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Salem English Lutheran Church

September 2018



Is It Worth It?

Do you ever wonder if it's worth it? The effort, I mean. I just spent several hours helping my new 9th grader organize folders and notebooks for high school. As we finished, the thought struck me that it won't be more than a month and those folders and notebooks will be tattered and he won't be able to find anything in his "organizational system" because...well, because he's 13. Was it worth it to put all that time into it and to walk him through the process of organization?

We all wonder if it's worth it from time to time. But this past week I was reminded that what we do, specifically as SpringHouse, is worth it. Because SpringHouse is a thing—because we came together in this place and turned Salem's old building into a ministry center—we make a difference.

I was in my office last Thursday morning when Laurie Z called down to me and told me there was someone in the office who wanted to see me. When I came up, I encountered a gentleman, outfitted in a bright construction vest, waiting patiently—yet impatiently. He shook my hand and introduced himself and said, "I guess this is kinda my church...You know I come here every Sunday night for my NA meeting, and I just didn't have anywhere else to go." He proceeded to tell me that his wife and kids got a flat tire over by the lake and they were \$16 short of the towing fee. If he couldn't come up with it, the police were going to tow it to the impound lot. He said he could come and repay me in less than an hour, but would have to drive home to Fridley to get it and come back. (Then we tangentially bonded over both growing up in Fridley.)

Thanks to the **your** generous donations, I happened to have some cash in the locked cabinet that was due to be used for gift cards and the pastoral discretionary fund. He was on the phone with his wife while the police officer and the tow truck driver impatiently waited to find out if he could quickly come

up with the cash. As I handed him a \$20 bill, he told her he would be right there and I heard her exclaim, "I love you! Thank you!" to us through the phone.

As he hurried out the door, he said he would be back as soon as he could and I simply said, "Don't worry about it, it's our gift to you. I'm glad you felt you could come to us. Maybe we will see you on a Sunday evening."

His final words were, "God bless you." I responded in kind. Then he took off to rescue his poor wife and kids.

Do you ever wonder if it's worth it? I do. But every once in a while I am reminded that while most of the time we may never see our seeds bear fruit or our work make a difference—every so often we get to see a glimpse of its worth.

I guess I might never know if the things Clark and I did together to get ready for 9th grade will be worth it. But I can hope.

As we jump into September and begin a new program year, as we gear up for changes and for new things to come, let's remember that what we do matters. Our effort is worth it. Our church makes a difference. In big and little ways, with the Spirit leading us and with God's blessing in our work...it is worth it.

Blessings, Friends,

Pastor Rhonda

Gathering Sunday September 9

Gathering Sunday is September 9! Come hear about the mission trip to Detroit this summer and get geared up for a great program year to come. We'll have a shared SpringHouse worship service at 10:30 in the South Sanctuary (no. traditional service that day). Sunday School will launch at 9:15 am and a parent/youth meeting will start the youth year off at 9:30 am. After the 10:30 service we'll have a potluck lunch, so please bring a dish to share. See you there! If you're available to help with set-up on Saturday at 10 am or serving on Sunday at 11:30, or clean-up, please sign-up on the information table.



Salem News

Sanctuary Switch

The next Sanctuary Switch will be Monday, September 10, at 10 am. Salem will be moving upstairs to South Sanctuary for the fall. We are looking for lots of help and some creative minds to make this happen!

Seasons of Giving

Inspire hope and support change by giving to LSS. Adoption,



Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

foster care, camps, disaster recovery, financial planning, employment counseling, housing assistance, mental health programs, programs for the military and veterans, senior programming, programming for people with disabilities, refugee resettlement, youth and young adult service, youth homelessness programs and housing, nutrition and food programs...these are just SOME of the things that are part of what Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota does in our communities.

Join us this fall as we learn more about what this amazing organization is doing all over MN and in our very own neighborhoods. Each week during the months of September, October, and part of November, we will take a closer look at their work and how we can be part of it.

Monetary gifts can be designated using envelopes found in the back of sanctuary or by simply writing LSS in the memo line of your check. This fall, as we learn about how we can volunteer, support, and donate...LSS reminds us that "your gift provides hope for those who need it most in your community".

September Greeters

It's Salem's turn again! Could you take a turn providing hospitality at the main SpringHouse doors on a Sunday morning (10:10-10:30 am) in September? It's a great way to connect with new folks and be a resource for everyone at SpringHouse. See the sign-up sheet at church.



SpringHouse Gathering Sunday Lunch

Get ready to start the program year with combined SpringHouse worship on Sunday, September 9 at 10:30, and a community lunch following at 11:30. Sandwiches from Subway will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We also need help with set-up on Saturday, September 8 at 10 am, and help with serving after church and clean-up after the meal. See the sign-up sheet on the info table at church or contact the office (612-872-4650 or office@discoversalem.org to sign up.

Look What We Did!

Last spring we received \$2673 for our Seasons of Giving focus on summer ministries. Here is what we did...

- ◆ Helped send 4 of our Salem youth to Camp Wapo in Amery WI for an entire week. God showed up and I hope you will ask them about their experiences when you see them!
- ◆ Supported our South Minneapolis Day Camp in June. Above and beyond our normal contributions, we helped provide many of the items necessary for the kids to make 165 hospice kits for Global Health. (We asked families to bring items, but with the number of items needed for each kit, we needed to purchase a majority of the items to make this project happen, without Salem, they would have had to pick a different project.) All this means that almost 100 children learned from Roger Livdahl about people in Africa who need hospice kits and then made kits to send to them...and 165 people on the other side of the world will find comfort in items packed in a zip lock on a summer afternoon in June.
- ◆ Supported our SpringHouse servant trip to Detroit by helping pay for transportation that was used to get to and from our daily projects and we helped to pay part of the cost of the trip for Pastor Rhonda and Clark...all of which helped our SpringHouse group complete almost 40 projects with homeowners in Detroit that will make a difference in several neighborhoods and the families who live there!

Well done, good and faithful servants!

More News

God's Work, Our Hands



On Sunday September 22, we will be participating in the yearly ELCA wide service initiative God's work, Our hands. This is a great way to stand in solidarity with almost 9300 other congregations in our larger church body - "one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor". Our projects, that we will be doing during both of our worship services, will be creating fleece tie-blankets and writing advocacy letters regarding the Voting Rights Advancement Act. We hope everyone comes out to worship that day as we turn our praise and prayer toward service!

WE NEED DONATIONS: In order to make our project successful, we need donations of fleece for blankets. If you have fleece or would like to make a monetary donation to buy fleece, it would be much appreciated.

Adult Faith Formation

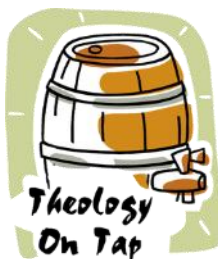
Join us for our joint SpringHouse adult faith formation that will start up again on September 16. We will meet in the gathering space between services at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome for this great opportunity at learning and conversation! Here's what is coming your way...

September 16, 23, & 30: **Through a Theological Lens—Puerto Rico, Detroit, and Flint.**

October 14. 21. 28 & November 4: **A Study on Revelation**

Theology on Tap

Join us at Lynhall at 6:30 pm on Wednesday September 26 for conversation and beverages at our monthly Theology on Tap. Don't miss this great opportunity for fellowship and conversation! See you on September 26!



Confirmation Starts Up Again

Reformation Confirmation will begin again in October. Our first session will be on Sunday October 7 and the topic will be Community! Families should watch for information coming their way soon with all the details.

Youth at Camp Wapo



Bettie Buzzell, Frank Buzzell, Clark Hlavinka and Jack Hlavinka spent a week at Camp Wapogasset in Amery Wisconsin in August. Pastor Rhonda was blessed to spend a couple days over there as well.

When asked to describe his experience at Wapo, Clark said: "You can't really describe it, it's something you have to just do. But if I had to describe it I would say it was fun and exciting...and there was just enough God."

When asked what he learned, he said, "I unexpectedly learned how to ride a horse." But then added, "There is more than one



way to stay connected to God. There is singing, dancing, talking, thinking, lots of others. Staying connected to God is important because it helps us carry out God's Word—to love each other."

Salem Community Directory

It's time to update our Members & Friends directory again! Check out the sign up table at church to review a draft. Are you included? Is your information correct? Check it out, and confirm or make changes. We will be collecting changes and updates throughout September, and plan to distribute a new directory in October. If you can't make it in, feel free to call or email the church office with changes or to confirm: 612-872-4650 or office@discoversalem.org

Altar Flowers

Salem is now offering the opportunity to provide occasional floral arrangements for worship, using the talents of member Myra Urness Rusten. If you would like to honor a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion with an arrangement to beautify worship, and then take home to enjoy, you can sign up at church or contact the office (612-872-4650 or office@discoversalem.org) Arrangements are \$40 each. Checks may be written to Salem.



SpringHouse News

Might It Be You?

Salem needs 2 volunteers...might one of them be you?

Children’s Ministry Team Co-Chair: We are in need of one person to serve on the Children’s ministry team as a co-chair with one of the co-chairs from Lyndale. If you have gifts for administration (email, organizing, calendaring, etc.) and would like to make a difference in our children’s ministry—we need you! (*This is not a commitment to lead or teach Sunday School—but to help organize and lead those who do.)

Stained Glass Window Capital Campaign Team: This is a SHORT-TERM position on a team with representatives from each congregation that will come together to create a capital campaign plan for restoring and maintaining our beautiful stained glass windows. (This is not a commitment to DO the campaign, but to create and present a campaign.) If you have gifts for marketing and/or development and a passion for our windows, this is a great opportunity for you to jump in and be part of the work we do together at SpringHouse.

If you are interested in serving in either of these capacities or have questions about them, please contact Michelle Ruppert or Pastor Rhonda.

Join the Huddle!

The Springhouse Huddle is a group of people who believe that one person can make a difference and a group can make real change. Weekly emails provide suggested actions - large and small - based on pending legislation, local and world events, or other political activities. We gather on the second Saturday of each month at 9 am to share thoughts, information, and resources to help keep us going in our work to improve our communities and the world. Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 8. For more information or to be added to the email list, contact Anna Bliss at akb@pobox.com

Simpson Shelter Meal

Our next opportunity to serve the evening meal at Simpson Shelter will be Wednesday, September 5. We gather at Simpson United Methodist Church, 28th St. and First Ave., to prepare and serve the meal at 7 pm. Please sign up on the info table or with Mary (mandmvanderford@gmail.com)

Detroit Mission Trip

A group of dedicated SpringHouse volunteers traveled to Detroit, Michigan this summer to assist in housing and other projects with the organization Rippling Hope. Here are some highlights from their efforts!



SpringHouse Office Hours



Starting after Labor Day, SpringHouse office hours will be back to Tuesday-Friday, 10-2. Staff are often around at other times, but if you need to speak to someone in particular, it’s always good to call first to make sure your party is around. The main SpringHouse number is 612-353-6292.

Reaching Out ...

Sheridan Story

Looking for a fun and easy volunteer opportunity on Friday afternoons? Our partner in SpringHouse, First Christian Church, has launched a partnership with Whittier International School and the Sheridan Story program and would **love to have some Salem members join them as volunteers.** The Sheridan Story program, started in 2010 at Sheridan elementary, partners with hunger relief organizations, corporations, and other churches and organizations to provide food for “food insecure” students to take home for the weekend. Two volunteers will be needed twice a month. Past times have been Fridays from 2-3 pm, but check with Pastor Laurie of First Christian for current time slots. Sign up with Pastor Laurie of First or Pastor Rhonda to join in the fun! Volunteers need to submit a background check form to the Minneapolis Public Schools; forms are available in the church office. Whittier International School is located just a few blocks from SpringHouse, at 315 W. 26th Street.

Mikah Meyer at St. Paul-Reformation Church

Join Today Show-featured Lutheran pastor's kid and National Cathedral countertenor singer, Mikah Meyer, at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran (100 N. Oxford Street, St. Paul) on September 22 at 7 pm for a cabaret performance of songs, humorous stories, and soul-stirring messages from his nonstop, 3-year road trip to all 417 National Park Service sites. As heard on NPR, Mikah has spent the past 2.5 years living in a cargo van while setting a world record as the youngest person to visit the entirety of the National Park System. He's been using the media attention to share a carpe diem message inspired by his father's passing from cancer, to break stereotypes about LGBT people, and to foster acceptance for LGBT Christians. To keep this project going he "sings for his supper" at churches across the United States, such as this freewill offering concert, to allow this ministry to complete its goals. Stay around afterwards, as Mikah will answer your questions on the parks and his missions!



AMMPARO Migrant Children

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA’s strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in Central America. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, the ELCA is called to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many communities and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God’s children. Join us in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Get involved

- ◆ **Pray** for the safety of migrant children and families on the journey and for justice as they reach their destinations.
- ◆ **Advocate** for justice for migrant children and families. www.elca.org/Advocacy
- ◆ **Accompany** migrant children and families through the Guardian Angel Program as the physical presence of the church in the courtroom. <https://Vimeo.com/157458987>
- ◆ **Give** to AMMPARO to provide opportunities for children and families in Central America and in the U.S. <https://community.elca.org/donations/ammparo-donate>

Sunday School and Children's Ministry

Sunday School Starts Sunday, September 9!

This year, Sunday School at SpringHouse will be following the Godly Play Curriculum. The stories for September are::

- ◆ Circle of the Church Year-September 9
- ◆ The Holy Bible-September 16
- ◆ Creation-September 23
- ◆ The Ark and the Flood-September 30

Sunday School Schedule

- ◆ 9:15-9:25 Enter the Squiggle space and be greeted.
Children will have the opportunity to write down and pin up on the blessing board what they are feeling grateful for.
- ◆ 9:25-9:30 Get ready for the story. Light a candle and say opening prayer.
- ◆ 9:30-9:45 Story Presentation.
- ◆ 9:45-10:05 Respond to the story. Children respond to the story through art, writing, reading, or re-enacting the story.
- ◆ 10:05 to 10:10 Prepare and share the feast (snack).
- ◆ 10:10 to 10:20 Song time and ending prayer with Pastor Rhonda. Say good-bye.

Questions about Sunday School?

Contact April Conlee (april.conlee@gmail.com) or Nancy Curry (ncurry9107@comcast.net)

Youth News

Annual Youth and Parent Kick-off!

It's that time of year again to check-in together once more! We will meet on Sunday, September 9 from 9:30-10:15 am. During this kick-off you'll get access to a calendar that includes September 2018-May 2019, check in with other parents and youth, and learn about opportunities to use your hands, feet, and voices with youth ministry at SpringHouse this upcoming year! Jon will also bring some treats and coffee for everyone! Please stay connected with updates and adaptations by getting subscribed to the Youth Ministry E-Newsletter. Connect with Jon to get subscribed. Get yourself signed up by doing one of the following.

- ◆ Text @db2kc8 to 81010.
- ◆ Or talk to Jon Bates to get yourself signed up!

Questions? Contact Youth Minister Jon Bates at 651-253-8494 or springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org

Ways for parents to support their children in the Godly Play program.

Below is a partial excerpt from the Complete Guide to Godly Play (Volume 2) by Jerome Berryman.

Follow the schedule as faithfully as you can, arriving in time for the children to be relaxed.

It is best to say good-bye to your children at the doorway so the door person can help children enter the room appropriately.

It is also best not to hover at the doorway. Once your child enters the room, he or she will be safe. The mentors may be volunteers, but they are well trained.

When you pick up your children, they may not be able to describe the day's lesson in words. They are not asked to memorize a summary or a Bible verse. They are invited to wonder together what the lesson means and how it is important for their lives. Much of the significant communication in the room is nonverbal, and the history of the Christian tradition is full of teachings about how the mystery of God's presence is difficult to express.

Please wait to enter the room until after the session so that the room can remain for the children..

Youth Group Leaders

For Youth Group (Sundays from 9:30-10:15 am) at SpringHouse, at least two more adults are needed to aid in an atmosphere that allows genuine community, fun!, and excitement to accompany youth in their faith journey. If you know of an additional person that would be interested in pursuing an opportunity like this for the upcoming year, please send their contact information, Jon's way! He will love to connect with them further.

Youth Group Dinner September 30

Reserve Sunday evening, September 30 to enjoy dinner with the rest of the youth. More details to follow through Remind texts and the weekly Youth Ministry newsletter, or contact Jon for more info.

Calendar

Week of September 2

Sun	9/2	9:00 am	Worship Service
	9/2	9:30 am	Informal Sunday School
	8/5	12:00 pm	Children's Ministry Team
Tue	9/4	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Home
Wed	9/5	5:15 pm	Simpson Shelter Meal
Sat	9/8	9:00 am	Women's March Huddle Group

Week of September 9

Sun	9/9	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	9/9	10:30 am	SpringHouse Combined Worship
	9/9	11:30 am	SpringHouse Community Meal
	9/9	12:00 pm	Green Team
Mon	9/10	10:00 am	Sanctuary Switch
	9/10	6:45 pm	Building & Grounds
Tue	9/11	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Home

Week of September 16

Sun	9/16	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	9/16	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	9/16	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	9/16	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
Tue	9/18	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Home
Wed	9/19	6:30 pm	Salem Council

Week of September 23

Sun	9/23	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	9/23	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	9/23	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	9/23	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
Tue	9/25	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Home
Wed	9/26	6:30 pm	Theology on Tap at The Lynhall

Week of September 30

Sun	9/30	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	9/30	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	9/30	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	9/30	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
	9/30	TBA	Youth Group Dinner
Tue	10/2	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study
	10/2	5:15 pm	Simpson Shelter Meal

September Birthdays

Wish these Salem members and friends a happy birthday! If you're new to Salem and would like your birthday listed, please contact Laurie in the office.



Tom Pieper – 9/7	Paulette Krohn – 9/18
Doralyn Dibble – 9/8	Jasper Hanke – 9/22
Susie Anderson – 9/9	Donna Greene – 9/27

Salem Calendar on the Salem Website

Did you know that our congregational calendar is available on our website? At www.discoverasalem.org you can link to our calendar. For some events there are extra details included, too. Check it out.

“We are a Spirit-led, welcoming, and bold Christian community, rooted in the neighborhood and striving to live faithfully in God’s world.”
Salem Mission Statement

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Remember that volunteers are needed to host coffee hour after the 10:30 service. The first Sunday of every month, the Kitchen committee will purchase donut holes which will be served along with coffee/tea and water. Volunteer hosts signing up can decide what they want to bring for their contribution and coordinate with one another what they want to contribute. Please sign up on the serving table if you can help facilitate this valuable fellowship time.





610 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

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(R.I.C.) Congregation
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 Christian community rooted in the neighborhood,
 striving to live faithfully in God's world.
 612-872-4650

Pastor:	Rhonda Hlavinka	revrhonda@discoversalem.org
Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	office@discoversalem.org
Youth Minister:	Jon Bates	springsouth@discoversalem.org
Jazz Music:	Tom Pieper	spirit@msn.com
Traditional Music:	Kent Goodroad	kgoodroad@gmail.com
Building Coordinator:	Deb Murphy	deb.murphy@fccmpls.org
Building Manager:	Rick Bowman	rjamesb49@gmail.com

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