



# THE MONARCH

## SALEM WELCOMES PR. STAN STEELE

This is my (Pastor Stan) first Sunday at Salem. This past week was a hectic time of meeting new folks, becoming acquainted with the ministries of Salem and looking for housing among other activities. I am inspired by the strength and breadth of ministries this congregation offers to the community and to one another. There is a vibrancy and joy about this faith community that is infectious and inspiring. I look forward to meeting each of you and becoming acquainted during this transitional time.

I would also like to state that while this is a somewhat new and anxious time for the congregation it is also a time to give thanks for the pastoral leadership of Pastor Dave and Pastor Ed and look with confidence to the new Pastor who will faithfully lead Salem with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This same Holy Spirit is with you as well and will guide you through this journey with peace and assurance.

As Interim Senior Pastor, I am here to serve you as your Pastor along with Pastor Carolyn so please feel free to reach out with any need you have or just to talk about life and faith. My cell phone (240-707-1969) is always on, and I invite you to call when you need pastoral assistance or just would like to discuss a concern. I am looking forward to knowing you better and continuing our faith journey together.

Now to tell you about myself, a favorite topic for me!! I am a native of South Carolina specifically Columbia, the state capital. I attended and graduated from the University of South Carolina (Go Gamecocks!!) with a major in International Relations. I then attended and graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in



### MONARCH ON-LINE

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Philadelphia having served for 15 months in two international congregations in Cairo, Egypt. I then served a congregation in Harlem in New York City followed by serving two different churches in New Jersey. I was then offered a position with Lutheran Social Services of New Jersey serving as Vice President of Housing and Community Development. After this I joined the cabinet of the Mayor of Trenton, NJ as Director of Housing and Economic Development. I then joined Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries as Senior Vice President of Housing and Community Development. After serving a faith-based non-profit in Newark, NJ and on the Eastern Shore I accepted a call to St. Mark Lutheran church in Hagerstown. After eleven years I accepted a call to serve as Pastor of Jerusalem Lutheran Church outside of Philadelphia before coming to Salem. I have three adult children and two adorable granddaughters with my wife Pastor Stephanie Steele who is the stated supply Pastor at a church in Westminster County. This coming weekend we will be celebrating the wedding of our son Andrew and his fiancée Aliesha in Kennett Square Pennsylvania so I will be away Sunday, July 13.

Well, enough about me!! Maybe too much!! Again, I look forward to our time together as we continue the mission and ministry of Salem!

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## ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

Recently Salem Lutheran Church celebrated the Festival of the Holy Trinity, an affirmation of the theological doctrine of God acting in three persons or three manifestations of one God. This year the Festival of the Holy Trinity, Sunday, June 15, 2025, not only coincided with Father's Day, but also with the ordination anniversaries of Salem's three retired ministers who are all members of Salem. Vicky and Ed Whetstone served as greeters on that day and Vicky captured this photograph of these three "pastoral fathers" as they met in the narthex prior to worship. Pictured from left to right are: Pastor Sig Arnesen, ordained June 11, 1961; Pastor Jimmie Schwartz, ordained June 14, 1980; and Pastor Emeritus Ed Whetstone, ordained June 6, 1971. Seminarians were frequently ordained in June following graduation from seminary having received a call to serve a congregation. Salem remembered the combined 163 years of ministry offered by these three servants of our One Lord in the announcements and Prayer of the Church on that day.



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## DEAR SALEM SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST,

It is difficult to find the words to adequately express our deep appreciation for such a wonderful Salem sendoff. Thank you for a great potluck party, for Choir, Church Council and other gifts, a Men's Prayer Breakfast dinner, and so many cards and notes with your heartfelt messages. Thank you! We are very grateful, too, for the last worship services and receptions on June 28 and June 29. The attendance was amazing, the music inspiring, and the words of Farewell and Godspeed especially moving. And, thanks too, for the beautiful gift of \$15,000 that the Salem congregation will donate to Lighthouse, Inc. in recognition of Pastor Dave's retirement.

We give thanks to God for each of you! We are grateful for our time here at Salem. All of you will have a special place in our hearts forever. May God continue to bless you and keep you,

Pastor Dave and Nancy Asendorf

## A FAREWELL TO SALEM ANGELS MINISTRY? WE HOPE NOT!

Thirty years ago, Parish Assistant Jean Kohlenstein recognized the need for a ministry to provide meals to members who are ill, recovering, or in some special need who live alone or have no one at home to provide for them. Among the early volunteers were Darla Sando, Vicky Whetstone and Linda Ziegler who have shared leadership for the Salem Angels. This ministry further evolved to include hosting receptions for members' funerals when requested.

In years past there was a cadre of 15-20 members who volunteered to be called upon when meals were needed or receptions planned. The number varied across the years but always enough that volunteers were taking turns and serving as they were available.

For meals, generally 2-3 meals for a week or two are arranged when needed by members ill and living alone or without someone there to help care for them. For funeral receptions, serving generally takes 4 to 5 hours; were more volunteers available, separate responsibility for setup, serving and cleanup could be made.

In recent years, responsibility for funeral receptions (which have significantly increased in number), has fallen on Darla, Vicky and Linda alone. (There are volunteers willing to provide a dessert.) Meals are now provided by only a small handful of members. It varies, of course, but usually about 20 meals a year are supplied and about 8 receptions hosted.

Dozens and dozens of members across the years have found this ministry to be extremely thoughtful and, in some instances, a much-needed lifeline. You may yourself have appreciated this ministry. Or may hope it could be available to you or a loved one sometime in the future.

Unless there is a sufficient number of volunteers willing to provide meals OR help with funeral receptions, Salem will need to end this ministry before September. We hate to see this happen but it has become unsustainable with so few volunteers.

If you would be willing to join in this ministry or should you wish further information, please speak to Darla, Vicky or Linda. Or contact Pastor Carolyn.



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## COMMUNITY DINNER COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

In 2024, the Salem congregation formed strategic goals to advance our mission and ministry in Catonsville. One of these goals was to explore the possibility of a monthly community meal. Our mission is to support positive fellowship in our congregation and to extend a welcoming hand to the community. The Salem Monthly Community Dinner committee needs a bigger task force to help on the days of the events, which will be the first Thursday of each month, starting in October. We are hoping that Salem organizations and/or individuals will volunteer to "sponsor" a month. We are not asking for funds, but for helping hands. We need helpers for such tasks as setting up tables and chairs, setting the tables, making coffee and drinks, decorations, manning the serving line, washing dishes, cleaning up afterwards, etc. Also, due to Baltimore County health regulations, these meals would NOT be potlucks, but be prepared in the church kitchen (or catered). The first couple of months we intend to invite just our own congregation to see what (figurative) bugs need to be worked out of our operation, but our goal is to open dinner up to the whole community. If you or your organization wishes to sign up for a particular month or if you have questions, please contact Denise Morris at [dmorris198@comcast.net](mailto:dmorris198@comcast.net).

## SALEM WELCOMES MARDI NICKEL

In a congregation such as Salem, where there are so many names to remember, the name of one of our newest members is easy: “Mardi” as in “Gras,” “Nickel” like the coin. And while Mardi Nickel is still “living out of boxes” in her new home in Catonsville, she is also in the midst of finding her place in her new church home.

A “cradle Lutheran,” Mardi said that during her 20s, she checked out other houses of worship. But, as she recalled, “I always came back.”

Before attending Salem, while living in Perry Hall, she was a longtime member (approximately 20 years) of St. John’s Lutheran Church of Parkville, served by Pastors Matthew and Amy (nee Asendorf) Berger. When her son and daughter-in-law proposed that they buy a large house in Catonsville, one with private living quarters for her, Mardi had no doubt where she would be worshipping.

A retired nurse, Mardi worked for 50 years in a variety of capacities, from administrative positions to hands-on assignments. “I had great opportunities,” she recalled. Retiring just before Covid, she noted, “I couldn’t have timed it better.” These days, she enjoys dolls and dollhouses and dabbles in a number of craft activities. In addition to being close to two school-age grandchildren, she enjoys the company of two cats and one dog, not to mention the deer who visit her backyard on a daily basis.

As for Mardi’s first visit to Salem, she said that she immediately felt welcome, even as she realized that she had sat in “someone’s pew.” These days, look for her at the 11 a.m. Sunday service, seated in the back corner, which is now, as it happens, “her pew.”



## FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE, COFFEE, TEA, AND COCOA

Fair Trade Chocolate, Coffee, Tea, and Cocoa will be available for purchase in the narthex at the following times in July.

- After the 5 pm service on Saturday, 12 July
- After the 8:15 am service on Sunday, 13 July
- Before and after the 11 am service on Sunday, 13 July

Thank you in advance for your support of Fair Trade. Please contact Jim Kempton if you like to purchase Fair Trade products outside of the listed times.

## DRAMA CAMP PERFORMANCES

Hello, Salem family. Please join us at this year's Salem Drama Camp on Thursday, July 24th and Friday, July 25th for our free performances at 7:00 pm. We will be sharing "A Froggy Day in Catonsville" where our Chesapeake Bay critters teach a bullfrog that bullying is not nice. There will also be open dress rehearsals at 1:00 pm on Thursday and Friday for those who can't be here in the evening.

Hope to see you there!

## HELP WANTED FOR GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

All positions to be filled on Saturday, September 6 (God's Work, Our Hands Day at Salem). On-the-job training provided. No wages but volunteers are richly rewarded. Sign-up sheets to follow.

Openings include:

**Letterwriters.** Remind the parish homebound, college students, and members in the Armed Forces that they have not been forgotten. Volunteers should have legible-ish penmanship and be able to express kind and caring thoughts. Stationary supplied. Salem supplies the postage.

**Assembly line workers.** Help pack layette kits (last year there were 30) and student backpacks (256 in 2024) for Lutheran World Relief. Experience at Amazon helpful but not required.

**Shoppers.** Sign-up sheets for various school supplies for the student backpacks will be posted later this month. For those who want to get a head start, consider the fact that last year, 1,024 spiral bound notebooks (wide or college rule) were needed. Get shopping!

**Youth group volunteers.** Put your lawncare and weeding skills to work at Lighthouse Youth and Family Services. It's a short walk from Salem.

**Knitters/crocheters.** Pull up a chair and help the Stitchcrafters knit/crochet hats and scarves for the Seafarers' Christmas-at-Sea project. Yarn, needles/hooks, and patterns supplied.

**Gardeners.** Calling all weeders! The Guardians of Eden will be hosting a morning of removing English ivy from the border fence and grounds. Bring your own gloves and garden tools (especially shovels).

Details about additional volunteer opportunities to follow. Have an idea? Want to join Salem's Social Ministry committee? Contact Mary Kay Willing.

## PLANNING NOW FOR MARKETPLACE – SATURDAY, NOV. 1ST

Want to help plan for this year's Marketplace? Come to a meeting on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:45 p.m. in the Katie Luther Room. Strategies for the Silent Auction, Craft Vendors and Lunch in Bethany Hall, and **new plans for the White Elephant Set Up in Reformation Hall** will be discussed. **PLEASE NOTE:** This year the White Elephant Room will host vendors wishing to sell their own treasures by renting a table space for \$25 each {table provided} or \$20 a table {size 3' X 8'} should you provide your own table. The committee asks that Salem congregation members **DO NOT** bring any of their treasures before Marketplace leaving them in the Sunday School classroom. We no longer wish to accept "treasure" donations from the congregation. We want **YOU** to get involved and set up your own table and join in the fun that day. Hope to see you at the planning meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Co-Chairs: Dee Trimble and Sharon Stanton

## WHAT'S IN THE SHOWCASE

***Mary Krebs with her beautiful artwork "CHICKENS,"*** shares them with us throughout July.

***The wonderful and creative ladies*** of the Stitchcrafters who meet on Thursday mornings in the Wittenburg room at 10 am will display their beautiful creations in August.

Want to do a showcase? Any committee-share what your group does or any individual with your own wonderful collection? Showcases reserved now for the rest of 2025; however, if you would like to share your committee's projects/events or your own private collection, we are scheduling into 2026. March 2026 is our first Open Date. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sharon-[memsha7311@gmail.com](mailto:memsha7311@gmail.com) or leave a note with your name and showcase date and idea in the Historic Old Salem mailbox outside the main church office. I'll contact you. Thank you.



## NEW REFUGEE TASK FORCE CHAIR, UPDATES

We're grateful to Beth Rodgers who has graciously agreed to serve as our new Refugee Task Force chair. Beth has been a stalwart member of the TF these past ten years, and will be as grateful for the dedication and diligence of our task force members and the support of Salem congregation as I have been.

Since the Durrani family achieved their independence this past January, the TF is taking a rest from primary sponsorship. We remain amazed and filled with gratitude for the congregation's \$34,000 response to our February appeal for Lutheran Social Services/NCA and their desperate needs in this current refugee crisis, as well as a deluge of requested supplies during the following weeks. Additionally, the Social Ministry Committee dedicated their annual fundraiser for this cause and raised over \$3,000 for the refugee ministries of Global Refuge, Lutheran World Relief and LSS/NCA.

We are seeking to be supportive of others' efforts and have become engaged with the Howard County-based Interfaith Refugee Ministry. We are providing \$600 toward the dental needs of a local Afghan family refugee family and contributed \$1,500 for a month's rent for a recently arrived Burmese refugee family. We are also relaying the IRM's appeal for a car much needed by one of their sponsored families. If you could consider providing one, or know of one, please contact me.

We are glad to share some updates from the Durrani family. Masooma, who has remained employed at Forest Haven Home has applied to the Balto County School system for cafeteria work. Saba graduated from Catonsville High in June and is working as a receptionist at Forest Haven. She has begun college classes at CCBC, and Rohail continues his studies there. Lima had a very good sophomore year. Rohail, a 2024 graduate, is now working as a licensed producer for an insurance company. Several months ago Sahra and one year old Zaimab were back from Cleveland for a delightful visit.

In other new news of our families, Kaltrina Alaj was married July 3<sup>rd</sup> in a small ceremony in northern Virginia.

You have likely heard that the current administration has revoked Temporary Protective Status for our Afghan allies who came to the US after Kabul fell to the Taliban. These were all those Afghan nationals who served as translators, security forces and more to the US mission in Afghanistan. We believe the Durrani are safe having received their Asylum status last October. Our former families, of course, are all now citizens. (Masooma's husband, who was engaged in work for the US Army, was murdered by the Taliban when the children were young.)

Those Afghans who remain on TPS deserve our advocacy and prayers. Efforts since 2022 to create a more permanent pathway to citizenship for these allies have been stalled in Congress. As of July 24, these Afghans must leave the country because the Department of Homeland Security claims the conditions in Afghanistan have improved such that these men, women and children no longer need this protection. Current assessments from other countries, the UN, and International Relief and Development groups (not to mention friends in Pakistan) paint a very different picture: economic and employment insecurity, food shortages, gender violence and restrictions. Common sense and area reports predict retribution to those Afghans who choose to leave.

For more information click this alert from Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service: [https://globalrefuge.quorum.us/campaign/124711/?utm\\_source=LIRS+Communications&utm\\_campaign=5f98f13ffd-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2024\\_09\\_09\\_06\\_16\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-28b65c7f80-603229248](https://globalrefuge.quorum.us/campaign/124711/?utm_source=LIRS+Communications&utm_campaign=5f98f13ffd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_09_09_06_16_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-28b65c7f80-603229248)

Criminals, whether citizens or immigrants, rightly should fear apprehension and prosecution. But the careless and callous vilification of all refugees and immigrants deserves our advocacy and begs our prayers. This is a terrifying, anxious and painful time for many Americans who don't look or sound like most of us. We encounter such persons most every day.

Pr. Ed Whetstone

## GUARDIANS OF EDEN

**HART MILLER ISLAND** Hart Miller Island is located in Baltimore County near Middle River east of the city. It was 2 separate islands but is now one, almost entirely man made. In 1981 the area was filled in by dredged material and this project was completed by 2012. The island is the home to many types of birds and wildlife. It can only be reached by boat.

GOE is sponsoring a free trip on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We will leave from Salem at 8:15, and carpool, meeting the boat at 9:00 a.m. The boat will cross to the island and return at noon. On the island, a shuttle and guide will give us a tour. If interested please contact Norma Hensler-Davis by August 20<sup>th</sup>. We will take a minimum of ten people and maximum of 20. Hope to see you there.

**GOD'S WORK/OUR HANDS** – GOE committee members will lead an activity on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon at Salem. We will continue efforts to remove English ivy from the border fence and grounds. Our primary goal is to plant a variety of native perennials to fill in under the existing tall trees and shrubs. GOE will purchase all the plants from a local nursery and will also provide composting materials and mulch for this project. We recommend that participants bring their own gloves and garden tools to use on this project if you have them, but shovels are the primary tool we do need. GOE does have some garden tools to use; however, extra equipment would be appreciated. We also will provide the yard waste bags, bottles of water and a snack. It is recommended also to wear long pants and sturdy, closed toed shoes and bring gloves. Prior to that day, poison ivy and sticker bushes will be removed. If you are interested in helping with this project, please sign up on the Social Ministry Easel in the Narthex the end of July/beginning of August. You could also email Sharon Schueler at [sharonpiscs57@gmail.com](mailto:sharonpiscs57@gmail.com).

**UPDATES - RECENTLY PLANTED WHITE OAK TREE:** As you may have noticed the tree has fewer green leaves now than in May. No worries – the tree is still alive and thriving! The defoliation is evidence of how much insects love White Oak leaves. This is a natural part of the wonderfully diverse ecosystem that White Oaks are an essential part of. There is no need to purchase any fertilizer or insecticide. Nature's intricate and often unseen system of checks and balances is at work!

**TREX RECYCLE PROJECT:** GOE will be setting up a "recycle" center to collect plastic film throughout the summertime. Examples of accepted items include grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, plastic bottle casing wrap, produce bags, Ziploc and other recloseable food storage bags. **ALL PLASTIC MUST BE CLEAN, DRY AND FREE OF FOOD RESIDUE.** If Salem participates in the TREX recycling challenge and collects 1,000 lbs. of polyethylene plastic film, TREX will donate a bench to Salem made from these recycled materials. MORE DETAILS OF THIS PROJECT TO COME IN MID-JULY.

**CARBON FOOTPRINT:** **What is a carbon footprint? A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gasses {including carbon dioxide and methane} that are generated by our actions. The average carbon footprint for a person in the United States is 16 tons, one of the highest rates in the world. Why is Salem considering reducing their carbon footprint? The reduction will help mitigate climate change and its adverse effects.** In response to Listening Goal #7, over the last few months, GOE committee members have engaged in a factfinding effort to {1} compile a history of carbon footprint reduction actions taken by Salem over the years; {2} research what carbon footprint means and share this information with the Salem community; and {3} develop recommendations for promoting environmentally friendly practices throughout the congregation.

Here is a summary of past actions taken by the Property Committee members:

**1997:** Renovation of Building: replaced two oil fired heating system burners with natural gas fired burners

**Early 2000's:** replaced old metal framed windows in the Education Building Wing built circa 1950's onto the original building built circa 1903, with Pella double-paned insulated windows

**Around 2010:** updated 40 watt T12 fluorescent tube lighting with newer 32 watt T8 lighting & replaced stained glass window coverings throughout the Church Building with plexiglass providing additional insulation and protection

**2013:** replaced two heating system boilers with energy efficient Lochinvar boilers

**2017:** replacement of Frederick Road and Parking Lot wooden entrance doors with single panel panes with more efficient secure steel doors

**2022:** LED overhead lighting upgrade in Reformation Hall

**2024:** replaced interior fluorescent and exterior HID lighting fixtures with LED units. Incandescent and CFL light bulbs replaced with LED bulbs

In addition, the Property Committee has pursued solar energy panels for installation. In both endeavors to do so, Salem was deemed ineligible for solar panels due to the age and type of the roof.

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## HISTORIC OLD SALEM NEWS

There are still a few seats available for our ***Bus trip to Suicide Bridge. Final Count must be turned in by July 18<sup>th</sup>***. Menu consists of delicious steamed crabs, Maryland crab soup, fried chicken, clam strips, corn on the cob, cole slaw, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. Hoping for a beautiful, sunny day cruising on a paddle wheel boat up & down the Choptank River outside of Cambridge. Cost \$110 per person, inclusive. Meet at the SW Park & Ride Lot, S. Rolling Road and Rt 195 intersection by 9:15 a.m.

***Old Salem Board members will host our Fall Open House and Program*** at 701 Ingleside Avenue on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. More details to follow; check out the Sat/Sun bulletin announcements or online.

Want to see beautiful gardens that were originally developed and maintained by Pierre du Pont {1870-1954} on a farm that he purchased to save the historic trees there from being sold as just lumber? Travel with Old Salem to ***Longwood Gardens on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>***. Our very own personal tour guide, ***Tim Jennings***, will take us through the du Pont home which still stands within the Gardens, the Conservatory, and the magnificent Fountain Show Display. Lunch is on your own at the Garden Cafe' for a nominal fee. After leaving Longwood, we'll make a short stop on the way home at the Amish Markets and Gardens. Cost is \$90 inclusive for the bus transportation and the Garden's entrance fee. Only 16 spaces remaining. Reservations/payment due by August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

And ***HOLD THE DATE PLEASE*** for our Christmas bus trip on ***Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>*** to the Riverside Center for the Performing Arts in Fredericksburg, Virginia. It's a dinner theater, serving you at your table with a choice of entrees before enjoying the wonderful "White Christmas" play. This is a perfect start for our Christmas celebrations. Have reserved 40 tickets @ \$130 per person; price includes dinner, show, tax, gratuity and transportation. Monies due November 3<sup>rd</sup>; but taking reservations now and space is filling up.

***NOTE: Our annual Christmas Open House originally scheduled for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled this year in lieu of our Christmas bus trip.***

***If you are interested*** in joining the Old Salem Board of Directors or would just like some additional information, please let me know. We welcome everyone to join us. It's not a strenuous responsibility and the members are a wonderful group of people {some Salem and some community members} working together to maintain the Old Salem Church and surrounding cemetery located at 701 Ingleside Avenue.

Our ***next Board meeting is Wednesday, August 20th at 7 pm at Salem Church in the Katie Luther Room***, 905 Frederick Road. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Contact** Sharon Stanton - [memsha7311@gmail.com](mailto:memsha7311@gmail.com) or call 410-744-8724 for more information and/or to make reservations.



## FAREWELL AND GODSPEED-PASTOR DAVID & NANCY ASENDORF

O Asendorf, O Asendorf \*

as vicar we first knew you.

You came among us bearing eggs;

leaving you had our hearts, 'twas true.

It wasn't long till your return

as for your ministry we yearned.

O Asendorf –

(now spoken) *O Asendorf!* Oh, David Kane Asendorf, *now* what will we sing to you, and what will we say, now that so very soon you will no longer be our pastor?

For all our heavy hearts, we do know, actually. We know because I'm confident that in anticipation of this day each one of us, *every one* of us has summoned God's good and great grace, praying in hope that when we finally arrived at this farewell moment, that we would embrace it with such a loving spirit that we could bid you farewell and Godspeed filled with profound gratitude and unselfish joy for your newfound, richly deserved, shared retirement.

Nancy, we give thanks for your wholehearted embracing of life in this congregation. With your heart, your voice and your hands, in ways extraordinary and ordinary, you have been a rich blessing among us.

You gave your loving support for Dave's preparations for his second vocation, and in its fulfillment became his ready companion, entering our fellowship and sharing in our mission. Your stellar voice has enriched our worship as soloist and singing in several of our choirs. With willing hands you rang with the bells, washed tablecloths after our suppers, created schedules and provided reminders for our servants in worship and cooked meals for members who were ill. With a heart full of ready friendship, thoughtfulness and encouragement you generously enriched our congregational life.

And Dave, with your love, your knowledge, your experience, your laughter, your prayers, your vision, you have faithfully, ably and fervently led this parish as our beloved pastor.

For love of the gospel you were eager to know us, from first laboring to know all of our names, then learning our interests, gifts and occupations, ever welcoming us with warmth and pleasure over and over again, and reaching out for us when we drifted apart.

With a caring not forgotten, you ministered to those who were, ill, troubled, dying, mourning, homebound, in pain or need.

In your preaching you enlightened us, challenged us, encouraged our discipleship, especially when such obedience runs so counter to the self-absorbed, cruel, blind and reckless ways of the world around us.

In the varied of contexts of classrooms, coffee shops and casual conversations you widened our understanding of the gospel.

You sought and nurtured new leadership for our parish, and gave strong, appreciative assistance to those long serving.

By your encouragement and example you continually called us to be good stewards in our generous giving of our hours and days, our money and material gifts, our abilities and our experience for the work of the gospel in our life together and in the world beyond.

You assembled our talented staff and provided staunch support, helpful guidance and ready gratitude for their ministries. You reliably tended all the needful, seldom seen tasks and responsibilities in the administration of parish life.

You used your experience in management and your heart for ministry both to serve and give leadership beyond our parish to agencies and organizations in our community and wide world, and in our synod and national Church.

You learned our stories, embraced our rich heritage and provided vision for our future.

As we are grateful for the rich blessing you have been for us, so we know you will continue to be in this new season of ministry in your life. And with our gratitude comes our prayers for generous time with family, opportunities for travel and exploration, and guiltless leisure for books, garden, amusement and idle hours.

You will forever be our brother and sister in Christ, and with profound thanksgiving and abiding love held in fond remembrance.

*Eternal God, we give thanks for Dave and Nancy and our life together in this congregation and community. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*  
(from the LBW Occasional Service Book)

We bid you Godspeed.

*a robust, standing ovation!*

\* from Salem, the Musical, sung to the melody *O Tannenbaum*









## PHOTOS FROM PR. DAVE'S RETIREMENT DINNER









## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Starting Wednesday, July 16th, men's prayer breakfast will meet through Zoom, except on the first Wednesdays of the month, when the breakfasts will be held at State Fare.

## AROUND THE PARISH

- Congratulations to Sarah Lefler who will retire as Executive Director of Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp at the end of December 2025. Well done, good and faithful servant!
- Kudos to Jack Morgan who received his AA from CCBC and heads to University of Maryland College Park this fall.

## SALEM FINANCIALS

### May

| General Fund         |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Receipts to Date     | 270,499.51       |
| Expenses to Date     | 280,911.40       |
| <b>Difference</b>    | <b>10,411.89</b> |
|                      |                  |
| Budget to Date       | 262,125.00       |
|                      |                  |
| R.S.V.P              |                  |
| Receipts to Date     | 16,740.00        |
| Disbursement to Date | 16,858.06        |
| <b>Difference</b>    | <b>118.06</b>    |

(Carryover balance from 2024: \$30485.05)

*Dear Salem Lutheran Church,*

Good Trouble Church has been blessed by your generous donation(s). We want to say thank you for making a difference in the lives of our community members and helping us to continue to serve our neighbors in these various ways: for Family Life Worship, the care and keeping of Red Shed Village, outreach bags which include critical PPE and nutrition for housing insecure neighbors, as well as produce from Black farmers for Farm to Stoop Free Market, to name a few things. And you are also directly contributing to the leadership development of NAM community members through supporting weekly stipends for various positions, such as Village Steward, Sexton, and Market Manager.

Your belief in this mission, your tangible support, and your prayers mean so much.

*"We can live our life of being new because here and now there is a new way. Good Trouble, the man up above brought a community together to make a way for family, our family." - Evangelist Brian "Black" Chapman*



Good Friday, April 18, 2025

*In Gratitude,*

*Cindy and Good Trouble Church*



May 30, 2025

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

Dear Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, which were received by the ELCA churchwide organization in March 2025.

*We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
—1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Your gift is a reminder that our work of faith and labor of love are not done alone. We give thanks for our shared work and our shared hope, which inspire ELCA churchwide ministries, in partnership with congregations and synods, to make God's love real in exciting and ever-changing ways.

Your generosity is starting new faith communities and sustaining existing ones, empowering leaders, responding to disaster with long-term commitment, and addressing hunger and poverty. Through your gifts, you join with the whole church in loving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you! May the God of all good gifts continue to work among you.

In Christ,

*Daniel Rift*

The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, Congregational Generosity

Gifts are designated for:

| Date      | Program                    | Amount     |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------|
| 2/28/2025 | Lutheran Disaster Response | \$1,925.00 |
| 2/28/2025 | U.S. Wildfires             | \$4,000.00 |

**THANK YOU**



*Thank You*

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| 29  | 30   | 1  | 2  | 3   | 4  | 5   |
|   |  | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>4pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>7pm - Heart of Maryland<br>7pm - Zoom Fellowship                         | 6am - AA Meeting<br>8am - Men's Prayer<br>8:30am - Drama Camp<br>10am - Salem Quilters<br>5:30pm - AA Meeting  | 8am - Business Builders<br>8:30am - Drama Camp<br>10am - Stitchcrafters   |  | 5pm - Contemporary Worship                            |
| 6   | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10  | 11   | 12  |
| 8:15am - Early Service<br>9:30am - Adult Forum<br>9:30am - Choir Practice<br>9:30am - Sunday School<br>11am - Late Service<br>12:30pm - Salem Brass | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>7pm - AA Women's Group<br>7pm - Brass Quintet<br>7pm - Centering Prayer<br>7pm - Guardians of Eden<br>7pm - Prayer Stitchers<br>7:30pm - Nar-Anon | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>4pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>6pm - Tech Committee<br>7pm - Heart of Maryland<br>7pm - Zoom Fellowship | 6am - AA Meeting<br>8am - Men's Prayer<br>8:30am - Drama Camp<br>10am - Salem Quilters<br>5:30pm - AA Meeting<br>6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>7pm - AA Meeting | 8am - Business Builders<br>8:30am - Drama Camp<br>10am - Stitchcrafters   | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>12pm - AA Group                     | 9am - Trading Card Expo<br>5pm - Contemporary Worship |
| 13  | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17  | 18   | 19  |
| 8:15am - Early Service<br>9:30am - Adult Forum<br>9:30am - Choir Practice<br>9:30am - Sunday School<br>11am - Late Service<br>12:30pm - Salem Brass | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>7pm - AA Women's Group<br>7pm - Centering Prayer<br>7:30pm - Nar-Anon<br>7:30pm - Overeater's Anon  | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>4pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>7pm - Church Council<br>7pm - Heart of Maryland<br>7pm - Zoom Fellowship | 6am - AA Meeting<br>8am - Men's Prayer<br>8:30am - Drama Camp<br>10am - Salem Quilters<br>5:30pm - AA Meeting<br>6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop                     | 8am - Business Builders<br>8:30am - Drama Camp<br>10am - Stitchcrafters   | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>12pm - AA Group                     | 5pm - Contemporary Worship                            |
| 20  | 21   | 22   | 23   | 24  | 25   | 26  |
| 8:15am - Early Service<br>9:30am - Adult Forum<br>9:30am - Choir Practice<br>9:30am - Sunday School<br>11am - Late Service<br>12:30pm - Salem Brass | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>7pm - AA Women's Group<br>7pm - Centering Prayer<br>7pm - Prayer Stitchers<br>7:30pm - Nar-Anon<br>7:30pm - Overeater's Anon                      | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>4pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>7pm - Heart of Maryland<br>7pm - Zoom Fellowship                         | 6am - AA Meeting<br>8am - Men's Prayer<br>8:30am - Drama Camp<br>10am - Salem Quilters<br>5:30pm - AA Meeting<br>6:30pm - Girl Scout Troop                     | 8am - Business Builders<br>8:30am - Drama Camp<br>10am - Stitchcrafters<br>7pm - Drama Camp<br>7:30pm - Brass Quintet | 8:30am - Drama Camp<br>12pm - AA Group<br>7pm - Drama Camp | 5pm - Contemporary Worship                            |
| 27  | 28   | 29   | 30   | 31  | 1  | 2   |
| 8:15am - Early Service<br>9:30am - Adult Forum<br>9:30am - Choir Practice<br>9:30am - Sunday School<br>11am - Late Service<br>12:30pm - Salem Brass | 1pm - Bible Study<br>4pm - Yoga<br>7pm - AA Women's Group<br>7pm - Centering Prayer<br>7:30pm - Nar-Anon<br>7:30pm - Overeater's Anon                                    | 4pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>4:30pm - Girl Scout Troop<br>7pm - Heart of Maryland<br>7pm - Zoom Fellowship  | 6am - AA Meeting<br>8am - Men's Prayer<br>10am - Salem Quilters<br>4pm - Chair Yoga<br>5:30pm - AA Meeting   | 8am - Business Builders<br>10am - Stitchcrafters  |  |   |

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**OFFICIAL ACTS**
**AT THE WEDDING ALTAR**

*Katie Leisher and Mihir Marolia 06/06/2025*

**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.*

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>John Boender*</i>              | <i>06/05/2025</i> |
| <i>Ethel I. Darragh*</i>          | <i>06/06/2025</i> |
| <i>Keith Wayne Hall*</i>          | <i>06/09/2025</i> |
| <i>Marsha Elizabeth Stodolski</i> | <i>06/22/2025</i> |

*\*Not a Salem member*

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**PARISH LEADERS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Altar Guild: Mary Krebs                                  | Memorial and Bequests: Paul W. Krabitz                         |
| Archive Committee: Judy LeGath                           | Prayer Tree Coordinators: Karen Amy, Barbara Beem              |
| Arts Committee: Vacant                                   | Property: Rusty Schaefer                                       |
| Child Protection Committee: Linda Fleischer              | Salem Players: Lisa Yerkey                                     |
| Children's Ministry Committee: Eileen Merriman, Zoë Dell | Scholarship: Sue Gdovin  |
| Christian Fellowship Committee: Darla Sando, Pam Wilsey  | Social Ministry: Mary Kay Willing                              |
| Communications Committee: Guy Davis, Karen Amy           | Stewardship Committee: John Brohawn                            |
| Evangelism Committee: Nicki Fatherly                     | Technology Support Committee: Lisa Yerkey                      |
| Finance Committee: Ken Wolfram                           | Ushers: Mary Krebs, Ray Hamelin                                |
| Guardians of Eden: Ken Scarlatelli, Sharon Schueler      | Youth Ministry Committee: Melissa Miller and Veronica Merriman |
| Health Resources: Beth Rodgers, Lynda Bell               | Worship Life: Jane Stolte                                      |
| Historic Old Salem: Sharon Stanton                       |  |

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**ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR MAY AND JUNE 2025**

|               | Saturday Evening | Sunday Service |        | Livestream | Weekly* Total |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------|------------|---------------|
|               |                  | First          | Second |            |               |
| May 24/25     | 20               | 82             | 85     | 10/29**    | 226           |
| May 31/June 1 | 38               | 73             | 96     | 12/31      | 250           |
| June 7/8      | 24               | 55             | 96     | 13/30      | 218           |
| June 14/15    | 28               | 63             | 99     | 5/17       | 212           |
| June 21/22    | 36               | 57             | 109    | 40/12      | 254           |
| June 28/29    | 32               | 98             | 187    | 14/51***   | 382           |

\*Week reflects Saturday through Friday

\*\*Livestream datum for May 25th has been updated since the last Monarch publication

\*\*\*On June 29th, both Sunday services were livestreamed. Six people watched the 8:15 service, and 45 people watched the 11:00 service.



**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 **SalemChurch**.

If you have any questions about our network please contact the Technology Committee, Lisa Yerkey, at [salemtech@salem-catonsville.org](mailto: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.





**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

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

Interim Pastor G. Stanley Steele  
pastorstan@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: Joey Morgan and Letty Monahan

**CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP**

President: Emily D'Avella

Vice-President: Lisa Yerkey

Secretary: Matthew Fairchild

Financial Secretary: Linda Fleischer

Treasurer: Ray Hamelin

Assistant Treasurer: Jane Stolte

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Ron Bruce  
Emily D'Avella  
Guy Davis  
Matthew Fairchild  
Ray Giuliani  
Pat Jennings

Veronica Merriman  
Carolyn Moore  
Mary Oliver  
Michael Petry  
Janet Van Sant  
Lisa Yerkey

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONTRIBUTING STAFF**

Guy Davis, Co-Chair  
Karen Amy, Co-Chair  
Barbara Beem  
Peggy Dell  
Carolyn Lawrence  
Judy LeGath  
Joey Morgan  
Sharon Stanton  
Bethann Snyder  
Ed Whetstone

**Contributing Photographers**  
Guy Davis

**Proofreading**  
Sharon Stanton

**NEXT MONARCH PUBLICATION**

**September 2025**

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**