



The Salem Light

Newsletter of the Congregation of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

3825 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084 ■ 410-692-6803 ■ The Reverend Jeanne Larsen, Pastor
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From the Pastor's Desk –



Blessings at This Amazing Time of the Year,

Fall as it turns into winter is the darkest time of the year as far as daylight is concerned. First we go from daylight saving time to standard time. Yes, it gets light a bit earlier in the morning but it gets dark before dinner. I really dislike it. Even though the number of daylight hours may be short, the light of the blessings of these two months is amazing.

November brings crispness of the air and the colorful fallen leaves. And it brings us the blessings of Thanksgiving. We are privileged to be able to have a set time to stop and give thanks for all our blessings. We here in this area have so much to be thankful for—beautiful landscape, availability of such variety of foods plus friends and family. We have so many opportunities to share of our bounties and of ourselves.

Then with the first Sunday of Advent we have the new year of the church. We take time to welcome the coming of Christ both as a baby at Christmas and to look forward to the return of our Lord at the end of the age.

Advent is both a beginning and an end—the alpha and the omega—with the gift of our Lord's grace. It is the gift of our Lord coming to us and the long anticipated gift of our Lord's return. We sing, "Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free." And we are his people! What can be more wonderful as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord on Holy Christmas time?

Let us pray together, "Come, Lord Jesus, to us this Christmas Season," Amen



Sunday Worship Assistants

November-December

November 6, 2016

All Saint's day

Communion

Ushers: Richard Newsome -Timothy Lukens

Acolyte: Tessa Grove

Lector: Mark Hoefler

Communion Assistants: Mark Hoefler- Carol Temple

Tellers: Stearns, Bortmes

November 13, 2016 *Gather Together Sunday*

Ushers: - Scott McAllister – Mike Whitacre

Acolyte: Ellie Maddox

Lector: Jennifer Maddox

Tellers: DeMey - Phoebus

November 20, 2016 *Christ Our King Sunday* Communion

Ushers: Dennis Lukens-Sharon Lukens

Acolytes: TBD

Lector: Carol Temple

Communion Assistants: Ned Cockey – Karen DeMey

Tellers: McAllister - Lukens

November 23, 2016 *Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 PM*

Schedule of Assistants: TBD

November 27, 2016 *1st Sunday in Advent* Communion

Ushers: Ned Cockey – Larry Dryer

Acolytes: TBD – Timothy Lukens

Lector: Betty Adams

Communion Assistants: Betty Adams – Ruth Phoebus

Tellers: Newsome – Hoos

December 4, 2016 *2nd Sunday in Advent* Communion

Ushers: Richard Newsome – Timothy Lukens

Acolyte: Thomas Maddox – Madaline DeMey

Lector: Karen DeMey

Communion Assistants: Sharon Lukens – Jean Weimer

Tellers: Stearns – Bortmes

December 11, 2016 *3rd Sunday in Advent* Christmas Program

Ushers: Scott McAllister – Mike Whitacre

Acolytes: TBD – TBD

Lector: Sandra Bail

Tellers: McAllister – Lukens

December 18, 2016 *4th Sunday in Advent* Communion

Ushers: Ned Cockey – Larry Dryer

Acolyte: Elly Maddox – Timothy Lukens

Lector: Ruth Phoebus

Communion Assistants: Mark Hoefler – Carol Temple

Tellers: McAllister – Lukens

December 24, 2016 *Christmas Eve* Communion

Ushers: Dennis Lukens – Sharon Lukens

Acolytes: Tessa Grove, Madaline DeMay, Thomas Maddox,
Timothy Lukens

Lector: Mike Whitacre

Communion Assistants: Ned Cockey-Karen DeMey

Wine Helper: Sharon Lukens

Tellers: TBD

December 25, 2016 *Christmas Day* Communion

Ushers: Richard Newsome -Timothy Lukens

Acolyte: Kylee Niederberger

Lector: Mark Hoefler

Communion Assistants: Betty Adams –Ruth Phoebus

Tellers: Newsome – Hoos

Worship and Event Schedule: November - December 2016

(See details in "Upcoming Events")

Thursday, November 3

- 7:00 PM Choir

Saturday, November 5

- 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Disciples Together, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 Mt. 201 Royal Avenue, Aberdeen, MD

Sunday, November 6 All Saints Day

- 9:00 AM Traditional Worship with **communion**

Monday, November 7

- 10:00 AM Bible Study

Tuesday, November 8

- No GriefShare
- 7:00 PM Committee Meeting
- 7:30 PM Council Meeting

Thursday, November 10

- 7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, November 13 Gather Together Sunday

- 9:00 AM Traditional Worship with **communion**
- (no Sunday School) Thanksgiving Brunch to Follow

Monday, November 14

- 10:00 AM Bible Study

Tuesday, December 15

- 7:00 PM GriefShare

Wednesday, December 16

- 7:00 PM SLCC Board meeting

Sunday, November 20 Christ Our King Sunday

- 9:00 AM Traditional Worship with **communion**
- 9:20 AM Sunday School
- Congregational Meeting

Monday, November 21

- 10:00 AM Bible Study

Tuesday, December 22

- 7:00 PM GriefShare

Wednesday, November 23 Thanksgiving Eve

- **7:00 PM Jarrettsville Area Joint Worship Service, hosted by Salem**

Sunday, November 27 1st Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 AM Traditional Worship with **communion**
- 9:20 AM Sunday School

Monday, November 28

- 10:00 AM Bible Study

Tuesday, December 29

- 7:00 PM GriefShare

Thursday, December 1

- 7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, December 4 2nd Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 AM Traditional Worship with **communion**
- 9:20 AM Sunday School

Monday, December 5

- 10:00 AM Bible Study

Thursday, December 8

- 7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, December 11 3rd Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 AM Salem Choir Christmas Cantata

Monday, December 12

- No Bible Study

Thursday, December 15

- 7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, December 18 4th Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 AM Traditional Worship with **communion**
- 9:20 AM Sunday School

Monday, December 19

- 10:00 AM Bible Study

Thursday, December 22

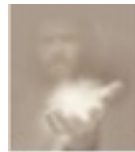
- 7:00 PM Choir

Saturday, December 24

- 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service with Communion

Sunday, December 25

- 9:00 AM Christmas Service with Communion
- No Sunday School



Outreach at Salem

Our benevolence to the Delaware-Maryland Synod remains at 12.5% of our regular offerings. Of this amount, our synod passes on half to the national ELCA to support struggling congregations, pastoral leaders, mission programs in our community, seminaries, campus ministries and more. Thanks to all at Salem for this effort.

Mason- Dixon Community Services

Salem has received a kind letter from Torri M. Dietrich, Executive Director of Mason-Dixon Community Services, reading in part “Thank you for helping us to break the cycle of poverty in northern Harford and southeastern York Counties. Your gifts of food and school supplies valued at \$1,179.17 to Mason-Dixon is deeply appreciated.”

Please continue to bring in items and place them in the box in the narthex. Items will be delivered to Mason-Dixon every two weeks.

Casseroles for Daily Bread

In September we donated 21 casseroles, and 23 in October, each of which serves 8 people. Thanks to all who give to this wonderful cause. Please continue to support this meaningful program.

Thrivent (www.Thrivent.com)

Thrivent Magazine September issue article “**Give and Get Back**” reports “People who volunteer report” 96% enriched purpose in life, 94% Improved mood, 78% Lower stress, 76% Feel healthier, 25% Better management of chronic illness. Thanks again to all of our Salem members for supporting Thrivent!

GriefShare Support Group

GriefShare, a 13 week-long Non-denominational support group for those who have lost loved ones to death, began **Tuesday, September 13, 2016**. Two once-a-week sessions are being held:

- 2:00pm at Norrisville United Methodist Church, 2811 W. Church Lane, White Hall, MD 21161.
- 7:00pm at Salem Lutheran Church, 3825 Norrisville Road, MD 21084 (across from Jarrettsville Elementary)

This program has been well-received, and we at Salem are pleased to be part of this valuable program. Even if you haven't attended an earlier session you are welcome to come to any of the remaining sessions.

To register call Rev. Melissa McDade, 410-692-6179, or email to her at thomasjsullivan@hotmail.com

Help Wanted

We need someone to take over the position of Altar Guild.

The job entails keeping the altar clean, changing candles as needed, changing and ironing the altar cloth when the color changes. Also with this position is the communion set up/clean up schedule. You will be responsible for notifying the person responsible for communion that month and helping them if needed. You will also order the wine, candles & communion cups and launder and iron the communion linens.

If anyone is interested see me or Lynn Cox or Pastor Jeanne.

Needless to say I will help you in any way I can.

Thanks, Ruth Phoebus

A Note of Thanks

Contributed by Judy Newsome

I would like to thank Pastor Jeanne & the congregation for all the thoughts & prayers for Savannah over the past 11 months.

As most of you know she was born addicted to drugs & spent a month in the hospital getting the help she needed to get off of them. During that time my daughter & her husband sat vigil with her and gave her lots of love & prayers. From day one they said they wanted to adopt her and on [September 22, 2016](#) she became officially their daughter.

On [October 16th](#) Savannah was baptized. She was truly an angel sent from heaven. She has excelled a lot. The doctors & nurses at Mt. Washington Hospital say she is doing very well and do not anticipate any developmental problems in the future. You will continue to see her as she grows on her once a month outings with nanny & poppy.

Thank you again for all the concerns & prayers for Savanna,

Judy & Richard Newsome & Lavera & Barry Lear



Welcome, Baby Savannah

LYNN

Contributed by Mike Whitacre

There are times in our lives when good things happen. You put on a winter coat and find a \$20 bill. You realize a tree you planted looks bad and all of a sudden it perks up and wow that's great.

When pastor and hubby came to Salem I was to say the least apprehensive as I am a fatalist at heart. But fortunately my apprehensiveness has been subdued and I feel we were lucky to get Pastor and Lynn. They both have so adapted to our small church and have done so much to further the church and pull all together.

But my real praise and respect goes to "Mr. Lynn". He came into this gig with no reason to do anything more than necessary as his wife is the pastor. But I have been amazed at his ambition to help, his caring desire to make things right, and his stick-to-it-ness. I have noticed it with our band, ACE2.0. His desire to have the music sound like it should, his ability to remember how to hook up our electronics, 3 microphones, 2 guitars, and 3 speakers. But his stepping up with the apple butter "party" just blew me away. With Ned being hurt he jumped in to be sure all was ready and spent 25+ hours setting up the rainbow room, the tent, making a fire, and stirring butter whenever it was his turn. Then, held the band back from performing to continue to stir and carry apple butter to the kitchen for jarring. He was also right there to perform with us for an hour, tore apart the music equipment, and was there to reset the rainbow room, church, and always in good spirits. Everybody get tired and usually cranky but I never heard a harsh word spoken.

And the parsonage never looked better thanks to Lynn. He is always cleaning and maintaining and always seems to want to be involved in the ongoing water issues.

I want to take this time to personally thank Lynn for all he does and thank God for him and Pastor. As a small church, I always wonder where we will be “next year”. With an older congregation, many will want to start walking away from the work it takes to do the things we do as a church, but with God’s help we shall persevere.

UPCOMING Worship and Event Details

As of Sunday, October 30:

We will be sponsoring “Families for Thanksgiving” again this years – we donate “trimmings” and SLCC buys turkeys for our local families. Please bring your goodies to the Narthex.

Beginning in November

Karen DeMey will coordinate our “Christmas Gift Share” program this year. Please select gifts you wish to give from the “Christmas Tree lists” for the 4 families we sponsor. Place your wrapped gifts under the windows on the left side of the church under the family letter or number.

On **Saturday, November 5**, our Synod Harford Conference sponsored **Disciples Together** at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Aberdeen. This was a worship service and workshops at which our own Pastor Dick Kiesling hosted one of the workshops

Tuesday, November 8

7:00 PM Church Council Meeting

Sunday, November 13

9:00 AM **Gather Together Sunday**

No Sunday School -Our Salem children will participate in a program, both spoken and visual plus singing, followed by Thanksgiving Brunch. Please sign up in the Narthex (parents please let Lynn Cox know if your child will not participate)

Sunday, November 20 Congregational Meeting

Look for your information packet in the narthex on Nov. 6th, to be familiar with subjects, so meeting will go quickly! We will vote on a new person for council, election of officers, 2017 Operating Budget.

Wednesday, November 23

7:00 PM **Thanksgiving Eve service**

Salem will host a Community Service followed by a reception. Please let Lynn Cox know if you can bring something for our reception table (sweet snack or hors d’oeuvres)

Sunday, November 27

9:00 AM 1st Sunday in Advent, **Signing of the Covenant**

Sunday, December 11

9:00 AM 3rd Sunday in Advent

Our worship Sunday will be the Christmas cantata “**The Winter Rose.**” In addition to our choir and organist, the music will feature guitar, flute and violin accompaniment and songs by our

Sunday School youth. Our youth and other members will also provide narration and a Nativity pageant. A Christmas brunch with fellowship and carols will follow the service. Please sign up in the narthex with the number who will attend.

HIGHLIGHTS from September and October

September 11th – Special Worship Service



Salem hosted members of the Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company at Special worship service in remembrance of their selfless service to the community on the 15 year anniversary of 9/11.

Following the service we had an opportunity to examine the fire truck and Emergency Medical Vehicle during coffee time. We attended a presentation at the Fire House of the blessing of the helmets, and tolling of the bell for fallen heroes, followed by a delicious potluck lunch.

September 17th - Blessing of the Animals



We concluded our [Summer Worship Series](#) with our annual Blessing of the Animals. We gave thanks to God for all God's living creatures—and were reminded of all the animals mentioned in our Bible, and Saints associated with them, such as St. Francis and St. Ambrose. We shared communion and sang along with ACE 2.0. (And no pet guests escaped!)

September 18th – 9:20 AM Sunday School Began

Our children started off the season of learning about animals in the Bible, and saints associated with them, such as St. Francis and St. Ambrose, with a presentation about bees and bee-keeping.



September 25th – Pie Sunday

We all enjoyed this Salem Tradition and fellowship with the hands who made the pies!



October 1st - Our Annual Craft Fair, Flea Market, & Homemade Apple Butter Sale Raised \$5,177.00!

Flea Market - We had another very successful flea market making over \$1,300.00. This success is due to everyone who donated “fleas” and those who gave many hours of their time for the pricing of hundreds of items, setting up and helping on [Saturday](#): Shirley Bortmes, Mark and Cathy Hoefler, Sara Keller, Judy Newsome, Sue Pardo, Ruth Phoebus, David Phoebus, Mary Regan, Darlene Saffran, Dotti Stearns, Carol Temple, Melissa Whitaker, Allyson Whitaker and Sam.

I truly thank all of you.

Doris Karoll

Craft Fair – The gloomy weather didn't dampen the spirits of the many people who came all day. Most of our desserts were sold, apples- all gone, all the apple butter sold. The crafts did really well, and the food table was busy all day. All and all, a very successful turnout ending in \$3,876.99 in sales! Thanks to all who helped, and our Chair people, who worked together to

make this a great event. Come Rain or Shine, ACE 2.0, our music group entertains us. Thanks to those people who stayed through the night to stir our giant cauldron. Passersby LOVE to see it. Special thanks to Mike Whitacre, who provided the Moon Bounce for the children (and teenagers!)

Again, we were reminded we are one family working together for the good of Salem.
Lynn Cox



SLCC Corner



Salem Lutheran Children Center is a busy place this fall. The children were visited by Willy Woo Woo. He brought the pumpkin patch and the children found treasure. The children also went to pick apples at the apple orchard, corn mazes, and the Fire Museum. We were visited by the fire department. The children of SLCC taught about fire safety.

Bible stories started at the end of October. The children enjoy going into the church to listen to Bible stories.

In December we will enjoy a visit from Santa. Pastor Dick Kiesling will visit December 7th to tell us the true story of St. Nicholas.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Smithson, Director

Salem Lutheran Children Center

Please contact us at any time at

noahsrainbow@verizon.net or 410-557-6612.

Joint Youth Programs for ELCA Harford Conferences Churches

Colleen Carpenter-Gonia, St. Paul Lutheran's Director of Student Ministries, is developing a collaborative youth ministry for the ELCA churches in our Harford Conference. Most activities are for children grades 1 to 12, with some activities limited to high school students.

She hopes to have 1-2 adult representatives from each of our churches for contacts and for planning. On the last Friday of each month she wants to have an activity for our young people with the youth leading the devotions. Friends welcome. One idea is—How about cooking experts! Events planned so far are:

*Friday, October 28—Visit the Beachmont Corn Maze

*Friday, November 25—Baking cookies to fill tins for Seafarers Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*December—still being considered. Contact Colleen at Youth@GrowWithJesus.org for more information.

Worship Notes from Pastor Dick



The Sermon

In our travel through our Sunday morning liturgy we have reached what some might consider the “high” point [or “low” point if you don’t like the sermon!] of the morning worship. While it involves a great deal of time to prepare, the sermon is indeed a special moment, but the differing parts of our liturgy are not in “competition” with each other! Instead, they flow from moment to moment to make a carefully throughout whole.

The sermon is meant to be an explanation/exposition of the scripture. Because we follow an assigned listing of readings from the Bible, most of the time the sermon finds its focus or message from these readings. At special occasions this is not always so, but the sermon is meant to enhance the Scripture readings, not compete with them!

Careful sermon preparation lets the text of the readings develop the sermon: the main theme, any explanations that need to be made to help others understand what the chosen reading is all about and/or the situation in which it was written. By letting the text be the guide, then any sermon is bound to be an expression of what the Scripture reading is all about.

I personally find this to be the most rewarding and challenging task. Then once a theme has been developed that is faithful to the Scripture, then comes the task of putting it into words. Words are funny things, sometimes they convey just what the preacher wants and/or they can also be misunderstood by those hearing them. So if a question should arise as to what was said or meant to be said, it is entirely correct to ask the preacher for what was meant. Not in a confrontational way, but more like “I have a question for you about the sermon. Could you explain...”

Most of all, both the preacher and the congregation should rejoice in hearing God’s Word explained and emphasized. For it is in this hearing and listening that the blessings of God have the opportunity to come into our minds and hearts.

