine Hawes Ryleigh Hayworth Ivana Davila Andrew Mezera

Because of you, we will change
more lives in 2026.
With hope,
The 2025/2026 LVC Fellows.

Aleah Hayes Paula Omokhomion Trishika Singla
Lara Erickson Aysha DaSilvio
Ella Brei Karina Perez Jessie Wright
Saint Browder Melite PO

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

Dear Friends and Donors,
We want to sincerely thank you for your
commitment to our mission: "to unite ALL
people to work for peace with justice."
We could not do our good work without
your constant support.



December 31, 2025

Salem Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Rd
Catonsville, MD 21228

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your donation of \$5,202.74. Catonsville Emergency Assistance continues to serve our neighbors because of the generosity of donors like you!

Your gift will help us meet the challenge of steady growth as an increasing number of neighbors continue to seek our help. We exist to ensure that local families have a place to come when they need food, utility, and eviction assistance. In the past year, we served nearly 700 people in 294 households. As a partner of the Maryland Food Bank, we distributed over 106,000 pounds of fresh and shelf-stable food as well.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission of **Neighbors Helping Neighbors!**

With heartfelt gratitude,

Caitlin Kirby

Caitlin Kirby

Executive Director

*Brother Steve: Pastor Leach -
Thank you so
much for your continued
support. What an amazing
gift your congregation is to
CEA! all the Best.
CK*



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

*Thank you for supporting CEA. As many
of our neighbors are facing food insecurity,
your help is greatly appreciated! Thanks,*

Patti (CEA volunteer)

25 Bloomsbury Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228 • 410-747-4357 • <http://catonsvillehelp.org/>



Mar-Lu-Ridge Conference and Educational Center, Inc.
3200 Mar Lu Ridge Rd. Jefferson, MD 21755
www.mar-lu-ridge.org
800.238.9974

Our Mission Statement: Rooted in Christ, we welcome all to encounter God's love through sacred hospitality, deepening relationships, and care for creation.

January 2, 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

"I thank my God every time I remember you, always praying with joy for all of you." Phil. 1:3-4

We are aware of our many blessings and we thank God as we remember you. Because of your generosity, our summer camp program and retreat community continue to grow and touch lives. We appreciate your prayers and support.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Mar-Lu-Ridge, please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for your generous donation of \$1,100 in support of our outdoor ministry site. We have over 66 years of traditions and joyful memories, and we continue to plan with dedication for the future of our ministry.

Mar-Lu-Ridge serves all people, and your gift enables us to provide a safe, well-staffed facility to everyone who desires to come here, regardless of their ability to pay. We will be faithful stewards of your gift, and carefully use it to upgrade important infrastructure such as roofs, restrooms, and HVAC systems. We also look toward future camp programming opportunities and partnerships. Campership gifts remain vital as many more families are in need of assistance, and a portion of these gifts is set aside for this purpose.

Thank you for your support of our year-round outdoor ministry.

You remain in our prayers.

In peace,

Diana Edelblute

Diana Edelblute
Executive Director

Your faithful support is such a gift -



Mar-Lu-Ridge CONFERENCE AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER
3200 MAR-LU-RIDGE ROAD - JEFFERSON, MD 21755
PHONE: (301) 874-5544 - FAX: (301) 874-5545

29550

DATE *12-29-25*

Mar-Lu-Ridge Received from *Salem LC CottonSV*

Dollars \$ *1,100.00*

Payment for: *VE donation*

AMOUNT OF ACC'T \$

AMOUNT PAID \$ *1,100.00*

BALANCE DUE \$

CASH () CHECK (X) OTHER *1,514.4*

THANK
YOU!

By

Mar-Lu-Ridge
[Signature]



1 World Avenue • Little Rock, AR 72202
888.548.6437 • info@heifer.org
Learn more at Heifer.org

(0000480)*000002*****MIXED AADC 720
Salem Evangelical Lutheran
905 Frederick Rd
Catonsville, MD 21228-4517



December 8, 2025

Dear Friend:

I'm truly fortunate to witness every day how the giving spirit of groups like yours can change the world. No matter how much circumstances change, one thing remains the same: **people continue to show generosity and dedication to the families we serve.**

Which is why I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your group's recent contribution of \$2,419.89 to Heifer. Your compassion makes a permanent difference in so many lives. I'm reminded of the quote by Mr. Fred Rogers: "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." **And to magnify the joy of your gift, an additional group of generous donors has matched your donation, doubling the impact of your gift!**

Each day, we witness the need of families in the poorest corners of the world, who are simply trying to figure out how to get by. Hardworking parents wonder if they'll have enough food to feed their children at the end of the day ... if they can afford school or medication ... if their home can withstand natural disasters.

Thanks to your group of Heifer donors, moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children ... dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far away ... you are providing nutritious food, education and hope for the next generation.

I hope you know how much we, and the families who are touched by your generosity, appreciate you all. Our work would not be possible without you by our side.

With appreciation,

Christy Moore
Senior Vice President of Marketing

Donation:

\$2200.00

On behalf of Victor's Vittles Food Pantry I want to thank you for your generous donation. Our pantry now serves 30 – 35 families each week, and your contribution enables us to continue this important service to our community.

This past year showed a large increase in the number of those who needed our help to feed their families, and because of help like yours, we have been able to keep the pantry shelves stocked. We appreciate all your support.

May God be with you!

Yours in Christ,

Volunteer



'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink?' ... And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' ~ Matthew, 25:37 - 40



December 8, 2025

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

Dear Carolyn:

140 W. West Street
 Baltimore, MD 21230
 t. (410) 752-4454
 f. (410) 752-4123
www.baltimorestation.org

Board of Directors

Tyler Mays
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Andrew Bagby
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 Shevelle Montgomery
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 Thomas Staskowski

Executive Director
 Kim Callari



As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for your steadfast support of The Baltimore Station. Your generous contribution of \$2,419.87 on 11/20/2025 to our 2025 Annual Appeal has truly made a difference in the lives of the men we serve.

At The Baltimore Station, our mission is to turn lives around. Thanks to supporters like you, we continue to provide comprehensive care to homeless veterans working every day to rebuild their lives. Your belief in our work fuels our efforts and provides life-changing resources. With your donation, we have been able to address rising transportation costs, provide nutritious meals, offer therapeutic activities, maintain vital utilities, and continue essential programs such as counseling, education, and workforce development.

Because of your generosity, the men in our programs are making tremendous strides—leaving with renewed hope, confidence, and the tools needed to build a healthier future for themselves and their families.

As we look ahead, your ongoing commitment ensures we can meet growing needs and expand our impact. We are excited to share more success stories with you in the coming year and are grateful to have you as part of The Baltimore Station community.

Thank you again for your partnership. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a healthy, prosperous 2026.

With deepest appreciation,

Kim Callari
 Executive Director

To the Salem Lutheran
 Friends,

Thank you for
 sending the Alter
 Flowers to me - they
 certainly put a smile
 on my heart.

Barbara
 Myers

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am - Early Service 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service 12pm - Annual Meeting 12:30pm - Salem Brass	2 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Brass Quintet 7pm - Prayer Stitchers 7:30pm - Nar-Anon 7:30pm - Overeater's Anon	3 4pm - Girl Scout Troop 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	4 6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Prayer 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop	5 8am - Business Builders 10am - Stitchcrafters 6pm - St. David's Choir 7:30pm - Salem Choir	6 10am - Catonsville Garden 12pm - AA Group	7 1:30pm - Baltimore VE 5pm - Contemporary Worship Service 6pm - Fair Trade Cart
8 8:30am - Early Service 9:30am - Fair Trade Sale 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service 12pm - Fair Trade Sale 12:30pm - Salem Brass	9 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Guardians of Eden 7pm - Lazarus Caucus 7:30pm - Nar-Anon 7:30pm - Overeater's Anon	10 4pm - Girl Scout Troop 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 6pm - Salem Tech 6pm - Salem Tech 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	11 6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Prayer 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - AA Meeting	12 8am - Business Builders 10am - Stitchcrafters 6pm - St. David's Choir 7:30pm - Salem Choir	13 12pm - AA Group	14 5pm - Contemporary Worship Service
15 8:30am - Early Service 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Fellowship Time 9:45am - Refugee Task 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service 12pm - Fellowship Time	16 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7pm - Prayer Stitchers 7:30pm - Nar-Anon 7:30pm - Overeater's Anon	17 4pm - Girl Scout Troop 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Church Council 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	18 6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Prayer 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - AA Meeting	19 8am - Business Builders 9:30am - Bent Twig Club 10am - Stitchcrafters 6pm - St. David's Choir 7pm - Salem Players Auditions 7:30pm - Salem Choir	20 12pm - AA Group 6pm - Girl Scout Troop	21 1pm - Salem Players Auditions 5pm - Contemporary Worship Service
22 8:30am - Early Service 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service 12:30pm - Salem Brass 7pm - AA Meeting	23 1pm - Bible Study 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7:30pm - Nar-Anon 7:30pm - Overeater's Anon	24 4pm - Girl Scout Troop 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	25 6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Prayer 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - AA Meeting	26 8am - Business Builders 10am - Stitchcrafters 6pm - St. David's Choir 7:30pm - Salem Choir	27 12pm - AA Group	28 5pm - Contemporary Worship Service

OFFICIAL ACTS

AT THE BAPTISMAL FONT

Nathanael Bray 01/11/2026
Aleister Lyman 01/11/2026

AT THE GRAVE

"For the assurance and hope of our faith and for the saints you have received into your eternal joy, we thank you, Heavenly Father.

*Brenda Joyce Lane** 01/21/2026

**Not a Salem member*

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

In January, the Church Council elected new officers for 2026: Lisa Yerkey — President, Guy Davis — Vice-President, and Vicky Whetstone – Secretary. We approved repairs and painting which are much needed for the Youth Room, the kitchen, and some stairwells. We reviewed quotes to address HVAC issues in Bethany Hall, (one of our long-range goals). The Council voted to move forward with one of the quotes, but since the amount exceeds our Council spending limit a congregational meeting will be needed to approve the use of RSVP funds. Watch your mail for details, coming soon. -Lisa Yerkey

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 DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

	Saturday Evening	Sunday Service		Other	Livestream	Weekly* Total
		First	Second			
Nov 29/30	23	60	122		12/18**	235
Dec. 6/7	28	54	91		8/24	205
Dec 13/14	38	41	69		9/45	202
Dec 20/21	32	61	109		13/26	719
Dec. 24 (2:00, 5:00, 8:00)				66/112/202	10/30***	
Dec. 25				40	18	
Dec. 27/28	23	103 ****			15/17	158
Jan 3/4	31	44	95		12/29	211
Jan 10/11	23	49	92		5/23	192
Jan 17/18	28	53	76		13/40	210
Jan 24/25	29	0*****			50	79

* Week reflects Saturday through Friday

** Livestream datum for Sunday has been updated since the publication of the last Monarch

*** The 2:00 pm and the 9:00 pm services were livestreamed. The 5:00 pm service was not.

**** One worship service was held, at 10:00 am.

***** Due to inclement weather, there was no worship service on Sunday.

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

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

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pastorstan@salem-catonsville.org

Pastor Carolyn Lawrence
pastorcarolyn@salem-catonsville.org

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edward-victoria@verizon.net

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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: Lisa Yerkey

Vice-President: Guy Davis

Secretary: Vicky Whetstone

Financial Secretary: Linda Fleischer

Treasurer: Ray Hamelin

Assistant Treasurer: Jane Stolte

CHURCH COUNCIL

Ron Bruce	Mary Oliver
Guy Davis	Michael Petry
Pat Jennings	Mason Pushman
Julie Kempton	Janet Van Sant
Peter Lassen	Vicky Whetstone
Carolyn Moore	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
Pr. Carolyn Lawrence

Proofreading
Sharon Stanton

NEXT MONARCH PUBLICATION

March 2026

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
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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

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TIME VALUE