



January 5, 2025

Sunday, Jan. 5
9:30 a.m. Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Communion & Commissioning with meditation by Dave Greiser

10:45 am Second Hour

Emmaus Road Sermon Discussion Class meets in the room behind the Welcome Center. The Emmaus Road group welcomes all.

Dec. 29 Offering
Offering - \$45,818
ACH - \$2,055
Vanco - \$2,287
Total Budget Offering \$50,160
Children's Offering: \$21

If you have information or prayer requests for our newsletter, please submit them to the church office by 10 am Thursdays.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please submit your email address to joneslongt@salfordmc.org.

Reflections on Communion

This coming Sunday, January 5, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. In the past year, the pastoral team tried out the practice of having monthly communion on the first Sunday of each month. We had several reasons for wanting to do this.

First was a desire to recover a fuller experience of the meaning of the Lord's Supper. American Mennonites have traditionally emphasized the "communal" aspect of communion. Communion has been a chance to celebrate the fact that we are a community of disciples practicing our faith in face-to-face relationships. At Salford we have embodied this meaning of communion by gathering around tables in front of the auditorium where we can look at one another as we commune.

There is more meaning, however, to the New Testament teaching on communion. Communion has a vertical aspect as well. We re-enact the Last Supper, in which Jesus told his disciples that the bread and cup reflect his death for the forgiveness of sin. Indeed, he suggests that in some sense he, Jesus, is present with us as we eat and drink. A good number of you who have joined Salford in recent years have come from Christian churches where this important vertical aspect is stressed.

We hope that many at Salford have experienced a deepened love for Jesus as well as love for this church community, as we have celebrated the Supper. The pastors have had conversations with some of you about our more frequent communion practice in 2024. This past November the Church Board discussed how people were experiencing monthly communion. While there are a few people at Salford who desire frequent communion, the overall sense of the church seems to be that people would appreciate a return to less-frequent communion, and that we would take ample time for more a communal expression of the Supper.

In 2025 we plan to hold communion services about every other month. In the week prior to communion, we will make sure that all are aware that communion is approaching, so that people can prepare spiritually and relationally to enter into the Lord's Supper.

Thank you for allowing us to lead this past year of communion services. We look forward to continuing to search for ways to deepen love for God and for our siblings in Christ through this special remembrance instituted by Jesus.

Dave Greiser, for the Team

Commissioning New Leaders

During this Sunday's worship service, we will have a time of commissioning for people beginning terms of service at Salford. We are grateful to God for these new leaders!

Church Administrator: Tori Jones Long

Chair of Justice and Peace Committee: Tori Jones Long

Trustees Team: Linda Martin, Allen Kaczor, Mike Bartholomew, Zach Jones Long, Luke Martin, Nathan Hasler-Brooks

Finance Committee: Brad Alderfer (chair), Sondi Alderfer, Blaine Bergey, Miles Musselman, Andy Richter

New Board Members: Sharon Gehman, Erica Smith-Grasse, Ron Freed (renewing for another term), Mark Heise (new Board Chair)

Chair of Welcoming Path Committee: Vince Causerano

Chair of Nursery Committee: Cassy Zetts

Finance Update for Salford Mennonite Church

A detailed 2024 yearend finance update will be provided next week. As of December 31, 2024 we received enough income to cover our expenses. Our offering and income for 2024 is **\$874,923**, with estimated budget expenses of **\$853,843**. The Church Board and Leadership Team are grateful to everyone for your stewardship of gifts and your generosity with the Salford community.

Sermon Response Question and Answer Session Next Sunday

On Sunday, January 12th, we will begin a 3-week series on our Salford theme of CONNECT, GROW, SERVE. Following the message on CONNECT, we will have a short response time when you can ask questions about the sermon. The bulletin will have an outline to help you keep track of your questions. We'll have a roving microphone and, to keep the morning moving, have a 30 second time limit for each question. We'll answer as best as we can on the spot or get back to you. It will be a terrific way to practice CONNECT and learn together. - Pastor Karen

Faith Formation Night: Meet the Soil and Seed Project on Wednesday, January 15

This month's Faith Formation Night will be led by Greg Yoder and Seth Crissman, directors of the Soil and Seed Project. The Soil and Seed Project creates music, art and little liturgies that follow the liturgical year to help folks welcome the seed of the Good News as it takes root in their lives. The Project helps individuals, families, and communities, establish new rhythms of faith

as together we turn towards Jesus, believing and celebrating the Good News of God's Love for the whole world.

At our gathering you will hear about the mission of the Project, work through one of their little liturgies in table groups, and learn about the (free!) upcoming resources and faith formation opportunities the Project has coming your way.

Dinner is provided at 5:30 P.M. and time with Seth and Greg lasts from 6:30-8:00 P.M. To register for the event, click [HERE](#) or email Pastor Andrew at zettza@salfordmc.org.

Our Church Family

Pastoral Search Team Update

The Pastoral Search Committee met again this week and was joined by Salford's Mosaic Mennonite Conference leadership minister, Steve Kriss, whose role is to support our congregation's pastoral search. They had robust, helpful conversation about the search process and timeline. The committee remains interested in a Salford member who is age 70 or more joining the committee. Are you an older person who is feeling called to help Salford identify our next lead pastor? If so, please talk to Randy Nyce or Suzanne Kaczor in the next week!

Friends at Souderton Mennonite Homes: Join us for our monthly time of sharing, singing and joy on **Monday, January 13th from 7-8** in the Friendship Room. Questions? Call Pastor Karen.

Sewing Circle: First meeting of 2025 will be **Wednesday, January 8th from 8:30-1** in the Gathering Room. Stop in for as long as you want! All are welcome.

Prayer Concerns

- For **Christiana Lynch**, director of Salford Child Care Center, and her family. Christina's father in law, Thomas Lynch, passed away on December 27th following a stroke on Christmas Eve. Please keep the whole family in your prayers in this difficult time.
- For **Juanita Nyce's** father, Ron Freeman. Ron was admitted to the hospital in Kansas City on January 2nd for chest pain. Ron is currently undergoing testing. Please also pray for Juanita's mom, Marilyn Freeman, and sister, Bonita Higginbotham, as they navigate this situation in Kansas and for the whole Nyce family as they wait for answers.
- As Anabaptists celebrate 500 years, all Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Mennonite Historians of Eastern PA and Germantown (PA) Mennonite Historic Trust**, both Mosaic Conference-Related Ministries. They share a mission to preserve Anabaptist Mennonite stories through historical sites, teaching, public programs and exhibits. Pray for their boards, staff, and visitors who will reflect on 500 years of faith as encouragement and inspiration for the future.

Family Magic Show Fundraiser with Kevin Shelly

Linda and Vernon Martin invite everyone to enjoy a morning of magic with Salford's own, Kevin Shelly (<https://www.kevsmagic.net/magic>). Proceeds from the event will benefit Salford Mennonite Child Care Center (SMCCC).

When: February 8, 2025 from 10-11 AM

Where: Salford Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall

Admission Fee: Donation amount of your choice for SMCCC

Mindy and Lucia (Erhart) Krull welcome your messages and notes and would enjoy keeping in touch with their Salford family. Their contact information is below.

mindy.ehrhart@gmail.com

Mailing address:

Mindy & Lucia Krull

Heidefluegel 9

01324 Dresden

Germany

Service & Mission

The Donation of the Month for January is items from Keystone Opportunity Center's (KOC) "Immediate Needs" list. Items can be purchased for KOC through their [Amazon Wishlist](#). KOC is updating this list weekly.

Current Wishlist items include household products (food storage bags, paper products, dish and laundry soap), personal care items (deodorant, soap, shampoo and conditioner), and food items such as pasta, cereal, and granola bars.

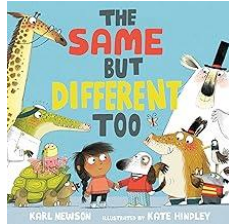
Please consider purchasing items through KOC's Amazon Wishlist. Donations can also be placed at the Donation of the Month table near the nursery for delivery at the end of the month. Monetary donations are also welcome. You can label your offering envelope or check memo line for "Donation of the Month", check made payable to Salford Mennonite Church.

Mosaic Mennonite Conference Spotlight

Learn more about what Mosaic Conference leaders are doing in 2025 in Jenn Svetlik's piece [First Vibrant Mosaic Cohort Will Strengthen Rootedness and Increase Capacities](#).

Church Library Spotlight

Stop by the church library and speak with a librarian to see what's new, or review the library catalog on the Salford church website: <https://smck-ind.kari.opalsinfo.net/bin/home#0>



The Same But Different Too

By: Karl Newson

I am me, you are you.

We're the same, but different too.

There's something about each of us that makes us special. But while everyone is unique, we all have many things in common as well. Explore the ways that we are all the same but different, too, in this joyful and simple celebration of individuality and camaraderie. Filled with children and their animal friends, this rhyming text illuminates the wonderfully different and similar things that make us who we are. DONATED



Wake Up With Purpose! What I've Learned in my First Hundred Years

By: Sister Jean with Seth Davis

Known to millions as simply "Sister Jean," the Loyola Chicago matriarch and college basketball icon invites you into her remarkable memoir filled with history, wonder, and common-sense wisdom for this century and beyond. As Sister Jean wisely says, "I've seen so many changes in the last 102 years, but the important things remain the same."

Part life story, part philosophy text, and part spiritual guide, Sister Jean's wit, wisdom, and common sense has broad appeal and application that transcends religious creed, belief, and even feelings on Loyola's basketball team.

Beyond Salford

Throughout January Church of the Holy Spirit (Harleysville) is hosting free organ recitals featuring Philadelphia-area members of the American Guild of Organists. Recitals are scheduled for Tuesdays at noon. More information about the January organ recitals and Church of the Holy Spirit's full 2025 concerts calendar can be found [HERE](#).