



The Salem Light

Newsletter of the Congregation of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

3825 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084 ■ 410-692-6803

salemjarrettsville.org

September 2026



Salem moves forward in faith

The Salem Family extends a warm welcome to Vicar Monica Fetzer to lead our congregation into its next chapter. Reflecting on the Gospel reading from her first Sunday at Salem Lutheran, "Who Am I?" Vicar Monica shared with us, during her message, the path she has taken to reach this point in her ministry and what it means to be a vicar.

Vicar Monica was born in Paraguay and grew up in Argentina where she was active in the youth group of her Lutheran church. It was during that time that she decided she wanted to be a pastor. After high school, she lived in Europe for three years and upon returning, studied theology in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for six years. Vicar Monica also had the opportunity to study in Munich, Germany, which is where she met her husband, Greg, who was also studying there, sent by the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, for one year. Vicar Monica moved to the United States where she and Greg were married. Greg continued with his studies of theology, and she also attended classes at the seminary.

Greg's first call was in Chicago, which is where they had their first child. After a period of time, they moved to Maryland, closer to family, where their second child was born. Initially, Vicar Monica stayed home with the children but soon started to teach part-time as a Spanish teacher, a position that became full-time. She has worked as a Spanish teacher at Mercy High School in Baltimore for the past nine years. In all those years, the sense of call never abandoned her, so last year she started the candidacy process to become an ordained minister.

What is a vicar? A vicar is a student of theology who has not yet finished their studies; basically, a pastor in training. As a Student Seminarian, Bishop Gohl has authorized Vicar Monica to perform all pastoral duties, including communion, weddings, baptisms, etc. Vicar Monica's first official day at Salem Lutheran was August 17th.



Through prayer and discernment, I am now here at Salem Lutheran Church. I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you and sharing God's Word with you. I will continue in Pastor Betty Lou's footsteps and as time goes on, I probably will be finding my own way.

I am praying for God's presence and guidance for you and for me in our journey together.

*Yours in Christ,
Vicar Monica*

Salem turns a page, with gratitude

On Sunday, August 16, the Salem Family, celebrated the ministry of our sister in Christ, Pastor Betty Lou Deuchler. For more than seven years, we have been honored to have her not only lead us in worship, but to welcome us and rejoice with us in the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes with sharing our faith in Jesus Christ. While the service that Sunday started like many other Sundays, we felt sadness in our hearts knowing that at its end we would be closing a special chapter in the story of our congregation and that of Salem Lutheran Children's Center. But we persevered... our choir and musicians provided special music to honor Pastor Betty Lou and her husband Glenn, and Pastor Richard Kiesling gracefully lead us through the Liturgy of Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of Call. At the end of the service, the congregation sang a sending-song to each other. But this time, the words held extra meaning as we were singing them especially to Pastor Betty Lou and Glenn: "Peace be yours. May the Lord be with you." And, in true Salem Lutheran tradition, we gathered after the service in fellowship to share a meal and express our gratitude and warmest wishes to Pastor Betty Lou and Glenn.



Community Outreach

Salem Steps Up with Back-To-School Blessings



Once again, our small but mighty Salem congregation rose to the occasion with hearts full of generosity. This year's back-to-school drive brought in a remarkable variety of school supplies—everything from pencils and notebooks to crayons and glue. Most notably, we were able to provide 22 backpacks, a much-needed item for Mason-Dixon's annual distribution. According to Mason-Dixon's scale, our combined donations weighed 60 pounds—a tangible measure of the love and care poured into this effort. Because of Salem's benevolence, many less fortunate students in northern Harford County will step into the 2026-27 school year with the tools they need for success. Thank you to all who were able to share God's blessings so generously throughout the community. —Mark Hoefler

Casseroles for Our Daily Bread – Wednesday, September 2

Salem's Casserole Delivery Team will pick up your homemade casseroles and deliver them on September 2nd. Please have your casseroles at Salem by 11:30 a.m. that morning. You may bring them in before then and place them in the freezer in the Tellers' Room. Thank you for your continued support for this outreach ministry.

God's Work, Our Hands (GWOH) – Sunday, September 20



GWOH is an ELCA initiative uniting Lutheran congregations in service. Together, we share Christ's love by helping our churches and neighbors in need, both at home and around the world. This year our focus is on **Shifting Gears**, a nonprofit started in Harford County to support children who are aging out of the foster care system and are taking that first step toward independence: moving into their first apartments.



The organization is currently low on bathroom supplies to help these young people get started on the right foot. On September 20 we will assemble bathroom supply kits from the items you are donating; items such as washcloths, body towels, and hand soap. Please see the Shifting Gears display in the narthex for a complete list of the supplies we are collecting.

Also, we will be sprucing up our front flower beds, and we hope to plant bulbs that will beautify our property in the Spring. As you prepare your flower beds for the winter you may be dividing some bulbs or plants. We would be happy to receive your leftovers! Please bring your garden tools.

Another task for us is to clean out our outdoor shed. If you prefer cleaning inside, please bring the supplies you think you will need. We will work for about an hour and then we'll enjoy some food and fellowship. See you on **Sunday, September 20**, and wear your work clothes to church!

Other Upcoming Events

Rally Sunday – September 13

Rally Sunday (or Rally Day) in Lutheran churches is the special kickoff event that marks the start of the new fall program and Sunday school year. This year, Lynn Cox will be using ICE CREAM during our church service to demonstrate the meaning and purpose of Rally Sunday. Hmmmm...or should we say yummm... This should be interesting... and fun. Of course, we will enjoy ice cream and fixings during our coffee hour following the Rally Sunday service.

Church Council Meeting – Monday, September 14

After enjoying the summer off, your Church Council will return to meeting on the second Monday of each month, from September through May. The meeting dates for the remainder of 2026 are:

September 14 October 12 November 9 December 14

Council meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in the narthex. The meetings are open and all church members are welcome to sit in as observers. Looking ahead to the **Annual Congregational Meeting** in November, we will need some new volunteers to join the council, as the terms of some current members are coming to a close. Please prayerfully consider this! —Diane Grove, President

Shifting Gears Bingo – Friday, September 25



A fundraising benefit for at-risk youth in, and aging out of, foster care. The mission is local. The mission is urgent. This amazing night will accelerate access to critical resources for these amazing lives.

Location: Deer Creek Overlook, 6 Cherry Hill Road, Street, MD
Doors Open 5:00 p.m. Dinner 5:30 p.m. First Game 6:30 p.m.
\$45 per person Table of 8: \$336

Includes: Dinner, dessert, drinks, and snacks + 22 basket bingos (3 cards per round)

For Purchase: Extra cards Daubers 50/50 Raffles (cash preferred)

BYOB For more information, visit ShiftingGearsMD.org.

Fall Fair and Flea Market

It won't be long before the aroma of apple butter cooking in front of Salem Lutheran begins wafting over Jarrettsville! Lynn Cox has prepared an event flyer to place around town to advertise our fair. Please let her know if you can help advertise this special event by hanging flyers in your favorite shopping spots and hang outs or advertising in some other way, such as social media, email distribution, etc.

Following are the scheduled preparation activities, volunteer opportunities, and other details. Sign-up sheets will be available on the Fall Fair table in the narthex.

Sunday, September 27

8:00 a.m. – Apple Butter preparation *** Day changed from Wednesday to Sunday***

Cooking and stirring the ingredients begins at 8:00 a.m. **Volunteers will be needed.** Sign-up sheets will be available on the Fall Fair table in the narthex beginning August 30th. See Tim Grove, Dennis Lukens, or Ned Cockey with any questions.

The jarring process will begin in the kitchen of the Children's Center as soon as the ingredients become apple butter, probably in the late afternoon. **Volunteers will be needed.** Bring your own hot mitts/potholders/apron. Ruth Phoebus will provide sanitary gloves. Sign-up sheets will be available on the Fall Fair table in the narthex beginning August 30th. See Ruth with any questions.

A "wish list" of ingredients needed to prepare the apple butter and food to be sold to the public will be placed on the Fall Fair table in the narthex. Please consider supplying an item or two from the list or you may use one of the convenient envelopes to make a cash donation for the Fall Fair Team to purchase them.



11:30 a.m. – Start bringing your flea market items to church, after the service

The following items are acceptable for the flea market:

- Clothing (no stains or damage)
- Linens (nothing torn)
- Christmas items
- Toys
- Games
- **NO Books**
- Tools
- Furniture
- **NO Jewelry**

Monday – Wednesday, September 28–30

You may continue to drop off your flea market items between Monday September 28th and Wednesday, September 30th.

The Flea Market Item Pricing Group will begin their work on Monday, September 28th and Doris Karoll will open the church at 7:00 a.m. each morning, as needed. If you want to join the pricing group, you are most welcome. There is no set time; come when you have time. It's a lot of work but it's fun and the fellowship is great! If you have any questions, please speak with Doris.

Friday, October 2

6:00 p.m. until... **Volunteers will be needed** to set up for the fair and flea market.

Saturday, October 3 – Fall Fair Day

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to sell flea market items, take food orders and accept payment, prepare food items in the kitchen, staff the bake sale table, make funnel cakes, and monitor children's games. Training will be cheerfully provided!

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (approximately) Clean-up! And, yes, volunteers will be needed.

Name Tags

Please help Vicar Monica, new members, and visitors learn our names by wearing your name tag during church services and special events. The preprinted, magnetic name tags are in the box on the coffee table by the sofa in the Narthex. If you need to make a change to your name tag, please see Jean Weimer. If for any reason your name tag is not there, please use one of the blank tags at the back of the box to create a new one and let Jean know.

Join the Choir!

Do you like to sing? Why not join the Salem Choir?! Rehearsals resume on **September 1** at a new time: **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.** All are welcome! Please see Cathy Hoefler if you have any questions.

Aw, Nuts!



We have containers of prepackaged nuts on the coffee hour table as a healthier snack option, and some folks have asked about them. The 2-ounce containers are filled with a nut and seed mix purchased at Walmart in a 30-ounce container. Target carries a similar mix in a larger container, but it is a bit spicier. Enjoy!

Nutrition Facts

about 27 servings per container

Serving size

1/4 cup (31g)

Calories **180**
per serving

Amount/serving	% DV*	Amount/serving	% DV*
Total Fat 15g	19%	Total Carb 9g	3%
Sat Fat 2g	11%	Dietary Fiber 2g	8%
Trans Fat 0g		Total Sugars 1g	
Cholest 0mg	0%	includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Sodium 190mg	8%	Protein 6g	

*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

Vit. D 0mcg 0% • Calcium 40mg 4% • Iron 0.5mg 4% • Potas. 150mg 4%

Words of Wisdom

I recently had a chance to visit four National Parks in Colorado and Utah – Arches, Canyonlands, Great Sand Dunes and Mesa Verde. These visits reinforced for me the beauty and majesty of God's creation and reminded me of our need to care for the gifts that God has given us.

On signing the Wilderness Act of 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson wrote:

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning."

Words definitely worth remembering. —Paige Garner

Schedules

Altar Care

September

Diane Grove

October

Lynn Cox

November

Cindy Kerr

December

Doris Karoll

This schedule may also be found on the Salem website, salemjarrettsville.org, under "Calendars / Schedule - Altar Care." If you will be unavailable on a particular date, please arrange for someone to fill in for you AND contact Ruth Phoebus: 410-692-9052 (home) or 410-916-4294 (cell).

Tellers

September	October	November	December
6-Stearns, Ketchum	4-Stearns, Ketchum	1-Stearns, Ketchum	6-Stearns, Ketchum
13-Wilson, Riley	11-Wilson, Riley	8-Wilson, Riley	13-Wilson, Riley
20-Whitacre, Phoebus	18-Whitacre, Phoebus	15-Whitacre, Phoebus	20-Whitacre, Phoebus
27-C. Ruth, Weimer	25-C. Ruth, Weimer	22-C. Ruth, Weimer	27-C. Ruth, Weimer
		29-Stearns, Phoebus	

This schedule may also be found on the Salem website, salemjarrettsville.org, under “Calendars / Schedule - Tellers.” If you will be unavailable on a particular date, please arrange for another teller to fill in for you or switch dates.

Ruth Phoebus	410-692-9052	Mike Whitacre	443-695-4637
Dottie Stearns	410-692-5828	Carolyn Ruth	410-879-1502
Claudette Wilson	410-241-0330	Barbara Ketchum	443-243-2012
Laura Riley	410-877-5499	Jean Weimer	410-598-6899

Service Participants

CHURCH SERVICE -- SCHEDULE OF ASSISTANTS SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2026

August 23, 2026

DATE	USHERS		ACOLYTE	LECTOR	(Cups) COMMUNION ASSISTANTS (Chalice)		SPECIAL SERVICES
SEPTEMBER							
Sunday, September 6, 2026	Sharon Lukens	Mike Whitacre	Usher	Diane Grove	Ruth Phoebus	Richard Kiesling	15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 13, 2026	Joe Klein	Ken Sterner	Usher	Mike Whitacre	Doris Karoll	Dennis Lukens	16th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 20, 2026	Mike Whitacre	Dennis Lukens	Usher	Diane Grove	Jean Weimer	Sharon Lukens	17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 27, 2026	Ken Sterner	Sharon Lukens	Usher	Richard Kiesling	Doris Karoll	Richard Kiesling	18th Sunday after Pentecost
OCTOBER							
Sunday, October 4, 2026	Dennis Lukens	Joe Klein	Usher	Mark Hoeffler	Dennis Lukens	Richard Kiesling	19th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 11, 2026	Sharon Lukens	Mike Whitacre	Usher	Ruth Phoebus	Jean Weimer	Doris Karoll	20th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 18, 2026	Joe Klein	Ken Sterner	Usher	Richard Kiesling	Ruth Phoebus	Dennis Lukens	21st Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 25, 2026	Mike Whitacre	Dennis Lukens	Usher	Mike Whitacre	Ruth Phoebus	Sharon Lukens	22nd Sunday after Pentecost
NOVEMBER							
Sunday, November 1, 2026	Ken Sterner	Sharon Lukens	Usher	Ruth Phoebus	Jean Weimer	Richard Kiesling	All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 8, 2026	Dennis Lukens	Joe Klein	Usher	Mark Hoeffler	Doris Karoll	Dennis Lukens	24th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 15, 2026	Sharon Lukens	Mike Whitacre	Usher	Diane Grove	Dennis Lukens	Ruth Phoebus	25th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 22, 2026	Joe Klein	Sharon Lukens	Usher	Richard Kiesling	Jean Weimer	Richard Kiesling	Christ the King Sunday
Wednesday, November 25, 2026	Mike Whitacre	Dennis Lukens	Usher	Mike Whitacre	Ruth Phoebus	Doris Karoll	Thanksgiving Eve
Sunday, November 29, 2026	Dennis Lukens	Sharon Lukens	Usher	Ruth Phoebus	Dennis Lukens	Richard Kiesling	1st Sunday of Advent
DECEMBER							
Sunday, December 6, 2026	Mike Whitacre	Joe Klein	Usher	Mark Hoeffler	Jean Weimer	Richard Kiesling	2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 13, 2026	Ken Sterner	Mike Whitacre	Usher	Richard Kiesling	Doris Karoll	Ruth Phoebus	3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 20, 2026	Joe Klein	Ken Sterner	Usher	Diane Grove	Dennis Lukens	Jean Weimer	4th Sunday of Advent
Thursday, December 24, 2026	Sharon Lukens	Dennis Lukens	Usher	Mike Whitacre	Jean Weimer	Ruth Phoebus	Christmas Eve
Friday, December 25, 2026	Ken Sterner	Dennis Lukens	Usher	Ruth Phoebus	Ruth Phoebus	Doris Karoll	Christmas Day
Sunday, December 27, 2026	Dennis Lukens	Joe Klein	Usher	Mark Hoeffler	Dennis Lukens	Doris Karoll	1st Sunday after Christmas

*IF THERE IS A WEEK YOU HAVE A SCHEDULING CONFLICT, PLEASE TRY TO SWITCH WITH ANOTHER MEMBER AND MARK UP THE NARTHEX COPY.

The schedule may also be found on the Salem website, salemjarrettsville.org, under “Calendars / Schedule - Service Participants.” We are always looking for new people to join in assisting with the worship services. If you would like to learn more about serving as an acolyte, usher, lector, or communion assistant, please contact **Sharon Lukens**: 410-692-5898 (home) or 410-652-6565 (cell).

May God's Peace Be Yours