

**Sunday, Nov. 24 9:30 a.m.**  
**Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live**, Andrew Zetts preaching on Matthew 8:18-22, 1 Corinthians 1:18-3

**10:45 am Second Hour**

***The Bible Unwrapped in the Gathering Room.***  
*Karen Bergey teaching.*

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

**Nov. 10 Offering**

\$8,892

ACH - \$2,030

Vanco - \$3,762

**Total Budget Offering**

**\$14,685**

Children's Offering:

\$46

**Future Salford Events**

**Nov. 27** – Thanksgiving Service at Advent Lutheran

**Dec. 15** – Children and Youth Christmas Program during worship

**Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve service, 6:30pm

**This Week at Salford**

**Sun., Dec. 1**

9:30 am Worship indoors and on YouTube Live.

## Thanksgiving Eve Service at Advent Lutheran

Please join us for a Thanksgiving Eve service at Advent Lutheran Church (470 Landis Rd, Harleysville, PA 19438) on Weds, Nov. 27 at 7PM. This is our 12th year joining our two worship communities in a time of scripture, prayer, and singing. This year we will consider God's Abundance. Monetary gifts will be divided between Mennonite Disaster Services and Lutheran Disaster Response to be used for ongoing hurricane relief. Offerings of food pantry supplies go to Shepherd's Shelf in Kulpsville.

To support your celebration of Thanksgiving at home, we offer a ["Thanksgiving At Home" resource](#), which includes prayers, songs & scripture to guide you in honoring the indigenous peoples who once lived on this land and in giving thanks for all of the goodness we enjoy.

A [land acknowledgement](#) written in the style of Godly Play, in simple, vivid words to capture the attention of kids.

Other Thanksgiving "table grace" ideas for this season are [available here](#).

Also, this Sunday, Nov. 24 during children's time, a **blanket that is made by the [Teton Trade Cloth](#) company of the Delaware (Lenape) Tribe of Indians**, will be presented. For those interested in supporting their craft, their products are currently available at Ten Thousand Villages in Souderton (until Dec. 21, when the store closes) and also for purchase at their website.

## An Announcement from Lead Pastor Dave Greiser

*This letter was shared on Sunday, Nov. 11*

Dear Salford Family,

Recently I shared with our church board my decision to retire, and today I am sharing this news with you. I plan to finish my time at Salford in May of 2025, about six months from now.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your pastor. We have done important and difficult work together. We continued the long journey of Salford toward fully welcoming and affirming all people into all parts of church life. We worked to increase accessibility to people for whom church presents physical, mental and emotional challenges. We have called people out of our congregation into pastoral roles in the church. We have sought a variety of means for extending the gospel of peace into our community. We have baptized people, dedicated children, and ushered saints into glory. Each week we have striven to worship God sincerely and creatively. It has been a privilege to walk beside you in each of these endeavors.

Preaching: Karen  
Bergey  
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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 [alderferb@salfordmc.org](mailto:alderferb@salfordmc.org).

For some time now, I have contemplated writing this letter. Two things helped me to decide that now is the time.

First is a series of conversations with Anita, my children and their children. All of them would like me to be more present in their lives while I have health and a reasonable amount of energy. They have lived with my church-related absences for many years; I want to be more fully present with them while we can make memories, and while I still have my memory.

Second is the realization that I am ready to be finished working a pastor's full work week. There are many good and meaningful days in my work; yet increasingly, I reach the end of the week emotionally and mentally spent. I have tried working three-quarter time, but it is not possible for me to serve Salford well and do it less than full-time. Salford needs a full-time lead pastor.

In the days to come you'll hear more from the board about plans for finding the next lead pastor for Salford. I look forward to many conversations with you between now and next May; I plan to stay fully engaged as long as I am here! Thank you so much for calling me to serve you, and for allowing Anita and me to call this our church home.

With much love, Dave

## **Congregational Meeting Update**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the congregational meeting last Sunday and offered good feedback and asked good questions about the topics presented. There were three ballots before the congregation for affirmation. The 2025 budget and 2024 bylaw revisions were approved with 100% affirmation. The pavilion project was approved with 95% affirmation to proceed with constructing an outdoor pavilion on church property in 2025. Please speak to a Church Board or staff member if you have further comments or questions on any information presented in the meeting.

## **Advent begins on Sunday, Dec. 1**

Our Advent theme is **Together On The Journey**: As we journey through life, we inevitably encounter situations where the way forward seems blocked. In these times of trouble, we long to be able to patiently trust and obey God, no matter the risks. This depth of faith grows from daily seeking God's wisdom and choosing God's ways as we learn to rely on God.

Resources are available in the foyer to support your prayer and reflection.

## **Our Church Family**

**New Church Administrator Start Date:** Tori Jones-Long's start date as Church Administrator is Monday, Nov. 25, though she has been spending a few hours for the past couple of weeks training with Brad. Welcome, Tori!

**Church Office Closure Info:** The church office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29. In case of emergency, call one of the pastors.

***Next week, the newsletter will be shared in a digital format only.***

**Calling All Young Musicians....**Have you been learning to play an instrument? We would love for you to share your musical gifts with us at Salford! Please contact Laura Alderfer (laura.alderfer@gmail.com) if you would like an opportunity to play or sing during worship.

**Welcoming the Advent Season with the Music of J.S. Bach**

On Sunday, November 25, 1731, Johann Sebastian Bach first presented his famous Cantata, "Wachet Auf" (BWV 140), inspired by the Parable of the Ten Virgins with their lamps, by selected passages from the Song of Songs, and by a well-loved hymn by the pastor, poet and composer Philipp Nicolai. The weeks before Christmas can sometimes be hectic, but the church's celebration of Advent is meant to help us look to the deeper meaning of the season. *Would you like to reflect with a few others on the scripture passage which Bach sought to illuminate with his beautiful music and then listen together to his musical offering?*

Ken Henke will gather a small group in the Salford library **on Sat, Dec. 7 from 1-3pm**. It is hoped that the group will be 6-12 persons so that all will have time to reflect and share their thoughts and plans for this season. To sign up, please email Dave Greiser.

**Women, save the date:** We will have a weekend retreat on April 4-6, 2025 at Kirkridge Retreat Center in Bangor, PA.

Everyone is invited to attend the **hybrid Justice and Peace meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 7-8:30pm** in the Salford library and online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84158823582?pwd=rvRX4wO8jKUAx3b74k7qwcZHYTOJhU.1>

We will reflect on this year's work.

**Contemplative Practices: 2nd Hour and Midweek Prayer**

Many of us have times when we feel anxious or unsettled. Join Pastor Karen every **Thursday at 11:30 am (though not Thanksgiving Day)** at the Labyrinth (by the carport in inclement weather) for a 15-minute Centering Prayer practice. You are free to stay and walk the Labyrinth.

Join Pastor Karen also on **Sun., Dec. 8 for a Lectio Divina practice and Dec. 22** for a time of contemplative group practice and prayer. We'll meet in room **206** 10 minutes after the service. Please be prompt. This class will continue every other week through Lent.

The next **Banned and Challenged Book Club** meeting is on Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Library. We will be discussing *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. Contact Julie Wimmer with questions. All are welcome!

**Choir Rehearsals:** Christmas Eve service rehearsals will take place Thurs. 12/5; Thurs. 12/12 and Weds 12/18 from 7-8pm.

### **Prayer Concerns**

- For **Roy Musselman** who had a heart catheterization on Wednesday. Roy had a stent placed and is home recovering and resting.
- **Carol Gross** is home recovering well from her foot surgery. Thank you for your prayers!
- With all congregations in Mosaic Conference we pray for Conference-Related Ministry **Dock Mennonite Academy**. Please pray for wisdom and the Spirit's leading among the search committee and the entire community, as the superintendent retires in June 2025. Meredith Ehst is chairing the search committee.

### **Service & Mission**

The November Donation of the Month is for [Street Outreach](#) in Montgomery County through Access Services. We can support our unhoused neighbors by bringing in winter items like: Hats, Gloves, Coats, Boots Thermals, Socks, Hot Hands Hand warmers, Chapstick/Vaseline, Blankets, Backpacks, and Tarps. Bring items to the shelves in the coatroom, or use the links below to purchase items to have shipped to their offices. Thank you for your support!

A few links of most needed items (all found on Amazon):

Coleman North Rim Cold-Weather Mummy Sleeping Bag  
<https://a.co/d/0SC3vCG>

2-12 Person Tents for Camping Waterproof, Backpack Double Layer Camping Tents <https://a.co/d/8Fha2Dv>

36x Winter Gloves, Beanies, Neck Warmers Unisex Bulk Pack Donation Charity Care Bundle <https://a.co/d/7twsAFp>

Hot Hand Warmers - 50 Count <https://a.co/d/gNNy8AC>

DMSKY 60 Pack Lip Balm <https://a.co/d/c8rT6Fs>

Items can be shipped directly to Access Services, 500 W Office Center Dr #100, Fort Washington, PA 19034 if ordering from online.

### **Faith Formation Spotlight**

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation, during which we recreate the longing people felt before the birth of Jesus, and our own longing now for God's kingdom to be fulfilled - one of justice, peace, healing, and liberation for all people and all of creation.

On Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, stop in at the table in the foyer if you are looking for a resource to support your prayer practices this Advent season. Some of what is available include:

**"The Weary World Rejoices,"** a daily devotional for adults by Kate Bowler of "Everything Happens."

The **25 Days Family Advent Project** breaks up the Christmas narrative into 25 verses on cards that can be read one per day.

[The Seed and The Soil Project](#) creates music, art, and “Little Liturgies.” CDs and text of the simple weekly prayers are available at Salford or can be streamed and downloaded [here](#). [Listen to all the albums here](#).

## **Salford-Advent Garden Spotlight**

Greetings, the numbers have been crunched...

Zucchini - 1,033 lbs. We were still harvesting in October WOW!

Cucumbers - 336 lbs. Arrived early but did not fare well - disease and bugs got to them.

Green Peppers - 1,572 lbs. Really nice year for peppers; just kept on producing all the way to frost

Tomatoes - 5,701 lbs. Better than last year, still our most popular veggie

Eggplant - 313 lbs. Nice harvest from 50 plants

Yellow String Beans - 59 lbs. Planted less than other years but they just did not grow as good as I would have liked

Green String Beans - 567 lbs. Summer plants gave out early, fall plants did well, also a half row did not germinate.

Potatoes - 1,062 lbs. A new record! Planted 3 different types of potatoes, 2 yellow and 1 red all did well.

Butternut Squash - 25 lbs. Planted just 2 raised beds

Sweet Potatoes - 202 Lbs. Very nice but the gophers had a feast with several of the bigger potatoes.

Honey Nut Squash - 32 lbs. Seeds did not germinate as well as other years

Broccoli - 168 lbs. Fall harvest was better than spring harvest

Cabbage 1,756 lbs. Not a record but a nice harvest; the dry weather kept the heads smaller

Red beets - 208 lbs. Not bad but several beds did not produce as well as expected. Planted both red and golden beets

Carrots - 57 lbs. Only planted a spring crop.

Onions - 750 lbs. Our onions were smaller than other years.

Hot Peppers (Jalapeño) 72 lbs. Very hot this year; used in our salsa

Lima beans - 128 lbs. Planted further apart this year; the plants bushed out and did well.

Cauliflower - 212 lbs. Lost quite a few; they bolted early

Lettuce 240 lbs. Around 60 heads. Lost several to wilting. The heads we

harvested were beautiful.

That is the harvest for 2024. We did harvest some dry corn and a few ground cherries. The total comes to 14,493 lbs. Better than last year and a goal to shoot for in 2025. Thank you to all who supported the garden mission this season. See you in 2025!

## 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:

[smck-ind.kari.opalsinfo.net/bin/home](http://smck-ind.kari.opalsinfo.net/bin/home)

### ***Made, Known, Loved: Developing LGBTQ-Inclusive Youth Ministry***

By: Ross Murray

Through the debates about the inclusion of LGBTQ people in the life of the church, one overlooked community is LGBTQ youth. *Made, Known, Loved: Developing LGBTQ-Inclusive Youth Ministry* builds on experience and wisdom cultivated through The Naming Project, a ministry created at the intersection of youth, faith, and LGBTQ identity. The Naming Project provides a place where youth of all sexual orientations and gender identities can be safe and affirmed in their identity and faith. The book first helps congregation leaders and parents examine the values of the congregation and youth group. It focuses on keeping young people, including LGBTQ youth, safe and helping them feel respected and see themselves as beloved children of God. The book also provides a how-to manual for LGBTQ-inclusive youth ministry, sharing the best procedures and practices from the fifteen-plus years of The Naming Project's ministry, including its ongoing summer camp. DONATED

### ***Ground Zero***

By: Alan Gratz (Junior Book)

September 11, 2001, New York City: Brandon is visiting his dad at work, on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere, an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion. And Brandon is in the middle of it all. Can he survive -- and escape?

September 11, 2019, Afghanistan: Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help Taz -- and put herself and her family in mortal danger?

Two kids. One devastating day. Nothing will ever be the same. DONATED

## Beyond Salford

The **MCC Material Resources Center Darning Egg Gift Shop** will host the Annual Christmas Open House Dec. 5-7 and Dec. 9-14. More information at [facebook.com/repurposedgifts/](https://facebook.com/repurposedgifts/)



**Support Groups for Mental Health and Wellness** (room 112) and **Family Members/Caregivers** (room 114) are offered at Souderton Mennonite on Thursdays from 7-8pm. Participants support each other by listening, caring, and sharing as we process our thoughts, feelings, and experiences. All are welcome! No formal diagnosis necessary. Use the entrance facing West St. and look for signs. Questions can be sent to Joshua [jaj7337@gmail.com](mailto:jaj7337@gmail.com) or Monica [mamamonica7899@gmail.com](mailto:mamamonica7899@gmail.com).

**Bethany Birches Camp - Opportunities to Serve**

***This Sunday, Nov. 24, Anna Martin will have a table in the foyer to share more about Bethany Birches Camp. Make sure to stop by!***

Are there teens and young adults in your life that you hope will grow and learn in faith-filled communities? Bethany Birches Camp offers a summer in VT in a Mennonite community serving children who do not have the support of a church community. As a Bethany Birches staff member, they will be guided to grow personally, professionally, and spiritually! A summer at camp helps the young people in your life spend intentional time with God, develop skills for their future, learn more about themselves and their abilities, and is a great resume builder.

Additionally, because of our remote location, and housing and food included, it is easy to go home with more than \$3000 in their savings account.

Encouraging teens and young adults in your life to spend a summer at Bethany Birches will give them the chance to experience God's presence in real and honest ways. [Check out this link](#) to see summer positions available, like counselor, cook maintenance, office, and health staff. Or email [camp@bethanybirches.org](mailto:camp@bethanybirches.org) for more info.