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Salem English Lutheran Church

December 2018-Early January 2019

Who are We Waiting For? Why Wait at All?



I was a weird kid. I know that most of you will find that very hard to believe...ha. I remember at a very young age—like middle school—torturing my brother with the gospel. What? Wait! I mean I remember at a very young age, trying to make sure that the gospel was our lens. You see, much to his chagrin, I was always signed up to acolyte, read, serve communion, and/or sing at the late Christmas Eve service every year. Now, our family had a tradition that we opened all of our gifts on Christmas Eve. Santa would visit while we were out looking at lights early in the evening, then we had

late church, and THEN we would get to open the piles of gifts that had somehow found their place under our tree. But before I would let any gifts be opened, and even though it was probably midnight by now, I would hijack my little family and make them sit in the quiet and listen to the birth narrative in the gospel of Matthew. Yes, at a very early age, I remember having a feeling deep down in my marrow—that this whole advent thing meant something important, and before all the joyous strains of Christmas songs could enter in, we had to have this quiet moment of remembering in order to center ourselves. Weird kid.

Well, friends, we are about to launch into this season of waiting...of wilderness...of Advent. But who are we waiting for? Why are we waiting at all? It's funny, even though I was pretty insistent about reading the gospel on those quiet Christmas Eves—I am not sure I had an understanding of exactly why...I just knew it was important. I'm not sure I understood what Christ's "in-breaking" really meant. I do know that I was a little confused as to why we needed to do this whole rhythm of Jesus the little baby being born each winter...it was odd to me that he went back to being a baby every year. I am not sure I had an understanding of just how important it is for the world to experience the light of God...maybe I didn't know what the

alternative was. I know I didn't have an eschatological understanding of God, a baby, humanity, history, and sin. What I did have was a feeling...a feeling that drew me to the darkness of advent, that had my body and my soul yearning for the quiet reflective nature of its rhythm. And I knew that these moments in Advent filled me in a way that made the bright light of that baby so much more glorious than I could even grasp.

There is a lot to this season of Advent. Waiting, watching, and preparing. Darkness with light that pours through its crevices and hope that permeates in its rays. Who are we waiting for? Well, Jesus, of course. But why are we waiting, marking time in quiet darkness? I have learned through the years that our connection to this baby is a powerful one, and for each of us maybe even different. But in that baby we find all the light that is already in the world, all the light that we hope for the world, and a promise that we are made right with our Creator. But all this is only really made splendid by the darkness in which we wait. Welcome to the season of waiting and watching...the glory of Christmas is what waits for us on the other side.

Advent Blessings!

Pastor Rhonda

Advent and Christmas Events!

- TOMORROW Wednesday, November 28 at 6 pm, join us for Advent preparation fun! Light potluck supper at 6 pm and then we will trim the tree, put up the paraments, make decorations, and even an advent wreath for home.
- Advent Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6 pm beginning on December 5. (Soup Supper at 5:30 pm)
- Lefse Making at church, Saturday December 15 at 9 am. No experience necessary!
- Annual SpringHouse Joint Worship and Christmas Program. Sunday December 16 at 10:30 am.
- Christmas Eve Worship on Sunday December 24 at 4 pm. Join us for carols, candles, communion, and Christmas! Come at 3:30 pm and join us in the gathering space for hot cocoa and carols with First Christian!



Salem News



ZOOM House Giving Opportunities

Thank you to everyone who took names and wish lists to help make Christmas bright for our neighbors at ZOOM House. Please remember to return your wrapped and labeled gifts by Sunday December 2 so they can be delivered.

For the month of December, as we continue to support ZOOM, we will be collecting items for their food shelf. They are always in need of non-perishable food items, toiletries, and birthday basket items. Bring items to church and put them in the bin in the sanctuary as we will take care of delivering them.

Adult Faith Formation

We're going to doing something a little different (OK, way different) for this year's Advent Joint Adult Ed, and YOU are going to help us! In these turbulent times, we're going to ask (and answer) some questions about Advent through YOUR eyes. Intrigued? We'll start Sunday November 25, 9:30 am in the Gathering Space and meet throughout December (except for the 16, when we will all be Christmas pageant-ing.)

Chili Cook-Off

It's time for our SECOND annual Chili Cook-Off! Join us on Saturday January 19, from 4-6 pm, as we gather around steaming crockpots full of delicious chili. Whether you are up for making a pot, or just tasting them all, this will be a fun fellowship event for everyone! (Invite your friends!) For those who like an opportunity to give - we will be highlighting the ministry of the Simpson Shelter and their ministry with the hungry. As we eat our fill of chili, we will collect spare change and other financial contributions that will go directly to Simpson's ministry with the hungry. Sign up in worship or by



CHILI COOK-OFF

emailing the office at office@discoversalem.org if you are ready to compete by entering your crock of chili.

Greeters in December!

December is Salem's month to be greeters at the main SpringHouse doors before the 10:30 am services. Yep, you can do this...and it is IMPORTANT work! When we talk about safety in any church, the biggest deterrent to someone who is intent on making trouble is having someone say "Good Morning" to them. We need greeters each week to make people feel welcome and as part of a safety routine for all of us. You simply arrive at 10:10 am, welcome people, smile, say hello, point them to a restroom, the nursery, a worship space. Not too hard, and actually really fun.



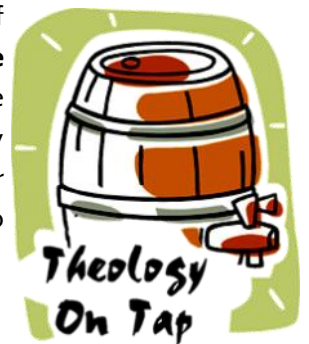
Annual Meeting

The Annual Meetings for Salem Lutheran and SpringHouse Ministry Center will be held on Sunday, January 27 after the 10:30 worship service. A mailing and much more information will come in January, but please plan to be around that day for a combined SpringHouse worship service, a meal together, and the annual meetings. If you have questions, speak with congregational President Michelle Ruppert .or Vice President Barbara Livdahl



Theology on Tap

We will be back at the Tap on Wednesday January 9, 2019! Come and join the fun...be part of the conversation. Same time, same place-6:30 pm at Lynhall is where we will be for our monthly Theology on Tap. Topic TBA-but mark your calendars today, we would love to see you there!



More News

Advent Festival

TOMORROW (November 28) we prepare for Advent! Join us at 6 pm (or whenever you can get there) for our 2nd annual Advent event! There will be plenty to do for everyone! Show up and help us prepare for this wonderful season. We will have a light supper (main dish provided) so bring a side dish to share.



ELCA Good Gifts: Gifts that Grow the Church, Fight Hunger, and Transform Lives

Would you like to make a difference with your giving this Christmas? Consider ELCA Good Gifts. Stop by the giving tree in the sanctuary and pick an ornament that corresponds with a specific gift. Personalize the ornament for you and/or your family and then simply donate the dollar amount on the ornament and it will go directly toward making a difference. From baby chicks and honeybees to a latrine, you can make a difference in a family and community as we work to end the cycle of hunger in the world!



Stewardship—Let Your Light Shine

On Sunday November 25, during both of our worship services, we came together to assemble almost 100 Kid Kits for LSS Camp Noah. Kids from around the country will receive these kits as part of their camp experience and will be able to take it home. A huge “thank you” goes out to all who made donations of materials and money to make this project happen! Way to let our light shine!



Advent is Coming!

Plan to join us during the Advent season here at Salem! Come and worship with us Wednesday evenings starting December 5. Holden Evening Prayer will be offered for all of SpringHouse and all are invited. Soup supper will begin at 5:30 pm and the service will be at 6 pm. Let this be a calm place in your holiday preparations.



Salem will host soup and worship on Wednesday December 5. If you are able and willing to help serve or clean up after supper—we can always use more hands, and we would love to have you.



Lefse Making!

Join us for our annual adventure making lefse! Prep work will happen Friday December 14 in the evening and everyone is invited to join in the fun of rolling and grilling the lefse on Saturday December 15 at 9:00 am. *No experience necessary! Don't miss out on our great annual tradition...not to mention yummy lefse.



Poinsettias

Salem will be offering poinsettias again this year. Each 14” diameter plant will cost \$10, and you may designate your plant in honor or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to order a red or white poinsettia to beautify our worship space and then enjoy at home, please fill out an order form in the bulletin or contact the church office at 612-872-4650 or office@discoversalem.org. Last day to order is December 9!



SpringHouse News

SpringHouse Library News

New books! You are invited to widen and deepen your knowledge and understanding of racial justice and gender equity with these new books in the SpringHouse Library, suggested by Pastors Dan Adolphson and Rebecca Voelkel. Find them on the book cart.

Racial Justice

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James H. Cone

Stand Your Ground, Black Bodies and the Justice of God by Kelly Brown Douglas

The New Jim Crow; Mass incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

Sexual Orientation/Gender Equity

Where the Edge Gathers: building a community of radical inclusion by Yvette A. Flunder

Transforming: the Bible & the lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke (former Salem youth minister!)

An Introduction to Queer Theology: Radical Love by Patrick S. Cheng

Lighter reading for this busy season. Grab a book of fiction or biography or browse the kids and adults Christmas books on the shelves.

It's easy to check out a book by simply writing your name and the name of your selection in the notebook on the cart or on the table in the library. There is a box for your returns in the library.

Holiday Fair Invitation

Elly Wagner from Lyndale invites SpringHouse folks to the Annual Holiday Fair of Friends for a Non Violent World. Elly is one of many local arts and crafts vendors who offer their work and also fund the work of the Friends for a Non Violent World. The fair is Friday, December 7 from 1 to 9 pm and Saturday, December 8 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Minneapolis Friends Meeting House, 4401 York Ave. South in Minneapolis. Besides the crafts and art, there are wreaths and trees, live music, food at the Friendly Café, a used book sale, and more! If you have questions, check with Elly at 952-922-7703.

Scrip: The easiest fundraiser ever

We're starting another round of the easiest fundraiser you'll ever do! We're not asking for your money, we're just asking you to spend it a little differently than you normally would. Before heading to the store to do your everyday shopping, pick up a gift card from us. The SpringHouse mission fund will get a percentage of the sale while you still spend the amount you normally would have. Cards are available for many different restaurants, gas stations, stores, and even travel and entertainment sources.

There are several ways to participate in this fundraiser:

Online: Visit ShopWithScrip.com, enter our code (BF16DF4B443L6), and create an account. There you can see all of the card options available and submit your order. Pay the church, and we will deliver your card(s) to you at church.

For the "computer challenged": Pick up an order form at church and fill it out to let us know which cards you would like, and in what amounts. Pay the church, and we will deliver your card(s) to you at church.

Orders are due Dec 2, and should be back by Dec 16. Make checks out to First Christian Church. If you have questions, contact Becki Whitaker at purplepercussionist@gmail.com or 651-686-6571. Thanks for helping us support SpringHouse missions!

Advent Brunch

On Saturday, December 8 at 10 am, First Christian will be hosting their annual Advent Brunch. All SpringHouse folks are welcome—please RSVP to Deb Murphy, 612-870-1868 or deb.murphy@fccmpls.org

Wedge Neighborhood Community Meal

Come join in community dinners twice a month at SpringHouse. This meal is created for the Wedge neighborhood—a gift to neighbors from neighbors. Everyone is welcome for a place to rest and be good to one another. Upcoming dates are Tuesdays from 6-8 pm, on December 4, December 18, January 8, and January 22. For more information visit www.thewedge.org or email outreach@thewedge.org.

Reaching Out ...

How Will You Help Shape the Future?

Elly Wagner of Lyndale is reaching out to SpringHouse people after reading a recent editorial in the Star Tribune by local high school students, entitled, "The Future is Terrifying; We Have to Act Now." The authors state, "A new report released this week by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that countries will need to dramatically and urgently decarbonize their economies and lower human-caused greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 in order to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius ...the likely tipping point for the worst possible scenarios. This requires major changes during the next 10 years." Furthermore their call to action is clear: "We need everyone's support in telling our leaders that they are not holding up their responsibility of representing us and protecting our future. ... we need loud support. We must shape our futures. We must act now; we must make change. For if we don't, it will be too late." The Green Team is a SpringHouse committee supports action to deal with global warming and the damage that is happening in our environment. We believe that we are called by the Creator to care for the earth and all of life and to work for climate justice. Now we also have this call from these Twin Cities youth to increase our efforts. Please think hard about making a commitment to help shape the future of our planet and then let the Green Team know what you are willing to do. You can join or support the Green Team, and you can also commit to other actions. For more information, please contact Elly at 952-922-7703 or ellyrwa@aol.com. As the Hopi elders said, "We are the ones we have been waiting for."



Simpson Shelter Meal

Our next opportunity to serve the evening meal at Simpson Shelter will be Tuesday, January 8. 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)

Sanctuary Supporting Fundraiser

Please save the date for a fundraising luncheon on Sunday, December 2 from 11:45 - 1:00 (after 10:30 worship).

As a sanctuary-supporting, immigrant-welcoming church, the SpringHouse Sanctuary Task Force is hosting this fundraising luncheon, and the proceeds will benefit the families who have sought sanctuary in south Minneapolis churches and synagogues. Plan to participate in this fundraiser and show your continued support for our work of providing sanctuary. There are no short-term solutions to the immigrant bashing rhetoric and the separation of immigrant families who are a part of our community. This is one small way we can be in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

As part of the fundraising luncheon, we welcome an Honduran family to SpringHouse, who will share with us their story of escape from terror in Honduras, their pathway through Central America and Mexico, their crossing of the US border, and their arrival in Minneapolis where they seek refuge. The mother's case for asylum is presently in the immigration courts. This presentation will offer a glimpse into the lives of many families who are refugees from this region of Central America.

The menu will include special rice, beans, fajitas and barbecued chicken, catered by Yolanda who provided our meal last fall.

We are looking forward to sharing this time together. This is the 1st Sunday in Advent, where we worship the Hope that we share in our belief in Christ.

Support Families in Sanctuary

As a Sanctuary-Supporting/ Immigrant Welcoming Church, we are working with other faith communities in South Minneapolis who are providing sanctuary at this time. This network allows us to learn what the needs are and how SpringHouse can best respond. **One very pressing need is help with the cost of food. Specifically we can support families living in sanctuary by donating Cub Food gift cards.** So, you are invited to buy Cub Food cards and place them in the offering plates on Sunday. They will then be delivered to churches hosting sanctuary families. Thank you for your support in this ever important ministry!

Sunday School and Children's Ministry

Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas Pageant is titled, "Christmas in a Box." Pastor Rhonda has been teaching the songs to the children. Practices will be during Sunday School time on December 2 and December 9, Saturday December 15, and the pageant will be held on Sunday, December 16 in the South Sanctuary. We hope to see you there!



Questions about Sunday School?

Contact April Conlee (april.conlee@gmail.com) or Pastor Rhonda (revrhonda@discoversalem.org)

Godly Play News!

This fall, we finished the Godly Play stories of the Old Testament. In the new year, we will start with New Testament stories. In January, we will hear about the Epiphany, Holy Baptism, parables of the Good Shepherd and the Good Samaritan.



Children's Ministry Team

The Children's Ministry Team meets on the second Sunday of the month at noon in the Sunday school space. Our next meeting will be Sunday, December 9.

Art of the Covenant

On Sunday, December 23, Deb Murphy will offer an informal Sunday School opportunity. There will be no Sunday School on December 30, and Sunday School will resume January 6.

Youth News

Upcoming Youth Activities

Saturday, December 15, 5:30-9:30 pm

Youth Christmas Party

We'll gather together at SpringHouse to celebrate the Christmas holiday. Bring a White Elephant Gift (\$5 or less) and yourself! We'll worship, play games, and enjoy dinner together. Feel free to bring a friend and let Jon know if he needs to be aware of any allergies



Sunday, January 13, 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Youth and Parent Check-In

We'll gather together and go over the rest of the program year! More information on the SpringHouse Mission Trip will be shared as well.

Sunday Mornings

Youth group meets every Sunday 9:30-10:20am in the Micah room, *but we will NOT meet on December 23 or 30. We will resume on Sunday, January 6.* All high school and middle school youth welcome 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! You can text @db2kc8 to 81010, or talk to Jon Bates.

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

Youth Group Themes

For four weeks during Youth Group, beginning January 16, we will be focusing on the question, "Why Christian?" Pastor Laurie, Pastor Rhonda, Rev John-Anthony, and Pastor Ashley will be joining Youth Group on separate Sundays to give a response to that question,

Calendar

Week of December 2

Sun	12/2	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	12/2	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	12/2	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	12/2	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
	12/2	12:00 pm	Sanctuary/Immigrant Fundraiser Lunch
	12/2	1:00 pm	Confirmation Meeting
Tue	12/4	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study
Wed	12/5	5:30 pm	Soup Supper
	12/5	6:00 pm	Advent Holden Evening Prayer
Sat	12/8	10:00 am	First Christian Advent Brunch

Week of December 9

Sun	12/9	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	12/9	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	12/9	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	12/9	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
	12/9	12:00 pm	Green Team
	12/9	12:00 pm	Children's Ministry Team
Tue	12/11	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Home
Wed	12/12	5:30 pm	Soup Supper
	12/12	6:00 pm	Advent Holden Evening Prayer
Fri	12/14	TBD	Lefse Prep at Jorstad's
Sat	12/15	9:00 am	Lefse Making
	12/15	5:30 pm	Youth Group Christmas Party

Week of December 16

Sun	12/16	NO	Traditional Worship
	12/16	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	12/16	10:30 am	SpringHouse Christmas Pageant
Mon	12/17	6:45 pm	Building & Grounds
Tue	12/18	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Home
Wed	12/19	5:30 pm	Soup Supper
	12/19	6:00 pm	Advent Holden Evening Prayer
	12/19	6:30 pm	Salem Council

Week of December 23

Sun	12/23	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	12/23	9:15 am	Informal Sunday School
	12/23	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	12/23	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
Mon	12/24	3:30 pm	Hot Cocoa and Carols
	12/24	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship

Week of December 30

Sun	12/30		Worship plans TBA
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Week of January 6

Sun	1/6	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	1/6	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	1/6	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	1/6	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
	1/6	12:00 pm	Green Team
Tue	1/8	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Home
Wed	1/9	6:30 pm	Theology on Tap at The Lynhall

Week of January 13

Sun	1/13	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	1/13	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	1/13	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	1/13	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
	1/13	11:30 am	Youth & Parent Check-in
	1/13	12:00 pm	Green Team
	1/13	12:00 pm	Children's Ministry Team
Tue	1/15	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Home

**Spirit-led. Welcoming.
 Bold. Rooted.**

December-January 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.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Emma Anderson – 12/4 | Ian Evans – 1/11 |
| Nellie Anderson – 12/4 | Mary Johnson – 1/28 |
| Shirley Bernu – 12/9 | Paul West – 1/31 |
| Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka – 12/11 | |
| Jill Livdahl – 12/25 | |
| Corinn Sievwright – 12/26 | |
| Quinn Livdahl – 12/29 | |
| Karen Pieper – 1/5 | |





610 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Salem English Lutheran Church
is a Reconciling in Christ
(R.I.C.) Congregation
 We are a Spirit-led, welcoming, and bold
 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	springshouseyouth@fccmpls.org
Jazz Music:	Tom Pieper	spiritj@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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