



THE MONARCH

SALEM CONFIRMS SIX NEW MEMBERS TO THE CHURCH

On Sunday, September 27, we welcomed the following Confirmands to the church and its greater mission into the world:

- El Cobb
- Addison Harper Kahatapitiya
- Autumn Lynne McKlveen
- Anna Joy Morgan
- Garrett Forsythe Oliver
- Aidan Joseph Pfluger

Each Confirmand was asked to write a Faith Statement that touched on their time in Confirmation and how their faith has grown and changed from the time of their Baptism to now, as they underwent their Affirmation of Baptism. Below, you will find witness and reassurance that God is truly at work in these faithful young people.

2026 CONFIRMAND FAITH STATEMENTS

EL COBB

Family: Angela Anderson-Cobb (Mom), Cory Cobb (Dad)

Salem Mentor: Matthew Fairchild

To be completely honest, for a long time, church just felt like an extension of the school week—just another classroom I had to go to every Sunday. I really struggled with the idea of an all-powerful force out there who created the heavens and the earth and was responsible for everything. But over time, my perspective has truly shifted. Today, I believe God is the creator of the universe, but also everyone’s best friend. Even though He is the reason behind both



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MONARCH ONLINE
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the good and the bad things that happen in life, I know He does it all with good intentions, ultimately guiding us toward the eternal paradise He made for us.

When we sit in church, we all listen to the same lessons and sermons about God’s miracles. But scripture can be really tough to fully wrap your head around. What I love most about our church is hearing how everyone forms their own unique interpretations of the Bible. My favorite part of the service is listening to these different perspectives and looking for the common threads. I feel like if I can find the similarities in how we all understand God's word; I can get closer to finding the real meaning behind the scripture.

I completely understand why God can be hard to believe in, because I really struggled with doubt too. Even with all the amazing things science can explain, there is still so much about the world that it can't. For me, the simplest and most beautiful answer to those big, unanswered questions is God.

To me, being confirmed means making a conscious choice to choose God back. When God created humanity, He chose us first— all the way from Adam and Eve to the newest babies being born today. He always chooses us, and Confirmation is my way of choosing Him in return. There are so many different religions and beliefs out there, but Christianity is the one where my heart and faith truly belong. My parents had me baptized before I could even form memories, but it is still such a comforting reminder that I am God’s child and that He is always watching over me.

Being confirmed also means I get to take on a bigger role in our congregation. I’m actually really excited to finally have a voice and a vote in our church’s future, especially as we transitioned to voting for Pastor Kristi King after Pastor Carolyn left. I wish I could stand here and say that I’m going to grow up to be a pastor, a bishop, or a deacon, but that’s just not where my path is leading me right now—or at least, not yet. In the future, I definitely hope to share the Gospel with people, just in my own unique way.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to my family. Thank you for always bringing me to church, encouraging me to keep learning about our faith, and accepting all of my personal, out-of-the-box interpretations of the Bible. I love you guys so much, and I absolutely couldn’t have made it this far in my Confirmation journey, or in life, without you.

ADDISON HARPER KAHATAPITIYA
Family: Somendra & Stacy Kahatapitiya (parents), Logan Kahatapitiya (brother), & Debra Zimmerman (grandmother)
Salem Mentor: Christy Hensler-Davis

When I was younger, I thought of God as someone who created everything, even me, and then mostly watched to decide who would go to heaven or hell. Over the past two years in Confirmation, I've realized God is more than that. God is with us all the time, through our ups and downs, even when we don't notice, and is here to protect and guide us on our journeys through life and faith.

Whenever I feel lost, I go back to the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:12-14). Jesus says the shepherd is happier about finding the one sheep that wandered off than about the 99 that stayed. To me, that means God cares about every single one of us and never leaves anyone behind. The sheep doesn't have to find its own way home. The shepherd comes looking. I believe that God created and loves the world, and that we are all God’s children. I believe that Jesus lived, died, and rose for us, forgiving our sins and saving us from death and the power of evil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who works within us and connects us to each other. All of this is grace: a gift I don't have to earn, and it matters to me in an area like sports. People rely on how well I perform, and when I make a mistake, I feel like I let my team down. But God's love doesn't go up or down depending on how



perfect I am. Knowing that lets me relax, because stressing about being perfect will never change how much God loves me, especially when I make a mistake.

To me, being confirmed means saying yes to the promises made at my baptism, before I had a say. Over the past two years, Confirmation has let me ask questions and take responsibility for my own beliefs. I want to be confirmed because I want to be a full part of this community, and because it's my choice to live out my faith. I don't have all the answers about my faith, but I hope I can keep growing by learning and asking questions, because my faith journey is something that builds over time.

First, I would like to thank all of the pastors who have taught me on this journey: Pastor Dave, Pastor Carolyn, and Pastor Stan. I also want to thank my loving family for supporting me through this journey. Lastly, I want to thank the whole Salem community, especially my adult mentor, Christy. I am so fortunate to be a part of this community. I don't know where my faith will take me, but I trust in God's promise in Isaiah 60:22: "I am the Lord; in its time I will accomplish quickly."

AUTUMN LYNNE McKLVEEN

Family: Heather McKlveen (mother), Argie Cochran (godmother), Dawn Mason (godmother)
Salem Mentor: Vicky Whetstone

Growing up, I always knew who God was, but I didn't truly understand why He was so important, and how important he was in my life until middle school. I was taught growing up that God was the spirit above, and to pray to him whenever I was worried, happy, or needed help. Now, I understand that God is so much more. To me today, God is my entire life. I truly don't know where I would be today without my faith. I work my hardest for every action I do to be reflecting God and my beliefs. My favorite part of the bible, and the scripture that means the most to me is Psalm 23. This psalm means so much to me because even though I wasn't completely driven in my faith, God still found a way to open up the door to my faith, and show me that there's nothing I need more than Him. I also was baptized recently, in November, because it was a very significant moment in building my faith, and giving my life to God.

To me, being confirmed means promising to God that I will always stay loyal to the Lutheran beliefs. That I will always respect others and walk through love. I also believe this means promising to my community that I will always be here to help out whenever I can. I just began coming to church every Sunday a couple years ago, and the connections I've made through this church and religion mean the absolute world to me. I hope that in the future when I live out my faith, I continue giving back to my community and teaching those who might be a little less confident with their faith how good God can be. My baptism is something that's also very important to me and my conformation. I want to be confirmed because I want to make all of these promises and prove I can be a good Lutheran and also walk in the image of God as well as possible.

There's been so many people that have helped me throughout my Confirmation process and understanding my faith. The person who has helped me the most is Pastor Carolyn. Pastor Carolyn showed me what being a true Christian is, and what Christian love feels like. I am forever grateful for how much I learned from her and how seen she made me feel. I also want to publicly thank my mom, for always being there for me when I was struggling, and for bringing me to church whenever I asked so that I didn't only build my faith, but also hers. I'm also thankful for all the people who are getting confirmed with me, and the friendships we made during Confirmation class that we'll hopefully have



for a while longer. I also want to thank Vicky Whetstone for always being there for me to talk to, and for treating me with so much love.

ANNA JOY MORGAN

Family: Patricia & Joey Morgan (parents)

Salem Mentor: Vicky Whetstone

Special Thanks: Pastor Carolyn Lawrence

Being a part of the church and being in a faith-related community such as Salem has always been very close to my heart. I’ve been able to make so many friends, participate in many activities from social gatherings to service work, and even have opportunities to speak about my faith being as young as I am. Throughout confirmation, I have learned many valuable life lessons that I will forever carry with me. I learned so much about God and his unconditional love, I learned how to step out of my comfort zone and volunteer to be a leader at times when we needed one.

One of the many lessons that I learned about God throughout confirmation was about forgiveness both of other people around us and forgiveness of our own actions. I believe that this lesson has affected me the most as a human being and one that I will never stop talking about. Before, and even during confirmation, I seriously struggled with wrapping my head around the fact that God’s love is unconditional, and that he wants us to come to him when our burdens are heavy for them to be lifted off of our shoulders. I was the person who did the complete opposite. I tried to hide from confessing my sins because I felt guilty and afraid that God would never forgive me. Because of this, there were even points in my faith where I forbade wearing my cross necklace because I felt so guilty. But I learned through confirmation class, scripture and church services, God literally states in Matthew 11:28-30, “Come all who are weary, and I will give you rest.” And now because of this lesson, I no longer hide from God, but instead I go to him to confess and ask for forgiveness, because He knows how I feel and all he wants for me is to come to him for rest.

The way that I think of baptism and being confirmed is through an analogy like this: baptism is like planting a seed, and confirmation is growing the roots and choosing to grow. When you are baptized as a baby, your parents plant a seed and state that you will be a part of Christianity. And as you grow and learn more about God, the time comes when you get to choose if you want to grow in good soil and thrive in God’s love for the rest of your life, which is when you are confirmed, because you are choosing to become an adult in the church. If you think about it, this sounds VERY similar to the parable of the Sower. Some people choose to grow in bad soil, some will get twisted into vines, while others choose to thrive in good soil. God is the Light, Jesus is the Water, and the Holy Spirit is the Soil. With the knowledge I have learned throughout confirmation and the many lessons about forgiveness and becoming a leader, I want to use it to help spread the “seeds” of God’s love through many generations. I want to make the world a better place and step up as an adult in the church. I want to forever thrive in God’s everlasting love and continue to grow as an adult. I know for sure that there are still many lessons to come for me that I will learn even after I am confirmed. I would like to thank everyone involved with Salem for always being a big part of my life and acting as a large family for me. I am forever grateful to be able to surround myself with people who I can talk to about my faith and when I am struggling and I am even more grateful that Salem is the type of church that is willing



to give opportunities to youth to speak up about their beliefs and to help influence others in the church to hear what they have to say. I am seriously looking forward to what will happen in the future for me and how I will grow.

GARRETT FORSYTHE OLIVER

Family: Bradley & Mary Oliver (parents), Hildegard Oliver (sister), Greg & Nancy Oliver (grandparents), Beth Williamson (grandparent), Michael & Meg Schultz (uncle & aunt), Jack & Bobby Schultz (cousins), Robert Williamson (uncle), Rebecca Ferguson (aunt)

Salem Mentor: Carl Engelbrecht

I believe that God is great. I have always believed this but I feel like I understand the greatness more now as I am further in my faith journey having journeyed through the sea of Confirmation. I love the teachings of Jesus, but the one that sticks out to me the most and is important to me is the parable of the Sower. This is because it represents the people who listen and care for the word. The thing I have always wondered is if Jesus’ ears popped during the Ascension. I believe that God’s grace is something that everyone has and will keep knowingly or not and that God is great for giving his love to everyone and everything.

To me being confirmed means that I have grown and that I am taking steps forward. I believe that my baptism was important because I was a little lad and that set me up for this very important milestone in my faith. Being confirmed will give a bigger role for me to serve in the church. I think that my faith will help me grow as a person after this. And who knows? Maybe I’ll be a pastor one day!

I have a few people who have been in my faith journey and I would like to thank. I would like to thank Pastor Dave and Pastor Carolyn for always being there for me in the past and being the incredibly loving people that they will always be and helping me to feel connected with God. I would like to thank my Uncle Bear. He has been such a loving person and he has been so incredible in my faith journey. I would like to thank my Mom because she has quite literally been with me from the start and pushed me to better my faith and myself when I needed it. I would like to thank all of everyone in the church as they are all so incredible. And last but certainly not least I would like to mention Aidan because I have been through it with him and I am proud of him.

AIDAN JOSEPH PFLUGER

Family: Dawn & John Pfluger

Salem Mentor: Dan D’Avella

I believe that Jesus is our Savior and Lord above all. He is the Son of God, of course. When I was a kid, I saw things differently because I didn't know as much as I do now. Thanks to some wonderful people, I've really been able to grow my faith and come to really understand new stuff or understand some stories better.

Now, being confirmed to me means that you have become part of the Church. You help with things, enter activities, and join people who also want to grow their faith. The reason I want to be confirmed is that I feel loyal to this church. This is the one and only Church that really helped me grow my faith and helped me understand. Being confirmed would really make me feel much more a part of the



church, and that could play a role in my life since I have somewhere to go to talk to people who believe in the same things as me (mostly, people can have different views on stories). I hope to live out my faith for the rest of my life and continue growing that faith. Whether through new stories or learning more about old ones. I also hope the church helps me grow in my faith and that I continue to do my best. Lastly, I would like to thank a few people. Pr. Carolyn, Pr. Dave, Dawn (mom), John (dad), and Dan the man. There's more, but those are the people I can really trust to talk to about something I believe or simply a conversation about life. Great people. Thank you for reading!



TRUSTING IN GOD’S TIME



When this light comes on in my car, I know fall is really here. The light is supposed to mean my tire pressure is low and it has something to do with what happens to the pressurized air when it gets cold. But a few years ago, someone pointed out that it looks a little bit like a big pot with an exclamation point in it – which means it is now soup season.

Soup season is a good time for me; it means I can do a lot of the kind of cooking I like. My husband, Jamie, is the real chef in the family. But come soup season, I can make some magic happen with my favorite kitchen appliance: the crock pot (feel free to share your favorite recipes with me!).

The truth is that I am not a very good cook. Ask Jamie sometime about the time I was making him a grilled cheese sandwich and burned it three times until we were out of bread. My problem is that I am always distractable and lose focus. I’m also usually in a hurry, so I try to have the heat up too high. A crock pot is the perfect tool for someone like me.

I put all the pieces together and then turn it on low. Then, it doesn’t matter if I get distracted because my favorite song comes on or my text alert goes. I can’t get the temperature wrong. All I have to do is wait, and things come together in the right time.

This year, soup season is a good reminder to me to trust that our God who works with eternity sometimes is unfolding things more slowly than I would ever choose. When I am impatient with myself and want everything to happen RIGHT NOW, I am tempted to turn up the heat on myself – to try to do too much – a great way to burn myself out. Maybe you do that also. Maybe this little light in our cars can be a reminder to be patient and trust God. When we are waiting for God to work something out, to trust that process and in the meantime be willing to enjoy moments of delight and connection that are blessed interruptions.

A word of thanks for a very busy and wonderful first month at Salem; with prayers as we do the slower work of getting to know each other. Thank you for all of the ways you have welcomed me and helped me to feel at home here at church. Thank you for your patience with me as you tell me your

name again and stick a nametag on. Thank you for telling me when you need me at a meeting (and thanks for sometimes telling me when you don't). Thank you for your joy in worship and for your faithfulness in prayer. It has been a blessing to start to get to know you and start to come alongside all that is happening in God's name here at Salem.

As we continue to get to know one another, please know that I am hoping to hear from you. I am going to put some things on the calendar that are 100% just fun times to spend time together and get to know people. If you are able, I would love to see you. Here are two of those this October – one thing to know about me is that I have a bit of an alliteration addiction!

- Puzzles with Pastor: Come over to the church and help me put together the pieces and have good conversation. Wednesday, October 21, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.
- Playground with Pastor (weather permitting): Join Pastor Kristi and Cora at an accessible playground. Friday, October 30, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Grown-ups are welcome too! (Hollofield Play Area, Patapsco State Park – from 8020 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21043)
Note: \$2 admission charge per car.

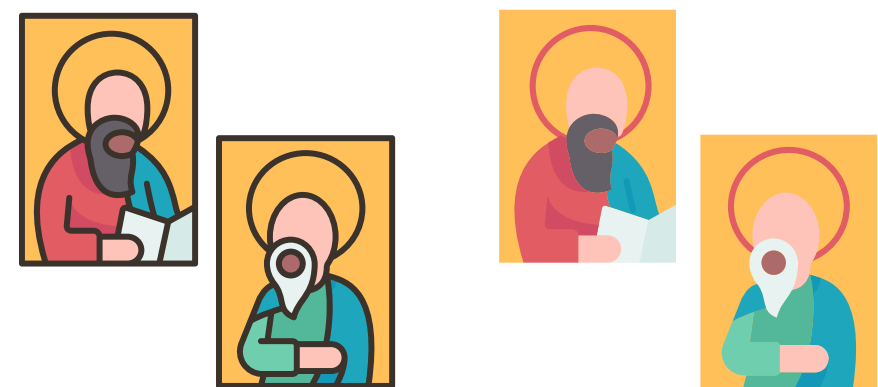
ADULT FORUM SESSIONS STARTING SEPTEMBER 27

A COMPARISON OF THE GOSPELS

Have you ever wondered why there are four, and only four gospels? And, why are they different? Does when a particular gospel was written, and to whom it was written, affect the message? How does Christianity deal with some apparent disagreements?

We will discuss these and other related topics in a 5-week series in Adult Forum this fall. This is not intended to be a series of lectures, but instead will be discussion guided by scriptural references – there will be a list of topics to discuss, and we'll dive into what the class shows interest in. We'll start with some history for context, and then we'll proceed as the Spirit moves us.

The sessions will not be sequential, so please come even if you can't make all of them.



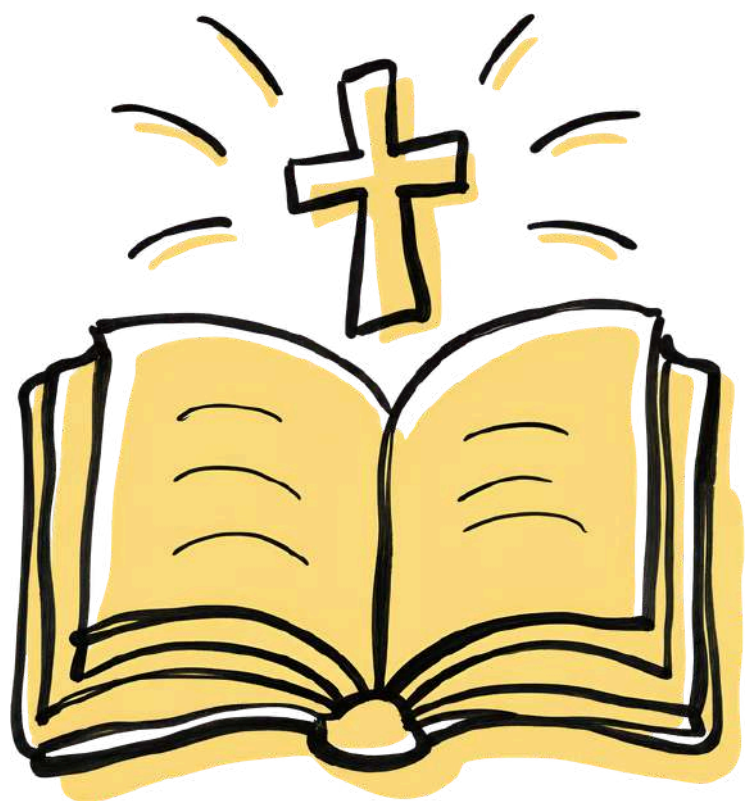
FAIR TRADE CART

The fair-trade cart will be in the Narthex on the following dates and times in October.

- After the 5:00 pm service on Saturday, October 10th
- After the 8:30 am service on Sunday, October 11th
- Before and after the 11:00 am service on Sunday, October 11th

We are currently selling all Divine and Element chocolate on the cart for \$3, as it is slightly past its best-by date. The chocolate still tastes good. We are attempting to clear the cart of these varieties and plan to order new stock once the current stock disappears.

BIBLE STUDY IS MOVING



Salem’s Fourth Monday Bible Study is moving! Starting in October, it is now Salem’s Fourth Thursday Bible Study. Join us on October 22 at 1:00 pm to finish Luke, chapter 19 in the Katie Luther Room. It will be recorded and available online by October 23. Please note that November’s Bible Study will meet on the third Thursday every year because of Thanksgiving, and December’s Bible study will also meet on the third Thursday this year because Christmas Eve falls on the fourth Thursday. In January, we are back to the fourth Thursday.

SIGNS OF PEOPLE LAUNCH CELEBRATION

Join the Baltimore County Arts Guild and Catonsville Arts District on Saturday, October 10, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Catonsville Clubhouse, 10 St. Timothys Lane, for the launch of Signs of People. Created by artists Eva Salmerón and Ciro Márquez, this new public art and historical wayfinding project features ten colorful, 12-foot-tall markers installed along Frederick Road and Winters Lane. Each marker depicts the silhouette of a local person pointing toward a historic site and includes stories, photographs, maps, and accessible features that bring Catonsville’s history to life.



One of the markers celebrates Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church and features our very own Sharon Stanton! The celebration will include an opening ceremony and guided tours of the sign locations. The Signs of People historical wayfinding and public art project were made possible through the generous support of the former Catonsville Historical Society, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Baltimore County Department of Planning, and Patapsco Heritage Greenway.

SALEM PLAYERS PRESENTS: THE HALLELUJAH GIRLS



article on next page

Hilarity abounds when the feisty females of Eden Falls, Georgia decide to shake up their lives. The action in this rollicking Southern comedy takes place at Spa-De-Dah!, the abandoned-church-turned-day-spa where this group of friends gathers every Friday afternoon. After the loss of a dear friend, the women realize that time is precious, and if they are going to change their lives and achieve their dreams, they have to get on it now! But Sugar Lee, their high-spirited, determined leader, has her hands full keeping the women motivated. Carlene’s given up on romance, having buried three husbands, Nita’s a nervous wreck from running interference between her problematic son and his probation officer. Mavis’ marriage is so stagnant that she’s wondering how she can fake her own death to get out of it. And sweet, simple Crystal entertains them all, singing Christmas carols with her own hilarious lyrics. The comic tension mounts when a sexy ex-boyfriend shows up unexpectedly, a marriage proposal comes from an unlikely suitor, and Sugar Lee’s archrival vows she’ll stop at nothing to steal the spa away from her. By the time the women rally together to overcome these obstacles and launch their new, improved lives, you’ve got a side-splitting, joyful comedy that will make you laugh out loud and shout “Hallelujah!”

The Hallelujah Girls is Salem Players next production, with performances scheduled for November 6-8 and 13-15. Do yourselves a favor and come see this madcap show! Also, Salem Players is always looking for more people to help, either onstage, backstage, front of house, or on the creative teams. If you are interested, please see any one of the Salem Players board members for more information. All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE



Give My Regards to Broadway
Salem Supper Club
Saturday, December 5, 2026



REFUGEE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Hello Friends!

The Refugee Task force is supporting the Noori family in Arbutus. Salem is not the family’s primary sponsor so we are helping along the way. They are a family of 3: Mirwais, Fatima, and Osman (age 5), refugees with green cards from Afghanistan. Osman goes to pre-K at Westowne Elementary and loves school. Fatima is an amazing seamstress, and I am selling aprons she sews. They would make fabulous Christmas gifts, so see me if you’d like to purchase one for \$20. If anyone would like to make a donation, Osman wears Pampers 5 and Fatima cooks long grain white rice. I am also



contacting LSS to see if we can help a family in the area. More to come.
In the future, the task force will present a 3-part series offered by Global Refuge which will enable us to join their Faith Alliance program. Details to come!
In other news, Pr. Ed and Vicky have been instrumental in helping Santino enter the Helping Up Mission. He is thriving there and will receive job training after 6 months of sobriety. A more detailed update was published in the September *Monarch*.
Lots of good happening at Salem, spreading God’s love!

Beth Rodgers, Refugee Task Force chair

HISTORIC OLD SALEM NEWS

The Board of Directors continues celebrating our 50-year anniversary of when the Board was incorporated in 1976 throughout 2026. We’ve hosted several great bus trips and special programs, but still have more scheduled throughout the remainder of this year. These are open to everyone and we hope you will plan to be with us.

Bus trips hosted:

We’ll be heading out on October 9 for our **Western Maryland Railroad** bus trip. We’ll board the steam locomotive train in Cumberland and travel through the scenic mountains of Western Maryland to arrive at the Frostburg terminus. We’ll enjoy a lite fare lunch on board. Also, we’ll make a stop at the Blue Goose in Hancock for all sorts of wonderful items, i.e. seasonal apples and delicious bakery items among many other goodies.



Still taking reservations for December 9: American Music Theater “Winter Wonderland” Christmas Show; family style lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant; \$160 pp inclusive due November 9.

At our September Open House, Mr. Sheldon Smith led a wonderful historical program on the Carroll and Caton families when they established Catonsville as their home in the late 1800s. Mr. Smith is a local attorney and is involved with the new Historical Society of Catonsville. He will host a similar program at the Catonsville Library on Monday, November 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited.

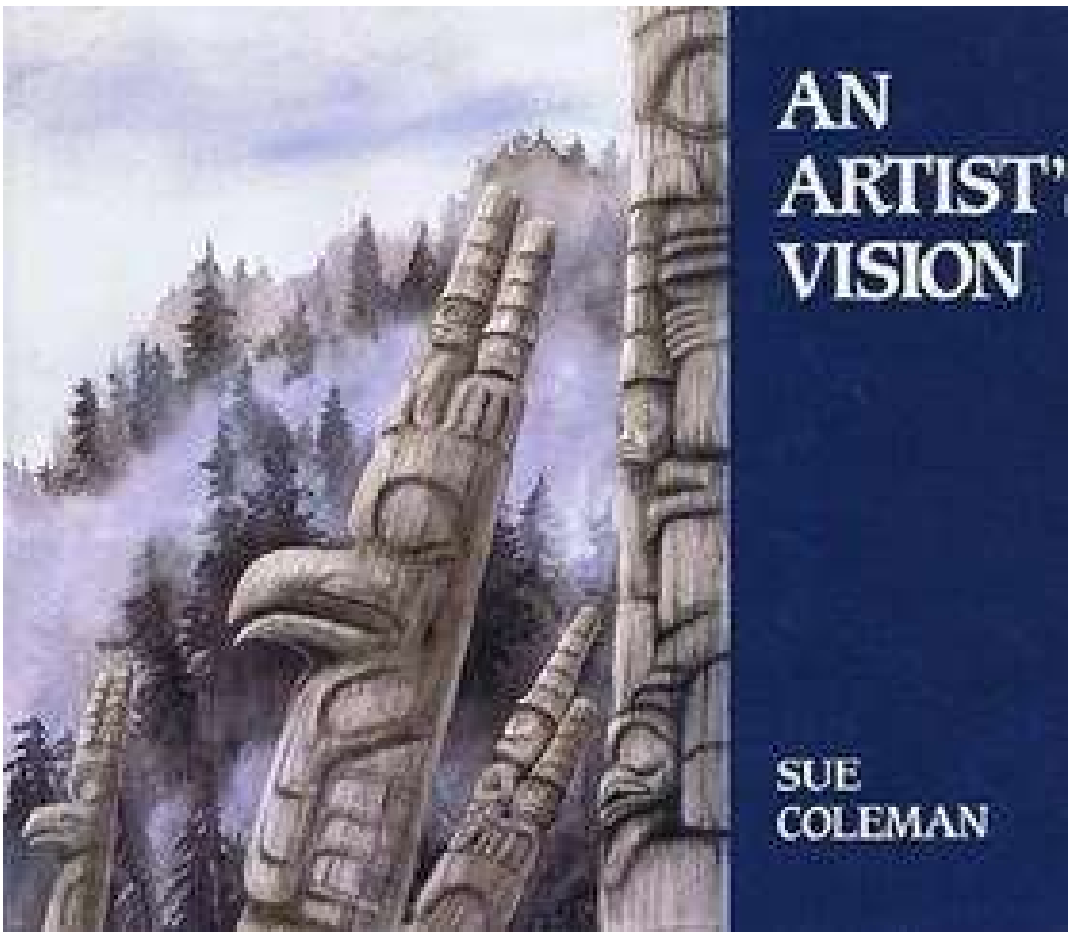
Mark your calendars now to attend our Christmas Open House on **Saturday, December 12 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Some members of the Heart of Maryland Chorus will join us with Christmas tunes. Santa will definitely be there to welcome young and young-at-heart visitors, plus there will be delicious refreshments to enjoy. Bring your wish list.

Our next Board of Directors’ meeting is **Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 pm**. We meet in the Katie Luther room, which is on the 2nd floor at Salem. Come if you are interested in joining the Board or just want to hear what we do and what we are planning with our preservation efforts at Salem’s original worship site built in 1849. Everyone is welcome.

Questions/Reservations: Contact Sharon at memsha7311@gmail.com or 410-744-8724

WHAT'S IN THE SHOWCASE

For September, Jim and Julie Kempton shared their collection of Haida prints, carvings, and hammered metal art. Haida art is the visual language and traditional craftsmanship of the Haida Nation, an Indigenous people native to the Haida Gwaii archipelago in British Columbia, Canada, and parts of Alaska. A more descriptive article about this type of Art form was included in our September *Monarch*. 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.



GENEROSITY

The leaves on the trees are starting to turn. Sunday School has started up. And the need for an air-conditioned nave is becoming a memory. It's autumn. Just as the earliest Salemites were engaged in bringing in their crops at this time of year, so we, too, find ourselves in our own season of the harvest. And although most of us are not dependent on what we raise to sustain us through the winter, this is a time of gathering in and then sharing the rich bounty that so many of us enjoy. Consider the fruits of our labors that this month will be distributed among those less fortunate than we. Although we



do not literally sow the seeds, various groups that call Salem "home" are now gathering up the fruits of their labors. Recent deliveries of heartfelt gifts include more than 100 hand-stitched preemie hats, recently delivered to St. Agnes Hospital's NICU. Eighty-three baby blankets are now keeping children enrolled in Baltimore's Early Head Start program, often in homes with no heat. Groups at Salem support several projects administered by Lutheran World Relief. Donations about to be moved on include some 350 handstitched school kits full of supplies, as well as 34 layette sets with handmade hats and sweaters, diapers, and other newborn essentials that we take for granted. Later this month, some 150 quilts will be shipped overseas, made possible by dedicated seamstresses working with generous donations of sheets and fabric. And approximately 350 gifts of hats and scarves, New Testaments and handwritten holiday greetings,



will soon be loaded onto ships entering the Port of Baltimore, opened by those far from home on Christmas Eve

Feeling inspired and looking for a way to help? Closer to home, Salem has recently begun to stock, on a near-daily basis, a refrigerator in West Baltimore, part of the B'More Fridge Project. This ad-hoc group supplies food to impoverished neighbors whose homes are just five miles from Salem. From sandwiches to leftovers, fruit to snacks, all is greatly appreciated. Proving that we can all help in our own way, our friends at Charlestown share individual meal storage containers that help to make it possible to distribute meals to those who might not otherwise have something to eat that day. These are but a few of the many ways members of Salem show their thanks to God by helping their neighbors. To whom much is given, much is expected.



IMPORTANT END-OF-YEAR GIVING INFORMATION

As we prepare for the end of the year, we kindly ask that all donations to Salem and intended for 2026 year-end giving be received in the church office by December 27 to assure they are recorded in your 2026 giving statement. End of the year donations received after this date are not guaranteed to be recorded in your 2026 giving statement. Donations received after January 1, 2027 will be posted in the 2027 year.

This especially applies to donations that are mailed in. In past years, delays in postal service delivery have meant offerings showing up a week or more into the following year. Credit card transactions also often take a few days to process. And if you are donating stock, please begin the transfer with your brokerage no later than December 15; it can take up to two weeks for us to receive the stock and process to complete the transaction. Finally, you should request your DAF grant and QCD early to meet the December 27 deadline.

An early delivery will help us ensure accurate record-keeping, timely processing, and proper acknowledgment of your generosity in 2026.

Your support continues to make a meaningful difference in our ministries and outreach. Thank you for your faithfulness and for all you do to strengthen our church community.

Ken Wolfram, Financial Committee Chair
Linda Fleischer, Financial Secretary

GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS DAY

On Saturday, September 12, the church grounds were abuzz with folks planting, pruning, and sprucing up. In the Narthex, knitting and crochet needles clicked busily as hats, scarves, and blankets began to form. Down in Bethany Hall, cheerful chatter could be heard as yet more Salem members prepared lunches to be distributed throughout the BMore Fridge Network and others assembled hundreds of school kits for LWR. Two floors up, cards and letters were written with love and care to loved ones in the military, in college, and others in need of a kind word and the knowledge that someone is thinking of them.

And the work of the church was not confined to Salem – others sorted donations of new clothes for the Children’s Home on Bloomsbury Avenue that will go to those in need.

All of this came together from many weeks of planning, coordinating, outreach, and so very many

monetary and item donations. Many, many thanks to Pat Jennings for her tireless work in setting Salem up for success on the day and in the weeks leading up to it, to all the project coordinators who lent their time and talents to ensure all ran smoothly, and to everyone who pitched in to do God’s work with our hands in and for the community.

Below, please enjoy some photos of the day. If you couldn’t help this year, mark your calendars for 2027!





SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

The holidays are coming! This Thanksgiving, we are collecting \$10 Walmart gift cards for CEA. State Fare is donating turkeys and the cards will let families get all of the sides. Bring cards to church by November 9 and put them in an envelope from the CEA box and into the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity!

Note: Do you have a Thrivent product? You also have access to an Action Team or two. The Action Team lets you apply for a \$250 card to support one of our ministries. Let Pastor Kristi know if you need help to put those dollars to work for our neighbors.



Hello Friends!

September 1, 2026

This school year, The Humble Walk is celebrating 75 years of ministry at the University of Maryland! While campus ministry has taken on many different forms over the years, its impact on students’ lives has been a constant. “The Humble Walk has shown me not only love and support as I am, but it’s also given me the space to grow as a person of Christ,” shared current student, Carolyn, Class of 2028. While one of our alums, Uzoma, Class of 2017, shared, “The Humble Walk has shown me that faith isn’t only something we believe, but something we live out through how we treat, serve, and walk alongside others.”

To celebrate our past and ensure a strong community for years to come, we invite alumni, friends, and congregations to participate in two special events and to contribute towards our 75th Anniversary Generosity Goals.

Save the dates for our 75th Anniversary Events!

- **Trivia and Silent Auction Night** - Saturday, October 24th from 5:30-8:30pm
Join for a night filled with food, fun, friends and facts!
- **75th Anniversary Celebration Weekend** - February 26th-28th
Join Pr. Beth and local bishops as we celebrate with an array of events and a celebratory dinner!

Help us with our generosity goals as we celebrate 75 years of impact, service, connection, and faith by:

- Being one of the 75 new monthly donors of \$25 or more and/or
- Donating towards our \$75,000 goal, with each donation matched 1:1 by generous supporters who are contributing to the Platz Endowment Fund

You can participate in our generosity goals, RSVP and learn about the events, download resources to share about the 75th, and catch up on the ministry by going to our **brand new website below!**

Thank you for all the ways you have already supported this important ministry. The support from our alumni, friends, families, congregations, and synods is why we get to celebrate 75 years of ministry, and it’s how we will continue to serve students well into the future.

Sincerely,

The Humble Walk Staff
Pr. Ray, Pr. Rachel, Pr. Keith,
Deacon Katie, Lauren, & Andrew

www.thehumblewalk.org



THANK-YOUS AND CORRESPONDENCE



Dear Friends in Christ,

At the beginning of his letter to the Philippians, Paul said that he thanked God for them because of their "partnership in the gospel." (Phil. 1:5) Similarly, we thank God for your participation in our ministry. It could not go on without your faithful support. Thank you very much for your prayers, donations, and supply preaching opportunities. God's blessings!

The Community of St. Dysmas



Dear Community of Salem Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your donation of \$1,125.00 to Mar-Lu-Ridge. You generously stewards this sacred place so faith can take root, friendships can form and grow, and God's love can bloom in every camper and guest. You are making a difference!

In peace,
Diana Edelblute
MLR Executive Director



Thank You!

September 4, 2026

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Rd
Catonsville, MD 21228-4580

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your congregation’s gift of \$1,145.00. 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. You’ll also find inspiring stories and videos to share with your church at 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, reading "Daniel Speckhard".

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

As required by the IRS, this receipt confirms that Lutheran World Relief has given you no goods or services in return for your charitable contribution of \$1,145.00–LWR.

Please retain this letter for tax purposes

700 LIGHT ST BALTIMORE, MD 21230 T 800 597 5972 LWR.ORG



September 8, 2026

Salem Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Rd.
Catonsville, MD 21228

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your donation of \$1,200.00. 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 600 people in over 300 households. As a partner of the Maryland Food Bank, we distributed enough food for over 108,145 meals to members of the Greater Catonsville community. This is more than 129,744 pounds of food!

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

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Caitlin Kirby'.

Caitlin Kirby
Executive Director

A handwritten note in blue ink, tilted diagonally, that reads: 'Thank you to your congregation for your continued support of CEA. We are so appreciative. All the Best - CK'.

Catonsville Emergency Assistance is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. In accordance with IRS guidelines, we confirm that no goods or services have been given in exchange for your gift. Please retain a copy of this letter for your records. The Federal Employer Identification Number for CEA is 52-1579478.



September 16, 2026

Thank You

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

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,950.00 to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

"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.

With your gifts, you support all the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Your generosity allows this church to continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by supporting and sustaining the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.

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

With gratitude,

Rachel Wind

Rachel Wind
Executive for Development

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

OCTOBER 2026 CALENDAR

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Holidays in United States				Oct 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
				8am - Professional Business Builders 10am - Salem Stitchcrafters @ Wittenberg 5pm - Community Dinner @ Bethany Hall, 6pm - Taste of Catonsville Fundraiser 6:30pm - St. David's Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Salem Choir Rehearsal @ Choir	10am - Catonsville Garden Club @ Katie 12pm - AA Group @ Bethany Hall 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @	1:30pm - Baltimore VE Team Exam @ 5pm - Contemporary Worship @	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
8:30am - Early Service @ Sanctuary 9am - Salem Service Fair @ Narthex 9:45am - Adult Forum @ Katie Luther 9:45am - Salem Choir Practice @ Choir 9:45am - Sunday School @ Bethany Hall 11am - Late Service @ Sanctuary 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 628 @ Scout 7pm - AA Meeting @ Bethany Hall	7pm - AA Women's Group @ Mary & 7pm - Brass Quintet Rehearsal @ Katie 7pm - Prayer Stitchers @ Wittenberg 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Nar-Anon Meeting @ Scout 7:30pm - Overeater's Anonymous @ Youth	4pm - Girl Scout Troop 628, 700, 995 @ 6pm - Social Ministry Committee Meeting 7pm - Heart of Maryland Barbershop 7pm - Salem Ringers Rehearsal @ Choir	6am - AA Meeting @ Bethany Hall 8am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am - Salem Quilters @ Katie Luther 5:30pm - AA Meeting @ Mary & Martha 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 1598 @ Scout 7pm - AA Meeting @ Mary & Martha Room 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @	8am - Professional Business Builders 10am - Salem Stitchcrafters @ Wittenberg 6:30pm - St. David's Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Salem Choir Rehearsal @ Choir	12pm - AA Group @ Bethany Hall 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 1015 @ Scout 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @	5pm - Contemporary Worship @ 6pm - Fair Trade Cat Sale @ Narthex	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
8:30am - Early Service @ Sanctuary 9:30am - Fair Trade Cat Sale @ Narthex 9:45am - Adult Forum @ Katie Luther 9:45am - Salem Choir Practice @ Choir 9:45am - Sunday School @ Bethany Hall 11am - Late Service @ Sanctuary 12pm - Fair Trade Cat Sale @ Narthex 2pm - LYO Rehearsal @ Reformation Hall	4:30pm - Daisy Troop 814 @ Scout Room 7pm - AA Women's Group @ Mary & 7pm - Guardians of Eden Meeting @ Katie 7pm - Lazarus Caucus Board @ 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Nar-Anon Meeting @ Scout 7:30pm - Overeater's Anonymous @ Youth	4pm - Girl Scout Troop 628, 700, 995 @ 6pm - Salem Tech Meeting @ Katie Luther 7pm - Heart of Maryland Barbershop 7pm - Salem Ringers Rehearsal @ Choir	6am - AA Meeting @ Bethany Hall 8am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am - Salem Quilters @ Katie Luther 5:30pm - AA Meeting @ Mary & Martha 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 1598 @ Scout 7pm - AA Meeting @ Mary & Martha Room 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @	8am - Professional Business Builders 10am - Salem Stitchcrafters @ Wittenberg 11am - Bent Twig Garden Club @ Bethany 4:30pm - Daisy Troop (no. TBD) @ Scout 6:30pm - St. David's Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Salem Choir Rehearsal @ Choir	12pm - AA Group @ Bethany Hall 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @	5pm - Contemporary Worship @	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
8:30am - Early Service @ Sanctuary 9:45am - Adult Forum @ Katie Luther 9:45am - Salem Choir Practice @ Choir 9:45am - Sunday School @ Bethany Hall 11am - Late Service @ Sanctuary 2pm - LYO Rehearsal @ Reformation Hall 4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 628 @ Scout 7pm - AA Meeting @ Bethany Hall 7pm - At-Anon Meeting @ Classroom 4	7pm - AA Women's Group @ Mary & 7pm - Prayer Stitchers @ Wittenberg 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Nar-Anon Meeting @ Scout 7:30pm - Overeater's Anonymous @ Youth	4pm - Girl Scout Troop 628, 700, 995 @ 7pm - Church Council Meeting @ Katie 7pm - Heart of Maryland Barbershop 7pm - Salem Ringers Rehearsal @ Choir	6am - AA Meeting @ Bethany Hall 8am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am - Salem Quilters @ Katie Luther 12pm - Puzzles with Pastor @ Bethany 5:30pm - AA Meeting @ Mary & Martha 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 1598 @ Scout 7pm - AA Meeting @ Mary & Martha Room 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @	8am - Professional Business Builders 10am - Salem Stitchcrafters @ Wittenberg 1pm - Fourth Thursday Bible Study @ 6:30pm - St. David's Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Community Dinner Meeting @ 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Salem Choir Rehearsal @ Choir	12pm - AA Group @ Bethany Hall 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @	5pm - Contemporary Worship @	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:30am - Early Service @ Sanctuary 9:45am - Adult Forum @ Katie Luther 9:45am - Salem Choir Practice @ Choir 9:45am - Sunday School @ Bethany Hall 11am - Late Service @ Sanctuary 11:30am - Troop 628 Halloween Party @ 7pm - AA Meeting @ Bethany Hall 7pm - At-Anon Meeting @ Classroom 4	4:30pm - Daisy Troop 814 @ Scout Room 7pm - AA Women's Group @ Mary & 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Nar-Anon Meeting @ Scout 7:30pm - Overeater's Anonymous @ Youth	4pm - Girl Scout Troop 628, 700, 995 @ 7pm - Heart of Maryland Barbershop 7pm - Salem Ringers Rehearsal @ Choir 7pm - Tuesday Night Fellowship Zoom	6am - AA Meeting @ Bethany Hall 8am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am - Salem Quilters @ Katie Luther 5:30pm - AA Meeting @ Mary & Martha 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 1598 @ Scout 7pm - AA Meeting @ Mary & Martha Room 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @	8am - Professional Business Builders 10am - Salem Stitchcrafters @ Wittenberg 4:30pm - Daisy Troop (no. TBD) @ Scout 6:30pm - St. David's Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Salem Choir Rehearsal @ Choir	12pm - AA Group @ Bethany Hall 3pm - Playground with Pastor @ Hollifield 7pm - Salem Players Rehearsal @	Halloween! 5pm - Contemporary Worship @ 6pm - Salem Players Tech Week @	

RALLY DAY PHOTOS



PARISH LEADERS

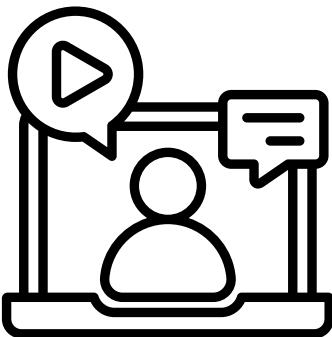
Altar Guild: Mary Krebs
Archive Committee: Judy LeGath
Arts Committee: Tricia Morgan
Child Protecon Committee: Linda Fleischer
Children’s Ministry Committee: Eileen Merriman, Zoë Dell
Christian Fellowship Committee: Darla Sando, Pam Wilsey
Communications Committee: Guy Davis, Karen Amy
Evangelism Committee: 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: Pat Jennings
Stewardship Committee: Vacant
Technology Support Committee: Lisa Yerkey
Ushers: Mary Krebs, Ray Hamelin
Youth Ministry Committee: Vacant
Worship Life: Jane Stolte

ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 9:30 am	Sunday 8:30 am	Sunday 11:00 am	Other	Livestream (Sat/Sun)	Weekly* Total
September 5/6	18	113				13/23	167
September 12/13	26	92				13/30	161
September 19/20	43	134				11/36	224
September 26/27	22		104	66		7/9**/24	232

*Week reflects Saturday through Friday
**8:30 service livestreamed for Confirmation



NO PHISHING
Don't take the bait!

Occasionally we hear about members receiving an email from one 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 Chair, Lisa Yerkey, at salemtech@salem-catonsville.org.

SMARTPHONE QR CODE AVAILABLE FOR GIVING

Salem allows offerings via your smartphone. Scan Salem’s QR code with your smartphone camera 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		CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP	
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Office Telephone: (410) 747-0720 Email: office@salem-catonsville.org		President: Lisa Yerkey	
Senior Pastor: Kristi King pastorkristiking@salem-catonsville.org		Vice-President: Guy Davis	
Pastor Emeritus: G. Edward Whetstone edward-victoria@verizon.net		Secretary: Vicky Whetstone	
Director of Music: Mary Miller marymiller359@gmail.com		Financial Secretary: Linda Fleischer	
Director of Contemporary Music: Sid Meier		Treasurer: Ray Hamelin	
Worship Technology Director: Joey Morgan		Assistant Treasurer: Jane Stolte	
Office Administrator: Ash Hillary ash.hillary@salem-catonsville.org			
Sexton: Joey Morgan			
		CHURCH COUNCIL	
		Ron Bruce Guy Davis Pat Jennings Julie Kempton Carl Kreps Peter Lassen	Carolyn Moore Mary Oliver Michael Petry Janet Van Sant Vicky Whetstone Lisa Yerkey

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Guy Davis, Co-Chair Karen Amy, Co-Chair Barbara Beem Dan D’Avella Peggy Dell Judy LeGath Joey Morgan Sharon Stanton Bethann Snyder Ed Whetstone	Contributing Photographers Guy Davis Proofreading Sharon Stanton Guy Davis	NEXT MONARCH PUBLICATION November 2026 If you are interested in participating on the Communications Committee, or contribung as a <i>ad-hoc</i> writer or photographer, please contact our committee chairpersons.
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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

Find us on the Web!

-  salem-catonsville.org
-  facebook.com/salemlutheranchurch.catonsville
-  youtube.com/@salemcatonsville



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
elca.org



Delaware-Maryland Synod
demdsynod.org

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

905 Frederick Rd.
Catonsville, MD 21228-4517

Change Service Requested
TIME VALUE