



# THE MONARCH

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

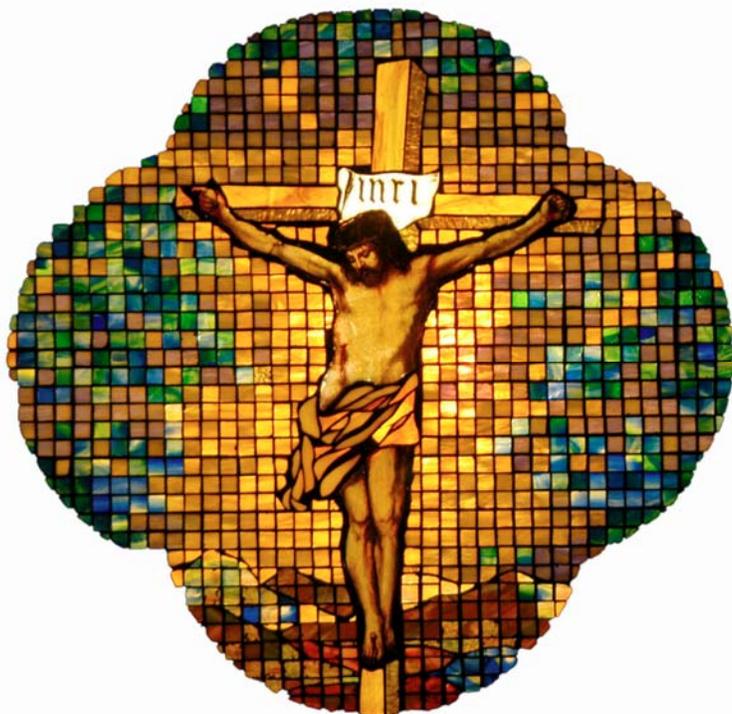
Palm Sunday, March 29, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil, April 4, 7:00 p.m. with baptism of Julian Lawrence

Easter, April 5, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.



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### MONARCH ON-LINE

Salem’s Monarch is available on-line at [www.salem-catonville.org](http://www.salem-catonville.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](mailto:guyddavisphd@gmail.com).

## COMPLEXITY THROUGH SIMPLICITY BY KATHERINE BROADWATER

Salem is having an art show for the first time in three years!

**Complexity Through Simplicity** is a solo exhibition by Baltimore artist and art educator Katherine Broadwater. The exhibition will be held from March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The opening reception is Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 p.m. in the Agape Gallery on the second floor of Salem. Plan to stay after the 11 am service or come back that day to meet the artist, view her exquisite works, and enjoy some light refreshments. The showcase in the narthex will feature her glass and fabric silk-screen creations and some smaller paper cuts.

Katherine “Kay” Broadwater is a local artist who resides in Catonsville. She has a bachelor’s degree from Capital University, a master’s degree in art education from Towson University, and a PhD in Art & Arts Education from The Union Institute & University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Broadwater was a long-time faculty member of the Towson University Art Department. Recently retired, she remains active in the local arts community as a part-time faculty member at Towson University and the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Kay excels in various mediums including calligraphy, painting, printmaking, and fabric design, but specializes in paper cutting. As an undergraduate at Capital University in Ohio, she joined the Liturgical Art Guild of Columbus for which she created large fabric pieces involving printmaking and Batik. She was inspired by unique paper-cutting styles from around the world and started practicing the art. While raising four children, she favored paper cutting for its flexibility and portability.

Kay’s art is deeply connected to her experiences as a wife, mother, and art educator. Her intricate paper cuts reflect significant moments in her life and family as well as major events in our society including 9/11, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the devastation of war. Her works are also layered throughout with faith - a source of hope and solace.

Kay has a legacy of community outreach and advocacy for the arts. Over 30 years ago, she founded a partnership with Baltimore City schools called the City Kids Art Program. The project’s goal is to bring urban youth from Baltimore City to the university setting where they can explore the arts in teaching and learning collaboration with university art students. She continues to participate in this initiative and has been a mentor to many who wish to pursue careers in the arts. Kay is involved with various organizations, including the Asian Arts and Culture Center, Hearts for New Hope (Liberia, Africa), and New Song Community Learning Center, and has participated in community service in Baltimore and Liberia.

The Agape Gallery is open to the public when the church is open for worship services, Saturdays at 5 p.m. and on Sunday mornings. Please contact the Salem church office at 410-747-0720 or email [office@salem-catonsville.org](mailto:office@salem-catonsville.org) to arrange a viewing of the exhibit outside of those times.

The Agape Gallery at Salem was founded by long-time Salem member, Charlotte Brooks. An artist and art educator, Charlotte was instrumental in organizing many art shows in the Gallery for over twenty years until her death in August 2023.



## IT'S ART FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

Blessed Congregation,

I have a confession. I know practically nothing about art other than what I like or don't like. I am also still learning what I need to learn to be a good Christian. I have no idea what a true artist does or needs to work. I don't know the first thing about technique, or aesthetic, or the chaotic trappings of the billion different types of media (other than where to find them at Michaels, but that's an article for another time). What I *\*do\** know is that everything that we do should be done with God in mind, and that includes art. That is the direction I intend to take with this Arts Committee.

We have big plans in store for the art in this church! I don't just mean the giant mural planned for the external wall, or the massive pieces of plexiglass that we will obtain to preserve our beloved Char's paper-cut art, or even the rolling art shows that are planned for the remainder of this year.

As stated in the Arts Committee Annual Report, we hope to have art shows in the Agape Gallery that include art from our Youth Group, Congregation Member shows, local artists (**See "Complexity Through Simplicity Paper Cuts", by Katherine Broadwater; Opening Reception on Sunday, March 1st, 12:30 PM, running through April 20, 2026**), and crafters, and a "small things" show that will also utilize our showcase in the narthex. A few other things that the Arts Committee has on its radar include: Various paint updates throughout the church (i.e. the peeled paint from where the first camera was replaced on the choir loft, and any chips or scratches that have occurred); updating the framed "stained glass" RSVP projects picture in the narthex; restoration and cleaning of the altar painting of Jesus; and periodic art classes, workshops, and trips to museums.

All of this is specifically to show how we, as a congregation, can appreciate art through the lens of the Lord. And, I can't wait to include **YOU** in the activities planned. In this Lenten season, where reflection and meditation are key, I encourage you to also think about how art affects you. Ask yourself:

- How does He inspire you?
- How do certain works make you think about your relationship with the Lord?
- How can art be used to express faith, truth, and beauty?
- Where can you find more art?
- How is art a reflection of our humanity?
- What does the Bible say about art and creativity?
- What art can you learn?
- What art can you bring?

"Yes, yes, Tricia...thinking is fun, but what can I **DO**"?

Come to an Arts Committee Meeting. You do not have to be on the committee to attend. Drop a suggestion in the Arts Committee mailbox. Show me your art! Suggest places to go and works to see. Come to a workshop. Go to a museum and write a few paragraphs for the Monarch of what you saw, learned, and felt. If you want to join the Arts Committee, by all means sign up at one of the meetings! I hope to see the artist in all of you, and through that, see the Lord through your lens as well.

Should anyone have any questions about the Arts Committee, including how to join, please email me at [Tricia.Sue.Morgan@gmail.com](mailto:Tricia.Sue.Morgan@gmail.com).

Artful Blessings,  
Tricia Morgan

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



## CALL COMMITTEE

Call Committee work is progressing. Synod staff continue to work on gathering strong candidates into a slate for the committee to review. All parties are taking great care to listen well to the Spirit and work toward the best fit for our community! Please feel free to bring questions you may have about the process to any member of the Call Committee.

## WHAT'S IN THE SHOWCASE

A marvelous collection of elephants arrived in **February**, hosted by Maria and Carl Engelbrecht gathered from their many travels to various parts of the world. **March** will feature The Art Guild with local artist Katherine Broadwater sharing a beautiful display in the showcase as well as the Agape Gallery on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Education Wing through April 7<sup>th</sup>. Continuing into **April** will be "a workout session" guideline for those interested in learning more about yoga and its health/physical benefits. Elaine Collins, who leads our Monday and Wednesday yoga classes here at Salem in Reformation Hall, along with Mary Krebs, are our April hosts. **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](mailto: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.

## ASH WEDNESDAY



## FAIR TRADE

We have plenty of fair-trade chocolate, coffee, tea, and cocoa for Easter enjoyment. (Did you know that the Easter Bunny can put fair trade chocolate (or coffee) into a basket?) Fair trade items will be available for purchase in the narthex at the following times in March.

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

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

## **DO YOU LOVE MUSIC?**

Do you appreciate the music we have at Salem?

How would you like to join us in making our music program successful?

We would love to have you.

We could use some wonderful Sopranos in our Adult choir. But all are welcome. Please know that you will fit in no matter your musical abilities.

Our Bell choir will need a New Ringer come 2027. In this choir you do need to read music and have some musical abilities.

Children are welcomed to join St. David's Choir.

Please see me if you are interested.

I would love to have you.

--Mary Miller

Salem Brass is Seeking New Players!

Salem Brass is now down to only a quartet - Billie Jo Kreps and I (Michael Fitch) on trumpet, Dan D'Avella on (French) Horn, and David Trump on Baritone/Euphonium. Occasionally Shirley Ramsey (trumpet) can play with us, which brings our numbers up to 5, but her husband is a pastor and she often has obligations at their church.

Over the years, a number of our members have moved away, had to stop playing for health reasons, or have crossed over and joined the heavenly brass choir. We would be happy to have some new brass players! A high-school level player or a mature middle-school level player can comfortably play most of our music. We would particularly love to have some low brass - trombone or tuba. If interested, please contact me. Thanks!

--Michael Fitch



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FEBRUARY

Due to a snow day, we started off February with Jesus as the light of the world, and the children did several activities with light. We then moved on to miracles and the Wedding at Cana. We talked about how Mary didn't demand that Jesus perform a miracle, she just told the steward to bring him what he needed. We turned water into wine (fruit punch) to represent the miracle Jesus performed. Valentine weekend aligned with Nurture and how God's love is forever. Then the children worked together to make a heart mural and then made a card for someone who brings them love. We ended the month with Overcoming and Persevering with the story of Job. The children did a craft making a barbell with sayings of trusting God as he gives us strength.



## GUARDIANS OF EDEN

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT CSA MEANS?** No, it's not Confederate States of America...it's **C**ommunity **S**upportive **A**griculture. 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.

**{Last chance to learn about this cooperative project is coming up fast as the March/April display will be going up soon from Nicki Fatherly.}**

The committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:kscarlatelli@gmail.com) and Sharon Schueler [sharonpisces57@gmail.com](mailto:sharonpisces57@gmail.com)

## HISTORIC OLD SALEM NEWS

The HOS Board of Directors is celebrating our formation 50 years ago in 1976 throughout 2026. Several bus trips and our June 7<sup>th</sup> Founders' Day open house and program are already scheduled.

We will hold our annual **Craft Fair/Flea Market on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bethany Hall.** Lots of great food, several raffles and a bake table too. Many thanks to all who bake delicious goodies for our Bake Table Sale. Thank you too for supporting our annual fundraiser as our profits go towards our preservation/maintenance efforts at Salem's original worship site. If you host a table, come to shop, enjoy



breakfast and/or lunch, purchase some baked goods and/or take a raffle chance, we appreciate you!

**Bus trips scheduled: June 17<sup>th</sup>** – to Cambridge. Meet our step on tour guide at the Visitor Center, right off Route 50. We'll have a brief rest stop then begin with our guide who will share Dorchester County's history as we travel to the Harriet Tubman Visitor Center which is our first stop. Following our visit to her Center, we board the bus heading to Hoopers Island and the Old Salty's Restaurant for a seafood buffet lunch. After lunch, we're off to the Layton's Chance Winery. The tour is wonderful having taken it in 2019. We depart from the SW Park & Ride lot on S. Rolling Road at 7:45 am returning approximately 12 hours later. **Cost is \$135 per person inclusive and due by May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Crabs N' Cruise out of Suicide Bridge Hurlock, Maryland. August 7<sup>th</sup>** - Cost is \$120 per person inclusive, due July 7<sup>th</sup>. Menu: steamed crabs, fried chicken, clam strips, Maryland crab soup, corn on the cob, cole slaw, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. It's a 3 hour cruise on the Choptank River near Cambridge. Again we depart from the SW Park & Ride Lot at 9:30 a.m. and return approximately 6 p.m. dependent on traffic.

Taking reservations NOW for both bus trips. Everyone is welcome.

Questions? **Contact** Sharon at [memsha7311@gmail.com](mailto:memsha7311@gmail.com) or 410-744-8724.

## SEEKING A NEW FLOWER STEWARD

Salem's dedicated group of Flower Stewards faithfully deliver the Altar Flowers prepared by the Altar Guild to our homebound and/or sick members following the Sunday 11 a.m. Worship Service. They also help in delivering the Christmas and Easter Garden flowers. Their kindness and caring ministry is very much appreciated by the recipients. It only takes a short amount of time on Sunday morning to perform this ministry. Some have been doing it for many years and my heartfelt thanks goes to them for doing it. Right now we need a new steward for the following times; the fourth Sunday in February, the fourth Sunday in May, the fourth Sunday in August and the fourth Sunday in November. If you would be interested in volunteering to take on these Sundays and be a part of this ministry, please contact Sharon Stanton, [memsha7311@gmail.com](mailto:memsha7311@gmail.com) or leave a note in the Historic Old Salem mailbox, first floor hallway near the restrooms. Thank you.

## THE REFUGEE TASK FORCE

The Refugee Task Force will be hosting a Potluck dinner with Andrew Steele from Global Refuge as our speaker. Save the date: June 14, 2026 immediately following the late service. Details to follow.

## INTRODUCING THE ELCA: CONVERSATION WITH NEW MEMBERS

This article was recently posted in [Lutheran Confessions](#) by [Clint Schnekloth](#) on Feb 22, 2026

*Every congregation sits inside a much larger history. As part of welcoming new members and baptismal sponsors, I offered this conversation about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA): where we came from, how we were formed, and who we are becoming. In a time when identity is often reduced to nostalgia or nationalism, it matters to remember that the church's story is older and wider than any one culture.*

### 1. What Does “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” Mean?

Every word in that name can be confusing.

#### “Evangelical”

In Lutheran history, *evangelical* does not mean what it commonly means in American religious culture today. In the Lutheran tradition, “evangelical” comes from the Reformation and refers to a church shaped by the *evangel*—the good news of Jesus Christ. It reflects core Reformation convictions such as:

- Salvation by grace alone
- Faith alone
- Scripture in the language of the people
- A focus on God’s initiative rather than human merit

In Germany, many Lutheran churches are still called “Evangelical” churches (for example, the [Evangelische Kirche im Deutschland](#)).

This is distinct from modern American evangelicalism, which developed later and is often associated with revival movements, conversion experiences, specific views on biblical authority, and particular political alignments. When we use “Evangelical” in the ELCA, we are using it in the older Reformation sense.

#### “Lutheran”

Lutheran churches trace their roots to the 16th-century Reformation sparked by Martin Luther in Germany. Lutheranism spread throughout Northern Europe, especially Germany and the Scandinavian and Baltic countries.

In the United States, Lutheranism arrived primarily through immigration. Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, German, Slovak, Latvian, Finnish, Estonian, and other European communities formed Lutheran congregations that were often organized around language and ethnicity.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, there were many distinct Lutheran bodies in America:

- Norwegian Lutheran Church in America
- Swedish Lutheran Church in America
- Slovak Lutheran Church
- German synods

And many more

These groups initially worshiped in their native languages and were closely tied to their immigrant identities.

Over time, especially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, English replaced those languages, and ethnic distinctions became less central. As that happened, Lutheran denominations began merging.

By the mid-20th century, most Lutherans in the U.S. were part of a few larger bodies, including:

- The Lutheran Church in America (LCA)
- The American Lutheran Church (ALC)
- The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC)

In 1988, those three bodies merged to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). It is a relatively young denomination.

At its founding, the ELCA had about 5.2 million members. Today it has approximately 3 million members. The decline reflects demographic shifts, aging membership, lower birth rates, and some departures over theological decisions.

### **“In America”**

Lutherans were not among the dominant colonial religious groups. Unlike Congregationalists in New England or Anglicans in the South, Lutherans did not shape early American religious identity in the same way. Germany, for example, was late to colonial expansion.

Because of immigration patterns, Lutheran settlement concentrated heavily in the Upper Midwest—Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Dakotas, and parts of Pennsylvania.

For perspective:

- In parts of Minnesota or northeastern Iowa, there may be dozens of Lutheran churches in a single county.
- In Arkansas, there are only about 19 ELCA congregations statewide.

### **2. ELCA and Other Lutheran Bodies**

Not all Lutherans in the U.S. are part of the ELCA.

Other large Lutheran bodies include:

- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)
- The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

The initial major dividing line between the ELCA and more conservative Lutheran bodies was women’s ordination.

Beginning in the 1970s, most mainline Protestant denominations, including Lutheran predecessor bodies that would form the ELCA, began ordaining women. The LCMS and WELS did not.

In 2009, the ELCA voted to allow partnered LGBTQ clergy to serve. That decision led to additional departures and the formation of new Lutheran groups.

Today, the ELCA ordains:

- Women
- LGBTQ clergy
- Married clergy

And the denomination affirms LGBTQ people in all aspects of church life.

### **3. ELCA as a “Mainline” Protestant Church**

The ELCA is considered part of the “mainline” Protestant tradition. That includes denominations such as:

- United Methodist Church
- Episcopal Church
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- United Church of Christ
- Moravian Church

The ELCA is in full communion with all of these churches. “Full communion” means:

- Mutual recognition of baptism and Eucharist
- Interchangeability of clergy
- Shared ministry and cooperation

Historically, mainline Protestant denominations were at their numerical height in the mid-20th century. Today they represent a smaller percentage of the population. Among younger generations, affiliation with mainline Protestant churches is significantly lower than it was in the 1970s.

So when you join an ELCA congregation, you are joining a tradition that is smaller statistically but historically influential and theologically substantial.

### **4. Lutheran Social Service and Global Ministries**

One of the strongest through-lines in American Lutheran history is social service.

Because Lutherans were immigrants, many Lutheran institutions developed to care for newcomers, the elderly, children, and vulnerable communities.

Some key organizations connected to the ELCA include:

- [Global Refuge](#) (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) – refugee resettlement and immigration support
- [Lutheran World Relief](#) – international development and aid
- **Lutheran Disaster Response** – disaster recovery and long-term rebuilding
- **Lutheran Services in America** – a nationwide network of Lutheran social service agencies

Historically, some of these agencies were supported jointly by multiple Lutheran bodies. Over time, support structures have shifted.

This emphasis on neighbor-care is deeply embedded in Lutheran theology: faith is trust in God’s grace; love is expressed in service to neighbor.

You may occasionally see Lutheran agencies mentioned in national conversations about immigration or government funding; I’ll say a brief word about that below.

## 5. Transparency and History

One of the things I value about the ELCA is its transparency.

You can easily find:

- Official apologies for Lutheran contributions to anti-Jewish theology or as another example a repudiation of the doctrine of discovery
- Social statements on race, immigration, the environment, and other issues
- Records of votes and churchwide assembly decisions

That transparency means you can see both the strengths and the failures of the denomination. Nothing is hidden behind branding.

## 6. Church-wide

When the ELCA gathers in Churchwide Assembly (most recently in Phoenix), representatives from across the country vote on churchwide commitments. Many of the values emphasized there, like justice, inclusion, global responsibility, align closely with what you experience here.

This means the name on the sign matches the practice inside the building. Although some ELCA churches may not feel like the national church reflects their local expression, I believe our congregation does experience significant alignment.

### Why This Matters

You are joining:

- A church rooted in the Reformation
- A denomination shaped by immigration and social care
- A mainline Protestant body committed to women’s ordination and LGBTQ inclusion
- A church that values theological depth, progressive Christian ethics, public witness, and transparency

It may not be the largest or most culturally dominant expression of Christianity in America. But it is a tradition with deep theological roots and a long history of public engagement and service.

And increasingly, I find that I value being part of that, and I’m glad you’re interested in being a part of it also! If you have questions about any of this: history, theology, denominational relationships, or what it means for Good Shepherd specifically, I’m always glad to talk more.

Grateful you’re here,

Clint

P.S. It’s also important to say that many Lutheran communities often described as “ethnic” or “immigrant” are in fact long-standing and indigenous expressions of Lutheran Christianity. Lutheranism in America today is far more diverse than its Northern European roots might suggest. The ELCA includes vibrant Latino ministries (including long-established Puerto Rican Lutheran congregations), African-descent congregations, Ethiopian and Eritrean Lutheran communities, Southeast Asian congregations, and many multicultural church plants. In many places, some of the most dynamic Lutheran communities are immigrant-led or multilingual. While our history in many regions is Scandinavian and German, our present and future are deeply global.

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS

We have entered the season of Lent once again. A season of prayer, study of scripture, and almsgiving. My youngest daughter would add to this a time of giving something up - usually a food item such as soda or chocolate. This is a practice for a number of people and it can help in reminding us of the Lenten themes. However, I believe it might be more impactful to add something rather than deducting something, such as visiting someone homebound or lonely, or spending more time in prayer or trying another form of prayer, and other activities that would add to your spiritual growth. Lent is not only a time of sober reflection and looking inward. In fact the Sundays in Lent are not considered Lent as they are a day to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

C.S. Lewis in his autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, shares an early in life experience:

"As I stood beside a flowering currant bush on a summer day there suddenly arose in me without warning, and as if from a depth not of years but of centuries, the memory of that earlier morning . . . when my brother had brought his toy garden into the nursery. It is difficult to find words strong enough for the sensation which came over me; Milton's "enormous bliss" of Eden . . . comes somewhere near it. It was a sensation, of course, of desire; but desire for what? not, certainly, for a biscuit-tin filled with moss, . . . before I knew what I desired, the desire itself was gone, the whole glimpse withdrawn, the world turned commonplace again, or only stirred by a longing for the longing that had just ceased. It had taken only a moment of time; and in a certain sense everything else that had ever happened to me was insignificant in comparison."

I for one am looking for an experience as Lewis encountered, one that brings a joy and remembrance of something so deep and fleeting it alludes any description that words can give. It is a longing or a sense of something within or outside us that brings a feeling of blessing and joy. I have seldom encountered such feelings, but when I do there is such a surprise when all worries or stress evaporate and a sense of joy comes upon me. Years ago I was asked by the Pastor of my home congregation to assist him with communion on Easter Sunday. The Saturday night before Easter I was in my apartment alone and decided to play Bach's "The Passion of Christ". I cranked up my large stereo system and was taken to a place of spiritual bliss. I was bathed in joy and expectation. It was then I finally decided to go to seminary. And it was in Lent! Again to quote Lewis:

"There was an unsatisfied desire which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction. I call it Joy, . . . Joy (in my sense) has indeed one characteristic, and one only, in common with them; the fact that anyone who has experienced it will want it again. . . I doubt whether anyone who has tasted it would ever, if both were in his power, exchange it for all the pleasures in the world."

As we accompany Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and the cross I hope we come to desire the sense of the expansive love Jesus shows on his death on the cross and the glory of his resurrection! For as we die with him so we shall live with him (words of St. Paul) in joy and bliss.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Stan

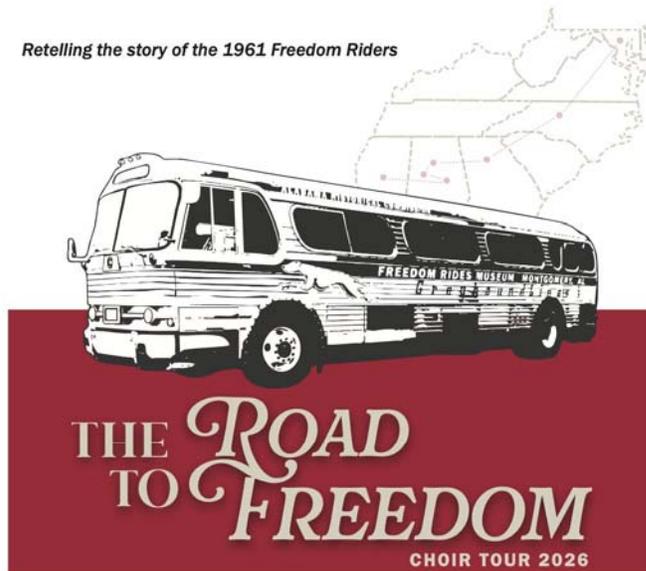
## THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

You're invited to "The Road to Freedom: Retelling the story of the 1961 Freedom Riders," a choir concert **Saturday, March 21 at 7 p.m.** at First Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Freedom Riders, retelling the story of this powerful movement to end segregation on interstate buses.

**The Concert:** From March 21-27, the Lenoir-Rhyne University A Capella Choir and Southeastern Louisiana State University Choir, in partnership with local high schools and colleges, will perform a powerful program that blends narration and song to honor the courage of the original Freedom Riders—Black and white college students who risked their lives to confront segregation and demand justice. The Laurel High School Choir will also perform in the March 21 concert at First Lutheran. This unique concert series will allow students to immerse themselves in a defining chapter of U.S. history, gaining firsthand insight, serving as ambassadors of the transformative power of music, and becoming empowered to carry forward the Freedom Riders' legacy of courage and justice. The concerts are free and open to the public. Donations to defray the students' costs are encouraged. The ultimate prayer is to raise enough interest and funding to donate to a national justice-related charity. Read more

at <https://www.facebook.com/lruacappella choir>.

Retelling the story of the 1961 Freedom Riders



**SATURDAY, MARCH 21  
AT 7PM**

with LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

First Lutheran Church  
3604 Chatham Rd, Ellicott City, MD

Performance is free and open to the public.

PRESENTED BY THE CHOIRS OF:

LENOIR-RHYNE  
UNIVERSITY

SOUTHEASTERN  
LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

## FINANCIAL DATA

### January Year to Date

General Fund	
Receipts to Date	\$64,185.20
Expenses to Date	\$41,998.64
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$22,186.56</b>
Budget to Date	\$57,197.00
R.S.V.P	
Receipts to Date	\$4,519.00
Disbursement to Date	\$0.00
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$4,519.00</b>

(Carryover balance from 2025: \$17,306.49)



*Thank You!*

January 23, 2026

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

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your congregation's gift of \$4,840.42. I am so grateful for your generous support of Lutheran World Relief! It is because of caring congregations like yours that Lutheran World Relief has been able to serve our hurting world for 80 years, and it is because of your compassion that our ministry together will continue helping children and families who need it most.

I pray that one day, our work together will no longer be needed. I pray that one day, all our neighbors near and far will live in a world free of poverty, injustice and suffering. Until that day, I am grateful to count on your church to answer the call to help people in their time of need. It is no exaggeration to say your generosity truly saves lives and makes a brighter future possible.

Our team loves hearing from you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 800 597 5972 or at [congregations@lwr.org](mailto:congregations@lwr.org). You'll also find inspiring stories and videos to share with your church at [lwr.org/congregations](http://lwr.org/congregations). And of course, please connect with us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates on your impact.

Yours always in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Speckhard".

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard  
President and CEO



February 5, 2026

*Thank You*

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

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$3,376.93 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



**Global Refuge**

Recognizes

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Catonsville, MD

as a

**TOP GIVING CONGREGATION**

On behalf of all of us, thank you for your generosity in 2025!



Rev. Dan Beirne

Director for Mobilization & Faith Relations



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 - Art Exhibit	2 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Brass Quintet 7pm - Centering Prayer 7pm - Prayer Stitchers	3 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	4 6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting	5 10am - Stitchcrafters 6pm - St. David's Choir 7:30pm - Salem Choir	6 9am - Craft Fair Set Up 12pm - AA Group	7 7am - Craft Fair Set Up 9am - Old Salem Craft Fair/ Flea Market 1:30pm - Baltimore VE 5pm - Contemporary Worship 6pm - Fair Trade Cart
8 8:30am - Early Service 9:15am - Fair Trade Cart 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service	9 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7pm - Guardians of Eden 7pm - Lazarus Caucus	10 6pm - Salem Tech 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	11 6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting	12 10am - Stitchcrafters 6pm - St. David's Choir 7:30pm - Salem Choir	13 10am - Catonsville Garden 12pm - AA Group 6pm - Girl Scout Troup	14 5pm - Contemporary Worship 6pm - Fair Trade Cart
15 8:30am - Early Service 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service 12:30pm - Salem Brass	16 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7pm - Prayer Stitchers 7:30pm - Nar-Anon	17 7pm - Church Council 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	18 6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting	19 10am - Stitchcrafters 11am - Bent Twig Garden 6pm - St. David's Choir 7pm - CEA Board Meeting 7:30pm - Salem Choir	20 12pm - AA Group	21 9am - Trading Card Expo 5pm - Contemporary Worship
22 8:30am - Early Service 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service 12:30pm - Salem Brass	23 1pm - Monday Bible Study 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7:30pm - Nar-Anon	24 12:30pm - + Blood Drive 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	25 6am - AA Meeting 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Salem Quilters 1pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - AA Meeting	26 10am - Stitchcrafters 4pm - Christian Fellowship 6pm - St. David's Choir 7:30pm - Salem Choir	27 12pm - AA Group	28 5pm - Contemporary Worship
29 8:30am - Early Service 9:45am - Adult Forum 9:45am - Salem Choir 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Late Service 12:30pm - Salem Brass	30 1pm - Yoga 7pm - AA Women's Group 7pm - Centering Prayer 7:30pm - Nar-Anon	31 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	1 7pm - Heart of Maryland 7pm - Salem Bell Choir 7pm - Zoom Fellowship	2 10am - Stitchcrafters 4pm - Christian Fellowship 6pm - St. David's Choir 7:30pm - Salem Choir	3	4

## OFFICIAL ACTS

### 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.*

*Carlene Reich*

*02/21/2026*

*Marcie Schuett*

*02/28/2026*

### CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

In February, the Church Council received reports from Worship Life and Property. Council moved the worship announcements back to the beginning of the service but requests that all announcements be brief. It also discussed the need for better snow and ice removal on the parking lot and sidewalks. Council also identified the need to renew Salem’s Stewardship efforts.

## 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: Veronica Merriman

Worship Life: Jane Stolte

**ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026**

	Saturday Evening	Sunday Service		Livestream	Other	Weekly* Total
		First	Second			
Jan 31/Feb 1	30	47	74	14/48		213
Feb 7/8	21	38	115	11/28		213
Feb 14/15	40	59	76	9/18		323
Feb 18 (2:00 and 7:30)				8/5	38/70	
Feb 21/22	27	64	78	11/14		194

\*Week reflects Saturday through Friday



**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 salemtech@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: 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  
Peggy Dell

**Proofreading**  
Sharon Stanton

**NEXT MONARCH PUBLICATION**

**April 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  
(410) 747-0720  
[office@salem-catonsville.org](mailto:office@salem-catonsville.org)

We are on the Web!  
[www.salem-catonsville.org](http://www.salem-catonsville.org)



[www.facebook.com/salemlutheranchurch.catonsville](http://www.facebook.com/salemlutheranchurch.catonsville)



Evangelical Lutheran Church In America  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



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

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SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Catonsville, MD 21228-4517

Change Service Requested  
**TIME VALUE**