



THE MONARCH

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Like me perhaps you make New Year resolutions each year. Resolves like losing weight, exercising more, getting organized! We can take some of that same energy, that same resolve, and apply it to our ongoing journey as disciples of Christ. Maybe some of the following resolutions might resonate with you at the cusp of 2018:

Worship regularly. Worship is every much a healthy discipline as working out or eating nutritious foods. Hearing the Good News of Jesus and receiving the sacraments strengthens us and prepares us for our spiritual journey. Regular worship helps us focus less on our ourselves and more on God.

Practice generosity. Our lives are enriched when we share from our abundance. Be intentional this year in the support of the Salem congregation. Respond to requests to help the needy through our congregation's many charitable activities.

Immerse yourself in the Word. We encounter the Living God not only in worship but in the discipline of daily Bible reading, in Bible Study, Sunday School, and in some of our Adult Forum activities. Make room for scripture this New Year.

Get involved. I hope you are one of the 160 Salem members who leads or serves in worship, or on a committee, or participates in one of our many small groups. Whether it is the Stitchcrafters, or Prayer Shawl group, the Quilters, the Altar Guild, the Guardians of Eden, the Men's Prayer Breakfast, consider experiencing one of the small groups Salem offers this coming year. And, consider discovering congregational events like the Social Ministry Potluck, God's Work, Our Hands in September, or the Advent Workshop.

And, finally, please mark your calendar for **Salem's Annual Meeting and Potluck on Sunday, January 28** immediately following the 11am worship service. We will be enjoying the fellowship of a good meal and giving thanks to God for another solid year of ministry in our life together. It is truly a celebration of God's goodness and joy of being in a faith community grounded in Christ. Please come!

May God bless our New Year journey!

Pastor Dave Asendorf

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CHRISTMAS THANK YOU'S

Salem hosted over 600 worshipers at the six Advent IV, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. Many thanks to all those who worked long and hard to make our celebration of Christ's birth such a joyous occasion. We are grateful to:

- Our hard working Altar Guild, led by Mary Krebs, who prepared the Altar for Holy Communion. And thanks to Nan Vetter who along with Mary took care of putting up and taking down the beautiful pew torches. For all the delicious bread we enjoyed at the Eucharist – thank you bread bakers and providers!
- All the willing hands who decorated and undecorated especially to Shelley and Ken Wolfram, and Pastor Whetstone. And thanks to all those who generously contributed money to buy the poinsettias, cyclamen and greens.
- Mary Miller and Louise Rau and Alex Tragert who led our wonderful musicians – St. David's Choir, Salem Ringers and the Salem Choir. Our music was glorious! Thank you Ringers and Singers!
- Amy Pflug and the inspiring music of the Salem Brass.
- Liz Rickel who organized and directed an outstanding Children's Pageant. And for Sharon Stanton and the Children's Ministry folk and parents who helped make it so delightful. And thanks to all the children – readers, angels, sheep, shepherds and the Snyder family, too.
- Our greeters and ushers who worked hard to make our worship experience welcoming.
- Beth and Scott Massey and the dedicated tellers.
- Robin Schaefer and her able assistant Louise Rau who put together lots and lots and lots of bulletins and took care of so many details.
- Sue Gdovin for delivering the Christmas Presents to Catonsville Children's Home
- Our pastors who led us in worship of the New Born King!

And finally, thanks to all who worshipped. You enriched our worship with your gifts of prayer, praise and joyous song.





AROUND THE PARISH

- Congrats to **Jessica McDivitt** and **Abigail Sullivan** as their athletic exploits landed them in the local papers. Keep up the great work!
- **Bonnie Harry** has been hired as the permanent Executive Director of Catonsville Emergency Assistance (CEA).
- **Milt and Barb Dorsch** have volunteered to take our food donations to CEA each week or as the basket is filled. Thanks, Milt and Barb.
- Retirement kudos to **Bambi Straw** as she retired at the end of December after 25 years of service with the Office of the Inspector General.
- Congratulations to **Emily Pukuma** who graduated in December with a PhD in Political Science from the University of Florida. Her dissertation was titled: *British Colonial Legacies and Democratic Survival*. Just a fun side note, her husband surprised her and their daughter at the Graduation ceremony. Through the coordination of one of her professors, he had a camera crew in tow! Here is the news clip from the day:
<http://www.wcjb.com/content/news/UF-PhD-graduate--464481113.html>

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Individuals or families who earned \$54,000 or less qualify for free tax assistance through the Cash Campaign of Maryland, a non profit helping folks “create assets, savings and hope.” Schedule a free appointment at ‘bmorefreetaxes.org’ or call 410-234-8008.

SALEM CONGREGATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

Attention all Committee Chairs and Organizational Leaders! Please have your annual report to Office Manager, Robin Schaefer by January 15. Our Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 28, following the 11:00 am worship service. This is a wonderful time to celebrate our ministry together and look forward to the future year.

ANNUAL GREEN CARD WORSHIP COMPLETION

For all our Salem members, please complete a green card to indicate that you have received Holy Communion this year. You only need do this once a year to help keep our church records up to date. Of course, the green card can be used to communicate changes in address, email, telephone numbers, etc. Thanks for your help.

UPCOMING NEW DISCIPLE’S CLASS – SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3

A New Disciple’s Class will be held on Saturday, February 3 from 9 am to 12 noon in the Katie Luther Room (2nd floor). Pastor Dave and Vicar Jay will lead the class which will focus on a brief overview of Lutheran Theology entitled “What Does it Mean to be a Christian in the Lutheran Tradition?” and there will be a tour of church building. New disciples will be received into membership on Sunday February 11 during the 11 am worship service. A reception will follow in Reformation Hall.

SALEM BLOOD DRIVE

Saving Lives, Saturday, January 27, 2018, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Salem Lutheran Church

SALEM'S BOOK GROUP

Salem's Book Group meets September to June on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm in the Upper Room. All are welcomed.

***The Confession* by John Grisham, January 8th**

For every innocent man sent to prison, there is a guilty one left on the outside. He doesn't understand how the police and prosecutors got the wrong man, and he certainly doesn't care. He just can't believe his good luck. Time passes and he realizes that the mistake will not be corrected: the authorities believe in their case and are determined to get a conviction. He may even watch the trial of the person wrongly accused of his crime. He is relieved when the verdict is guilty. He laughs when the police and prosecutors congratulate themselves. He is content to allow an innocent person to go to prison, to serve hard time, even to be executed.

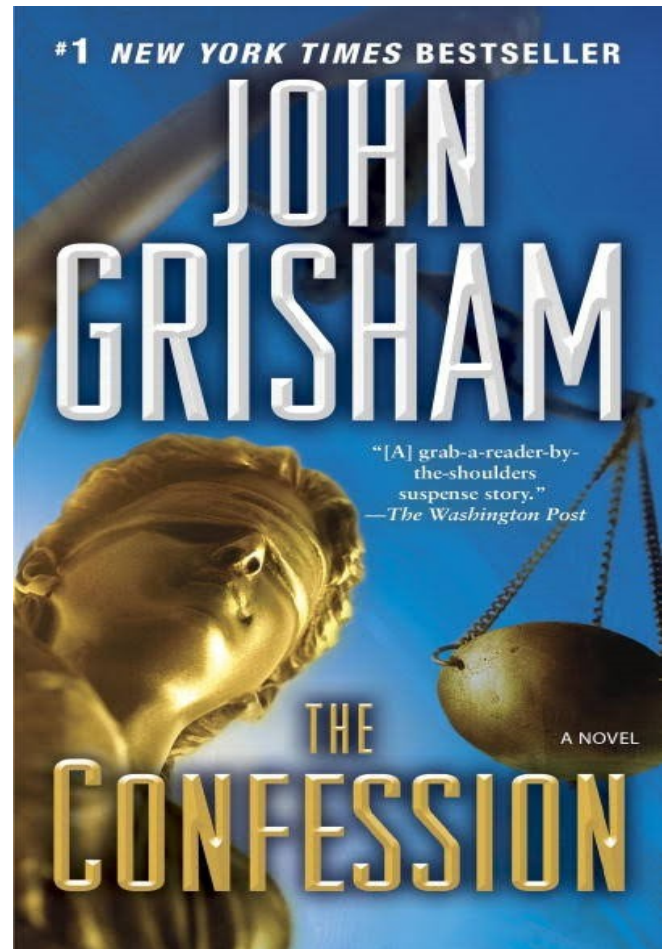
Travis Boyette is such a man. In 1998, in the small East Texas city of Sloan, he abducted, raped, and strangled a popular high school cheerleader. He buried her body so that it would never be found, then watched in amazement as police and prosecutors arrested and convicted Donté Drumm, a local football star, and marched him off to death row.

Now nine years have passed. Travis has just been paroled in Kansas for a different crime; Donté is four days away from his execution. Travis suffers from an inoperable brain tumor. For the first time in his miserable life, he decides to do what's right and confess.

But how can a guilty man convince lawyers, judges, and politicians that they're about to execute an innocent man?

Additional books include:

- February 12th – *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by Ernest J. Gaines
- March 12th – *Purple Hibiscus: A Novel* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- April 9th – *World War I* by various authors



VICAR'S LESSONS LEARNED

Lesson four: Storytellers and Planting Trees

"Blessed are those who . . . are like trees planted beside streams of water, which yields its fruit in proper time, and its leaves never fall off. In all that they do, they prosper."

(Psalm 1 New International Version)



I am a fan of Jewish writings and literature. Over the centuries, rabbis have taught through story. Perhaps this influenced Jesus' teaching style and the use of parables. Congregations need storytellers as well. These are people who remember and retell the narrative of a congregation's mission and purpose. To be true to our past and successful in moving forward, we need to have periodic reminders from where we have come and the principles on which Salem was founded.

The Talmud has a revered place in Jewish culture. It is a record of Jewish thought, stating who they are as a people and what they are called to do and be. One story I have grown to appreciate is "Honi and the Carob Tree." As a young boy, Honi was out walking when he saw an old man planting a carob tree. After watching him for several minutes, Honi asked, "How long will it be before the tree bears fruit?" "It will be many years," said the old man. "Do you expect to ever taste the fruit of the tree?" asked Honi. "Probably not," said the old man. "Then why bother?" asked Honi.

The old man replied that when he was a boy, he was able to enjoy the fruit of trees that were planted by his parents and grandparents. Now he feels that it is his responsibility to plant trees for future generations to enjoy.

We are called to recognize that we also reap what others have sown. Out of a grateful spirit, we are called to sow seeds and plant trees that we may never harvest so that future generations can benefit from our having been on this earth.

A question we all should ask ourselves at least annually, particularly around the time of New Year's resolutions, is this: "What do we want to see outlive our involvement with this community? What legacy will we leave behind? Are we making progress toward that goal?"

Making the world a better place may seem like a lofty goal. Maybe we should bring that idea closer to home. Psalm 1 calls us to bear fruit right where we are planted. Some may be called on to branch out and make a global influence. But most of us are called to serve right where we are planted, in our neighborhoods and in our places of work. The streams that have nurtured us are where we can best give back and bear fruit.

My goal in life is not so much to change the world as it is to live a life that expresses and manifests God's spirit of gratitude. This gratitude must be shown not only with mere words but especially in action - such as planting trees. A mature tree provides the gift of fruit to be enjoyed here and now. My hope for us is that the fruit of trees we plant will benefit persons we may never meet, even as we have benefited from the work of forethought of others. If that happens, we will be truly blessed as we end our lifework in this world!

Grace and Peace,

Vicar Jay

MEET THE AL FAHAD FAMILY

Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update

Pictured in the photo are Mahmoud and Wedyan al Fahad and their children Mohammed (19 months), Khaled (eight years), Lujain (six years), and Ayah (two months). We are enjoying getting to know them. They arrived in the US in July, 2016 under the sponsorship of the International Rescue Committee, coming from a rural area in Syria. They had lived in Jordan several years before they were admitted the US. The family is Muslim, with Arabic as their native language.



Mahmoud works full time, along with a part-time custodial job. He has some English capabilities, but Wedyan is just beginning to learn English. School has been challenging for Khaled and Lujain, as they too are still early in learning our language. They live in Irvington, close to St. Joseph Monastery School.

Their greatest needs are mentoring, tutoring and assisting with administrative and legal

responsibilities—both those that are theirs as refugees, and also some simple things that we all take for granted, but which, of course, are all new to them. We will also assist them now to secure their Green Cards.

Some members of our group, along with several others who have been working with the family for some time, are now meeting with Wedyan and the children, providing tutoring and building friendships. We have gathered some needed winter clothing.

I have been meeting with Mahmoud to sort out mail and assist with bills and financial records. When we were first learning of the family, we also provided some financial assistance. Mahmoud was unemployed for about six weeks, and their parked car was totaled by a stolen car, for which they received no compensation.

Members of the congregation can assist us by keeping the al Fahads in your prayers, and remembering the plight of the record number of refugees and misplaced persons in the world. We hope you will respond when we publicize special needs. And, of course, we invite your financial support; mark your donations "Refugee Fund".

As we all give thanks these frigid days for our warm homes, we can enrich our thanks for whom the most basic of our blessings remains a hope and a struggle.

Peace,
Pastor Whetstone

ANNUAL MEETING

Please mark your calendar for **Salem's Annual Meeting and Potluck on Sunday, January 28th** immediately following the 11am worship service.

We will be enjoying the fellowship of a good meal and giving thanks to God for another solid year of ministry in our life together.

It is truly a celebration of God's goodness and joy of being in a faith community grounded in Christ.

Please come!

If you have not experienced an annual meeting at Salem, you will be pleasantly surprised.



SNOW POLICY

We do our best to keep to our regular schedule, but it's not always possible.

**On Sunday if weather is difficult, check our Salem website
www.salem-catonsville.org.**

We'll also do our best to have an announcement on the answering machine. For other days, and other meetings and activities, please call the person in charge or your activity. Generally, if schools are closed meetings that evening are canceled.

FAIR TRADE, ORGANIC CHOCOLATE

Chocolate is undeniably one of the most popular treats around, and one of the most widely available. But do you ever stop and think about where that chocolate comes from and how it's made? While you may be used to choosing organic produce, you might not be familiar with the differences between organic chocolate and conventional chocolate. What's really the difference? Let's dive into some of the details of what makes our organic chocolate worth reaching for!



First, organic chocolate is healthier for farmers. Behind every bar of chocolate are two key agricultural products: cacao and sugar. Conventional chocolate uses cacao and sugar grown with the aid of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and more. These chemicals have been linked to numerous negative health effects, and most farmers lack the kind of protective gear that would help mitigate some risk of exposure. Organic chocolate, however, means that cacao and sugar are produced without the use of these harmful chemicals. Instead, farmers use biodynamic and organic fertilizers and pest deterrents. These natural agricultural products are better for both the crops and the farmers who grow them, allowing their work to thrive without putting their health and the health of their communities at risk.

Second, organic chocolate is better for the environment. The chemicals involved in the cacao and sugar production for conventional chocolate have a negative effect on the environment, too. Pesticides, fungicides and herbicides are designed to kill unwanted insects and plants, but usually end up eliminating important complementary species from farms, throwing off the delicate balance of local ecosystems. Chemicals leech into the soil and water, affecting plant and animal life even beyond the treated area. Organic chocolate is made from cacao and sugar that is grown without these synthetic chemicals, on farms that use natural, organic and biodynamic tools to cultivate these crops. Organic methods are good for biodiversity, ecosystems and the environment — and choosing organic chocolate means supporting these alternative means of production.

Lastly, organic chocolate is better for you! In choosing organic chocolate, you are choosing to eat a food that is made without synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides and other chemicals. While we may not think of chocolate as an agricultural product in the same way as the fruits and vegetables in the produce aisle, we can think of the benefits of organic production in a similar way. Why consume the added chemicals of conventional chocolate when you don't have to? Enjoy the chocolate made from cacao and sugar grown with care by small farmers.

It's important to make informed decisions about the products we buy, the things we eat and the systems we support. Choosing organic chocolate means giving your purchase power to a system that values your health, the health of farmers and the health of the environment. Now unwrap a bar and enjoy!



JANUARY 13th/14th IS FAIR TRADE WEEKEND

Celebrate Epiphany by purchasing fair trade!

Did you know there is at least one ancient manuscript of the gospel of Matthew which reports that the magi laid before the baby Jesus in Bethlehem the fine gifts of fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate? In fact, if you look very closely at this authoritative early painting you can clearly see that the wise men are offering chocolate, tea and coffee.

You could be just as wise this Epiphany! You'll find a fine array of tea, coffee and chocolate on the Fair Trade cart in the narthex.



WEEKLY DONATIONS INVITED FOR ALTAR FLOWERS AND FOR LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE

For many, many decades Salem has invited members and friends to make a donation for altar flowers and thereby honor or memorialize loved ones. For thirty-some years we have also weekly invited an honorary or memorial donation for a benevolent organization. Across the years we've designated agencies such as Lutheran Campus Ministry and Catonsville Emergency Assistance.

This year the chosen organization is **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service**. You may sign up in the first floor hallway; place your \$25 donation in a Pew Envelope along with your name and the requested attribution ("in honor of..." or "in memory of...").

LIRS began in 1939 in response to the first waves of refugees through the early days of World War II. Since then it has aided over a half million refugees and displaced persons. It is one of nine agencies upon whom the US State Department has depended to carry out our country's defining and historic mission of welcome.

Now that this mission is being undermined and attacked, LIRS needs our support more than ever. As Christians, as well as Americans, we have a great stake in this mission. Government funds and opportunities for service are being greatly reduced. LIRS much needs our prayers and our support. Their headquarters are located here in the Lutheran Center on Baltimore Harbor, sharing the building with Lutheran World Relief.

I'll add the testimony that ministry to refugees has been with me in some sense all my life. When I was very young in Harrisburg, I remember that we sometimes had guests at the parsonage, people speaking with thick accents. In the mid-fifties my father became chairman of the board of LIRS (then LRS). One whole winter, when I was in the sixth grade, dad served at a refugee camp in New Jersey, receiving refugees who were fleeing Hungary after the Revolution. Since I became a pastor, I've shared in the joy of helping to resettle six refugee families, including five here at Salem.

In every sense it is such a hopeful, thrilling ministry. To me it seems one of the most powerful ways to celebrate the freedom we prize as a nation. As Christians, it gives us the opportunity to answer Jesus' command to welcome the stranger in such authentic and critical fashion. And in the process, our world grows as we build relationships with people from very different cultures than our own.

I hope we will fill the chart. We will be celebrating the best spirit of our country, supporting one of our finest Lutheran agencies, providing safety to many who are much in danger and a home to many in flight from the world they've known. And, most, we will be serving our Lord himself. How do we know that? It's been asked before. "When, Lord, did we see you a stranger and welcome you? ... As you served the least, you served me." (Matthew 25)

Peace,
Pastor Whetstone



SALEM PLAYERS NEWS

The 40th Anniversary Show was great fun. Thanks to all who participated, including the wonderful Supper Club audience!

Have you ever wondered what backstage looks like? Here is your chance to get "down & dirty" with our set. **We are having a stage clean-up day on Saturday, January 13 from noon to 4pm.**

Our Salem Players Annual Meeting is Sunday January 28 at 2:00 pm. All are welcome!

Auditions for our May production of *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine* will be held on Sunday February 11 & Monday February 12 at 7pm.

Join us!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Worship Program a success: students, parents, teachers and Mrs. Louise Rau who ironed ALL the costumes.

Sunday morning classes are ongoing with wonderful and engaging teachers. We will be collecting our Advent food donation boxes on January 7th. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Epiphany by GIVING.

The Committee will be meeting with parents, teachers and themselves this winter to assess the needs for our children. We are eager to provide them with a quality Christian education. New members and insights are always appreciated—we welcome your input.

First Communion instruction will be held on the following Saturdays in March: the 10th, 17th, and 24th. Attendees will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 29th.



NO STAFFED NURSERY AT THE 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

The staffed nursery during the 11:00 am worship service has been discontinued due to the lack of use. The nursery can still be used as a cry room during worship services.



ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum kicks off 2018 with a slide show of the recent Salem trip to Italy and Lutherland in Germany by Guy Davis on January 7th. Please come hear Guy share his experiences of Europe.

We will then begin on January 14th a six week study of the *Confession for the Third Millennium, Black Lutheran Experiences, a Study of the 38 Theses*. This book promises to generate much discussion and is the book introduced to the Adult Forum by Reverend Dr. Eric Campbell in November. See you at 9:45am on Sundays in the Katie Luther Room.



JANUARY YOUTH NEWS

- **Youth Drop-in:** Jan. 12, 7pm-10pm
- **Road Trip in Ocean City, MD:** Jan. 19-21
- **Youth Sunday** will be February 4th with our last Souper Sunday.
- **Lock-in** to prepare for the service will be **February 2nd**.

The youth committee is looking for youth members to join the committee. Bring your ideas of fun and meaningful activities for the Youth Group to plan. Contact Anita Lane at phrogdiva@verizon.net if you are interested in joining.



PARISH NURSES

The nurses have decided to staff the Nurses Office on the **First Sunday** of the month only. The volume of clients has decreased and many weeks no one comes to the office. February 2018 will begin the "first Sunday" trial. Of course, one of the nurses are usually at church and will be more than willing to assist. Please see Beth Rodgers, Lynda Bell, or the Pastor if you need assistance.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION FROM OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

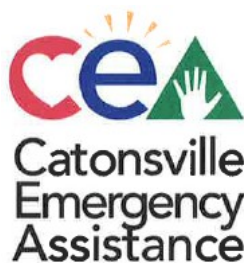
Pastor Michael
Walter McHenry, Jr.

Dan Holtz
Pastor Tomrud Eriksen
Pastor Chaelene Barnes
Karen Kretschmer

Pastor Driver-Bishop
Pastor Chris Litton

With thanksgiving for our ministry together in the name of Jesus Christ that serves our members, congregations, synod, wider church and the world. Your support is vital to making God's work happen.

In joyous gratitude,
Your Delaware-Maryland
Synod Generosity Team



November 30, 2017

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Road
Catonsville, MD

Dear Congregation,

The CEA Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers would like to thank you for your 10/31/2017 donation(s) totaling \$494.00. We greatly appreciate your support of our efforts to sustain our neighbors in crisis during these trying times.

Contributions to CEA Network are tax deductible within the limits of current federal and state laws. CEA attests that it provided no goods or services in return for this donation. Please keep this letter for your income tax records.

Thank you again for your support of CEA.
Sincerely,

Eugene C. Cashour
Eugene C. Cashour
Board of Directors Member

SALEM ACTIVITY CALENDAR**January 2018**

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|----------------------------|---|
| 7 Epiphany Worship-8:15/11:00 am 9:30 Sunday School All Ages | 8 4pm Yoga 7pm Lazarus Caucus 7:30pm Salem Book Group | 9 5pm Chair Yoga 6pm Technology 7pm Bell Choir | 10 Charlestown 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 1pm LWR Quilting 7pm Worship Life | 11 10am Stitchcrafters 6pm St David's Choir 7:30pm Salem Choir | 12 Youth Drop In 7-10pm | 13 FAIR TRADE 5pm Worship |
| FALL ART SHOW 2 | | | | | | |
| 14 2nd after Epiphany FAIR TRADE Worship-8:15/11 am Sunday School 9:30am | 15 Martin Luther King OFFICE CLOSED 4pm Yoga 7pm Communications | 16 5pm Chair Yoga 7pm Bell Choir 7pm Council | 17 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 1pm LWR Quilting 6:30pm Historical Old Salem Board | 18 10am Baltimore West 10am Stitchcrafters 6pm St David's Choir 7:30pm Salem Choir | 19 ROAD TRIP (YOUTH) | 20 10am Salem Leadership Summit 5pm Worship |
| 21 3rd after Epiphany Worship-8:15/11 am Sunday School 9:30am 5pm Confirmation Class | 22 1pm First Monday Bible Study 4pm Yoga 7pm First Monday Bible Study | 23 5pm Chair Yoga 7pm Bell Choir 7pm Intern Committee 7pm St Dysmas Board | 24 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 1pm LWR Quilting | 25 10am Stitchcrafters 6pm St David's Choir 7:30pm Salem Choir | 26 Memorial Service | 27 5pm Worship |
| WINTER ART SHOW | | | | | | |
| 28 4th after Epiphany Worship-8:15/11:00 am 9:30 Sunday School 12pm Salem Annual Meeting 2pm Salem Players Annual Meeting | 29 4pm Yoga Monarch Article Deadline! | 30 5pm Chair Yoga 7pm Bell Choir | 31 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 1pm LWR Quilting | 1 FEBRUARY 10am Stitchcrafters 6pm St David's Choir 7:30pm Salem Choir | 2 | 3 1pm LYO 2:30pm HAM Testing 5pm Worship |
| WINTER ART SHOW | | | | | | |
| 4 Youth Sunday Worship-8:15/11:00 am 9:30 Sunday School | 5 4pm Yoga 7pm Prayer Shawl Group | 6 5pm Chair Yoga 7pm Bell Choir | 7 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am Catonsville Ministerium 1pm LWR Quilting | 8 10am Stitchcrafters 6pm St David's Choir 7:30pm Salem Choir | 9 | 10 5pm Worship |
| WINTER ART SHOW | | | | | | |

We have a number of community support groups and scout troops who use our church facilities. In order to accommodate all groups, please contact the church office at (410) 747-0720, **before** planning

WORSHIP SCHEDULE**January 2018**

| | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 6 | Saturday Evening Worship 5p.m., Holy Communion |
| Jan 7 | Epiphany 8:15 am and 11a.m, Holy Communion |
| Jan 10 | Charlestown Worship |
| Jan 13 | Saturday Evening Worship 5p.m., Holy Communion |
| Jan 14 | Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:15 am and 11:00am, Holy Communion 9:35 Sunday School |
| Jan 20 | Saturday Evening Worship 5p.m., Holy Communion |
| Jan 21 | Third Sunday after the Epiphany 8:15 a.m. and 11:00a.m, Holy Communion 9:35 Sunday School |
| Jan 27 | Saturday Evening Worship 5p.m., Holy Communion |
| Jan 28 | Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 8:15 a.m. and 11:00a.m, Holy Communion 9:35 Sunday School |

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

| | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| January 20 | Salem Leadership Summit |
| January 21 | Winter Art Show Opens |
| January 27 | Blood Drive |
| January 28 | Salem Annual Meeting |



January 27— Look for the sign-up sheets in the Entrance Area—they will be posted soon! Call Lynda Bell for more information.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE - CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY - 2018

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| January 10 | Monthly Worship—Brookside Classroom 11:30 a.m., Holy Communion —Pastor David Asendorf |
| February 14 | Monthly Worship —Brookside Classroom 11:30 a.m., Holy Communion —Pastor Bob Schmitt |
| March 14 | Monthly Worship —Brookside Classroom 11:30 a.m., Holy Communion —Vicar Jay Eckman |

ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2017

| | Saturday Evening | Sunday Service | | Other | Specify | Weekly Total |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------|----------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | | First | Second | | | |
| Week of Dec 2/3 | 21 | 82 | 125 | 16 | 12/6 Advent midweek | 244 |
| Week of Dec 9/10 | 11 | 84 | 126 | 14/11 | Advent Vespers/midweek | 246 |
| Week of Dec 16/17 | 50 | 99 | 145 | | | 294 |
| Week of Dec 23/24 | 20 | 128 | | 5pm 207; | 7:30pm 130; 10pm 100 | 148/437 |
| Week of Dec 30/31 | 20 | 64 | 106 | | | 190 |
| December Total | 122 | 457 | 502 | 478 | | 1559 |

*Week reflects Saturday through Friday

TREASURER REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2017

| GENERAL FUND | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Budget to Date | \$460,801.00 |
| Beginning Balance | \$22,705.41 |
| Expenses to Date | (\$396,569.73) |
| <u>Receipts to Date</u> | \$470,357.38 |
| Ending Balance | \$96,493.06 |
| | |
| R.S.V.P. | |
| Beginning Balance | \$86,481.30 |
| Receipts to Date | \$38,139.50 |
| <u>Disbursements to Date</u> | (\$64,972.34) |
| Balance in Fund | \$59,648.46) |

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.

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 either of our two networks connections:

SalemBethanyHall
SalemReformationHall

The password for both connections is **SalemChurch**.

If you have any questions about our network please contact Technology Committee Chairperson, Amy Pflug at amy.pflug@verizon.net.



PRAYERS

In name of Father,
 In name of Son,
 In name of Spirit,
 Three in One:
 Father cherish me,
 Son cherish me,
 Spirit cherish me,
 Three all-kindly.
 God make me holy,
 Christ make me holy,
 Spirit make me holy,
 Three all-holy.
 Three aid my hope,
 Three aid my love,
 Three aid mine eye,
 And my knee from stumbling,
 My knee from stumbling.
 - The Blessing Of The Trinity (Celtic)

**SALEM
PRAYER TREE**

"Intercessory prayer can penetrate the hearts of those we cannot open and shield those we cannot guard and

teach where we cannot speak and comfort where our hearts have no power to soothe. Prayer with its unseen hand, can enter where we may not." If you would like to join the Salem Prayer Tree, please contact Sue O'Connor via telephone at (410) 869-0242, or via email at ssusie770@verizon.net.

OFFICIAL ACTS**AT THE FONT**

"We pray you...keep our children in the covenant of their baptism and enable their parents to rear them in a life of faith and godliness."

Grant Morgan Parker

December 16, 2017

Henry Sterling Snyder

December 31, 2017

AT THE GRAVE

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

David V. Mackes

December 7, 2017

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



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

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