

THE MUSTARD SEED



The Practice of Thankfulness...

We are blessed; sometimes even more so than we realize. A mentor of mine would often take time annually in November to compile a list of the things he was grateful for during the previous year. He regularly shared that list with his congregation. The list changed from year to year, but two things always remained the same, at the top of the list: 1) the love he experienced from God and 2) the love he experienced from his family.

As we enter November and prepare ourselves for the holiday of Thanksgiving, it can be beneficial for us to pause and consider what things might be on our own lists. The Reformers all believed that expressing gratitude to God was an essential part of our faith.

In this past year, what would we say we are most thankful for? Family; friends; an unexpected blessing? Whatever we might put on our own lists, my prayer for us is that we can name a place or a person through whom, we are thankful to have experienced love. Especially, the ways in which we have seen God's love and grace demonstrated in our own lives. As people of faith, it is Holy Love that sustains us and nurtures us in the life of discipleship. In worship and in the faces of our own loved ones are testimonies to God's love for us and for the world. May we have eyes to see, and hearts open enough to experience and witness that for ourselves. May our awareness of God's love deepen our faith and connection to God.

In considering the blessings in my own life this year, I want everyone who reads this column to know that I am profoundly grateful to be here at Salem. I am grateful for this call to do ministry alongside some wonderful people, including those who serve and lead in various capacities throughout the church; I am grateful for the many members of Salem who faithfully do the work of being Church. I am grateful in more ways than I can name right now.

I pray that each of us may realize God's love and blessings in our lives. During this month and every month, may we take the opportunity to give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received from our Holy and Lifegiving God.

Peace,
Pastor Matt

Stuff the Car Harvest Home Food Collection



STUFF
The Car

We will be collecting food items during our annual **Harvest Home Food Collection** to support the Caring Cupboard in Palmyra! Mission Committee Members will be stationed *outside* at Salem's East Parking Lot off of Hinkle Road for a drop off of food donations on **Sunday, November 24 starting at 10:00 AM**. Look for the "Turkey" car with the opened hatchback and we will load up right on the spot. **Or**, you can bring your donation *inside* during the Salem Service on **Sunday, November 17** and place on the table in the West Narthex. **The Caring Cupboard is currently in need of icing for cake, stuffing mix, tuna/chicken (canned or pouch), brown and white rice, Spam, pasta (spaghetti and all types), jar pasta sauce, meal soups (Progresso, Chunky etc.), canned vegetables (corn, mixed, etc), ketchup, and vegetable**

oil. Thank you for your generosity in helping people in need in our local community!



**REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 3,**



Christmas Caroling for Salem Shut-Ins

We will be sharing our Salem Advent Spirit through the gift of caroling for local shut-in members on two dates:

Sunday December 8 at 2pm:

Traditions of Hershey – Jo Bucher
Kindred Place – Florence Umberger, Shirley Burkholder
Lebanon Valley Home – Mary Risser, Ruth Anna Bashore

Monday December 9 at 2pm:

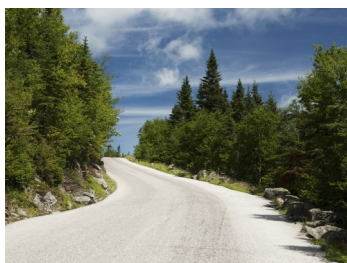
Palmyra – Shirley Dupert, Gloria & Earl Garrett
Lebanon – Fran & Waley Shepler
Hershey – Barb Gainer (Country Meadows), Carolyn Albright



LIKE TO CRAFT? Join us Sunday, November 17th for **CHRISTMAS CRAFTING** after church. There will be crafts for all ages. We'll have a potluck lunch so feel free to bring something to share. RSVP by 11/10 to help with planning to Pam McNamara, pammcnamara96@gmail.com or cell 717-304-7394.



Sunday, Nov. 3, we'll observe All Saints Sunday. As part of this worship service, we'll honor and remember those who have passed faith on to us through their lives of faithfulness and love. We'll also take the time to honor beloved ones from Salem who have passed on to God's eternal care since our last All Saints Day service. We hope you'll plan to join us for this deeply meaningful worship service.



Adopt-A-Highway and Cemetery- Tuesday, November 12th, 9:00 am

Salem has been exhibiting care for our community by removing trash along Rte. 117 for 22 years. We are looking for folks to help with another pick up. We will be meeting for breakfast at the Ancestor Coffeehouse at 8 am. Also, we will be picking up trash on our cemetery at the same time. We will meet in the choir room at 9 am. Vests, clean gloves and bags will be provided. See the sign up list in the bell tower or contact Tom Peiffer @ 717-269-5924 or thomaspeiffer@verizon.net at least several days before the event. Inclement weather date: Wednesday, Nov.

13th. Thank you for your consideration and support of this traditional mission at Salem .



The Christian Education Committee continues to try to meet the needs of all age groups. In the fall, we will have Sunday School for Adults (every Sunday at 9:15), special activities for the youth, and Sunday School for the Pre-K through elementary children (below noted Sundays during the worship hour). We are going to try to institute a new dimension to the children's Sunday School time. We are going to be asking for help from the youth to assist the teacher during this time. So there will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for both teachers and youth assistants. We will only need one youth for each week. The following are the Sundays that we have chosen for Children's Sunday School:

November 10 November 24

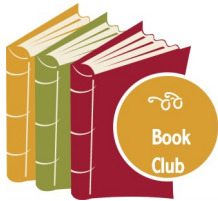
Pam McNamara is going to be doing various activities with the youth and families, and there will be more information regarding this as it becomes available.



Salem's traditional **GINGERBREAD HOUSE** making will be Sunday, December 1st during the regular children's Sunday School time for all children and youth. Since houses need to be constructed ahead, please RSVP by 11/24 to Pam McNamara, pammcnamara96@gmail.com or cell 7171-304-7394.



Come Decorate the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. December 1. The Youth will be hosting the Sip & Chat that Sunday so come early, enjoy some goodies and check out their crafts for sale by donation in the choir room. All money will be donated to a charity TBD!



The **Book Club** will meet **Monday, November 25 at 7 p.m.** to discuss "Under Lock and Skeleton Key" by Gigi Pandian. Any questions, please contact Carin Kaag. Her e-mail is cas207@yahoo.com.



United Church of Christ Homes would like to thank you for your September 5 gift of \$360 and your October gift of \$120 which were placed in their Benevolent Fund. The Lebanon Rescue Mission thanks you for your gift of \$140 to support their ministries.



The **6th Annual Campbelltown Community Tree Lighting** will be held from **3 to 5 pm on Sunday, December 1st** at the Campbelltown Community Park (not far from the Fire Company). The event is rain or shine. Vendors, food trucks, games, basket raffle and Santa will be at the event. The Nativity from Salem will be there too!



Save the Dates for these Christmas Concerts

The Heritage Choral of Lancaster

Concerts are Dec. 1 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Rd., Lancaster; Dec. 8 at Ascension Lutheran Church, 600 Penn Grant Rd., Willow Street; and Jan. 5 at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 3131 Columbia Ave., Lancaster. All concerts are at 4:00 PM and free will offering will be taken. Louise Adams is a member of this group. See her with any questions. You are invited to join them at a reception after the concert at Ascension Lutheran.

The **Lebanon County Choral Society** Christmas concert is on December 15 at 3 pm at St Luke's Episcopal Church. Jane Long is a member of this group. See her with any questions.



Sunday	Nov. 3	Turn Your Clocks Back All Saints Sunday Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for Youth 6th—12th grade after Choir Anthem
	Nov. 6	Chime Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Sunday	Nov. 10	Family Worship at 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School after Assurance of Pardon
Monday	Nov. 11	Council 7 p.m. Hybrid
Tuesday	Nov. 12	Adopt-a-Highway 9 a.m. Breakfast at Ancestor Coffeeshouse 8 a.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting 11 a.m. Library
Wednesday	Nov. 13	Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m.
Sunday	Nov. 17	Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School after Special Music
Wednesday	Nov. 20	Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m.
Sunday	Nov. 24	Harvest Home Sunday Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School after Assurance of Pardon Congregational Budget Meeting & Elections of new Council Members
Thursday	Nov. 28	Thanksgiving—Office Closed
Friday	Nov. 29	Office Closed

All Worship Services will also be livestreamed on YouTube.



WORSHIP SCRIPTURES

November 3, 2024

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

November 10, 2024

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

November 17, 2024

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Psalm 16

Hebrews 5:10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 24, 2024

Reign of Christ

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalm 93

Revelations 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Jerimiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9:13

Luke 21:25-36

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philemon 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philemon 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 29, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41:52

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Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**HIS LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER.**

Psalm 136:1, NIV





- 1 Robert Weidler
- 7 Natalie Kaag
- 10 Ashley Goodwin
- 10 Beth Jefferson
- 14 Rachel Alger
- 14 Abigail Alger
- 16 Matthew Hein
- 19 Robert Albright
- 21 Anna Kauffman
- 24 Susan Hite
- 27 Ashley Jefferson
- 29 William Kauffman



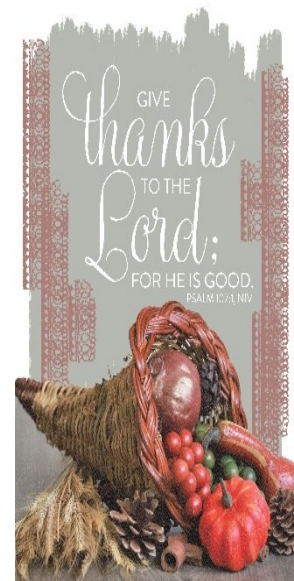
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sydney Flory
- 2 Liz Brandt
- 2 Garrett Bear
- 7 Kathy Binkley
- 11 Kelley Frew
- 12 Earl Garrett
- 16 Susan Mitchell
- 18 Daryl Alger
- 19 Roxann Albright
- 19 Arlene Yantz
- 21 Virginia Ream
- 22 Dwight Hein
- 23 Kimberly Kozelsky
- 23 Jenna Van Hout
- 26 Jarrett Smith
- 29 Lily Miller

With gladness and thanksgiving

... The long day of the year is almost done,
 and nature in the sunset musing stands,
 gray-robed, and violet-hooded like a nun,
 looking abroad o'er yellow harvest lands: ...
 Empty and folded are her busy hands;
 her corn and wine and oil are safely stored,
 as in the twilight of the year she stands,
 and with her gladness seems to thank the Lord.
 Thus let us rest awhile from toil and care,
 in the sweet sabbath of this autumn calm,
 and lift our hearts to heaven in grateful prayer,
 and sing with nature our thanksgiving psalm.

—Kate Seymour Maclean (1829-1916)



SALEM COLLECTIONS -

The Caring Cupboard is a community food pantry, that has grown into a community necessity, that currently serves over 350 families living primarily in the Palmyra and Annville-Cleona School Districts. Products to be given to the Caring Cupboard may be placed on the designated shelves found at the end of the northwest hallway of Salem Church.

Pop Tab Collection Program (Matt Waller) Ronald McDonald House. The collection of aluminum beverage tabs began in 1996. The aluminum tabs are sold to a local recycling company and their proceeds help with daily operating expenses at the Ronald McDonald House. The generous amount from the tabs collected has been very beneficial to the House and the families they serve. They are averaging \$1,000 monthly just from these tiny tabs. You can help raise money by pulling tabs from any aluminum container. Pop Tabs may be placed in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance.

Redner's Cash Register Receipts (Cindy Steger) By using the Save-A-Tape card you picked up at Customer Service Desk each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. When you come to Salem Church, place your **entire register/sales receipt (DO NOT CUT!)** in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance. Salem Church will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of tapes submitted, excluding items controlled by the government, such as tax, milk and tobacco products.

Clothing Recycling Old clothing and material that are too worn to use can be recycled. If possible, take to an H&M Store (they give you a coupon for each bag!), otherwise put it in the box in the west narthex and we'll take it for you. Thank you!

Writing Tool Recycling You can recycle old writing tools – crayons, markers, pens, and pencils. Staples Store will recycle these items as well as many other items (check their website!). Feel free to take to a Staples or place in the "Crayola marker" collection tube on the windowsill in the west narthex. Thank you!



Veterans Day salute

After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn't done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who "came back to faith" during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers' deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people.

"That's what we did, preaching and reaching out to people," he told a reporter. "I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it."

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.