

The Mountain Shepherd

Newsletter of
Salem Community Church — Wolfsville

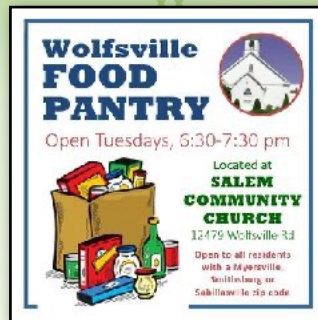
Volume 44

September 2026

Number 9



Salem Community Church
Wolfsville



OUR VISION

Building Connections
Growing God's Family

We are meeting
new families
almost every Sunday

Come Grow With Us

INSIDE

Mission Projects	2
Who's Doing What, When?	3
It's Your Day	3
Inspirational Reading	4
Recipe	4
Pastor's Message	5
Food Pantry Monthly Themes	6
3rd Anniversary	7
Music in Worship	8
In Sympathy	9
News & Notes	10
Salem Mission Projects	11
Heavenly Humor	12

Salem celebrates 66 years of Lord's Acre Festivals



FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING
RAIN or SHINE



Saturday, September 12

2:00–6:00 p.m. (pre-auction sales)

6:00 p.m. (auction of unsold items)

Wolfsville Ruritan Community Park

12708 Brandenburg Hollow Road

SCHEDULE All sales begin at 2 p.m.

■ HOME-STYLE FOOD 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy the homemade soups (beef vegetable, ham bean, and chicken noodle), sandwiches (country ham, turkey salad, hot beef, hot dog, chili dog, kraut dog, pulled pork with cole slaw), french fries, baked goods (cookies, pies, cakes, more), hand-dipped ice cream, soft drinks, iced tea, coffee, and water. Tables are available for eating a snack or an evening meal. Food can also be ordered to go.

■ FRESH PRODUCE 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The produce area includes fresh produce, fruits, vegetables, and plants. The selection depends on items donated.

■ CRAFTS 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Craft items & hand-made fancy needlework.

■ FLEA MARKET TABLES 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Nothing is priced. Your donation buys it. No clothing. Contact: Polly Doyle

■ CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

■ CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Various intervals throughout the afternoon. "His Word Ministry" singing group

■ SILENT AUCTION 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Donated items. Contact: Amy McCormick

■ LIVE AUCTION 6:00 p.m.

Auction of featured donated items and numerous unsold items.

Robert A. Wilson, Auctioneer

• Cash or Checks only •

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Salem Community Church, Wolfsville

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Sunday School Treasurer: Mary Fogle
Chair, Personnel: Ron Holter
Chair, Cemetery Committee: George Stottlemeyer
Food Pantry Leaders: Justinn & Holly Irons**Salem Vision Statement:**Building Connections.
Growing God's Family.**Salem Mission Statement:**Bringing hope by sharing the peace of Christ
through teaching His word, extending His grace,
and serving others in His love.**Colophon:**Produced using macOS Pages 15.3.1 and
macOS 26.6.2 on an Apple M1 MacBook Air
computer, HP LaserJet P3015 postscript laser
printer, and Ricoh MP-3054 digital copier.**Purpose of Newsletter:**The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a
means of communicating with our members, their
families, and our many friends of the Wolfsville
community and surrounding areas. We pray that
this newsletter will inspire you to regularly attend
worship services, Sunday School, and all other
activities of the church. For those who are unable
to attend, this newsletter is a means of bringing
part of the church to you.**Newsletter Distribution:**Online Website Link: 210
USPS First Class Mail: 15
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Facebook Followers: 652**July 2026 — Average Worship Attendance**112 In Sanctuary
41 Zoom Online
153 TOTAL**2026 MISSION PROJECTS****"Missions is the Mission of the Church"**

Amount Paid Out to Projects Jan-July 2026

1. Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer, Retired, New Tribes Mission	\$1,435.00
2. Operation Christmas Child (shipping for shoe boxes)	\$0.00
3. Salem Mission & Outreach (includes funeral luncheons)	\$1,239.42
4. Sweet Blessings Ministry (Tim Leber)	\$350.00
5. Wolfsville Food Pantry (at Salem)	\$5,372.13
6. Travis & Mary D. (AIM - Canada)	\$1,575.00
7. Everstand (formerly Board of Child Care) (Martinsburg Campus)	\$700.00
8. Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew)	\$150.00
9. Kelsey McHugh (WIM - Honduras)	\$775.00
10. The Least of These Ministries (Dominican Republic)	\$1,250.00
11. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick	\$1,450.00
12. Compassion International (Sponsored Child in Tanzania)	\$301.00
13. Heroes' Club (After School Ministry)	\$193.16
14. World Vision (Sponsored Child in Colombia)	\$245.00
15. Asheton & Tara Root (Senegal)	\$600.00

TOTAL PAID OUT to these projects in 2026 \$15,635.71

Here's how you can give . . .

1. Make checks payable to Salem Community Church, or place cash in an envelope marked "Missions."
2. Tell us which mission project(s) you wish to support by making a note on your check or envelope.

3. Place your contributions in the offering box at church, designate electronically, or mail to Salem.

If you do not designate a project, your contribution will be distributed to the project or projects needing funds to meet the monthly minimum payout goals.

MISSION PROJECTS - NEWS & UPDATES*Salem Mission Project No. 13***Heroes' Club after school ministry begins Monday, Sept 28****Kindergarten through 5th Grade**

This new school year will be in full swing on September 28. That is the day Heroes' Club will begin. We normally start the second Monday AFTER The Lord's Acre, but school will be closed that day, so we will begin on the 28th. The club is available for students from Kindergarten through fifth grade.



If you are unfamiliar with Heroes' Club, it is an after-school club on every Monday when school is in session. Leaders will meet the students at Wolfsville Elementary School at 3:25 and walk them to the church. The two-hour session includes game time, craft time, snack time, and a Bible story. This is a great partnership with the Wolfsville School. Parents have voiced appreciation for the club and have shared how their student(s) enjoy Heroes' Club.

Six New Volunteers Needed

I am looking for volunteers. If you helped last year and want to return, you are welcome. If you are interested in being a volunteer this year, please let me know. We have an application process and all volunteers require a background check, for which the church pays. Volunteers are needed to help with crafts or help with snacks. Some students like us to play games with them (Bill Bere is our resident Lego expert!) Please prayerfully consider seeing how God can use you as an influence in the students' lives.

I am praying for at least six NEW volunteers. Would you be willing to say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me?"

In Christ, —Pastor Neil

Who's Doing What, When?

September 2026

9:00 A.M. SANCTUARY & ONLINE ZOOM WORSHIP

Lay Reader

6 Mary Cline
13 Mary Ellen Eccard
20 Youth Sunday
27 Heidi Agostini

Acolyte

6 Brynleigh Irons
13 Shelby Leatherman
20 Saralynn Irons
27 Landon Lafferty

Organist/Pianist

6 Sara Weitzel
13 Sara Weitzel
20 Sara Weitzel
27 Sara Weitzel

Presenter PC

6 Wanda Barkdoll
13 Cathie Elsbach
20 Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer
27 Brandon Leatherman

Zoom PC

6 Robin Haupt
13 Brandon Leatherman
20 Wanda Barkdoll
27 Michael Burrier

Greeters

6 Paula Main
13 David & Sherry Scoggins
20 Matthew Stottlemeyer
27 Kathy Hill

A Bit of History

Where did the idea of a Lord's Acre Festival originate?

The Lord's Acre program was developed in the southeastern United States as a means of raising funds in small congregations with limited financial resources.

A "portion" or "acre" of a church member's land was set aside to raise crops, or sometimes farm animals, to be sold to benefit the church.

Those without land could set aside a portion of their needlework, craft items, or any other salable talent they possessed. The Lord's Acre Festival is a sale of those donations.



This quilt, donated by Marilyn Leatherman just weeks before her death, will be auctioned at the 6 p.m. live auction. Marilyn purchased this quilt 10 years ago at the 2016 Lord's Acre Festival. The quilt has hand-embroidered squares of flowers, butterflies, and hearts. The full/queen-size quilt was designed and embroidered by members of Salem Church and was beautifully hand quilted by the Zion Quilters of Middletown, Maryland.

Salem's Lord's Acre Festival

Salem's Lord's Acre Festival, an annual event which began in 1960, works just that way. Most everything sold is donated by members and friends.

In the festival's early years, one Salem family raised a hog, butchered it, and donated a sugar-cured ham which was sold at auction by the pound.

Salem's first Lord's Acre Festival was held on October 8, 1960, during the pastorate of Rev. John W. Schildt. It was Rev. Schildt who introduced the Lord's Acre "idea" to the Salem congregation and helped to get it started. The profit from that first festival totaled \$742.34.

In the old Wolfsville School: 1960-69

In the 1960's, the festival was held in the old Wolfsville School, located adjacent to the church (where the parsonage and parking lot are now).

All of the activities were held indoors on the lower level of the school building, which was decorated by the Youth Fellowship with harvest-time decorations like corn shocks, colored leaves, pumpkins and gourds.

Move to Wolfsville Ruritan Park: 1970

During the late 1960's, the condition of the old school house was deteriorating, and in 1970, Salem decided to move the festival to the Wolfsville Ruritan Park. At the park, the festival had room to grow, and that it did.

Much of the food menu has remained the same since the festival's beginning—homemade soups, good country cooking. Many people attend the festival to eat the homemade food that has been so consistently delicious for so many years.

God has blessed our efforts and we praise Him for it. Profits go to Salem's Building and Improvement Fund. —Bill Burrier

It's Your Day!



September Anniversaries

- 1 - Trevor & Heidi Agostini-Broadt
- 8 - David & Sharon Harshman
- 13 - Bill & Joyce Weaver
- 14 - Ken Ifert & Linda Grossnickle
- 16 - Charles & Yvonne Reeder
- 17 - Steve & Joann Leatherman
- 18 - Ken & Thelma Walls
- 19 - Klaus & Tonia Mueller
- 21 - Joshua & Shannaa Bidle
- 24 - Colby & Amber Stine
- 28 - Tim & Jody Duly
- 30 - Adam & Vicki Robinson
- 30 - Tim & Mary Ellen Eccard

September Birthdays

- 2 - Dawn Brown
- 3 - Emmanuel Barkdoll
- 5 - David Kline
- 7 - Sarah Burrier
- 8 - David Harshman
- 9 - David Brandenburg
- 10 - Nevaeh Mellott
- 12 - Doug Cline
- 12 - Mary Hunt
- 14 - Lori Cline
- 14 - Mary Cline
- 14 - Meredith Harshman
- 14 - Dan Lafferty
- 14 - Thelma Walls
- 15 - Shelly Decker
- 18 - Justinn Irons
- 19 - Wanda Barkdoll
- 19 - Cody Leatherman
- 21 - Delilah Herrell
- 26 - Bobby Fogle
- 26 - Shannaa Bidle
- 27 - Terri Buhrman
- 27 - Rebecca Leatherman Potter

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor's Parsonage Office:

- **Monday** 10:00-5:00 Study, sermon prep, administrative duties
- **Tuesday** 8:00-4:30 study, sermon & Bible study prep
- **Wednesday** 8:00-4:30 Sermon & Bible study prep
- **Thursday** 8:00-4:30 visitation, study

Pastor's Home Office:

- **Friday** 8:00-4:00 sermon prep (working from his residence on Fridays)

Pastor's Day Off:

- **Saturday:** available for emergencies

NOTE: Please notify Pastor Neil of scheduled hospital procedures. Also, he may be out of the office for meetings, appointments and visitation, so it would be best to make an appointment.



INSPIRATIONAL Reading

Out in the Country in the Early Fall

By Anton J. Stoffle



Out in the country, in the early fall,
When the trees change their summer array,
From a coat of bright green that they sported,
To a number of colors, quite gay.

Here in the open, God's nature unveiled,
Where a pauper can feel like a king;
And the air is so clean, it's enchanting,
In the meadows where meadowlarks sing.

The clover and grass, a soft velvet mass,
Hug the flowers that blush in the sun,
While the bees all day long, buzz their songs,
Till they figure their day's work is done.

Across the green fields the crickets are heard,
Singing out with their soft melody;
And wild geese wing their way to new places
Far beyond what man's eyes can now see.

Then to bid adieu, 'neath a sky of blue,
To the natural things God has made,
Once again we take leave, ne'er forgetting,
All the beauty that fall has portrayed.

God's Gift

By Russell T. Brown



I talked with God just yesterday
For it was early spring;
I watched His green world come to life —
A most inspiring thing.

I walked with Him through summer
And watched the whole world grow;
I basked in summer's sunshine
And prayed 'twould never go.

But I awoke this morning,
And autumn filled the air;
The green leaves turned to crimson,
And God was everywhere.

I strolled through field and woodland,
Ablaze on every knoll,
A preview of God's heaven;
Its beauty filled my soul.

Tomorrow will be winter,
And God will still be there;
But I'm sure He sent me autumn,
His jeweled gift to share.



RECIPE



Apple Bread

A nice change from banana bread — good for after school snack.

4 cups flour	1 cup cooking oil
2 teaspoons baking soda	4 tablespoons sour cream
2 teaspoons cinnamon	2 teaspoons vanilla
1 teaspoon salt	2 cups chopped apple
2 cups sugar	1 cup chopped nuts
4 eggs, beaten	

Sift flour with baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. Combine sugar with eggs, oil, sour cream, and vanilla. Beat well. Blend in flour mixture. Fold in apples and nuts and pour into 2 greased and floured loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until done. Makes 2 loaves.

Selected from Yankee Church Supper Cookbook



God's Cake

Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation!

A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong. She's failing algebra. Her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers, along with other ingredients. "Mom, those are all yucky!" To which the mother replies, "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves, but when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful.

God sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

Sticky Buns & Pies For Sale

As a fundraiser for Salem's "Bee-lievers" women's group, Anita Harshman is making sticky buns and pies.

- Pecan Cinnamon Sticky Buns: \$12
- Apple Pie: \$10
- Cherry or Peach: \$11
- Raspberry, Blueberry or Blackberry: \$13

You may purchase these items directly from Anita. To place an order, call Anita at 240-818-0126.

August 2020

Faithfulness of God

By Beverly J. Anderson

Behold the faithfulness of God.
Who cares when tiny sparrows fall,
Who knows his children's every need,
And hearkens to us when we call.

Behold God's never failing love.
To those the apple of His eye.
In wisdom, He will grant what's best,
And no good thing will He deny.

Behold the faithfulness of God.
Trust in his love. Rest in his calm.
God will for us provide a way...
He holds our world within his palm.



Message from the Pastor

and

Worship in September

■ By PASTOR NEIL SUDERS

All About Heaven

Recently, I wrote about the Doctrine of Hell and promised to counter that with an article on Heaven. Unfortunately, I forgot last month and wrote about the Doctrine of the Church. Thanks to the Editor of *The Mountain Shepherd*, Bill Burrier, I can fulfill my promise!

If we are going to learn about what Heaven IS, we should probably begin by discussing what Heaven IS NOT!

The common mistake is that in Heaven we will be sitting on a cloud with wings, playing a harp all day! That sounds boring, even to ME.

Others think Heaven will be one non-ending worship service. That, too, is wrong. And some people think we will be spending time in Heaven doing what we enjoyed doing on earth. For example, "Ole Bill loved playing golf. He's probably in heaven playing golf all day; every day." This is also wrong.

So, let us look at the term "heaven" and understand what it means.

Three "Levels" of Heaven

There are three "levels" of heaven. The First heaven is the atmosphere, with what the naked eye can behold. It is where birds fly and clouds move.

The second heaven is the celestial realm of the galaxy and solar system.

The Third heaven is the dwelling place of God. In 2 Corinthians 12:2, Paul said, "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows." Paul was undoubtedly speaking of himself here. What does the Bible say about this "third heaven"?

The Dwelling Place of God

First, we know that it is the dwelling place of God. Psalm 103:19, "His throne is



established in Heaven." It is also where Jesus is right now. When He ascended into Heaven, Acts 1:9-11 says He was taken up into Heaven. We also read that He is seated at the right hand of God, the Father.

Since Jesus is in Heaven right now, all believers who have died in Christ (since His resurrection) are in the third heaven now, too.

Paul said, "My desire is to depart and to be with Christ, for that is far better" (Philippians 1:23) and, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).

A Place of Worship

Heaven is a place of worship (See Revelation 4-5). It is in Heaven that we will be celebrating the Marriage Supper of the Lamb during the Tribulation Period on earth.

However, this Third Heaven is not the final destination of all believers. To gain a proper understanding of our final destination, we will need to look to the Book of the Revelation.

Revelation 21:1 says, "Then I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."

In other words, the current heaven and earth will be destroyed in some global cataclysmic event. The New Heaven and the New Earth will be a renewed creation by God.

In this new creation, there will be no more sickness, and no more death. There will also be no more sin or sorrow.

Best of all, God will dwell with His people for all eternity! And within that new creation, there will be a special city. The City of Jerusalem will be rebuilt and it will come down from heaven. "I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a beautiful bride for her husband" (Revelation 21:2).

The New Jerusalem is described in Revelation 3:10-21. It will have streets of gold and walls of jasper. The gates will be made of pearl. (We've all heard of the "pearly gates!")

There will be no sun or moon, because God's glory will be the light. The river of life will run through the middle of New Jerusalem, and the Tree of Life will be on its banks. New Jerusalem will be shaped like a cube that will be 1,500 miles on all sides! (That's the distance from Philadelphia to Dallas!)

The most thrilling aspect of Heaven is that it will be the dwelling place of God! God will live with His children for all eternity. One of the blessings of our salvation now is the guarantee of our future in Heaven. In Christ, —Pastor Neil

Worship in September

Ahh... September... one of my favorite months of the year! Baseball pennant races are in full swing. Football season has begun. The evenings and mornings are a bit cooler. The leaves are starting to change colors, and, of course, we have the Lord's Acre to enjoy!

We are continuing to hear about grace through suffering from Peter's first epistle. It does us well to remember that, while the seasons change, God's grace is always the same: Amazing!

Sunday, September 6

(Communion Sunday)

"The Gospel in a Nutshell"

1 Peter 3:15-22

We all know by now that the gospel is the "good news" of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection according to the Scriptures.

In our text today, we will see that He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit. The reason for this was that "He might bring us to God."

That's why this message is titled, "The Gospel in a Nutshell."

The 18th verse of this chapter summarizes God's good news. With communion being served today, it will be helpful to reflect on the gospel before we remember his death at the Lord's Table.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

continued from page 5

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 13

"Living for God"

1 Peter 4:1-11

In light of the suffering of Jesus, Peter challenged his readers to stop living like those "gentiles" who were unsaved.

The actions of true believers should include love, kindness, service, and hospitality. We are told to be sober-minded, because the end of time is at hand.

Living for God should look like the opposite of what the world is doing. The world is living for self, and God is longing for us to live like His children. There really SHOULD be a difference between disciples and the lost.

Sunday, September 20

"The 'JOYS' of Suffering"

1 Peter 4:12-19

Peter told his audience that fiery trials will come upon them and they should not be surprised when they do.

However, whenever those trials DID come upon them, they were to rejoice that they could share in Christ's sufferings.

This is similar to what James wrote in James 1:2, "Consider it pure joy whenever

you fall into various trials." Like the text in 1 Peter 2, they were not to rejoice when they were suffering for doing wrong. Also, like in 1 Peter 2, they were instructed to entrust their souls to the Lord while suffering. We will learn today how there can be joy amid suffering.

Sunday, September 27

(New Members' Sunday)

"The Pastor as a Shepherd"

1 Peter 5:1-13

Peter addressed this portion of the epistle to fellow pastors (elders) initially and then applied those principles to all his recipients.

He instructed the pastors to shepherd the flock in their care. Shepherding is leading, and we can all glean lessons from those principles. Lessons like humbling ourselves in the sight of God, and casting our anxieties on God, can be very beneficial to us all.

We will also learn to be sober-minded and watchful because Satan, our adversary, is seeking to devour us. His words warn us to resist Satan, as well. These final words from Peter will help us experience "Grace Through Suffering."

"Ladies Bible Study" begins Tuesday, September 8th

■ By Debbie Irons

The Ladies Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, September 8, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. We will meet in the Social Hall and on Zoom.

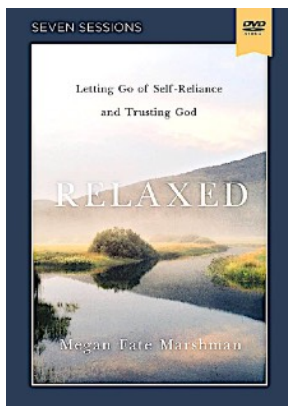
Please note the change in day and time.

We will begin a new study, "Relaxed: Letting Go of Self-Reliance and Trusting God," by Megan Fate Marshman, a teaching pastor with

Willow Creek Community Church.

We would love for you to join us for a time of Bible study, fellowship, and growing together in our faith. We hope you can be part of this special study!

If you would like to join us or receive the Zoom information, please contact Debbie Irons at 240-446-1380.



Men of the "Elder Sage Posse" & "Salem Iron Men"

■ By Bill Weaver

Greetings Men:

We cancelled the August 17th gathering of the Elder Sage Posse and the August 27th gathering of the Salem Iron Men. We will be reconvening in September during our regular time slots: **Elder Sage Posse - September 21st; Salem Iron Men - September 4th**

Theme: "Healing, Training, Repeat"

FOOD PANTRY

**"Monthly Themes" for
"Wolfsville Food Pantry" at Salem**

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September

- Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, BBQ Sauce, Pickles, Relish, etc.

October

- Blankets: New only, please.

November

- Turkeys

December

- Baking Supplies: Cake Mix, Icing, Jello, Cooking Oil, Pudding, Salt, Pepper, etc.

On May 1, 2026, the Food Pantry moved across the parking lot to the front room in the parsonage at 12477 Wolfsville Road. The new space is larger and has more storage area.

During the month of July, the Food Pantry served 23 families.

*Justinn & Holly Irons
Food Pantry Ministry Directors*



Seniors Ministry

Age 60 and Older

■ By Ken Walls

Seniors Ministry for the month of September will be Tuesday, September 8th, 10 a.m. 'til noon.

Theme: "The Pathway of Suffering & The Power of Healing"

Many of the pages of our Bibles tell us about those two great opposites — 'suffering' and 'healing.' Indeed, there is as much written about pain and suffering as there is healing. Suffering is just not as appealing. So, we don't hear many sermons about suffering. Perhaps you have experienced both.

We'd love to hear your story! Join us September 8th, at 10 a.m. We've got the coffee, you bring the cookies.

—Ken & Thelma

Salem Community Church celebrates “3rd Anniversary”

52 New Members since becoming Salem Community Church

COMING UP ... NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 27

Salem Community Church celebrates its 3rd anniversary in September as an independent church following traditional Biblical values. The Lord has blessed this church in the last three years with a steady increase in Sunday worship attendance, 52 new members, 33 Believer's Baptisms, and more to come. For those new to us, Salem disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church three years ago, voting to follow traditional Biblical values.

**WE ARE A CHURCH
TEACHING AND PREACHING
TRADITIONAL
BIBLICAL VALUES.**

CELEBRATING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS... 52 OF THEM

1 New Member on May 24, 2026

Caroline Miller

4 New Members on April 26, 2026

Forrest Hunt, Mary Hunt, Joe Kulina, Jill Kulina

6 New Members on April 19, 2026

Josh Bidle, Jesse Lewis, Melanna Lewis, Michael Mellott, Mandy Mellott, and Colby Stine

4 New Members on November 9, 2025

Shannaa Bidle, Michelle Mallory, Brittni Rouzee, and Jesse Rouzee

8 New Members on June 29, 2025

David Brandenburg, Susan Brandenburg, Ron Holter, Kathy Holter, Dale Kline, Audrey Kline, Tony Miller and Rhonda Miller

2 New Members on November 17, 2024

Bill Bere and Amber Stine

11 New Members on May 5, 2024

Tim Duley, Jody Eccard, Kathy Hill, David Kline, Wanda Kline, Bryan Rouzee, Hannah Rouzee, David Scoggins, Sherry Scoggins, Misty Suders, and Krista Willman

16 New Members on October 29, 2023

Heidi Agostini, Joy Barkdoll, Tim Eccard, Mary Ellen Eccard, Janet Goetzke, Sharon Harshman, Daniel Lafferty, Jamie Lafferty, Klaus Mueller, Tonia Mueller, Kenneth Poling, Dianna Poling, Cheryl Webb, Cassidy Webb, Rylie Webb, and Shannon Webb

33 BELIEVER'S BAPTISMS BY IMMERSION SINCE BECOMING SALEM COMMUNITY CHURCH

3 Believer's Baptisms on June 14, 2026

Joe Kulina, Landon Lafferty and Mike Mellott

3 Believer's Baptisms on June 7, 2026

Josh Bidle, Shannaa Bidle and Colby Stine

3 Believer's Baptisms on October 19, 2025

Brynleigh Irons, Saralynn Irons and Justinn Irons

2 Believer's Baptisms on August 31, 2025

Susie Stottlemeyer and Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer

2 Believer's Baptisms on June 22, 2025

Amoura Malle and Carlo Platero

4 Believer's Baptisms on January 26, 2025

Amber Stine, Trevor Mehaffie, Grayson Tyler Stine, and Janice Harshman

5 Believer's Baptisms on Sept. 8, 2024

Janet Goetzke, Cheyenne Leatherman, Shelby Leatherman, Cassie Webb and Rylie Webb

11 Believer's Baptisms on April 14, 2024

Gary Barkdoll, Valentina Barkdoll, Tim Duly, Mary Ellen Eccard, Pat Eccard, Klaus Mueller, Tonia Mueller, Lawson Rouzee, Misty Suders, Krista Willman and Theah Willman

Next “New Members Class” September 20 10:15-11:00 a.m.

If you wish to become a member, contact Pastor Neil.



Salem's Wildfire Youth Group enjoyed an evening of miniature golf at Adkins Mini Golf and suddenly grew mustaches— that's fire!

Grades 3-5

BE A "SPARKS YOUTH" EVERY SUNDAY

In September, the "Sparks" (Grades 3-5) Upper Elementary Sunday School class will learn to "Follow Jesus' Example" through stories from three of the four Gospels.

Jesus is the perfect example of how God wants us to live in ways that honor Him. When faced with temptation, Jesus chose to reject what was wrong and do what was right. Jesus taught his disciples how to talk to God through prayer; we can follow his example every day. Jesus also set the perfect example for how we are to treat others and by showing that all people are valuable to God.

The lessons use engaging materials and videos like "Scripture Sketches" and "The Adventures of Dab & Derek" to reinforce the Gospel message in a fun and age-appropriate way.

Mike Burrier teaches the "Sparks" Upper Elementary Class each Sunday from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. in the lower level of the Educational Building. Come check us out!



Special Music Schedule

Summer of 2026

■ By Marlene Young, Co-Choir Director

The following special music will be presented at Salem Community Church during Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship.

Aug. 30th — Tony Miller

Sept. 13th — Marlene Young & Pastor Neil Suders

Sept. 20th — Jody Eccard-Duly & Children



A Special Thank You to our Summer Musicians

We wish to extend deepest appreciation to all those who provided special music offerings to enrich our summer worship services while the Salem Community Choir has been on break.

Thank you for sharing your musical gifts and talents through voice and instruments and for stepping up when asked to provide special music that blesses our time of worship together in a special way while glorifying God through songs of praise.

Special thanks also to Sandy Lewis who has faithfully met to rehearse and to accompany a number of those who have offered special music.

Ephesians 5:19 instructs us as believers to encourage one another through music and to sing and make music from our hearts to the Lord.

We're grateful for God's gift to us of music and likewise, to those who use the gift of their talents as a gift back to God in praise and gratitude for His love, mercy, grace, faithfulness and goodness.

"Trunk or Treat" set for October 23rd

■ By Mary Ellen Eccard

Salem Community Church's Trunk or Treat will be held October 23rd from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This is in collaboration with Wolfsville Elementary School. Tim Leber's Sweet Blessings will return. Hay rides will be available! Children must be accompanied by an adult. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Eccard 240-818-7136.

NEWS & NOTES

Welcome to First Time Visitors

We have many new folks attending worship. If you are new to our church, please complete a "Connection Card" so we can get acquainted.

Pastor Neil will send you a card. Please let him know if you have a need. He will meet with you and answer any questions you may have.

First time visitors are asked not to feel obligated to give any money to the church; we pray that you will receive a blessing as our special guest.

We encourage children to remain with their parents in worship and participate in Pastor Neil's children's message. Children who worship with their parents learn early that they are part of the larger church family. They grow up seeing themselves as valued members of the congregation.

Children's Activity Bags

Children's Activity Bags are available as you enter the sanctuary each Sunday.

Each bag contains activities around the scripture for the day and other activities to engage your little ones during the service.

Need to Step Out During the Service?

If you need to step out during the service, you may watch the service on the big screen in the upstairs social room. Feel free to use this space whenever needed.

Salem Community Choir Notes

■ By Sandy Lewis, Co-Choir Director

Choir Practices Begin ... Tuesday, October 6

Summer is beginning to wind down and Salem Community Choir is winding up for the Fall season of choir practice which will start on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Choir is an opportunity for folks to share their vocal talents to serve the Lord. We will be preparing musical offerings for Sunday morning worship, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

Marlene and I welcome back our faithful singers, and we also welcome any folks who have never sung with us before or may have sung in the past and would like to return.

Choir is a great time of sharing faith, fun and fellowship. Singing praises to God is a blessing to all!

Psalm 147:1 tells us "Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him."

Come join our choir and let the praise begin!



In Sympathy

Marilyn Lambert Rudy Leatherman

September 6, 1935 — August 16, 2026

Marilyn Lambert Rudy Leatherman, 90, of Wolfsville, passed away at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown, on Sunday, August 16, 2026.

Born in Middletown on September 6, 1935, she is the daughter of the late Ralph Remsburg Rudy and Naomi Marguerite Lambert Rudy. She graduated from Middletown High School, Class of 1953. She married her High School Sweetheart, Paul Cecil Leatherman, on June 27, 1954, and moved to Wolfsville.

She worked for Grangers Mutual Insurance Co. in Middletown, Sears in Hagerstown as a teletype operator, and Floyd L. Culler, in Frederick before retiring from Maryland State Police, Frederick Barrack, after working as a secretary for 30 years.

Marilyn was a voracious reader, and avid Boston Red Sox fan, as well as Virginia Cavalier (March Madness) fan. She was a devoted member of Salem Community Church, Wolfsville. She was a devoted mother, grandma and great grandma, she traveled extensively in the US to historical sites, National Parks, wild animal habitats, and gardens. She loved nature and bird watching.

Funeral service was held on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at Salem Community Church, at 10:00 a.m. Interment was in St. Mark's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Wolfsville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Salem Community Church or St. Mark's Lutheran Church Cemetery Fund.

The Salem congregation expresses sincere sympathy to Marilyn's family.



INSIGHTS INTO BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

Possible Update of Sanctuary Bibles

Pastor Neil has asked the Salem Church Council to consider updating the Bibles in the sanctuary to the New Living Translation (NLT). He would like to begin preaching from this version rather than the NIV because he feels it is a better version for reading and understanding. Some Sunday School classes have already been using this translation for some time.

■ **By Pastor Neil Suders**

People often ask me what translation of the Bible they should get. That question cannot be answered hastily. To explain what I mean, let us go back to the first century AD. The writers of the New Testament wrote mostly in Koine Greek, the common language of the day. Some of the words were written in Aramaic, a lesser common language. Go back another 400-1,400 years earlier, and the writers of the Old Testament wrote in Hebrew.

Around 250 BC, the Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) was translated from Hebrew to Koine Greek in a version of the Bible known as the Septuagint (abbreviated LXX; the Roman numeral for 70 because seventy men worked on the translation. The remainder of the Old Testament was also translated later so that, by the 1st century AD, the Greek speaking world had copies of the Old Testament in their language.

The problem is that few of us speak Greek or Hebrew. So, there are translations from the original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments. The most familiar of the translations was the original King James Version (KJV) of 1611. That version became the standard up through the 19th and early 20th centuries. More translation became available in the 1900s that became easier to read, since the KJV language was still rather archaic.

Translations (also called Versions) fall into two categories. Some versions attempt to translate on a word-for-word basis. Others are designed to translate on a thought-for-thought basis. The former category includes the New King James (NKJV), the Revised Standard Version (RSV), the New American Standard Bible (NASB), and The English Standard Version (ESV). My favorite is the ESV, but with those translations (word-for-word) they often seem more academic and less understandable.

Conversely, the later versions include The New International Version (NIV), the New Living Translation (NLT), and the Contemporary English Version (CEV). These are the mainstream thought-for-thought translations. Others are out there, but they become so "loose" in interpretation for the sake of understanding, that they drift away from the original intent of the authors.

Currently, the pew Bibles and my preaching are from the NIV. However, there are two versions of the NIV: one published in 1984 (like the Pew Bibles) and another with different wording published in 2011 (like my preaching Bible).

With several people giving their hearts to Jesus Christ, I want them to have a version they can read and understand. I just feel that the New Living Translation (NLT) is a better version for understanding. I would like to see us switch to the NLT as the pew Bible and the text from which I preach, as our standard version going forward. In Christ, —Pastor Neil

Rally Day set for October 4th

★ **10:00 a.m.** — On this day, change in worship time . . . worship begins at 10 a.m. instead of 9 a.m.

No Sunday School on this day.
Let's "Pack the Pews."

★ **11:30 a.m.** — Following worship, there will be a catered lunch by Mountain Gate Family Restaurant at the pavilion starting at 11:30 a.m.

There will be a bounce house for the children.



Catered Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Pavilion

The menu starts with a Fresh Vegetable Tray with Dip, Cheese; then Fried Chicken, Pulled BBQ Pork, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Baked Macaroni & Cheese; Corn, Green Beans, Potato Salad, Broccoli Salad, Rolls & Butter, Iced Tea, Lemonade & Coffee, and Pies & Cookies for dessert. The meal is free. Salem Church is paying for the food as our gift to our wonderful growing church family.

Reach out to friends, neighbors and family members who are not attending church anywhere at this time, and invite them to join you.

12537 Brandenburg Hollow Road

SALEM CHURCH CEMETERY

New Cemetery Adornment Policy

■ By George Stottlemeyer, Chair, Cemetery Committee

Beginning in 2026, a seasonal policy has been instituted regarding the placement and removal of flowers, ornaments, and other adornments at grave sites in our cemetery.

The cycle for placement of those items will be consistent with seasonal changes. Therefore, beginning in March through September, we ask that spring and summer seasonal items be displayed; and October through February fall and winter seasonal items be displayed.

At the end of each season, we ask that items out of season be removed. Any items remaining will be removed by custodians of the cemetery. We ask that all items displayed be placed either on the headstone or as close to the stone as possible to accommodate mowing.

New Ministry for Children at Salem

Pastor Neil's "Vision for Wednesday Night"

■ By Pastor Neil Suders

Wednesday Night will be Family Night. The Wildfire Student ministries will be meeting on Wednesday nights, and the Adults have Bible study on Wednesday nights. We want to offer a ministry for the children from kindergarten through fifth grade.



The ideal ministry for children is AWANA Clubs. A brief internet search can tell you what AWANA is about. Basically, it is a fun time that teaches children Scripture memory and discipleship.

My vision is to get to where we can offer a simple meal at 5:30, then the children and teens can go to their respective activities at 6:30 and the adults can do our Bible study at 7:00. All activities will be completed by 8:00 p.m.

I am looking for volunteers that feel God is leading them to help. We need two people to serve as AWANA commanders, a person in charge of games, and some classroom teachers/helpers. We also need people who can take over the meal time (think crockpot of steamers, and French fries, etc). The AWANA missionaries will be available to offer training on a Saturday morning.

The Wildfire youth group and adult Bible studies are already starting. I would like to begin the AWANA ministry as soon as it is feasible. Please be praying about your involvement. In Christ, —Pastor Neil



Large crowd attended Salem's Ice Cream Social on August 2nd. Our thanks to LDS Wolfsville for donating 5 flavors of ice cream.

NEWS & NOTES

Salem has a new Administrative Assistant



Mandy Mellott

Several months ago, Pastor Neil asked the Salem Church Council to consider hiring a part-time person to support him with administrative duties.

The council agreed and a vacancy announcement with a description of duties was published in *The Mountain Shepherd*.

Expressions of interest would be considered from folks inside or outside the church. Applications were reviewed by Pastor Neil and the Salem Personnel Committee. Candidates were interviewed.

The Personnel Committee made a selection and recommended approval by the Salem Church Council. Council approved the recommendation and selected Mandy Mellott to be hired as a part-time Administrative Assistant and will perform administrative tasks assigned to her by Pastor Neil.

Mandy will work at home and occasionally at the church to use the copy machine, etc. She will be paid on an hourly basis and at the end of each month will submit her timesheet to Pastor Neil for approval and then to the Church Treasurer for payment.

Mandy has an excellent skill set and will free Pastor Neil to focus on ministry and spiritual growth of our growing congregation.



A septic system line was recently replaced from Salem's educational building to the septic tank. The original cast iron line was installed in 1967-68 when the educational building was built. In some places the pipe was in poor condition and needed to be replaced. There was ground water flowing into the septic tank and it is hoped that the new pipe will eliminate the problem. Todd Harne of Wolfsville performed the work.

Salem Mission News

Missions is the Mission of the Church

Salem Mission Project No. 1

Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer, Retired Senegal Missionaries

Dear Folks at Salem Community Church, August 18, 2026 — We want to thank you for your faithfulness in praying for us, for your financial gifts, and for your friendship over many years. We appreciate you very much and we look forward to seeing many of you at the Lord's Acre Festival on September 12th.

We are doing pretty well as far as our health. Nancy continues treatments for the Wet Macular Degeneration in her left eye. She has gotten a number of injections in the eye; we put special drops in that eye every day, and she has exams, pictures of the eyes, etc. done regularly. She has also had sciatic pain in her one leg & has begun therapy for that.

Frank had some heart exams and has an echocardiogram scheduled for October.

We are still doing pretty much the same things we've been doing for some time. Nancy continues to visit a widow with dementia in a nursing home. She plans to again take a neighbor lady to a ladies' Bible study each week when those studies resume in September.

Frank serves on the board of our home church, sometimes teaches a Bible study, he is bookkeeper/treasurer, and prepares a weekly bulletin insert of prayer requests and announcements. He helps one day each week with things at the Hagerstown Rescue Mission. Sometimes we take a handicapped lady, who can't drive, to doctor's appointments, etc.

Our daughter, Wanda, and son-in-law, Lynn, have jobs and are involved in ministries at the church they attend.

Our son and daughter-in-law, Eric & Wendy, are in the U.S. for a few months. In Senegal, Eric is the Bible teacher to the Badyaranké people. Wendy helps with the Bible translation into the Badyaranké language.

Our daughter, Rebecca, is on home assignment for a few months and is living with us. She plans to return to Senegal where her main ministry is literacy for the Badyaranké people. She is also a literacy consultant for West Africa for the mission to help other missionaries get literacy programs started.

Our son & daughter-in-law, Gary &



Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer

Lisa, serve at a missionary retirement center in Florida. Gary is leader of the grounds crew and works on other projects at the center; Lisa heads up the kitchen for cooking for the retired missionary residents who are unable to do that for themselves.

Our granddaughter, Tara & her husband, Asheton, completed the missionary training of Ethnos360. They are now seeking meetings to raise support for them to go to Senegal. As of now, they are planning to go there in January 2027 since they didn't have the required level of support for them to go this month.

Our granddaughter, Elli, & husband Devin, are planning to soon begin the second year of a two-year Bible College course.

Thank you again sincerely for your faithfulness. Joyfully in Christ,

—Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer

The Great Commission

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

Salem Mission Project No. 6

Mary & Travis — AIM Canada



Travis, Mary & daughter Melodie

"He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him." —1 Thessalonians 5:10

Ministry-wise, God seems to be blessing our cross-cultural relationships.

Financially, our monthly support has been growing, praise God! Also, to our great surprise, Travis' parents essentially gave him his inheritance early by buying a small bungalow house for us! We had been living for the past two years in a basement apartment.

We believe God led specifically to this house and multi-cultural neighborhood through miraculous ways. This house has already been a blessing to us personally as well as in ministry.

Although the gift of a house helps immensely with our finances, we still need to raise about \$1,500 Canadian a month to have a sustainable salary.

Currently, we are in the middle of a trip to the US and Ontario, Canada! This is a "home assignment" granted by Africa Inland Mission (AIM) required for all missionaries, with the purpose of connecting with family, friends and current supporters, while also focusing on raising prayer and financial support for our ministry to newcomers in Calgary.

We have many opportunities ahead of us to share about this ministry in Calgary, through church presentations, missions committee presentations, a meeting with a pastor, and meeting with many individual supporters. Most of our presentations are with churches who aren't currently supporters but interested in hearing more.

Thank you for joining us in prayer! We are so thankful for you!

—Travis, Mary and Melodie



1. In Person

For those at sanctuary worship, an offering box is available at the rear of the sanctuary.

2. By Mail

You may mail your tithes and offerings to:

Salem Community Church

Church Treasurer

P. O. Box 144

Myersville, MD 21773-0144

Make checks payable to: **Salem Community Church**

3. Electronically Online

You may give electronically by viewing our website

SalemChurchWolfsville.org and select GIVE.



I'm Praying

A bug walks up to a praying mantis and, seeing the mantis in his praying stance, asks him what he is doing.

The mantis says, "I'm praying."

The bug then says, "That's ridiculous. What do we bugs have to pray about?"

At this, the mantis scoops up the bug and prepares to do what praying mantises do.

At that, the bug says, "Our Father, who art in Heaven..."

Submitted by Denny Leatherman

Some thoughts to ponder . . .

Blessed are those who
give without remembering
and receive without
forgetting.

You need not fear
where you're going
when God is going
with you.

Only God can
transform a sin-
stained soul into a
masterpiece of grace.

No one is too bad for
God's forgiveness—
but it must be accepted.



The Mountain Shepherd

Salem Community Church, Wolfsville

P. O. Box 144

Myersville, MD 21773-0144

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Address Services Requested

SERVICE TIMES

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School



Saturday, September 12

2:00-6:00 p.m.

Wolfsville Ruritan Park

Place
Stamp
Here



September 2026

COME GROW WITH US