



THE MONARCH

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The slogan “Black Lives Matter” is now more popular than ever, being carried on placards in the nationwide protests, appearing on clothing and buttons, even painted on city streets, and recently chalked on the brick walls of Hillcrest Elementary School here in Catonsville. Does “Black Lives Matter” line up with the Gospel? That is, isn’t the Gospel of Jesus about “All Lives Matter?” Indeed, the Good News of Jesus Christ is that all people, regardless of race, sexual orientation, nationality, and ethnicity are beloved by God. We believe and proclaim that we are all one in Christ (Galatians 3:28). “Black Lives Matter” does **not** diminish nor threaten the Gospel proclamation of salvation for all. Because “Black Lives Matter” does **not** mean “*Only* Black Lives Matter” nor does it mean “Black Lives Matter *more than other lives.*” “Black Lives Matter” means that when we say “All Lives Matter” we are asserting that **Black Lives Matter, Too!** “Black Lives Matter” is an affirmation that our fellow citizens, neighbors, and friends of color are entitled to the same liberty and justice that we claim is the right of all of our people.

In this moment of history many people of color are feeling fearful and insecure. They do not feel that the society values or respects their lives. In the face of extrajudicial violence, voter suppression, widespread economic inequality, and mass incarceration of people of color they experience an unjust system that devalues their lives.

You may think, “Isn’t this all just too political for the Church?” Sending food and money to our local food pantry is a political act. Sending meals to the men at the homeless shelter is a political act. Providing financial assistance to the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem to care for poor Palestinians is a political act. Jesus was political – his feeding of the poor, and healing of the sick, and his calls for justice were political acts. He was not crucified because he was a nice guy. He was hung on a cross because of his pursuit of justice and peace. Yes, we do our very best not to be partisan. There will be no political candidates speaking in our nave this election season and your pastors and the Church Council will not be endorsing any candidates for elective office, but that does **not** mean the Church must muzzle its voice and withhold its support from pursuing and promoting justice and peace. We fool ourselves if we think we can be faithful to our baptismal call “to proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace” by not engaging in political actions (*ELW, Holy Baptism, pg. 228*). For we see in the politics a deep spiritual and moral issue in play: justice.

God not only loves justice, God calls us to justice. “Establish justice” (Amos 5:15), “let justice roll down like waters” (Amos 5:24) and “do justice” (Micah 6:8) is God’s call to us today. To do justice is to be like God.

I have asked the Church Council to spend time together at their July
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Church Council meeting to discuss the issues surrounding racial justice. I extend that same encouragement to all the various groups and committees in the congregation to do the same. For all Salem disciples, I encourage you to have conversation around the kitchen table. Let's wrestle with and explore the questions, "What can Salem do to work for justice and peace? What can we do to affirm that black lives do indeed matter just like all lives matter? How may the God of justice be calling us to action?"

In these troubled times I pray God's peace for you, and for our beloved Salem congregation. And pray that we can be God's instruments of peace for others.

In Christ,

Pastor Dave

ANTI-RACISM AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, **calling forth life in which you took delight**. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel **from slavery into freedom**. At the river, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection **you set us free from the power of sin and death** and raise us up to live in you." (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Order of Holy Baptism*)

For several weeks after we started worshiping apart via Facebook and YouTube, the service began with an affirmation of baptism. My children, Eleanor (5) and Elias (2), got into the rhythm of that ritual quickly, reminding me to get a bowl of water as we set the computer up on the dining room table. The first couple weeks, I dipped my fingers in the water and marked each of their foreheads with the sign of the cross. On the third week and every week after, they wanted to trace a cross on my forehead, too. Never have I experienced a sweeter blessing than that bestowed upon me by their little, wet fingers! A precious reminder in an upside-down world that I am – we are – part of something bigger than this moment in history. That we are, in fact, a piece of the Divine Heart, beating in the world.

I keep reflecting on this sacrament of baptism in these tumultuous days. Out of the middle of a pandemic, George Floyd's murder at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer touched our already tender and troubled hearts. Something feels different this time. And in many ways, that itself is painful – why did the other unjust deaths, delivered at the hands of a system designed to perpetuate racism, not move our collective conscience in the way that this one, precious life being snuffed out has done?

Maybe it is the overlay of a global pandemic, the novel coronavirus reminding us just how much we share with our global neighbors, and how small the world really is. Maybe (plans cancelled or moved online) our attention has been captured as it could not have been, amid our busy-ness, by the murders of Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Freddie Gray, and countless (truly, countless) others. But whatever the reason, I, and it seems many other white people, find myself more deeply committed to being part of the solution, part of the revolution, to deconstruct the systems that hold all of us, and especially our black and brown siblings, entrapped.

I've now participated in two Anti-Racism and You sessions, led by Cari Hummel from Faith Lutheran in Cockeysville. Something I hear from all of us involved is: "So now what? How do we fix this? What can I do? The problem seems so big."

In a conversation with a dear friend who was in college in the 60s, and who joined the Poor People's Campaign during that era, I was reminded how much training was required for everyone who participated in the Civil Rights Movement. It got me thinking about how much the church was involved, led by black churches across the South – providing spaces for meetings and trainings, for shelter, for nourishment and information and inspiration. How, then, can we be involved today, Church? Certainly

there are significant differences in how we engage, learn, and advocate in 2020. And I see important elements of this work in the promises made for or by us at the baptismal font: to live among God's faithful people, to be nurtured in faith and prayer, to learn to *"trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace."*

So, what now? This is a long game. One which requires a sustained effort. One that demands we build endurance. That's where I've let my privilege take over in the past, when my endurance ran low and I was able to opt out of the effort. As Pr. Sarah mentioned in her sermon a few weeks ago, we at Salem run the spectrum of weariness around racism, from the personal, generational exhaustion of living as a person of color in the United States to being tired of hearing about racism at every turn and wanting it all to simply go away, or go back to normal. And proclaiming God's love for all is, and continues to be, an act of reformation that has defined our Lutheran-ness, for we must intentionally build it in so that anti-racism becomes part of that same radical, reforming DNA.

In conversation with Pr. Dave, Pr. Sarah, and Karen Amy, we identified a few of those layers:

- Faithful calls to repentance and action from our faithful pastors.
- Examination of systems by our congregational leaders to uncover any remnants of elements that may perpetuate racism.
- Education about how the church has contributed to, with intention or complicit silence, racism.
- Regular opportunities for white members to unlearn patterns of thinking and being that we haven't ever had to give much thought to.
- A commitment to finding concrete ways to be the church in the world, standing and working clearly beside and in support of our black, indigenous, and other siblings of color, as a community of faith and as individuals.

There is a lot to figure out, and we need each other in this. As our community promises at each and every baptism when we welcome a new sibling in Christ into our family: "We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world."

So stay tuned for additional opportunities to join together in this creative and redeeming word and work. Watch your email inboxes for a survey to let us know how you'd like to participate, what you'd like to know, how we can best care for you. If you are so inspired, reach out to me to let me know how you'd like to be involved.

We share the precious privilege of being invited to be part of bringing God's kingdom more brilliantly into the world each day. I'm so deeply grateful to be in this holy work with each of you.

Melanie Gibbons

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CATONSVILLE HIGH RALLY FOR BLACK LIVES MATTER

On June 24, 2020, students from Catonsville High School organized a march from the elementary school on Bloomsburg Ave. to the high school where several students including Deborah Tadessa (the daughter of Pastor Amsalu Geleta), who is the 'retiring' LYO leader, spoke. Salem Lutheran Church was well represented in the march with Pastors Dave Asendorf and Sarah Garrett Krey, Micah Krey (Faith), Amsalu Geleta (Synod and a Salem disciple), and Susan Beck (St. Dymas) and several disciples.



RSVP FOR WORSHIP

Just a reminder that in-person worship is by RSVP. You must RSVP every week using the Sign-up Genius link that you received in the prior weekend's email "Worship and Announcements" or by calling the Salem Office before 12 noon on Friday.



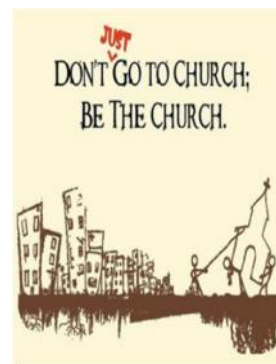
SALEM'S SATURDAY REOPENING SERVICE DRAWS A THANKFUL GROUP OF WORSHIPPERS

On Saturday June 27, the mood was joyous and welcoming as Salem reopened for in-person outdoor worship for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic forced a move to virtual services. Pastor Dave and Pastor Sarah warmly greeted the 21 enthusiastic worshippers as they gathered on the shade-covered lawn behind the church.

While the faces and the faith were familiar, many of the aspects of service that were once routine have been necessarily altered in the wake of the pandemic. After entering through a one-way ingress, participants were led to a check-in station. There, friendly greeters busily multitasked, taking names, checking temperatures, and collecting offertories as people arrived, in addition to their standard welcoming duties. With folding chairs positioned at socially distanced intervals throughout the grassy plot, worshippers, donning masks, selected their seats. They acknowledged each other from afar with waves and peace signs, and enjoyed a glorious instrumental accompaniment as they awaited the start of the abbreviated service. During this inaugural regathering, Pastor Dave fittingly encouraged the congregants to have a welcoming, accepting heart towards everyone they encountered, as Jesus did.

Some of the procedures during the service were different, but as always, the atmosphere at Salem was comforting, uplifting, and inviting. And despite the new safety precautions in place, one thing was abundantly clear: no amount of physical distance can separate us from God's enduring love.

We are immensely grateful for the extraordinary efforts that Salem's pastors, staff, musicians, and volunteers have made and continue to make throughout this challenging time. Thanks to them, we have been able to regularly worship together, whether online or face-to-face.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH

FINALLY, we were able to come together “in person” to worship outside on the back lawn on Sunday morning, even if there were only 20 of us. The service was brief, but meaningful, led by Pastor Dave and Pastor Sarah, with Mary Miller playing music and Joey Morgan working the sound system which made it possible for everyone to hear it. Pastor Dave spoke of “All Are Welcome” and that perhaps there could be some “soul searching” in all of us to be welcoming to anyone who comes to Salem, be they new or members who have attended here for a long time. As Jesus welcomed everyone regardless – no exceptions – so should we. God calls us all to “welcome all and begin anew.” Know that there was plenty of space and lots of shaded areas on the back lawn where we worshipped together. It was wonderful to begin anew even in such a different setting.



REFUGEE TASK FORCE UPDATE

With one major exception, the task force has been generally inactive for the last several months, in part because the families with whom we assisted are independent and thriving, and because the restrictions for the pandemic have limited new initiatives.



Our tutoring group has, however, kept in close contact with the al Fahad family, primarily through Donna Reuter and several others. Though the pre-pandemic homework sessions have not resumed, she has visited and continued to encourage their prescribed schoolwork. Sara Toscano has been the family's faithful liaison with Relay Elementary and has registered Mohamed for pre-school.

Our financial assistance for the family ended a year ago, and aware that our funds could support other refugee work near and far, the task force voted to donate monies toward those efforts. We've not appealed for monies for a couple years and these funds have remained in in our account.

\$4,000 has been given to Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area, the agency which is resettling refugees in this area on behalf of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. \$4,000 was also contributed to Lutheran World Relief for their work in refugee camps in the Middle East. We've retained \$4,000 for new initiatives here when that is possible and for unforeseen needs.

The al Fahad family is currently searching for new housing in this area. They would need an apartment for six, reasonably priced. If you have any suggestions, please contact me, Donna Reuter, or some other member of the task force.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the national focus on racism in the light of the murder of George Floyd are filling the headlines, but the worldwide needs of refugees remain critical. Please keep them in your prayers, advocate for them, and give thanks for those engaged in their relief and resettlement.

Pastor Ed Whetstone

ARTS COMMITTEE NEWS

We are planning our first virtual Arts Committee meeting for Monday, July 20 at 4 p.m.. I am trying to learn how to host a Zoom meeting and could use some help with setting it up.

In other news, the decals for the Grains mural have arrived! They are waiting to be installed and we hope that we will be able to have that done while the building is unoccupied. Karolyn Gallagher, the graphic designer who worked with me to create the design, is very excited to see the decals, and Matt Richardson, whose company delivered them to us, will train us to apply them to the wall.

We are still planning to have an art opening at our 2nd floor Agape Gallery of Ken Pittman's paintings on August 30. More about that in August's Monarch.

We so look forward to seeing everyone gathered in person, using our beautiful and well cared for building to glorify our Lord!

Peace,

Char Brooks

WHY DO WE CALL OUR NEWSLETTER “*The Monarch*”?

Over the years, Salem’s newsletter has been published with a variety of names, including *The Sentinel* and *The Reminder*. By 1978, a decision was made to look for a new title, so a contest was held. Members were invited to submit suggestions. After all entries were received, the following newsletter article announced the winner:

THE SALEM MONARCH Our newsletter has a name! The Monarch, of course, is that large, beautiful red-gold butterfly and carries through our butterfly symbol of new life in our Resurrected Lord. Yet the name also suggests our Lord himself—our Monarch, the King of Kings. Perhaps it even calls to mind flight, as in the sending of our Newsletter. A triple symbol at least! The suggestion of The Salem Monarch came from Dick Vigus. So we thank Dick for our symbolic and distinctive name! And we thank also those other members who submitted a variety of good titles.

With its photographs and interesting graphics (not to mention its full color version on line), today’s *Monarch* differs a great deal from its 1978 version. But it is still published with the same goal: informing and inspiring all of us in our Salem family.



TIME TO RESTOCK YOUR FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA OR CHOCOLATE?

Pastor Ed and the church office are teaming up to resupply your Fair Trade needs. To order, simply email Pastor Ed (edward-victoria@verizon.net) and he will come to Salem and gather your order together and leave it in the church office. He’ll email you, letting you know that it’s ready and it’s cost. You can then pick your order up in the church office during office hours and give your cash or check to Robin in a clearly marked envelope. If stopping at church during office hours does not work for you, let Pastor Ed know, and he will figure something out.

We do have a good variety of coffees, teas and chocolates. Prices remain the same:

Coffee- \$7

Tea- \$3

Large Chocolate Bars- \$3

Small Chocolate Bars-\$1.50

Of course, as always, be mindful that your purchase is quite significant for small scale farmers in developing countries, especially now as the COVID-19 pandemic presents immense challenges.

HISTORIC OLD SALEM NEWS AND TRIPS

We are looking for new Board Members to join us in our preservation efforts of Old Salem Church and Cemetery. It is Salem's original worship site built in 1849 by our Lutheran ancestors. Board members serve a two year term beginning November 2020. The Board meets four times a year on the third Wednesday of February, May, August, and November with our special open house and programs on the first Sunday afternoon in June and the third Sunday afternoon in September. Pastor Dave and Pastor Sarah lead an All Saints Service at Old Salem the first Sunday afternoon in November. Again this year on **Saturday December 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, we will host our **Christmas Open House**. This event was a lot of fun last year and a wonderful chance for the community to see inside. Salem Brass shared their wonderful music and Louise Rau played beautiful Christmas hymns on the 1860 organ (until her fingers got too cold to continue - there's no heat at Old Salem). We host an annual craft fair and flea market the first Saturday in March as one of our major fundraisers as well throughout the year hosting bus trips to theatres, restaurants, train rides and all kinds of interesting sites. If you would be willing to join us, please contact Mary Krebs, at 410-788-6580, by **August 19**. We are looking forward to working with you.

Annual Crab Feast at the Kentmorr Restaurant planned for Thursday, July 23 has been **cancelled**. After speaking with one of the owners recently, she told me that the restaurant was not able to host large bus groups at this time inside the building. So, sadly the crab feast bus trip has been cancelled for this year.

Annual Founders' Day Open House and Program

The Annual Founder's Day Open House at Old Salem, 701 Ingleside Avenue, is **POSTPONED**. Judy LeGath has rescheduled the program with Mr. Monty Phair till Sunday, **September 20 at 2 p.m.** (praying we will be able to host this event at that time). Mr. Phair, a retiree from the Catonsville Library and who knows "everything" about Catonsville, will be presenting his "Catonsville Walking Tours" program about the history and current facts of the Catonsville Community.

Amish Market/North Central Railway

If all goes well and we are allowed to travel, our next planned bus trip is an all day adventure on **Thursday, October 22**. We'll travel up I-83 with a stop for lunch/shopping at the Amish Market located at Shrewsbury, PA. Then on to New Freedom, PA, to board the North Central Railway for a two hour train ride enjoying the fall foliage and fun ride. More details to come.

Sharon Stanton

COMMITTEE CHAIRS! VOUCHERS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Salem vouchers for reimbursement for expenses are now available on Salem's website www.salem-catonville.org. The vouchers can be printed out, then signed by the appropriate Committee Chair and submitted to our Treasurer, Tom Vasold. Do not forget to attach the receipt!

AROUND THE PARISH

No Phishing Please!

Please, please remember to ignore emails from Pastor Dave or any of the staff that ask you for gift cards, money, credit card numbers, “favors,” or any similar information. These are **fraudulent** requests posing as requests from Salem’s leaders. If you have questions about the legitimacy of any communication please call the church office to confirm.



NO PHISHING
Don't take the bait!

Salem Building Broken Into In

In the early morning of June 9, a thief jimmied the lock on the west side entrance door across from BB&T bank and entered the building. From 2:27 to 4:27 a.m. the intruder roamed the premises, breaking into Pastor Dave’s office and stealing a pectoral cross from a desk drawer. Fortunately nothing was vandalized in the building. No electronic equipment was stolen.

The incident was reported to the police. We have camera footage of the thief which was shared with a detective in Towson who is investigating.

Meanwhile, we have put a latch guard on the outside west side entrance door and hardened the lock mechanism. A dead bolt lock has also been installed on Pastor Dave’s office door. Led by Steve Kopp, the Technology Committee is working diligently to finally complete the installation of our security system. Once in place, a similar break-in will activate a security alarm within 30 seconds, sending notifications to the police.

Fourth Monday Bible Study

The Fourth Monday Bible Study led by Pastor Asendorf is continuing online. A pre-recorded session appears usually on the fourth Monday or the following day. The study is currently focusing on I Corinthians. The first three sessions are available on the Salem website so feel free to take a look. On July 27 or July 28 the next study will study chapters 7 – 9.

SALEM’S MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST NOW ZOOMS WEDNESDAYS AT 8:00 A.M.

We’re mindful that our longstanding breakfast time of 7 a.m. was not convenient for everyone, especially those traveling to work or busy with children at home.

At present we are holding a Zoom meeting 8 a.m. to about 9:15 a.m. Maybe now you’re working from home, or dealing with a different family routine. This could be an opportunity to join us. We’d be glad to have you! Our format is loose, but we generally each share in a round of joys and concerns, and one of us leads a devotion, often leading to a discussion. Food, obviously, is not involved, but some of us are still enjoying our coffee.



If you’d like to join us, we would need to send you a timely invitation to the Zoom meeting. Contact Ed Whetstone (edward-victoria@verizon.net) by Tuesday, and he will relay your email address to our meeting host.

DON'T BE A VICTIM: HOW SCAMMERS ARE BENEFITTING FROM THE PANDEMIC

Scammers are everywhere. The rise in our reliance on computers and electronic devices during physical distancing means that cybercriminals have ample opportunity to strike. Additionally, the pandemic has left many of us feeling more on edge and fatigued than usual. During these times of stress, we may be more vulnerable than under better circumstances. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), consumers have lost an astonishing \$14 million so far to pandemic-related scams. Avoid becoming the next victim by being on the lookout for these popular cons:



Miracle cures. Quacks have been hawking phony 'snake oil' cures since the dawn of time and nobody wants to fall for these old tricks. Still, it may be tempting to believe that secret herbal pills can lessen COVID-19's effects or that there's a new vaccine available to a select few. Currently, there are no proven treatments that can cure or prevent the disease. Be wary of websites, emails, and text messages from companies or individuals claiming to have the "magic solution." Scammers design these pitches to lure victims into a false sense of trust and a deceptive sense of urgency. In many cases, the item(s) may never arrive, might fail to work, or could even harm your health. Unless the advice comes from your health care professional or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention itself, ignore it.

Imposter co-workers. Teleworking has become the new normal for many office workers during the pandemic. If you work remotely, use caution when responding to urgent and casual electronic requests for financial or personally identifying information, including passwords, from coworkers or bosses. As a rule, never share this information over a non-secure network. Instead, offer to call them with the data or have them go through a more appropriate, secure channel.

Phishing scams. The FTC is warning consumers about phishing texts, supposedly from contact tracers, warning that you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19. The message includes a link that, if clicked, downloads malware to your device. These communications often appear to be from real businesses or government agencies, and clicking on links or downloading attached files could import a program that spreads more malware or digs into your personal files looking for passwords and other information for purposes of identity theft. Messages from actual contact tracers working for public health agencies will not include a link or ask you for money or personal data.

Fraudulent charities. Fake charitable organizations abound in times of crisis and this pandemic is no different. Crowdsourcing platforms are lifesaving when they're hosted by actual charities, but they can also be used to con a lot of kindhearted people into handing their money over to criminals. If you're able to help financially, visit the organization's website to make sure it's legitimate and that your money is going to the right place. And be wary if you get a call following up on a donation pledge that you don't remember making—it could be a scam.

For added protection, follow these tips:

- When making an online purchase, read the URL carefully. Fraudsters might use "com.co," ".ma" or ".co" instead of more legitimate domains like ".com" or ".org."
- Research the company selling the goods by entering the company name plus the word "fraud" and review the results. Also, visit the Better Business Bureau website at www.bbb.org to see if they have any claims filed against them.
- Visit the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) or the World Health Organization (www.who.int) websites, or contact your physician for the most reliable and up-to-date medical and safety information regarding COVID-19.

Fraudsters are busier than ever right now, but you don't have to be their next victim. We hope these tips help protect your privacy, security, and finances during this challenging time.

QUILTING GROUP NEWS

Greeting Salem! Our quilting group is no longer making quilts but now we are making masks! We are using fabric from our own fabric stash as well as fabric that has been donated to the church. We are not selling these, we are giving them out to family, friends, hospitals, and nursing homes. If anyone needs a mask please email me at MaryMiller359@gmail.com or call the church office. We will make sure there is plenty for all. Stay safe and God bless!



TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Security System Improvements

The closed-circuit television (CCTV) system was replaced because the manufacturer of the previous system is out of business and the system could not be repaired if it failed, essentially making it obsolete. The new system has a 3-year warranty. Also, the card entry system was upgraded and placed under a 2-year maintenance agreement.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

Salem now has an Instagram account. Follow us at [salemlutheranchurchcatonsville](https://www.instagram.com/salemlutheranchurchcatonsville). Lizzy Fitch is our Instagram lead. Thanks, Lizzy. Pastor Sarah and Guy Davis will contribute. Keep up to date on what's going on at Salem



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- On June 11, 2020 the Church Council approved the Worship Life Committee's plan for outside worship beginning June 27/28.
- The Council also tentatively approved Anita Lane's plan for a combined Zoom/in person Salem Drama Camp to begin July 5 after the necessary documentation was reviewed by the pastors.
- The Council will meet July 21.



NEWS FROM DANIEL COLLINS

My Dear Salemites,

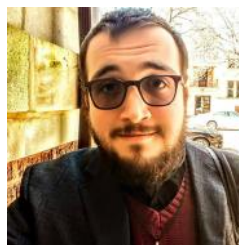
Greetings in our Lord! It is my pleasure to write to you all once more. Very much has happened in my life these past few months. On May 1st, Amelia and I were married, even in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis. It was a small wedding (just us, an Episcopal priest, and his wife) but joyful. Fun fact: Guy Davis gave me some ties a few months ago, and I got married wearing one of them! It's a fun tie-in between Salem and our wedding (pun intended).

Around that same time, we were approved by the Southeast Michigan Synod to take up internship parishes. Starting July 1st, I'm Vicar Daniel at Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City, MI, and my wife is Vicar Amelia at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dearborn, MI, and St. Philip's in Trenton, MI.

I have many fond memories of Salem and hope to preach for you all one day. Your support has made this journey possible, and I will never forget it. Stay safe in Jesus' arms during this pandemic, and pray for the church and her leaders as we move forward at this time. Warmly greet Pastors Sarah, Dave, Ann, and Ed for me, and my good friend Philip.

Yours truly,

Daniel



Daniel and Amelia Collins
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YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group hopes to meet soon and make more “Car Care Kits”— something to keep in your car to give to someone begging on the streets. When you are shopping would you think about adding some of these items to your shopping list? You can bring them to church on Sunday if you are worshipping that way, or drop them by during office hours.

Individual size packages (or small sized):

- Bacterial wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Wash cloth
- Bandana
- Gum
- Mints
- Snack crackers
- Trail mix
- Jerky
- Bottles of water

Thank you!

LENNY DUNCAN BOOK READING AT FAITH, COCKEYSVILLE

A member of Salem's congregation reached out to Rev. Jay Eckman for his thoughts about Lenny Duncan and his book, in preparation for the "ZOOM" book reading. He thought it likely that Jay knew Lenny, and he does. He asked Jay if he could share his response and he said that would be fine. Here is Jay's response.

Good morning,

Yes, I have had some interaction with Lenny. I took a class with him in seminary and have done some committee work with him. I have also read most of his book. Lenny can be a lot. In biblical terms, I have often thought of him as a John the Baptist. He can be blunt, raw, laying a heavy hand of the law to the church. Lenny has done anti-racism work for a very long time and that has been burned by the church on more than one occasion. With all that being said, what he says and does is centered in a place of love. He loves God, the church, and the people in the church. He is an important voice that the church needs right now.

In a recent letter to the congregation, I wrote a pastoral perspective entitled "How do we talk about this?" In it, I listed some thoughts. I have included them below. I hope you find them helpful as you prepare to talk to Lenny. I realize that from your journey you are probably at this place already. However, personally I find these points helpful reminders to check my own racial bias as they creep up.

1. Center and amplify black voices. Listen. Learn. Experience. Do not deny or argue with their lived experience. Their experience is not an opinion, it is a fact born from their life.
2. Be willing to listen through discomfort. Do not derail or end conversations because you disagree. Do not end a conversation with "We'll have to agree to disagree". Instead, suspend your belief for a moment and listen. Ask for clarification. And then end with "That is a new thought for me. I need to go and consider it. Can we revisit this topic again?"
3. Become more aware of what it means to be collectively white. To be referred to as "white people" violates a fundamental pillar of white culture – individuality. We are not used to being referred to collectively. Begin to get aware of the fact that there is a white culture and explore what it is and the discomfort you may feel at the use of this term is a sign of systemic inequality – even if you don't yet understand how or why.
4. Educate yourself and get political. For many, the conversation about race remains shrouded in words like unity, equality, and love. Not a bad starting place. But if our conversations and understanding of racial issues do not also include words like oppression, privilege, and system then please consider this as an invitation to dive into the large body of writers, lecturers, and thinkers who readily define these terms. Ending racism will not be accomplished through the changing of individual hearts if it does not also translate to changing systemic policies, laws and practices in our social, political, and legal structures.

I commend you for your anti-racism work. It is difficult but again needed. At CELC we are just now starting an antiracism group. I would love to hear more about your journey as it may help shape our work at CELC. Would you be willing to do a zoom call in the near future?

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Jay W. Eckman

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Scenes from Sarah's Ordination, July 5, 2019.



THE ELCA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS SINCE THE VOTE TO ORDAIN WOMEN

June 29 marked the 50th anniversary of the Lutheran Church in America's vote in favor of the ordination of women. As I reflect on my first year of being an ordained pastor in the ELCA (my ordination anniversary is July 5), I cannot help but think about the women who paved the way for my own ministry journey. I was lucky to grow up in a church where I saw and heard Pastor Libby Manning in the pulpit, a woman who modeled tender pastoral care, compassionate service, and deep listening so well. I completed my internship in Manhattan under the guidance of Pastor Heidi Neumark, a woman who taught me more about preaching prophetically and praying with my feet and actions than anyone else. I am surrounded by women colleagues in the Delaware-Maryland synod who consistently model incredible ministry. It is a true gift to be surrounded by such high-caliber women who use their God-given gifts to answer the call of the Holy Spirit in ministry.

While we celebrate 50 years since the ordination of women in the LCA (which would later become the ELCA), we acknowledge that there is still a long way to go. It took another 10 years for the first women of color to be ordained, and another 40 years for anyone who was publicly LGBTQIA+ to be ordained. There is still a significant wage gap between women pastors and their colleagues who are men. Women - and especially queer women or women of color - wait significantly longer to receive calls to congregations, often needing to find other work that is not vocationally fulfilling while waiting years to do the job they were called by God and trained in seminary to do because congregations do not want to interview them. Women in pastoral roles still face sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination within the congregations and synods they serve.

Because I saw someone who looked like me in my church's pulpit when I was young, I knew from an early age that I could be a pastor. Still, when I went to college to major in Christian Leadership, I was told by more than one person that it was great that I felt called by God, but it was inappropriate for me as a woman to take on the role of a pastor. In more than one congregational setting, I have been sexualized or demeaned on the basis of my gender. When my spouse and I both attend an event in our clergy collars, it is not uncommon for him to be addressed as "Pastor Micah" and for me to simply be addressed by my name without the title I worked so hard for. It is in these moments that I am especially grateful for the women who paved the way before me, relentlessly pursuing the call placed upon them by God to preach the Word of God, administer the sacraments, and serve God's people despite the obstacles and judgments that stood in their way.

I pray that I am able to faithfully continue on in the legacy of the women who have come before me - that my presence in the pulpit, at the altar, at the font, and in the world might signal to other young women that they, too, can be called by God to the liberating and life-giving work of the Gospel of Christ Jesus. I pray that the church would continue to grow in its support of women, especially queer women and women of color, and that in another 50 years, any debate or question over the ministry or giftedness of these women is a distant memory.

I have hope for a future where all women are undoubtedly celebrated and respected in the church and in the world. The Salem Community is part of what gives me that hope. Last year, you called your first full-time, female pastor in your 170+ years of ministry, and for that I give thanks to God. Together, may we continue our ministry and service to God and all of God's people.

Pastor Sarah

PRAYERS

On this day
the blessings of heaven.
On this day
the blessings of earth.
On this day
the blessings of sea and of sky.
To open us to life
to ground us in life
to fill us with life
and with wonder.
On those we love this day
and on every human family
the blessings of heaven
the blessings of earth
the blessings of sea and of sky.
John Philip Newell

Make me a tree, Lord
Sturdy
Deep rooted
Useful.
Support
To those in need,
Shelter
To those who are weary,
Fruit
For those who hunger.
Make me a tree, Lord
Sturdy
Deep rooted
Useful.
John Birch

OFFICIAL ACTS
**AT THE ALTAR**

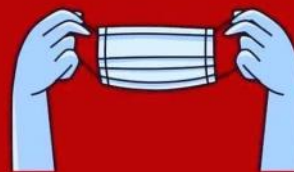
Lori Elizabeth Scott and John Robert Cservek

June 20, 2020

Lucy Carla Campbell and Thomas Julian Dixon

June 27, 2020

You, the one
From whom on different paths
All of us have come.
To whom on different paths
All of us are going.
Make strong in our hearts what unites us;
Build bridges across all that divides us;
United make us rejoice in our diversity.
At one in our witness to your peace,
A rainbow of your glory.
Amen.
- David Steindl-Rast



**We bless you and we praise you,
Lord Christ, for commanding us
to love one another. Let this mask
be a sign of your love, and let my
behavior be filled with love for
my neighbor. Amen.**

ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR JUNE 2020

	Saturday Evening	Sunday Service		Other	Specify	Weekly* Total
		First	Second			
May 31				189	Online Worship	189
June 14				137	Online Worship	137
June 21				117	Online Worship	117
June 27/28	23	16	27	139	Online Worship	205
	23	16	27	582		648

*Week reflects Saturday through Friday

TREASURER REPORT FOR JUNE 2020

GENERAL FUND	
Budget to Date	\$274, 523.00
Beginning Balance	\$ 66,595.43
Expenses to Date	(\$257,68.92)
Receipts to Date	\$ 262,501.91
Ending Balance	\$ 71,228.42
R.S.V.P.	
Beginning Balance	\$ 77,226.69
Receipts to Date	\$ 16,578.63
Disbursements to Date	(\$ 12,182.76)
Balance in Fund	\$ 81,622.56

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 any of our four networks connections:

- SalemBethanyHall
- SalemReformationHall
- SalemUpperRoom
- SalemYouthRoom



The password for all connections is **SalemChurch**. If you have any questions about our network please contact Technology Committee Chairperson, Steve Kopp at Salemtech@Salem-Catomsville.org



Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you very much for the generous scholarship. It's been such a blessing to be a member of Salem for most of my life. I'm lucky to be among such a welcoming and generous community.

Thank you again, and I hope I'm able to see you soon!

Sincerely,
Jessica McDivitt



June 22, 2020

Dear friend in Christ,

As summer returns to the Ridge, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the support we are receiving through gifts and prayer. Thank you for being part of this community that is coming together in this time of great need. None of us could have known how COVID-19 would change our world, and will continue to determine how we interact and move around in the months to come.

Your gift will help sustain this ministry, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and our staff, I say Thank You! With your support and prayers, Mar-Lu-Ridge will continue to gather and grow, and we will look forward with great anticipation to that day when we can gather face to face.

Wishing you well, and keeping you in our prayers.

God's peace,

Sarah Lefler

Sarah Lefler
Executive Director

*Mar-Lu-Ridge provides no goods or services in exchange for this gift, thus meeting the required contribution.

congregational benevolence \$1,500.00 may



BALTIMORE OUTREACH SERVICES, INC.

701 South Charles Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230
Office 410-752-7179 Shelter 410-752-1285 www.baltimoreoutreach.org

Dear Pastor Asendorf and Congregation Members,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000 as a donation to Baltimore Outreach Services. Your commitment to provide housing and services to homeless women and their children is appreciated.

During the first week of June we began a daily educational enrichment program for the children of BOS. This program is an extension of our Afterschool Program and runs through July 5th. It is designed to keep the children engaged and learning until summer camp begins. The teacher will make sure the children complete any curriculum activities assigned by their teachers. There are Reading, math, and language activities each day as well as exercise and arts and crafts. The theme for their first week was getting to know each other. Our Shelter Director says the children are excited to begin each morning.

Five moms are also involved in our culinary arts job training program. They are learning how to be commercial prep cooks. Although there may be fewer jobs in restaurants right now, hospitals, nursing homes, disabled housing projects and senior facilities have all employed our graduates.

Your gifts support the programming for the women and their children who live in our emergency shelter. They are provided a safe and nurturing place to be as they work towards independence and housing. Thank you for making this possible. We are most grateful.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Allen *Thank you!*



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

4605 Belair Road Baltimore, Maryland 21206 + 410-485-5750

secretaryjelc@verizon.net

The Rev. Gregg Knepp, Pastor
tgknepp@gmail.com

*United through love in Christ, we strengthen our faith together, to witness and proclaim God's grace!
Serving God and our community since 1842*

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Jerusalem is very grateful for your generosity and kindness to us. Things are going well on this holy corner. Thank you for your gift towards the food pantry. We are so blessed by your generosity.

Thank you!

With joy in Jesus,
Rev. Gregg Knepp

*Blessings to all
our sisters + brothers
at Salem!*



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. DYSMAS

I was in Prison → You Came To Visit Me



Dear Sisters and Brothers, July 1, 2020

Thank you for your support for this ministry to those in the Maryland Correctional System. It is especially appreciated at this time as we use new ways to keep in touch with our members. On behalf of them, thank you for all you do.

The Community of St. Dysmas

PARISH LEADERS

Altar Guild: Mary Krebs
 Archive Committee: Judy LeGath
 Arts Committee: Charlotte Brooks
 Book Group: Guy Davis, Linda Wayland
 Child Protection Committee: Linda Fleischer
 Children's Ministry Committee: Sharon Stanton
 Christian Fellowship Committee: Darla Sando, Pam Wilsey
 Communications Committee: Guy Davis
 Evangelism Committee: Edie Hahn
 Finance Committee: Sally Kopp, Steve Kopp
 Guardians of Eden: Norma Hensler-Davis
 Health Resources: Beth Rodgers, Lynda Bell
 Historical Old Salem: Sharon Stanton
 Memorial and Bequests: Paul W. Krabitz
 Mutual Ministry (Pastor Asendorf): Julie Kempton
 Mutual Ministry (Pastor Garrett Krey): Lisa Yerkey
 Nursery Committee: Lois Grempler
 Personnel Committee: Scott Graham
 Prayer Tree Coordinators: Karen Amy, Barbara Beem
 Property: Rusty Schaefer
 Salem Players: Lisa Yerkey
 Scholarship: Ed Orser
 Social Ministry: Mary Kay Willing
 Stewardship Committee: Irene Amoros
 Technology Support Committee: Steve Kopp, Lisa Yerkey
 Ushers: Paul Krabitz
 Youth Ministry Committee: Sara Toscano
 Worship Life: Jane Stolte



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 Barbara Beem or Karen Amy via telephone at 410 382-4379 [Barbara] or 410 215-4279 [Karen] or via email at prayertree@salem-catonsville.org

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Saturday Worship Musician:
Alex Tragert

Office Manager: Robin Schaefer
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Sextons: Lirije Alaj, Letty Monahan

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Eileen Merriman

David Paton
Sharon Schueler
Sharon Stanton
Marleigh Toscano
Pam Wilsey
Ken Wolfram

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Sue O'Connor
Ken Wolfram

NEXT MONARCH PUBLICATION

August 2020

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



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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We are on the Web!
www.salem-catonsville.org



www.facebook.com/salemlutheranchurch.catonsville



Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
www.elca.org



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

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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TIME VALUE