

May, 2026



The Salem Light



Newsletter of the Congregation of Salem
Evangelical Lutheran Church

3825 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084 ■ 410-692-6803 ■ The Reverend Betty Lou Deuchler

www.SalemJarrettsville.org ■ email: Salem21084@salemjarrettsville.org

In this Issue

Pastor's Ponderings	1
Upcoming Events	2
SLCC Scholarship Fund	2
Many Thanks	2
Lenten Appeal – Final Update	2
Farewell	2
Worship Assistants	2
Teller Schedule	2
Altar Care	3
From the Editor	3
Worship Assistant Schedule	4
Father's Day Poster	5

waste center. However, our labor is rewarded almost immediately.

We witness the return of perennial plants sprouting up, rhododendron blooms and a few monarch butterflies have visited. Yet there are a few disappointments. Plants that did not winter over. After seven years the banana tree grove was hit hard. The trees showed no life.

I was sad and not looking forward to digging out the rotted root system. After procrastinating this chore for a couple more weeks, we decided this week it was time to get shoveling. As I dug, the smallest of a blackened tipped sprout was trying to reach the sunshine. The only one but that was all I needed to have the smallest amount of hope.

Easter remains with us and the daily signs of hope are there...sometimes we have to dig deeper even though we may have given up on some things.

Pastor's Ponderings

Like so many others, we are doing our outdoor spring cleanup. Ongoing projects like picking up sticks, broken tree limbs and trimming shrubs. Cutting grass every 3-4 days and clearing out flower beds before laying mulch. A good deal of lifting, digging and many runs to the county



I hope your May is one where you find digging deep into what area of life you would like to set your roots and bloom. Easter is a daily reminder that God plants us just where God needs us to be whether we can see the reason or not. God never loses hope with us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Betty Lou +

Upcoming Events

June 14 – Father's Day, Special Coffee Hour, immediately following worship

SLCC Scholarship Fund

The SLCC Board would like to establish a scholarship fund to support a child in need of preschool tuition for the next school year. We have been approved for a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$250 through Thrivent Financial for this cause.

We have designated June 7, 2026, as "SLCC Scholarship Sunday." Please consider giving what you can to support a member of our local community. Thank you for your generosity. Checks should be made to Salem Lutheran Church, with a note designating it for the SLCC Scholarship Fund.

Cathy

Many Thanks,

I would like to thank everyone again for their generous birthday gift. I was able to use the money to help replace my 15-year-old computer with a brand new all-in-one. I've been getting used to it slowly! It sure works faster than my old slow computer. Thanks again for your kindness.

Ruth

Lenten Appeal – Final Update

Each year during the Lenten season Salem identifies an outreach program that will make a difference in the lives of others. This year we chose to support the Beyond Blessings program of the Hope Center which works to reduce food insecurity among children. When we first began this outreach on Ash Wednesday I was reminded of Matthew 25:35 "For I

was hungry and you gave me to eat". We set a goal of raising enough funds to provide a year's worth of weekend meals for 3 children which would be about \$1,700. Once again your generosity is amazing as we surpassed our goal!! Total donations of \$2,468 will provide a year's worth of weekend meals for 4 children and 6 months of weekend meals for an additional child. You have truly made a difference in the lives of these children!

Generosity is not connected to how much we possess. It is connected to the love in our hearts. Thank you for sharing your resources and your love with the Beyond Blessings program.
Paige Garner

Farewell

April 26 marked Sarah Keller's last day at Salem as she is moving to Virginia to be by family. Pastor Betty Lou offered a farewell blessing to her at the end of worship on Sunday, April 26. Sarah's Salem family all joined in to wish her well in this new chapter in her life. She will be sorely missed.



Worship Assistants

The schedule for worship assistants for 2026 is found on Page 4 of this newsletter. We are constantly looking for people to assist in worship. If anyone would like to assist in the Sunday service, as an usher, lector, or Communion assistant, please contact Sharon Lukens.

Teller Schedule

May	3	Stearns, Ketchum
	10	Wilson, Riley
	17	Whitacre, Phoebus
	24	Ruth, Weimer
	31	Stearns, Phoebus
June	7	Stearns, Ketchum

	14	Wilson, Riley
	21	Whitacre, Phoebus
	28	Ruth, Weimer
July	5	Stearns, Ketchum
	12	Wilson, Riley
	19	Whitacre, Phoebus
	26	Ruth, Weimer
August	2	Stearns, Ketchum
	9	Wilson, Riley
	16	Whitacre, Phoebus
	23	Ruth, Weimer
	30	Stearns, Phoebus
September	6	Stearns, Ketchum
	13	Wilson, Riley
	20	Whitacre, Phoebus
	27	Ruth, Weimer
October	4	Stearns, Ketchum
	11	Wilson, Riley
	18	Whitacre, Phoebus
	25	Ruth, Weimer
November	1	Stearns, Ketchum
	8	Wilson, Riley
	15	Whitacre, Phoebus
	22	Ruth, Weimer
	29	Stearns, Phoebus
December	6	Stearns, Ketchum
	13	Wilson, Riley
	20	Whitacre, Phoebus
	27	Ruth, Weimer

Please make arrangements with someone on the Teller Schedule list to switch dates if you are unable to participate on the assigned Sunday.

Ruth Phoebus 410-692-9052

Dottie Stearns 410-692-5828

Claudette Wilson 410-241-0330

Laura Riley 410-877-5499

Mike Whitacre 443-695-4637

Carolyn Ruth 410-879-1502

Barbara Ketchum 443-243-2012

Jean Weimer 410-598-6899

THANK YOU TELLERS!!!

Altar Care

May – 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Linda Brannan

June – 7, 14, 21, 28 Claudette Wilson

July – 5, 12, 19, 26 Barbara Ketchum

August – 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jean Weimer

September – 6, 13, 20, 27 Diane Grove

October – 4, 11, 18, 25 Lynn Cox

November – 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Cindy Kerr

December – 6, 13, 20, 24, 25, 27 Doris Karoll

If you are not able to serve on the days assigned to you please arrange for someone else to take your place AND contact me at 410-692-9052 or cell 410-916-4294.

Thanks,

Ruth Phoebus

From the Editor

By now, I am sure that everyone is aware that this year marks the 250th anniversary (or birthday) of our nation. Each of us will choose to recognize this event in his/her own individual and personal manner, be it pride, joy, amazement, boredom, or something entirely different. For me, the American Revolution has always been one of the most interesting and fascinating period of our nation's history. For Christmas, I received a copy of an exceptional book, titled very simply, The American Revolution. The authors, Gregory C. Ward and Ken Burns, made this book a beautiful, personal account of our "War for Independence" with many excerpts from the diaries and records of people who lived through this unique period. Our first patriotic holiday occurs this month, so I thought it appropriate to share some insights from this book in my comments this month. Listed below are insights and statements from people who

Mercy Otis Warren, a revolutionary from Massachusetts, wrote, "The study of the human character at once opens a beautiful and deformed picture of the soul...We there find a noble principle implanted in the nature of man...But when the checks of conscience are thrown aside, or the moral sense weakened by the sudden acquisition of wealth or power, humanity is obscured."

Future president John Adams stated that it was "a Revolution, the most compleat [sic], unexpected, and remarkable of any in the History of Nations."

Boston King, an enslaved South Carolinian, stated that the "horrors and devastation of war" gave him the "opportunity to feel the happiness of liberty, of which I knew nothing before."

Benjamin Franklin, while in Europe to gain the alliance of France, wrote "Tis a Common Observation here that our Cause is the Cause of all Mankind: and that we are fighting for their Liberty in defending our own."

James Forten was a freeborn Philadelphian. At age nine, he heard the first reading of the Declaration of Independence. He volunteered to serve at sea, and stated that his war was "for the independence of our Country." The self-evident truth that "God created all men equal" inspired his service. Many years later, in 1830, he wrote, "May America awake from the apathy in which she has long slumbered."

Not everyone saw this as an unfettered cause for celebration. The Seneca Native American chief Sayenqueraghta was convinced that “the Cause of the present War between the King and his disobedient Children was to extirpate us from the Earth that they may possess our Lands.” And finally, Jane Kamensky, a contemporary historian, told the authors, “I think to believe in America, rooted in the American Revolution, is to believe in possibility. Everybody, on every side, including people who were denied even the ownership of themselves, had the sense of possibility worth fighting for.”

Glenn Deuchler
gdeuchler@hotmail.com

DATE	USHERS		ACOLYTE	LECTOR	(Cups) COMMUNION ASSISTANTS (Chalice)	
MAY						
Sunday, May 3, 2026	Glenn Deuchler	Mike Whitacre	Usher	Richard Kiesling	Ruth Phoebus	Jean Weimer
Sunday, May 10, 2026	Ken Sterner	Dennis Lukens	Usher	Mike Whitacre	Jean Weimer	Sharon Lukens
Sunday, May 17, 2026	Sharon Lukens	Glenn Deuchler	Usher	Ruth Phoebus	Jean Weimer	Richard Kiesling
Sunday, May 24, 2026	Mike Whitacre	Ken Sterner	Usher	Mark Hoefler	Ruth Phoebus	Doris Karoll
Sunday, May 31, 2026	Dennis Lukens	Sharon Lukens	Usher	Diane Grove	Sharon Lukens	Jean Weimer
JUNE						
Sunday, June 7, 2026	Glenn Deuchler	Mike Whitacre	Usher	Glenn Deuchler	Glenn Deuchler	Dennis Lukens
Sunday, June 14, 2026	Ken Sterner	Dennis Lukens	Usher	Richard Kiesling	Doris Karoll	Richard Kiesling
Sunday, June 21, 2026	Sharon Lukens	Glenn Deuchler	Usher	Mike Whitacre	Jean Weimer	Ruth Phoebus
Sunday, June 28, 2026	Mike Whitacre	Ken Sterner	Usher	Ruth Phoebus	Dennis Lukens	Sharon Lukens
*IF THERE IS A WEEK YOU HAVE A SCHEDULING CONFLICT, PLEASE TRY TO SWITCH WITH ANOTHER MEMBER AND MARK UP THE BULLETIN BOARD COPY.						
		THANK YOU. SHARON LUKENS				

JOIN US
FOR A
SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR
HONORING DAD
FOR



SUNDAY, JUNE 14
AFTER OUR CHURCH SERVICE