



THE MONARCH

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S AT SALEM

Sunday School Christmas Pageant, Sunday December 18

9:30 am in Reformation Hall – Everyone Welcome!

Worship on December 24 Christmas Eve

2 pm, 5 pm Family & Children Themed

7:30 pm and 10 pm All services with Holy Communion

Worship on December 25 Christmas Day

10 am Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion and Children's Message

Worship on December 31 New Year's Eve

5 pm Contemporary Service with Holy Communion

Worship on January 1 New Year's Day

10 am Traditional Service with Sermon and Holy Communion and Children's Message



MONARCH ON-LINE

Salem's Monarch is available on-line at www.salem-catonsville.org. If you would like notification that a new issue has been posted or would like a Monarch (PDF form) emailed to you, please contact Guy Davis at guyddavisphd@gmail.com.

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SALEM MARKETPLACE SETS ANOTHER RECORD

This year's Salem Marketplace was another huge success and the three charities designated this year (The Rainforest Trust, the Baltimore Outreach Center, and the Southern Poverty Law Center) benefited greatly. We set a new record of \$9681.49 mostly due to an increase from the Silent Auction and the return of lunch thanks to the creativity of Charlie Dell. It seemed like we also had record attendance, so thanks to everyone who came to shop, brought along friends and neighbors, and helped spread the word.

None of it happened easily and special thanks are needed for the many people who made it possible:

- Silent Auction led by Pat and Tim Jennings and Dee and Mel Trimble
- White Elephant led by Carolyn Vasold with help from Edie Hahn, Sue O'Connor, Mary Kay Willing, Beth Rodgers, Debbie Brohawn, Mary Krebs, Robin Schaefer, Megan Simmons (and friends), Stephanie Arnold, Mike Miller, Tom Vasold, and Dave Trump
- Luncheon led by Charlie Dell with help from his amazing kitchen crew and food donations from these Frederick Road restaurants
 - ◆ Franco's Italian Bistro Catonsville
 - ◆ The Beaumont
 - ◆ El Guapo
 - ◆ IAMP'S at Jennings Café
 - ◆ Ships Café
- Books led by Karen Amy with help from Judy Le Gath, Shelley and Ken Wolfram, Sally and Steve Kopp, Mary Ann and Earl Ruley, Beth Rodgers, Julie and Jim Kempton, Mary Carroll-Mason, Nick Mason, Guy Davis, Norma Hensler-Davis, Sue O'Connor, Pastor Dave, Ed Whetstone, and Walt Fleischer
- Jewelry led by Treen Null with help from Dottie Bobart
- Baked Goods led by Mary Krebs
- Fair Trade with Julie and Jim Kempton
- Craft tables with Julia Graham, Patricia and Anna Morgan (and One of a Kind Design)
- Garden of Eden Raffle with Norma Hensler-Davis
- Publicity by Norma Hensler-Davis
- Penne, Ray and Gary Giuliani as Keepers of the Treasury

And many thanks to those who helped with set-up and putting away tables (in addition to many folks already mentioned above): Pete Salmon, Sue Gdovin, Duane Linsenbardt, and Brendan Graham. If we have forgotten anyone, we apologize!

And many thanks to Robin Schaefer for keeping things sorted out and on track before, during and afterwards!!

THANK YOU ALL for your help in making this event such a success!

Julia Graham and Karen Amy, Co-Chairs

PS - There was a Reimagining Marketplace meeting on Tuesday evening, December 6th. Look for new ideas at next year's Marketplace!



ADULT FORUM – DECEMBER

This Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child, Pastor Carolyn invites you to a four week series of contemplation and discussion of the Christian mystical tradition. If you are Wondering—“What is a mystic?” or “We have a tradition of mystics?” or “I’ve wondered about meditation, but is that Christian?” or “What does any of this have to do with Advent?”—good news! This forum is perfect for you!

Each Sunday, we will be learning about a mystic and their contribution to Christian thought in light of each week’s Advent theme. Half of our time will be spent in discussion, and the other half will be dedicated to a prayer practice inspired by the mystic of the week.

Week One: November 27, A Living Hope with Mechthild of Magdeburg—Prayer Practice: The Thousand Names of Jesus.

We will be introduced to Christian mystical theology and its history within the Christian tradition. Our first mystic will come from the Rhineland tradition and was the first woman to write in vernacular German. We will read excerpts of Mechthild’s love poetry to God. Our prayer practice comes from Anthony de Mello. Father de Mello is an Indian Jesuit priest who incorporates his Eastern spirituality with his Catholic prayer practices. We will be using a meditation from his meditation guide *Sadhana*. As our first week of Advent’s theme is Hope, we will wonder together our hopes both as an individual and as a part of Salem.

Week Two: December 4, A Peace that Passes Understanding with Julian of Norwich—Prayer Practice: Lectio Divina

We will discuss Julian of Norwich, an English mystic with her startling yet beautiful visions of Jesus’ love poured out on the Cross. With Julian, we examine the redemptive work of love on the Cross in a new light. Our prayer practice will be the ancient way of encountering holy texts called lectio divina. As our second week of Advent is Peace, we will ponder what Christ’s peace means in a world that is so often fraught with conflict and violence.

Week Three: December 11, A Joy-Bearing Grief with St. Symeon the New Theologian—Prayer Practice: The Jesus Prayer

For week three, we turn to our Eastern Orthodox siblings in Christ as we learn about St. Symeon the New Theologian. We will discuss the role of experience in our faith and how we come to understand the Divine. Our prayer practice will come from a tradition partially inspired by St. Symeon that is still deeply influential in the Orthodox church today: the Jesus Prayer. As our third week of Advent is Joy, we will delve into St. Symeon’s curious theology of weeping and the role of joy in repenting from sins.

Week Four: December 18, A Mother’s Love with Julian of Norwich and Meister Eckhart—Prayer Practice: Centering Prayer

As Advent closes, we return to Julian of Norwich and reflect on her vision of Jesus as our Mother. With Meister Eckhart, a sometimes scandalous Dominican preacher, we will ponder what the Christmas season means for us the rest of the year, and how we might keep the Christ child’s birth within our souls. We will close with Centering Prayer, a recent prayer movement in Christianity with roots in medieval mystical writing. For our final Advent theme of Love, we will rejoice in God’s motherly love and seek that Divine Love that is the root of our being.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, November 20th – The children learned about Advent and waiting for the birth of Jesus. The children participated in three exciting activities. They made and decorated their Advent wreath, they made a candle and in honor of Thanksgiving, they each made a thankful pumpkin.

Sunday, December 4th and Sunday, December 11th – Sunday School Christmas Pageant rehearsal and crafts

Sunday, December 18th – Sunday School Christmas Pageant - This year the Sunday school students will participate in a simple pageant during the Sunday school hour beginning at 9:30 am on December 18th.

Everyone, even if you do not have Sunday school age children, are invited to gather with us in Reformation Hall and enjoy the Christmas story as told by the children. We will not be doing a formal pageant at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service this year. However, Pastor Carolyn is planning a special service for that evening.

Please note: There will be no Sunday school classes on Christmas Day. One worship service will be held at 10 am. Please enjoy the holiday together with your family and friends.

And then again on **New Year's Day – January 1st, 2023** – No Sunday school class.

We'll look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, January 8th at 9:30 am in Bethany Hall.

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND BLESSED HOLIDAY CELEBRATING CHRIST'S BIRTH!



CHRISTMAS OR XMAS ?

I first wrote this in 1996 for a church newsletter, and reposted it in later church newsletters. A couple years ago I posted it on Facebook, and many shared it - and they are posting it again, so I thought I would, too. There are often complaints about the word "Xmas." "They've taken Christ out of Christmas," decry some. Christ may have been replaced by commercialism in the celebration of this Festival season, but that isn't where the "X" comes from.

The word "Christ" in Greek looks like this: ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (pronounced "christos"). The first letter is an "X," but it isn't an "ex" as in our alphabet, but a "chi" (rhymes with "sky") in the Greek alphabet. This letter has a "ch" sound – like in the word "Christ."

While the second letter looks like a P (pee), in Greek it is a Rho and sounds like the English "R".

The "chi rho" is common Christian symbol that uses the first two letters from ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ. Because of the shape of the letters, the symbol is often mistaken for a "PX". A chi-rho symbol is one of the oldest Christian symbols. There's probably one in your congregation.

Spelling the holiday "Xmas" doesn't necessarily take Christ out of the holiday; neither does spelling the word "Christmas" put Christ into the holiday.

Brian Stoffregen

YOUTH GROUP

Friday, December 9th – youth gathering in the hall for fun/games/snacks/and planning events.

Sunday, December 11th – Souper Sunday – help support our Youth planning to attend the next Synod wide conference. Several varieties of soup will be available for purchase in the church foyer. Stop by and purchase some to have for lunch later in the day.

AROUND THE PARISH

- Congratulations to Katie Leisher for completing her first marathon in Philadelphia on Sunday, November 20. She finished the course in 3 ½ hours.
- Abby Timmel is pursuing a PhD in physics at MIT.
- Pastor Asendorf was elected as Vice-President of the CEA Board.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved the 2023 Salem Budget put together by the Finance Committee. Congregation will vote to enact at the 12/10-11 Congregational Meeting.
- Voted to tithe 10% of a recent bequest from David Douthat to the Baltimore Outreach Services. The amount is \$120.

FAIR TRADE IN DECEMBER TWO GIFTS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE !!

Be watching in the narthex for the Fair Trade Cart. Several weeks in December it will be available before and after our weekly services. Very fine coffees, teas, hot chocolate and chocolate bars will be for sale at very reasonable prices.

What's more, we will be offering *two gifts for the price of one*! The first is a gift for some chocolate, tea or coffee lover on your Christmas list. (And maybe for you, too!) Regular and decaf coffees cost \$7, boxes of tea \$3, cans of hot chocolate \$5 and chocolate bars \$3. Various flavors are available.



But *in addition*, buy a bar of chocolate, box of tea or a bag of coffee and you will also be giving the gift of respect, fairness and an honest wage to small scale

farmers, their families and communities in developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America. Customary trade too often only provides income enough for a family's most basic needs of food and shelter. But your fair trade purchase makes possible schools, wells, and medical clinics, which lift villages above poverty and survival.

The best news is that this special deal is available every month of the year. If you've not tried our products, perhaps this will be the year that you do.

Should you miss the cart and need resupply, please email Ed Whetstone at edward-victoria@verizon.net, and I will arrange to have it ready for you.

Discerning eyes and hearts this Christmas may even be able to see faithful workers wending their way to manger with cocoa beans, tea leaves and coffee beans.



HISTORIC OLD SALEM NEWS

An All Saints Service was celebrated at Old Salem on Sunday, November 6th at 2 pm led by Pastor Dave and Pastor Carolyn, who preached the sermon that afternoon. Robin Schaefer played the 1860 hand pumped bellows organ to accompany our singing of the hymns. Vince Happel who was visiting from Florida sang the Lord's Prayer as part of the worship. And thank you to Rusty Schaefer who pumped the organ, which is a requirement for being able to hear the beautiful sound of the organ, for Robin.

Several December events have been planned. First the American Music Theater all day bus trip on Friday, December 2nd to see their wonderful "Home for the Holidays" Christmas show with lunch

beforehand at Hershey Farms. For those who have made reservations and are planning to attend, we'll depart at 9:30 am from the Southwest Park & Ride Lot on South Rolling Road where it intersects with Rt 195 heading to the airport. We'll return by about 7 pm.

And back by popular demand, an Old-Fashioned Christmas Open House at Old Salem on Saturday, December 10th from 11 am to 1 pm. Christmas music and refreshments along with a very special visit from one of our favorite people from way up North to meet and greet young and old alike.

Coming on Thursday, April 27, 2023, a bus trip to see "Moses" at the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster with a family style lunch before the show at Hershey Farms. Thirty-six seats have been reserved for this trip. Cost is \$130 pp inclusive which is due by March 27, 2023. "From the banks of the Nile River to the depths of the Red Sea, Moses is a spectacular entertainment experience for the whole family." If interested in attending, please let Sharon Stanton know to hold a place for you.

And last but not least, planning for another Outdoor Yard Sale in Salem's parking lot on Saturday, May 6th from 8 am to noon with a rain date of Saturday, May 13th. Vendors requested at \$15 per table space {provided by you} but Old Salem is NOT COLLECTING WHITE ELEPHANTS. If you want to contribute items, you are encouraged to come join the fun and host your own table. More details to follow.

OCTOBER 2022

General Fund

Receipts to Date	\$443,827.44
Expenses to Date	\$450,289.50
Difference	-\$6,462.06
 Budget to Date	 \$498,800.00

R.S.V.P

Receipts to Date	\$29,897.21
Disbursement to Date	-\$29,204.00
Difference	\$693.21



Historical Old Salem decorated for the Christmas Open House

SALEM'S CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Dec 24

- 2 pm Traditional Christmas Hymns in a Contemporary style
5 pm Family and Children's Service and St. David's Choir
7:30 pm Salem Ringers
10 pm Salem Senior Choir

Christmas Day, Dec 25

- 10 am Service of Lessons and Carols (no sermon)

New Year's Day, Jan 1

- 10 am First Sunday of Christmas

There will be no Sunday School, Confirmation Class or Adult Forum on Christmas Day and New Year's Day

COOKIE KINDNESS IS BACK!

What is it? It's an event where people buy homemade cookies to benefit Lutheran World Relief.

When is it? **Sunday, December 18** between services and after the late service (if we still have cookies)

How does it work? First, we need people to bake cookies, so please sign up on the poster in the narthex - or just bring cookies that morning. Second, everyone is invited to Reformation Hall, where we'll provide you with a bag(s) to fill. Then you choose which cookies you want to put in your bag.

How much are the cookies? Cookies are \$3 for a small bag and \$5 for a large bag.

Questions? Please contact Sandy McNair at smcnair100@gmail.com or Christie Lassen at cplassen@gmail.com.



SALEM'S NEW OUTSIDE NATIVITY SCENE

A big, big thank you to Preston Shepherd for creating and presenting to Salem its new outside nativity. This beautiful scene was Preston's Boy Scout Eagle project. It is intentionally decided to be able to be easily stored in the attic and thus used for many years to come. Thank you Preston!



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your support for this ministry to those in the Maryland prison system. There are now groups meeting weekly for worship at three sites. We are hoping to be allowed access to more facilities, but progress has been slow. Your support through prayers, donations, and supply preaching opportunities enables us to continue this work. Thank you again!

In Christ's name,

The Community of St. Ignace

THANKS A
MILLION



Dear Salem friends,

I am tardy in getting this heartfelt thank you to you for giving for my Thank You Fund for Strategic Ministry. Funds are already helping our New Colgate Latinx ministry. Salem's generosity is such a blessing to so many. Grateful, Linda

A heartfelt thank you to all who have made me feel better as I recover from foot surgery! I love the cards, yummy food, phone calls, altar flowers and all the support I've received. It's so wonderful to have my Salem family and I'm deeply grateful to all of you. I feel truly blessed.

Sue O'Connor

Thank You!



PASTOR DAVE,
THANK YOU AND THE FAMILY AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY WITH OUR AA GROUP ON SUNDAY EVENINGS. WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW MUCH SALEM LUTHERAN HAS DONE FOR THE COMMUNITY. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SPREAD THE WORD OF HOPE TO THOSE FOLKS SUFFERING WITH THE DISEASE.

THANKS
MARTY POPP

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

September 27, 2022

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

*Thank You**Thank You!*

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$312.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$586.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

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.

With you in the Spirit,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, Mission Funding, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response



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.

Guntis Elksnis 11/02/2022*

Donald Camden 11/11/2022*

**Not a Salem member*



THE HUMBLE WALK

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY at the UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

November 14, 2022

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Rd
Catonsville, MD 21228

Dear Reverend Dave,

We are in grateful receipt of the \$1000 gift from Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church. We offer our thanksgiving to you and the church council and the congregation!

Thank you for this gift of encouragement, thank you for your prayers, and the opportunity for Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland to continue to grow and share this important ministry.

If there is opportunity to address your congregation in the upcoming school calendar year, I welcome it. I also welcome the opportunity to meet with prospective students, to join one of our Humble Walk meals or events. We share ministry!

Thank you again! Sincerely yours,

Pastor Ray Ranker



ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

	Saturday Evening	Sunday Service		Other	Specify Livestream	Weekly* Total
		First	Second			
11/5-6/2022	15	43	78	22	Old Salem All Saints	158
11/12-13/2022	21	57	86			164
11/19-20/2022	20	55	86			161
11/24/2022				51	Thanksgiving Eve	51
11/26-27/2022	17	42	98		Advent One	157
	73	197	348	73		691

*Week reflects Saturday through Friday



NO PHISHING
Don't take the bait!

Occasionally we hear about members receiving an email from one of the Pastors asking for gift cards or for us to pay a bill, etc.; because 'they are in a meeting' (or whatever) and 'can't take care of this right now.' This is ALWAYS a scheme to get something from you by someone else and this is NEVER from Salem's Pastors. Please, if you are contacted by anyone asking for money or gift cards and they say it is an emergency; contact us yourself first. Please don't take the bait in their phishing scheme!

WIFI AT SALEM

The Technology Committee has installed WIFI access throughout the church. This free internet access is available to members and guests. Users may access any of our four networks connections throughout the building. The password for all connections is **Salem-Church**.

If you have any questions about our network please contact the Technology Committee Chairperson, Steve Kopp, at salemtech@salem-catonsville.org.



SMART PHONE QR CODE AVAILABLE FOR GIVING

Salem allows offerings via your smart phone. Image Salem's QR code and you will be taken to the mobile-friendly version of Salem's giving page where you can make your gift via your bank account or credit card.



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: Eileen Merriman, Zoë Dell
 Christian Fellowship Committee: Darla Sando, Pam Wilsey
 Communications Committee: Guy Davis, Karen Amy
 Evangelism Committee: Nicki Fatherly
 Finance Committee: Sally Kopp, Steve Kopp
 Guardians of Eden: Norma Hensler-Davis
 Health Resources: Beth Rodgers, Lynda Bell
 Historic Old Salem: Sharon Stanton
 Memorial and Bequests: Paul W. Krabitz
 Mutual Ministry (Pastor Asendorf): Julie Kempton
 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: Carolyn Vasold
 Stewardship Committee: Vacant
 Technology Support Committee: Lisa Yerkey, Steve Kopp
 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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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robinschaefer@salem-catonsville.org

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CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

President: Ryan Fredriksson

Vice-President: Denise Morris

Secretary: Nick Mason

Financial Secretary: Beth Massey

Treasurer: Ray Hamelin

CHURCH COUNCIL

Becky Bass	Tina Hall
Debra Brohawn	John Pfluger
Tom Brzezinski	Nick Mason
Emily D'Avella	Denise Morris
Ryan Fredriksson	Preston Shepherd
Ray Giuliani	J. David Rau

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Guy Davis, Co-Chair
Karen Amy, Co-Chair
Barbara Beem
Peggy Dell
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NEXT MONARCH PUBLICATION

2023

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



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

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office@salem-catonsville.org

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

905 Frederick Rd.
Catonsville, MD 21228-4517

Change Service Requested
TIME VALUE