



THE MONARCH

LIVE FROM CATONSVILLE, IT'S SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP!

The Bible encourages us to go out and make disciples of all nations, and church livestreaming can facilitate that process in matchless ways. After facing a major change in how we worshipped amid the COVID-19 pandemic, it's created a cultural shift that's likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Livestreaming has become the go-to solution for churches and parishioners who want to stay connected, engaged, and spiritually fed. And now Salem is broadcasting its inspiring religious services for the world to hear.

After more than a year of masterfully-produced recorded church services, Salem has officially made the transition to livestreaming, airing its inaugural service on Sunday, May 9, 2021 at 11 AM. Approximately 118 people tuned in to the premiere and another 15 viewers watched it later, says Salem's Communications Chair, Guy Davis.

While recording and editing has its share of advantages, livestreaming takes the cake in terms of efficiency, authenticity, timeliness, and engagement. Joey Morgan, Salem's Worship Technology Director, says the recording and editing process required an astonishing 30-35 hours each week. "After we filmed the prerecorded service at on Thursdays at 11 AM, post-production editing took many hours over a two-day period to have it ready to broadcast on Sunday mornings at 10 AM. With livestream, there is still some production and planning involved, but not nearly to the level of the prerecorded services," he says. "And because we filmed on Thursday mornings if anything of great importance happened after that time, the best we could do was address it in the comments during the 10 a.m. Sunday morning



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prerecorded broadcast.”

Guy agrees. “Yes, prerecording was very time-consuming and had some limitations. On Tuesdays we held planning meetings via Zoom, and as Joey mentioned, recording took place on Thursdays. Friday was allotted for post-production and everything had to be uploaded to Facebook and YouTube on Saturday so it could air on Sunday morning. This meant that the pastors had to have their sermons completed early in the week and updates weren't possible once the recording was completed.”

Talks of livestreaming began in April of 2020, shortly after COVID emerged and shut down in-person worship. After receiving quotes and meeting with several professional installation companies, the choice to go with Armbruster AV was made over the course of several months. Due to a number of COVID-related supply chain issues, the installation was delayed and ultimately took place after Easter, requiring about five days to complete. Joey then made several practice runs, identified issues, and worked with Armbruster AV to address them.

The live feed planning was extensive, addressing a number of common parishioner concerns. “For example, to protect attendee privacy, the livestreamed children's sermon shows only the speaker and the children who join him or her up front,” says Guy. “Children seated in the congregation are not shown, giving parents the option to avoid having them included on the feed. Similarly, communion is not shown live.”

Joey notes that the livestreaming process is still a work in progress, “So far I am the only one who operates the livestream. I had the basics down in about two days but I'm still learning. I've begun training Guy and Paul Timmel,” he says. “And just as the pre-recorded services changed and evolved over time, expect our livestreaming services to also evolve, especially when we are allowed to sing in church again.”

“There are many advantages to livestreaming but I think the biggest benefit is that feels just like worshipping inside Salem. The pastors are getting their messages out in real time and people are worshipping together in real time. Viewers can watch and comment in live chat, as they were able to do with the recorded sermons. Even if it looks similar to the pre-recorded services, it's a much more powerful experience.”

Livestreaming facilitates Salem's ability to serve the homebound, elderly, infirmed, those who live afar, and others who may not be able to physically come to church. Engagement and a sense of community are also heightened with a live feed. Ask any sports fan, “Why not just TIVO the Super Bowl? You can always watch it later.” Watching a recorded game simply isn't the same as viewing it as it unfolds. Likewise, recorded church services aren't quite the same as knowing that you're joining with other congregants and friends as they too are worshipping.

Salem's various e-bulletins will include a link to join the livestream worship each week. They can also be found on Salem's Facebook and YouTube pages. And as was the previous process, weekly worship will be recorded and posted to the website for viewing at any time. We hope you'll plan to join us!



GOE FLOWERS AND FUN

The Guardians of Eden (GOE) has been busy this year with planning and planting.

In April, packets of seeds and word finds about the environment were sent home in Sunday School bags to over 40 children. A short explanation about GOE went with them. We hope children and families had a good time planting flowers and discovering vocabulary related to our work. Thanks go to Eileen Merriman and all volunteers who delivered the bags.

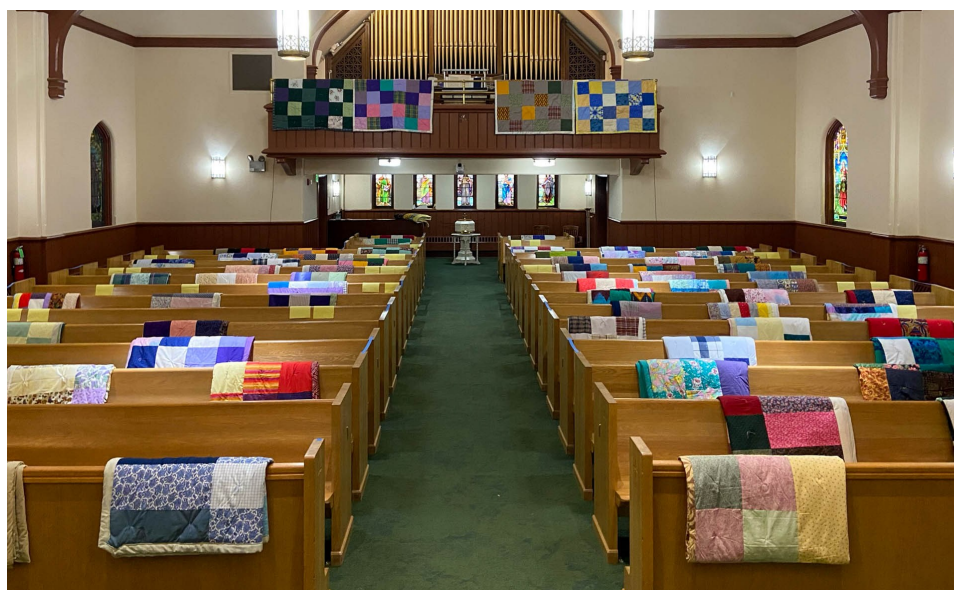
Our second project involved starting a berry and a pollinator garden on the south hillside of church property. The berry garden contains blueberry, raspberry and elderberry bushes to attract birds. Just below it is a pollinator garden with milkweed and butterfly weed plants to attract caterpillars and butterflies. Also planted was parsley to feed the caterpillars. Everything is mulched and surrounded by a cute little white fence.

Tim Medicus has contributed a gift from GOE. Green pocket pouches and notepads with pens can be found on the desk at the entrance to the sanctuary. Please take one or both. Thank you, Tim.

In the works is a plan for a memorial garden. Special thanks go to Sharon Stanton, Sharon Schuler, Santino, Len and Sirpa Johnson for their contributions and work.



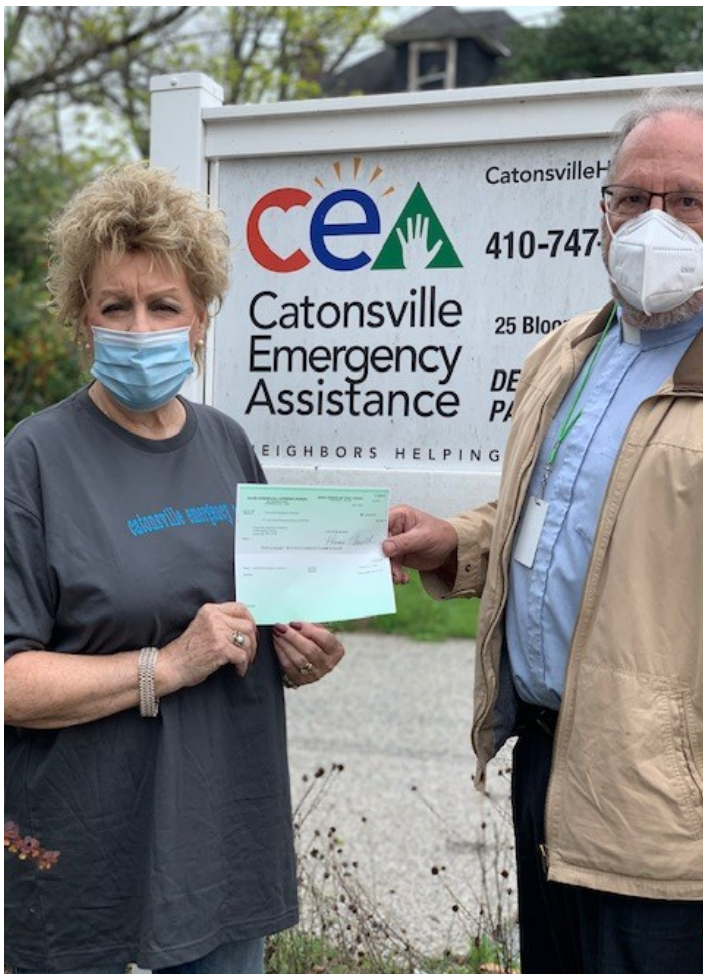
QUILT DEDICATION SUNDAY



SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE PROPOSAL

During our January Council meeting, Pastor Dave shared a proposal to expend \$200,000 of Salem's Seasonal Reserve Fund, which carried a \$275,000 balance at the beginning of 2021. These funds would be equally divided between the Catonsville Emergency Assistance {CEA} and the North Avenue Mission {NAM}. After some discussion at Council's February meeting, council members approved the gift of \$100,000 to be used by CEA in their search to acquire a new building along the Catonsville corridor. Council also approved the unrestricted donation of \$100,000 to the North Avenue Mission to continue Vicar Atticus' work there.

A letter to the congregation was prepared and mailed in February along with ballots for each voting Salem member that explained how we came to have this abundance of funds to expend, what other projects we have supported in past years, and where and why these two nonprofit organizations were decided upon as the recipients. Ballot returns were requested by March 26th and at the time, 233 ballots were received with 231 YES votes; 2 NO votes. Checks have now been forwarded to the Catonsville Emergency Assistance Director, Mrs. Bonnie Harry and to the North Avenue Mission via the Synod Offices in Philadelphia. Please note that the Delaware-Maryland Synod is the fiduciary agent for the North Avenue Mission which means the Synod handles all of their monies. If the North Avenue Mission were to close, the Synod would redirect our monies given to other congregations and missions doing similar work.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Eileen Merriman's "Takeout Sunday School" lessons and craft bags being prepared by Eileen and her daughter, Veronica each month since October 2020 ended with the May distribution. It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to connect with our younger Sunday school children and their families with Bible story lessons that followed along with the Church's Lectionary. Wonderful volunteers each month picked up the bags from Salem and delivered them to the children's homes.

I give a **"HUGE THANK YOU"** to Eileen as she has kept this project going through all these months, even as she has had to return to in-person school teaching herself. Also, many thanks to the volunteers who faithfully delivered the bags to our families at their homes each month. We are surely hoping to be able to come back to a normal Sunday school in person learning in the fall. Time will tell, as with all things. Sharon Stanton

DOWNSTAIRS RESTROOMS RENOVATIONS MOVES FORWARD

Duane Linsenhardt and Jim Kruger presented a proposal to renovate the downstairs restrooms in the Sunday school hallway. Duane and Jim contacted two local companies in the Catonsville area, Catonsville Professional Services {CPS} and Wall-to-Wall Plumbing. After meeting with representatives from each company and sharing what renovations needed to be completed, Catonsville Professional Services' proposal was presented to Council at their April meeting, with a cost of \$12,900, to be expended from RSVP. Prior to that meeting, each council member received a copy of the proposal for review. It was noted to Council that a representative from Wall-to-Wall, after asking what CPS' proposal was, indicated from previous experience they could not compete with the price proposal given Salem by CPS.

Jim shared with Council that he, as well as friends and some of his family members, have used CPS for in home repairs themselves and have been very satisfied with their work. By a majority vote, Council agreed to use CPS to complete the renovations and the next step in this process was a mailing to the voting members of the congregation for their acceptance/approval of this renovation. A letter along with ballots for each voting member to respond was mailed to homes with the request that ballots be returned by May 9th. Final vote was 201 YES/1 NO.

Jim Kruger next contacted Stacy Kahatapitiya {a Salem member}, who is the Director of Industrial Hygiene Services at Arc Environmental in Baltimore. As the bathrooms were last renovated in 1995, the need for lead testing had been eliminated, however, there was the asbestos concern. The Company tested for asbestos in the floor tile adhesive and test results were negative. Jim will be proceeding to contact and establish a start time with Catonsville Professional Services for the work.

SHOWCASE DISPLAYS

With Salem now "reopening" and being able to have more members attend services, showcase displays are being requested from anyone wishing to share their "collections". The displays usually are in for about 3 - 4 weeks and you would be able to do the display, if you are able, during the week when the church office is open between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Please note too, that the showcase does lock so your collections would be safe.

Thanks to Pastor Ed for sharing displays over the past several months. And thanks to Jim Kempton who has done a wonderful display about Mar-Lu-Ridge. It's a great place to go to camp for their summer sessions where they offer all kinds of activities. Unfortunately, again this year most of their summer camps have been cancelled {including our summer Confirmation Camp in July} because of COVID. Please contact Sharon Stanton, councilpresident@salem-catonsville.org or on 410-744-8724 if you would like to do a display. We'd love to see your collections!

BEING ANTI-RACIST

The Anti-racism team continues their ongoing work in understanding what being anti-racist means. On April 24th many of us participated in an online training called “Conscious Equity”. It was a very thought-provoking two-hour program that really helped us understand micro-aggressions and the long-term damage these actions have created over time. The future depends on our ability to make equity a conscious part of our lives as individuals and as a Church. We look forward to the next training on the subject of de-escalation.

The team meets monthly on the third Thursday evening on Zoom at 6:30pm. If you would like to participate, and are not currently on the email list, please let Pastor Sarah or Pastor Dave know.

Salem Anti-Racism team is participating in this Synod wide activity. Please consider buying and displaying one of these signs to support this important work. These signs are available for \$20 at the church office.



HISTORIC OLD SALEM NEWS

Unfortunately, we were not able to host any bus trips so far this year thanks to the pandemic restrictions. However, we opened our doors to a local photographer, David Schaible, who has used Old Salem previously in his line of work to photograph “A Victorian Wedding” on Monday, April 19th. The models were dressed in Victorian Wedding gowns and it was quite a lovely scene. Grass cutting/lawn care in the cemetery has begun again utilizing RKC, Inc., a landscape company based out of Sparks, Maryland. We have used this Company for many, many years as they continue to do an outstanding job cutting around all the tombstones in the cemetery. Flowers are blooming outside in the beds and it’s a wonderful site to see the flowers and green grass coming back.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

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



SALEM YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE NEXT STEPS IN A CHALLENGING YEAR

At a time when their education has been so much affected by the persistence of the pandemic, four young people have received Salem Scholarships for college study and one a Salem Educational Grant in support of technical training.

All four Salem Scholarships were conferred on Catonsville High School seniors. Marleigh Toscano has enrolled in Wagner College on N.Y.'s Staten Island, where she plans to major in Psychology and a Pre-Med program. She has served as a counselor for the Salem Drama Camp, as an active participant in Salem's youth group and LYO programs, and as a youth member of the Church Council. At school she also has demonstrated leadership as a cheer leader and as an officer in the National Honor Society.

Jacob Morgan is headed for George Mason University in Northern Virginia, which drew him because of its strong music program. During his high school years, he has pursued his music interest, providing leadership in the steel band and orchestra, as well as learning to master a variety of instruments. Salem has benefitted from his musical skills with performances at the Saturday evening services and the virtual Sunday morning shared services.

Sam Gundlach will attend Salisbury University where he intends to major in Environmental Science in keeping with his interest in outdoor field research. Active in Salem's youth group, he especially appreciated the opportunity to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. At school he earned membership in the English and Spanish Honors Society. Sam gained valuable work experience in a volunteer position at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

Olivia Shepherd plans to enter Philadelphia's Drexel University, known for its co-op program, with the goal of studying fashion merchandizing and design. She has been a participant at LYO events for three years, where she served as a small group leader. At Salem she has helped lead youth services and is known to many as a friendly usher on Sundays. At school she was elected to the National Honor Society and was involved in a leadership role in a several clubs. She has especially enjoyed playing on the tennis team, where she has been captain this year.

Receiving a Salem Educational Grant is Awel Mabil, a graduate of CHS, who has begun a 9-month technical program at nearby Cortiva Institute, which prepares trainees to serve as assistants with skin care specialists. At Salem, she has helped in the Summer Drama Camp and participated in the youth group, including attendance at LYO events.

Hats off to this year's Scholarship and Educational Grant awardees as they take these next steps in their education. And special thanks to the Scholarship Committee members who carefully reviewed the applications and conducted virtual interviews with this great group of applicants: Bethann Snyder, Sue Gdovin, Milt Dorsch, Janet Van Sant, and Jim Gundlach. Ed Orser, Chair.

The guarding of the God of life be upon me,
The guarding of loving Christ be upon me,
The guarding of the Holy Spirit be upon me,
Each step of the way,
To aid me and enfold me,
Each day and night of my life.

- Esther De Waal



FLOWER STEWARDS

Volunteers continue to deliver Altar Flowers each week to someone at home following the Sunday 11 a.m. worship service. Altar Guild members prepare the flowers for delivery placing them in the lobby window sill for pickup. If our assigned Flower Steward is not able to get the flowers on Sunday, they contact Robin who is just about always in the church office on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Stewards can call her to verify that they can pick up flowers on Monday. I thank everyone who has agreed to continue delivering the flowers and please remember to follow the guidelines for a safe delivery as we have indicated. **We need a new steward to deliver flowers on the second Sunday of January, April, July and October.** If you would be able to do the second Sunday as indicated above and/or serve as a substitute, please contact me at councilpresident@salem-catonsville.org or call me at home on 410-744-8724.

Thank you, Sharon Stanton,

CATONSVILLE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

This is a community project that benefits/supports Catonsville Emergency Assistance on Bloomsbury Avenue and the Grace AME Food Pantry, which is located on Winters Lane near Edmondson Avenue. On Friday evenings between 4 and 6 p.m., drive up and drop off of non-perishable food items will take place at the Catonsville Presbyterian Church on the following Fridays, May 7th, June 11th, July 9th, and August 13th. On Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, drive up and drop off of non-perishable food items will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall on the corner of Frederick Road and Beaumont Avenues {across the street from the Catonsville Library}. The Saturday morning dates are May 8th, June 12th, July 10th and August 14th. Volunteers are at each location to take your donations, verifying expiration dates and packing boxes. Volunteer drivers then on Saturday mornings at 11:45 pick up the boxes at the Knights of Columbus for delivery to CEA and/or Grace.

If you would be willing to help in any way, please contact Ellen Draper at ellengdraper@hotmail.com or 410-788-9415. Ellen is a member of St. Marks Parish and began the food collections in the early months of 2020 from a request by her Pastor to head the Social Justice Committee there. She began the Friday/Saturday food donation/delivery at the Knights of Columbus and Presbyterian Church in conjunction with Bonnie Harry at CEA. And it was off and rolling after that with other community churches, including Salem, joining in to help sponsor the food donations and deliveries to CEA and Grace AME food pantries.

God of all time,
God beyond and behind time,
may we know what is too late
and what is too soon.
May we always recognise
the right time
in the light of
your timeless love, Amen.
- Kate McIlhagga

SALEM PLEDGES

Salem Financial Secretary Beth Massey reports that 74 pledges to the General Fund for \$234,000 and 35 pledges to the RSVP fund for \$22,000. Thanks to all who made an estimate of giving for this year.

SPECIAL BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Zoom for a special Monday Bible study on June 7th at 7:30pm. Our guest presenter will be Rev. Ted Engelbrecht, a pastor and professor of comparative religions, who will be leading a discussion on the differences between monistic and monotheistic religions. The Zoom link is forthcoming.

STITCHCRAFTERS HELPING SEAFARERS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. . .well, maybe not quite yet, but the Salem Stitchcrafters are diligently working to complete 250 hats and scarves for this year's "Christmas at Sea" project for Seafarers. With approximately four months until our October deadline, we've topped 100 sets and are nearly halfway to our goal.

Providing extra incentive this year is a recently published article in "The Washington Post" entitled "Essential, invisible: Covid has 200,000 merchant sailors stuck at sea." The life of a Seafarer, even in non-pandemic times, is risky and demanding, typically in months-on, months-off rotations. But with the prohibition of shore leaves, some workers, both men and women, have been at sea for 20 months straight, resulting in what is being called a "humanitarian emergency."

"American mariners make up just a fraction of the 1.7 million worldwide who move about 11 billion tons of goods by ship each year," the article noted, as 90 percent of the world's goods are transported by water. Almost everything in our homes was once on ship.

Even now, many Seafarers remain unvaccinated, not by choice; illness onboard a ship spreads "like wildfire." Complicating this is the fact that there is no backup for many of the workers: What happens if the cook gets sick? Not surprisingly, suicides are on the rise. Cora DiDomenico, a chaplain with the Seamen's Church Institute (sponsor of "Christmas at Sea" since 1898) reported that she has recently seen more "depression, anxiety, and isolation" than ever before.

Pretty sobering.

Vaccinated, masked, and socially distanced, the Stitchcrafters have segued into "hybrid" mode, with "roomies" and "zoomies" meeting every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. We welcome members of the community to join us, either at Salem or from home. And we'd love to have you help us reach (or surpass) our goal by making a hat and/or scarf. We have patterns, knitting needles and crochet hooks, and yarn to share. All that's missing is your hands.

All the while, we continue to make preemie hats and chemo hats, layette sweaters and lap robes. And it's great to see each other's eyes again!

For our Zoom link, or to request supplies, contact Barbara Beem at (410) 382-4379, or barbarambeem@gmail.com (please note middle initial "m").

To read the article in its entirety, go to <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/04/09/maritime-workers-pandemic-global-trade/>

SALEM'S GENEROSITY: OUR 2020 FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS TO CEA

Catonsville Emergency Assistance reports that our congregation donated 1,487 pounds of food in 2020. Our generosity in concert with the Catonsville community is assuring that those experiencing food insecurity are receiving assistance. Food donations can be placed in the brown wicker basket in the narthex. Thanks to all who are contributing!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE CATONSVILLE COMMUNITY

The Lazarus Caucus is a group of Christians, representing various congregations in the community, that supports the Westside Men's Shelter in Catonsville. The Board of the Lazarus Caucus is in need of new members. They meet monthly on Zoom and when they return to in person meetings will meet here at Salem. If you are interested in serving please see Pastor Dave.

SALEM WALKING GROUP

Walk, Talk, Have Fun

Join the Salem Walking Group on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 AM. We meet at 401 Montrose Avenue in Catonsville. For information on the Thursday walk, contact Lynda Bell. **Everyone** is welcome. The only requirement is to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19, and a desire to get some exercise and enjoy fellowship. For more information, call Lynda Bell at 410-314-1706.

We would love to have you join this fun group and improve your health.



THE MEAT MADNESS @ CHEF PAOLINO'S NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Unfortunately, due to the significant increases in the cost of meat and produce, the community donations for the initial Meat Madness has run out of funds. Each week from March through May of 2021, Chef Paolino's and volunteers provided sliced meats, cheeses, produce and other items to the Westside Shelter and My Brother's Keeper from your monetary donations. As these organizations help members of our community, they would like to continue the food support throughout the summer. So a new campaign for funding is beginning again to extend the food donations throughout the summer months. The need is great, as the costs of food/produce is rising and it requires several hundred dollars per week to cover the cost of the items.

The campaign is again organized through Ellen Draper's leadership. She indicates that this may be the last pandemic-related casserole/meat campaign that the partnership will run, but hopefully, not be the last time our community comes together to engage in social outreach to our local organizations. Ellen extends her sincerest thanks to all the churches/community groups involved:

Catonsville Presbyterian, Salem Lutheran, Catonsville United Methodist, Christian Temple, Grace AME, St. Mark Parish, New Hope Community, and Knights of Columbus Patapsco Council No. 1960. She also sends a special "Thank You" to Lorian Hughes and her fantastic group of volunteers at the Catonsville Methodist Church who sliced and packaged the meats and cheeses each week, as well as the volunteer drivers and back up drivers: Bruce Kummer, Josie Rubin, Sharon Stanton, Nancy and Bill Henderson, Charre Symms, Patti Palattella, Maureen Wieland, Jane Burton, and Mike and Dorothy Hilditch.

Here is how the summer edition of "The Meat Madness" will proceed. Please send a \$20 check payable to Chef Paolino @ Chef Paolino Café, 726 Frederick Road, Catonsville MD 21228. Indicate "Meat Madness" in the memo line of your check. **NOTE:** Checks are the only form of payment accepted. Then Chef Paolino's purchases ham, turkey, roast beef, and cheeses that will be sliced by the Methodist Church volunteers and delivered to the Westside Men's Shelter and My Brother's Keeper by driver volunteers. ***Donations for this summer campaign will be accepted through August 31, 2021.***

Ellen thanks everyone in advance, not only for advertising the Summer Edition of Meat Madness, but also for your generous support of this endeavor to assist those in need in our community.

LENTEN PROJECT A HUGE SUCCESS!

Salem's Lenten project this year focused on Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. I had no idea how many we'd complete, but I'm thrilled to report that we completed 140! Thank you so very much for embracing this project and lovingly providing supplies that will change the lives of 140 of our neighbors around the world. My heart overflows with gratitude!

In Honduras, Sabina Sevilla's grandchildren receive an LWR Personal Care Kit. Even in this isolated community, sitting in the peaks of a once-volcanic mountain range in Honduras, south of Tegucigalpa, the threat of COVID-19 is high. The virus has rampaged through even the most isolated communities like this one. An LWR Personal Care Kit helps to keep Sabina and her grandchildren safe. Sabina says just the thought of having the kit brings her comfort. "It means so much to have this," she says. "Just look at how it makes my grandchildren smile."



Your compassion will help make others smile too. Countries in the pipeline to receive LWR Personal Care Kits are Burkina Faso, Syria, Serbia, Georgia, Angola and Bosnia. Salem's kits will likely be in one of those shipments, bringing much joy and relief to those who receive them.

Salem's partnership with LWR and your commitment to serving others is truly a gift to the world. I am genuinely thankful to be part of a church community that so brilliantly shines God's light and love in the world.

With Love and Gratitude,
Vicky

Whetstone

CHURCH COUNCIL – APRIL AND MAY MEETINGS

- At the April meeting, the Council received the quarterly Treasurer's Report. Income and expenses are in line with each other.
- Committee reports were submitted by Technology, Communications and Evangelism
- Jim Kruger and Duane Linsenhardt presented a proposal to spend \$12,900 to have the downstairs restrooms renovated by Catonsville Professional Services. It was approved unanimously by the Council. The congregation will be asked to authorize the expenditure. *(The congregation approved 212-1.)*
- At the May meeting, Anita Lane, Salem's Director of Youth Ministry, presented a plan to the Church Council to improve the Youth program by seeking to provide more opportunities for the Youth to be involved in the ongoing life of the congregation as well as looking towards doing Mission Trips beginning in 2023. Next year the Youth will be attending the ECLA National Youth Gathering.
- Committee reports were submitted by Scholarship and Property.
- Work continues on planning for a renovation of Reformation Hall.
- Pastor Whetstone's 50th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration will be held on Sunday, November 14 at 4 pm with a potluck supper following. A committee has been formed and is planning the event.

AROUND THE PARISH

- Congratulations and God's Blessings on the birth of Nora Marie D'Avella, daughter of Dan and Emily D'Avella, and little sister to Owen.

CONFIRMATION THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

Although the pandemic has shifted the way we do Confirmation class, faith formation has continued for Salem's 7th and 8th grade confirmands. Confirmation is a two year program at Salem which is typically (though not always) begun in 7th grade and completed at the end of 8th grade. We meet one Sunday evening a month from September - May and in non-pandemic times, the confirmands also attend Confirmation Camp at Mar-Lu-Ridge as well as synod events like FreeRide and Transformers.

The purpose of Confirmation is for youth to affirm the promises that were made on their behalf at their baptisms. In other words, this is a time for confirmands to dig into their faith and accept it as their own, rather than simply going through the motions. Parents may find that Salem's Confirmation program is a bit different from their own confirmation experiences of the past. As a pastor, I am less interested in our young people being able to memorize creeds or the small catechism and more interested in how they find connections between their faith and their everyday lives. For example: *What does it mean to believe that I am a beloved child of God? How does my life reflect my belief that God's grace is for everyone? What do our thousands of years old Scriptures have to say about my lived experience here and now? How do I live in the tension of being imperfect yet loved and forgiven by God? Why the heck do we talk about eating and drinking the body and blood of Jesus??*

These are some of the questions we engage with in our time together.

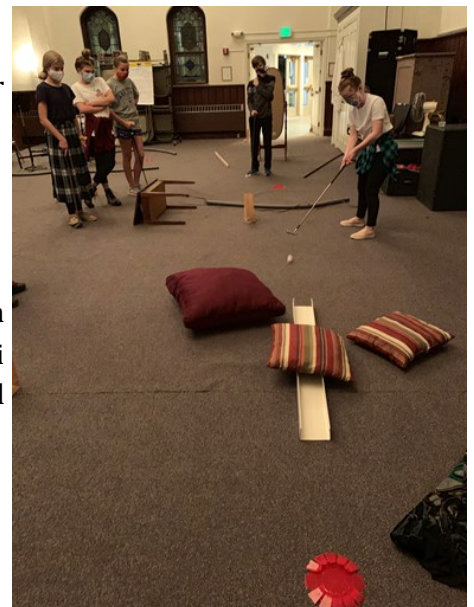
During the 2020-2021 confirmation year, our class of 10 confirmands met mostly over Zoom, with two in person meetings at the beginning and end of the year. It was a difficult year, but our confirmands continued to show up and engage despite the challenges. We look forward to the Fall when our 7 second year students will have the opportunity to affirm their baptismal promises and be "confirmed" during Salem's worship. I am so proud of these confirmands and the spiritual growth they have displayed. The future of the church is bright!

If you have a rising 7th or 8th grader who is interested in joining our confirmation class in the Fall of 2021, please email me at pastorsarah@saalem-catonville.org. I am hopeful that our in person classes will resume as normal and that camps and synod events will be available to them in the coming year as the pandemic subsides.



Confirmands lead the group in prayer during a worship service they led.

Confirmands play "Putt Putt through the Promises," where they played mini golf made up of obstacles that related to their baptismal promises.



ORDER YOUR FAIR TRADE TEA AND CHOCOLATE HERE!

There's plenty of time for your Easter orders!

Please email me to order from our gourmet inventory of tea and chocolate. I will fill your order within a day or three, let you know it's ready, and leave it in the church office. You may leave a check or cash at the office when you pick up your order.

Note that we are not stocking coffees at present, as sales are slow with our altered worship patterns and coffee reaches its "best by ____" date so much sooner than tea or chocolate.

My email address is ***edward-victoria@verizon.net***.

We have the flowing flavors available:

Large Chocolate Bars- \$3

White Chocolate & Strawberries
 Dark Chocolate & Lemon & Ginger
 Dark Chocolate with Caramel
 Dark Chocolate & Almond Crunch
 Dark Chocolate & Pink Himalayan Salt
 Dark Chocolate & Mint Crisp
 Dark Chocolate, Hazelnut Truffle
 Dark Chocolate & Gingerbread Crisp
 Dark Chocolate & Toffee, Sea Salt
 Dark Chocolate & Raspberries
 85% Very Dark Chocolate

Tea- \$3

Black Tea
 Chamomile
 English Breakfast
 English Breakfast Decaf
 Earl Grey
 Green Tea
 Jasmine Green
 Rooibos Chai
 Vanilla Rooibos



As you surely know, the effect of the global pandemic has been much more devastating in developing countries than for the rest of the world. Your support now makes a greater difference than ever to small scale farmers, like the tea and cocoa farmers pictured here. The whole village will benefit. I'll be glad to hear from you!

Pastor Whetstone

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 throughout the building.

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-catonsville.org.

OFFICIAL ACTS

AT THE GRAVE

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

Jadie Sinclair

04/09/2021*

Dorothy M. McCadams

05/10/2021*

**not a Salem member*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS! VOUCHERS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Salem vouchers for reimbursement for expenses are now available on Salem's website www.salem-catonsville.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!

ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR MAY 2021

	Saturday Evening	Sunday Service		Other	Specify	Weekly* Total
		First	Second			
May 1&2	6	19	44	108	Online	177
May 8&9	14	26	39	133	Online	212
May 15& 16	13	25	44	102	Online	184
May 22 & 23	14	34	50	86	Online	184
TOTALS	47	104	177	429	Online	757

*Week reflects Saturday through Friday

Salem Youth Group Mulch Sale 2021 Order Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE (Sat. Morning) _____

Please indicate number of bags below

Regular Hard-wood shred-ded 2 cu. ft.	\$4.00 per bag when ordering 1-15 bags delivered	\$3.75 per bag When ordering 16 or more deliv- ered	\$3.50 per bag if picked up
Number ordered			
Black colored hardwood shredded 2 cu.ft.	\$4.50 per bag when ordering 1-15 bags delivered	\$4.25 per bag When ordering 16 or more deliv- ered	\$4.00 per bag if picked up
Number ordered			

Choose Delivery Date: Saturday April 10th _____ Saturday April 17th _____

_____ Check here to request spreading services. Will call to discuss details and charges.

Please write any delivery instructions on back of form

To be completed by office

Total due	deposit	Balance due	Date Delivered	Date paid

There is still some mulch available; contact Anita Lane at phrogdiva@verizon.net for quantities.



Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry

Dear Salem Lutheran Church,



Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,200.00 that you made on 3/23/2021. Your donation allows us to do the joyful and important work of witnessing to the love and hope of Jesus on our campuses.

God keeps showing up and so do our students! Thank you for being partners with us in the work of the gospel.

In Christ,

Pastor Laura
Pastor Laura Sinche

Thank you, Salem!

Dear Salem Family, Thank You! Thank You!

I can't thank you ALL enough for everything you have done for me during this very trying time. As most of you know, it's hard for me to NOT be busy.

Thank you Pastor Dave (and Nancy, too!) for the communion, news of the church, phone calls and prayers.

Thank you Pastor Sarah for the prayers and "hugs"; yes, we can hug now, and I need lots of hugs.

Thank you Pastor Ed and Vicky for the meal, visit, and our praying together.

A most grateful thank you for the wonderful meals, You were very generous. I know without a doubt that these many cards, notes, phone calls, visits and prayers helped to carry me through, You have been most kind and generous.

And I must thank my granddaughter, Katie, for all she does for me. She has definitely been my "right hand".

Finally, but also very important, many thanks to all who have helped with the Altar Guild including Robin—thank you for the books and cheerful chats.

I could go on and on with gratitude but I must leave space for others. I'm looking forward to getting back into things as therapy progresses.

God Bless you All!! Mary Krebs



Dear Church,

On behalf of Catonsville Emergency Assistance and our Board,



I want to profoundly thank all of you for your vote of loving support and confidence in CEA. Though COVID-19 has brought enormous challenges for serving our neighbors, we have continued to serve and consistently deliver our services. We have realized that the address at 25 Bloomsbury Avenue has exceeded its limits. We have no room to expand work areas, and no opportunities to expand our food storage. For several years we have continued to deliver our services and utilize our existing space while we have continued to grow. Your gift, designated for a new building will help us to move forward and optimize our ability for continued growth. This gift of \$100,000 shows our ability to grow in grace and serve together. Unity of heart and our actions demonstrate a collective desire for us to serve our neighbors together. Thank you for gifting us, thank you for sharing with us, and thank you for the loving support you continue to bring consistently to CEA.

With profound gratitude and on behalf of the CEA Board,

Bonnie J.

Bonnie J. Harry, RN

Executive Director

Catonsville Emergency Assistance

*Dear Salem Family,
Thank for all your
prayers, cards, phone calls
and visits. Your well
wishes mean a lot to me
as I recovery from heart
surgery. I still have a
way to go, but I'm on the
road to a full recovery.
Blessings
Mel Trumble*

Dear Members of Salem Lutheran Church,

Jesus reminds us that when we feed the hungry, we are feeding him, and serving him. Praise God for the many churches in our synod who contributed to the ELCA World Hunger Program in 2020. Together we contributed \$ 283,139.

Thank you specifically to your congregation for helping to feed Christ and God's people throughout the world through this ministry. God is honored and blessed when you/we do so. Your generosity is a blessing to others!

Feel free to contact us for any further support and partnership. Note there are many ELCA World Hunger educational materials, videos, and information to share with your congregation about what they are and have been supporting, at www.ELCA.org/hunger.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Jean Warren

Deaconess Jean Warren
DE/MD Synod Hunger Task Force



Dear Pastor Dave,

It is difficult to find the words to tell you how grateful I and the North Ave. Mission community are for you, and all the people of Salem. We would not have the opportunity to serve God so powerfully without you, and we cherish your giving hearts. I am writing to share our deepest thanks for uplifting NAM when we most needed God to make a way where there was no way.

Thank you for noticing the Holy Spirit at work on North Ave, and for doing so much to add to her labor! I believe deeply that this gift from Salem will make the difference between our ability to go on sharing God's good news and failing to thrive. As you know, the first year has been tremendously exhausting not just on me, but the whole team. Having the ability to bring someone on, the person God provides, to help share our load, will make all the difference, and we are so very grateful.

Red Shed Villagers continue to stay safe from COVID-19; some have moved on to stable housing and others are employed. Farm to Stoop Free Market continues and flourishes. Family Life at the Ynot Lot is growing, with social workers from Power Inside and harm reduction workers from Bmore Power present for community. Neighbors are fed – literally and spiritually.

Your belief in this mission, your tangible support, your presence and prayers, and your encouragement and wisdom have meant so very much.

You and all at Salem are in our daily prayers.

Wells of gratitude,



Thank you, Pastor Dave!
May God bless you mightily!
To God be the glory, AB

Atticus Zavaletta (he/they)

Dear Salem Members,
The gift of the Easter Lily
was such a thoughtful re-
membrance of such a sacred
season. Two blossoms were
already in bloom and then two
more opened in a day or so!
Thank you all for a lovely
Plant. Blessings to all.
Betty (Ruff)



Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your organization's recent gift of \$10,414.72 to Lutheran World Relief! When you love your neighbors with your generous gifts to LWR, you change lives in amazing ways.

We'd love to show you more examples of your gift in action. Please visit www.lwr.org and sign up to receive the latest updates. If you have any questions, please contact us at 800.597.5972 or lwr@lwr.org.

Thank you again, and God bless you!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Speckhard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Speckhard".

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (ret.)
President and CEO

April 17, 2021

Dear Church,

The past year has been a whirlwind for everyone. All of our everyday stresses were compounded by the heavy weight of a pandemic and made coping with regular life more than difficult. Some of us have had to endure additional pain on top of that. Throughout this year, you, church, have stayed by us, prayed for us, and continually offered your support and love as we learned my father was diagnosed with lung cancer. When you couldn't give us hugs, you gave us thoughtful cards, calls, and texts to let us know that we were never alone. Throughout his many stages of treatment, you continually prayed for comfort for him and for us. And when he

passed, the outpouring of cards, flowers, meals, and support was overwhelming. Never have we felt so cared for in these times, and never have we been more grateful to be a part of this giant loving family. We are overwhelmed by your generosity, support, and love, and we eternally thank you, church for everything you have done. Not just during these incredibly difficult times but for the entirety of our journey with you. We look forward to more years to spend with you, more hugs, and the opportunity to try to repay or pay-forward your kindness.

With Love and Gratitude

The Morgan Family -
Joey & Tricia
Charlie, Jack, and Anna

And Samantha Schnurer, Cadence & Luna



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

**THANK
YOU**

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$2,123.60 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people near and far feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

In Christ,

Robin K Brown

The Rev. Robin Brown
Director, Mission Funding, Congregations

*Easter time
and thinking of you –
some things just go
together!*



**THANK
YOU**

Enjoy the Season

*AND
WITH MANY THANKS FOR YOUR
KINDNESS SENDING THE CHURCH FLOWERS
TO ME FOR THIS EASTER SEASON
YOU ARE SPECIAL PEOPLE* *Rolle Williams*



Congratulations Grads!

THE COMMUNITY OF ST. DYSMAS

I was in Prison ➤ You Came To Visit Me

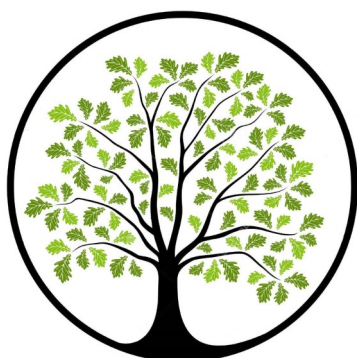


Dear Sisters and Brothers,

"Alleluia! Christ is risen!" These words are heard during the Easter season whether worship is in person or online. As we carefully return to a more "normal" life, it feels a lot like resurrection. One of the last places where this will be felt is in the prison system. Thank you so much for your support! It helps us keep our mail ministry going. In addition to our members, we are reaching others who have asked to be added to our mailing list. In spite of the circumstances, the Holy Spirit is at work. Thanks again for your help!

In the name of the risen Christ,

The Community of St. Dysmas



May the little we can offer,
that mustard seed of faith
become, through you,
a tree that can endure
life's storms, stand firm,
and in due course
begin to blossom
and bear fruit.

John Birch

PARISH LEADERS

Altar Guild: Mary Krebs
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Arts Committee: Charlotte Brooks
Book Group: Guy Davis, Linda Wayland
Child Protection Committee: Linda Fleischer
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Mutual Ministry (Pastor Garrett Krey): Lisa Yerkey
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Committee: Lisa Yerkey, Steve Kopp
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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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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NEXT MONARCH PUBLICATION

July?? 2021

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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