



# THE MONARCH

## SALEM BEGINS CELEBRATING its 175TH ANNIVERSARY!

This November 2024 marks our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Salem is the oldest continuing congregation in Catonsville. Our first church building, in the 700 block of Ingleside Avenue, still stands and is lovingly cared for by Historical Old Salem, Inc. In 1903, the congregation built our present building which was added on to in 1954, and renovated in 1997.

Salem has had a long rich tradition of helping train seminarians for ordained ministry. As part of our ongoing celebration, we will be having a guest preacher most months who had served at Salem as a vicar or teaching parish student. We will also be inviting Pastor Amy Asendorf Berger and Pastor Daniel Collins to preach as they both were sent into ministry from this Salem congregation.

Here are some of the significant events that will be taking place this year:

- June 2 Founder's Day at Old Salem, Honoring Gustav Lurman, Salem's Benefactor
- July 4 Salem's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Entry in the Catonsville Parade
- Sept 13-15 *Salem, The Musical* – performed in Reformation Hall
- Sept 22 Old Salem Open House, *A Glimpse of Immigrant Life in 1850 in Catonsville*
- Nov 3 2 p.m . All Saint's Service at Old Salem
- Nov 10 Salem Anniversary Concert
- Nov 16-17 Homecoming Weekend at All Worship Services  
5 p.m. – Anniversary Dinner and Program at the FOP Lodge



### MONARCH ON-LINE

Salem's Monarch is available on-line at [www.salem-catonsville.org](http://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](mailto:guyddavisphd@gmail.com).

### Inside This Issue:

- Page 2: Farewell & Thanks Robin  
Welcome Jeff Tsai
- Page 3: Salem Annual Meeting  
Christmas Thank You's, &  
Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Page 4-5: Salem Faith & Film Series
- Page 6:-7: Historic Old News &  
Children's Ministry
- Page 8: Online Worship & Fair Trade
- Page 9-10: Refugee Task Force &  
Adult Forum
- Page 11: Youth Group Events

## WE WILL MISS YOU, ROBIN

Robin Schaefer retired on December 31, 2023 from her Office Administrator position at Salem after serving for seven (7) years. She had faithfully guided our congregation through Sunday bulletins and the slide deck for Saturday's service, monthly Monarch publications, served as Church Council Secretary for a year, daily made certain our building was in good order, scheduled all events for the Salem community as well as many outside organizations that use our building throughout the week, and worked closely with Pastor Dave, Vicar Jay Eckman, Pastor Sarah Garrett Krey, and Pastor Carolyn. Daily she was at her desk meeting and greeting everyone that came into Salem with a smile and was always willing to help so many of us in so many ways. She plans to continue as a member of our Senior Choir, the Property Committee and Worship Life Committee and maybe even on some Thursday mornings now be able to join the Stitchcrafters as they gather. She and her husband, Rusty, plan to continue their vacation travels across the U.S. They have the opportunity now to spend more time with their six (6) grandchildren, four of whom live near Boonsboro, Maryland. Robin also wishes to share her heartfelt thanks for the delicious receptions following Sunday, January 17th's worship services and all the wonderful cards and well wishes she's received from everyone. We will miss you at that front desk, Robin, but know that we wish you all the very best in retirement and will look forward to seeing you in other areas of Salem in the days to come!



## SALEM WELCOMES JEFF TSAI

On January 2, Jeff Tsai replaced the retiring Robin Schaefer as Salem's Office Manager. Thank you, Robin, for all your hard work and dedication. Jeff has been a Maryland resident for most of his life and is an active disciple of the Church of the Holy Apostles and Saint Stephen in Arbutus. Jeff had visited Salem previously and when the office manager opening occurred, it offered an opportunity to serve. He is impressed with how active Salem is internally and externally.

Jeff is pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry from St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute in Baltimore with a thesis emphasis on Child Protection Policies. He has a masters from Towson University in Experimental Psychology and another from United Lutheran Seminary with a focus on Biblical Studies. His Lutheran faith solidified while an undergraduate at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he became active in Campus Ministry and was baptized. Being a man of many interests, he majored in Psychology, Anthropology, and Economics. Although he no longer has much free time, his interests include music, writing fiction, and exercise. You probably won't see Jeff much on Sundays, but welcome him in the office during office hours.



## SALEM'S ANNUAL MEETING

No big screen TVs. No commercials for Bud Light. And no shouting at players who already have coaches. **Set for February 4** (a non-football Sunday, the week before the Super Bowl), Salem's annual meeting will feature food, fun, and fellowship.

"We'll eat first," said Pastor Dave, "as always." It's a potluck luncheon ("always a big draw"), as Salem's cooks are famous for their fine culinary skills.

After that, "there's no agenda," he continued, although a written copy of the congregational annual report will be distributed, and committee heads will have the opportunity to speak. The meeting will also feature an introduction to the marking of Salem's 175th anniversary. "This will be a year of listening," a time to ask ourselves, "What's God up to here?"

Beginning after the 11 a.m. service, the annual meeting typically breaks up around 2 p.m. "It's not really a business meeting," although it does fulfill a requirement in Salem's constitution. "In a nutshell, this is really a celebration of our life together. A time to give thanks to God."

A tasty lunch, good friends, and everyone wins.

## CHRISTMAS THANK YOU'S!

Gratitude abounds for all the folks who provided willing hands, sweet voices, musical talents and decorating skills to make our Christmas celebration so wonderful. For beginners, thank you to Mary Miller and Sid Meier for leading the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day music. For our choirs, Saturday Singers, Salem Brass, Salem Ringers, and musicians who provided wonderful music. For Joey Morgan who managed our online presence. For Mary Krebs and her dedicated Altar Guild team who set up and cleaned up, and set up and cleaned up and did it all over again.

Thank you to Shelley Wolfram who organized the decoration of the sanctuary, narthex and vestibule. Many thanks to all who contributed money to help purchase the flowers. And these special helpers who lent a hand decorating:

Mary Krebs	Beth Rodgers
Christie and Anna Lassen	Rusty and Robin Schaefer
Katie Leisher	Paul and Marilyn Timmel
Duane Linsenbardt	Megan and Ben Wolfram
Matt and Phoebe Medicus	Ken Wolfram
Trish Morgan	

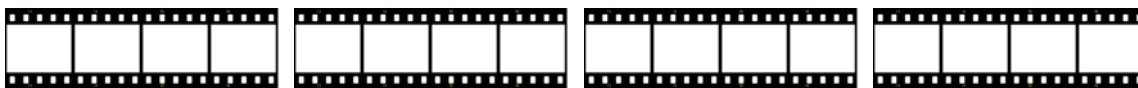
Thank you to Robin Schaefer, and Mary Krebs, who put together our worship bulletins. And, of course, for Pastor Dave and Pastor Carolyn for leading worship at the 7 services that weekend. And, last but not least thanks to all who worshiped that weekend and raised their voice in praise to our newborn Savior!

## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Salem Men's Prayer Breakfast continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. on both Zoom and in person in the Katie Luther Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). Join us for lively discussion, the sharing of joys and concerns and a time of prayer. Please see Earl Ruley, Pastor Ed or Pastor Dave for more information.

## THANK YOU THRIVENT MEMBERS

Thanks for all those who have directed Thrivent Choice dollars to the congregation. We received \$631 in December. And we are thankful for the \$250 Thrivent grant to the Salem Marketplace.



## FAITH & FILM SERIES

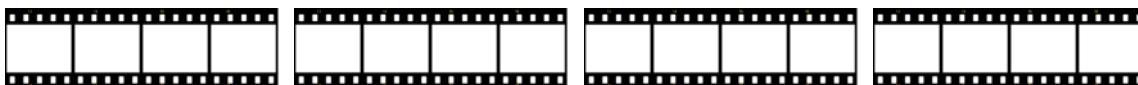
*A series of feature films celebrating faith in our lives*

2024 – Winter/Spring

Fridays, 7 PM in Reformation Hall at Salem Lutheran Church

905 FREDERICK ROAD. CATONSVILLE, MD. (410) 747 - 0720

shown with closed captions all are welcome!



The Faith and Film series is about celebrating life and inspiring each of us through the power of story. Since the advent of the movies, there have been countless stories that have reached in and touched the soul. Consider the power of story to move you along in your journey. Consider the power of story to remind each of us of the importance of faith, hope and love. Consider the potential for the world to be a better place. And consider the possibility that films change people and people change the world. This series will be shown in the Reformation Hall at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church and the community is invited to attend. All showings are at 7 PM. All films are shown with closed captions. All this information and more can be found on the church web page: <https://saalem-catonsville.org> or call the Church Office: 410-747-0720

### **HIDDEN FIGURES**

**Friday, January 12, 2024 7:00PM**

**HIDDEN FIGURES** is the incredible untold story of Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson – three brilliant African-American women working at NASA, who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race, and galvanized the world. The visionary trip crossed all gender and race lines to inspire generations to dream big. **HIDDEN FIGURES** was chosen as one the Top Ten Films of the year by many critics, as well as the National Board of Review and was nominated for three Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Rotten Tomatoes 93% rating for both critics & audiences. Released: 2017. **Rated PG. 127 minutes.**

### **WONDER**

**Friday, February 16, 2024. 7:00 PM**

Based on the New York Times bestseller, **WONDER** tells the inspiring and heartwarming story of August Pullman. Born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from going to a mainstream school, Auggie becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. As his family, his new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to find their compassion and acceptance, Auggie's extraordinary journey will unite them all and prove you can't blend in when you were born to stand out. Starring Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson and Jason Tremblay, this film has a 91% favorable audience response on Rotten Tomatoes. *"Starring a terrific Jacob Tremblay as a bullied boy with facial deformities and Julia Roberts as his mom, this drama based on the R. J. Palacio book that nearly everyone has read and wept over has surprising dimension and delicacy."* Peter Travers, Rolling Stone Magazine. Released in November 2017. **Rated: PG - 108 minutes**

*Continued on next page...*



**SAVING GRACE****Friday, February 23, 2024. 7:00 PM**

This is a delightful story of a catholic cardinal who reluctantly becomes pope. A year into his papacy we find him discouraged by the bureaucracy of his job. When an opportunity presents itself for him to sneak outside the Vatican walls, he journeys to an impoverished village to try and make a difference in the lives of real people, while maintaining his anonymity as best he can. His adventure teaches him and the villagers lessons they will never forget. This movie comes across beautifully without indulging in all the sappy sophomoric formulas we've come to expect from Hollywood. We see Pope Leo go from quiet frustration to quiet determination to a quiet joy. It is really a treat to watch him metamorphosize. In addition to a great script, a fabulous performance by Tom Conti and the truly beautiful scenery, it is an excellent movie about faith, doubt and rediscovery of faith again. *FYI: This film was the final movie released by Embassy Pictures who only put it in about 15 theaters where the entire US box office was a mere \$18,209. Come see what everyone missed seeing on the BIG SCREEN!* Released: 1986, **Rated: PG. 112 minutes.**

**ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET****Friday, March 15, 2024. 7:00 PM**

For over fifty years, Judy Blume's classic and groundbreaking novel *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* has impacted generations with its timeless coming of age story, insightful humor, and candid exploration of life's biggest questions. In Lionsgate's big-screen adaptation, 11-year-old Margaret (Abby Ryder Fortson) is uprooted from her life in New York City for the suburbs of New Jersey, going through the messy and tumultuous throes of puberty with new friends in a new school. She relies on her mother, Barbara (Rachel McAdams), who is also struggling to adjust to life outside the big city, and her adoring grandmother, Sylvia (Kathy Bates), who isn't happy they moved away and likes to remind them every chance she gets. *"This is without a doubt one of the most enjoyable movies of 2023 so far and one of the easiest and purest recommendations I can make. A joy for all ages!"* Ann Hornaday, Wash Post. Released in April 2023. **Rated: PG-13 105 minutes**

**ON THE BASIS OF SEX****Friday April 19, 2024. 7:00 PM**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a struggling attorney and new mother who faces adversity and numerous obstacles in her fight for equal rights. When Ruth takes on a groundbreaking tax case with her husband, attorney Martin Ginsburg, she knows it could change the direction of her career and the way the courts view gender discrimination. *"As a trailblazing figure, Ruth Bader Ginsburg gets a knockout biopic about her life. An extraordinary origin story of a pre-Supreme Court RBG as she begins to shape her legacy and our history. Well worth your time to check out this biopic"* NY Times. Released in 2020. **Rated PG-13. 120 minutes.**

**GREEN BOOK****Friday, May 17, 2024. 7:00 PM**

Join us as we take a surprisingly smooth ride with Tony Lip, a bouncer from the Bronx, after he's hired to drive Dr. Don Shirley, a world-class Black pianist on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, as they rely on "The Green Book" to guide them to the few establishments that were then safe for African Americans. The film is inspired by the true story of a 1962 tour taken by both men and was written by the director alongside Lip's son, Nick Vallelonga, and based in interviews with Lip and Shirley, as well as letters Lip wrote to his wife. A winner of several Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor (for Mahershala Ali) as well as the National Board of Review Best Film of 2018. Released in 2018. **Rated PG-13.**

**130 minutes**

## HISTORIC OLD SALEM NEWS

We had a wonderful turnout at our annual Christmas Open House on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Old Salem Church. Thanks to the Salem Brass members who came and regaled us with Christmas music filling the church. And Santa was ever present meeting with the children and greeting the young at heart too. We were happy to see so many of you and friends from the community there. Already have ***Saturday, December 14, 2024*** on our calendar to do it all over again. Plan to come, especially if you have never been inside Salem's first worship site built in 1849 as we celebrate our 175 years of serving the Catonsville and surrounding communities.

### Upcoming events to mark on your calendars and be a part of:

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR** the return of our inside Craft Fair/Flea Market on **Saturday, March 2, 2024** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lots of good food, a bake table, huge white elephant table and raffles too. We hosted this inside event for over 25 years until COVID hit. Then for the next two years, we moved the event outside as a Yard Sale with vendors on Salem's parking lot in May. In addition to the inside March event, we will again host our outside event **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 8 am to noon.**

### Seeking vendors for the March 2<sup>nd</sup> date at this time {if interested contact Sharon

*Sunday, June 2nd* – 2 – 4 p.m. – Judy Legath will share a wonderful, informative program about Gustav Lurman, a local Baltimore businessman, who was one of the primary financiers contributing to our first congregation in its building of Salem. Everyone is invited to attend and of course, we'll have refreshments following the presentation.

Looking ahead to the good ole summertime, we're working on the July crab feast aboard the Dorothy Megan Paddlewheel boat {like last July} at Suicide Bridge, Hurlock Maryland. Date is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> for 3 hour crab feast cruise** on the Choptank River. More details to follow.

We always welcome new Board members. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Katie Luther Room at Salem Newburg.** {Note: the change in our regular scheduled February meeting because the midweek Lent Soup Supper and Worship taking place at Salem on February 21<sup>st</sup>.} Join our Board to help preserve Salem's original worship site located at 701 Ingleside Avenue. With the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration throughout 2024 we are planning special events, programs and worship services and we'd encourage you to be a part of them taking place at Old Salem. The Board meets 4 times a year – the third Wednesday of February, May, August and November at Salem Newburg at 7 pm. Attendance at our Old Salem events for Founders Day is always the first Sunday in June, the Open House and Program is always on the third Sunday in September at 2 pm, the All Saints Service at 2 pm is always on the first Sunday in November and the annual Christmas Open House is always the second Saturday in December. Come join us. It's a great group of people working hard to preserve Salem's original worship site.

Contact Sharon Stanton - memsha7311@gmail.com or call 410-744-8724 for more information and/or to make reservations.

### **GREETERS, FLOWER STEWARDS AND SHOWCASE DISPLAYERS 2023:**

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have served this past year as greeters at Salem's 8:15 am and 11 am Sunday worship services and also at special worship services, i.e., Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve too. Having a smiling face meet and greet us as we go into worship is wonderful. Your help especially in greeting newer members and/or visitors to Salem is very much appreciated and helpful to those who are not as familiar with our building. I hope you will continue to serve as a greeter as you are able. But know too, there is always room for many more volunteers to serve and you are more than welcome to do so.

## GREETERS, FLOWER STEWARDS AND SHOWCASE DISPLAYERS 2023 CONTINUED...

A big thank you to the dedicated Flower Stewards who serve once every three months to deliver the Altar Flowers. The arrangements are prepared for delivery by the Altar Guild members following the 11 a.m. Sunday service to our home bound and/or sick members. The delivered flowers are very much appreciated by the recipients. Salem's Flower stewards are Debi Brohawn, Lynda Bell, Linda Fleischer, Gary Giuliani, Mel Hoffman, Stacy Kahatapitiya, Mary Krebs, Mary Carroll Mason, Darla Sando, Sharon Schueler, Sharon Stanton, Dee Trimble, Janet VanSant, and Vicky Whetstone. Also wish to thank Paula Reisz, Paula Canby, Jim Kempton, Michele Nethken, and Tim Medicus who helped deliver the Christmas Garden Poinsettias this year.

**Showcase displays** throughout the past year have been as follows: **January**-Dottie Bobart and Margaret Walker/"Ring in the New Year with Bells"; **February**-Tom Vasold/His Unique Neckties; **March**-Pastor Dave Asendorf/Maryland Theme; **April**-Guardians of Eden {Norma Hensler-Davis & Carole Rau}/Celebrate Earth Day; **May**-Salem Players' Dr Dolittle {1<sup>st</sup> half} and Pastor Carolyn Lawrence/Icons {2<sup>nd</sup> half} and into June; **July**-Carolyn Vasold/Beatrix Potter collection; **August**-Norma Hensler-Davis/Guardians of Eden; **September**-Pastor Ed Whetstone/Book collection {some from the 1800's}; **October**-Salem Players' "Nonsense"; **November**-Sue Gdovin/Scholarship Committee; and finishing out 2023 in **December**-Norma Hensler-Davis-The Byers' Carolers. Kicked off 2024 with a fascinating and whimsical collection owned by Jo and Ed Orser for our **January** display.

If you'd like to serve as a greeter and/or are interested in helping out with the Flower Steward ministry as a substitute steward, and/or would like to share a monthly showcase in the Narthex, please contact Sharon Stanton at memsha7311@gmail.com or call her on 410-744-8724 or leave a note with your name, contact info and which month for the showcase in the Historic Old Salem mailbox outside the church office. Thank you.

## CHILDREN MINISTRY

The first Sunday in December the children chose what part they would like to have in the Christmas Pageant. They also made a keepsake ornament. We ended the Sunday school for December by presenting our Pageant The 12 Days of Christmas a Nativity Story under the production of Eileen Merriman and Lisa Yerkey. We took off for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Sunday school returned on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Our Sunday School theme for January is Strength; for February we will focus on Kindness/Fairness.





## HAVE YOU WATCHED SALEM'S WORSHIP ONLINE?

Salem continues to livestream Saturday 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. worship on our YouTube and Facebook channels. Pre-recorded services and, later, livestreaming services were first introduced during the pandemic and have continued. While in-person worship attendance is preferred, livestreaming is available if you are sick or homebound, or if there is bad weather, or if you want to see the service again. An added advantage of the online worship, is that it is always available afterwards. You can even watch it out of town or even out of the country. Salem has been joined in worship from South Korea, Europe, and South America. In 2023, online worship attendance averaged 10 parishioners on Saturday and 29 on Sunday. Feel free to post a comment or a "like" while watching.

## SHOP FAIR TRADE DURING EPIPHANY !



Watch for the Fair Trade Cart in the narthex these coming weeks. It's well stocked with fine teas, coffee, cocoa and chocolate. You'll find products of the highest quality at a reasonable price, and every one packed with your much needed and very welcome support for small scale farmers in developing countries. Delivering all that, Fair Trade is a great bargain! Gold, frankincense and myrrh have we none, but we're confident that our Lord rejoices in these gifts that benefit our pleasures, reward vulnerable farmers and give glory to the gift of God's love.

Stop and check our inventory!

*\*Painting is by Jas. Tissot, at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.  
Photograph of Fair Trade cocoa farmers in West Africa.*





**FINAL REFUGEE TASK FORCE UPDATE REGARDING THE DURRANI FAMILY****Close of Our Current Appeal for the Refugee Fund**

**Lima, Saba, Masooma, niece Sahra, and Rohail**

At the meeting of the Refugee Task Force in early December, we agreed that the Durrani family has successfully achieved a satisfactory and commendable degree of independence such that we can consider our goals and responsibilities as their sponsor to be met. Therefore, we are no longer seeking donations for the Refugee Fund and will adjourn our activity for a year or two.

We welcomed them to their apartment, their new home and safe haven in the US on March 14, 2022. They have been financially independent since October, and have not needed to seek our counsel for legal, medical or Department of Human Services matters for several months. They are managing their own transportation. Masooma has been employed at Forest Haven Nursing Home for over a month now in the housekeeping department. Her niece Sahra began work there in September.

Rohail, Saba and Lima are doing well at Catonsville High, socially and academically, with many Honor Roll citations. Rohail has worked as a checker for several months at Giant Food on Rolling Road, sometimes as much as 36 hours a week (and still on the Honor Roll).

Mindful of the global intensity regarding Islamophobia and anti-Semitism since October 7, I asked Rohail about their experience at Catonsville High. He responded, "Everything is going so well in school. Yes, teachers and students are sad what is going on over there in Palestine and Gaza. We really haven't got any problem. Our school is so good and I like them very much."

All of them (and all of us) were relieved when they received their asylum cards and status about six weeks ago. We expect Rohail to earn his driver's license in April, and at that time will transfer to Masooma the title of the car donated for them.

We invite your continued prayers for the Durrani family, and for refugees the world over. Now with nearly 1.5 million displaced persons in Gaza (80% of the population), the global challenge of assisting refugees and displaced persons is millions beyond record numbers.

*Continued on next page...*

## FINAL REFUGEE TASK FORCE UPDATE REGARDING THE DURRANI FAMILY CONTINUED...

Though we are not appealing for Salem's Refugee Fund, massive monies are needed for these global challenges. Lutheran World Relief is sending quilts and health care supplies to Gaza, Ukraine and elsewhere. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service resettles refugees in the US; currently they are also appealing for temporary foster parents for unaccompanied children at our southern border. LWR and LIRS are always worthy recipients of your charity.

These are 4 star charities deeply engaged on the ground in Gaza: American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) and UNICEF. I encourage you to visit their websites and contribute as you're inspired and able.

This does not signal the end of our friendship with the Durrani's, of course. This weekend several of us are excited to be attending Sahra's wedding. She'll soon after move to Ohio.

We are deeply grateful to all who assisted us in this sponsorship: all who offered prayers and contributed funds; those who donated furniture, household goods and food to stock their apartment two years ago; the volunteers who lent their hands and backs for moving day.

Along with others who've participated in the RTF across the last six years, I want to express my special gratitude to those who have throughout these past two years spent hours and hours providing transportation for groceries and doctors' appointments, helping with paperwork and appointments with the Department of Human Services and the US Citizenship & Immigration Services, overseeing the teens' schooling, assisting with ESOL classes, giving driving lessons, and so often providing friendship and advice: Beth Rodgers, Julia Graham, Debbie Brohawn, Brent Tolbert-Smith, Sara Toscano, Susan Gundlach, Laura Miller, Jeff Rasmussen, Dave Merriman and Billie Jo and Carl Kreps.

In Matthew's gospel, Mary and Joseph clasp tight their toddler and flee the violence descending on Bethlehem, escaping through Gaza into Egypt. It's an old story. And lamentably it's relived over and over down the centuries. In the last days before his death Jesus commanded his disciples to care for the stranger, and in doing so they will welcome our Lord himself. May God ever grace us to do this.

Pr. Ed Whetstone, chair

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## JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

Adult forum scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Here is the schedule for Adult Forum series Death, Dying, and Dementia.

Sunday January 7th - Death and Dying – Medical Perspective - Sara Toscano, RN

Sunday, January 14th - Death and Dying – Legal Issues - Tina Hall, ESQ

Sunday, January 21st - Death and Dying – Spiritual Aspects & Planning Your Funeral -  
Pastor Dave Asendorf

Sunday, January 28th - Death and Dying – Lutheran Perspective on Death and Dying - Nick Mason

Sunday, Feb. 4th - Dementia Friends: a dementia information workshop with workbook -  
Emily Kearns

Sunday, Feb. 11th - Call to Presence: faith communities responding to dementia - Emily Kearns

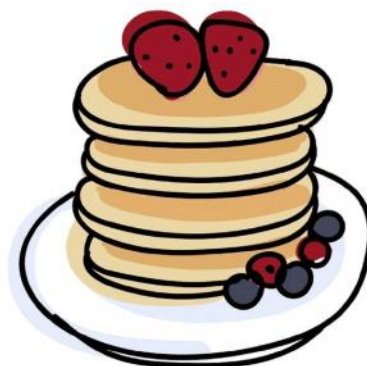
Beginning Feb. 18th – Karen Amy and Nick Mason will teach a series based on Fr. Richard Rohr – Especially concentrating on his book "Universal Christ"

**YOUTH GROUP MARDI GRAS and SHROVE TUESDAY FUNDRAISER!**

Salem's middle and high school students are invited to the Youth Group Mardi Gras party on February 9 from 7-9 p.m. in Reformation Hall. Youth will be burning palms to be used for Ash Wednesday, as well as completing a service project and playing some games. There will be king cake and other Cajun treats! Please RSVP by emailing Pastor Carolyn ([pastorcarolyn@saalem-catonsville.org](mailto:pastorcarolyn@saalem-catonsville.org))

On Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m., all are invited to the youth group's Shrove Tuesday Fundraiser! Youth will be cooking pancakes and sausages for a free-will offering. All funds raised will go towards the National Youth Gathering costs. Please bring a full wallet and an empty belly, and invite family and friends to the meal!

# Shrove Tuesday





Jan. 9, 2024

Dear Salem members,  
it was a joy to visit with  
pastor's wife and to receive  
that beautiful poinsettia  
this Christmas season.  
may you all receive a  
blessed New Year to come.  
Love from my love to you all  
Betty Ruff

Thank You!



Dear Friends -

I want to thank you for  
the beautiful flowers I received  
last Sunday. They were very  
special since they had been  
on the altar -

As always -  
Kathleen MacKavich

Dear Friends in Christ,

Wasn't it wonderful to once again celebrate  
the birth of our Savior and experience the  
joy and peace that it brings. You are  
generous in so many ways, and this enables  
us to share the good news with incarcerated  
men and women. Thank you for everything you  
do to make this ministry possible.

May God bless you richly in 2024!

The Community of St. Dyona



You've Made a Remarkable Difference!

January 9, 2024

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Rev. David K. Asendorf  
905 Frederick Road  
Catonsville, MD 21228



*Providing shelter for homeless women & children.*

Dear Rev. Asendorf,

On behalf of the Baltimore Outreach Services (BOS) Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff, I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$1,200.00, check #14564, dated January 3, 2024.

As we begin 2024 and reflect on the incredible support, we've received during 2023, it is with a heart full of gratitude that I say THANK YOU! Your generous donation to BOS has not only warmed our hearts but has also been the beacon of hope that lights the path for the individuals and families we serve. Your support goes beyond the bounds of mere charity; it is a testament to the unwavering compassion that exists within our communities. Through your kindness, you've joined a caring network of supporters dedicated to making a real difference in the lives of those facing homelessness in Baltimore.

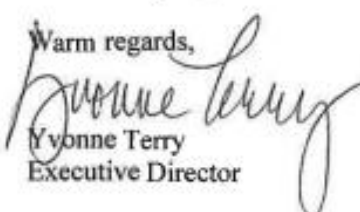
With your year-end contribution, we've been able to provide essential services such as shelter, case management, children's programming, training, and health-related coordination. These are the building blocks for a brighter future, and your donation has been a cornerstone in this transformative work. Just imagine, because of you, there are individuals who now have a safe place to sleep, meals to enjoy, and the opportunity to create a stable, self-sufficient life.

As we look forward to 2024, we are filled with hope and determination to continue our mission. We recognize the road ahead is long, but with your continued support, we are confident in our ability to make a lasting change. I want to share a story that epitomizes the impact of your generosity. Recently, a young mother and her child found refuge in our shelter after facing the harsh realities of homelessness. Through the comprehensive services made possible by your donation, she's working towards sustainable employment, and her child is thriving in our education programs. Your support has been a pivotal part of their journey towards a new life.

This story is just one among many, and as we embrace the new year, we invite you to continue this journey with us. Join other supporters in empowering lives and strengthening our communities. Each contribution, each act of kindness, is a powerful statement that no one should face homelessness alone.

Thank you once again for your generosity and for believing in the work we do. We are immensely grateful for friends like you, who make all of this possible.

Warm regards,

  
Yvonne Terry  
Executive Director

*Thank You, Pastor!  
We are so thankful  
for Salem  
Evangelical!*

The Baltimore Outreach Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization (TAX ID #56-2291915) registered and incorporated in the State of Maryland. As a contributor you have not received any services or material goods for your contribution. Please retain this letter for your tax purposes. This contribution is fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Baltimore Outreach Services | 701 S. Charles Street | Baltimore MD 21230 | 410-752-1285 |  
[www.baltimoreoutreach.org](http://www.baltimoreoutreach.org)



**The Table: a Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry in Baltimore**

7601 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21204

**[www.TheTableBaltimore.org](http://www.TheTableBaltimore.org)**

December 18, 2023

Salem Lutheran Church  
 905 Frederick Road  
 Catonsville, MD 21228-4517

Dear Salem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation which helps make our ministry possible:

Date	Amount
11/6/2023	\$1,200.00

Every time we engage with students on campus we are planting the seed that "The Table" and the God we represent is truly one of welcome and belonging. This semester, while tabling on campus we had someone stop by to inquire about "The Table" and the work we do on campus. She remarked that she was already involved with quite a few organizations on campus but saw our rainbow flag and felt pulled to stop by. She'd never seen a Christian organization proudly display its wide welcome on campus before - she was moved and decided to sign our interest list. The presence of this flag and the inclusive God who shines forth through it can be for some the first inkling that they, in the fullness of their identity, are beloved by God. **This is what you make possible!**

Last week, in the midst of preparation for exams, we gathered with our students for Advent worship- to pray for peace for our world and the healing and restoration that Jesus promises. We pray the same for you this season and we thank you for being partners with us in the work of the gospel!

In Christ,

*Rev. Kelsey Green*  
 Pastor Kelsey Green  
[kelsey@thetablebaltimore.org](mailto:kelsey@thetablebaltimore.org)



Rev. David Asendorf  
 Salem Lutheran Church  
 905 Frederick Rd.  
 Catonsville MD 21228

Dear Pastor Dave,

Thank you for your support for the With Open Arms campaign at Mar-Lu-Ridge. We are grateful for your vision and commitment as we work to upgrade our facilities to be fully inclusive for people with mobility challenges. As our mission statement says, we welcome all. Taking these steps to renovate the Ridge Inn and Cabin 3, as well as create a safer environment throughout our camp, will assure that we truly can welcome and include everyone.

Your gift of \$20,000 as an incentive to local conference churches has been received and is greatly appreciated. Thanks so much.

We look forward to sharing updates along the way. Thank you again for your support of With Open Arms.

*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34*

Peace,

Sarah Lefler  
 Executive Director

**MAR-LU-RIDGE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER**

3200 Mar Lu Ridge Road ☎ 301.874.5544

Jefferson, MD 21755 📧 [mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org](mailto:mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org)





January 8, 2024

*Thank You*

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

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$3,980.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

*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 the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. 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 shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White  
Director, Congregational Generosity

**Gift date:** 12/26/2023

**Gifts are designated for:**

Lutheran Disaster Response	\$2,950.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$1,030.00
<b>Total contribution:</b>	<b>\$3,980.00</b>



*Forming Faithful Stewards,  
Caring for Sacred Waters*

PO Box 6791  
Annapolis, MD 21401

December 19, 2023

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Attn: Rev. David K. Asendorf, Pastor & Rev. Carolyn S. Lawrence, Associate Pastor  
905 Frederick Road  
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Dear Rev. Asendorf and Rev. Lawrence:

Please accept our grateful acknowledgement of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church's gift to Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) of \$2,750.00 on December 12, 2023. Your contribution makes it possible to accomplish our mission of inspiring and equipping people of faith to honor, protect, and restore our shared watershed.

**Together we are creating hopeful headlines in our lifetime**, the headlines the people of the Chesapeake need to read; ones IPC is working towards.

In the past year alone:

- **Over 200 congregations** engaged through Creation Care efforts
- **~55 acres** of stormwater management projects were installed on faith-owned land
- **30+ activities** held across our One Water Partnership hubs that inspired more congregations to get involved
- **150 legislators, people of faith, and community members** came together for our first Chesapeake Champions Interfaith Breakfast
- **31 new green teams** trained through our Faithful Green Leaders Training program
- **35 media mentions** (and counting) showcased our collective stories of positive change

Your support makes this work possible and builds the capacity at congregations across Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and beyond.

With sincerest gratitude for your support,

*Jodi Rose*  
Jodi Rose  
Executive Director

*Wow we were so touched by this tremendous gift - thank you! We will be reaching out more to learn the context of your gift.*

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all gifts are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Maryland Inquiries: A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by calling us at 410-609-6852. Documents are available from the office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, for the cost of copying and postage. Pennsylvania Inquiries: Registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. DC Inquiries: Call the Office of Tax and Revenue's (OTR) Customer Service Administration at 202-727-4TAX (4829). Virginia Inquiries: Registration and financial information can be obtained from the State Office of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218.

**LOUDOUN AFTERCARE PROGRAM (LAP)**  
**a/k/a BALTIMORE AREA AFTERCARE PROGRAM CO (BAAP)**  
**C/O TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 7474 WASHINGTON BLVD, ELKRIDGE, MD 21075**

1/3/2024

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
905 Frederick Road  
Catonsville, MD ~~21044~~ 21228

Amount received: \$2,750 (Check #14542)

I was naked, and you gave me clothing; I was sick, and you took care of me; I was in prison, and you visited me. Matthew 25:36

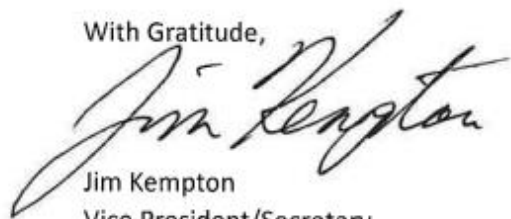
Blessings and peace! Please accept my appreciation for your recent gift. We are thankful for your support, as we work to help individuals to become contributing members in society after a time of incarceration. Your help allows us to meet the immediate needs of released individuals (e.g., bus passes, clothing, and food) and to establish a spiritual mentoring relationship with them, as the rates for recidivism (return to prison) in both jails and prisons are high. The National Institute of Justice reports 44% of criminals released return the first year out of prison and 77% within five years; Maryland's 2022 three-year recidivism rate is 40.5%. While BAAP is still establishing its network of partnering organizations and has only established a handful of mentoring relationships, similar ministries in the United States have reported an overall 8% recidivism rate verses the national average of almost 77% for those who graduate a spiritual mentoring program.

Your support of the Community of Saint Dysmas is also important to us, as they help incarcerated individuals form a relationship with God and tell of our mentoring program. After their initial application, BAAP works to establish a mentoring relationship prior to their release between the individual and members of a house of worship in the area the person intends to live. After release, the mentors meet with the individual each week and help them in their faith walk and with other things (e.g., creating a resume or a budget).

BAAP was founded as Loudoun Aftercare Program (LAP) in 2007 in Northern Virginia but moved to the Baltimore area in 2017. With this move, we adjusted our approach, as incarcerated individuals in the Maryland Prison System are typically released directly to society, which is different than the approach in Virginia, where individuals in the state prison system are released to the local county jail. However, the Community of Saint Dysmas has been immensely helpful in getting us in contact with incarcerated individuals.

Your financial and prayerful support is appreciated. We look forward to working with you and the Community of Saint Dysmas.

With Gratitude,



Jim Kempton  
Vice President/Secretary  
Baltimore Area Aftercare Program (BAAP)



## Peru Fund

PO Box 2722, Amherst, MA, 01004-2722

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
905 Frederick Road  
Catonsville, MD 21228

December 29, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for your donation of **\$2750.00** to the Peru Fund, a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 public charity. This donation was received on December 28, 2023. No goods or services or benefits were rendered to you, the donor, as a result of this contribution. The entire amount is tax-deductible.

The Peru Fund E.I.N. is: 04-3438336.

Thank you for your kind and generous contribution to the Peru Fund. Through making this donation you have helped to provide new opportunities for many who are struggling to achieve a better life in Peru.

With gratitude,

  
Evie Reda  
Peru Fund

12-29-23

Dear Parishioners of the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Peru Fund. We congratulate you on the success of your fundraising efforts through your annual Marketplace and are honored to be chosen to receive this donation.

The Peru Fund supports projects that focus on access to potable water and thereby supports rural communities in both the Andes and in the Amazon rainforest to remain on their land, maintain their cultural traditions and be better able to lift themselves out of poverty. On behalf of these individuals and families, thank you for contributing to providing new opportunities for achieving a better life in Peru.

With gratitude,  
Evie Reda,  
Peru Fund



*Thank You!*

December 19, 2023

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

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your organization's recent gift of \$1,410.00 to Lutheran World Relief! When you love your neighbors with your generous gifts to LWR, you change lives in amazing ways.

For Walaa Ali al Ali, a Syrian refugee living in Lebanon, your love arrived in the form of a beehive. As the primary breadwinner for her family — including her mother, her developmentally disabled brother, a niece and a nephew — she struggled to find work amid Lebanon's economic crisis. Her family was safe from the war in Syria, but they didn't have access to adequate food or basic medical care.

Through LWR, Walaa enrolled in a livelihoods program for refugees and received all the training and supplies she needed to start a business as a beekeeper. With the money she earned, she also planted a vegetable garden to help feed her family. Now she's earning enough to keep her family afloat, and she's even training other women how to produce and sell honey.

Thank you for saving and transforming lives by loving your neighbors like Walaa!

We'd love to show you more examples of your gift in action. Please visit [www.lwr.org](http://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](mailto:lwr@lwr.org).

Thank you again, and God bless you!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel Speckhard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Speckhard" clearly legible.

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

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**OFFICIAL ACTS****BAPTISM**

Bhavna Ambalavanan      12/31/2023

**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.*

Wayne Reese Colburn, Jr.\*      12/08/2023

Philip James Pasingda      12/09/2023

Joan Marie Chalmers\*      12/22/2023

*\*Not a Salem member*

**CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Elected officers

President      Emily D'Avella

Vice-Prez      Ray Giuliani

Treasurer      Ray Hamelin

Financial Sec      Beth Massey

- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday February 4 after the 11 am service in Bethany Hall. The meeting will be preceded by a potluck luncheon.
- The Church Council approved motions to pay \$1,573.50 for maintenance of the four entrance doors and \$7,728.45 to place a exit pad on one door to allow those in wheelchairs easier exit from the building. These monies will be taken from the RSVP fund.





**ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR**

	Saturday Evening	Sunday Service		Other	Livestream	Weekly* Total
		First	Second			
Dec 2/3	26	60	96		10/37	229
Dec 9/10	25	74	83		10/41	233
Dec 16/17	32	68	115		8/26	263
Dec 21					14	
Dec 23	19				9	616
Dec 24 10:00		78			17	
Dec 24 2:00		67			10	
Dec 24 5:00		111				
Dec 24 7:30		120			20	
Dec 24 10:00		82			29	
Dec 25				48	6	
Dec 30/31	30	108			5/26	169

\*Week reflects Saturday through Friday

**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

**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: Tricia Morgan  
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: Ken Wolfram  
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): vacant  
Prayer Tree Coordinators: Karen Amy, Barbara Beem  
Property: Rusty Schaefer  
Salem Players: Lisa Yerkey  
Scholarship: Sue Gdovin  
Social Ministry: Mary Kay Willing  
Stewardship Committee: John Brohawn  
Technology Support Committee: Lisa Yerkey  
Ushers: Mary Krebs, Ray Hamelin  
Youth Ministry Committee: vacant  
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](mailto:prayertree@salem-catonsville.org)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Office  
Telephone: (410) 747-0720

Pastor David K. Asendorf  
pastordave@salem-catonsville.org

Pastor Carolyn Lawrence  
pastorcarolyn@salem-catonsville.org

Pastor Emeritus: G. Edward Whetstone  
edward-victoria@verizon.net

Director of Music: Mary Miller  
marymiller359@gmail.com

Director of Contemporary Music: Sid Meier

Worship Technology Director: Joey Morgan

Office Manager: Jeff Tsai  
jefft@salem-catonsville.org

Sextons: Lirije Alaj, Letty Monahan

**CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP**

President: Emily D'Avella

Vice-President: Ray Giuliani

Secretary: Becky Bass

Financial Secretary: Beth Massey

Treasurer: Ray Hamelin

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Becky Bass  
Debbie Brohawn  
Ron Bruce  
Tom Brzezinski  
Emily D'Avella  
Ray Giuliani

Pat Krenzke Jennings  
Katie Leisher  
Nick Mason  
Veronica Merriman  
John Pfluger  
Lisa Yerkey

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONTRIBUTING STAFF**

Guy Davis, Co-Chair  
Karen Amy, Co-Chair  
Barbara Beem  
Peggy Dell  
Steve Kopp  
Mary Carroll-Mason  
Joey Morgan  
Sharon Stanton  
Bethann Snyder  
Ed Whetstone

**Contributing Photographers**  
Guy Davis

**Proofreading**  
Sharon Stanton

**NEXT MONARCH PUBLICATION**

**2024**

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.*

905 Frederick Road  
Catonsville, MD 21228-4517  
(410) 747-0720  
[office@salem-catonsville.org](mailto:office@salem-catonsville.org)

We are on the Web!

[www.salem-catonsville.org](http://www.salem-catonsville.org)



[www.facebook.com/salemlutheranchurch.catonsville](http://www.facebook.com/salemlutheranchurch.catonsville)



Evangelical Lutheran Church In America  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



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

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## SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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905 Frederick Rd.  
Catonsville, MD 21228-4517

Change Service Requested  
**TIME VALUE**